

## VOLUME II

## ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

## FALL MEETING

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA  
SEPTEMBER 22, 2017

## Members Present:

Bruce Dale, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Eric Taylor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Jack Fagerstrom, Kawerak  
Cyrus Harris, Maniilaq Association, Kotzebue  
Taquik Hepa, North Slope Region, Barrow  
Gloria Stickwan, Copper River Native Association  
Coral Chernoff, Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak  
Roland White, Association of Village Presidents  
Gayla Hoseth, Bristol Bay Native Association  
Chaiiy Albert, Tanana Chiefs representative, Interior  
Peter Devine, Aleutian/Pribilofs

Executive Director, Patty Brown-Schwalenberg

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

(Anchorage, Alaska - 9/22/2017)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN DALE: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council. Our last day here this meeting. First off I want to remind everybody about the snack jar is up there, donations would be appreciated for Patty. There's a lot of good stuff up there. I almost brought in some of Hazel Nelson's smoked fish this morning, but too selfish.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN DALE: Full disclosure. I was that close to being a good person. I was going to bring in some of mine too, but I thought that might not be a good idea at all for other reasons. Not near as good as Hazel's.

So as a lot of Alaskans and our fellow Americans are battling wildfires, earthquakes and hurricanes, I'll ask all to take a moment of silence this morning.

(Moment of silence)

CHAIRMAN DALE: Don't forget to push your buttons this morning too. We did real good yesterday, I think. We're going to go around and do introductions again just because there's new people in the room. It always helps us. I'm Bruce Dale. I'm the Director for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation. Eric.

DR. TAYLOR: Good morning. I'm Eric Taylor. I'm the Chief of the Division of Migratory Bird Management with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

MR. WHITE: Good morning. I'm Roland White from AVCP.

MR. HARRIS: Good morning. I'm Cyrus Harris from Kotzebue.

1 MS. HOOPER: Good morning. Jennifer  
2 Hooper, AVCP.

3  
4 MR. PEDERSON: Uvlaalluataq. Mike  
5 Pederson, Utqiagvik, North Slope Borough.

6  
7 MR. FAGERSTROM: Jack Fagerstrom  
8 representing Kawerak.

9  
10 MS. STICKWAN: Gloria Stickwan, Ahtna  
11 Intertribal Resource Commission.

12  
13 MR. AHMASUK: Good morning, everyone.  
14 Brandon Ahmasuk, subsistence director for Nome at  
15 Kawerak.

16  
17 MS. HEPA: Hi. Good morning. My name  
18 is Taqulik Hepa representing the North Slope Borough  
19 from Utqiagvik.

20  
21 MS. CHERNOFF: Coral Chernoff, Kodiak.

22  
23 MR. DEVINE: Peter Devine, Jr.  
24 representing Aleutian/Pribilof Island Association.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN DALE: That's Patty  
27 Schwalenburg from AMBCC.

28  
29 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Sorry.

30  
31 MS. HOSETH: Hi. Good morning. Gayla  
32 Hoseth with Bristol Bay Native Association in  
33 Dillingham.

34  
35 MR. DANIELS: Bryan Daniels, Yukon  
36 Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

37  
38 MR. LIND: Hi. Hello. My name is  
39 Orville Lind. I'm the Native Liaison for the Office of  
40 Subsistence Management here in Anchorage.

41  
42 MS. NU: Good morning. My name is  
43 Jennifer Nu. I'm a member of the public and a  
44 freelance writer.

45  
46 DR. FALL: Jim Fall, Division of  
47 Subsistence, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

48  
49 MS. KEATING: Jackie Keating, Division  
50

1 of Subsistence.

2

3 MS. NAVES: Lili Naves, Division of  
4 Subsistence, Fish and Game.

5

6 MR. SFORMO: Todd Sformo, North Slope  
7 Borough.

8

9 MR. FISCHER: Good morning. Julian  
10 Fischer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of  
11 Migratory Birds.

12

13 DR. OSNAS: Erik Osnas, biometrician in  
14 Migratory Bird Management in Fish and Wildlife.

15

16 MS. ZELLER: Happy Friday, everybody.  
17 I'm Tamara Zeller, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
18 Migratory Birds.

19

20 MR. NOEL: Good morning, everyone.  
21 Ryan Noel. I'm with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
22 Service, Office of Law Enforcement.

23

24 MS. DIMARZIO: Tasha DiMarzio, Fish and  
25 Game, Waterfowl.

26

27 MR. SCHAMBER: Jason Schamber, Alaska  
28 Department of Fish and Game, Statewide Waterfowl  
29 Program.

30

31 MR. ROTHE: Tom Rothe, retired Fish and  
32 Game waterfowl coordinator and now I'm with Pacific  
33 Birds Habitat Joint Venture.

34

35 (Connecting teleconference)

36

37 CHAIRMAN DALE: While they're working  
38 on that I'll just kind of recap sort of some of the  
39 agenda changes that we brought forward. We're going to  
40 talk about in 12(b) other business swan bag limit. The  
41 invitation regulation and the apology. These will be  
42 informational. Then we also have the Humboldt Bay  
43 Aquaculture. Did we already do the training for  
44 seabird mortality proposal? Is that concluded?

45

46 MS. SCHWALENBERG: We covered that.

47

48 CHAIRMAN DALE: Then the other thing  
49 we'll do is review committee assignments. Is there any  
50

1 objection to the sort of revised agenda for today.

2

3 (No objections)

4

5 CHAIRMAN DALE: Hearing none we'll do  
6 that. Roland.

7

8 MR. WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
9 don't know if I heard another item that you might have  
10 forgotten to mention under 12(c) apology from U.S. Fish  
11 and Wildlife Service.

12

13 CHAIRMAN DALE: If I failed to mention  
14 it, I have it on here, so we'll get that too. It  
15 includes the apology.

16

17 MS. HEPA: I didn't hear you mention  
18 swan bag limits.

19

20 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes.

21

22 MS. HEPA: Oh, you did? Okay. Thank  
23 you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN DALE: I think I did. I'm  
26 starting to second guess myself a little bit. We can  
27 still amend it if I have forgotten to amend other  
28 things.

29

30 All right. This morning we're going to  
31 start off with a little bit of unfinished business from  
32 yesterday. We have Ryan with us now from the Office of  
33 Law Enforcement and I thought we'd take a few minutes  
34 to discuss any questions people had for Ryan relative  
35 to two topics.

36

37 First the Emperor Goose fall season or  
38 anything to do with Emperor Geese law enforcement and  
39 then there seemed to be some questions on the drives  
40 and the white paper. So anything we want to clean up  
41 now we have Ryan here. Ryan, if you could find a spot  
42 up here, that would be great.

43

44 Just to tee this off there was  
45 discussion yesterday of the bag limit relative to the  
46 fall season and whether or not there would be some sort  
47 of discretion used on the part of law enforcement in  
48 the first year for folks that aren't used to having a  
49 bag limit of one per season.

50

1 MR. NOEL: Good morning. Thanks, Mike,  
2 for lending me your seat. To address the question  
3 about the fall harvest of Emperor Geese the decision  
4 was made to limit that harvest to 1,000 birds and the  
5 harvest was divvied up by community and then there was  
6 a requirement for reporting from my understanding. The  
7 State has had the lead on this, so I'll speak to my  
8 knowledge about it, but it's not a regulation that we  
9 created.

10  
11 It's my understanding that there is  
12 going to be some discretion on the reporting  
13 requirements for the harvest of Emperor Geese. I'm  
14 sorry if there was ever any misunderstanding about  
15 whether or not there would be discretion on the number  
16 of geese that could be harvested. To my knowledge  
17 there's never been any consideration for allowing for a  
18 take greater than what you have a permit to take.  
19 There will be no discretion for that this year or in  
20 the future.

21  
22 It's the reporting requirement which I  
23 think is unusual for folks to have to think about, so I  
24 believe the State in their wisdom has created for the  
25 first year anyway an opportunity and what they did was  
26 they chose not to criminalize the failure to report  
27 within the timeframe. So that's where the discretion  
28 is and I don't know of anything else that's been  
29 implied or expected.

30  
31 I hope that answers the questions. If  
32 there's any follow up, I'll be happy to take it.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN DALE: Any questions on that.

35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN DALE: While people are  
39 getting their thoughts together on that I'll just say  
40 that because there's not going to be enforcement of  
41 failure to report that doesn't mean that the Department  
42 of Fish and Game won't be strongly making efforts to  
43 follow up with individuals who have registered to make  
44 sure that they report.

45  
46 The reason is because we're limited to  
47 1,000 birds. There was considerable consternation on  
48 the parts of many folks when the season came up that we  
49 would exceed 1,000 birds. So that's the reason for the  
50

1 short reporting requirements and also the reason that  
2 we will be following up with people that register to  
3 see if they harvested a bird or not and get that  
4 reporting and it will help ensure the SRC and others  
5 that this harvest is sustainable and this fall harvest  
6 can be controlled.

7  
8 Any questions on that or for Ryan.  
9 Cyrus.

10  
11 MR. HARRIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
12 Cyrus, Maniilaq Association. The question I got is for  
13 the folks that did register online and didn't do a hunt  
14 and yet they still need to report, is there a deadline  
15 for the ones that didn't use their registration, a  
16 reporting time for that?

17  
18 CHAIRMAN DALE: Three days after the  
19 end of the season. So I just was guessing there and I  
20 got confirmation. So if you're registered in an area  
21 with a three-day reporting requirement such as in your  
22 area, you need to report within three days of the end  
23 of the season.

24  
25 MR. HARRIS: End of the season.  
26 Gotcha.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN DALE: So if the season  
29 closes, then you need to report as soon as possible  
30 afterwards.

31  
32 MR. HARRIS: Thank you.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN DALE: Roland.

35  
36 MR. WHITE: Thank you. What about for  
37 those folks down in Izembek, is it 24 hours?

38  
39 CHAIRMAN DALE: Yeah. Good question.  
40 If it's a shorter reporting period, like 24 hours for  
41 Izembek or Kodiak, they need to report within 24 hours  
42 of the closure of the season or the season regular end  
43 date. Does that make sense? Brandon.

44  
45 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So  
46 my question yesterday was answered, but I'm still not  
47 agreeing with it. Again, remembering the conversations  
48 we had in the past. When the birds are flocking up,  
49 you don't always have a flock of Emperor Geese only.

50

1 You don't always have a flock of swans. You don't  
2 always have a flock of Canadian Geese. Sometimes you  
3 have birds that are mixed in.

4  
5 Again, remembering the conversations we  
6 had in the past, if an individual wasn't targeting an  
7 Emperor Goose because he already got one but he  
8 incidently took one that was flying with like -- it was  
9 a single one, but maybe he was flying with like 200  
10 Canadian Geese. So, again, my question was answered,  
11 but I'm not agreeing with it.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN DALE: Gloria.

14  
15 MS. STICKWAN: Maybe that should be put  
16 in the regulation that incidental harvest is not  
17 counted for being given a citation.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN DALE: That would have to be  
20 put in the form of a proposal to the Board of Game  
21 because the regulation now states the bag limit is one  
22 bird per season. And in terms of the concerns by the  
23 SRC, the Service and the Department of Fish and Game  
24 about ensuring that this harvest is sustainable, a bag  
25 limit of one per person is what we thought we could do  
26 and make it sustainable. That's the reason for it.

27  
28 We're at only a few thousand birds over  
29 the range where we can have no restrictions. So it's  
30 not like this is wide open at this point. Emperor  
31 Geese, if you remember from yesterday, remain  
32 vulnerable to harvest. Taqulik.

33  
34 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Going  
35 back to that example and maybe some thoughts and  
36 recommendation from Ryan. They were talking about  
37 sometimes when we harvest migratory birds, geese, you  
38 shoot hoping to get one and one is the limit, but  
39 sometimes three or four fall depending on the type of  
40 ammunition or shells you use and whatnot, but that's  
41 the reality.

42  
43 If, for example, you accidentally  
44 harvest more than one Emperor Goose, can you think  
45 about some recommendations on how we could not provide  
46 -- in the future provide a citation to individuals that  
47 might be in that kind of situation? Because I know  
48 like there are examples of where people self-reported  
49 for accidentally shooting birds that are listed or  
50



1 picking up a bird along the side of the road, you know,  
2 that type of thing and we want to avoid that type of  
3 interaction because then it just builds that kind of  
4 animosity that we don't want to get to.

5  
6 But if you could think as law  
7 enforcement how do you address something like that or  
8 is there opportunities for us to submit proposals that  
9 could address it?

10  
11 MR. NOEL: Thank you for your question.  
12 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think where we have the most  
13 fertile ground to work on those issues is before the  
14 season. We spent a good deal of time on the North  
15 Slope trying to conduct education to educate the  
16 public, the hunting public, about how to identify the  
17 target and methods for hunting that would lessen the  
18 chance of that happening. I know those things do  
19 happen.

20  
21 Being a hunter myself I know it's often  
22 -- you're put in difficult situations, but we ask the  
23 hunting public to be responsible and to only select the  
24 bird that they have a permit to shoot. So in this case  
25 one Emperor Goose. If you have a permit for one  
26 Emperor Goose, then we'd ask you to do your very best  
27 to limit the opportunity to shoot that one Emperor  
28 Goose and not shoot into a flock of perhaps where you  
29 may drop two or three.

30  
31 MS. HEPA: I'll hear, Tom, but if, for  
32 example, let's say that Brandon was out and he saw a  
33 group of five. He's targeting one and two fell down.  
34 Knowing that there's a potential he's going to get --  
35 he's probably going to report one just so he, you know,  
36 doesn't want to get a citation. To me that's not being  
37 true to addressing the conservation effort and making  
38 sure that there are continuing -- to us as managers  
39 it's better encouraging people to report the true  
40 number that they do harvest. Maybe Tom has a solution.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN DALE: Tom.

43  
44 MR. ROTHE: I want to make a comment  
45 because I've been through this discussion many times  
46 and it's real important to be clear. As the agencies  
47 say, the regulation is there for a purpose, to limit  
48 harvest to one bird. So in any case where you shoot  
49 more than one that's a violation, okay.

50

1                   But I think what Taqulik is getting at  
2 is that every enforcement officer, be it trooper,  
3 Federal agent, has some discretion to look at the  
4 circumstances. I've been out on the point watching  
5 Brant come around and I pick one bird and all of a  
6 sudden there's six heads lined up. Accidents happen in  
7 waterfowl hunting. The Lower 48, one Canvasback,  
8 people accidentally take two. So this stuff happens.  
9 I think everybody knows it. It's up to the officer to  
10 interpret was that an accident or something happened  
11 there that I should consider.

12  
13                   So I appreciate what Brandon is saying.  
14 The agencies can't say they will never write a ticket  
15 because there are some guys out there that should have  
16 a ticket if they're doing bad things. But the  
17 discretion is there, so if you make a mistake it's  
18 always a good idea to, you know, admit it, say oops, I  
19 made a mistake and it's up to the hunter to decide if  
20 he's going to go talk to somebody.

21  
22                   The other thing I would mention that  
23 makes a difference is you might check because in some  
24 instances I think a Federal ticket is bailable. If you  
25 just want to not be embarrassed, you can put a check in  
26 an envelope and your wife will never know about it and  
27 all that.

28  
29                   (Laughter)

30  
31                   MR. ROTHE: If it's a State closed  
32 season or over bag, that's a mandatory court appearance  
33 that most people don't want to do. So just think about  
34 those options out there. So I'm hoping that clarifies  
35 it. There is discretion. You can talk to people, try  
36 to understand what happened there, if it was an  
37 innocent mistake, you know, that happens. It's not  
38 that you're a bad guy. But the attempts are there to  
39 limit the harvest according to the bag limit.

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you. That's a  
42 good reminder. We've had this discussion several times  
43 as well. Thank you. Roland.

44  
45                   MR. WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
46 Following up on Brandon's discussion and the gentleman  
47 that was just up here. He mentioned with a Federal  
48 section all we need to do is pay a fine and no one will  
49 ever know. I have an argument based on that. The

50

1 other day I was discussing the issue where I failed to  
2 take my harvest ticket and license because my spouse  
3 decided to take it out of my snow pants and I usually  
4 have them in there. I saw a caribou, I was butchering  
5 it, a Federal Fish and Game Service came over. We had  
6 a lengthy talk and then he asked for my paperwork. I  
7 looked and lo and behold they weren't there.

8  
9 I ended up paying a fine and he told me  
10 that it would never show up anywhere. Years later I  
11 decided to look into my background and lo and behold I  
12 was a criminal for catching a caribou and I had my  
13 license. I sent my license number, a copy of it out  
14 and my harvest ticket out and yet that promise that  
15 gentleman mentioned if we pay our fines we will not  
16 become criminals. If that can be written down in an  
17 SOP, it would probably help most of these people out  
18 there that accidentally go through the same thing that  
19 I went through.

20  
21 And the other thing with the  
22 discretionary portion of the hunting. Let's say I,  
23 myself, take my kids out hunting. When they turn eight  
24 I buy them rifles and I teach them how to hunt. Let's  
25 say my 12 year old I take him out hunting and I give  
26 him specific information and we all know kids when they  
27 get excited they forget everything we tell them to. He  
28 accidentally shoots a flock and two to five fall.  
29 Right there and then not just him as well as me we  
30 become criminals. What are we going to do about that?

31  
32 CHAIRMAN DALE: Ryan.

33  
34 MR. NOEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With  
35 respect to the ticket you received years ago, I can't  
36 speak to that other than I'm not sure how that could  
37 have been reported. The gentleman was correct when he  
38 said that whenever you're issued a violation notice or  
39 a ticket from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service you  
40 have an opportunity to pay the ticket and it's  
41 considered a no contest plea. It's not considered a  
42 conviction or a guilty plea. It's just basically saying  
43 I'm willing to pay this amount, this predetermined  
44 amount to make this go away.

45  
46 So I'm not sure how that would actually  
47 get reported to I'm guessing probably the National  
48 Criminal Information Center, NCIC, who you probably got  
49 your report from. I don't know how that could have  
50

1 happened. So I can't speak to that other than I'm  
2 relatively certain that's an anomaly.

3  
4 As far as your family member who  
5 accidentally shot too many birds, I certainly  
6 understand that. I had a similar thing happen t me  
7 with a young man, a nephew. We called and reported to  
8 the game warden and the game warden issued him a  
9 ticket. So I can empathize with you on that, but it is  
10 one of the responsibilities of every hunter to identify  
11 their target and ensure that they're taking what  
12 they're lawfully allowed to take.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN DALE: Any other questions on  
15 Emperor Geese before we move on to drives. Peter.

16  
17 MR. DEVINE: Well, on this Emperor  
18 Goose thing, I mean since the people are only allowed --  
19 I mean with the hunting certain species you are under  
20 rules and regulations. You can only have so many  
21 shells in your gun. You know, like when you have to  
22 put the plugs in, you only get three shells. I mean if  
23 you only get one goose, why not only get one shot. I  
24 mean that way you eliminate that problem.

25  
26 If the guy is only allowed to shoot one  
27 goose and he has five shells and he lets them all go.  
28 Is there something we can put in the regulations to  
29 specify -- you know, try to eliminate overtake?  
30 Because it is a sport hunt. I mean it's not a  
31 subsistence hunt, so I have no problem with imposing  
32 restrictions.

33  
34 MR. NOEL: Thank you for your question.  
35 I'm not sure of the authority of this Council to impose  
36 a regulation on the fall sport hunt in that manner.  
37 I'd have to seek clarification on that. With respect  
38 to the number of shells you can use to take a migratory  
39 bird, you're probably a lot better shot than I am  
40 because sometimes it takes me two or three to get that  
41 one bird. I don't know if that's within the  
42 jurisdiction of this organization to be able to limit  
43 that.

44  
45 As you said the sport hunt has a  
46 requirement. The shotgun can only be capable of  
47 holding three shells. So just for clarification what  
48 that means is not only are you only loading three, but  
49 it can only be capable. So it must be plugged to not  
50

1 hold that fourth or fifth shell.

2

3 CHAIRMAN DALE: Yeah, that would have  
4 to come in the form of a proposal to the Board of Game  
5 again. Brandon.

6

7 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
8 I'm sitting over here getting more and more frustrated  
9 the more we talk about this. The example I brought up  
10 earlier, let's say I do my part, I single out that one  
11 Emperor Goose, but in that same example I gave earlier  
12 maybe there's a flock of 200, 300 Canadian Geese and  
13 mixed in the bunch you can't even see him there's that  
14 one lone Emperor Goose. That's the point I'm trying to  
15 get at. You can't even see him. I mean, yeah, you're  
16 supposed to be aware of your surroundings, aware of  
17 your target.

18

19 Like was mentioned earlier, accidents  
20 happen and we're wanting our people to report. What  
21 I'm also hearing now is, you know, now we need to limit  
22 shotgun shells, we need to limit this. Now we're going  
23 to have our people so afraid to harvest other birds  
24 trying to put food on their table.

25

26 I'm sorry, I'm just getting more and  
27 more frustrated the more this -- again, it was my  
28 understanding from conversations that we had in the  
29 past that if -- like the example I just gave,  
30 individuals were not going to get sited, but now that's  
31 not the case. Again it's just getting more and more  
32 frustrating the more we talk about this.

33

34 CHAIRMAN DALE: I understand your  
35 frustration, but I guess I do need to remind everybody  
36 that in the fall season there's seasons, there's bag  
37 limits for every species out there except for maybe  
38 coots and a few others. But all the good birds have  
39 bag limits and the same problem exists in all those  
40 cases. So whether it's six per day and you  
41 accidentally drop seven, it's the same situation.

42

43 What we have to understand here is  
44 we're moving into a new era where we have legal Emperor  
45 Goose hunting and we need to do everything we can to  
46 keep it. I don't know what else we can say on this  
47 subject. It's not a new topic. I understand the  
48 frustration. Everybody, every hunter, this hangs over  
49 every hunter like a dark cloud. There's no question

50

1 about it, but law enforcement is a conservation tool  
2 just like everything else and that's where we stand. I  
3 think we need to move on in the interest of time to  
4 drives because we aren't making much progress here.

5  
6 So if there's questions about the white  
7 paper while we have Ryan here, I'd like to move on to  
8 that. What tab is that? Tab 4.

9  
10 Gayla.

11  
12 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
13 Thank you for coming, Ryan. Was it your department  
14 that put out the white paper or your division?

15  
16 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Donna.

17  
18 MS. HOSETH: Donna did? But I just  
19 wanted to thank the Fish and Wildlife Service for doing  
20 this white paper to give clarification to explain the  
21 existing regulation because under the legal definition  
22 of what is currently -- what this regulation does not  
23 currently prohibit and listing all of the issues there  
24 is new information to the Native Caucus because we  
25 thought this was not allowable for the spring and  
26 summer hunt for people living in rural Alaska as we're  
27 in a dual management area with State and Federal  
28 regulations and everybody just kind of fell to the  
29 State regulations as to this is illegal for us to do.

30  
31 So we just want to thank you guys for  
32 giving this clarification and we'll work on revising  
33 the booklet with the Education and Outreach Committee  
34 to make sure that this is defined so that people do  
35 know that this is legal to shoot already flying birds  
36 moving in a moving boat or a boat with the engine  
37 running and then also when birds are flying parallel.  
38 It might confuse people even more. You know, as we say  
39 this is allowed and then you get into the fall stuff.  
40 It is confusing out there and a lot of people don't  
41 know.

42  
43 So I just want to thank you for that  
44 section of it. I know that some people want to address  
45 the other portions while we have you here.

46  
47 MR. NOEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank  
48 you, Gayla. Yes, as Patty mentioned, Donna, I believe,  
49 and some of the others, Rory Stark also assisted in

50

1 putting this together. I would point out, as you  
2 alluded to, there is the distinction between the fall  
3 season and the subsistence season those things that are  
4 listed here that you can do would not qualify in the  
5 fall season. I know we're kind of mixing things up  
6 here a little bit right now.

7  
8 If there's a question specifically to  
9 the white paper, I'd be happy to answer it.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN DALE: Peter.

12  
13 MR. DEVINE: Not a question, just a  
14 comment. This is prohibited under methods and means,  
15 but this is the only way we could harvest our seabirds  
16 is to be in the skiff and chase them down. Hopefully  
17 we can change that someday. I mean we don't utilize  
18 skiffs for our freshwater birds because you don't have  
19 to go out on the ocean, but when you're living on an  
20 island and they're out two, three miles away from you,  
21 I mean you have to go get them.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. Anything else.

24  
25 (No comments)

26  
27 CHAIRMAN DALE: All right. Thanks,  
28 Ryan. Peter, was there some confusion about what this  
29 -- is there a question for Ryan on what's legal driving  
30 and what's not?

31  
32 MR. DEVINE: No. It's illegal, we know  
33 that, but we still do it in the wintertime when our  
34 seabirds come in. Therefore we need our fall and  
35 winter hunt.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. Next on the  
38 agenda is Pacific Flyway proposals. Jason.

39  
40 MS. CHERNOFF: Excuse me.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN DALE: Coral.

43  
44 MS. CHERNOFF: Are we going to address  
45 the handicraft stuff later with law enforcement? We  
46 had a few questions.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN DALE: Ryan, would you come  
49 back up. We'll just take care of it right now.

50

1 MR. NOEL: Sure.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN DALE: We didn't have that on  
4 the agenda, but let's go ahead.

5  
6 MS. CHERNOFF: Coral Chernoff, Kodiak.  
7 So we had a few questions regarding the handicraft  
8 ruling. So handicraft ruling specifically addresses  
9 articles, Native handicraft. Now we were discussing  
10 whether or not it would be prohibited then to do  
11 classroom activities. Like say for birds I wanted to  
12 teach how to tan migratory bird hides in a college  
13 classroom. I'm getting paid. What's the legality of  
14 that or do we have to go back in regulation and address  
15 sale of to include teaching or is it currently covered  
16 and is it currently legal/illegal?

17  
18 MR. NOEL: Thank you for the question.  
19 It's a very good question. The proposed regulation is  
20 specific for the sale of handicrafts. It doesn't  
21 address teaching that I can recall. Applying the  
22 language that I recall from that regulation to your  
23 question, the bird parts that you are using to teach  
24 would have to have been taken for the purpose of  
25 subsistence or other essential needs and then they  
26 would -- they could be formed into handicrafts and then  
27 sold by an Alaska Native. I'm guessing, reading into  
28 your question, that you'll have non-Native students as  
29 well in your class, is that correct?

30  
31 MS. CHERNOFF: Potentially.

32  
33 MR. NOEL: If the birds are taken  
34 during the subsistence season by somebody who has the  
35 ability to do that, either an Alaska Native or somebody  
36 who lives in rural Alaska, those bird parts are then  
37 lawful to possess. You as the instructor could use  
38 those items to teach your class. Those items that are  
39 used and fashioned into handicrafts by Alaska Natives  
40 could then be sold. Those that are fashioned into  
41 handicrafts by non-Natives could not be sold.

42  
43 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay. So the teaching  
44 of them for pay would fall under that ruling. So say I  
45 got 20 Cormorants, I ate the Cormorants, brought their  
46 necks to Anchorage, went to a college classroom and we  
47 tanned them and made things of them. Under the  
48 regulation that's all legal?

49  
50



1                   That's what I was wondering because  
2 sometimes I thought, well, is teaching a handicraft,  
3 but then in other parts there's the word article, an  
4 article of handicraft. So then I'm wondering is  
5 teaching an article of handicraft or does article of  
6 handicraft mean an item, like a hat or a coat or  
7 something. I didn't want it to be left as a gray area.

8  
9  
10                   Around the state we're having a lot of  
11 culture camps, a lot of college classrooms. I've done  
12 teaching things at museums. I've gone to New York and  
13 done things, the Indian Museum. So I don't ever want  
14 to be unlawful about what I'm doing. I've read and  
15 reread and looked at the regulation.

16  
17                   A lot of things, sea otter, seal, sea  
18 lion, it doesn't really cover teaching because I think  
19 when previously we've passed laws we've just talked  
20 about the ability to still be able to make things and  
21 sell things. Now we've moved into -- we've grown in  
22 our teaching and see that a lot of things are being  
23 lost and a lot of skills are being lost, so there's a  
24 lot more teaching going on now.

25  
26                   I think that -- I'm not sure the law  
27 has caught up with that trend so to say yet. So I  
28 wanted to make sure that what I'm doing is legal and  
29 what everybody else is doing is legal.

30  
31                   MR. NOEL: It's a great question. I  
32 think it's probably one perhaps better for our  
33 Solicitor's Office to interpret. I think what it comes  
34 down to is what the intention of the treaty is and the  
35 treaty does make mention in other sections not specific  
36 to the handicraft portion, but specifically to another  
37 section where teaching of cultural ways or values is  
38 important.

39  
40                   So I think about that as I'm trying to  
41 find an answer for this question. I don't believe  
42 you'll find it in black and white within the regulation  
43 for the handicraft regulation. So what it would come  
44 down to is probably an interpretation from our  
45 Solicitor's Office on whether or not that would be  
46 lawful or not.

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN DALE: Eric.

49  
50

1 DR. TAYLOR: Okay, now my interest is  
2 piqued. If I was interested in taking a course from  
3 Coral to understand Native artwork and Coral's  
4 description of a Cormorant's skin or feathers from a  
5 Cormorant and I was to make a mask for example or  
6 something else that Coral said I should try because she  
7 knows my elementary skills, so she says something  
8 really simple. The question is would I as a student of  
9 Coral be able to take that artwork home or would she  
10 have to retain it.

11  
12 MR. NOEL: That's a good question.  
13 Unlike the Marine Mammal Protection Act, which I think  
14 a lot of us refer back to because we have a longer  
15 history with handicrafts there. In this case, because  
16 the birds were hunted and taken lawfully, their parts  
17 could be possessed. To my knowledge does not restrict  
18 who could possess them. The specific language for the  
19 handicraft regulation is for the sale and that's what  
20 it authorizes and sets the framework for how it can  
21 happen, that sale can take place. It does not put new  
22 or different limitations on who can possess.

23  
24 So to answer your question, if you were  
25 a student of Coral's and she lawfully obtained those as  
26 an Alaska Native or somebody who lives in a rural area  
27 could take those lawfully for subsistence purposes and  
28 then use inedible portions for the creation of a  
29 handicraft. Again, this is down to interpretation. One  
30 question better for Ken Lord. My understanding is that  
31 then they could be possessed.

32  
33 MR. FAGERSTROM: But not sold.

34  
35 MR. NOEL: Not sold.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN DALE: Patty.

38  
39 MS. SCHWALENBERG: It seems to me that  
40 -- not to use Coral as an example, but you're going to  
41 be the example today. She's selling a service  
42 basically to Alaska Natives or not Alaska Natives. I  
43 can see how it can be a little gray because she's not  
44 making the handicraft herself and selling it to Eric,  
45 but she's rather getting money from him to show him how  
46 to make it himself and then he takes it home, which to  
47 me seems like it should be legal. But it does present  
48 a gray area I think.

49  
50

1                   CHAIRMAN DALE: The thing is as long as  
2 you're not paying Coral for the Cormorant, you're  
3 paying her for her skill and knowledge. It's a  
4 completely separate thing. The prohibition was on  
5 sale. The handicraft law provides for sale around that  
6 prohibition. Education was never prohibited, so I  
7 think we're on firm ground.

8  
9                   To move this along I think that the  
10 subcommittee should take this and write up the request  
11 and get clarification from the solicitor. Because we  
12 can have all our opinions, but mine is of course  
13 correct.

14  
15                   (Laughter)

16  
17                   CHAIRMAN DALE: I think that's a way to  
18 go forward. Are there other questions. Go ahead,  
19 Taqulik.

20  
21                   MS. HEPA: While I've got you here and  
22 it's not related to migratory birds, but similar. You  
23 mentioned the Marine Mammal Protection Act. So we have  
24 concerns about non-Natives participating in handicraft  
25 classes as well. We hear from local Alaska Natives  
26 like I don't think that they can be participating in  
27 this class because they're utilizing marine mammal  
28 parts or even down to like preparing walrus or seal,  
29 that type of thing. So I get phone calls and I should  
30 refer them to you, but what is your take on that?

31  
32                   MR. NOEL: I'll be very brief. Non-  
33 Alaska Natives cannot possess or transport raw marine  
34 mammal parts. I get this question a lot and we give  
35 the same interpretation of the law that we've had for  
36 quite some time, which is they could not participate.  
37 They could use some other medium, whether it's -- you  
38 know, if it's a fur sewing class, they could use beaver  
39 instead of sea otter or something else and still learn  
40 the techniques but just not with marine mammal parts.

41  
42                   MS. HEPA: Thank you.

43  
44                   MS. CHERNOFF: On that note we had a  
45 conference a few years ago in Kodiak and we were told  
46 differently. That's why I wonder about clarification  
47 and do we need to, I don't know, put it in regulation  
48 to clarify these things because we were told that at  
49 camp once the sea otter or seal was shot and brought  
50

1 back to shore, then everybody in that camp could  
2 participate and we were told that by a Fish and  
3 Wildlife Service or -- we actually had people from  
4 dealing with sea otters and seals, the Seal Commission  
5 and sea otter.

6  
7 So that's always confusing is getting  
8 so many different answers. So would you recommend that  
9 we do what we can to clear that up and then I guess we  
10 would find out here what route that needs to take.

11  
12 MR. NOEL: Yes, I think it would be a  
13 great idea to make sure the language is clear. I would  
14 much rather have it in black and white than to be asked  
15 for my interpretation. Then that leads to things that  
16 happen like you said, if you ask enough people, you'll  
17 get -- there will be a different answer eventually.  
18 Thank you.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN DALE: Gayla and then Peter.

21  
22 MS. HOSETH: Thank you. And any  
23 conversations with that if our Executive Director Patty  
24 could be involved with that, that would be great.

25  
26 MR. DEVINE: Okay. The rules and  
27 regulations are out there. As it states you have to be  
28 a quarter Native in order to participate in hunting  
29 marine mammals. The problem I have with that is if my  
30 wife is not a quarter Native, she cannot participate.  
31 She cannot even drive the boat while I'm shooting.

32  
33 In the next paragraph right under it  
34 the question is, okay, I'm out fishing, can I  
35 participate in marine mammal activities while I'm  
36 fishing. My captain is white. The answer is yes.  
37 Which I have a real problem with because my wife can't  
38 even drive the boat, but someone who don't have zero  
39 percentage Native in them can drive the boat. You see,  
40 so that needs clarification. I mean that needs to be  
41 set right. That shouldn't be allowable.

42  
43 You know, if a Native cannot drive the  
44 boat because he only has one-eighth Native in him, you  
45 know, why should someone who has zero percent be  
46 allowed to drive the boat. That has to go back and be  
47 revised. I finally got the book out, but it's not  
48 right. What I'm teaching my grandson is not right. He  
49 cannot participate because of the amount of Native  
50

1 blood.

2

3 MR. NOEL: Mr. Chair. I can probably  
4 clear that question up on a sidebar conversation if  
5 you'll indulge me in that and I probably won't take  
6 anymore time with this Council.

7

8 CHAIRMAN DALE: Other questions for  
9 Ryan. Roland.

10

11 MR. WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In  
12 line with Coral's question earlier, it's a question  
13 that just popped up. What about for those individuals  
14 who aren't willing to donate their subsistence catches  
15 such as feathers for handicraft to the local schools  
16 and universities? Because I know in the past there's  
17 been some deliberation on that issue even they're noted  
18 that they can do it, but some enforcement officers say  
19 that they can't do that. Is there any regulation  
20 stating that a subsistence hunter cannot sell items to  
21 the universities for such use in her classroom?

22

23 MR. NOEL: Thank you for your question.  
24 I think I'll ask for a little bit of clarification.  
25 Were you talking about marine mammals or migratory  
26 birds?

27

28 MR. WHITE: Migratory birds.

29

30 MR. NOEL: So could an Alaska Native  
31 hunter donate migratory bird parts to a school for use?

32

33 MR. WHITE: No, not donate, sell.

34

35 MR. NOEL: Sell. Okay.

36

37 MR. WHITE: To the schools for their  
38 use in the classroom.

39

40 MR. NOEL: Not the way the proposed  
41 regulation is drafted nor do I see an allowance for  
42 that in the treaty for raw parts.

43

44 MR. WHITE: I don't see much difference  
45 between selling it to a non-Native for their  
46 decorations in their classroom or not in their  
47 classroom, in their homes, whereas for Eric who wants  
48 to learn how to make these crafts in Coral's classroom  
49 and Coral doesn't have all the necessary items for her

50

1 to teach Eric and no one is willing to sell these to  
2 her personally but to the school, I don't see any  
3 difference in the reasoning behind anyone buying an  
4 object for their homes or an object to use in their  
5 classroom for teaching purposes.

6  
7 So my question is why isn't that  
8 allowed? Is there any way to amend the wording so that  
9 a school district can buy items such as those to help  
10 both Natives and non-Natives understand and appreciate  
11 the work that has been made?

12  
13 MR. NOEL: Thank you for your question.  
14 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess I would fall back to the  
15 treaty and the letter of submittal that explained the  
16 treaty to us that birds that are taken for subsistence  
17 purposes -- it says here that the sale of these items  
18 is not permitted except for a limited sale of nonedible  
19 byproducts of birds taken for nutritional purposes  
20 incorporated into authentic articles of handicraft.

21  
22 So I think it's specifically meant to  
23 prohibit the sale of parts that aren't fashioned into a  
24 handicraft. That's my interpretation on that.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN DALE: Coral and then Patty.

27  
28 MS. CHERNOFF: Coral. So can I get  
29 your idea of -- so if he went out and shot a bunch of  
30 Cormorants and then skinned them, took just the neck  
31 and salted them, could that be considered an article --  
32 or Boraxed them or even tanned them and then he could  
33 sell them to me? Would that be considered an article  
34 of handicraft? Because that is quite a handicraft is  
35 the tanning and preserving of skins. How do you see  
36 that to be interpreted?

37  
38 MR. NOEL: I have to go back to the  
39 language of the proposed regulation to see how  
40 handicraft was defined. I don't think that salting or  
41 preparing a hide alone is -- and again I have to look  
42 at the language -- sufficient to create a handicraft  
43 and only authentic Native handicrafts may be sold.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN DALE: Coral.

46  
47 MS. CHERNOFF: Because my -- well, my  
48 interpretation is that tanning and preserving hides,  
49 making rawhide is quite the handicraft. It's a

50

1 handicraft that's been lost and I do a lot of it now  
2 and I find that when looking through regulations I find  
3 that's kind of an area that I try and sort of interpret  
4 into the regulation being that as these regulations are  
5 made we try and think of everything, but if you don't  
6 have people doing all these handicraft at the table,  
7 then that gets missed.

8  
9 So your interpretation is that you --  
10 it would not be seen as a handicraft to preserve the  
11 skin and then be able to sell it or would that be an  
12 arguable.....

13  
14 MR. NOEL: That's my recollection, but  
15 I'm looking for the exact language. I don't doubt that  
16 it takes great care and great skill and work to  
17 preserve a migratory bird skin. I just don't believe  
18 that that was in the definition of an authentic Native  
19 handicraft as drafted. I'd have to get that and I can  
20 report back to this Council.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN DALE: Patty.

23  
24 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr.  
25 Chairman. First I wanted to say I believe the reason  
26 why nonedible parts are not available to be sold is  
27 because then you could potentially have non-Natives  
28 taking those nonedible parts making handicrafts and  
29 selling them as Alaska Native handicrafts and that was  
30 one of the things that the committee was concerned  
31 about was misrepresentation of artwork being sold as  
32 Alaska Native artwork and that was one of the things  
33 that the artists were concerned about.

34  
35 And then in regards to your question  
36 about tanning skins and selling them to Coral, I don't  
37 think there's anything prohibiting the sale between  
38 Alaska Natives. So you could certainly do that and she  
39 could certainly buy them in my understanding because  
40 it's Alaska Native to Alaska Native. So where it gets  
41 gray, I guess, is when you're talking about selling to  
42 the schools rather than to the artist.

43  
44 MR. NOEL: I believe you're correct  
45 with the sale from Alaska Native to Alaska Native.  
46 That is one of the distinctions between Native and non-  
47 Native. So it would bring up an interesting question  
48 about the use of those inedible portions for teaching  
49 non-Natives to create a handicraft and I don't know the  
50

1 answer to that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN DALE: So we've got several  
4 more good reasons why we decided to keep the Handicraft  
5 Committee alive. I'm sure Todd's.....

6

7 MR. SFORMO: Taking notes.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 CHAIRMAN DALE: .....taking notes over  
12 there too. And when we come to committee assignments  
13 later, I think we should have already identified some  
14 probable volunteers to serve on that committee because,  
15 Coral, you make a good point that people who are  
16 actually doing this need to be the people that mind  
17 this.

18

19 I hope that we don't all lose sight of  
20 the significant accomplishment of getting the rule  
21 through to provide for the sale of handicrafts. This  
22 is no small feat. Yes, there's always the devil in the  
23 details. We'll keep the committee alive. We'll see if  
24 there should be amendments to the rule, clarification.

25

26 You know, when we get the Solicitor's  
27 Office clarifications on a lot of this, then we'll have  
28 a piece of paper in hand that will serve as this is  
29 where the line is in the sand and we can either adhere  
30 to it or we can move the line through regulation. To go  
31 any farther with this right now I don't think would be  
32 productive because so much is going to hinge on the  
33 solicitor's interpretations.

34

35 I would recommend that the committee  
36 can work on carefully presenting these questions,  
37 identifying these areas where there are concerns and  
38 putting them forward to the Solicitor's Office through  
39 Patty and we'll make progress on this.

40

41 What I want to do is I want to get the  
42 Pacific Flyway proposals done and then we'll take a  
43 break. So we're going to shift gears here. Ryan,  
44 thank you very much for coming in this morning.

45

46 MR. NOEL: You're welcome. Thank you  
47 for your time.

48

49 CHAIRMAN DALE: Jason.

50



1 MR. SCHAMBER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 Jason Schamber, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.  
3 The Pacific Flyway Council met in Spokane, Washington  
4 on August 25th, 2017 and among other business  
5 considered 14 framework proposals from Pacific Flyway  
6 states for the 2018 hunt season, fall/winter hunt  
7 season.

8  
9 MS. HEPA: Is it in Tab 7?

10  
11 MR. SCHAMBER: Yeah. There's a summary  
12 of the proposed changes from two states that will be in  
13 Tab 7, correct.

14  
15 For a large proportion of these  
16 regulation proposals the Council recommended no change  
17 in the 2018 fall/winter hunt regulations. That  
18 includes Alaska's regulations. Next year's fall/winter  
19 hunt regulations will be the same as in 2017. Council  
20 also endorsed retaining the 2017 subsistence harvest  
21 regulations for the 2018 spring/summer season.

22  
23 The Council did recommend regulation  
24 changes to the goose season frameworks for the 2018  
25 season in two states, Washington and Oregon. As  
26 Taqulik pointed out, a summary of those proposed  
27 changes can be found in Tab 7.

28  
29 So I'll step through each of these four  
30 regulation proposals and at any point if anybody has  
31 any questions about each one of the proposals feel free  
32 to stop me and we can discuss it while it's fresh in  
33 your mind.

34  
35 So the first proposal that I'll discuss  
36 was for Washington state. The recommendation was to  
37 remove the ending date restriction of the last Sunday  
38 in January for geese in one of their coastal hunt areas  
39 and extend that to March 10th. This regulation was  
40 intended to increase harvest opportunity of the  
41 Wrangell Island Lesser Snow Goose population segment  
42 that winters in Northwest Washington.

43  
44 That population has surpassed local  
45 management threshold of 70,000 geese. The 2016 winter  
46 estimate was 103,000 geese. The overall Wrangell  
47 Island population is well above objective. They're  
48 about 350,000 birds, so there's no concern there.

49  
50

1                   This was in response to a management  
2 plan that Washington state has to respond and direct  
3 action when the population has surpassed these local  
4 thresholds that they've put in place. Are there any  
5 questions about that proposal or recommendation?

6  
7                   (No comments)

8  
9                   MR. SCHAMBER: Okay. The next one from  
10 Washington was a recommendation to modify the  
11 boundaries of two goose hunting zones along the coast  
12 which will functionally adjust the timing of goose  
13 harvest relative to differing agricultural practices  
14 and how the birds use the private lands in that area.  
15 This was a boundary change only and boundary changes  
16 only require the concurrence of the Pacific Flyway  
17 representative, so in this case Todd Sanders, and the  
18 Flyway Council did not consider this proposal.

19  
20                   There were also two proposals from the  
21 state of Oregon. The first was a recommendation to  
22 reduce the size of the Tillamook County management  
23 area. This is a small county on the coast of Oregon.  
24 A portion of that management area is known to winter  
25 the segment of Aleutian Canada Geese that breed on the  
26 Semidi Islands, which is a group of Islands just south  
27 of Kodiak Island.

28  
29                   The regulation would also open the  
30 goose season in the areas that would no longer be under  
31 that jurisdiction, so it would essentially reduce the  
32 size of the closure area to just the portion where  
33 Semidi Island geese are overwintering.

34  
35                   And Tillamook County from 1982 to 2007  
36 was closed to goose harvest to reduce the hunting  
37 pressure on Aleutian Canada Geese at the time they were  
38 listed under the Endangered Species Act. But in 2008  
39 harvest resumed in that area in response to the  
40 delisting of Aleutian Canada Geese and also the state  
41 of Oregon was receiving increased depredation  
42 complaints on private lands from a large number and  
43 abundant goose populations in the area at the time.

44  
45                   A portion of that Tillamook County  
46 management area remained closed to protect the Semidi  
47 Island geese. This regulation seeks to reduce the size  
48 of that closure area. Some neck collar information  
49 that has been collected by the Oregon National Wildlife  
50

1 Refuges in the past couple of decades suggests that  
2 Semidi Island geese only use a small proportion of that  
3 Tillamook County management area.

4  
5 So this regulation seeks to reduce the  
6 size of that closure area to just the small portion  
7 where Semidi Island geese are known to use. And this  
8 would allow hunting on private lands elsewhere in the  
9 current closure area to help alleviate the resulting  
10 goose depredation from a large abundance of geese in  
11 that area.

12  
13 Questions.

14  
15 (No comments)

16  
17 MR. SCHAMBER: So the final proposal  
18 that Council recommended was to raise the daily bag  
19 limit of Canada Geese from four to six geese in the  
20 Northwest Permit Zone of Oregon. This area includes  
21 multiple counties in the Northwest corner of Oregon  
22 state and hunters are required to purchase a permit to  
23 hunt in that area as well as pass a goose  
24 identification quiz or test to be allowed to hunt in  
25 that area.

26  
27 This regulation was intended to  
28 increase harvest pressure on Cacklers in an attempt to  
29 help alleviate crop depredation issues that private  
30 residents are having in that area.

31  
32 The harvest strategy in the Cackling  
33 Canada Goose Management Plan that was recently passed  
34 by Council directs that if the three-year average of  
35 the projected fall population is 10 percent above the  
36 population objective, which is set at 250,000 birds, to  
37 change regulations to reduce that population back down  
38 toward the population objective. The current three-  
39 year average is over 321,000, so it's well above that  
40 275,000 birds, which is 10 percent above the population  
41 objective.

42  
43 This regulation will likely increase  
44 harvest on other Canada Goose populations and those  
45 would include Taverner's Canada Geese, Lesser Canada  
46 Geese, Aleutian Canada Geese and the Pacific population  
47 of Western Canada Geese.

48  
49 The state of Oregon doesn't expect a  
50

1 large shift away from hunting Cacklers, which currently  
2 comprises about 70 percent of the Canada Goose harvest  
3 in the Northwest Permit Zone, but there's an  
4 expectation of an increase of harvest of Canada Geese  
5 populations overall of about 10 percent.

6  
7 I think a couple estimates of Cackler  
8 harvest from two years of phone surveys, 2015 and 2016,  
9 suggests that about 13,000 to 16,000 Cacklers are  
10 harvested each year. So that's it for that regulation  
11 change.

12  
13 All of these recommendations will be  
14 forwarded to the SRC and they'll be considered by that  
15 body next month.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN DALE: Questions for Jason.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN DALE: I did want to mention  
22 the action of the Flyway Council. We voted to fund  
23 travel from one of the Council members in the Lower 48  
24 to the AMBCC spring meeting every year and that funding  
25 will provide -- it's recognition that this Council and  
26 its actions are important in a flyway as a whole. While  
27 representatives from the flyway frequently -- or from  
28 this Council frequently attend the flyway meetings, we  
29 believe that it's important for members of the Flyway  
30 Council to come to this meeting as well to help better  
31 understand the needs of the Migratory Bird Co-  
32 Management Council and the importance of the flyway as  
33 a whole. So that's a good thing.

34  
35 Taqulik.

36  
37 MS. HEPA: I think that's a good thing  
38 too and I hope that they can set money aside to sponsor  
39 an AMBCC member to travel to the SRC meeting as well.  
40 I know that we've tried to use it within our existing  
41 agreements, you know, to have our meetings and whatnot,  
42 but if there was money set aside so somebody like  
43 Michael can attend the SRC or the Pacific Flyway, that  
44 would be only fair.

45  
46 Thank you.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN DALE: Patty.

49  
50

1 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, I just wanted  
2 to thank Jason for his work on this. We have never had  
3 or taken the opportunity to review the PFC proposals  
4 and see how they affect us up here in Alaska, so Jason  
5 actually took the initiative to go through those  
6 proposals that were being presented to the PFC,  
7 identify the ones that would be of interest to us and  
8 then write up the summary and present them here. So I  
9 think that's a good practice that we should continue.  
10 I just wanted to thank you for your work on that,  
11 Jason.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. So I just want  
14 to note that we're joined here by Greg Siekaniec, the  
15 Alaska Regional Director for the Fish and Wildlife  
16 Service. Greg. We're going to take 10 minutes and  
17 then we'll get back after it, okay. Thanks.

18  
19 (Off record)

20  
21 (On record)

22  
23 CHAIRMAN DALE: We need to get started  
24 if I can have your attention, please. So we have with  
25 us for a few minutes here Greg Siekaniec, the Alaska  
26 Regional Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
27 Service. Welcome, Greg.

28  
29 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thanks, Bruce. Good  
30 morning.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN DALE: Push your button.

33  
34 MR. SIEKANIEC: Press my button. You  
35 know how to press my button, Bruce.

36  
37 (Laughter)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN DALE: We have training at the  
40 State of Alaska when you get on board.

41  
42 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you for the  
43 opportunity to join you for a little bit this morning.  
44 You've extended this through the whole week. You must  
45 be making a tremendous amount of great decisions coming  
46 out of this board.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN DALE: Yeah, it's big.

49  
50

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: All right. So I was  
2 just asked who was joining me here today. I don't know  
3 if everybody has had a chance to meet Anee Howard.  
4 Anee is in our Legislative or Congressional Services  
5 Office and you might guess that they don't let me out  
6 of her sight very often.

7  
8 So, Bruce, thanks for the opportunity  
9 and what I would like to do as much as anything is  
10 answer any questions or have a discussion more about  
11 the topics that are perhaps relevant that you might  
12 want to ask, so we could certainly do that.

13  
14 Listening to the Pacific Flyway report  
15 was a little bit like a walk down memory lane between  
16 Semidi Canada Goose at Alaska Maritime and where  
17 they're hanging out and what they're doing and why  
18 their productivity might be different than the Aleutian  
19 Canada Geese usually in other areas. And my experience  
20 out at Izembek Refuge and Lagoon, so, yeah, a little  
21 bit of a walk down memory lane in regard to some of the  
22 issues.

23  
24 I'm sorry I missed the Emperor Goose  
25 presentation yesterday because I'm particularly  
26 interested in how this harvest for this year is going  
27 and the reporting and how the recordkeeping is, you  
28 know, how our understanding is of what's happening  
29 relative to that population. That will continue to be  
30 of a keen interest certainly by me. Well, not me, a  
31 lot of people.

32  
33 Whether it be the Pacific Flyway or the  
34 Service Regulations Committee, there was a great deal  
35 of dialogue around the Emperor Goose and I think I was  
36 surprised at the amount of energy it took to actually  
37 get people in the right place on making that decision  
38 to allow that there would be a harvest on Emperor  
39 Geese. So all those things that you think are kind of  
40 ready to go and teed up and there won't be much on,  
41 they always surprise you with a lot more interest than  
42 perhaps you think.

43  
44 If that's all right, if people would  
45 like to have specific topics or discussions about  
46 specific topics, why don't we do that? Would that be  
47 all right?

48  
49 CHAIRMAN DALE: Sure.

50

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN DALE: Taqulik.

4  
5 MS. HEPA: Oh, I'm good.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN DALE: Oh, you're good. Okay.

8  
9 MR. SIEKANIEC: If not, if you don't  
10 have specifics, I mean I can offer a few insights as  
11 maybe the bigger picture from where we are in the  
12 administration and the Department of Interior and our  
13 budgeting. We have a continuing resolution that we'll  
14 be operating under for a three-month window thereabouts  
15 I believe until December 8. The House of  
16 Representatives what they thought a budget should be  
17 versus what the President's budget was that was sent  
18 forward are quite different, but they are still very  
19 much a reduction in available fiscal resources.

20  
21 The President's recommendation was that  
22 we were to be \$225 million less. The House mark put us  
23 at about 45 less, but when you add in the cost of  
24 employee benefits and various associated costs, we're  
25 still at \$60-70 million reduction. You know, and  
26 spread across the Fish and Wildlife Service. So that's  
27 significant no matter how you look at it.

28  
29 I'm guessing that you've probably had a  
30 discussion on your budget matters here in this  
31 committee. I'm also hearing them when I go to the  
32 Eskimo Walrus Commission and to the Polar Bear  
33 Commission and various places on what available  
34 resources there will be for us to do the very important  
35 conservation work that we're all engaged in here. So  
36 that will continue to be a challenge. I don't see any  
37 way around it.

38  
39 It's kind of awkward when you have to  
40 say in a perfect world right now the best thing for us  
41 could be a continuing resolution. Because what they do  
42 is they set that off of the prior year's budget and  
43 they tend to not make very many adjustments in there on  
44 a continuing resolution. With this administration I  
45 don't anticipate that happening or surviving very long.  
46 They're going to want to really start influencing the  
47 Federal budget.

48  
49 Along with that I'm sure you've read

50

1 all the administration's interest. They want a smaller  
2 civilian workforce. They're looking for reducing the  
3 number of employees that exist almost universally  
4 across the Federal government. We're no exception to  
5 that. We are trying to figure out what that means.

6  
7 So far we're able to meet, I think, the  
8 interest through -- whether it be retirement,  
9 attrition. You won't see a lot of positions probably  
10 getting filled with any expediency because it has to be  
11 put into sort of a national consideration of where all  
12 can we take on these reductions and still be successful  
13 at meeting our mission as a whole. So we've got some  
14 challenges in front of us from a national perspective  
15 and that steps right down here to us here in Alaska.

16  
17 You know as well as I do that whether  
18 migratory bird or the conservation of fish in and  
19 around the state that continues to have a lot of  
20 profile around it. You know, the chinook salmon runs  
21 this year was great on the Yukon but pretty tough on  
22 the Kuskokwim. The Kenai River we had it projected to  
23 be sort of in that mid range ended up being reasonably  
24 okay. So hopefully we'll be able to continue to put  
25 the focus on certainly the salmon runs around the state  
26 and keep those as strong and healthy as we possibly  
27 can.

28  
29 You know, we have any number of issues  
30 relative to marine mammals. We are going to be putting  
31 out a decision on whether or not to list the Pacific  
32 Walrus. We were obligated by law to have that done by  
33 the end of this month, so that's working its way  
34 through the process in our headquarters office.

35  
36 Taquilik and I work on polar bears. We  
37 have a treaty with Russia and then we also have the  
38 Beaufort Sea population and the mixing that's going on  
39 and we're trying to understand the science behind how  
40 we get all those decisions in the right place.

41  
42 I guess we've already talked a little  
43 bit about exchange of diplomatic notes and various  
44 things to try and get ourselves in the right place. So  
45 it continues with a lot of different activities that  
46 are ongoing and underway.

47  
48 Anybody come up with any thoughts or  
49 questions they'd like to -- Patty.

50



1 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Greg.  
2 The other day we got a report from Eric and Crystal  
3 about your strategic planning process in Region 7.  
4 Crystal mentioned that Alaska Native relations is at or  
5 near the top of the list of priorities. So my question  
6 is how does the AMBCC fall in that priority list in  
7 regards to funding?

8  
9 And not only initial, I know we're  
10 strapped for cash, but if there becomes funding  
11 available, end of the year money or whatever, would the  
12 AMBCC be considered to get additional funding or how  
13 does that work when you are budgeting the money you get  
14 from DC? Thank you.

15  
16 MR. SIEKANIEC: Well, how the AMBCC  
17 works is it sits within Eric's sort of priority. The  
18 way I like to challenge our folks that are particularly  
19 the leaders in and around the various parts. You know,  
20 Migratory Birds or whether it be National Wildlife  
21 Refuges or Fisheries Resources I mean you always have  
22 to take a step back and say what are our priorities  
23 that are going to address the most important  
24 conservation issues that we face and then you apply the  
25 needed funding appropriately in that regard.

26  
27 Obviously there's a step above that and  
28 that is to determine first what boards and commissions  
29 are those that we're going to be able to continue to  
30 support. The Department unfortunately is still a  
31 little bit quirky on boards and commissions. They  
32 still have this review of whether or not they feel we  
33 should be supporting all the boards and commissions  
34 that we have been actively engaged in in the past.

35  
36 We thought we had a September 1st date  
37 where it became wide open again. Well, that's sort of  
38 been pulled back. They're still thinking about whether  
39 or not they're willing to support the boards and the  
40 commissions that we're actually engaged in.  
41 When we get those approved and that, then it goes into  
42 a priority-setting basis for us.

43  
44 Patty, you're right, in our priorities  
45 for me in the region it's to have great relationships  
46 with our Native communities and peoples in such a way  
47 that we do good conservation and we meet the  
48 conservation demands and the needs that the various  
49 species have and certainly what the communities have  
50

1 for their interest as well.

2

3 I can't tell you exactly how that will  
4 look. I can't tell you if there's going to be money  
5 available at the end of the year that we're going to  
6 move out to the boards and commissions. Is that part  
7 of the consideration? It certainly always can be.

8

9 CHAIRMAN DALE: Taqulik.

10

11 MS. HEPA: Just following that  
12 discussion, I think as a challenge to you and different  
13 heads of agencies within Alaska that have co-management  
14 powers or programs.

15

16 MR. SIEKANIEC: Responsibilities or  
17 something.

18

19 MS. HEPA: Exactly. I think, you know,  
20 because of the budget challenges and the effectiveness  
21 of co-management, you know, we've been blessed to be  
22 able to travel out to our communities and a number of  
23 locations throughout the year and interact with the  
24 public, but it poses an opportunity for more power to  
25 the people. You know, working with the tribes to take  
26 on some of the responsibilities of co-management.

27

28 When we go out there and talk about  
29 conservation concerns, whether it's polar bears or  
30 caribou or migratory birds that may be listed, that the  
31 people have -- again, going back to the discussion we  
32 had the other day, just instill in us how to be  
33 conservative when that time is there.

34

35 MR. SIEKANIEC: Right.

36

37 MS. HEPA: You know, through  
38 observations we know that caribou have a conservation  
39 concern and from what we hear from our technical  
40 advisors that do research on caribou, but it's the  
41 people that know how to adjust their way of hunting to  
42 address the issue. So the tribes having the resources  
43 to build upon some of the responsibilities that might  
44 be in your world of polar bears, walrus or migratory  
45 birds I think is an opportunity and we should challenge  
46 each other to have discussions on how to do that.

47

48 Because in the foreseeable future,  
49 until something drastic happens, that funding is going  
50

1 to continue to be an issue and how can we be effective  
2 in co-managing these resources when we don't have the  
3 ability to interact with the people that these  
4 regulations impact.

5  
6 Like I've said, we've had the  
7 opportunity to go out to our communities and people  
8 aren't informed. You know, just with the funding that  
9 we have with migratory birds, that we saved that one  
10 pot of funding to go to a different village each year.  
11 We just made one full round and we're heading back, but  
12 it's been an eight-year process because we have eight  
13 communities.

14  
15 People in Point Hope, we were just  
16 there, they're not aware of what the AMBCC is or what  
17 we do. So every time you go to a different community  
18 and you get a group of hunters and you try to educate  
19 them on this because in the current grant we have no  
20 funding for outreach.

21  
22 MR. SIEKANIEC: Right.

23  
24 MS. HEPA: And the person that we have  
25 hired as an outreach person is grant funded, so she's  
26 only allowed to work on opportunities or other -- like  
27 the committee covers part of her, like a couple weeks  
28 of her time, so she does outreach on that with what  
29 resources she has.

30  
31 Again I think it's a challenge and I  
32 encourage you to think about it. All of us around the  
33 table, how can we do things differently to be  
34 productive and to continue to be good co-managers.

35  
36 Thank you.

37  
38 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. Those are  
39 all great points and I think the relationship that we  
40 need to have and the way that we need to be informed  
41 is, to me, one of the most important parts of those  
42 sort of relationships. As we're dealing with the  
43 Beaufort and Chukchi Sea population of polar bears, we  
44 need to have the understanding of what the communities  
45 are facing relative to those bears. That certainly  
46 helps inform us and involve us in the decision-making.

47  
48 The communications part of -- you know,  
49 once every eight years, that's a little bit difficult,  
50

1 but it sounds like you're saying that in-person  
2 meetings are the way the communications happens best  
3 with villages.

4  
5 MS. HEPA: Oh, yeah. Because what's  
6 the purpose of sitting around doing all of this when  
7 the people -- you know, it's hard to get information  
8 back to them and it takes a lot of resources to do so.  
9 But we know through experience that when you go to the  
10 communities and you have hunter meetings, a lot of  
11 people come. I mean that's been our experience and you  
12 share some of these things.

13  
14 Sometimes the frustration comes up  
15 because they weren't aware. They blame us because we  
16 come to the table and we have to take the heat when we  
17 go and talk about conservation concern of polar bears  
18 or caribou, whatever it is. They ask how could you do  
19 that. I was like we're trying to defend and trying to  
20 figure out a good way forward with the agencies and  
21 with other Alaska Native representatives from around  
22 the table.

23  
24 So we need to -- like I said, I don't  
25 think we could resolve it today, but we need to think  
26 together on how can we be more effective.

27  
28 MR. SIEKANIEC: So to make sure I'm  
29 understanding. The example you used on the eight  
30 communities with the Migratory Bird Co-Management  
31 Council, the representatives from those eight  
32 communities are part of the Council, so the return of  
33 individuals to that community is not necessarily  
34 stepping up to meet the communications needs.....

35  
36 MS. HEPA: Well, these people that are  
37 our advisors or committee members are not paid.

38  
39 MR. SIEKANIEC: Right.

40  
41 MS. HEPA: They have other jobs.

42  
43 MR. SIEKANIEC: Right.

44  
45 MS. HEPA: They can't just go and --  
46 you know, they're not paid to deliver the message.  
47 They do attend Council meetings and report to their  
48 respective Councils, but it's a Council. So, to me,  
49 that's not as effective as it is when you go physically  
50

1 with the agency.....

2

3

MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay.

4

5

6

MS. HEPA: .....and ask together and  
bring hunters together to have a discussion.

7

8

MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay.

9

10

11

12

13

14

MS. HEPA: But again I don't want to  
take -- I think that there should be a forum so we  
could have open discussions like this because I don't  
want to take it away from your short time with us.

15

16

17

18

MR. SIEKANIEC: Well, I appreciate  
that. It helps me understand more of what the  
challenge is. Okay.

19

20

CHAIRMAN DALE: Gayla.

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
Thank you for coming today. As you were talking about  
budgets and that's something that we're going to enter  
a new grant cycle, each of the people represented here.  
One of the concerns that we talked about during our  
work sessions is the ability to have our regional  
management bodies come to the main hubs for meetings  
due to the high cost of air travel.

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

We're limited on our budget and I know  
that the budgets are being cut, but since this is a  
spring/summer subsistence hunt and we need to hear from  
those regional representatives as to what they're  
seeing out there and making sure that we can bring them  
to these meetings. What we did in the Bristol Bay  
region is -- I mean we're going to have to probably go  
to one meeting due to the high cost of travel in our  
area where we were able to have two meetings before.

40

41

MR. SIEKANIEC: Right.

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. HOSETH: And that's pretty much all  
around the table. And when we're talking about these  
regulations and stuff and doing it over a  
teleconference and trying to explain the rules or the  
changes, it's very hard to sit on a phone and try to  
explain these things on the phone to the people in the  
outlying villages.

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: Right.

2  
3 MS. HOSETH: So, I mean with the money  
4 that does come in for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service I  
5 think Eric told us that it was \$4.8 million and looking  
6 at what we get for all the regional management bodies I  
7 believe it's like 7 percent of the budget. So we're  
8 hardly getting a piece of that pie to conduct these  
9 important regulatory changes within rural Alaska.

10  
11 MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay. I appreciate  
12 that. I can't comment on the numbers. I don't know if  
13 the 4.8 and the 7 percent relative to what that  
14 reference is, but I hear the message.

15  
16 MS. HOSETH: Okay. Thank you.

17  
18 MR. SIEKANIEC: I get the message.

19  
20 MS. HOSETH: Yeah. I mean just so that  
21 -- I mean we can't really afford anymore cuts in our  
22 regions and I know that a lot of people can't afford  
23 anymore cuts, but living in rural Alaska and this being  
24 a subsistence hunt it's really important that -- we're  
25 going to put together our wish budgets, which we know  
26 that that probably won't happen, but we want -- for us  
27 to do the work that we need to get done is really  
28 important.

29  
30 MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay. I appreciate  
31 that. That message sounds awful familiar to me sitting  
32 at the table with our other regional directors and  
33 saying the work we need to do is important and we can't  
34 take anymore additional cuts either. But we do have to  
35 figure out how to work within what is going to happen.

36  
37  
38 I'm being very frank. It is going to  
39 be a challenge for us to meet all of the demands that  
40 we have. When we go through our priority setting  
41 basis, I don't believe in everybody just taking an  
42 equal percentage of cuts. I think we have to look at  
43 it from a true priority standpoint.

44  
45 What ranks out the demand on us to meet  
46 the conservation issues of concern that we have to get  
47 addressed and you start working your way down. Some of  
48 those things near the bottom start to fall off.  
49 Unfortunate, but that is what it is.

50

1 I would imagine Bruce can speak pretty  
2 loudly to that over the last handful of years, but I  
3 think you're in a better spot now. You know, you had a  
4 couple of opportunities come your way. It is a  
5 challenge, I appreciate that, and we take it as that.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN DALE: Gayla.

8  
9 MS. HOSETH: Thank you. And thank you  
10 for that. I just wanted to bring that forward.

11  
12 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yeah.

13  
14 MS. HOSETH: And one of the other  
15 issues that we talked about, I believe it was at our  
16 spring meeting, Cyrus brought it up, about the U.S.  
17 Fish and Wildlife Service or the game wardens coming  
18 and confiscating rifles, I believe. Was it in the  
19 '60s, Cyrus? And I'll have the regions that are most  
20 familiar with this history to bring this forward, but  
21 what we were wanting was a formal apology from the U.S.  
22 Fish and Wildlife Service of what happened in the  
23 Arctic and the Northwest Arctic and I'll divert that to  
24 those regions now.

25  
26 MR. HARRIS: Cyrus Harris, Maniilaq  
27 Association for the record. Thanks for bringing that  
28 up, Gayla. Yeah, this came from our region on that  
29 apology mainly because it affected a lot of the people  
30 well before us and me in my younger days to the point  
31 to where, you know, we heard some stories of some  
32 elderly people as of today still continuing to hide and  
33 pluck their ducks mainly because of the threats that  
34 they had well beforehand and guns that were  
35 confiscated.

36  
37 Also the guns that were confiscated  
38 there was information also shared that it took this one  
39 particular person three months of work to make enough  
40 money to buy this one shotgun and within seconds just  
41 taken away. It was also notified that they were  
42 observed at the Fairbanks U.S. Fish and Wildlife.....

43  
44 MS. HOSETH: Cramer's Field.

45  
46 MR. HARRIS: Yeah, Cramer's Field.  
47 That there were a lot of guns in storage that he  
48 identified or saw. I'm talking about my respective  
49 elder who's a regional representative. But then again

50

1 we looked into it after our meetings just to find out,  
2 you know, the guns are no longer there. So there were  
3 issues brought up about how about returning those guns  
4 back to the respective people.

5  
6 So this is going to be coming along.  
7 Thanks for bringing that up. Our folks ask for some  
8 sort of apology from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
9 and the people that affected our people back then.  
10 There's quite a bit more to it. That's just a small  
11 handful of information there.

12  
13 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. About a  
14 year ago I attended the first meeting and this issue  
15 was brought up and there was again a similar  
16 presentation made and the discussion of that. I think  
17 Bruce and Pete at the time had talked about it and said  
18 that's something we can certainly work towards. So I  
19 would expect that we're probably in that same spot  
20 still. I'm looking at Eric and Bruce. We could  
21 certainly work towards that and figure it out.

22  
23 The guns I do not know. I'm at a loss.  
24 I believe I asked our law enforcement chief even a year  
25 ago when this issue first came up and I don't believe  
26 that we uncovered anything that indicates we have any  
27 firearms in our possession that have been confiscated  
28 and still remain in some way. Now I don't know that we  
29 know what role we had in confiscation of all those  
30 firearms and what the disposal perhaps might have been.  
31 I don't know.

32  
33 Ryan, do you remember anything around  
34 that issue?

35  
36 MR. NOEL: Just that when we were asked  
37 to look, and this was the first time I heard was last  
38 year. So when Greg brought this to my attention we did  
39 a 100 percent accountability of all of our firearms to  
40 see if we did have any that were seized in the past and  
41 still retained and we had none.

42  
43 So then I asked our research assistant  
44 to go back through all the old case files to see if we  
45 had any listing of firearms that were seized.  
46 Unfortunately our reporting methods were different back  
47 in the '60s than they are today. Today it's all  
48 electronically stored and central database nationwide.  
49 Very easy to pull things up and get information like  
50



1 that. From back then we do not have great records.

2

3 So I can't say it didn't happen. I'd  
4 love to be able to say that it didn't, but I can't. I  
5 don't know that it didn't happen, but I can only say  
6 that we have no firearms today that were seized from  
7 then and no way of knowing what would have happened to  
8 them if they had been seized.

9

10 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thanks, Ryan. So as  
11 far as the interest in a formal apology, I fully  
12 believe that's something we should be working on and we  
13 can work on. Obviously it will take some  
14 communications and work and effort to figure out how  
15 and when. I'm sure most people are familiar with, you  
16 know, we did do an apology this summer out on the  
17 Pribilof Island associated with St. Paul and St. George  
18 relative to the World War II and the apology was  
19 certainly what role we had as an agency in  
20 administering what had become sort of a mandate because  
21 of World War II and I would think we can work our way  
22 through some sort of similar thought process and get to  
23 a place.

24

25 I'm looking a little bit at Bruce  
26 because you're going to be a partner with us in this.

27

28 CHAIRMAN DALE: Yes, yes. I discussed  
29 it with Crystal yesterday or the day before that this  
30 is something that we're interested in doing and we'll  
31 be working towards it. I'm not sure where the ball got  
32 dropped and whether there was any progress made, but  
33 we'll remedy that.

34

35 MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay.

36

37 CHAIRMAN DALE: Right, Eric?

38

39 MR. HARRIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
40 Again, Cyrus, Maniilaq Association for the record.  
41 Anyway this apology didn't mean to be any kind of  
42 offense to the agencies and so forth who were involved  
43 but more for a healing process for the Native people.  
44 It still affects our generation. I mean, you know,  
45 being out hunting, being legal, having my registration  
46 permit for Emperor Goose and an airplane come by. It  
47 scares me, you know, and it's open season. So it's  
48 still affecting the people today and the people before.

49

50

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yes.

2  
3 MR. HARRIS: Thank you.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN DALE: You're not the only one  
6 that has that reaction, Cyrus. Anything more on that.  
7 I think as a way to go forward we'll be drafting  
8 something up and bringing it by Patty and kind of  
9 making sure that we're on the right track. Of course  
10 it's going to be a little bit of a slow process as we  
11 run it by all our various entities, but we'll get the  
12 ball moving on this. Patty will crack the whip to make  
13 sure that that happens. The new Chair. She'll be  
14 cracking the whip on the new Chair.

15  
16 (Laughter)

17  
18 MR. SIEKANIEC: Well, thank you, Mr.  
19 Chair. Obviously with Eric and Crystal they'll have  
20 that in there to-do list of things that we want to move  
21 forward. Okay?

22  
23 CHAIRMAN DALE: Any other topics for  
24 Greg here. You look like you have your hand on the  
25 button all the time. That's why I keep looking at you.  
26 Taqulik.

27  
28 MS. HEPA: I was just saying maybe I  
29 should just -- but I just really wanted to reemphasize  
30 the point Cyrus brought up. It's a healing process and  
31 in order for us to be effective co-managers that we  
32 have to build trust and that we have to view each other  
33 as a team. Because at the end of the day we're all  
34 working toward the same thing.

35  
36 I think that if an apology is sincere  
37 and it went to the people that experienced that, then  
38 it's a step forward. I look forward to seeing the  
39 outcome and where we take this. There continues to be  
40 an increase of animals that we subsist on having  
41 conservation concern.....

42  
43 MR. SIEKANIEC: Right.

44  
45 MS. HEPA: .....and in order for us to  
46 do our jobs, whether it's Jennifer, Cyrus, myself, you,  
47 the guys at the table there, that we have to work as a  
48 team. We have to trust each other and work toward the  
49 same -- you know, we're all trying to get to the same

50

1 place.

2

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Thank you.

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MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you for that, Taqulik. I think I experienced the tremendous healing power of an apology when we were on St. George this last summer and it is very powerful and it's very important. So thank you for that.

10

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CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay.

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MR. SIEKANIEC: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and Council members for the time. I look very much forward to working with you on -- you know, whether it be migratory bird management issues or other issues that we face in the state.

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CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you very much for coming and talking with us, Greg. So we're back to proposals before the Board of Game. Patty is going to lead that.

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MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a result of the spring meeting and discussions there we did submit three proposals to the Board of Game and Jason Schamber and I worked on those, so again thank you to Jason. So those proposals are under Tab 7.

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The Alaska Board of Game statewide meeting is November 10th through the 17th and it's going to be here in Anchorage. So that's where these proposals will be discussed. The first one is No. 047 and that is to call for a proxy hunt for Emperor Geese during the fall and winter season. Right now there is no proxy hunt, so if a hunter wanted to get a bird for an elder or someone who is unable to hunt, they would have to be using their one bird permit to do that and then they would not be able to get a bird for themselves. So with proxy hunting they would be able to hunt for other people that aren't able to go out. So that's the first proposal.

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Then the second one -- and these were all submitted on behalf of the Native Caucus by the way. The second one is we were requesting that the

1 Board of Game consider making their definition of  
2 edible meat consistent with our spring/summer  
3 regulations. So it would be further defining the  
4 definition of edible meat for swans, geese and cranes.  
5 It was to add that it would include the breast, back,  
6 thighs, legs, wings, gizzard and heart rather than just  
7 the breast meat. So that is the second proposal.

8  
9 The third proposal is regarding the  
10 State Waterfowl Conservation Tag or State Duck Stamp.  
11 We are requesting an exemption for rural hunters to not  
12 have to purchase a State Duck Stamp. That's the third  
13 one.

14  
15 The fourth one was submitted not by the  
16 direction of the Council, but as a needed addition and  
17 maybe Jason can speak to that if anybody has questions  
18 and that was to have a C&T use finding for all the  
19 migratory bird species that are harvested by the  
20 subsistence hunters.

21  
22 Are there any questions.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Nothing. So if  
27 there are no questions, then that's -- oh, I should  
28 mention the error that we found. Actually one of the  
29 Council members brought it to my attention. The  
30 language we had proposed for the exemption was  
31 misstated and it said under the age of 18 and we meant  
32 everyone over the age of 18. So we spoke with the  
33 Board of Game staff and they are going to send a note  
34 to the Board of Game members and we also can address  
35 that in our proposal comments and during the public  
36 comment period. So we just need to clarify it to them  
37 that this is for people over the age of 18.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN DALE: Gayla.

40  
41 MS. HOSETH: Thank you for going over  
42 those, Patty. I just wanted to remind everybody that  
43 the comment deadline on these proposals is October  
44 27th. So when you do go back home if you guys wanted  
45 to get your regional councils to comment for the Board  
46 of Game proposals and also spread the word to your  
47 tribes and throughout your regions for comment.

48  
49 MS. HEPA: Just for the record at our  
50

1 meeting in Point Hope they did -- our regional  
2 management body did make motions in favor of supporting  
3 two of the proposals. The other one regarding Emperor  
4 Goose they didn't because we didn't have the  
5 opportunity to participate in that hunt because they  
6 don't travel that far. But for the edible meat and the  
7 Duck Stamp they both supported them. We might have our  
8 chairperson attend the meeting to give testimony on  
9 those two and then other proposals that might be taken  
10 up then.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you. A reminder  
13 that the Department of Fish and Game's analysis and  
14 recommendations on those proposals and all the  
15 proposals for the statewide meeting are posted on our  
16 website under the board section, board documents. If  
17 you have trouble finding the link, contact me and I'll  
18 contact somebody who is good at finding stuff on our  
19 website and get back to you.

20  
21 We're neutral on all those proposals.  
22 The Duck Stamp proposal in particular seems, in our  
23 analysis, that it's going to hinge on whether or not  
24 the people that are eligible for the spring and summer  
25 hunts in the areas where they live and do they benefit  
26 from the Duck Stamp and the price of the stamp. In our  
27 analysis it seems as though they do. I mean there's a  
28 qualitative element to benefit, right. One person's  
29 benefit may not seem like a benefit to someone else.  
30 So that will be what the Board has to decide.

31  
32 In fairness, because we helped put the  
33 proposal together, we also have to do our analysis.  
34 Our staff -- the revenue from Duck Stamps is about  
35 \$60,000 a year. It will probably go up since the price  
36 of the stamp went up, but that's what it's been, \$50-  
37 60,000 a year. We can match that to the Federal Aid  
38 Program where funds are available and turn that into  
39 \$200,000. That money comes from ammunition and firearm  
40 sales and other hunting equipment across the nation.  
41 Alaska gets a big share of that money.

42  
43 But our Waterfowl Program, Jason's  
44 salary, what we contribute to the Division of  
45 Subsistence is more like \$600-700,000. We have done  
46 studies in places like Minto and on the Delta.  
47 Obviously they support this body. Jason has gotten a  
48 couple kudos this meeting and well deserved. So it's a  
49 qualitative argument.

50

1 We'll be presenting that information to  
2 the Board and they'll make their decision. So you need  
3 to make your case. I think it's going to hinge on that  
4 because the regulation that they can waive is pretty  
5 specific that it has to be a case where there's no  
6 benefit to the resource user, so that would be the  
7 reason they could exempt the Waterfowl Stamp.

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Taqulik and then Coral.

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MS. HEPA: Some of the questions that were asked was how much was a Duck Stamp and how much was a State hunting license. Then some of the comments that I've heard is choices that people in our rural communities have to make. A good example is a guy had to make a decision on should I spend the \$200 to get my four-wheeler running, ATV, or should I spend \$200 on getting some food, protein for the family at the Native store that they had in this community.

So when they asked that question how much is a State Duck Stamp, I didn't know the answer. I don't know. But again when people have to make those kinds of choices, it really does affect the families. So that's part of the reality that should -- and we'll have people provide that type of testimony.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you, Taqulik. A resident hunting license now is \$45. It went up. For instances where you describe, there is the low income license of \$5. So many people in that boat where they don't have much disposable income can get the \$5 license.

MS. SCHWALENBERG: Those are the regular Duck Stamps?

CHAIRMAN DALE: What's the Duck Stamp now? \$10. Coral and then Peter.

MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you. This is Coral. I just wanted to give a note to think about the stamp program. In our area where we were talking about a proposal for the road system and when we talk about things for subsistence, I also sit on the Regional Advisory Committee for subsistence, we often talk about people want studies, they want numbers, they want

1 surveys, they're often not available.

2

3 So something we are doing with our  
4 proposal is we're pulling that data from Duck Stamps  
5 distributed, which has kind of been maybe a savior for  
6 where there is no other data available. We have data  
7 from the Duck Stamp Program about how many were  
8 distributed in our area, which we're going to use to  
9 hopefully give our proposal a little bit of support.  
10 So I just might ask that people spread the word about  
11 that or think about that when we're always needing  
12 survey numbers and study numbers. That is a source of a  
13 number to use for how many people are hunting in the  
14 area.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN DALE: Peter and then Gayla.

19

20 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
21 Where to start. Okay. Last year this is what we  
22 started with. We wanted a proxy hunt. We wanted to be  
23 able to go out and get birds for cultural activities  
24 and a few for our elders and the next thing we know  
25 we're getting 1,000 birds when our original intent was  
26 just to start being able to utilize these birds at our  
27 potlucks and whatnot. I mean that's where it was.

28

29 I was in Dutch Harbor at the Board of  
30 Game meeting last year to testify in support of that.  
31 And then it blossomed to 1,000 birds during a time when  
32 we don't have a hunt. I mean we're only recognized  
33 with a spring and summer hunt for migratory birds. Now  
34 we've got 1,000 birds.

35

36 It's very important for people to go to  
37 these meetings and testify. If you can't testify, at  
38 least send in your comments. I mean last year it was  
39 like, okay, let's get this started and then all of a  
40 sudden we get 1,000 birds and open to the whole state.  
41 Our original intent was just to start getting a few  
42 birds so our elders can have another taste before they  
43 go.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN DALE: Peter, in response to  
48 that, for other species this would require regulatory  
49 change again, but something this committee for cultural

50

1 and educational purposes, for certain religious,  
2 mortuary, Alaska Native ceremonies, there are  
3 provisions for taking of moose and caribou and deer and  
4 things like that for that. I don't know if there's any  
5 provision for waterfowl at this time, but there is a  
6 precedent with big game.

7  
8 So in terms of satisfying that need,  
9 that is something the Board could allocate and take it  
10 out of the 1,000 bird framework unless we could change  
11 it with the Service and that would depend on the  
12 performance of the population. We're probably going to  
13 be limited to 1,000 birds for whatever purposes, but  
14 that allocation could be done in the fall season  
15 through that regulatory mechanism. It's possible.

16  
17 Gayla.

18  
19 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
20 In regards to the State Duck Stamp a lot of people  
21 living in rural Alaska don't purchase the Duck Stamp  
22 and for us to no longer be required to purchase a  
23 Federal Duck Stamp, that's why we did the proposal for  
24 the State Duck Stamp. It also, like Taqulik said about  
25 the cost of the Duck Stamp and people making the  
26 decision do I get the Duck Stamp or buy a box of  
27 bullets.

28  
29 The reason why we did that too is the  
30 State doesn't even recognize our subsistence hunt, so  
31 that's why it's important for us to get those comments  
32 in. I just don't if the number -- I'm not sure how it  
33 is on Kodiak, if a lot of people buy the Duck Stamp,  
34 but I know that in our region and other regions that we  
35 heard around the table a lot of people don't and that  
36 they're still hunting.

37  
38 Hopefully this will pass. And if it's  
39 the \$200,000 but it's a hardship on our people out in  
40 rural Alaska, we just wanted to -- as we do live in the  
41 dual management systems and Federal Duck Stamp, State  
42 Duck Stamps, I know that that Federal Duck Stamp took  
43 forever to no longer have that requirement. Hopefully,  
44 let's keep our fingers cross, the more people that we  
45 have commenting on these proposals during the Board of  
46 Game for the on-time comments and also in person if  
47 you're in town, the better.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN DALE: That's a very good  
50



1 point. Thank you. I guess I just feel compelled to  
2 say the State does recognize subsistence use of  
3 waterfowl, migratory birds in season. It's just  
4 provided through the framework that we have at the Fish  
5 and Wildlife Service and there are seasons and bags and  
6 different methods and means regulations, but there  
7 certainly is recognition that there are subsistence  
8 uses of those resources.

9  
10 When you write your letter on Emperor  
11 Geese in the non-resident season, the first thing that  
12 happens under the State regulation is that non-  
13 residents get excluded. So if you make the argument  
14 that needs aren't being met, non-residents should be  
15 excluded in addition to the other concerns that you  
16 presented, if that's the way you feel, you should  
17 express that because the Board does have an obligation  
18 to meet and provide a reasonable opportunity for  
19 success for subsistence use in the autumn waterfowl  
20 season just like they do for moose and caribou and  
21 every other species.

22  
23 It's not an ideal system and we have a  
24 lot of laws to change before that will be fixed, but  
25 that's the way it sits.

26  
27 Anything else there. Roland.

28  
29 MR. WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
30 Going inline with Gayla, in our region a lot of people  
31 buy the Duck Stamps. The argument year in/year out  
32 regarding waterfowl and the Duck Stamp is, from what I  
33 heard from many hunters including myself, in our region  
34 everything is so expensive. Just for instance gas  
35 ranges from \$6.00 to \$7.50 a gallon. In regards to  
36 that, ammunition, just for a box of shells is close to  
37 \$50. That's for 25 rounds for \$50. A lot of people  
38 are concerned because there's hardly any work in my  
39 region, especially in the rural communities. Just a  
40 handful of people work in that region.

41  
42 You were saying that you guys are  
43 looking at if the exemption of Duck Stamps will benefit  
44 anyone. I believe it will benefit the majority of  
45 Alaska Native people especially with the price of gas  
46 and ammunition. Not alone those things in the grocery  
47 store. For example a pound of ground beef in my  
48 community costs a little over \$10.

49  
50

1                   Weighing in those barriers, the Duck  
2 Stamp, if by any chance it passes, it will greatly  
3 benefit those people in the rural communities. I don't  
4 know if anybody from my region comes to these Board --  
5 I almost said board games -- Board meetings.....

6  
7                   CHAIRMAN DALE: You might have been  
8 right.

9  
10                  (Laughter)

11  
12                  MR. WHITE: Board meetings. But I  
13 would highly advise because I, myself, won't be able to  
14 attend the Board meeting this coming November due to  
15 funding like I mentioned.

16  
17                  Anyway, I would highly advise to pass  
18 on this information to the Board of Game during their  
19 meeting. Quyana.

20  
21                  CHAIRMAN DALE: Gayla.

22  
23                  MS. HOSETH: Thank you. I guess just  
24 for clarification the proposal is to not require a  
25 State Duck Stamp during the spring and summer season  
26 and then in the fall time subsistence users would have  
27 to buy the State Duck Stamp for the fall and winter.

28  
29                  CHAIRMAN DALE: I believe -- I'm  
30 looking at Jason -- that there was some ambiguity in  
31 the proposal, which I don't have it. But we presented  
32 sort of both scenarios, either a complete waiver or a  
33 spring and summer waiver in our analysis.

34  
35                  MS. HOSETH: Okay.

36  
37                  MR. SCHAMBER: (Away from microphone).

38  
39                  CHAIRMAN DALE: What's that? Yeah,  
40 please do, Jason.

41  
42                  MR. SCHAMBER: Jason Chamber, Alaska  
43 Department of Fish and Game. By statute it seems that  
44 the Board is limited to considering only areas of  
45 Alaska under the four criteria that are listed, which  
46 are in terms of money from the Duck Stamp fees.

47  
48                  These monies may not be diverted to a  
49 purpose other than the conservation and enhancement of  
50

1 waterfowl, the acquisition by lease or otherwise of  
2 wetlands that are important for waterfowl and public  
3 use of waterfowl in the state, waterfowl-related  
4 projects approved by the Commissioner, or the  
5 administration of the Waterfowl Conservation Program.  
6 So the Board, by statute, it would appear is limited to  
7 considering areas of Alaska under these four criteria  
8 and the money accrued from the Duck Stamp and whether  
9 they apply.

10  
11 So if the Board were to rule in favor  
12 of eliminating the requirement of the Duck Stamp in a  
13 particular area or region of Alaska, that would apply  
14 necessarily to the spring/summer subsistence season as  
15 well as the fall/winter season and it would also apply  
16 to both residents of Alaska and non-residents as well.  
17 So any of those individuals during both hunt seasons in  
18 any region that was eliminated from the requirement of  
19 possessing a Duck Stamp.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN DALE: Patty.

22  
23 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I don't understand  
24 the State regulation process at all, so how do non-  
25 residents come into play in this issue? I don't  
26 understand how this affects them.

27  
28 MR. SCHAMBER: I'm not a lawyer, so  
29 this is my interpretation at least. The statute limits  
30 the Board of Game from considering sort of time periods  
31 or people. It's limited to considering areas. So if  
32 the requirement is eliminated from an area, by default  
33 the time periods and the hunters associated with that  
34 area are released from the requirement of purchasing a  
35 Duck Stamp.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN DALE: So there's a statute  
38 that says everybody has to have a Duck Stamp if you're  
39 going to hunt migratory birds. Then there's also this  
40 other statute that says but the Board of Game could  
41 waive it under these circumstances in a certain area.  
42 So they're limited to what they can do. The Board can  
43 only say the included or eligible areas don't benefit  
44 from the Duck Stamp enough to make it worth charging,  
45 but they can't say to residents, to non-residents, they  
46 can only say if you hunt in this area there's no  
47 benefit of the Stamp to conservation, so we'll waive  
48 the stamp in this area.

49  
50

1 Does that make sense?

2

3

MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes. Thank you.

4

5

CHAIRMAN DALE: Gloria.

6

7

MS. STICKWAN: What areas would they be  
8 considering?

9

10

CHAIRMAN DALE: I'll let Gayla answer  
11 that.

12

13

MS. HOSETH: I think the reason why we  
14 did the proposal is it's for the spring and summer, but  
15 what Jason is telling us that would also include if  
16 non-residents were to come in the rural areas where we  
17 do the spring and summer hunting season.

18

19

MS. STICKWAN: I guess I'm talking  
20 about the Board of Game. I'm talking about what areas  
21 would they consider rural areas or just certain areas  
22 of the state. Southcentral wouldn't be a part of that  
23 area is my question.

24

25

CHAIRMAN DALE: I can talk to that. Go  
26 ahead, Jason.

27

28

MR. SCHAMBER: I was going to say I  
29 suspect the Board would consider areas that would not  
30 benefit from the conservation dollars generated from  
31 sales of the Duck Stamp.

32

33

CHAIRMAN DALE: That's what they're  
34 limited to. That's all they can do as I just  
35 explained. I think the intent of the proposal that  
36 they will look at was the areas eligible for spring and  
37 summer because that was the time period you were asking  
38 for the waiver for. That's for the eligible areas.  
39 From that they would have to look at it and say of  
40 these areas where could we do this because there's no  
41 benefit from the conservation stamp.

42

43

MS. STICKWAN: I guess that was my  
44 question. You kept saying areas. Would Southcentral  
45 not be a rural area. I know the Board makes decisions  
46 in certain regions of the state and have different bag  
47 limits and all that. I guess that's my question.

48

49

CHAIRMAN DALE: So the areas where

50

1 there's spring and summer.....

2

3 MS. STICKWAN: So it's just what AMBCC  
4 has submitted, right? So our area would be included in  
5 that.

6

7 CHAIRMAN DALE: Yeah, the areas that  
8 you can hunt in spring and summer in this booklet.  
9 Those GMUs would be what the Board would consider.

10

11 Patty.

12

13 MS. SCHWALENBERG: But it sounds like  
14 if we said all the areas where spring and summer  
15 harvest occur, they couldn't say okay but only in  
16 spring and summer. They would have to say, okay, any  
17 time of the year for anybody who happens to be in those  
18 areas and that's almost the whole state, the included  
19 area.

20

21 CHAIRMAN DALE: I have to think about  
22 that. My initial reaction was non-residents would be  
23 pretty minor. Anybody else who was going to hunt  
24 outside of the eligible area would have to still buy a  
25 Stamp. Are you worried about whether the proposal  
26 would serve the purposes of the people who put it in?  
27 Because it would waive it if the Board did it.

28

29 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, I'm kind of  
30 wondering about the validity of the proposal now. Is  
31 it going to address what we're trying to address?  
32 Because I don't think that our intent was to exempt  
33 having to purchase a State Duck Stamp for everybody any  
34 time. It was mostly to mirror the regulation sort of  
35 from the Federal so there would not be that financial  
36 burden on the subsistence hunters.

37

38 CHAIRMAN DALE: Right. The Board  
39 apparently is not able to just limit it to those  
40 hunters, so it would limit it to a larger people, but  
41 the subsistence hunters still wouldn't have to buy a  
42 Duck Stamp. You'd still get that -- the burden would  
43 still be alleviated. It would just be alleviated for  
44 the people that don't need it alleviated.

45

46 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Right. And the  
47 likelihood of the Board of Game approving something  
48 that has that sort of ramifications I don't know.

49

50

1                   CHAIRMAN DALE: Again, I have two  
2 messages and one is a repeat one. I think it's going  
3 to be the interpretation of whether there's a benefit  
4 to conservation from the Duck Stamp in those areas or  
5 not. That's the clause that they can waive it on and  
6 that's going to be the deciding factor.

7  
8                   The second thing is if you can't attend  
9 the meeting in person, written comments from  
10 individuals, from groups. The Board actually reads all  
11 those comments. So all these good points you brought  
12 up you need to get before the Board one way or another  
13 either through the Native Caucus or your local AC, RAC  
14 or just write them on your own.

15  
16                   Anybody else.

17  
18                   MS. HOSETH: Do we have a list of what  
19 the benefits are in our regions from the Duck Stamp?

20  
21                   CHAIRMAN DALE: The fact that Jason is  
22 sitting here at the table is one of the benefits.

23  
24                   MR. SCHAMBER: I don't have one today,  
25 but I suspect I'll be putting together something for  
26 the Board of Game meeting.

27  
28                   MS. HOSETH: Well, if it doesn't work,  
29 I guess we'll work on changing the statute next. So  
30 we'll see how far we get along with the Board of Game.

31  
32                   MS. STICKWAN: Could he email that list  
33 of benefits to us so we can make comments on it?

34  
35                   MR. SCHAMBER: I can email it to Patty  
36 and she can distribute it to the group.

37  
38                   MS. STICKWAN: You don't know roughly  
39 what benefits means off the top of your head?

40  
41                   MR. SCHAMBER: Well, a few important  
42 ones. Bruce alluded to one, which was my presence and  
43 interaction with the AMBCC. Also the Pacific Flyway  
44 Council, which is concerned with the management and  
45 conservation of birds that rural residents of Alaska  
46 harvest. We've been involved in a considerable amount  
47 of outreach over the years, including in the rural  
48 areas, about the Duck Stamp. Most recently the Emperor  
49 Goose harvest. We as frequently as we can attend many  
50

1 of the regional management body meetings to update  
2 those folks on fall/winter regulations as well as  
3 discuss spring/summer subsistence harvest seasons.

4  
5 Those are just a few I can name off the  
6 top of my head.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN DALE: So that prompted a  
9 couple other things too. The regulation booklet for the  
10 fall seasons, all the regulations that are put forward,  
11 the Board of Game actions, and then there's been  
12 research that we've participated in and contributed to  
13 in many parts of the state.

14  
15 But, you know, that's from our  
16 perspective. We're doing that to hopefully provide  
17 benefits. It's not our judgment to whether we're being  
18 successful or not.

19  
20 Anything else. Gayla.

21  
22 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
23 It's under the Board of Game proposals and I'm not sure  
24 if we talked about it in the work session or not, but I  
25 had it in my notes to bring it up under this section  
26 about the non-resident Emperor Goose hunt and whether  
27 or not we need to have a formal motion to bring this up  
28 for resolution about for possibly not having non-  
29 residents hunt Emperor Geese in 2018.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN DALE: Isn't this the one that  
32 the Native Caucus just at the table gave direction to  
33 Patty to draft that for the September 29th deadline  
34 before the Board?

35  
36 MS. HOSETH: I just didn't know if that  
37 was formally on the record. That was in our work  
38 session. I'm trying to keep track of everything. So I  
39 just wanted to put that on the record that we will be  
40 doing a letter to ask the Board of Game for direction  
41 on that.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN DALE: And I would recommend  
44 that you ask if there's any objection from the Native  
45 Caucus and then you can provide that direction to  
46 Patty.

47  
48 MS. HOSETH: Is there any objection  
49 from the Native Caucus for us to do that?

50

1 (No objections)

2

3 CHAIRMAN DALE: All right. Hearing no  
4 objection Patty will do that. Roland.

5

6 MR. WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm  
7 a little slow in understanding. With all this  
8 discussion afterwards I think I'm starting to  
9 understand what Jason was saying in the beginning of  
10 his presentation, but I'm still not clear on what he's  
11 saying. So if he could speak Alaskan English, I think  
12 I would understand a little clearer on what he just  
13 mentioned when he first started. I have a couple  
14 questions, but after there's clarification on what he  
15 was saying of those four criteria that he mentioned.

16

17 CHAIRMAN DALE: So it's on the four  
18 criteria is where you want clarification?

19

20 MR. WHITE: Uh-huh (affirmative).

21

22 CHAIRMAN DALE: Yeah, he can give that  
23 another stab. I just wanted to make sure that Roland  
24 is just not trying to show that there's no benefit to  
25 having Jason at the table.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 MR. SCHAMBER: Okay. My apologies,  
30 Roland. I read that directly from the statute and  
31 that's often written in a language that I don't  
32 understand myself.

33

34 The first one which suggests that fees  
35 from the waterfowl conservation tag or the Duck Stamp  
36 cannot be diverted or used for a purpose other than --  
37 so the Duck Stamp fees from sales of that stamp should  
38 be used for four purposes that are listed in the  
39 statute.

40

41 The first one is the conservation and  
42 enhancement of waterfowl in these areas of Alaska. So  
43 it's to basically make sure that waterfowl populations  
44 are sustainable and the habitats that they use are  
45 adequate to continue the sustainability of these  
46 populations.

47

48 The second one, the acquisition by  
49 lease or otherwise of wetlands that are important for

50



1 waterfowl and public use of waterfowl in the state.  
2 This would be direct purchases of land for conservation  
3 purposes to set aside these lands and regulate them in  
4 such a way that it either limits development or how  
5 those lands are used.

6  
7 The third one, waterfowl related  
8 projects approved by the Commissioner. I'm not clear  
9 on what those projects would be and the purpose of that  
10 one, but I suspect that -- I don't know, maybe Bruce  
11 can help me with that one.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN DALE: Yeah, that's broad, but  
14 an example would be studying Pintails in Minto Flats to  
15 ensure that the Pintail populations can withstand the  
16 harvest.

17  
18 MR. SCHAMBER: And then the fourth one  
19 is the administration of the Waterfowl Conservation  
20 Program. That would be the program that I'm employed  
21 under, so all the activities that the statewide  
22 waterfowl program, myself and the staff in that  
23 program, there are three other individuals in that  
24 program, are engaged in. So that includes conservation  
25 and management activities, research activities as Bruce  
26 mentioned, as well as advising on many policy issues.

27  
28 MR. WHITE: Thank you. Based off what  
29 you just clarified, boy that 50-60,000 goes a long way.  
30 The question that I had regarding all these different  
31 criteria that you brought up -- to my understanding  
32 right now you guys are weighing the importance of the  
33 efforts based on subsistence catch. To my thinking is  
34 that you guys are weighing more on conservation efforts  
35 that you guys are doing whereas our people over  
36 centuries and decades have been doing the same thing  
37 without any allotted funding for each other.

38  
39 One of the biggest concerns that I have  
40 is the livelihood of our people in the rural  
41 communities, especially those individuals that do not  
42 have any kind of income of any sort. Their hunting  
43 licenses are waived under low income, but yet,  
44 regardless of that, at one point I wasn't employed and  
45 -- \$5 to me when I was employed was just small change,  
46 but when I was unemployed for a little while \$5 went a  
47 long way.

48  
49 More so, the Duck Stamp costing \$10 and  
50

1 possibly will be going up to \$14-15 in the near future  
2 will dramatically impact the people out there. Like  
3 stated earlier, most of these people aren't employed.  
4 They don't have any kind of income in my region and  
5 it's hard for them to buy these, but yet for those  
6 individuals that don't buy these aren't able to go to  
7 their local department stores or grocery stores to buy  
8 food for their family, so they save just enough money  
9 to buy ammunition and gas to go out hunting.

10

11 When they do that, if by any chance  
12 this proposal does not pass, they automatically become  
13 criminals just for supporting their family members.  
14 Just for trying to live throughout the whole year  
15 taking in mind that the winter supply of meat has gone  
16 low. The State Duck Stamp imposing or law enforcement  
17 imposing the regulation to the full extent and making  
18 these guys criminals is not just right. So whenever we  
19 have discussions on topics like this, like Brandon I'm  
20 frustrated of all these matters that impact my people.

21

22 For instance, just as Chief Red Cloud  
23 from Lakota Tribe, he's not from Alaska, but I always  
24 look up to him and his sayings. These are my lands,  
25 these are my waters, these are my airs. All those that  
26 swim in it belong to me. All these that walk on it  
27 belong to me. All those that fly belong to me. For  
28 that reason I will hunt and gather to support my  
29 family, but the clause there is even though we are  
30 doing that, we are not trying to wipe out any game that  
31 comes through our regions, our lands, our waters, our  
32 airs so they could be protected for our future  
33 generations.

34

35 Based off of like I just mentioned, I  
36 always look onto him even though he passed so many  
37 decades ago. With that I would totally encourage again  
38 for the support from the Fish and Wildlife divisions  
39 from both the State and the Federal agencies to try and  
40 implement the doing away of the State Duck Stamp.

41

42 Qu yana.

43

44 CHAIRMAN DALE: Those are compelling  
45 arguments, Roland, and you need to make sure you get  
46 those to the Board of Game because they'll be making  
47 those decisions.

48

49 Gloria. We have time for one more and

50

1 then we're going to break for lunch.

2

3 MS. STICKWAN: I guess the thing to do  
4 would be to do away with Duck Stamps. Also I heard  
5 conservation and enhancement of migratory birds as a  
6 criteria. What about those areas -- I think almost  
7 every area in the state has conservation and  
8 enhancement in their region of migratory birds. So  
9 shouldn't that be considered as one of the criteria for  
10 them to make that decision to say as one of the  
11 benefits.

12

13 Also my other question was they have  
14 low income license. Is it possible for the Board to do  
15 low income Duck Stamps? I guess I had two questions.

16

17 MR. SCHAMBER: I can speak to the  
18 second one for sure. If you qualify for a low income  
19 license, you are not required to purchase a Duck Stamp.

20

21 CHAIRMAN DALE: Roland.

22

23 MR. WHITE: Has that been the rule for  
24 the past so many years?

25

26 MR. SCHAMBER: Yes.

27

28 CHAIRMAN DALE: Tom, real brief,  
29 please.

30

31 MR. ROTHE: I was waterfowl coordinator  
32 in 1983 and so went through the legislative process in  
33 1984 to pass the State Duck Stamp Act. I can tell you  
34 the Legislature was sensitive to what people in rural  
35 areas needed and were concerned with.

36

37 The background is that sportsmen felt  
38 very strongly they wanted to contribute to habitat  
39 conservation, management programs and has a long  
40 history since 1934 of hunters contributing to make sure  
41 the resource is managed. So that was the beginning  
42 point. But the Legislature then said, well, we have  
43 people out in rural areas in particular that may be  
44 concerned about this fee, which is \$5. So they did a  
45 couple things and, as usual, they didn't finish the job  
46 as we wanted it.

47

48 So what happened is first of all the  
49 language was there that areas could be exempt, but I

50

1 think you could make lots of arguments that maintaining  
2 the management programs and habitat programs benefits  
3 everybody.

4  
5 Then they said we'll have four  
6 exemptions. If you have low income, you don't have to  
7 have a Duck Stamp. If you're 60 or over, you don't  
8 have to have a Duck Stamp. If you're under 16, you  
9 don't have to have a Duck Stamp. And if you're  
10 disabled, you don't have to have a Duck Stamp. So I  
11 think they were really trying to do the right thing for  
12 people that didn't have a lot of money and I think  
13 that's pretty clear right now.

14  
15 So the question is, I think what you're  
16 trying to do requires a Legislative fix to that law if  
17 they want to consider the seasonal applicability of the  
18 Duck Stamp. Anyway, I think the Legislature was really  
19 trying to do the good thing, but that phrase about  
20 areas that don't benefit is just way too fuzzy and the  
21 Board of Game can't really interpret it as anything  
22 right now, so that's the problem.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thanks, Tom. Yeah, I  
25 didn't mean to put too much weight on that. That's my  
26 presumption in our analysis is that's what the decision  
27 will be and the Department of Law will have an opinion  
28 on it. The Board sometimes makes decisions that are  
29 not consistent with statute and sometimes they're still  
30 in effect because sometimes the statute isn't quite  
31 clear enough or go far enough.

32  
33 I just wanted to let you know what our  
34 analysis showed so that we were being transparent and  
35 not trying to give you false expectations of what the  
36 Department can and cannot do in this case.

37  
38 So, with that, again, one more time, a  
39 lot of compelling arguments. They need to get to the  
40 Board of Game. Written arguments are very strong.  
41 Both is better. With that we'll break for lunch and  
42 we'll come back at 1:30 promptly.

43  
44 (Off record)

45  
46 (On record)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN DALE: So we're at the 2018  
49 budget projections and grant application reminder.

50

1 Eric with a C Taylor.

2

3 DR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
4 Donna Dewhurst, all of you know, is our grants expert  
5 for Fish and Wildlife Service and the AMBCC staff  
6 person. Donna is not here, but she asked me to remind  
7 all regional representatives of two things. One is to  
8 please spend down your FY17 grants down to zero.

9

10 The second under Tab 8 in your notebook  
11 is the grants announcement for all of you to apply for  
12 your grants. There's a total estimated funding of  
13 \$330,814 for all of your regions. That includes the  
14 additional supplement for the Executive Director of  
15 AMBCC, Patty. So you have a summary also of your table  
16 from FY03 through FY17.

17

18 Anyway, the important date is -- and  
19 please do not be late -- is October 20th, 2017. So  
20 essentially a month from now. Those applications are  
21 absolutely due. Donna specifically asked me to warn  
22 you do not be a day late because there can be a grace  
23 period in there.

24

25 Gloria had some questions about the  
26 process. Donna comes back on Monday and is an expert  
27 at this and done this for many years. Her number is in  
28 the notebook, but if you want to write it on top of the  
29 grants pages is 786-3398. That's Donna's direct number  
30 if you have any questions at all.

31

32 I've also talked to the head of our  
33 contracting and general services as well as one of her  
34 employees and both assured me that they would assist  
35 you in terms of answering any questions you might have.

36

37 Anything else, any questions on the  
38 grant process at this point.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 DR. TAYLOR: Okay. Let's talk about  
43 funding. As Greg mentioned, the President's budget had  
44 a 14 percent cut to the Fish and Wildlife Service and  
45 Greg mentioned the numbers in terms of millions of  
46 dollars. The House budget is a little bit better.  
47 Relative to migratory birds there's actually no  
48 difference between the President's budget and his  
49 proposed cut and what the House is considering.

50

1                   These are still tentative cuts, but  
2 right now for the National Migratory Bird Program  
3 there's a proposed \$4 million cut. Again this is  
4 tentative, so I wish I could present a firm budget to  
5 the group, but at this point I can't in terms of what  
6 money our program will have either nationally or  
7 regionally.

8  
9                   What I can tell you and I know this  
10 will be received in somewhat reasonable or I guess calm  
11 news, but not the best news based on what I've heard  
12 from folks. I plan to keep the funding level with the  
13 AMBCC, so that includes the regional grants, the  
14 support of Patty in the executive position, the AMBCC  
15 harvest survey as well as the support for Liliana with  
16 the Department of Fish and Game.

17  
18                   I know there's been a lot of requests  
19 from many people for increases in budget relative to  
20 cost of travel, cost of your meetings and many of you  
21 are now facing one meeting. I can understand that. I  
22 also want the group to know that we will be cutting our  
23 program relative to surveys. We plan not to hire  
24 likely any positions in FY18.

25  
26                   As Erik Osnas went through our  
27 prioritization process in our program, we are going to  
28 be looking at our surveys very hard. So the  
29 information that Julian presented yesterday most of  
30 that information I'm hoping will be able to be reported  
31 next year, but we are looking at our survey program  
32 overall as well as not only for waterfowl, but for  
33 seabirds, land birds, shorebirds and our raptor  
34 program. Looking at it very carefully to find out in a  
35 priority way what surveys we can cut.

36  
37                   Erik went through some of the criteria,  
38 like management implications, what data are being used  
39 to actually make management decisions. If they are  
40 not, for example, then perhaps that survey can be cut  
41 or perhaps surveys can be done every other year instead  
42 of every year. So we're looking at a multitude of  
43 varieties. We'll be transparent and as we move forward  
44 let the group know what decisions we made.

45  
46                   It's not the best of news. It's also  
47 complicated that I have an employee that's in charge of  
48 what's called the Sea Duck Joint Venture. Joint  
49 ventures are those programs that are habitat-oriented  
50

1 or species-oriented. In this case Tim Bowman is in  
2 charge for the North American United States section of  
3 the Sea Duck Joint Venture.

4  
5 The Sea Duck Joint Venture as well as  
6 the Black Duck Joint Venture and the Arctic Goose Joint  
7 Venture have been zeroed out in both budgets, both the  
8 President's budget and the House budget, which means  
9 Tim's budget or salary is zeroed out, which means I  
10 would have to incorporate Tim into my current program,  
11 so he would lose funding from the national effort.

12  
13 Anyway, there's a lot of things  
14 underway right now. One, I don't have a firm budget  
15 and I don't really know what's been cut. I made the  
16 decision upfront that the AMBCC funding for FY18 will  
17 stay the same.

18  
19 The other thing I want to mention about  
20 the budget, I looked at the Budget Committee and I  
21 noticed that there's no representative from the  
22 Department of Fish and Game or from Fish and Wildlife  
23 Service on that committee. At these times I'd like the  
24 Council to reconsider that because I think we need to  
25 be creative in coming up with additional funding  
26 opportunities.

27  
28 The Arctic is front and center in the  
29 United States right now with the conservation of Arctic  
30 flora and fauna and the U.S. Chairmanship. There are  
31 other opportunities from the Bureau of Indian Affairs  
32 and the Fish and Wildlife Service with the Native  
33 Americans Fund.

34  
35 I guess what I would recommend is that  
36 we work as a group to find out more funding  
37 opportunities and how we can go after them. As Patty  
38 mentioned, we went after a small amount of money with  
39 the Native Americans Fund for an avian mortality  
40 workshop and Patty and I worked on that. I did several  
41 iterations of the proposal and it wasn't funded  
42 unfortunately. That does not mean it wouldn't be  
43 funded in another year. I plan to talk to that program  
44 again.

45  
46 Patty.

47  
48 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thanks, Eric. When  
49 we do the committees list we ask for volunteers on all  
50

1 the committees. I don't know if there was a specific  
2 reason why Fish and Game or Fish and Wildlife felt they  
3 didn't need participation on the Budget Committee, but  
4 they're certainly welcome. When we go through that  
5 list maybe you can identify some people that might be  
6 interested.

7

8

Thanks.

9

10 DR. TAYLOR: Yeah, I don't remember the  
11 history. If it was a lobbying group to the Fish and  
12 Wildlife Service, then I kind of have to remove myself.  
13 I can't lobby the Federal government for funding on the  
14 behalf of any particular private organization or group.  
15 But nothing prevents me, for example, from sitting down  
16 and Taqulik or Jack or Gayla going does the Fish and  
17 Wildlife Service have any sort of programs that meet  
18 these needs that we've identified and that's not a  
19 problem. I just can't sign a letter to Secretary Zinke  
20 going I want more funding for my program. I can't do  
21 that.

22

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I do think it's a great opportunity.  
The Department has made tribes, Native Americans a  
priority and I think it is a good opportunity that  
there might be some alternatives out there in terms of  
funding. So I think that summarizes my general  
comments on the budget. I'll be happy to take  
questions.

As part of this Budget Committee, the  
other thing we need to do is I think identify a chair  
for that committee at some point and I'll get to that.  
I don't think it should be a twice a year discussion.  
I'd like it to be a more regular discussion. I'd like  
people to say, Eric, do you have a budget yet, is it  
still a continuing resolution, have you heard about the  
Sea Duck Joint Venture. That way we're all kept in the  
loop in kind of more current time than otherwise.

I'll stop there and be happy to answer  
any questions.

CHAIRMAN DALE: Gayla.

MS. HOSETH: Thanks. I just had a  
question when we do get to the budget and if we could  
have a breakdown of the budget with the monies and what  
those monies are being used for instead of just the --



1 we used to get a one page kind of just one-liners and  
2 we talked about it before and asked for a more detailed  
3 budget report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
4 as to where that money goes and how is that money used.

5  
6 DR. TAYLOR: Just for clarification,  
7 would you like it for the region, Gayla, or the  
8 division or what were you thinking?

9  
10 MS. HOSETH: All of it.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN DALE: It seems like what we  
13 had a couple years ago was a sheet that showed the  
14 contributions from the Service and the Department of  
15 Fish and Game to AMBCC and that's helpful, I think.

16  
17 Taqulik.

18  
19 MS. HEPA: Where is Donna? Just  
20 curious.

21  
22 DR. TAYLOR: Donna asked a year ago for  
23 this week off and she came to me a month ago saying --  
24 you know, she's actually a professional photographer  
25 when she's not working for Fish and Wildlife Service  
26 and a very good one. If I remember correctly, she drew  
27 a permit for Denali National Park to take images. I  
28 hope the weather is better than what we're  
29 experiencing.

30  
31 When somebody asks for time off a year  
32 in advance, even though Donna is directly tied to this  
33 group, I felt like she did her due diligence and I'm  
34 also a pretty firm believer in people taking annual  
35 leave. So Donna is not here because of my decision to  
36 let her off.

37  
38 Donna's salary is part of the Migratory  
39 Bird Program. She's the only full-time employee  
40 relative to responsibilities with the AMBCC. I don't  
41 track time that for example Julian puts in in terms of  
42 summarizing data and presenting a PowerPoint. I don't  
43 track my time in terms of answering Patty's emails or  
44 trying to meet with Ryan or other things. Those are  
45 costs that I just incur as part of my program.

46  
47 In terms of the things I just went  
48 through, the regional grants, the support for Liliana,  
49 support for Patty, the AMBCC harvest survey, Donna's

50

1 salary would be on top of that for things directly tied  
2 to AMBCC.

3

4 But I will produce a summary like we've  
5 done in the past. Donna was very rushed when she put  
6 these notebooks together and we just forgot that. So  
7 we'll get that out to the group. Other questions.

8

9 CHAIRMAN DALE: Peter.

10

11 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
12 was just wondering if we were going to try to fill that  
13 vacant staff position so Donna could have some help.

14

15 DR. TAYLOR: That's a good question,  
16 Peter. I will look at our budget and look at what  
17 positions we fill. For example, when I meet with Greg  
18 and Karen for my performance evaluation, we'll talk  
19 about replacing Pete's position as the Assistant  
20 Regional Director for Migratory Birds and State  
21 programs. I don't know where that stands. I have a  
22 pretty reasonable guess that it may not be filled just  
23 from the overall budget of the Fish and Wildlife  
24 Service.

25

26 In terms of other positions to support  
27 the AMBCC, I can't really tell you at this point. My  
28 guess is we won't be refilling Bill Ostrand's position  
29 for example. We have not refilled Cynthia Wentworth's  
30 position who was associated with the AMBCC harvest  
31 survey. Those fundings go toward Liliana's support,  
32 which now she's the principal investigator for the  
33 AMBCC harvest survey. Overall I don't envision  
34 probably replacing any positions right now in Migratory  
35 Birds in FY18.

36

37 Other questions.

38

39 MS. HEPA: No questions, but I just  
40 fear for the productivity of this organization as a co-  
41 management group because of the declining revenues and  
42 not filling positions and the similar case goes for  
43 polar bears, but yet the user groups are being asked to  
44 provide more and that work continues and I just feel  
45 like it's unbalanced and if there's a way that we could  
46 think about how to better secure the funding so there  
47 is some sort of stability.

48

49 DR. TAYLOR: I hear you loud and clear,

50

1 Taqulik. The level of frustration and anxiety, as Greg  
2 mentioned, it's at his level relative to when he has  
3 Regional Director calls and he talks to the other  
4 Regional Directors of the United States. It's at my  
5 level in terms of Migratory Birds.

6  
7 I will tell you that the Alaska Region  
8 is the envy of all the other migratory bird regions in  
9 the United States. The only region that is funded  
10 higher than us is headquarters and that is because  
11 primarily their aviation program and because of all the  
12 personnel they have at headquarters.

13  
14 Our funding, including the support for  
15 migratory bird subsistence harvest is the envy of other  
16 regions. I would venture to say our support of this  
17 group as well as our other monitoring of populations is  
18 probably more than the other regions combined. Partly  
19 because we have this group we're responsible for  
20 monitoring migratory birds for subsistence in Alaska.  
21 It's the only subsistence program in the United States.

22  
23  
24 Secondly, we have an aviation program  
25 and it has shrunk considerably. At one time we had six  
26 pilot biologist. We now have two. Overall our program  
27 has declined substantively.

28  
29 Still I think we're on the forefront of  
30 science. You met Erik Osnas. He's one of the top  
31 biometricians in the United States and one of the  
32 sharpest individuals I've come across in terms of  
33 statistics. And Chuck Frost is the same way. We're  
34 really lucky to have those folks. Look at our surveys  
35 and recommend ways to be more efficient and more  
36 effective in terms of that as well as all of our other  
37 surveys.

38  
39 So I have to be really careful when I  
40 talk to other migratory bird programs because we are  
41 still sitting substantially better. There are some  
42 migratory bird programs that have one biologist and  
43 we're lucky enough to have obviously several.

44  
45 The frustration you heard in Greg's  
46 voice, the frustration and the concern you hear in mine  
47 is real. That's why I think it's really incumbent upon  
48 the Budget Committee for AMBCC to work together  
49 relative to the State of Alaska, Fish and Wildlife  
50

1 Service and the Native Caucus to figure out creative  
2 solutions on how to augment our budget.

3

4 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you. Gloria.

5

6 MS. STICKWAN: I was wondering about  
7 the committee and FACA and the Congress are going to  
8 review them. Do you know when they're going to make a  
9 decision? Do you have any idea?

10

11 DR. TAYLOR: I'm sorry, Gloria. Can  
12 you help me understand? Make a decision on.....

13

14 MS. STICKWAN: The moratorium on  
15 committees.

16

17 DR. TAYLOR: I wish I could answer  
18 that. That's almost a weekly topic at the Regional  
19 Director Team for Fish and Wildlife Service. Right now  
20 if I have a biologist that wants to attend a commission  
21 or a board meeting, they have to talk to me and then I  
22 have to bring it forward to the Regional Director Team  
23 for them to review to say does this meet -- even the  
24 guides associated with that is a little bit fuzzy. So  
25 we're trying to be really careful so that we don't  
26 actually do something and then later find out we did  
27 something wrong, but I can't answer your question on  
28 when it will end.

29

30 There are a lot of things right now  
31 that the current administration is still feeling its  
32 way through. For example we do not have a Director of  
33 Fish and Wildlife Service at this point even though  
34 it's practically October. We're still feeling our way  
35 through priorities and direction from the current  
36 administration and the current Secretaries. It's a  
37 time we're kind of operating day by day.

38

39 CHAIRMAN DALE: Peter.

40

41 MR. DEVINE: I guess my concern is  
42 losing all these positions it seems like we're slowly  
43 being phased out and I would hate to see that happen if  
44 we're the best working group in the state. It might be  
45 time to actively pursue our own funding so that don't  
46 happen.

47

48 DR. TAYLOR: In terms of the National  
49 Migratory Bird Program, we have a similar concern. The

50

1 Alaska Region was the second to last region with an  
2 Assistant Regional Director and there's only one left  
3 right now. Region 6 with an Assistant Regional  
4 Director of Migratory Birds and State Programs. So we  
5 are concerned nationally in terms of the status of  
6 migratory birds and our shop is working to make sure  
7 that headquarters and the Department understand the  
8 importance of the migratory bird resource.

9  
10 One, I think, bright spot is if you  
11 follow the Department of Interior's priorities, hunting  
12 is extremely important and the Secretary of Interior  
13 recently had a press release relative to the importance  
14 of hunting. Obviously that works to the advantage of  
15 this group where hunting is of primary importance for  
16 nutritional needs for food.

17  
18 Other questions.

19  
20 (No comments)

21  
22 DR. TAYLOR: So what I will do is I  
23 will keep the Native Caucus, State of Alaska apprised  
24 of as we move forward with the budget and any news in  
25 terms of when we finally get that allocation. As we  
26 move forward with our prioritization process within our  
27 program, let you know what surveys or what aspects in  
28 our program we're going to be either changing the  
29 frequency of or dropping entirely. But right now in  
30 terms of funding for the AMBCC, it's stable compared to  
31 FY17.

32  
33 This other thing I just wanted to  
34 mention too is like your regional grants that  
35 prohibited you from having two meetings a year, I had  
36 to tell Roland when I was invited by Jennifer and  
37 Roland to make a presentation to the AVCP last week, I  
38 believe, I begged off on it because I looked at our  
39 budget and it was a trip that I decided not to do.

40  
41 I would prefer not to do that. I have  
42 visited with the Bristol Bay Native Association, with  
43 the North Slope Borough, with Cyrus and the Northwest  
44 Arctic, and I've also done previous presentations with  
45 WCC. There's no substitute for being in person and  
46 actually talking with folks. We have a really great  
47 crew in our shop and I would like to see those  
48 individuals get out to attend your regional meetings so  
49 that people can ask questions about our surveys, our

50

1 data, provide us observations from the field.

2

3 I don't think there's any substitute  
4 for hearing from the field about what people are  
5 seeing, whether it's like Taqulik reported, a decrease  
6 in phalaropes or Jack talking about Brant piling up at  
7 certain times of the year. There's no substitute  
8 because obviously we don't get that information.  
9 That's another thing I'm going to look at in terms of  
10 trying to make that a priority to get out to regional  
11 bodies as well when available.

12

13 CHAIRMAN DALE: Taqulik.

14

15 MS. HEPA: One last comment. If we're  
16 committed to something, the Department of Wildlife  
17 Management with the North Slope Borough, we want to  
18 make sure that we continue to be productive. At some  
19 point we're going to have to evaluate are these co-  
20 management structures effective. Because I feel like  
21 we're dropping the ball if we don't have the resources  
22 to do what we need to do to -- like there's no  
23 outreach.

24

25 Our funds are also decreasing and we  
26 try to utilize multiple sources to at least share a  
27 little bit of information to as many hunters. When you  
28 kind of do a self-check to see if we're doing the job  
29 that we are and people don't understand what a State  
30 Duck Stamp is, there's something wrong with the  
31 picture. So we're just going through the motions of  
32 saying we have a co-management group.

33

34 The bottom line is, you know, when they  
35 were forming this Co-Management Council with the Native  
36 Migratory Bird Working Group, I forget the exact name,  
37 but the overall objective was to provide a legal spring  
38 and summer hunt for subsistence. And then I listened  
39 to the discussions around the table giving our  
40 subsistence hunters an opportunity to hunt Emperor  
41 Goose and then it opened up to everyone else through  
42 that.

43

44 Going back to the Migratory Bird  
45 Working Group again, they wanted to provide an  
46 opportunity for Alaska Natives and having the  
47 definition changed. You could talk about those types  
48 of things with polar bears and what other co-management  
49 groups. I just feel like we're going through the

50

1 motions and we're not being effective in the management  
2 of wildlife resources throughout the state of Alaska.

3  
4 I wasn't going to say anything, but  
5 that's just how I feel. If I'm not productive, then  
6 what are we doing here. So just a take-home message.

7  
8 DR. TAYLOR: You know what, I  
9 understand and I think whoever decides to chair the  
10 Budget Committee one task that they may want to take on  
11 is have a list of priorities of things that we're not  
12 doing that we should start to check off and maybe  
13 there's some small items that we can check off and feel  
14 better that we're making progress at least, Taqulik,  
15 and you can feel like, yes, we are doing a good job.

16  
17 Other things may be medium-sized ones  
18 that are going to require tens of thousands of dollars  
19 and we can cross our fingers and see if a grant from  
20 BIA comes or a grant comes from the Conservation of  
21 Arctic and Flora or whether Department of Interior has  
22 some funding. It's clear we can't do it all, but until  
23 we make a list of some things and start to feel like we  
24 can make progress and making inroads.

25  
26 Outreach and education. I couldn't  
27 agree with you more. I have been to several meetings  
28 where a resident said September 1st. What happens on  
29 September 1st. Boy, we've missed the mark there.  
30 Somehow we're not getting the word out.

31  
32 What I would like to do in terms of the  
33 Budget Committee is maybe make these lists and then  
34 assign a responsibility, figure out how to get the  
35 funding and start to address them. But outreach and  
36 education is a big one.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN DALE: Yeah, I'll second that.  
39 Jason and I just had that discussion that if folks  
40 around this table who have been involved for a long  
41 time aren't understanding some of this stuff, we've  
42 really let the ball drop in terms of making these  
43 things known and getting out there and we're going to  
44 have to figure out a better way to do it because  
45 outreach and education is not occurring at the level it  
46 needs to.

47  
48 MS. HEPA: It's not funded.

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN DALE: It's not funded.  
2 That's such a good point. The State has specifically  
3 put forward to -- the administration asked for our  
4 priorities, the Department of Interior has asked for  
5 our priorities. Full funding for AMBCC has been at the  
6 top of that list or high on that list for all these  
7 calls.

8  
9 Anything else for Eric. We really need  
10 to keep moving here.

11  
12 (No comments)

13  
14 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm  
15 going to have to leave early and Taqulik will sit in my  
16 spot. I just wanted to thank everybody. I think it  
17 was a pretty good meeting. As we carried the issues of  
18 our regions and the topics that are sometimes hard to  
19 bring forward, I just want to thank you guys for all  
20 your leadership. As we carry back all the actions that  
21 happened at this meeting back into the region, it helps  
22 spread the word of what happens here.

23  
24 I wish you guys all a good winter and I  
25 will see most of you at AFN and we'll be in touch  
26 through our Native Caucus and our committees. Thank  
27 you.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you, Gayla, for  
30 all you do here too.

31  
32 MS. HOSETH: Thanks. Good job.

33  
34 DR. TAYLOR: Thanks, Gayla.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN DALE: Next is an  
37 informational note on the white paper on the use of  
38 boats. We have all looked at this twice now. Is there  
39 further discussion that we wanted to have on this  
40 particular topic right now? Patty, please.

41  
42 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I would recommend  
43 that we do some followup with Mr. Charlie, the  
44 proposer, and explain what we found and see if he has  
45 any questions or if we are misunderstanding what the  
46 original intent of his proposal is. So direction in  
47 that regard would be appropriate at this time.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN DALE: Direction to you?

50



1 Somebody want to suggest the direction that we give  
2 Patty on this?

3

4 MR. DEVINE: I make a motion to have  
5 Patty get back in touch with the maker of the proposal  
6 and let him know what the issues are.

7

8 CHAIRMAN DALE: Perfect. Thank you,  
9 Peter. Second.

10

11 MR. HARRIS: Second.

12

13 MR. WHITE: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN DALE: Cyrus, thank you. A  
15 third by Roland. Any objections.

16

17 (No objections)

18

19 CHAIRMAN DALE: Patty, do you have what  
20 you need?

21

22 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yep.

23

24 CHAIRMAN DALE: All right. Thank you  
25 very much. Last we have Robb Kaler of this section to  
26 give us an update on seabird mortalities. It's been a  
27 topic of a lot of discussion here. I'll have Eric  
28 introduce you.

29

30 DR. TAYLOR: Yes, Robb, please take a  
31 seat. So Robb Kaler is a seabird biologist in the  
32 Migratory Bird Management Program. Robb almost has  
33 singlehandedly handled much of the response and  
34 questions relative to seabird mortalities across Alaska  
35 from the Prince William Sound substantive mortality  
36 event a couple years ago to ongoing mortalities that  
37 are occurring up in Brandon and Jack's neck of the  
38 woods.

39

40 Robb has received and coordinated the  
41 seabird carcasses coming in from all parts of the state  
42 and has shipped them down to the National Wildlife  
43 Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin. And has I think  
44 kept most of the State of Alaska kind of apprised on  
45 current happenings and findings of the Wildlife Health  
46 Center.

47

48 I wanted to bring Robb in so that you  
49 could ask him specific questions on causes of the

50

1 event, why it occurred, whether he expects it to  
2 continue, pull out your crystal ball, and any other  
3 questions in terms of what folks should be concerned  
4 with from local areas.

5  
6 Thanks. Robb.

7  
8 MR. KALER: I wish my mother had been  
9 here to hear that. She would have been very proud.  
10 Thank you, Eric. Thank you, the Council. It's a  
11 pleasure to be able to answer any questions.

12  
13 First I'll just provide an update. We  
14 did include a one-page handout. This was created right  
15 after we had gotten some of our carcass results back  
16 for the testing from the USGS National Wildlife Health  
17 Center.

18  
19 I'm actually sitting in the corner here  
20 updating this and we'll have a version out hopefully  
21 approval from our external affairs within Fish and  
22 Wildlife Service, but I'll share that with Patty to be  
23 distributed to everybody. So I'll just give you the  
24 verbal update of that right now.

25  
26 We continue to get birds thanks to our  
27 partners collecting these carcasses out in the field,  
28 Brandon and other folks up north. Our more current  
29 northern reports so far was from Point Hope. Raphaela,  
30 who works with the North Slope Borough, was actually  
31 out looking at some -- or I think they were flying the  
32 coast looking for some walrus carcasses that had been  
33 reported from Shishmaref, so they were looking to see  
34 if there was anything further north.

35  
36 She was able to collect several  
37 carcasses for us. Fortunately I live within a 10-  
38 minute drive from the airport, so I can drive over  
39 there at 10:00 at night on a Friday, take my little dog  
40 for a cruise and pick those up and then get those  
41 turned around and shipped off to the National Wildlife  
42 Health Center.

43  
44 The geographic extent northernmost  
45 would be from Point Hope. Southernmost, St. George.  
46 We did have a carcass submitted from Unalaska. We're  
47 not sure if that's part of a larger event or just a  
48 bird dying. On this one-page handout you'll see some  
49 information where you or your village constituents can  
50

1 send information.

2

3 We've been coordinating with the  
4 coastal observation and seabird survey team to help  
5 collate these reports from anecdotal reports coming in  
6 from around Alaska and we really rely on those reports.  
7 As you know we live in the city and we don't actually  
8 get out to those far-flung parts enough, especially  
9 during these events. It's just a challenge. So we  
10 really rely on our partners in these regional areas to  
11 direct those reports.

12

13 So there's information on that one-page  
14 sheet. We have an email address as well as a hotline.  
15 We know that dead birds wash up on beaches. We're  
16 interested in larger numbers, five, ten-plus birds, as  
17 well as reports of birds acting unusual. Swimming in  
18 circles, pecking at the sand like they're eating  
19 blubber and there's nothing there.

20

21 To date we've actually tested 21  
22 carcasses. The results are the same. Birds are in  
23 emaciated condition, very little content in their  
24 stomachs or intestinal tracks. That causes a problem  
25 which I'll mention here in a moment. All the testing  
26 for disease, infectious and noninfectious disease, West  
27 Nile virus, avian influenza, avian cholera have all  
28 come back negative.

29

30 This is a process of elimination. Just  
31 because birds wash up doesn't mean that there's  
32 disease, but also we want to make sure there's not  
33 disease. When we have people collecting carcasses out  
34 in the field, we want to make sure that they're wearing  
35 personal protective equipment. Of course, we do not  
36 want those carcasses to be stored with food.

37

38 So that's in terms of an avian first  
39 response. That's a separate action, is going out and  
40 actually getting these anecdotal reports that can be  
41 shared to us that are very helpful and really the  
42 finger on the pulse that allows us to get an idea of  
43 how long has this event going on for, what's the  
44 magnitude, how many birds are dying and then the  
45 geographic extent as well.

46

47 Going back to the stomach or intestinal  
48 contents, there are above average sea surface  
49 temperatures being recorded in the Chukchi and the

50

1 Bering Sea right now. The effects of those we're not  
2 really sure. Of course we think fish are very  
3 sensitive to different thermals, so that can have  
4 direct effects on their survival, they're abundance, as  
5 well as their distribution. As you know, the plankton  
6 kind of serving as that bottom trophic level, if those  
7 are effected, there's cascading effects upwards.

8  
9 So another product of above average sea  
10 surface temperatures is harmful algal blooms. We are  
11 very well positioned right now, we being Alaskans,  
12 because we've had five to six ongoing at sea surveys.  
13 People working both from looking at seabirds and  
14 vertebrates, marine mammals, looking at the water  
15 column, seeing what's going on, temperatures,  
16 turbidity, but as well as taking samples in that water  
17 column and finding out are there actually harmful algal  
18 blooms in that system. It's very preliminary right  
19 now, but there does appear to be a presence of PSP and  
20 hopefully those information will be collated very  
21 quickly and shared out.

22  
23 At this time we don't have a smoking  
24 gun per se. We are working with the USGS Alaska  
25 Science Center, which after the 2015-2016 Murre die-off  
26 actually began putting funding into harmful algal bloom  
27 testing lab. Without stomach contents or  
28 gastrointestinal contents it's very difficult to test  
29 the presence of harmful algal blooms.

30  
31 As a way to have some inference and to  
32 the level if these birds are being exposed to harmful  
33 algal bloom toxins, they are looking at other tissues.  
34 Muscle tissue as well as liver tissue. Day by day I'm  
35 getting more reports from the National Wildlife Health  
36 Center. By the end of today we hope to have some  
37 results from the harmful algal bloom testing.

38  
39 If it does come back that there are  
40 levels of say saxitoxin in these tissues, it's hard to  
41 make an inference, it could be a trace level, but these  
42 harmful algal bloom toxins are neurotoxins and so how  
43 they're affecting the prey, the predator we really  
44 don't know and would require a laboratory setting  
45 essentially to determine at what level does it begin  
46 affecting their behavior.  
47 Knowing that it's in the system and that it's something  
48 to be aware of.

49  
50

1                   From a shellfish poisoning perspective  
2 there are -- and I'm not speaking to that, but folks  
3 like Bruce Wright at the APIA actively testing to  
4 determine that. Really the point to emphasize is that  
5 this is a community response both on the reporting side  
6 but a community response from the agency side to work  
7 together, share information and inform the public  
8 without creating an unnecessary panic.

9  
10                   I think I will finish with that and  
11 open up for questions.

12  
13                   CHAIRMAN DALE: Taqulik.

14  
15                   MS. HEPA: It's really interesting you  
16 talked about the algal blooms, but recently we were  
17 able to access an old ice cellar that had some  
18 subsistence harvested animals in there and we did check  
19 for that and there was traces. Very interesting. So  
20 you might want to talk to Raphaela.

21  
22                   I'm glad that you are communicating  
23 with oceanographers because we had an oceanographer on  
24 our staff present some of the results that she  
25 collected in the last five years and it was really  
26 interesting how you are exactly right that the food  
27 that these marine mammals or seabirds feed on are very  
28 sensitive to water temperature and the columns and with  
29 the currents.

30  
31                   It was so interesting to the hunters in  
32 the communities that were listening to this because it  
33 helped them understand some of the things that were  
34 happening today. Like when they're out in the field  
35 with their boats and whaling and stuff that things are  
36 different and they realize that, but being able to see  
37 what the oceanographer sees and how the importance of  
38 those different columns are and where the different  
39 prey are. Very interesting.

40  
41                   And it's good to put a face to a name.  
42 I see his name on email.

43  
44                   MR. KALER: Yes, it's me. Please feel  
45 free to email to Patty if you have questions and those  
46 can be directed to me. We've got big plans in the  
47 future in terms of how we might be able to engage  
48 village, communities and anybody out there who has  
49 anecdotal reports to share.

50

1                   We are working with the Coastal  
2 Observation and Seabird Survey Team. They're based out  
3 of the University of Washington, but they've got a  
4 standardized protocol both for long-term data  
5 collection, monthly beach surveys, as well as what they  
6 developed was after the 2016 Puffin die-off that was  
7 documented in the Pribilof Islands, St. Paul  
8 specifically. Kind of a how can we get at least some  
9 basic information for long-term comparisons.

10  
11                   In this case here it's largely Northern  
12 Fulmars and Shearwaters, which they're one of our most  
13 abundant birds in the Bering and Chukchi this time of  
14 year. So why would the most abundant be affected.  
15 Well, they're the most present to be effected. To be  
16 able to say this is 200 times what we'd normally see in  
17 August at St. Paul Island really gives us a lot of  
18 teeth in terms of expressing the amount of concern that  
19 perhaps is coming up.

20  
21                   As this becomes more normal, having  
22 input from community members on what they're seeing is  
23 really -- it will be crucial to being able to track  
24 this and its extent.

25  
26                   CHAIRMAN DALE: Peter.

27  
28                   MR. DEVINE: Just a point of  
29 clarification. You mentioned Bruce Wright. He is not  
30 the one doing that work in our area. Our environmental  
31 staff with the tribe is the one doing it and they're  
32 sending it to the State, but it sounds like he's still  
33 getting the credit. So we'll try to get a scientist  
34 involved from our region. He started the program and  
35 then we got a grant ourselves and started doing it, but  
36 we haven't been able to eat clams in Sand Point in two  
37 and a half years. It's supposed to be like at 80 parts  
38 per million. We almost got close last month. It  
39 dropped down to 90-something.

40  
41                   But we're still able to eat clams in  
42 our region because we've got our neighbors in King Cove  
43 whose clams are not effected yet. So we're able to get  
44 buckets from them pretty often. They eat them all year  
45 round. In our area at one time it was up to 4,000  
46 parts per million. I don't know if that was just a  
47 freak anomaly.

48  
49                   I've been out in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor

50

1 area and I've seen red tide. I've seen it in our area  
2 where the boat will go through and it will be red, kind  
3 of brownish color, but out in Dutch it is so bad that  
4 it's purple. I mean it's almost this color when you're  
5 running through it.

6  
7 Yes, an ongoing thing. We're still  
8 testing, but kind of surprising to find out that it's  
9 not only in the clams and crabs, but now they find out  
10 it's in everything. Since it's in everything we've  
11 built up an immunity to it. We used to eat them in  
12 Sand Point all summer long too until we lost somebody  
13 in Sand Point and a person in Old Harbor. That was my  
14 uncle's wife. So it's kind of weird how it's all  
15 connected because we're all eating the same thing.

16  
17 We learned at an early age if your mouth  
18 is tingling, tongue's tingling, stop. If a person is  
19 drinking alcohol while they're consuming them, they  
20 don't recognize that they're in trouble until it's too  
21 late. It would be nice if the State would come out  
22 with a test where we could do it ourselves onsite so we  
23 know. They have little strips where you can do that,  
24 but the batch of strips that we had were so old that  
25 everything was showing up hot.

26  
27 I heard tell that they were coming out  
28 with another method to test, so hopefully they will be  
29 available to us soon.

30  
31 MR. KALER: I apologize for giving  
32 Bruce Wright credit. It was the AND article that he  
33 had chimed in. He's a very vocal person as you may  
34 know. So apologies for that incorrectness.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN DALE: Anything else for Robb.  
37 Coral.

38  
39 MS. CHERNOFF: Hi. I just had a  
40 question about how -- could you briefly tell us how  
41 they do the studies for the birds. Like do they run  
42 through and say liver looks good, check; brain looks  
43 good, check; all the parts look good, check; and then  
44 test the stomach is empty? Do they do a general  
45 overall or do they just go right to looking for stomach  
46 content? And then after the general review about how  
47 you test is then the bird discarded or tissues and  
48 parts saved for later testing?

49  
50

1 MR. KALER: That's a very good  
2 question. So we send usually about three to five  
3 carcasses of a certain species to the National Wildlife  
4 Health Center. They then do a gross necropsy, which is  
5 a physical evaluation. Within that week usually I will  
6 get a findings to date from the USGS. I'm generally  
7 the submitter, so I'm the first person on it and I'll  
8 cycle that around to people. I can share some of these  
9 actual findings to date. About a week later we'll get  
10 a supplemental report. That will be their disease  
11 panel testing.

12  
13 So the findings to date generally will  
14 say bird presented for necropsy and they'll do an organ  
15 by organ evaluation. I've learned that flabby heart is  
16 actually indicative of emaciation. They'll take a  
17 weight on it. Breast bones in birds that are starved  
18 or emaciated are very pronounced. They'll describe the  
19 condition of the bird, both exterior, but they'll look  
20 at parasite load. So it's really a process of  
21 elimination to determine the cause of death.

22  
23 By about three weeks later they'll have  
24 a final report and then that final report -- they'll  
25 start hinting towards a suspected cause of death. In  
26 these cases it's been emaciated and drowning which go  
27 hand in hand. But by that third week that final report  
28 they'll generally have a cause of death.

29  
30 They do keep samples aside in addition  
31 to the ones they're -- for avian cholera, for example,  
32 they're trying to breed the bacteria, so you have to  
33 have a relatively fresh bird. If you're trying to  
34 breed bacteria for pasteurilla, which is the avian  
35 cholera. The USGS Alaska Science Center with their  
36 harmful algal blooms.

37  
38 It was unfortunate, but the National  
39 Life Health Center is mostly focused on disease, so in  
40 order to look at harmful algal bloom biotoxin, they  
41 would have to send it out to NOAA and we wouldn't get a  
42 result back for sometimes as many as four months later.  
43 Which, of course, we need real time. So very grateful  
44 to our partners at the Alaska Science Center seeing  
45 this need and stepping up.

46  
47 There are testing labs around the  
48 state, but they're testing shellfish. These are  
49 different tissues, so it's kind of specialized. We're  
50



1 building more and more data on these different tissues  
2 to at least give an idea. One of the caveats to using  
3 a muscle tissue and liver tissue is that we really  
4 don't know how long domoic acid remains in those  
5 tissues, but at least we're getting some level of  
6 inference.

7  
8 The birds that we were able to examine  
9 in the 2015-2016 Murre wreck, we were able to test 130  
10 birds. Of those 18 had stomach contents that we were  
11 able to test. Of those 18, 8 came back positive for  
12 saxitoxin associated with PSP, paralytic shellfish  
13 poisoning. Those were very trace levels, 1-3 mg per  
14 liter. So we could report there was presence in these  
15 tissues, but we really have no idea. It could have  
16 been much higher before the bird died and that's what  
17 the bird succumbed to. We never came up with a smoking  
18 gun for that die-off.

19  
20 Hopefully with our partners, everybody  
21 contributing, both agency and folks at the village  
22 level and the regional level we'll hopefully have a  
23 much better grasp on what's happening. Especially as  
24 these become instead of abnormal become normal. Every  
25 year we're getting reports of dead and dying birds.

26  
27 I feel pretty good especially with the  
28 support from our partners, Brandon up in Nome  
29 collecting carcasses, our partners at the Alaska Sea  
30 Grant. We really rely on everybody. To that we're  
31 grateful.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN DALE: Peter.

34  
35 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. One  
36 of the things I noticed in our region this year was  
37 lots of krill. When the krill is so thick, it was kind  
38 of surprising to me. I'm out there picking the gillnet  
39 and you see this tide coming and it's like what the  
40 heck is sand doing floating on top of the water. It was  
41 dead krill. It was strange to see that. First time  
42 I've seen it. Everything is affecting everything. The  
43 krill have to eat something. Strange things happening  
44 in our oceans.

45  
46 MR. KALER: The Local Environmental  
47 Observation Network, that's a great resource to report  
48 observations. They're anecdotal reports, but when you  
49 see enough reports you start to see these trends. It's  
50

1 with these patterns and trends that we get a better  
2 hold on what is going on.

3

4 CHAIRMAN DALE: So even if it's not  
5 directly related to a mortality event can they call in  
6 those sorts of things to that same place or where do  
7 they do that?

8

9 MR. KALER: The LEO Network, I think  
10 that's through the Native Health Consortium, and that's  
11 Mike Brubaker has helped lead that effort. You can  
12 report an unusual beetle, take a picture and post it  
13 up. One of the neat things about it is there's local  
14 experts that will weigh in.

15

16 For example for the seabird we have  
17 Julia Parrish. She's at the University of Washington.  
18 Just a wonderful depth of knowledge on all things  
19 marine. She gives very thoughtful responses to reports.  
20 Bering Watch is also another group. They're trying to  
21 merge with the LEO Network and then the Coastal  
22 Observation and Seabird Survey Team. Actually coming up  
23 with an app where you can take a picture of the series  
24 of dead birds, text it to this and it uploads your  
25 observation.

26

27 CHAIRMAN DALE: Robb, if it pleases  
28 this body, I would like you to get those links or  
29 numbers or whatever they are to Patty so she can  
30 distribute them so folks can take them back home.

31

32 MR. KALER: Patty, I'm going to be a  
33 real pest. It's a really good avenue.

34

35 CHAIRMAN DALE: Taqulik.

36

37 MS. HEPA: Just one minor detail I  
38 forgot to mention to Raphaela with the Point Hope  
39 birds. The people who reported it also mentioned that  
40 there was hundreds of dead jellyfish that were washed  
41 up too.

42

43 MR. KALER: Yes. Everything we can  
44 get.

45

46 CHAIRMAN DALE: Brandon.

47

48 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
49 Thanks, Robb. Listening to all the terminology, I'm

50

1 not even going to pretend to pronounce any of them.  
2 What I was hearing was some of the organs that were  
3 tested were kind of the obvious organs. Correct me if  
4 I'm not using the correct terminology, but the domoic  
5 acid or the saxitoxin, the PSP, one of the things I  
6 didn't hear tested were the eyeballs. The saxitoxin  
7 seems to collect in the eyeballs. Are the eyeballs  
8 being tested?

9

10 We had a Minke whale wash up in Wales,  
11 I think, and that was one of the first things that they  
12 requested to be cut out and sent off for testing was  
13 the eyeball because it seems to collect in the eyeball.  
14 That's my question. Thank you.

15

16 MR. KALER: No. Right now stomach  
17 contents, gastrointestinal track, cloacal contents, but  
18 no eyeballs. I will sit over here and email Caroline  
19 VanHemert, who is at the USGS Alaska Science Center.  
20 That's a very easy organ to collect and that might be  
21 one reason that -- but if it's actually known to  
22 concentrate some of the saxitoxin or domoic acid  
23 toxins. That is a low-hanging fruit so to say in terms  
24 of being able to test for that.

25

26 MR. AHMASUK: I'm not trying to step on  
27 your toes. It was just a suggestion to try to help get  
28 to the bottom of what's causing all of this.

29

30 MR. KALER: That's a great suggestion.  
31 Thank you. I don't have long toes by the way and when  
32 I pronounce things I just say it really quickly and  
33 kind of mumble it.

34

(Laughter)

35

36 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. Thanks a lot,  
37 Robb. That was excellent. Thank you very much for  
38 coming. So we're going to move on to other business.  
39 First up we have Eric Taylor.

40

41 DR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If  
42 there's any doubt that Robb is not the right person for  
43 the job, I hope that rests everybody's concerns. He's  
44 obviously very involved. Coral, I do have some copies  
45 of the USGS National Wildlife Health Lab findings in  
46 terms of what organs they go through, their necropsy  
47 and then general observations of gut contents. I'll  
48 give you a hard copy of this and then like Robb said  
49

50

1 we'll give an electronic copy to Patty for  
2 distribution.

3  
4 So it's about the worst timing to bring  
5 forward another meeting topic. Oftentimes with  
6 scientific meetings there's what's called a social in  
7 the evening or a poster session. No decision has to be  
8 made. It was just I'd like the three partners to think  
9 about, the Native Caucus and the Department of Fish and  
10 Game. I haven't even chatted with my own shop with  
11 Migratory Bird Management. But there's a lot of really  
12 good questions in terms of observations and we're  
13 always kind of rushed even though we take two days.

14  
15 So one option I thought would be one  
16 evening of our meetings to have either a poster or some  
17 other format where the three groups could present some  
18 information. It could be something as simple  
19 organization like by species. So we could have a  
20 person that works on Brant, a person that has data on  
21 White-fronts or Emperor Geese. There could be snacks,  
22 beverages. It would just be an informal get-together  
23 in the evening after one of these sessions where you  
24 could get more information both from our survey data  
25 and then I think more importantly for us get more  
26 information from you in terms of what your observations  
27 are.

28  
29 Anyway, it's just an option. This is  
30 what's done in a lot of times in scientific meetings  
31 that I go to or the biologists that I work with go to  
32 and it's something that we may want to consider. I  
33 haven't approached Jason about it in terms of his  
34 interest. Again, I know we're all tired here after two  
35 or three days of meetings, but it's just an option.

36  
37 I would like to see some increased  
38 communication and dialogue between all of us and this  
39 would be one way to do it kind of on an informal basis.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
42 Any comments on that? It was unfortunate timing.  
43 Everybody is probably pretty tired of us by now.  
44 That's something we might try in the future. It sounds  
45 interesting.

46  
47 Now we'll move on to the Humboldt Bay  
48 Aquaculture Project.

49  
50

1 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr.  
2 Chairman. We have talked about the Humboldt Bay  
3 Project. The AMBCC did write a letter opposing the  
4 permit. I would like to ask Tom Rothe if he could come  
5 up. He's been following this issue under his work with  
6 the Pacific something something organization he works  
7 for now.

8  
9 We heard the other day that the Coastal  
10 Commission did approve a permit and there was a reduced  
11 amount of acreage that the farm was proposing to use  
12 rather than the amount that was originally intended. I  
13 also put a call in to Kasey Sirkin with the Corps of  
14 Engineers as the person responsible for the Corps  
15 involvement in this issue.

16  
17 Basically she said that the California  
18 Coastal Commission did approve a permit for Coast  
19 Seafoods last week and the new project is reduced from  
20 the previous project and results in a net decrease of  
21 approximately 20 acres of aquaculture.

22  
23 So this results in the relocation of  
24 some existing cultivation areas, removal of some lines  
25 in areas known to be important for green sturgeon,  
26 which are a listed species, and the relocated lines  
27 will be put into areas that were previously impacted by  
28 dredging aquaculture activities or in areas that  
29 contain hardened areas from shells. They will also be  
30 located within adjacent to existing areas so as to  
31 create in-fill in areas where they can.

32  
33 The new locations were located to avoid  
34 eelgrass as much as possible by putting the activities  
35 in disturbed areas or in areas where eelgrass is not as  
36 abundant. The Coast Seafoods has made some changes to  
37 try to address the concerns of the various agencies,  
38 including the AMBCC and Audubon, but there's a feeling  
39 that this does not quite go far enough.

40  
41 I think we need to have a discussion on  
42 how we want to continue our involvement in this issue,  
43 but I'd also like Tom to give his take on this as well.  
44 Thank you.

45  
46 MR. ROTHE: Through the Chair. I think  
47 the important aspect of this is the Co-Management  
48 Council can weigh in on some of these decisions that  
49 are outside that are really important for maintaining  
50

1 bird habitat that our birds really need.

2

3

4 Just to give you an example of how  
5 important the letter was from the Co-Management Council  
6 is that was added with letters from Ducks Unlimited,  
7 with the Audubon Society, Pacific Flyway Council,  
8 California Waterfowl Association and my outfit the  
9 Pacific Bird Habitat Joint Venture.

9

10 Everybody wrote letters saying these  
11 eelgrass beds are really special and limited places  
12 that Brant need on their migration south. So Humboldt  
13 Bay is basically the first major stopover as these  
14 birds are headed to Mexico. Their migration of 2,000  
15 miles back and forth they absolutely need those  
16 refueling spots like Humboldt Bay.

17

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42 While I'm at it, the Pacific Birds  
43 Habitat Joint Venture is one of 20 national spinoff  
44 groups of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.  
45 So we are kind of like the West Coast collaboration  
46 coordination group from California to Alaska and also  
47 including Hawaii. I'm here to offer our services,  
48 information and help on anything we can do to ensure  
49 that bird habitats are protected for birds that come  
50

1 from Alaska. Hopefully we can keep working with the  
2 Co-Management Council.

3  
4 I would really encourage -- I don't  
5 know if you have a habitat committee, but you might  
6 think about it or at least through Patty have a  
7 mechanism to look at habitat issues. I'll just throw  
8 out a couple here. Secretary Zinke announced that they  
9 want to revisit the NPR-A leasing program, which was  
10 thoroughly reviewed in 2013 and I think wisely places  
11 where molting geese are around Teshekpuk Lake, other  
12 areas around Ikpikpuk where there are Snow Geese, areas  
13 that were very sensitive for Central Arctic Caribou  
14 Herd.

15  
16 That was all really carefully analyzed  
17 and I think they made a good decision on saying we're  
18 going to offer a bunch of areas for leasing, but these  
19 sensitive spots we're going to pull off the table for  
20 10 years. This new administration said, no, we're  
21 going to open this all up for having a look and they  
22 just closed the comment period that says anybody got  
23 any ideas for the 11 million acres that we didn't open  
24 up.

25  
26 There's no clear understanding of what  
27 that process really means, but it's something I'm sure  
28 North Slope Borough is looking at closely. If you care  
29 about birds and bird habitat, we want to make sure  
30 everybody weighs in on that.

31  
32 There are things down in Puget Sound  
33 and Washington State where there's lot of development,  
34 lots of people that might affect Brant habitat or sea  
35 duck habitat or anything like that.

36  
37 The availability of water in the  
38 Central Valley of California supports 60 percent of the  
39 Alaska wintering birds. The allocation of water is  
40 really important for our birds. I know the Waterfowl  
41 Conservation Committee has written letters in the past  
42 that have really been effective in making sure the  
43 birds have habitat. Then there's stuff going on in  
44 Mexico.

45  
46 I'm just throwing it out that I really  
47 appreciate your focus on these habitat issues because  
48 bottom line is we got to have habitat no matter what  
49 for long-term welfare of the bird populations. Like I  
50

1 said, Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture would really  
2 like to be your partner and help out.

3

4 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thanks, Tom. Taqulik.

5

6 MS. HEPA: Thanks, Tom. I was going to  
7 say I welcome you to call us to talk about NPR-A  
8 related issues in the area north of the lake. I agree  
9 with you when it's such an important habitat area that  
10 there should be some good mitigation or stipulations  
11 that come with that. With the current administration  
12 at different levels I think we need to open up a  
13 relationship.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN DALE: Tom.

18

19 MR. ROTHE: One last real quick note is  
20 I think it's pretty obvious that even though the Co-  
21 Management Council operates as a group, each individual  
22 organization is sometimes limited by what they can get  
23 engaged in with policy. In the case of like North  
24 Slope Borough and NPR-A or Pebble and Bristol Bay, we  
25 all have our limitations, but you can work that system  
26 by either having individual partners comment as  
27 separate entities or as much as possible like this case  
28 the Native Caucus as a subgroup can provide the  
29 important comments. One way or the other we can work  
30 it out so that everybody understands we have concerns  
31 about bird habitat.

32

33 CHAIRMAN DALE: Peter.

34

35 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36 Tom, this commission that you speak of, the Coast  
37 Zoning Commission or was it Committee or whatever, is  
38 that involved with California, Washington and Oregon?

39

40 MR. ROTHE: No. It's really too bad  
41 that we've forgotten about the Coastal Zone Management  
42 Program because Alaska Peninsula in particular had real  
43 important plans that laid out what the communities  
44 wanted for development or not. That Commission is just  
45 for California and there's probably a separate  
46 commission for each state. All the communities develop  
47 their own plans as to where they want industry, what  
48 kinds of things are acceptable and what's not  
49 acceptable along their coast. That gives the

50



1 communities a tremendous amount of influence. So this  
2 one was just for California.

3  
4 MR. DEVINE: Thank you. The reason I  
5 brought that up is there's an issue that just happened  
6 last month where it effects us. I mean you don't know  
7 it yet, but that release of the Atlantic salmon, I mean  
8 a million pounds of fricken swimming piranhas. I think  
9 it's important for us as tribal members to go to this  
10 Board of Fish meeting that's coming up and see if they  
11 could write a proposal or just show their opposition to  
12 them starting that pen back up again.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thanks. I think we've  
15 pretty well covered the Humboldt Bay Aquaculture  
16 situation and maybe a little territory beyond. Patty.

17  
18 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Real quick. I just  
19 wanted to mention that Jack Fagerstrom from Golovin has  
20 approached me about having their tribe work with us on  
21 this issue so we will be working together for that.

22  
23 Thank you.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thanks. Good  
26 discussion. Do we need to take five minutes or do you  
27 want to power on through here.

28  
29 IN UNISON: Power on.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN DALE: I like that attitude.  
32 So next we're up to swan bag limit. I believe where we  
33 left this was that there was an interest in changing  
34 the bag limit from three per season to something higher  
35 or wide open, whatever we need to do on that, because  
36 three per season is pretty small and not consistent  
37 with the pattern of use.

38  
39 So we thought the route to do that was  
40 to have this body give direction to the Alaska  
41 Department of Fish and Game to take it to the Flyway  
42 Council. Is that right?

43  
44 (No comments)

45  
46 CHAIRMAN DALE: So is there details  
47 that I'm missing or is it as simple as that and do we  
48 want to just give that direction to Patty here? First,  
49 is there anything missing there?

50

1 MS. HEPA: Patty, are we missing  
2 anything from our discussion? I think that's it, yeah?

3  
4 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I'm sorry, can you  
5 repeat the question.

6 MS. HEPA: Are we missing anything from  
7 our discussion?

8  
9 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I don't believe so.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN DALE: The justification is  
12 that we're allowed up to 1,400 permits, I believe, and  
13 we're only issuing 168 or something like that, some  
14 small number. The resource is underutilized and then  
15 beyond that there's some evidence that the birds are  
16 displacing other birds, some concerns and hitting the  
17 habitat that's available pretty hard. There should be  
18 no reason not to within the framework. So we would ask  
19 for modification so that the take could increase.

20  
21 We would probably work on some proposal  
22 to do that that would stay within the framework that  
23 they had unless we had new information on the abundance  
24 of swans that we want to include to raise the number,  
25 but obviously there's a lot of room within the existing  
26 framework if we could just change the permitting  
27 administration of it, the bag limit, to allow for more  
28 take.

29  
30 Coral.

31  
32 MS. CHERNOFF: So excuse me if this is  
33 a dumb question but I'm new here. Are we talking fall  
34 season, so this would increase take for non-residents  
35 also?

36  
37 CHAIRMAN DALE: Yeah, it would be for  
38 everybody. I've got a thumb up and nod yes and a smile  
39 back there from Brandon. So I'm going to take that as  
40 hearing no objection.

41  
42 What do you do in a case like this? Do  
43 you draft something up, work with Jason, we'd pass it  
44 around, everybody says, yeah, that's what we want to  
45 take forward to the Flyway Council?

46  
47 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, that's what we  
48 did the last time.

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. That's what  
2 we'll do then. We're ready for invitation.

3  
4 MS. SCHWALENBERG: This is just for  
5 point of information. The Invitation Committee is going  
6 to be taking up the issue of the ability for hunters to  
7 go to other villages rather than their home community  
8 to assist with the harvest of migratory birds and the  
9 ability to take some of those birds back to their homes  
10 in urban areas. So right now people can go to their  
11 home communities to assist an immediate relative.

12  
13 But what we have been hearing from the  
14 regional management body members is that there are  
15 people that live in the urban areas that may not be  
16 able to afford to go all the way back to their  
17 community, but they have ties to other communities that  
18 are closer to their urban location that they can afford  
19 to go to, so they are requesting the AMBCC to address  
20 that concern. So that is going to be sent to the  
21 Invitation Committee.

22  
23 Thank you.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN DALE: Questions for Patty on  
26 that.

27  
28 (No comments)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN DALE: No. Okay. Well done.

31  
32 MS. HEPA: Maybe just one question. Is  
33 there a possibility that something like that could be  
34 put in a proposal form for us to consider?

35  
36 MS. SCHWALENBERG: (Away from  
37 microphone)

38  
39 MS. HEPA: Okay. Okay, good. Thank  
40 you.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN DALE: Yeah, my understanding  
43 is that would take regulatory action.

44  
45 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, so the  
46 committee would draft the regulation and bring that  
47 back to the AMBCC before we even actually submit it in  
48 the regulatory process.

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN DALE: Good clarification.  
2 The next thing that we had was apology, but I believe  
3 that we took care of that when Greg was here.  
4 Everybody okay with that?

5  
6 IN UNISON: Yeah.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN DALE: All right. We'll make  
9 sure that moves this time. I'm glad Gayla's not here  
10 because I missed it. She gave me the elbow this  
11 morning and said don't forget invitation for public  
12 comments. Of course I did this morning. So don't tell  
13 her. Strike that from the record.

14  
15 Do we have any public comments at this  
16 time? Tom.

17  
18 MR. ROTHE: Thank you. I'm taking off  
19 my Pacific Birds hat, my Ducks Unlimited hat. I want  
20 to just share a couple thoughts personally. I turned  
21 70 in June and it occurred to me I spent over a third  
22 of my whole life trying to help develop co-management  
23 processes with the Y-K Delta Goose Management Plan, the  
24 treaty amendment and the AMBCC. So I hope you'll bear  
25 with me if I just make a couple of observations.

26  
27 One is I think it's fairly obvious that  
28 all of us are super dedicated to the idea of having  
29 healthy and abundant populations of birds. It's got to  
30 be kind of the one thing we focus on for the future and  
31 to make birds available to everyone. The other thing  
32 is habitat. Without habitat the bird populations can't  
33 be sustained and so that's the other critical thing.

34  
35 I hope you all take that to heart  
36 seriously so that that becomes really the driving  
37 reason that you're all working together here around the  
38 table to make this all work out.

39  
40 I guess there's a couple comments on  
41 the issues and I won't go into any length, but I think  
42 an important consideration particularly that came up  
43 during the treaty amendment process was that people in  
44 the Lower 48 have some idea of what they thing we're  
45 doing in Alaska. As you know, the subsistence hunters  
46 that were left out in the cold for 80 years since the  
47 Bird Treaty was first created in 1916.

48  
49 So when I and a bunch of other folks,  
50

1 including Charlie Brower and Myron and others, ran  
2 around the country trying to convince people that a  
3 treaty amendment may be a good thing we constantly had  
4 to reassure them that we were all committed to  
5 conserving the birds as they were that subsistence  
6 hunting was not going to create a big problem because  
7 of increased harvest.

8  
9 A big principal that allowed everybody  
10 comfort with that is the idea of sharing migratory  
11 birds. Sharing them across our country with Canada,  
12 Mexico, Russia. I can't underestimate how important it  
13 is, but the Y-K Goose Plan California was very, very  
14 cooperative because they knew that people on the Y-K  
15 Delta and elsewhere were willing to share their birds  
16 as long as everybody kind of talked and worked it out  
17 together.

18  
19 The same thing with the treaty  
20 amendment. As long as people down south had faith that  
21 we were going to share with them and they were going to  
22 share with us since they have the birds nine months out  
23 of the year and we have them three, it's good that  
24 they're going to do their part.

25  
26 I guess what I'm getting at is both the  
27 Emperor Geese and then the question about swan permits  
28 is are we sharing with outsiders. I just want to make  
29 an observation that right now you folks are in great  
30 shape. You have more geese right now than you've ever  
31 had in 40 years. Everything is doing pretty good. You  
32 have lots of swans.

33  
34 I'm going to suggest you can buy a lot  
35 of goodwill from people Outside. I know Emperors are  
36 mostly an Alaska bird, but if you offer 25 permits to  
37 people outside to come up and get that once-in-a-  
38 lifetime thing, they're going to appreciate that we're  
39 not holding all our resources just for our own personal  
40 uses.

41  
42 So think about if you have abundant  
43 birds and all the goodwill you can get by just sharing  
44 a few of them, that could really do you a lot of good  
45 politically and set you up for much greater  
46 communication when you need it on the next issue.

47  
48 The other hard part of that is the  
49 treaty amendment says those birds will be shared with  
50

1 no priorities, no preferences, no rights because the  
2 birds travel across the boundaries and every user kind  
3 of is on equal footing. So that's the principal that  
4 was negotiated in the treaty amendment and I think  
5 that's worth honoring especially since it doesn't  
6 really cause any shortage here.

7  
8 Emperors is a different thing. You've  
9 got a brand new hunt. I'd bet a pretty good amount of  
10 money that 1,000 permits don't get used. So it's okay  
11 if you want to wait and see how that shakes out, but  
12 just consider that now you're part of the national  
13 management community how being generous citizens with  
14 everybody else is going to work in everybody's benefit.  
15 That's just one observation about this kind of issue.

16  
17 The other thing I wanted to say is all  
18 of these processes have not been easy because Alaska's  
19 had kind of a stormy history with subsistence. The  
20 Lands Act, everything else created a lot of stir,  
21 ANILCA subsistence provisions shook everybody upside  
22 down and created lots of arguments. I know when I  
23 started for Fish and Game everybody teamed to beat up  
24 on us pretty good because the State prior to that was  
25 not too friendly toward Federal management and just  
26 developing a good solid subsistence management program.

27  
28 With that background it's always  
29 difficult to kind of set aside some of those past  
30 feelings, but again I would hope that you can think  
31 about that and let's take it to the next stage. The  
32 Co-Management Council is a great example of all of you  
33 getting together and talking in a civilized way trying  
34 to solve problems and that's really great. I hope that  
35 continues to grow. It lets you get to know each other  
36 personally too because that's really what makes it  
37 tick. Every person around this table.

38  
39 So I've been able to gain a lot of  
40 friends and those friends have taught me to listen,  
41 especially the old ones with the snow around the stony  
42 summit.

43  
44 (Laughter)

45  
46 MR. ROTHE: I was greatly honored when  
47 Paul John said I was probably an elder by now. Anyway,  
48 it's all about people and really getting to understand  
49 each other and just trying to learn more by listening

50

1 than talking. I obviously didn't learn that lesson.  
2 I'm still blabbing on.

3  
4 Anyway, I really wish you best of luck  
5 and I'll help you as much as I can. But just remember  
6 you're a good example. You're under a spotlight for  
7 all the United States and I think people down south  
8 will have a great deal of faith in the process as  
9 things improve and we maintain our bird population.

10  
11 Good luck with that.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thanks, Tom. We  
14 appreciate all your efforts on all fronts on all the  
15 years that you did spend on this.

16  
17 Now we're on to Council and Staff  
18 comments. Oh, we've got to do committee assignments  
19 yet. What else did I miss? Committee assignments.  
20 Oh, did you have something, Jennifer?

21  
22 MS. NU: I'll say something quickly.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN DALE: Just make sure you get  
25 to a microphone.

26  
27 MS. NU: I just wanted to thank the  
28 Council and the Staff for opening this meeting up to  
29 the public and for welcoming me here. I've learned a  
30 lot from observing, listening and I look forward to  
31 kind of keeping in touch and seeing where the topics  
32 discussed and the decisions made where they lead in the  
33 future.

34  
35 Thank you.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you. Very nice.  
38 We're certainly glad to have you here anytime. Peter.

39  
40 MR. DEVINE: Where can we read your  
41 observations?

42  
43 MS. NU: I'm not sure yet if I'm going  
44 to be -- I think I'll talk with Patty about if there's  
45 something that I can write about this meeting where  
46 you'd like for things to be written. I think that -- I  
47 have no concrete plans right now, but I can talk to  
48 Patty about where you would like to see anything  
49 written about this meeting or other things that you're  
50

1 working on in the future.

2

3 So I can leave my contact information  
4 and share it with all of you. Yeah, I'm happy to help  
5 out.

6

7 CHAIRMAN DALE: Great. Thank you.  
8 Committee assignments. Patty.

9

10 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr.  
11 Chairman. Last spring we did do the committee  
12 assignments. I'm just taking a quick look to see if  
13 there are any changes that any of the partners would  
14 like to propose. I know that the Native Caucus made  
15 their changes in the spring. I would like to hear what  
16 the State and Federal representatives if they have any  
17 changes as well.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN DALE: Eric.

22

23 DR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Patty. Yes, I  
24 do have some recommendations. I'll start out with the  
25 Technical Committee. I ask that my name be removed from  
26 that and Julian Fischer be substituted for me. On the  
27 Emperor Goose Subcommittee again I would like my name  
28 removed and Julian's name put in my place. Then going  
29 back to the Technical Committee there was an asterisk  
30 next to my name as being the chair, but that's  
31 something that needs to happen. Whether Julian wants  
32 to assume that or if someone else would like to step up  
33 and assume the chairperson for the Technical Committee,  
34 that would be great.

35

36 These are just some notes I've taken.  
37 The Invitation Subcommittee there's not a chair  
38 indicated on that. The Kodiak Road Committee there's  
39 one substitution that's been made already but not  
40 evident by this. Please remove David Safine and put in  
41 Robb Kaler. There's not a chair indicated for that  
42 subcommittee and I think in talking with Coral but I  
43 think Kelly is the subcommittee chair on that.

44

45 On the Harvest Survey Committee I'd  
46 like to take my name off and put in David Safine.  
47 Standard Operating Procedures I just noticed there's a  
48 chair not indicated on that. Eric Taylor, Patty  
49 Schwalenburg and Jason Schamber are the three members.

50



1 MS. SCHWALENBERG: (Away from  
2 microphone)

3  
4 DR. TAYLOR: What's that?

5  
6 MS. SCHWALENBERG: (Away from  
7 microphone)

8  
9 DR. TAYLOR: Okay. The Budget  
10 Committee, depending on if it's not objected to, I  
11 would like to insert my name on the Budget Committee  
12 and I would request that a chair be identified for that  
13 because I think that's a really important committee.

14  
15 Todd Sformo had I think a really  
16 excellent observation in the sense that he said the  
17 Handicrafts Committee was as successful as they were  
18 because they met on a regular basis. They did the  
19 typical kind of storming, forming and performing type  
20 of relationships oftentimes it happens in the case and  
21 they ended up indeed performing.

22  
23 So it's really important for these  
24 subcommittees to have a chair because ultimately it's  
25 his or her responsibility to call that committee or  
26 subcommittee together. Without one it's kind of like  
27 this entity that exists out there, but no one knows  
28 who's in charge. So I think it's important to identify  
29 it.

30  
31 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you.

32  
33 DR. TAYLOR: So I would like my name  
34 added to the Budget Committee and then ask for a  
35 committee chair to be identified. Handicrafts  
36 Committee, I think what Donna did is inserted my name  
37 anywhere that Pete Probasco's name was. So I'd like my  
38 name removed off of that and add David Safine on the  
39 Handicraft Subcommittee. The reason I'm putting David  
40 on a few of these subcommittees is that David is the  
41 representative to the Pacific Flyway for our program  
42 and I think David would be important to keep that  
43 communication open.

44  
45 Then in terms of the temporary  
46 committees, I know it's late in the day, but some of  
47 these I'm not for sure if these need to be continued or  
48 not. Also I think all of them do not have chairs. Six  
49 temporary committees or working groups.

50

1                   There's a few that have Joeneal Hicks'  
2 name still on them. The Government to Government  
3 Consultation, the Co-Management Principals, the  
4 Fall/Winter Subsistence, the Indigence Inhabitant  
5 Definition all have Joeneal's name on them. As well as  
6 Tim Andrew's name and Myron Naneng on several of them.  
7 So I think there's some updates that need to be done on  
8 those.

9  
10                   Some of these I'm not really for sure  
11 what they were about. For example Co-Management  
12 Principals. Develop and recommend best co-management  
13 practices and principals for the three partners that  
14 comprise the AMBCC. Patty, I don't know if you can  
15 shed some light on that or not. The reason I bring  
16 this up is if some of these can be perhaps removed, it  
17 might be less daunting.

18  
19                   CHAIRMAN DALE: Hang on a second. As a  
20 way to proceed on this because we're going to end up  
21 talking about all six of these if we launch here. What  
22 I would suggest as a way to go forward is that between  
23 now and the spring meeting Patty convenes these. If  
24 they don't have a chair, it will be kind of on you to  
25 make it happen, and just have a quick meeting and  
26 decide whether the committee needs to go forward. If  
27 so, what's their charge as a way to proceed. We'll  
28 clean that part of it up in the spring.

29  
30                   Is that satisfactory?

31  
32                   DR. TAYLOR: Certainly. Thank you.

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN DALE: So without objection  
35 we'll give that direction to Patty to see if those six  
36 temporary committees can meet over the winter and  
37 decide whether they should continue or not. If so,  
38 why, and bring that to the Council.

39  
40                   MS. SCHWALENBERG: For action.

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN DALE: For action. Somebody  
43 is going to have to start finishing my sentences here  
44 after three days. Thank you, Patty.

45  
46                   MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr.  
47 Chair. Just a word on the committees. Yeah, some of  
48 them do not have chairs and it is the responsibility of  
49 the committee when they meet to designate a chair. I  
50

1 don't designate the chairs just randomly. I've helped  
2 to convene those committees, get them together on their  
3 first meeting. I will do that again and make sure that  
4 they do identify chair people for those committees that  
5 don't have them.

6  
7 In addition to what Bruce was saying  
8 about these temporary committees and working groups, we  
9 can do a write-up on each one of them and provide  
10 recommendations to the Council for action at the spring  
11 meeting on whether or not to continue them or change  
12 members or whatever.

13  
14 Thank you.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. I would also be  
17 willing to serve on the Budget Committee as Eric had  
18 suggested earlier. Is there any objection then to Eric  
19 and I serving on the Budget Committee?

20  
21 (No objections)

22  
23 CHAIRMAN DALE: We're in. So that takes  
24 care of that. Make sure every committee has a chair,  
25 that would be great. Taqulik.

26  
27 MS. HEPA: That sounds good. Thank  
28 you, Patty. I just want to make sure you're not full  
29 time, are you? I'm just curious. Like with your other  
30 job you share positions?

31  
32 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah. The Chugach  
33 Regional Resources Commission Board, which I'm the  
34 Executive Director of that organization, has very  
35 generously allowed me to spend half of my time on the  
36 AMBCC. It is actually more than half, so we have been  
37 using other funds to pay for my participation in the  
38 AMBCC process. I understand the budgets are very tight  
39 and there is no additional money. That is something  
40 that we are going to have to start looking at because  
41 as more and more issues get put on the table.

42  
43 The Humboldt Bay issue for example,  
44 even organizing the committees and organizing not only  
45 the spring/fall meeting, but assisting with helping the  
46 regional management bodies to meet, fielding questions  
47 during the year, developing proposals to the Board of  
48 Game now, it is way more than a half-time position. So  
49 we've been able to get these things accomplished and I  
50

1 hope satisfactory to the Council here, but that is  
2 something that we're going to have to seriously  
3 consider in the future. I'm not quite sure how long my  
4 board is going to allow this to continue, especially if  
5 it takes more and more of my time.

6  
7 MS. HEPA: The reason I said that is  
8 because I know that we have Donna and that's why I  
9 asked who else is a part of the AMBCC staff that's  
10 under your umbrella. So I just respect all the work  
11 that you do do and I know how much time it does take to  
12 do all the different tasks. I'm trying to be mindful  
13 of your other employer as well.

14  
15 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN DALE: Yeah, that's a good  
18 point. We have actually saddled quite a bit on this  
19 one too and we certainly appreciate everything you do,  
20 Patty. If there's things that need to be done that our  
21 staff can help accomplish that, make sure you come to  
22 us and ask for that.

23  
24 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I appreciate that.  
25 Liliana has been great in providing help and even help  
26 getting ready for this meeting I have to thank Donna  
27 Dewhurst. She did an incredible amount of work while I  
28 was home with my mom as well as my staff assistant  
29 Tonya Pipkin. Liliana has been stepping in. Jason has  
30 been stepping in as well as Julian. Chuck has offered  
31 his assistance. So the partner technical staff have  
32 been very willing to assist us in these initiatives,  
33 but many of them have to be led by me, so it's still on  
34 my plate.

35  
36 Thank you.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN DALE: So now we have Counsel  
39 and Staff comments, which we just kind of did a little  
40 bit of. Peter, do you want to go first?

41  
42 MR. DEVINE: I'm first in everything.  
43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44 CHAIRMAN DALE: You're so good at it.  
45 We can't find anybody better.

46  
47 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, everybody, for  
48 I guess a productive meeting. I voiced all my concerns  
49 on my issues and stuff. One thing I haven't heard

50

1 mention is we had some board members who changed  
2 positions or whatever. I don't know if it happened,  
3 but I would like to see Patty put something together  
4 for us to present to Myron Naneng, Joeneal Hicks and  
5 Tim Andrew during AFN if we could sign -- I know in the  
6 past we've given people pictures or whatever. If she  
7 could throw that together for something to show our  
8 appreciation for the many years of work that they have  
9 done.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN DALE: I'll second that one.

14

15 DR. TAYLOR: I will too.

16

17 CHAIRMAN DALE: Any objections.

18

19 (No objections)

20

21 CHAIRMAN DALE: Let's do that.

22 Excellent, Peter. Thank you. Anything else, Peter?

23

24 MR. DEVINE: I said I already talked  
25 about the geese. I'm done.

26

27 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. Coral, please.

28

29 MS. CHERNOFF: So this is my first  
30 meeting here and it was an honor to be here. I think  
31 it was a really great meeting and I feel much more in  
32 touch and educated about a few things. I guess I just  
33 look forward to more work. I'm new on the AMBCC. I  
34 just got elected as alternate and I've been involved I  
35 think at home for two years. I think since the Emperor  
36 Goose thing I've become more involved. I just look  
37 forward to working with everyone in the future.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN DALE: Likewise. Thank you,  
42 Coral.

43

44 MS. HEPA: Thank you. I thought it was  
45 a very good meeting, good discussions. I really  
46 appreciate Tom Rothe's comments that he provided at the  
47 end and I agree with all his points that we need to  
48 remember the history and we share the birds. I totally  
49 agree. Look forward to next spring's meeting.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you, Taqulik.  
4 Brandon, do you have anything you want to share?

5

6 MR. AHMASUK: I thought it was Council  
7 member and Staff comments. Unless I'm all of a sudden  
8 a Council member.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 CHAIRMAN DALE: Gloria.

13

14 MS. STICKWAN: I too agree with Tom  
15 Rothe's -- I appreciated that he said that and that we  
16 should be working with other people and other  
17 organizations and remember the history of what this was  
18 all about and just work with other people if we can.  
19 It was a good meeting I thought.

20

21 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you, Gloria.  
22 Jack.

23

24 MR. FAGERSTROM: I'd like to thank  
25 Patty and all the rest of the staff, including you too  
26 and Tom. We've got a staging area for Brant and the  
27 reasoning behind me badmouthing swans all the time is  
28 they're a very aggressive bird and every region has a  
29 certain bird they'd prefer and we would rather see  
30 Brant than swans. A simple reason. There's more and  
31 more. That's a pretty vital staging area in the  
32 spring.

33

34 Thanks to all the Council members and  
35 the Staff again. Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thanks, Jack. Cyrus,  
38 your up.

39

40 MR. HARRIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
41 Very productive meeting. I'd pretty much like to thank  
42 everybody for all they shared. Again I also second the  
43 idea of sending letters to some of the board or council  
44 for the folks that left here. I had tons of stuff to  
45 say, but it's getting late. Thank you. Good meeting.

46

47 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you, Cyrus.

48 Roland.

49

50

1 MR. WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Like  
2 everybody else I'd like to thank everyone for a  
3 productive meeting. It's my second meeting and I'm  
4 still learning quite a few things, but I still know I  
5 have a lot of things to learn. There's a couple things  
6 that are still in my head. Budget-wise is one.

7  
8 One of the mentalities back home with  
9 the enforcement division of Fish and Wildlife Service,  
10 Fish and Game Services is that a lot of elderly people  
11 probably are thinking back to the time where there were  
12 game wardens and they were flying around and harassing  
13 them while hunting. I think they are still in that  
14 mentality because it was a post-traumatic stress  
15 syndrome for them and it's gone down towards us with  
16 their stories. The apology letter I'm really glad to  
17 hear that there's an apology letter going to be  
18 formulated for Cyrus's region. But if it can go to all  
19 the regions, it would be excellent.

20  
21 The other thing that they constantly  
22 say about whether it's for bird conservation, fish or  
23 marine mammal as well is that the concerns and needs of  
24 the Natives aren't really being pushed forward but  
25 rather the sports fisherman who are paying thousands  
26 and thousands of dollars to come to our regions and  
27 collect these species that they're hunting at certain  
28 times of the year, if that can be clarified with an  
29 outreach program to the Natives, that would be  
30 excellent too.

31  
32 In my mind, they're probably thinking  
33 survival of the fittest. If we go out, hunt, we catch,  
34 we bring them back, hide them like Cyrus said earlier,  
35 hide our game, and if we don't report them and get  
36 caught, we'll be okay with that. We don't want that  
37 mentality to filter down to the next generation.

38  
39 The other thing that I'm somewhat  
40 concerned about is these TV shows aren't all factual,  
41 On The Brim, but on this buying channel that I love  
42 watching that show, buying homes in Alaska or buying  
43 land and areas in Alaska. I'm concerned that these  
44 millionaires that are buying property up here in Alaska  
45 will start influencing the State divisions to weigh  
46 more towards their needs with somewhat of a bribery. I  
47 don't know if biased or something that. Bribery  
48 intentions with money to weigh in on their needs more  
49 than the needs of the community.

50

1                   Quyana.

2  
3                   CHAIRMAN DALE:  Cyrus.  Thank you,  
4 Roland.

5  
6                   MR. HARRIS:  Mr. Chairman, one more.  
7 Just a little bit of clarification for Roland here.  
8 The apology letter is meant to be for the entire state,  
9 the entire user groups.  Actually, the very first time  
10 around we're kind of hoping to get it during the AFN on  
11 the 100 year anniversary, which was last year, I  
12 believe.  Hopefully we'll be pushing it for this coming  
13 AFN.  That's three weeks away.

14  
15                  MS. SCHWALENBERG:  We can try.

16  
17                  MR. HARRIS:  Thank you.

18  
19                  MS. SCHWALENBERG:  The problem that  
20 we've been finding is getting on the AFN agenda.  We  
21 can probably have it ready by then, but I don't know if  
22 we'll be able to get on the agenda to present it.  I  
23 will try.

24  
25                  MR. HARRIS:  Thank you.

26  
27                  CHAIRMAN DALE:  Yeah, we'll try too.  
28 It will have to work it through channels.  It will get  
29 reviewed at pretty high levels, but we'll try.  That's  
30 a good idea.  Eric.

31  
32                  DR. TAYLOR:  Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
33 While I've been at many of these meetings in the past,  
34 this is my first meeting sitting at the Council  
35 representing the Fish and Wildlife Service.  I have to  
36 say it's a real honor to sit here.  I haven't invested  
37 as many hours as Tom has in this Council, but I've  
38 invested quite a few and I'm a firm believer in the  
39 purpose and mission of this Council.

40  
41                  I think Tom took a few of the words I  
42 was going to say, but I want to reiterate how fortunate  
43 we are right now to have the waterfowl populations that  
44 we have.  We have several that are way over population  
45 objective and nearly every population that's of  
46 importance to not only rural subsistence users but also  
47 to fall/winter hunters, sport hunters.  They're very  
48 healthy right now and that's a great position to be in.

49  
50



1 I also want to remind the group that  
2 we've accomplished a lot despite challenges in funding,  
3 perhaps some challenges in terms of disagreements,  
4 different perspectives. Having an Emperor Goose season  
5 for both fall/winter hunters and subsistence hunters.  
6 We have a handicraft proposal to be pushed through.  
7 Those are some major accomplishments and I think things  
8 that we should be very proud of.

9  
10 I know we have challenges ahead in  
11 terms of the budget and you heard that over and over  
12 again and I heard it from you in terms of your regional  
13 meetings. I ask that you remain optimistic. I face  
14 that with our crew in the Migratory Bird Management  
15 Program. I still have the dedication that I see around  
16 the table.

17  
18 I want to thank the presenters of the  
19 group; Julian, Jason, Robb, Todd. Very informative,  
20 very professional and very helpful presentations. I  
21 want to thank the subcommittee chairs; Todd, Mike, and  
22 others. They take the extra time to be the chairperson  
23 for the subcommittee. They're all busy with their  
24 regular jobs and they've taken on the extra  
25 responsibility to chair these subcommittees and then  
26 report back.

27  
28 I want to assure Roland and other new  
29 members do not feel shy to ask any question that comes  
30 to mind. My guess is if you have a question, there's  
31 other people sitting around the table that have the  
32 same question but they're just too shy to ask it.  
33 Whether it's a technical term. Robb, for example,  
34 whipped out more technical terms in five minutes than I  
35 think I've heard just about anybody did. Nonetheless a  
36 good job. But do not hesitate to ask any presenter a  
37 question or the process a question. It's really  
38 important that everyone has a good understanding.

39  
40 Finally I just want to say the one  
41 thing I plan to do in my position is try to increase  
42 communication and transparency in the decisions in  
43 terms of the Fish and Wildlife Service and my program  
44 as well. We heard several examples of where we think  
45 the communication and outreach are good and then we  
46 hear questions like, gosh, I didn't know if you were  
47 under 16 I didn't have to have a State Stamp or if you  
48 had low income that I didn't have to have a State Stamp  
49 or September 1st was the beginning of the fall/winter  
50

1 season, et cetera.

2

3 So I can't emphasize enough if I can  
4 help out. Tamara Zeller in our program worked closely  
5 with Jason on some really great outreach materials. If  
6 we can do more of that and you have ideas, please don't  
7 hesitate to contact me and we'll help out.

8

9 I thought it was a very productive  
10 meeting. I really appreciate everyone's time. Thanks.

11

12 CHAIRMAN DALE: Did you have anything  
13 else, Patty.

14

15 MS. SCHWALENBERG: No. Just that I  
16 neglected to mention Erik Osnas also offered to help us  
17 in our efforts in the harvest survey. So thank you  
18 everyone for a great meeting. I couldn't do my job  
19 half as well as I do without each and every one of you  
20 providing me feedback and information on the things I  
21 should be addressing and the priorities of the AMBCC.  
22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN DALE: Well, everybody took  
25 all the good stuff, so you have the luxury of not  
26 having to listen to me talk a lot here. I really  
27 appreciate everybody's professional, respectful and  
28 friendly attitude without taking it too lightly, taking  
29 it very seriously. I really want to echo Eric's urging  
30 to speak up. There's lots of questions that need to be  
31 asked and urge everybody to speak up.

32

33 I want to just reiterate that this has  
34 really been -- I'm a newcomer here these two years and  
35 it's really been a great part of my career. I mean a  
36 real highlight. I really enjoy this part of it. I'm  
37 looking forward to it and it's been better than I  
38 thought it would be and I was looking forward to it.

39

40 I want to thank you all for everything  
41 that you did. Staff and Council members and everyone  
42 else. And thank you for putting up for my year as  
43 Chair. This is the first time I've ever done anything  
44 like this. I won't say I wasn't petrified most of the  
45 time, but the fact that I felt like I was among friends  
46 really made it a lot easier.

47

48 So thank you all for your patience and  
49 understanding and hard work. With that I get to give

50

1 this -- no? I wasn't going to bang it. I learned the  
2 first day don't ever hit this without getting Gayla and  
3 Patty's permission first. Don't I get to pass it?

4  
5 MS. SCHWALENBERG: We have to pick date  
6 and place of next meeting.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN DALE: It's after transfer of  
9 gavel. He has to do it.

10  
11 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Oh, well.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN DALE: That's what it says on  
14 the agenda. Tom.

15  
16 MR. ROTHE: One real quick announcement  
17 or an acknowledgment that the Alaska Conservation  
18 Foundation has awarded Patty the Caleb Pungowiyi Award  
19 for Outstanding Achievement for an Alaska Native  
20 Organization or Individual. If you want to help her  
21 celebrate October 5th for lunch, get a ticket.

22  
23 (Applause)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN DALE: So do you want me to do  
26 time and place of next meeting or does Eric get to do  
27 it.

28  
29 MS. SCHWALENBERG: You're the Chair, so  
30 whatever you wish, Mr. Chair.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN DALE: Good luck, Buddy.

33  
34 (Laughter)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you former  
37 Chair. So the last decision that we have before  
38 everyone is free to have the rest of the afternoon is  
39 to pick a time and a place for the next meeting.  
40 There's a calendar in the back of your notebook. Tab  
41 10.

42  
43 It looks like we've had meetings in  
44 March and April. I'll open it up for a recommendation  
45 for a week first. Why don't we do that. Taquulik.

46  
47 MS. HEPA: Why don't we shoot for the  
48 first week of April.

49  
50

1 MR. HARRIS: I'll second the first week  
2 of April.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. We have a  
5 motion and a second for the second week of April, which  
6 is Monday.....

7  
8 MS. HEPA: First.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: First week of April,  
11 sorry. A motion and a second to the motion for the  
12 first week of April. It starts on April 2nd, Monday  
13 the 2nd through Friday the 6th.

14  
15 Any conflicts. Anybody out harvesting.  
16 Birthday parties. Graduations.

17  
18 MR. DEVINE: I'm good with it if the  
19 State shuts down the season for cod fish before April  
20 1st.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right.

23  
24 MR. DALE: Can't help you there, man.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: So the week of April  
27 2nd. Do we have specific three days or, let's see.  
28 Patty, help me out. Four days?

29  
30 MS. SCHWALENBERG: In the past we've  
31 been using four days, so it's either Monday, Tuesday,  
32 Wednesday, Thursday or Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,  
33 Friday. I guess what I would like the Council to focus  
34 on is when do they want their meeting, Thursday and  
35 Friday or Wednesday and Thursday.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Taqulik.

38  
39 MS. HEPA: I like the Thursday, Friday  
40 and then having the workshop on the Wednesday. We get  
41 to go home to a weekend.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Others.

44  
45 (No comments)

46  
47 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: So how does that work? So  
48 the workshop being on Wednesday the 4th and the Council  
49 meeting being on the 5th and the 6th. Sound okay?

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Man, this is going to  
4 be an easy year for me. All right. Peter.

5

6 MR. DEVINE: Do we still get our Native  
7 Caucus before that, the 2nd and 3rd?

8

9 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Or Wednesday morning.

10

11 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, we can do it  
12 Wednesday morning and during our monthly Native Caucus  
13 teleconference we can firm that up.

14

15 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. How about  
16 location. Would anyone offer that we do a remote  
17 location? What I would like to do is if there is  
18 interest, I will do a cost analysis. I'll sit down  
19 with our crew and develop an estimate and present it to  
20 the Council and we can decide how we want to move  
21 forward.

22

23 It's convenient for me obviously and  
24 Jason and Bruce and others to have the meeting in  
25 Anchorage, but there's been some comments that it would  
26 be nice to have it out in a region so more people could  
27 attend from their particular region. So I'm open to  
28 hearing a motion or a recommendation to have it  
29 elsewhere. I can't guarantee it at this point, but at  
30 least we'll look at it.

31

32 MR. DEVINE: I would recommend Kodiak  
33 since they have the issue with the roads and all the  
34 other stuff that they're battling right now.

35

36 MR. HARRIS: I second that motion.

37

38 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. Recommendation  
39 for Kodiak. We've got a motion and a second. Any  
40 other discussion.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Any other  
45 recommendations for other locations. Anyone want to  
46 volunteer. Jack, do we want to go to Golovin?

47

48 MR. FAGERSTROM: It's too small.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. All in  
2 favor. I'm going to throw it open for consideration of  
3 that. Say aye.

4  
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6  
7 (No opposing votes)

8  
9 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. I will  
10 look at the costs for Kodiak and Anchorage. Thank you.  
11 So we've got a date for the week of April 2nd, 2018.  
12 The two alternatives for location would be Kodiak and  
13 Anchorage and I'll present a cost estimate for the  
14 Council.

15  
16 I'd also like to take this opportunity  
17 to thank Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association for the  
18 use of this building. I really appreciated both the  
19 upstairs has been nice as well as the downstairs  
20 conference room. It's been a very pleasant, easy and  
21 amenable location to have a meeting.

22  
23 Patty.

24  
25 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Also Karen  
26 Pletnikoff sponsors the meeting room, so there's no  
27 charge to the AMBCC any longer, so that is a good thing  
28 for us.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Wow. Yeah,  
31 certainly. All right. Then without any other comments  
32 before I ask for a motion for adjournment.

33  
34 (No comments)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Hearing none. Do I  
37 have a motion to adjourn.

38  
39 MR. WHITE: I move.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: So moved by Roland.  
42 Second.

43  
44 MR. HARRIS: Second.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Second by Cyrus. All  
47 in favor say aye.

48  
49 IN UNISON: Aye.

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CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, folks.  
Safe travels back to your home.

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

