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VOLUME II

ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SPRING MEETING

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA  
September 26, 2013

Members Present:

- Doug Vincent-Lang, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Pete Probasco, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Peter Devine - Aleutian/Pribilof Island Association.
- Frank Woods, Bristol Bay Native Association
- Mike Pederson, North Slope
- Joeneal Hicks, Copper River Native Association
- Myron Naneng; Timothy Andrew, Association of Village Presidents
- Joel Saccheus, Kawerak
- Rick Rowland, Sun'aq Tribal

Executive Director, Patty Brown-Schwalenberg

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 9/26/2013)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ANDREW: We'll call the meeting back to order this 26th day of September, 2013. Any announcements this morning.

MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: No.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Okay. Thank you. I'd like to welcome Taqulik Hepa, who is back from international travel. Welcome. Any other new faces. Caroline. Oh, she was here yesterday. We will start off from where we left off yesterday, which we were talking about Steller's Eiders when we left off and now we are going to be getting into the Yellow-Billed Loon issue this morning.

MR. FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you all for bearing with me yesterday. I know it was a long presentation and we didn't quite get done. Yellow-Billed Loon was the last species that I was going to describe. A couple things I want to say first of all, the objective of this was to bring to you the current trends and distribution information that our survey program has to bear, but I'm also open to attempting to answer any other questions that you might have.

I think the reason we went on so long yesterday is because of the questions you had, all of which were excellent, and I appreciate the questions. I think that without that interaction it's just me droning on and no real communication. So, again, any questions are welcomed and encouraged.

So Yellow-Billed Loon is the last species I was going to discuss in the presentation. The species is distributed throughout Canada, the U.S. and Russia. Within the state of Alaska, most of the Yellow-Billed Loons occur on the North Slope. Statewide, we think there's approximately 3-4,000 birds, but on the North Slope our current population index based on the last three years of data is about 2,400, 2,359 is our actual population index number.

1 We're seeing growth in that population over the last 10  
2 years. The species has been closed to subsistence  
3 harvest.

4

5 As you probably all know, 2009 the U.S.  
6 Fish and Wildlife Service determined that the Yellow-  
7 Billed Loon was warranted for listing under the  
8 Endangered Species Act, but the listing decision was  
9 precluded due to funding and other higher priorities.  
10 This upcoming year the Fish and Wildlife Service will  
11 make a final recommendation on whether to list or not  
12 list. I believe that during the Harvest Survey  
13 Subcommittee meeting two days ago an update was  
14 provided on the listing process or the reconsideration  
15 process.

16

17 Is that correct? I was not present at  
18 that time. So there might be more information that was  
19 -- it was on the agenda as I recall.

20

21 MR. ROSENBERG: Well, what we discussed  
22 was the Yellow-Billed Loons were listed under the  
23 criteria of over-exploitation and since then harvest  
24 surveys have been conducted on St. Lawrence Island. So  
25 what we got at the Harvest Survey Committee meeting was  
26 just the status of Liliana's report that has the new  
27 harvest survey information for Gambell and Savoonga and  
28 that sort of thing. We really didn't go through the  
29 whole process.

30

31 MR. VINCENT-LANG: Can I ask one  
32 question.

33

34 MR. FISCHER: Yes.

35

36 MR. VINCENT-LANG: The decision was  
37 warranted but precluded. If I recall right, the only  
38 factor of the five listing criteria was overutilization  
39 by users, right? It wasn't anything else on habitat.

40

41 MR. FISCHER: I'm sorry. I'm going to  
42 have to defer to the Endangered Species Program if  
43 there's anyone here from there because I was not  
44 involved in the listing decision there. My  
45 recollection, however, is that there were a number of  
46 factors considered and it was the reported harvest that  
47 was kind of the tipping point is my recollection. So  
48 Liliana's work, that I believe Liliana is going to  
49 present later today, is going to be very important in  
50 the determination that's made this year.

1                   Okay. So the survey that's conducted  
2 on the Arctic Coastal Plain is an aerial survey. I  
3 talked about that for other species yesterday. Yellow-  
4 Billed Loons are one of the species that are observed  
5 and counted during that survey. These are our survey  
6 numbers. Again, those white bars indicate the  
7 population index counted each year on the Arctic  
8 Coastal Plain in early June. The black line is a  
9 three-year running average. That green text is very  
10 blurred there, but it's basically indicating a 6  
11 percent growth rate over the last 10 years.

12  
13                   I want to point out something here.  
14 This is a population index. There were surveys done,  
15 very intensive surveys using a different method about  
16 10 years ago in which aerial survey crews developed a  
17 detection rate for this particular survey. They came  
18 up with an estimate of 1.16 Yellow-Billed Loons for  
19 every bird seen on this survey. So if you were to  
20 correct these numbers for detection rate, you would  
21 come up with 2,736 birds. We also know there's  
22 approximately six to eight hundred birds on the Seward  
23 Peninsula Selawik Refuge and St. Lawrence Island  
24 combined, so that would bring up the population  
25 estimate for Alaska to approximately 3,500 Yellow-  
26 Billed Loons.

27  
28                   MR. VINCENT-LANG: Can I ask a  
29 question?

30  
31                   MR. FISCHER: Yes, you can.

32  
33                   MR. VINCENT-LANG: It wouldn't make a  
34 population estimate of that because the detection rate  
35 is 1.16 birds for the flight paths that you use, but  
36 there's a lot of area that isn't surveyed, so it still  
37 remains an index, not a population estimate, correct?

38  
39                   MR. FISCHER: That's correct. I should  
40 also point out that Yellow-Billed Loons are counted  
41 during this survey in early June, so what that survey  
42 does not detect is any non-breeding birds that might  
43 show up on the breeding grounds after the survey crew  
44 has completed the breeding ground surveys or birds that  
45 have moved offshore and are just not present on the  
46 breeding grounds at all. This would be the estimate of  
47 the breeding population present on the breeding grounds  
48 in any given year.

49  
50                   MR. VINCENT-LANG: The surveyed portion

1 of breeding grounds.

2

3 MR. FISCHER: Correct. That's actually  
4 it for bird data. Yes.

5

6 MR. ROWLAND: Where's the slide that  
7 shows their range, like from Alaska to Canada to  
8 Russia?

9

10 MR. FISCHER: Sure. I'd be happy to  
11 share that with you.

12

13 MR. ROWLAND: And then what's their  
14 populations in those two areas?

15

16 MR. FISCHER: Okay, so I don't have a  
17 slide of the range. There's a rough worldwide  
18 population estimate of somewhere between 16 and 32,000  
19 Yellow-Billed Loons. There's very sparse data in  
20 Russia and in Canada. With the best and most  
21 consistent surveys we have within the Yellow-Billed  
22 Loon range it's between 3-4,000. Canada and Russia  
23 have not invested in surveys within those areas, but  
24 the sparse data that's available suggests that  
25 somewhere between 16-32,000 of them are worldwide and  
26 we probably have, you know, a quarter of that or less.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Where do they mature?

29

30 MR. FISCHER: Birds are wintering in  
31 the offshore waters in Asia, South China Sea area, so  
32 they -- actually, some of them are even wintering in  
33 Alaska. We see some Yellow-Billed Loons in Prince  
34 William Sound and Southcentral Alaska, but the birds  
35 that nest on the Arctic Coastal Plain migrate down  
36 across the St. Lawrence region down into Asia.

37

38 Yes.

39

40 MR. WOODS: In '09 it looks like there  
41 was an index of like a little over 3,500. Was that due  
42 to a -- do they think the transient population -- so  
43 you're missing 1,200 birds. More than that maybe. No  
44 -- yeah. In '12 you're missing close to 1,500 birds.

45

46 MR. FISCHER: You're pointing out that  
47 there's a particularly high population estimate in  
48 2009.

49

50 MR. WOODS: Yeah. That huge -- yeah,

1 that discrepancy. Then three years later you have a  
2 missing -- is that.....

3

4 MR. FISCHER: I'm not sure what you  
5 mean by missing.

6

7 MR. VINCENT-LANG: Where do the birds  
8 go from the high point?

9

10 MR. WOODS: Do they die?

11

12 MR. FISCHER: Okay. So when we -- when  
13 you look at numbers like this, you see variability in  
14 the numbers. They're not straight across the board and  
15 there's lots of sources of variability. There's  
16 natural variability in the population that might be  
17 happening, the actual numbers going up and down, birds  
18 dying or there's error in the sampling. So there's  
19 natural variation and then there's sampling variation.  
20 I think it would be very unlikely that the population  
21 exploded in that one year and then dropped the next.

22

23 So this suggests that there's something  
24 different that happened in that particular year that  
25 led us to calculate that population estimate. It could  
26 be something as simple as a flock of Yellow-Billed  
27 Loons showing up on one transect that were all flocked  
28 up and that gets expanded through the sampled area that  
29 results in an increase in the estimate. That's why  
30 what I've presented here is that three-year running  
31 average. So if you get, just due to chance alone, a  
32 really high spike or a really low drop in the  
33 population, it doesn't affect what we understand as the  
34 long-term average number.

35

36 So that three-year running average  
37 number kind of smooths out those peaks and those  
38 troughs in the population estimate. So we don't give  
39 as much credit to big peaks or drops. What we're  
40 looking for in population monitoring is long-term  
41 trends, not precise estimates every single year because  
42 of the limited resources to monitor all migratory birds  
43 that occur throughout the state and migrate to many  
44 places on the globe. We focus on a specific area and  
45 then do our best effort there.

46

47 Anyway, to answer your point.....

48

49 MR. WOODS: Yeah, I got it, I got it.

50

1 MR. FISCHER: .....the peaks and  
2 troughs are smooth with that three-year average.

3  
4 MR. WOODS: So when it was listed in  
5 '03, the steady increase of 6 percent it looks like --  
6 is that pretty accurate because when you add -- it  
7 started out with 1,500 it looks like and they now have  
8 23, that's quite a bit more than 6 percent rate  
9 increase.

10  
11 MR. FISCHER: Okay. So they weren't  
12 listed. They're not listed. They were proposed for  
13 listing in 2009.

14  
15 MR. WOODS: I know that. I got that.  
16 So when it was start -- I guess the alarm started going  
17 off in 2003. You had looked like 1,500 birds, correct?

18  
19  
20 MR. FISCHER: Well, actually, I  
21 wouldn't say that an alarm started going off in 2003.  
22 There had been concerns about Yellow-Billed Loons for a  
23 long time and it's been mostly just due to the fact  
24 they're relatively few in number compared to other  
25 species. But, yeah, there was certainly a low number  
26 back in -- right around 2000 and that could be due  
27 again to sampling variation or differences in the  
28 population.

29  
30 MR. WOODS: The reason I'm pointing it  
31 out is because you're green arrow, your swipe there,  
32 and in your report you note it's 3 percent or is it 6  
33 percent increase?

34  
35 MR. FISCHER: Six percent within that  
36 time period. Now that time period is just the last 10  
37 years. It's an arbitrary number. We said, you know,  
38 let's look at the last 10 years just to present that.

39  
40 MR. WOODS: Okay. I don't want to get  
41 into the nuts and bolts of it, but when you start in  
42 '03 at 1,500 and you end up with 2,359, that's a little  
43 bit more than 6 percent, isn't it?

44  
45 MR. FISCHER: It's 6 percent per year  
46 on average. So if you had consistent growth over that  
47 period of time, you add 6 percent to that first year  
48 and you have a bigger population, then 6 percent to  
49 that larger population.....

50

1 MR. WOODS: Keep adding to it.....  
2  
3 MR. FISCHER: .....you keep adding to  
4 it.  
5  
6 MR. WOODS: .....for 10 years.  
7  
8 MR. FISCHER: Yes.  
9  
10 MR. ROWLAND: Yeah, you said you've got  
11 your monitoring plan going on for the Yellow-Billed  
12 Loon. I've been hearing a lot about conservation.  
13 What is the long-term management plan for the Yellow-  
14 Billed Loon and what other birds do you have management  
15 plans for?  
16  
17 MR. FISCHER: That's a very good  
18 question. There's management plans for the goose  
19 populations that are developed through the Pacific  
20 Flyway and through the Goose Management Plan. There is  
21 a Yellow-Billed Loon -- what is it called.  
22  
23 MS. BROWN: Recovery plan.  
24  
25 MR. FISCHER: I don't think it's called  
26 a recovery plan. I think there's a conservation  
27 framework -- not framework.  
28  
29 MS. BROWN: Conservation agreement?  
30  
31 MR. FISCHER: Yeah, conservation  
32 agreement, and that was developed a number of years  
33 ago. I don't have that with me, but I know I have it  
34 on my computer and I can't remember all the things that  
35 are in there, but I'd be happy to share that with you  
36 at a break. For the Eiders there's recovery plans for  
37 those species.  
38  
39 MR. VINCENT-LANG: I might just add too  
40 that the State entered into a voluntary conservation  
41 agreement on Yellow-Billed Loons on water withdrawals.  
42 Yellow-Billed Loons aren't randomly distributed across  
43 the North Slope. They're dependent upon deep lakes  
44 that have fish populations, so we fundamentally agreed  
45 to carefully permit and monitor water withdrawals from  
46 those lakes that Yellow-Billed Loons depend upon for  
47 nesting. So that conservation agreement hopefully will  
48 play into the decision to list or not list as the  
49 Service moves forward this year with their status  
50 review.



1 MR. FISCHER: Okay. I want to close  
2 with this. We conduct our surveys with amphibious  
3 float planes, Cessna 206's are our primary flight  
4 platform. We have one aircraft currently assigned to  
5 our program. It's November 9623 Romeo. We anticipate  
6 having two other surveyor craft that are assigned  
7 specifically to our program. I'm showing this because  
8 I want everyone to feel comfortable knowing that we're  
9 open to hearing any criticisms or concerns from folks  
10 in your villages, regions, et cetera. If you hear  
11 concerns from people about aircraft that are flying  
12 over and they have questions or concerns, encourage  
13 them to get a tail number if they can or at least a  
14 description of the aircraft and contact us here at  
15 migratory birds so we can determine if it's an activity  
16 associated with our program or even with the Fish and  
17 Wildlife Service and then make adjustments as needed,  
18 as appropriate, that can address concerns of that type.  
19

20 MR. PEDERSON: Thank you. At our  
21 regional management body meeting we heard a lot of  
22 concerns about low flying aircraft, although some of  
23 them were not properly identified. What type of  
24 altitude do you guys usually fly at when you're doing  
25 your surveys because we've had reports of very low  
26 flying aircraft, like 50, 100 feet above the rivers up  
27 there.  
28

29 MR. FISCHER: Okay. Thanks for that  
30 question. The survey mission determines what altitude  
31 we're flying at. Photographic surveys generally are  
32 conducted at 500 feet or higher. Our breeding pair  
33 surveys are conducted at low levels. They're typically  
34 125-150 feet above the ground. Those, as you can  
35 imagine, could be very surprising to anyone on the  
36 ground, include the resources that we're there to  
37 monitor. For that reason, we have a single flight over  
38 a transect and continue going. It's not a meandering  
39 survey. It's a straight line transect. We're through  
40 and we're gone and we don't repeat it. That way we try  
41 to minimize the impact that we would have to any  
42 resources below us.  
43

44 MR. PEDERSON: I might suggest to you  
45 that when you guys do that in the future to maybe  
46 contact us if you could at our office so that we can  
47 provide you with information on areas to avoid where we  
48 know that there are subsistence activities occurring.  
49 The polar bear folks come in and do that when they're  
50 doing their transects and we give them information

1 where subsistence activities are occurring and they try  
2 their best to avoid those areas when they're doing  
3 their aerial surveys.

4  
5 MR. FISCHER: Okay. Thank you. I will  
6 do that. We do purposely cut off transects in  
7 proximity to villages, but obviously that's not  
8 necessarily where all the harvest is occurring. So  
9 thanks for that and I will make a note to do that.

10  
11 Yes, sir.

12  
13 MR. WOODS: When like our certain  
14 refuges and preserves have no-fly zones, do you guys  
15 have to get a permit to fly in certain areas?

16  
17 MR. FISCHER: So, it really depends.  
18 The air space is treated differently than land. If  
19 we're doing a survey for, say, Steller's Eider and we  
20 want to do something that might have an impact on  
21 moving flocks around or something, we have to go and  
22 basically get a permit to do such a thing like that.  
23 For straight line transect surveys that have minimal  
24 impact, we do not.

25  
26 MR. WOODS: Okay. Because it's  
27 different throughout the state and we have the same  
28 problem, I think, that the rest does. There's not only  
29 higher activity of aircraft traffic, but with the  
30 helicopter traffic when GCI went in to install towers  
31 you could hear the Sikorskys and whatever they were  
32 using about 10-15 miles away. As they get closer, they  
33 get louder and louder and louder. It's unearthly to  
34 sit there and listen to that activity. I can only  
35 imagine what it does to the game population when  
36 they're right overhead. That's something we want to  
37 keep an eye on. You know, not only as development, but  
38 tourism, everything else included.

39  
40 MR. FISCHER: Cumulative effects just  
41 keeps building up. Okay.

42  
43 MR. VINCENT-LANG: I really appreciate  
44 this overview. I think, although there are minor  
45 issues with the surveys that are flowing, you know, in  
46 terms of indexes and other things, they do represent  
47 some of the best available data we have to manage these  
48 bird species on the landscape. For a long time now  
49 I've been concerned about the amount of money the  
50 Service's Migratory Bird Program is getting and

1 potential cuts due to sequestration.

2

3 I, for one, am much more supportive of  
4 continuation of these surveys at their current level  
5 than I am of moving into landscape-type efforts and  
6 surrogate species type efforts and I would hate to get  
7 to the point that we're foregoing these surveys and  
8 only surveying one species. For instance, like Yellow-  
9 Billed Loons on the North Slope and not having anything  
10 on the wide variety of other species that are out  
11 there.

12

13 So, from the State's perspective,  
14 please carry back into the Service the support that we  
15 have for continuation of these surveys and to not  
16 replace them with a new landscape approach or surrogate  
17 species approach.

18

19 MR. FISCHER: Thank you for that  
20 comment and I will carry that forward. I think in  
21 these days of declining budgets, we have to do  
22 everything as efficiently as possible. Designing and  
23 performing a survey for each individual species is  
24 inefficient in my view, so we've always focused on a  
25 multi-species approach. When that cannot be done and  
26 you have to monitor certain species, then we can move  
27 in that direction to address a specific conservation  
28 concern. But, overall, we want to monitor  
29 multi-species and the important breeding habitats and  
30 focus our resources that way.

31

32 MR. VINCENT-LANG: But, again, just  
33 from my perspective, I would hate to get caught into  
34 doing a survey for a single species and then assuming  
35 that that represents the health or trends for all the  
36 other migratory bird species because as we've seen over  
37 the last day now there's a lot of differences between  
38 each species and having that multi-species survey  
39 approach is really beneficial to the management.

40

41 MR. FISCHER: Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Rick.

44

45 MR. ROWLAND: So can we go back to that  
46 plane.

47

48 MR. FISCHER: Absolutely.

49

50 MR. ROWLAND: So that plane's numbers

1 are different than the one -- is that blue one the  
2 undercover plane?

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MR. FISCHER: No. Thank you for  
7 pointing that out. That's November 61599. That  
8 aircraft is no longer in the fleet. I didn't have a  
9 photograph of 23 Romeo.

10

11 MR. ROWLAND: So that Cessna 206, what  
12 color is that?

13

14 MR. WOODS: It looks just like that  
15 with floats. Does anybody know the color?

16

17 MR. PROBASCO: Black. You can't see it  
18 during the day.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MR. FISCHER: I'll let you know at a  
23 break. I'm not.....

24

25 MR. WOODS: The other question is that  
26 a couple years ago they bought two brand-new planes.  
27 What happened to those?

28

29 MR. FISCHER: Okay. I think you're  
30 talking about the Quest Kodiaks. Those airplanes still  
31 exist and they're an expensive aircraft to fly. The  
32 cost is approximately twice that of the 206 and there's  
33 some missions that we cannot perform with those  
34 aircraft. Those are going to be continued to be used  
35 by other agencies within the Federal government, but  
36 we're moving back to a more economical, practical plane  
37 for the State of Alaska within our program.

38

39 That's all I've got. I'm going to be  
40 here for the rest of the day and the rest of the week,  
41 et cetera, and beyond, so please feel free to contact  
42 me with any questions whatsoever and I'll try my best  
43 to address them.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Thank you, Julian,  
46 for your report. Can we have the lights on, please.  
47 Thank you. Next on the agenda is the AMBCC harvest  
48 surveys with Liliana.

49

50 MR. REISHUS: Hey, Tim. Yesterday I

1 think Myron just wanted me to talk quick right after  
2 Julian.

3

4 CHAIRMAN NANENG: Oh, okay.

5

6 MR. REISHUS: It's not on the agenda.

7

8 MR. WOODS: Pete mentioned something  
9 about adding to the agenda. Did I miss that  
10 presentation? He picked up some new information from  
11 back east.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: That's probably from  
14 Brandon, Oregon Farm Bureau.

15

16 MR. WOODS: Is that what you were  
17 talking about?

18

19 MR. PROBASCO: No, we provided that  
20 yesterday. It was in reference to a discussion on SRC.

21

22 MR. WOODS: Okay.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Okay. My apologies.  
25 I just saw this this morning with the Cackler concerns  
26 in Oregon. So, Brandon.

27

28 MR. REISHUS: Thanks for having me up.  
29 For those of you who don't know me, my name is Brandon  
30 Reishus. I'm the migratory game bird coordinator,  
31 essentially the waterfowl biologist for the state of  
32 Oregon for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.  
33 I did get to come up last year at this time with Ron  
34 Anglin and kind of tagged along. I think a lot of you  
35 knew Brad Bales. He left the agency last year for a  
36 different job and I've now officially taken over in his  
37 capacity. So I just wanted to quickly give folks an  
38 update on depredation, goose depredation specifically,  
39 in Oregon and kind of a little bit broader picture in  
40 the entire Pacific Flyway.

41

42 So at least in Oregon with the geese  
43 that we're all concerned about there's kind of two  
44 different issues. First is in northwest Oregon, which  
45 is a large agricultural area, predominantly the  
46 Willamette Valley. The goose species of concern there  
47 are the Cackling Geese. There are other types of geese  
48 within there, but they're in low enough numbers. The  
49 Cacklers are just so numerous there that they're the  
50 ones that do the most damage just because of their high

1 population down there.

2

3                   Julian had mentioned earlier something  
4 like 95 percent of those birds in Oregon. It's  
5 probably more like 95 percent in northwest Oregon and  
6 adjacent areas of southwest Washington. There still  
7 are some birds that continue down to the historical  
8 areas in the Central Valley and then a few thousand  
9 birds here and there in other areas of the Pacific  
10 Flyway. But, like Julian said, nearly all of them are  
11 right on top of northwest Oregon, southwest Washington.

12

13                   The problem then becomes that there are  
14 not enough public lands down there to support the  
15 number of geese. So, for the geese to meet their needs  
16 to get enough food, they have to go feed on private  
17 agricultural lands.

18

19                   I made a few notes here, so I don't  
20 have any kind of formalized presentation for you. So  
21 Cacklers are the most numerous. Oregon farmers down  
22 there, they just want fewer geese. It's not  
23 necessarily that they want only fewer Cacklers, they  
24 just want fewer geese. However, as I mentioned,  
25 Cacklers are by far the most numerous, so, by default,  
26 they want fewer Cacklers. However, as we all know, we,  
27 in this case meaning everybody who is signatory to the  
28 Y-K Delta Goose Management Plan, the Pacific Flyway  
29 Management Plans, even the hunter groups, we've all  
30 kind of agreed for a long time that the goal for  
31 Cacklers is 250,000 and, as Julian pointed out, we're  
32 currently about 230,000. So there's obviously a little  
33 bit of conflict there with one user group in Oregon,  
34 particularly the farmers saying, you know, we need to  
35 have fewer, we need to have fewer, then the rest of us,  
36 by the plans we've signed onto, saying, well, we're  
37 actually still trying to have some more.

38

39                   So the farmers see their only way out  
40 of this then is to reduce the population goal and we've  
41 all had some discussions of potentially what that would  
42 look like, is it even possible. Currently, I think as  
43 you know, we're just kind of in a holding pattern. As  
44 Julian mentioned, there's an effort ongoing in the  
45 Pacific Flyway to re-evaluate the cackler population  
46 using the neck collaring method. So we've been working  
47 on that project for a couple years. At some point, the  
48 Flyway will finalize those results and then we'll move  
49 forward into, you know, looking at the Cackling Goose  
50 Management Plan as a whole and everybody at that point

1 will be at the table.

2

3                   The farmers are not happy about that,  
4 but they're willing to let us work through the issues  
5 that we've got with how many of these birds are there  
6 and things like that. We've obviously just come out of  
7 the summer, which is always kind of a break I guess you  
8 would say for goose managers in the lower part of the  
9 Pacific Flyway. The geese aren't there, the farmers  
10 seem to be relatively happy over the summer, but they  
11 are certainly showing back up. Just on Monday, when I  
12 was sitting in the office in Salem, my office window  
13 faces north, and it was line after line after line of  
14 mostly White-Fronts, but some Cacklers mixed in, so  
15 it's a pretty major push Monday and Tuesday into the  
16 Valley and a lot of those White-Fronts continuing  
17 further south into California, but it was certainly  
18 neat to see.

19

20                   A couple years ago this body did talk  
21 about depredation permits for Cacklers. Essentially  
22 the kill permits that the farmers could get to help  
23 them out with trying to get geese to leave their lands  
24 after the hunting seasons had closed. As reported last  
25 year, during the first two years of that no farmers  
26 made application to the Fish and Wildlife Service to  
27 get a permit. Again, these are Fish and Wildlife  
28 Service permits. It's just something that Oregon  
29 Department of Fish and Wildlife kind of lobbied on the  
30 farmers' behalf with the region down there to get  
31 something in place and we all worked together and did.

32

33                   Last year, for the first time in  
34 northwest Oregon, there were three permits applied for  
35 and issued to farmers. Again, these were for a limited  
36 number of birds per farmer. So we had capped the total  
37 number of Cacklers that could be taken in any season at  
38 500 on these permits and then we allocated that if a  
39 farmer applied, we said, well, there might be a whole  
40 bunch of farmers applying and if the cap is 500, your  
41 permit is only good for five.

42

43                   After a couple years of having nobody  
44 apply, we upped that that each farmer could take 10 on  
45 a permit. We did get three applications last year, the  
46 Service did. The region down there issued those three  
47 permits, however no geese were taken on those permits.  
48 So essentially the farmers had them, you know, just  
49 realized they didn't need to use them or didn't want to  
50 fuss with using the permits. That's kind of it on the

1 Cackler front.

2

3                               The other goose population of concern  
4 to the.....

5

6                               MR. VINCENT-LANG: May I? So why are  
7 farmers not -- they seem to be concerned a lot about  
8 depredation, but they don't seem to be willing to take  
9 any action. Is it that they're afraid of the whiplash  
10 back from environmental groups and GO groups or why  
11 aren't they taking action if we're making it available  
12 to them?

13

14                               MR. REISHUS: I wouldn't say it's a  
15 lack of taking action. They have decided that at least  
16 on the depredation permit angle -- so they're already  
17 doing hazing at extreme levels, but it's all been non-  
18 lethal hazing up to this point. So there are farmers  
19 that have folks hired that it is their only job to  
20 essentially drive around either with propane canons --  
21 I mean there are vehicles with propane canons mounted  
22 on the bumpers of trucks and they drive around. If  
23 there's a flock of geese in the field, they fire the  
24 propane canon and hopefully scare the geese off. Just  
25 all different methods of non-lethal hazing.

26

27                               It is pretty evident after a while that  
28 the geese, and most of them being Cacklers, they get  
29 very accustomed to not dying. So you can run by a  
30 field, shoo the flock out of the field either with  
31 firing a shotgun over their heads or just up into the  
32 air using the propane canon or the fireworks, the  
33 screamers they call them, essentially a firework that  
34 just flies out there and then explodes in the air,  
35 makes a big boom. The geese will get up, circle, fly  
36 off for a bit and then five minutes later the whole  
37 flock might be right back. So the farmers came to us  
38 and said, you know, we really think that if you  
39 actually kill a goose or two during the course of that,  
40 the rest of them get the message better.

41

42                               With the issues we have with Dusky  
43 Canada Geese in northwest Oregon and the extremely  
44 limited take that we have on them, the whole check  
45 station issue and things like that, checking of birds.  
46 When we went with the Fish and Wildlife Service and  
47 kind of drew up some guidelines for these permits, one  
48 of the conditions was any geese they harvest they must  
49 bring them to either a Service office or an ODFW  
50 office. The constraints that ended up, I think, on



1 these permits in northwest Oregon is what the farmers  
2 have basically said thanks, but almost no thanks. You  
3 guys have put so many conditions on these permits that  
4 they aren't that useful to us.

5  
6 The tool is still out there. We did  
7 have the three people apply for them this year, but  
8 again they did not report any harvest to us, which is a  
9 condition of the permit -- or they didn't report any to  
10 the Fish and Wildlife Service, which is a condition of  
11 the permit.

12  
13 Again, the next population I'd just  
14 like to touch on is the White-Fronts. White-Fronts  
15 aren't necessarily found in big numbers in northwest  
16 Oregon. Where we have White-Fronts in Oregon is the  
17 Klamath Basin in southcentral Oregon and then further  
18 down into California they predominantly winter in the  
19 Sacramento Valley.

20  
21 As Julian showed, we don't have that  
22 population issue with White-Fronts that we do with  
23 Cacklers. White-Fronts are over twice their goal.  
24 There's about 620,000 by the latest index and we've got  
25 a population goal of about 300,000. We've been doing  
26 quite a few things in the Lower 48 or in the lower  
27 Pacific Flyway to try and liberalize hunting  
28 regulations to the best of our ability. Traditionally  
29 there was dark goose seasons and light goose seasons.  
30 Light geese being the Snow Geese and then dark geese  
31 being Canada Geese and White-Fronts.

32  
33 So hunters down there would have a bag  
34 limit of four dark geese. If they shot four Canada  
35 Geese and a White-Front came by, they were done. They  
36 already had their four darks. This year, as part of  
37 the regulations process, we actually set seasons for  
38 Canada Geese and seasons for White-Fronts and they each  
39 have a specific bag limit. So a hunter could shoot four  
40 Canada Geese and he could still continue to hunt for  
41 White-Fronts after that.

42  
43 It's really only effective in a few  
44 places. There's very few places where you have high  
45 numbers of Canada Geese and high numbers of White-  
46 Fronts together, so it won't have a real big effect,  
47 but in the Klamath, where most of the White-Fronts are,  
48 it might be helpful to some hunters. That's also  
49 allowed us to shift our season dates.

50

1                   The people who like to hunt for the  
2 Canada Geese -- and when I say Canada Geese here, I'm  
3 talking about the birds that nest in Oregon. Oregon  
4 and California. They're very large Canada Geese.  
5 They're about 10 pounds. People like to hunt for those  
6 generally in December and January, but after that, if  
7 you start harvesting those birds, you can really, if  
8 you wanted to, as harvest managers, you can really  
9 reduce their population.

10  
11                   Behaviorally, they're getting closer to  
12 nesting and they just change and then become more  
13 susceptible to harvest, so we don't want to hunt those  
14 birds in February or March because we would have a  
15 pretty big impact on their population. However, when  
16 the damage is occurring that the White-Fronts are  
17 causing to farmers' fields, that is in February and  
18 March. So it's now allowed us to set seasons in  
19 February and March before the geese come up here to  
20 target those White-Fronts.

21  
22                   White-Fronts, in Oregon, it's really a  
23 spring issue. The Cacklers and the other Canada Geese  
24 in northwest Oregon, like I said, they're arriving now.  
25 They're going to be causing damage to farmers' fields  
26 until they leave about the first week of May. The  
27 White-Fronted Geese, they're arriving now, but what  
28 they're predominantly eating in the fall is just  
29 leftover harvest, so when they go down to California  
30 they're feeding in the rice fields and what they're  
31 eating is the rice that's left over after harvest that  
32 the combine couldn't pick up and things like that.

33  
34                   So there's not really a depredation  
35 issue for White-Fronted Geese in the fall. They can  
36 eat some alfalfa, they can eat some other hay crops,  
37 but it's predominantly a spring issue as they migrate  
38 back north. They don't have that waste agricultural  
39 crop left, so they switch to eating hay and they switch  
40 to eating alfalfa and things like that and that's where  
41 we start to have the issues.

42  
43                   We've seen White-Fronts over the last  
44 several years become a little bit even more of an issue  
45 in California for depredation. They hang on until  
46 about the third to fourth week of April in California  
47 in numbers. Most of them are further north by that  
48 time in Oregon and maybe even Idaho, but there are some  
49 in California and then the farmers -- it's starting to  
50 dry out at that point, winter is kind of ending for

1 them and they start to seed the rice fields and then  
2 that rice sprouts and you get a nice green sprout and  
3 the White-Fronts have started to find that, so they're  
4 starting to be an issue in California with that, but,  
5 again, it's predominantly an issue further north into  
6 these staging areas, like the Klamath Basin.

7  
8                   We've now started to have an issue over  
9 -- as White-Fronts have become more abundant, an issue  
10 over in far eastern Oregon in what we call the Ontario  
11 area on the border with -- right on the border with  
12 Idaho, kind of near Boise, Idaho. So it's kind of the  
13 same thing there. Last year, for the first year, with  
14 the region down there, implemented a similar permanent  
15 program, a depredation permit program, that would allow  
16 landowners, as long as they're doing all the non-lethal  
17 hazing, to apply for a permit. Again, we set the cap  
18 at 500 birds per season.

19  
20                   What I haven't touched on are the  
21 Ross's Geese, which nest up in the central Canadian  
22 Arctic and, to a lesser degree, some Snow Geese that  
23 nest in the Canadian Arctic. Those birds are also  
24 present and essentially doing the same thing as  
25 White-Fronts, but most of those are not coming to  
26 Alaska, so we said the farmers down there could apply  
27 for permits in the Klamath that would allow a total of  
28 500 White-Fronts per year and a total of 500 Snow and  
29 Ross's Geese per year.

30  
31                   The farms down there are much larger  
32 than they are in the Willamette Valley, so we said that  
33 each permit that a farmer got would be good for up to  
34 20 geese of each and then capped it at that. The  
35 farmers down there seem to be a little bit more  
36 receptive of the program. We had nine farmers make  
37 application to the Fish and Wildlife Service or nine  
38 permits were issued. I think 10 people actually  
39 applied. There was some take on those permits this  
40 last spring. The total cap of 500 White-Fronts, there  
41 were actually 65 taken, so still well under the 500  
42 cap. I believe 47 Snow and Ross's Geese.

43  
44                   The farmers down there did say that  
45 they thought it was a big benefit. It didn't ease  
46 their workload as much. They still had to be out there  
47 trying to chase the geese off their fields kind of for  
48 the same amount of time, but the geese became easier to  
49 move. So it really didn't reduce their workload, but  
50 they did say that the geese were just more fearful.

1 They were easier to move off a field. So they seem to  
2 be pretty happy with that program. I'm guessing next  
3 year there may be even a little bit higher interest  
4 because last year was the first year of it, so I think  
5 more of the farmers will find out about it and we'll  
6 see.

7  
8 Overall, there's still a big issue with  
9 the Oregon landowners and numbers of geese in general.  
10 It's just something that I think all of us over the  
11 next many years are going to -- it will be something we  
12 face for the next many years of seeing what we can do.

13  
14 With that, I'll stop talking and take  
15 any questions anybody's got.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Julian.

18  
19 MR. FISCHER: I have one question. So,  
20 in Oregon, the Cackler depredation issue, I imagine the  
21 problem is probably focused on certain farm fields  
22 rather than every farm field. I'm just curious. I  
23 don't know if you can generalize about those  
24 landowners, but do they generally welcome sport hunters  
25 to harvest on their private lands?

26  
27 MR. REISHUS: It's kind of a mixed bag.  
28 There are certainly some land owners who are very  
29 receptive and who may hunt themselves. There are some  
30 that have -- you know, they've had the same group of  
31 guys that has hunted their lands or their farms for  
32 years. It is a complaint that we get from the sport  
33 hunting public who don't own their own land that often  
34 they find it difficult to find access to be able to  
35 hunt geese.

36  
37 However, if you then talk to the  
38 farmers, they will mostly say, well, I had to turn  
39 somebody down, but I've already got three groups of  
40 guys that are already out there hunting. So there is a  
41 bit of -- it's almost a limited resource. There's  
42 almost too many hunters that want to go out there and  
43 the landowners feel that I've already got three groups  
44 out or I've already got a group of guys hunting my  
45 property and I don't want to create conflict. I don't  
46 want to have those guys dumped in one right on top of  
47 the other. So it's a little bit of both. There's  
48 certainly some.

49  
50 The other issue that a lot of private

1 landowners are really afraid of -- and this is an issue  
2 for a lot of fish and wildlife departments, in trying  
3 to get private landowners to open their lands to allow  
4 the general public in is a liability issue. Everybody  
5 is scared of being sued and they're scared that if they  
6 allow somebody on their property, be it for fishing,  
7 for hunting or just for anything, that if a person  
8 walks out there, falls in a hold and breaks their leg,  
9 they're going to lose their farm because the guy is  
10 going to sue them.

11  
12                   So there's a big concern and this is  
13 much broader than hunting. It's just a big concern  
14 amongst people that, you know, lawyers are going to get  
15 involved that something bad happens. It's just easier  
16 for me to say no in general.

17  
18                   We do have a program that's funded  
19 through a Federal grant where we try and get landowners  
20 to open their property to the public and there's some  
21 laws that then kind of cover the landowners liability-  
22 wise. That program, unfortunately, hasn't been that  
23 well received yet and we're not quite sure why. We've  
24 only got a few properties enrolled in it and only two  
25 of the properties I know of really see a lot of the  
26 Cackling Geese.

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Any further questions  
29 for Brandon. Frank.

30  
31                   MR. WOODS: You just referenced a grant  
32 that a Federal system for private landowners opening  
33 their lands for public use.

34  
35                   MR. REISHUS: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

36  
37                   MR. WOODS: Can I get that information  
38 or can you pass it on to Patty?

39  
40                   MR. REISHUS: Yeah. I think it's -- we  
41 have a -- I'm not certain where the -- the exact  
42 Federal link, but we do have a website that we've  
43 developed on our State website that talked -- for the  
44 hunters to look at. I believe it's just  
45 [www.oregonopenfields.com](http://www.oregonopenfields.com), but I wouldn't quote me on  
46 that. It's the open fields program, so if you search  
47 Oregon Fish and Wildlife and open fields, you should  
48 come up with that program.

49  
50                   MR. WOODS: And then the second thing,

1 your hunting seasons are how long for geese down there?

2

3 MR. REISHUS: Via the Migratory Bird  
4 Treaty Act, we can hunt geese or any other species --  
5 we can set a season for maximum of 107 days, which is  
6 essentially three and a half months. So we do take  
7 advantage of splits and closures. So we'll open the  
8 season in November, we'll run it for a few weeks and  
9 then we'll close it. We'll have a little break and  
10 then we'll open it for maybe two months and then we'll  
11 close it and we'll have a month break and then we'll  
12 open it again in February and run it all the way to  
13 March 10. March 10 is the last day, according to the  
14 Migratory Bird Treaty Act that we can hunt for  
15 migratory birds.

16 So three and a half months, but we try to spread that  
17 out over a much broader time period.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Brandon. If you  
20 could come up to the mic and introduce yourself,  
21 please.

22

23 MR. WOODS: Total season 107 days just  
24 for clarification? That's in your treaty?

25

26 MR. REISHUS: Yes. That's Migratory  
27 Bird Treaty.

28

29 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
30 Brandon Ahmasuk, subsistence director at Kawerak. You  
31 mentioned depredation permits, but then you also  
32 mentioned the farmers aren't wanting to use them  
33 because of all the restrictions. I guess I'm just  
34 going to reply to that. I haven't actually been there,  
35 but you can go on any hunting channel right now and  
36 there will be these hunters stating exactly what states  
37 they're in, Oregon and Washington. They're brought in  
38 by these farmers to just get rid of these geese. Not  
39 five, ten. Hundreds. You'll see five, six hunters  
40 behind a pile of geese and all you can see is their  
41 head in the video.

42

43 Basically what I'm saying is I don't  
44 think the farmers aren't taking advantage of it.  
45 They're taking full advantage of it. It's upsetting to  
46 me because our people are being fined, cited for simply  
47 trying to provide for their family and these people  
48 have very, very low income. I guess that's all I have  
49 to say.

50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 MR. REISHUS: I can respond to that a  
4 bit. The depredation permits that the farmers have  
5 applied for and in some cases been issued are only good  
6 outside of the hunting season. Like I just mentioned  
7 to Frank, you know, we have 107-day goose hunting  
8 season and then that's where you would see hunters  
9 going out and actually hunting geese, you know, with  
10 decoys or hiding in a blind or whatever. In Oregon and  
11 Washington, like I mentioned, the bag limit up until  
12 this year has been four per day, so even if you put six  
13 hunters in a field, that's 24 geese maximum. There is  
14 some places in the Dakotas and things that were  
15 mentioned where there's the overpopulation issue with  
16 the white geese where there actually are no limits and  
17 things.

18

19 In Oregon, in the Pacific Flyway in  
20 general, we still have -- they're somewhat liberal, but  
21 they're not that big. The depredation permits are  
22 officially considered not a hunt. So if a farmer gets  
23 a depredation permit, they can't go to their hunting --  
24 the buddy that hunts their property during the goose  
25 season and say, hey, I've got this depredation permit,  
26 come out and hunt more geese. You can't use decoys  
27 because it's not a hunt. You can't essentially lie in  
28 wait because it's not a hunt. About the only way that  
29 a landowner can make use of this permit is to be able  
30 to in full open view of the geese get in range and  
31 shoot them. Most geese aren't even going to sit around  
32 for that long. It's hard to walk up to a flock of  
33 geese with a shotgun and get in range.

34

35 So that's also one of the things -- the  
36 farmers at first I think thought if they had a  
37 depredation permit, they would be able to have hunters  
38 come out to their land and essentially extend the  
39 hunting season, but that's not the case at all.  
40 Because the Migratory Bird Treaty Act says 107 days,  
41 we've already used that 107 for hunting, so these  
42 depredation permits are really just pretty bluntly just  
43 killing geese to try to keep them off the field. To do  
44 that killing it can't be hunting. It can't look like  
45 hunting. It can't resemble hunting.

46

47 MR. WOODS: So how do they drive up?  
48 Do they have to walk up to them, drive up to them?

49

50 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Frank, if you could

1 use your mic.

2

3 MR. WOODS: I question because, number  
4 one, we get -- there's fair chase rules here. So I  
5 understand there's probably a whole list of them. It  
6 would be interesting to see one of them permits. Maybe  
7 next time we invite you up in the spring bring one of  
8 them permits. We'll help you with the depredation  
9 problem. I guarantee it.

10

11 MR. REISHUS: I'm not aware of any  
12 restrictions at that point since it's not hunting again  
13 of using a vehicle to get close to the geese. I'm not  
14 aware of any of those types of restrictions.

15

16 MR. AHMASUK: Again, I'm going to  
17 reference that video. They are told to go out there  
18 and get rid of them and these depredation -- I mean it  
19 doesn't sound like the farmers have a permit, but  
20 they're in -- I disagree with what you're saying, that  
21 they're not allowed to use decoys. You can go out and  
22 watch these videos. They're not like on the Black  
23 Market. You can go to Sportsman's Warehouse right now  
24 and probably find some. There's a whole plethora of  
25 hunting shows right now where they're using decoys, the  
26 whole nine yards. I mean, again, they're standing  
27 behind two to three hundred geese and all you can see  
28 is their heads. I just want to make that clear.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MR. REISHUS: Just again, there is a  
33 legal hunting season where the farmers can have hunters  
34 come out and use decoys. Those hunters can use any  
35 method that any of you would use as far as hunting, any  
36 of the legal hunting methods. Decoys, blinds,  
37 whatever, during that regular hunting season. If you  
38 could somehow send me a link or a title to one of those  
39 videos, I'd be interested in it. Certainly if you put  
40 enough people in the field, you could get a lot of  
41 birds. There's no legal way that anybody could be  
42 taking 200 or 300 Cacklers in Oregon.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Any further questions  
45 for Brandon.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Thank you very much.

50



1 MR. REISHUS: Thanks everybody.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: At the moment we will  
4 take a 15-minute break before we take on Liliana --  
5 Liliana take us on.  
6  
7 (Off record)  
8  
9 (On record)  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Let's get the meeting  
12 back to order. We need to get going here. Next up we  
13 have Liliana.  
14  
15 MS. NAVES: Thanks, Tim. I'm Lili  
16 Naves and I work for the Division of Subsistence and  
17 I'm the statewide coordinator for the Harvest Survey  
18 Program of the AMBCC since 2009. There is a series of  
19 updates that I usually do in the fall meeting and I  
20 also do some presentation on that. This year those  
21 updates will come as I go over this presentation.  
22  
23 This specifically is kind of an update  
24 and a little bit of a review of material that discussed  
25 on informational meeting that we had on 19 August  
26 recently. This meeting was proposed by Fish and Game  
27 and the main objective of this meeting was to exchange  
28 information and to promote collaboration and  
29 communication among the agencies.  
30  
31 There were a number of people that  
32 attended this meeting. Patty Brown-Schwalenberg  
33 attended as the Executive Director for the AMBCC and  
34 then for Fish and Wildlife Service it was Pete  
35 Probasco, Eric Taylor, Donna Dewhurst, Terry Doyle.  
36 For Fish and Game there was Hazel Nelson. That was the  
37 Director for the Division of Subsistence, the division  
38 I work for. Craig Fleener as Deputy Commissioner, and  
39 Dan Rosenberg, Jim Fall, Dave Koster that's involved  
40 with the information management for our division and  
41 myself. Did I forget anyone this time?  
42  
43 MR. ROSENBERG: No, you did fine.  
44  
45 MS. NAVES: So I'll ask Dan, Patty and  
46 Pete and Jim if you have any input as I go along,  
47 please help me. So for this to help with the  
48 description in this meeting I put together a few slides  
49 and that is information on the program. Here I'm going  
50 to give a "brief" presentation -- a brief version of

1 this presentation.

2

3

4 So this starts with background  
5 information on the program. So we work in a complex  
6 environment in this harvest survey and those bullets  
7 there covered the various aspects of this complexity.  
8 So starting with some numbers. The Alaska bird  
9 harvest, including both subsistence and sport hunt, is  
10 around 400,000 birds a year. This is about 10 percent  
11 of the total harvest in the flyway, which is about 4  
12 million birds per year. The one interesting part there  
13 is that of the Alaska harvest 85 percent is subsistence  
14 harvest, so this is about 340,000 birds out of the  
15 400,000. So sport hunt is a very small proportion of  
16 the bird harvest in the state.

16

17

18 We deal with a certain amount of  
19 resentment and fear. The resentment, I think that's  
20 mostly related to the fact that the harvest was  
21 outlawed for decades until it was legalized again in  
22 '97 with the Amendment of the Migratory Bird Treaty  
23 Act. People at that time and still today feel that  
24 it's unfair that something that they did for a living  
25 was then considered illegal. As a fallout of the  
26 situation, we still have resistance to hunting license  
27 and Duck Stamps and we have gaps between the  
28 regulations and the subsistence practice.

28

29

30 The fear in the context of the harvest  
31 survey, it's related to the fact that people fear that  
32 the harvest information will be used for enforcement  
33 purposes and you heard about that in this meeting  
34 again. But one point I'd like to bring up here again  
35 is that law enforcement don't need to look at the  
36 harvest numbers to know where harvest may happen  
37 because people know where the birds are. As we already  
38 had statements at this meeting before by law  
39 enforcement people, is that they're looking mostly  
40 where the birds are to direct enforcement activities.

40

41

42 We deal with dozens of bird species,  
43 including species of conservation concern. Some  
44 species populations are doing fine, other species  
45 they're not doing so good, so diverse context there.  
46 We work with organizations with different mandates,  
47 people with different fields and partnerships. The  
48 program is totally funded by Fish and Wildlife Service  
49 and with the budget cuts and competing priorities, we  
50 are always feeling that we're under-funded and we're  
51 trying to do what we can with the funds we have.

1 Another aspect also of having the  
2 program totally funded by Fish and Wildlife Service is  
3 that although we have a three-party at the AMBCC, only  
4 one agency is putting money in there, so we know that  
5 budget decisions are mostly in one side of the three  
6 party.

7  
8 We work geographically in remote  
9 places. They're really scattered and they're difficult  
10 to arrive there and expensive to work in those places  
11 and also difficult communication because this is  
12 scattered all over the place.

13  
14 But the bottom line is that harvest  
15 data necessary for management and conservation it's  
16 ensure a seat at the table for the subsistence hunters  
17 and the surveys became a main line of communication  
18 between the agency and the subsistence users.

19  
20 The survey is multi-disciplinary and  
21 collaborative. We work with a diversity of  
22 stakeholders, including the subsistence hunters and  
23 users, sport hunters in Alaska and the Lower 48 and  
24 conservation interests. We deal with the diversity of  
25 disciplines, we work with anthropologists, biologists,  
26 holders of local traditional knowledge and also with  
27 managers.

28  
29 Also with the diversity of entities.  
30 Fish and Wildlife Service, the Division of Migratory  
31 Bird Management, Ecological Services also at the Fish  
32 and Wildlife Service work with the Refuges and within  
33 Fish and Game we work mostly with the Division of  
34 Wildlife Conservation and Division of Subsistence.  
35 Also there is a diversity of Native partners at the  
36 regional, local and also individuals.

37  
38 So the point is that subsistence  
39 harvest surveys are collaborative by nature and also by  
40 law. We are mandated in the protocol to work together  
41 on those issues and our success on this mission relies  
42 on our commitment to work together.

43  
44 Given this set of complexities and the  
45 diversities, we face challenges, both general and  
46 specific. Some challenges that I list there include  
47 different views on survey program priorities, budget  
48 constraints, a convoluted process in decision-making.  
49 There are inevitable difficulties to implement quality  
50 assurance and quality control in data collection both

1 at village and region level. This means that's  
2 difficult to get everyone out there collecting data  
3 exactly the same way and the same timeframe.

4  
5 The technical review of the products  
6 have been a little problematic both in times of death  
7 and the timeliness of how it occurs. It's nice to have  
8 relevant input in the timeline that we have worked in  
9 the past. It's difficult to develop and maintain  
10 effective partnerships. There's lots of turnover in  
11 staff in both agencies and the original organizations.  
12 There are difficulties in communication just because  
13 sometimes it's difficult to get a hold of people to get  
14 the message across.

15  
16 So those partnerships was difficult to  
17 establish them and when establish relationship doesn't  
18 mean that next time we're going to do a survey in a  
19 region we're going to find -- we start where we left.  
20 We sometimes have to start from zero again.

21  
22 Another difficulty we have found is to  
23 integrate harvest data and decision-making, how to make  
24 those information that's really useful and we keep  
25 working on those challenging. As we're going to see on  
26 the following slides, we try to go on several fronts at  
27 this time with more progress in ones than others.

28  
29 This timeline goes back to the  
30 amendment of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, but I will  
31 focus on more recent events starting in 2004. 2004 was  
32 the first year of the AMBCC survey. Before those there  
33 are the Goose Management Plan surveys in the Y-K Delta,  
34 Bristol Bay and a couple of years in the Bering Strait.  
35 Until 2007 the statewide program coordination was  
36 housed at Fish and Wildlife Service with Cynthia  
37 Wentworth and Cynthia worked in close collaboration  
38 with Ron Stanek at the Division of Subsistence.

39  
40 In 2007, both Cynthia and Ron retired  
41 and this created the opportunity for a review of the  
42 program. So the first survey review occurred in 2008  
43 and 2009 and it started with an assessment of the  
44 current program status which was done by the Division  
45 of Subsistence and the rest of the issues in data  
46 collection, analysis and program management. The  
47 assessment included a set of recommendations which were  
48 discussed and had adaptations as we discussed then  
49 within the AMBCC and the Harvest Survey Committee.  
50

1                   In 2009, a subcommittee of the Harvest  
2 Committee was created to go with the survey review and  
3 do the transition to the revised survey methods. The  
4 revised survey was first implemented in 2010 and as  
5 part of the survey revision the program coordination  
6 was transferred to Fish and Game.

7  
8                   In 2009, going back one year there, the  
9 Yellow-Billed Loon was listed under the Endangered  
10 Species Act and subsistence harvest was identified as  
11 the main threat based on AMBCC harvest data. However,  
12 there were concerns about the accuracy of the data used  
13 in the listing and this was the main turning point for  
14 the survey program. So competing priorities emerged  
15 between the harvest data on the specifics of  
16 conservation concern, which are rarely taken, and the  
17 species taken in the largest numbers and those are the  
18 most important for the subsistence harvesters. Another  
19 consequence of the Yellow-Billed Loon listing was that  
20 Fish and Wildlife Service requested a second revision  
21 of the survey program.

22  
23                   So in 2011 Fish and Wildlife Service  
24 announced a suspension of data collection, which  
25 together with the request for the second survey review,  
26 caused friction within the AMBCC. In an attempt to  
27 reconcile those priorities, BBNA proposed an agreement  
28 with a three component. The first one was to support  
29 the second survey review. The second component was to  
30 conduct dedicated surveys for a species of conservation  
31 concern and the third element was to continue the  
32 regular data collection and list one region per year  
33 while the survey revision was carried out.

34  
35                   So in the meetings conducted yesterday  
36 and the day before the Harvest Survey Committee and the  
37 Budget Committee reiterated the importance of  
38 continuation of harvest surveys and it lists one region  
39 per year as a priority of the AMBCC program as a whole.

40  
41                   This slide has an overview of the  
42 annual flow of funds, work and products of the Harvest  
43 Survey Program. The dollar amounts are for averages  
44 the period between 2009 and 2013. So the Survey  
45 Program is funded by Fish and Wildlife Service, which  
46 we start then there in the lower left corner. The  
47 total amount spent in the program has been on average  
48 \$315,000 per year. So part of this money Fish and  
49 Wildlife Service funds directly. Data collection  
50 through the refuges, that is the arrow going up there.

1 Also set contracts with Native partners for data  
2 collection and this money that Fish and Wildlife  
3 Service put directly in data collection is on average  
4 \$108,000 per year.

5  
6 Then Fish and Wildlife Service has  
7 allocated on average \$207,000 to Fish and Game,  
8 specifically Division of Subsistence, as comparative  
9 agreements. Those comparative agreements are based on  
10 a discussion of the work plan and cost estimates. This  
11 money includes Fish and Game indirect a rate of 14  
12 percent and the Division of Subsistence uses this money  
13 on three main purposes.

14  
15 So \$132,000 goes to program  
16 coordination, data analysis and reporting. \$33,000  
17 goes to information management and this means data  
18 entry, databases, kind of the more technical part of  
19 data maintenance. And \$45,000 is passed to Native  
20 organizations and other people that we work directly in  
21 data collection. We do the subcontracting because Fish  
22 and Game has more flexibility on setting these  
23 comparative agreements. We can work with large  
24 partners, but also can directly pay local surveyors in  
25 the villages, so we have more flexibility on how we can  
26 subcontract.

27  
28 Another way how we used this money on  
29 data collection directly is that sometimes we're able  
30 to combine surveys with surveys that have already been  
31 conducted by the division. In this way save money and  
32 gain in efficiency and also reduce burden on the  
33 communities that are being surveyed.

34  
35 This slide shows actual program costs  
36 starting in 2004. In 2004 and 2007 is all lumped in  
37 the first bar to the left and then you have yearly  
38 information for the other years. I just lumped that  
39 because in 2004 and '07 this is information that's Fish  
40 and Wildlife Service. I have less access to this kind  
41 of information, so I averaged for a typical survey year  
42 in that program.

43  
44 MR. WOODS: I missed something a little  
45 bit there. Can you rephrase that or present it a  
46 little bit slower.

47  
48 MS. NAVES: Okay. So there are actual  
49 program costs. The first bar to the left refers to the  
50 2004/2007. This represents the typical cost of the

1 program in those years. I don't have detailed  
2 information for those years. It was much before I  
3 started work on this, so I have less information on  
4 that.

5  
6 MR. WOODS: Cynthia did that work, I  
7 think.

8  
9 MS. NAVES: Yeah. So that's Cynthia's  
10 era there. I don't know exact numbers for it. The  
11 black part of the bars is money spent on program  
12 coordination and there we can see it's program  
13 coordination by Fish and Game I mean. So black part of  
14 the bar is program coordination by Fish and Game. So  
15 when we had Cynthia doing survey coordination, that  
16 angle barred area there, that was program coordination  
17 by Fish and Wildlife Service. So at that time Cynthia  
18 worked in close relationship with Ron, so there's a  
19 little bit of money that goes to Fish and Game yet at  
20 that time that was for Ron to work.

21  
22 Then starting in 2009 we see the  
23 transfer of program coordination to Fish and Game and  
24 at that point we don't have anymore program  
25 coordination costs both at Fish and Wildlife Service  
26 and Fish and Game. All coordination was consolidated  
27 at Fish and Game. All program coordination was  
28 consolidated at Fish and Game.

29  
30 So the gray solid area of the bars  
31 there is information management by Fish and Game. The  
32 vertical pattern is data collection by Fish and Game.  
33 The horizontal lines are data collection by Fish and  
34 Wildlife Service. I didn't have data to easily tear  
35 apart data collection by Fish and Game and by Fish and  
36 Wildlife Service before 2008, so that's that little  
37 pattern there with vertical and horizontal lines,  
38 everything together.

39  
40 So one thing here is that data -- do  
41 you have a question, Tim?

42  
43 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Yeah. Thank you,  
44 Liliana. I was just wondering what happened in 2012  
45 with Fish and Wildlife Service. There's no data  
46 collection during that year?

47  
48 MS. NAVES: So this last few years  
49 include the Yellow-Billed Loon dedicated survey, so a  
50 big part of the data collection 2012 was the St.

1 Lawrence surveys. There is some money for ecological  
2 services that went to the survey that's not accounted  
3 for there, so this was a program that came from the  
4 AMBCC program. It also included the Kotzebue survey.

5  
6 MR. PROBASCO: Liliana, your bar for  
7 2004/2007, I first thought that was the average for  
8 those years. How is that depicted?

9  
10 MS. NAVES: Well, I got the information  
11 that I had bits and pieces and some of it is averaged,  
12 some of it I used data from one year and filled in  
13 blanks. At that time there was about a regular fixed  
14 amount of money that each year was put in data  
15 collection, so I think the program had more -- kind of  
16 a more fixed budget and this year we're spending this  
17 amount on this kind of thing.

18  
19 MR. PROBASCO: Thanks.

20  
21 MS. NAVES: So the dashed line there in  
22 bluish shows the average cost in program coordination,  
23 total program coordination for the period before 2009,  
24 which was about \$242,000 per year spent on program  
25 coordination and after the first survey review with the  
26 consolidation of program coordination and gains in  
27 efficiency and data analysis. Because now myself, as a  
28 survey coordinator, I coordinate a program and I do all  
29 the data analysis. So this cost on program  
30 coordination and the data analysis was brought to  
31 \$162,000 per year. This difference since 2009. So  
32 with the first survey review and the consolidation of  
33 the program we were able to cut \$80,000 per year on  
34 program coordination, data analysis.

35  
36 So the pie chart on the bottom shows  
37 main areas of costs for the program, so 52 percent,  
38 which is the black part and the gray part solid areas  
39 there, are program coordination, data analysis. So 52  
40 percent going to those two areas and the rest is used  
41 in data collection. Part of this average, the  
42 proportions there, have to do within the last few  
43 years. We had less investment in data collection.

44  
45 So the program coordination involves  
46 six main areas of activities, so it's program  
47 maintenance, partnerships and collaboration, regular  
48 data collection, data analysis and information  
49 requests. In this part I work with Dave Koster and  
50 other people at the information management unit of Fish



1 and Game and reporting. This is the production of the  
2 reports, presentation at meetings and the information  
3 requests, and we have special projects, which now they  
4 take a big part of the work, such as the dedicated  
5 survey.

6  
7 This slide shows a little more detail  
8 what goes into information management, so it has form  
9 and areas of work. Those functions are performed by  
10 the information management unit of the Division of  
11 Subsistence and I work directly with Dave Koster and we  
12 share a good part of this work.

13  
14 So the first one there is software  
15 structure, data entry and verification, so we deal with  
16 a large volume of data and we have to use different  
17 computer programs to deal with a different part of it,  
18 so we use SP, SES for data analysis, the databases is  
19 in the SQL (ph) and then use your Excel to prepare  
20 tables. So there's a bunch of computer programs that  
21 deal with this because it's a large volume of data  
22 across years, so we cannot just squish everything in  
23 Excel tables.

24  
25 We have designed specific data entry  
26 screens for data analysis and this is what's shown  
27 there in the right left corner, so this is, for  
28 instance, a data entry screen and there we can pick  
29 which village, which year, which household we're  
30 entering data for, which season. I hope that in the  
31 handout you have a larger font there. Let me see how  
32 it appears here. Oh, it's super small. Sorry. To  
33 enter this data we needed those interfaces that pull  
34 together a bunch of tables in a database and fed this  
35 information to the database.

36  
37 So since 2007 there are two major  
38 reviews in the database. The first was to improve  
39 coherence and efficiency and in 2010 there was another  
40 major review to update the database, document  
41 modifications brought up by the first survey review.  
42 So a smaller routine updates and maintenance are done  
43 routinely.

44  
45 The number three there, archiving of  
46 original surveys scanning. So this includes proper  
47 handling of confidential information both to remove  
48 connections between household identification and  
49 harvest data. So in the left side there for instance  
50 we have to go over names in the household list if this

1 was not done by the field coordinator and then we'd  
2 discard the original household list and keep only the  
3 household list where we have only the household ID, not  
4 the household name. Also get other kind of random  
5 confidential information such as Social Security Number  
6 and bank account of surveyors that were not contracted  
7 by us, so we need to properly track and dispose of this  
8 information. This is a time-consuming process.

9  
10 Implementation of ETCO standards to  
11 protect confidentiality and sensitive information.  
12 This is other part that has a direct interface with  
13 information management and we'll talk a little bit more  
14 about this on this slide about ETCO standards.

15  
16 So the AMBCC survey follows standards  
17 established ETCO standards established by the NSF,  
18 Office of Polar Programs and the Alaska Federation of  
19 Natives. These are standards that are used for harvest  
20 surveys in whole state and all surveys done by the  
21 Division of Subsistence use the two sets of standards  
22 and they refer to the first four bullets on the slide  
23 there. So data is only collected in village and  
24 households that have agreed to participate in the  
25 survey and that have previously been informed on what  
26 that survey is about, anonymity of harvest reports in  
27 the original use and also on its deposition for future  
28 years, so we need to also care for all the data that we  
29 store. Training and involvement of local people in  
30 surveys and sharing of survey results with communities.

31  
32 On top of -- this is only a few aspects  
33 of the ETCO standards. They have other aspects that I  
34 didn't detail everything in there. On top of those,  
35 the AMBCC also has its own ETCO standards and the main  
36 part of the first on these other two sets is that data  
37 release is only at the region and subregion level, so  
38 we don't have data release at the village level except  
39 for the hubs, which are considered subregions on their  
40 own.

41  
42 So the Division of Subsistence has long  
43 experience and expertise dealing with confidential and  
44 sensitive harvest data, so we're in the best position  
45 to implement the AMBCC ETCO standards. So they are  
46 especially restrictive because of this condition on not  
47 releasing data to the village level and the reports  
48 include only estimated region and subregion level. The  
49 data requests need to be submitted to the AMBCC  
50 Executive Director and are processed in a case-by-case

1 basis.

2

3                   So, as far as I know, this is the only  
4 survey in the whole state that does not release data at  
5 the village level. So our research conducted by the  
6 Division of Subsistence, by universities, other State  
7 and Federal agencies and by the Native organizations  
8 such as BBNA, the North Slope Borough, they usually  
9 release data at the village level, including birds  
10 data.

11

12                   So although the Division has the role  
13 of implementing this ETCO standards and we recognize  
14 concerns of our Native partners regarding village level  
15 data, we see problems with these standards and we have  
16 initiated a discussion to update these standards  
17 because we think that not releasing data at the village  
18 level has some side effects that are not very positive.  
19 For instance, it's difficult for us, us as the AMBCC as  
20 a whole, to effectively review the harvest estimates  
21 because we're looking only at the large scale. We  
22 don't have a good hand on the quality of the data.  
23 It's very base level.

24

25                   So other difficulties is that it  
26 doesn't allow a complete transparency in fairness and  
27 the distribution of information. So, for instance,  
28 when I go to the villages to present data and discuss  
29 data, I have to show data at the village level or even  
30 when I go to the regional organization because this is  
31 a scale that they understand information. It's how  
32 they're seeing it happening in the area and for them  
33 it's more difficult to grasp what's going on in the  
34 region because there is a more focused geographic  
35 scope.

36

37                   It also limits data sharing because it  
38 puts a barrier on how you can share the raw data. It  
39 also reduces the data usefulness for all partners  
40 because for the villages individually data at the  
41 regional level doesn't have much value. It doesn't  
42 tell much what's going on in their area. Also, when  
43 they have a project, it can be a development project  
44 or, for instance, they're having a new dump and they  
45 need to know where birds are harvested. They don't  
46 have data at the village level to use for these  
47 situations.

48

49                   So we started this discussion earlier  
50 this year and we have found some difficulty in going

1 ahead with it. We can talk in another moment how to  
2 proceed with this discussion and where the body would  
3 guide us on how to proceed this.

4  
5                   Although we work in a complex setting  
6 and we face some difficulties, we also have managed to  
7 complete some progress and some milestones in the last  
8 several years. The perspective of the Division of  
9 Subsistence, this progress does include the first  
10 survey review, which is a very collaborative process,  
11 and we addressed some issues in the survey both with  
12 data collection and program management and data  
13 analysis.

14  
15                   Now we have a consolidated program with  
16 integrated data collection, data analysis and  
17 reporting. The structure also and expertise at the  
18 Division of Subsistence bring efficiencies and cost  
19 savings. We have a regular reporting schedule with the  
20 proper program documentation, so we have reports that  
21 details how the surveys were done, the nuts and bolts  
22 of that part.

23  
24                   We have longevity of dataset to have a  
25 solid database with Metadata. This means that anyone  
26 else -- based on this document called Metadata, it  
27 explains how the database works so anyone else besides  
28 myself and Dave Koster can get this document and  
29 navigate through the database if they are not around it  
30 more.

31                   MR. WOODS: Just back up just one more  
32 -- two sentences. Can you rephrase that again so I can  
33 get a clear understanding what you just said.

34  
35                   MS. NAVES: On which item?

36  
37                   MR. WOODS: Methodology maybe.

38  
39                   MR. ROSENBERG: Metadata.

40  
41                   MR. WOODS: There you go.

42  
43                   MS. NAVES: Metadata. Well, the  
44 database has a bunch of numbers and then it has a  
45 column number that tells what those numbers are, but a  
46 lot of things are abbreviated and there is a lot with  
47 how these things are organized that without  
48 understanding that you cannot use the data. So  
49 Metadata is a written document that explains how  
50 getting this dataset how you use this data, how do you

1 analyze this data.

2

3 MR. WOODS: Maybe slow down when you  
4 start metaphrasing that.

5

6 MS. NAVES: Because you're getting  
7 metaconfused.

8

9 MR. WOODS: No, it's a communication  
10 issue. It's a language barrier.

11

12 MS. NAVES: Okay.

13

14 MR. WOODS: It is. I'm just being up  
15 front and frank. My name is Frank, so -- and for me to  
16 skip something that important for our area is real  
17 important, especially that.....

18

19 MS. NAVES: We don't need to worry too  
20 much about the Metadata. This is for people that are  
21 doing data analysis. They are talking about that now  
22 the data is stored in a certain way that if 10 years  
23 from now if anyone needs to go back to this data or  
24 three years or next year, you can go back to this data  
25 and it's all clean and organized and it's accessible  
26 for that purpose. So it's longevity of dataset.

27

28 MR. ROWLAND: It makes it useable.

29

30 MR. WOODS: Yeah, that's what I'm --  
31 useable information that we'll be able to.....

32

33 MS. NAVES: So we don't do only one  
34 round of analysis of data. If data is there, if other  
35 people want to do data analysis, this data is there.

36

37 MR. ROWLAND: So I'm looking at the  
38 agenda here and it says update on adoption of 2011  
39 harvest estimate, harvest estimates for 2012 for St.  
40 Lawrence, Diomede subregion, summary briefing on  
41 informational meeting between ADF&G and the St.  
42 Lawrence Loon dedicated survey. What does all this  
43 information relate to?

44

45 MS. NAVES: This is the update on the  
46 meeting and Dan, Patty and Donna asked me to present  
47 this background so people understand better what this  
48 program works looks like. And in the follow up there I  
49 go year by year as I update what's done on each year of  
50 the program that you have an activity going on. The

1 update on St. Lawrence it will be the next set of  
2 slides.

3

4 MR. ROWLAND: So there's a lot of  
5 details in this stuff. I was under the impression it  
6 was going to be about harvest estimates. If it was  
7 going to be a technical explanation about data,  
8 Metadata collection, then I would have been more  
9 prepared to understand the presentation. So are we  
10 going to get to the point to where we're going to talk  
11 more about the migratory bird populations.

12

13 MS. NAVES: No, we're not talking --  
14 I'm not going to talk about bird populations. I'm  
15 going to talk about bird harvest and Dan is going to be  
16 the next presentation. So we're to the one before the  
17 last slide of this part.

18

19 MR. ROWLAND: Okay.

20

21 MS. NAVES: Hold on, Rick. Sit tight.

22

23 MR. WOODS: When you get to that point  
24 -- I know you're fully engaged in this and when you  
25 talk really fast I get bits and pieces of what you're  
26 trying to say because I'm trying to decipher.  
27 Basically, if you slow down just a hair. I know you  
28 want to get through this, but if you could --  
29 especially on key points. Like Rick said, we're trying  
30 to understand.....

31

32 MS. NAVES: Okay, just so I'm clear,  
33 Metadata is not a key point. It's not important. Not  
34 to worry about that.

35

36 MR. WOODS: No, no, no. In general.  
37 I'm just asking maybe to slow down your speech.....

38

39 MS. NAVES: All right.

40

41 MR. WOODS: .....just a hair in certain  
42 areas. Thanks.

43

44 MS. NAVES: Okay, okay, Frank. So we  
45 had also produced outreach and materials respondent to  
46 stakeholder needs and here more specifically I'm  
47 referring to harvest data summaries that were produced  
48 for the regions that had been surveyed more frequently,  
49 bird guides and this kind of thing. So special  
50 projects, any specific needs there, we can talk about

1 the Loon dedicated survey. This is one example of  
2 special project.

3  
4 As another special project, for  
5 instance the Loon entanglement survey that the North  
6 Slope Borough does, but we work together in setting  
7 that survey, so this kind of thing is what I call  
8 special projects. We had really made progress in  
9 establishing quality assurance and quality control with  
10 standards and also implementing these standards in data  
11 collection, data management and analysis. So I think  
12 that now we are in better shape than we were a few  
13 years ago.

14  
15 This is the natural progress of the  
16 program. So this program started in 2004, so it's easy  
17 to understand that there's a period of years that  
18 things were getting put in place and we keep building  
19 on those efforts.

20  
21 This is the end of this review of the  
22 program and there's my contact information. I propose  
23 that next year -- we can get questions.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: I don't have any  
26 questions. I was just asking if anybody else may have  
27 any questions. Julian.

28  
29 MR. FISCHER: So regarding your  
30 discussion about releasing information on the village  
31 level, I just want to make sure I understand the key  
32 points you were making. One that non-release of  
33 village data -- not releasing village data is very  
34 unusual for harvest surveys that are done, other types  
35 of harvest surveys that are done.

36  
37 MS. NAVES: Yeah.

38  
39 MR. FISCHER: That was one point that I  
40 got. Another was that there was a number of problems  
41 that you've experienced in terms of fairness analysis  
42 and other issues when data is not released on the  
43 village level. Is that true? I'm just kind of  
44 rephrasing what you said.

45  
46 MS. NAVES: Yeah. And the other side  
47 of it is that there is a true concern from the Native  
48 partners that this data at the village level can be  
49 used for law enforcement. I think this is the main  
50 basis for this concern. I think it's still rooted in

1 the fact that the hunt was prohibited for a number of  
2 years, so people still -- this standard of data release  
3 only at the village level was established in a very  
4 early stage of bird harvest surveys in the state, so  
5 this was a condition that was negotiated in the mid  
6 '80s when the Goose Management Plan surveys started.

7  
8 So at that point we're in a very  
9 different situation in history and time than nowadays,  
10 but this tradition carried on and it has been difficult  
11 to override on this area. But we hear the concerns  
12 from the Native partners and we're willing to work on  
13 this and see how we can progress on that.

14  
15 MR. FISCHER: So you said you're  
16 revisiting that concept of releasing data by the  
17 village level. When you say we, are you talking  
18 about.....

19  
20 MS. NAVES: The AMBCC as a whole.

21  
22 MR. FISCHER: The AMBCC. So the  
23 Harvest Survey Committee?

24  
25 MS. NAVES: Uh-huh.

26  
27 MR. FISCHER: Okay. Thanks.

28  
29 MS. NAVES: So moving here on the  
30 update, I'll go quickly year by year, going on the work  
31 that is currently ongoing. We usually work with  
32 simultaneously with at least three years of harvest  
33 surveys. So therefore 2011 we just now adopted the  
34 2011 data and I will prepare the final report to  
35 release soon. The brackets there to the right side,  
36 those are main areas of program activity. So the first  
37 four bullets there is regular data collection. So I'm  
38 just talking about 2011, what's going on there.

39  
40 So about 2012. Now I'm doing analysis  
41 of the Kotzebue survey and I work with the Kotzebue  
42 Tribal Council to review this data and the report back  
43 to the AMBCC on that at the spring meeting.

44  
45 So for 2013 I'm working with the Togiak  
46 Refuge and the Yukon Delta Refuge to implement data  
47 collection, so they are working on this right now. We  
48 are discussing what to do in 2014. This is the  
49 discussion that we're entertaining at this meeting.

50



1                   So the second bracket there with  
2 bullets five, six and seven, this refers to special  
3 projects. So we are wrapping up the final report for  
4 2011-2012 St. Lawrence Island Loon Dedicated Survey  
5 with the next presentation that you're going to see  
6 after this. I'm going to give you a brief summary of  
7 it.

8  
9                   I'm also working in 2004/2010 report at  
10 the village level for Gambell and Savoonga. These are  
11 retrospective studies that the villages asked me to  
12 prepare as we discussed issues on Yellow-Billed Loons.  
13 They felt it was important that the older data was at  
14 the village level, so the problems with data can be  
15 better discussed. So the request for this report  
16 emerged in the context of the Yellow-Billed Loon  
17 discussions.

18  
19                   There are two other projects that had  
20 been on the back burner, so one is harvest estimates  
21 for sea ducks and for shorebirds addressing specific  
22 data request. I work on this only when I can get a  
23 break of other stuff.

24  
25                   In the area of program maintenance,  
26 there are two ongoing discussions. One is data release  
27 at village level within AMBCC as a whole. Another one  
28 is an effort to consolidate old data from the Goose  
29 Management Surveys back to '85, so this would be to get  
30 all the data from the old surveys in the Y-K Delta and  
31 Bristol Bay, yet a single database with all the AMBCC  
32 data to have this long-term dataset altogether. Some  
33 of this data is apparently recoverable, but some of it  
34 may be on floppy disks on computers that had been  
35 surplus and things like that. We're trying to see what  
36 we can get back of that.

37  
38                   Partnerships and communication is a  
39 main area of program coordination and this is ongoing  
40 continuously, so this is one of the main areas that I  
41 work with. Yes, Tim.

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Yeah. I just have a  
44 concern about the special projects, St. Lawrence.  
45 There's only two communities on the island. The  
46 Yellow-Billed Loon, I guess, is at the center of this  
47 issue. I just have a concern for the communities of  
48 Gambell and Savoonga. I was just wondering how you  
49 address some of the implications like law enforcement  
50 issues and things like that that can arise from that.

1 MS. NAVES: We usually work with the  
2 original representative for any data collection in the  
3 Bering Strait, including the St. Lawrence/Diomedes  
4 region. For this special project, we wanted to work  
5 directly with the villages, so we contracted directly  
6 with the villages for their local surveyors to collect  
7 data with our team and we had a series of tribal  
8 council and community meetings to discuss how this  
9 project could be done, how they'd like to see the data.

10

11

12 As part of this discussion, we were  
13 asked how they would like to see the data reported and  
14 they agreed to have the data reported at the village  
15 level and the report includes the letter where they  
16 stated this and how was the process of this discussion  
17 and why they think it was important to be released like  
18 that. So we had the blessing from both villages.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: So there was full  
21 consultation and consent.

22

23 MS. NAVES: Yeah, uh-huh.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Donna.

26

27 MS. DEWHURST: I think it brings up a  
28 good point in that the whole Yellow-Billed Loon issue  
29 originally came from extrapolating data across the  
30 region and it made the numbers get really big. St.  
31 Lawrence, those two villages were really the only  
32 villages in the region that harvested Loons, but then  
33 you had to spread that out and it made a really big  
34 number, which raised a red flag with the endangered  
35 species folks. We tried to tell them at the time that  
36 we didn't have much faith in those numbers to begin  
37 with.

38

39 It took a special study. It was  
40 actually to the village's advantage because then when  
41 we actually went and looked at the village level and  
42 did a much more detailed survey, the numbers were way  
43 lower. So then, when we released it, we were like no,  
44 no, no. Those original numbers were off the charts and  
45 weren't reality and here are the real numbers, which  
46 are just a small fraction of what the original ones  
47 were.

48

49 As far as law enforcement and everybody  
50 else, it was actually to the village's advantage to

1 find out that the true numbers were just a tiny  
2 fraction of what the original numbers reported were.

3  
4 MS. NAVES: It was because of this that  
5 they asked to release the older data at the village  
6 level because they say this does not reflect our  
7 situation here, our harvest, so we feel that's  
8 important to show that there was a problem with this  
9 data. So this links when I say about the difficulty of  
10 data review if it's not at the village level.

11  
12 At the Division of Subsistence, every  
13 survey we do we'll go back to the village and show them  
14 the results and they discuss the results at the village  
15 level. In the AMBCC survey, we were looking at this  
16 big original numbers and the villages are not looking  
17 to their numbers, so they cannot say, yes, this reflect  
18 the harvest that happened in our village last year or  
19 not. We don't take this species. But when you're  
20 looking at the region level only, they know what  
21 happened in their village, but they don't know what  
22 happened three villages away. So that's when I say the  
23 difficulty of data review.

24  
25 When I said that put on the challenges  
26 there at the beginning of the presentation data, we  
27 need a more comprehensive and timely process for data  
28 review because if back in the day, in 2007, when the  
29 data that generated the conservation concern with  
30 Yellow-Billed Loon had been properly reviewed, we'd  
31 probably be in a different situation on this. This  
32 would be caught back in that time. So I think that  
33 this whole situation with Yellow-Billed Loon really  
34 make us much more aware and proactive on trying to  
35 catch problems early on in the game.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Okay. Yeah, that  
38 gives me a little bit better -- I mean that makes me  
39 feel a lot better about the situation here.

40  
41 Thank you.

42  
43 Frank and then Doug.

44  
45 MR. WOODS: The challenges in data  
46 review. You talked about that one issue, the Yellow-  
47 Billed Loon. I'm talking specifically to what you just  
48 said. That raised a concern of our -- that paper that  
49 you came up with, the village-based data review, would  
50 be kind of a fix or a quality assurance for subsistence

1 division and the mission statement is what, Jim?

2

3 MR. FALL: Our mission statement?

4

5 MR. WOODS: Scientifically quantify  
6 subsistence hunting and fishing and the lives of  
7 resident Alaskans, right?

8

9 MR. FALL: Pretty close.

10

11 MR. WOODS: Okay.

12

13 MS. NAVES: Good job, Frank.

14

15 MR. PROBASCO: You're supposed to raise  
16 your right hand.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. WOODS: I swear to tell the truth  
21 and nothing but the truth. I work really close with  
22 Subsistence Division. I really appreciate all the  
23 input. The things that I have -- you put it quite  
24 frankly and still the issues faced with rural Alaska is  
25 that people are still really having a hard time in this  
26 -- we'll bring it up later in the meeting and I think  
27 we can address that, but people still have a hard time  
28 self-reporting and worrying about getting ramifications  
29 of self-reporting as they put themselves in a position  
30 of having to answer in court. We will address that  
31 later.

32

33 One of the things is partnerships and  
34 communication. In our Harvest Committee meeting, there  
35 was very few of us and I think the communication level  
36 -- in some villages they all speak Yup'ik and what do  
37 you do with that. The communication has to be both  
38 ways. It has to be -- number one, if there's a  
39 barrier, then let's fix it. Number two, the  
40 partnerships that we develop are real important. Look  
41 where we've gotten in the last three years. It's night  
42 and day.

43

44 You know, we depend on the Subsistence  
45 Division to scientifically quantify and document  
46 subsistence hunting and fishing for residents in  
47 Alaska. That's why I'm saying what I said. This is  
48 real important. In 2008, the shift is -- the answer to  
49 the question you had yesterday is it's a partnership  
50 that depends upon your agency and Jim to communicate

1 that back to the usable information that would be  
2 usable within each region.

3  
4 You made some real good points and I'll  
5 let you finish. There's two things going on here.

6  
7 (Cell phone ringing)

8  
9 MR. WOODS: I'm getting sung to.  
10 Singing to the choir.

11  
12 (Laughter)

13  
14 MR. WOODS: I will thank you and  
15 congratulate you for coming up with some real answers  
16 to them solutions during that session and I think Todd  
17 and Dan and Jim will fully agree that your points are  
18 next when they come up in the next reports will outline  
19 that process and I really thank you for that. The  
20 budget meeting is -- our Budget Committee is going to  
21 address that when you do your presentation later on in  
22 the agenda.

23  
24 MR. PROBASCO: Frank, we have a  
25 specific agenda item where the Budget Committee.....

26  
27 MR. WOODS: Review? Okay, good.  
28 That's all I had. I'll be frank, thanks.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Thanks for being  
31 frank, Frank. Doug.

32  
33 MR. VINCENT-LANG: Liliana, maybe you  
34 could help me through this one a little bit. I can't  
35 think of a single instance where an individual's  
36 response to a survey has ever been used for enforcement  
37 purposes. Is that correct?

38  
39 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Come up to the mic.

40  
41 MR. FALL: Jim Fall, Division of  
42 Subsistence. Doug, you're right. In terms of the  
43 Division of Subsistence program and the program that we  
44 help the AMBCC administer, there isn't a single case  
45 where an individual's or a household's response to a  
46 survey question has been used for enforcement. Not a  
47 single one. We're probably talking in the order of  
48 tens of thousands of surveys.

49  
50 MR. VINCENT-LANG: Right. I know under

1 State law that information is protected as  
2 confidential.

3

4 MR. FALL: That's correct.

5

6 MS. NAVES: And that's because -- and  
7 this is the reason for which we are so meticulous about  
8 how to archive that, how the information is scanned,  
9 which kind of information is archived because we know  
10 that we have the responsibility of protecting the  
11 household information.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Yeah, we don't have  
14 any major concerns about the individual data because  
15 it's confidential. I mean there's no law enforcement  
16 program that can go directly into the database and  
17 whatnot and target individuals or families. What we've  
18 seen in the past -- and I don't know, Doug, if you're  
19 aware of this or not, but in respect to -- I believe it  
20 was Emperor Geese in our area where there was village  
21 specific harvest information, the Federal Law  
22 Enforcement Program shipped out three or four law  
23 enforcement people to those high harvest villages to  
24 try and monitor people in those communities and they  
25 felt really, really uncomfortable about it and they  
26 made that very well known.

27

28 MR. WOODS: Doug, a good fair question.  
29 In a general sense, that's why -- there's two crux to  
30 this. The Yellow-Billed Loon issue on the North Slope  
31 and Western Arctic caused huge concern. Like Donna  
32 said, if those village released data would have been  
33 vetted before, I think Liliana and everybody else's job  
34 would have been a lot more effective and smoother  
35 because they didn't have to answer that whole  
36 endangered species listing and then the survey process  
37 wouldn't have been reviewed or thrown out.

38

39 But I think in general -- just like Tim  
40 had mentioned, in general, in our region if there's --  
41 I'll use an example of cow harvest. We worked  
42 diligently for 20 -- during my elementary and middle  
43 school years, diligently the State and the Feds worked  
44 -- the State mainly -- worked diligently at educating  
45 the people on Nushagak not to hunt cows. The cow  
46 harvest were reported and then cow harvest were brought  
47 up.

48

49 Just recently, when I first got on  
50 board, the biologist for the moose and caribou along

1 the Alaska Peninsula, Lem was attending an AC meeting  
2 that they had cow harvest numbers and it was alarming  
3 for the State and it set off everybody's hair to go up  
4 on the back of their head because cows are real  
5 important. So in that sense, in a general sense, we  
6 don't want to use our own information to help -- like  
7 you said, direct law enforcement to start acting in a  
8 certain area and we have to address that.

9

10 What I suggest is that we start that  
11 active -- basically the cow harvest in the Lake and Pen  
12 region need some education because there's a lack of  
13 not only interaction and involvement. I really stress  
14 education, education, education because when you get  
15 people as vested as they are in subsistence, they will  
16 respond positively and productively to whatever  
17 suggestions for fixing the problem. This is just a  
18 double-edged sword here. We're dealing with real  
19 sensitive information and also dealing with real  
20 serious ramifications of law.

21

22 I'll shut up from there. If you have a  
23 question and I think it's real important for each board  
24 member sitting on this Committee, that if ADF&G has a  
25 question and our Federal government, they come to us  
26 and they come to the tribal entities in the villages  
27 that are affected as soon as possible -- and I think  
28 the Subsistence Division of ADF&G is really effective  
29 in that. To some degree the Federal system is so  
30 spread out because we have different levels of Park  
31 Service, different levels of management that really  
32 aren't engaged as much because of different directives,  
33 so there's a whole -- and I'm talking bureaucracy level  
34 that needs to be ironed out and this is why we're here.

35

36 So it's a perfect example of what we  
37 need and what we don't need, so there's a double-edged  
38 sword there. I just wanted to address all the  
39 different -- it's real complex.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Thank you, Frank.

42

43 Liliana.

44

45 MS. NAVES: Should I move now onto the  
46 Yellow-Billed Loon presentation? Okay. I just quickly  
47 changed the presentation there. Just going back,  
48 Frank, on your comment there, I hear your concerns.  
49 Just to remember something that Stan Pruszenski said  
50 here at the last AMBCC meeting and this is how I

1 understand it too, that law enforcement doesn't need  
2 the harvest information to figure out where harvest may  
3 occur. They know about where the animals are. Where  
4 the animals are and where people are there is a more  
5 likely chance that harvest may occur, that interaction  
6 may occur. But they are not peeking at harvest  
7 surveys. Here I'm just kind of rephrasing or  
8 paraphrasing Stan at the last meeting here. This is a  
9 part of the discussion too.

10

11                   Okay, moving on here. This will be a  
12 summary view of the results of this draft report.  
13 There are copies there. It's in the final stage of  
14 review now. So this report lumps both years of the  
15 dedication survey in St. Lawrence Island to other  
16 questions about the harvest uses and the occurrence of  
17 Loons in that area. Tamara Zeller from the Fish and  
18 Wildlife Service was my co-PI on this project and we  
19 shared different parts of the work.

20

21                   So a quick background is that there are  
22 between three and six thousand Yellow-Billed Loons in  
23 Alaska. In 2007, harvest estimates for the Bering  
24 Strait/Norton Sound region as a whole was 1,077 Yellow-  
25 Billed Loons. So this, with other watching that's  
26 already going on on Yellow-Billed Loon populations,  
27 raised conservation concerns about the species. If  
28 this number is correct, there's quite a big proportion  
29 of the whole population that's maybe taken there in  
30 this region.

31

32                   In 2009, the Yellow-Billed Loon was  
33 listed as a candidate species and the subsistence  
34 harvest was identified as the main threat. This  
35 listing has had yearly updates to incorporate the  
36 information that has been gathered in this process. In  
37 September 2014, will be made the decision on the final  
38 listing.

39

40                   Neesha Stellrecht from the Fish and  
41 Wildlife Service, Ecological Service at Fairbanks, is  
42 the lead on the second part of the listing process.  
43 You can contact her directly if you have a question  
44 about this. So the timeframe that she gave me is that  
45 in January they will start working on the final draft  
46 of the listing process, January/March, and in April the  
47 review process will start to have a final document in  
48 2014.

49

50                   So this document that the AMBCC



1 produced, this new data is a key part of this finding  
2 that's -- the final finding that's going to be made.  
3 This is the bulk of information. The new harvest  
4 information that will be available for this process.  
5 So it's very important that we release this report as  
6 soon as possible so Fish and Wildlife Service has the  
7 best and most current information available to  
8 consider.

9  
10 Since those conservation concerns were  
11 raised, Fish and Wildlife Service deployed an extensive  
12 effort to get a better understanding of what's going  
13 on, so this started in 2009 with a study that was  
14 commissioned to Kawerak. Then, in 2010, there was a  
15 literature review done by Henry Huntington and in 2010  
16 Tamara did the first season there at St. Lawrence and  
17 the work on outreach, point counts, so they are  
18 counting birds up there to see how many birds were out  
19 there in fact and ethnography. So what people use of  
20 Loons, what people know about Loons and what the  
21 harvest looks like. So this is called ethnography.  
22 It's qualitative information in general.

23  
24 In 2009 and 2010, there were regular  
25 AMBCC surveys which were conducted by Kawerak, our  
26 original partner, and in 2011 and '12 we conducted  
27 dedicated surveys when we didn't partner direct with  
28 the community exactly to have closer communication with  
29 the communities. Dedicated surveys includes harvest  
30 surveys, bird point counts and ethnographic competence.

31  
32 There was a strong outreach and  
33 communication component at this project all way along  
34 to build relationships, to learn about the value of  
35 Loons as subsistence resources, to exchange information  
36 on Loon identification both in the Siberian Yupik  
37 system and in the Western Science system and to share  
38 Yellow-Billed Loon conservation message.

39  
40 So Tamara was the lead and did all the  
41 work on this part of communication. This is her area  
42 of specialty and she had many community and tribal  
43 council meetings where material and identification of  
44 Loons were presented. There we're seeing the Loon  
45 scans that were prepared specifically for this project.  
46 Also there was a series of school visits and specific  
47 activities for the kids, which is the picture there in  
48 the middle bottom. And interviews with key respondent  
49 people in both villages.

50

1                   The dedicated harvest surveys was built  
2 up on the regular model of the AMBCC survey, but had a  
3 series of added layers to make sure the data was  
4 collected with the -- to minimize errors in data  
5 collection to maximize information exchange in the  
6 species identification. So we established direct  
7 collaboration with both the villages.  
8

9                   The survey teams were composed by local  
10 survey assistants, biologists and anthropologists. We  
11 had all fields of expertise covered. There were  
12 follow-up questions on the harvest ecology and  
13 identification. We timed data collection to minimize  
14 (indiscernible), so the largest report -- the Loon  
15 harvest was in fall, so we made sure that we were just  
16 there just right at the end of the fall season to  
17 collect that information.  
18

19                   It included key respondent interviews,  
20 we produced a Loon identification guide with four pages  
21 specifically for this project, which is this one here,  
22 and also we worked with the census survey. So we were  
23 trying to get as many households as possible,  
24 understanding that you're not going to be able to  
25 contact a few households and that some people will  
26 decline to participate.  
27

28                   So the table on the bottom shows  
29 sampling effort and the household participation in both  
30 years. There is about 145 households in both villages  
31 and we contacted 89 or 90 percent of all those  
32 households, so there's a really high sampling  
33 proportion together with this. There was a real low  
34 refusal rate.  
35

36                   This is the Loon ID guide that I put  
37 together that I just showed. Based on the first year  
38 of this survey, 2011, we made modifications to the bird  
39 ID guide to better represent species identification  
40 based on the Siberian Yupik system and to also better  
41 represent the composition of species that occurred in  
42 that area. So thereafter we brought back to the  
43 villages the results of 2011 and showed them the  
44 results of the bird counts and we, together, agreed  
45 that for the next year modify the bird ID guide to  
46 better to collect more precise data.  
47

48                   So in 2012 we added a figure of a Loon  
49 in non-breeding plumage because people reported that  
50 they prefer to harvest young Loons, which are the

1 non-breeding plumage. We presented this species  
2 starting from the left to right in the order of  
3 abundance as they occur around the island and we  
4 decided for not using Loon names, neither in English  
5 and neither in Siberian Yupik, because there was  
6 confusion with the word Common Loon. The Common Loon  
7 is an English name of a species that was probably  
8 common somewhere else where they gave the name to the  
9 Loon, but it's by far not the most common Loon in St.  
10 Lawrence Island. So in the two years that they did  
11 bird counts there, they didn't see a single Common  
12 Loon.

13

14                   Most of the Loons that we're going to  
15 see in the results having been reported as Common Loon,  
16 so we tried to really explain this to people in the  
17 first year of the survey, but even with that we got  
18 high proportions of Loons reported as Common Loons. So  
19 in the second year, okay, let's get rid of names and  
20 let's let people identify the birds based on a drawing  
21 rather than on names that are confusing.

22

23                   So for the bird counts, this work was  
24 directly coordinated and managed by Tamara. The  
25 objectives were to have a bird count going on more or  
26 less at the same time as the hunting was going on so we  
27 could know which number and the proportion of species  
28 out there and which proportion of species were getting  
29 the harvest surveys. The objective of those bird  
30 watches was to gather information on behavior,  
31 movements and composition of plumage.

32

33                   Loons are very difficult to identify.  
34 Very difficult to tell apart. When you have birds in  
35 non-breeding plumage, which may be both juveniles or  
36 adults in non-breeding plumage, it's pretty much  
37 impossible to tell them apart. So we are trying to see  
38 how far we could get with that.

39

40                   So the map of those includes point  
41 counts from shore with limited distance. This means  
42 that the observers were counting birds as far as they  
43 could see with binoculars or a scope and they counted  
44 all birds, not only Loons. Here today I'm going to  
45 present Loon results of this project because, as you  
46 see, there is kind of concerns about the Yellow-Billed  
47 Loon, but this project, both in the bird counts and the  
48 harvest surveys collected data on all birds harvest  
49 occurring around the island. So it was not putting a  
50 microscope there on the Yellow-Billed Loon, but we

1 asked about all the species.

2

3                   The survey period for the bird watches  
4 was timed to coincide with the fall hunting. Counts  
5 covered all hours of daylight to capture bird  
6 movements. The counting stations overlapped known  
7 hunting locations and the observation effort was 168  
8 hours in 2011 and 161 hours in 2012. Those people  
9 endured a lot of bad weather standing on the beach  
10 there.

11

12                   After three years of study, including  
13 Tamara's first year there in 2001, this is what we  
14 learned about Siberian Yupik names of Loons. Yuwayu is  
15 the word used for Loons in general, but it also may  
16 refer to small Loons or small Loons in breeding  
17 plumage. There's lots of nuances and complications in  
18 this system. I'm not going too much in detail there  
19 because my Siberian Yupik pronunciation is terrible.

20

21                   So other ethnographic findings is that  
22 food is the only current Loon use at St. Lawrence  
23 Island. They don't use Loons for crafts or traditional  
24 regalia and this is different of what we know from the  
25 North Slope, where the Yellow-Billed Loon headdress is  
26 an important part of the Messenger Feast. St. Lawrence  
27 doesn't have this kind of traditional cultural use.  
28 Loons are for food.

29

30                   There's a strong preference for young  
31 birds in general, not only Loons, but they also prefer  
32 young Loons because they're tender, they have more fat  
33 and for the birds out there on the cliff they may be  
34 easier to catch. So there is a preference for young  
35 birds in general. You need to think that at St.  
36 Lawrence they have these large breeding colonies, so  
37 they have a high productivity of sea birds. A lot of  
38 sea birds on the harvest.

39

40                   Do you have a question, Tim?

41

42                   CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Yes, I do. On the  
43 second bullet there, are people able to differentiate  
44 between various species of Loons when they're  
45 harvesting young ones?

46

47                   MS. NAVES: No. It's very difficult to  
48 tell birds in non-breeding plumage apart and it's  
49 really hard for biologists and for really nuts bird  
50 watchers, so we think that not only for St. Lawrence

1 Island, as you see later, but there's a difficulty on  
2 identifying Loons statewide. So it's not a problem  
3 only of St. Lawrence.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: So that could skew  
6 the data quite a bit as far as identification, right?

7

8 MS. NAVES: Yeah, it causes errors on  
9 misidentification of birds, but you'll see later how  
10 you manage to deal with this difficulty.

11

12 So 94 percent of all reported Loons  
13 were harvested from a boat with shotguns. We're asking  
14 people how this harvest happens and it usually is in  
15 association with other harvest, usually seals away from  
16 shore, and Loons occasionally tangled in fishing nets  
17 in summer, but we had only two cases of that. People  
18 usually refer to entanglements as something that  
19 occurred several years ago. They don't have kind of a  
20 I have a case of this this year. They remember things  
21 of several years ago.

22

23 These are results on the general  
24 species composition in the bird counts, so the majority  
25 of birds that were counted out there were sea birds.  
26 This is all the red part of the pie there. It's 98  
27 percent. It's a whole lot. So ducks and geese 1  
28 percent, shorebirds 1 percent and Loons was 0.1 percent  
29 of all birds counted out there and other birds even a  
30 small proportion.

31

32 As for the general composition of the  
33 species in the harvest survey, I'm going to look at the  
34 report here. I don't have a slide for that. In 2011-  
35 2012, the annual average bird harvest was 5,200 birds  
36 in Gambell and 4,000 birds in Savoonga. The main  
37 species harvest were Murre, about 25 percent of the  
38 total in Gambell and 51 percent in Savoonga. Auklets,  
39 Cormorant, Common Eider, large gulls with 4.3 percent,  
40 but the majority by far were Murres. The annual  
41 average egg harvest was 18,000 for Savoonga and about  
42 4,000 for Gambell, mostly Murre eggs.

43

44 MR. WOODS: Mostly they don't eat the  
45 bird, they eat the egg?

46

47 MS. NAVES: No. In the eggs, in the  
48 egg composition, it was mostly Murres. So we have  
49 about 4 or 5,000 birds and about 18,000 eggs.

50

1                   So this goes to the species composition  
2 and shows a little bit of the 2011-2012 harvest numbers  
3 compared to previous years. So, in the first graph  
4 there on the left side shows total Loons and total  
5 birds. The total birds are the white bars and the  
6 total Loons are the black ones. Some years it's really  
7 difficult to figure out where the black bar is because  
8 it's so squished against the horizontal axis there. So  
9 Loons are a very small proportion of the total harvest.  
10

11                   The bottom graph, it's so difficult to  
12 see the Loon numbers when they're compared to the total  
13 birds, so they're showed only Loons. The total Loons  
14 varies between less than 100 in the years that they  
15 have the lower bars there and the 3,500 about in 2007.  
16 This was the data that raised the eyebrows. So both  
17 for Loons, but also total birds as it can be on the  
18 graph on top. 2007 is a little bit out of the chart  
19 there compared to the other years.  
20

21                   So we have a number of years around  
22 5,000 birds, a few years around 30,000 birds, total  
23 birds, and then you have 2007 with almost 80,000 birds.  
24 This is what I say when you're looking at data in a  
25 finer scale. This is both Gambell and Savoonga  
26 together. We can see some years that are really far  
27 apart from the general trend in harvest.  
28

29                   So there in the first set of pie charts  
30 we have composition of Loon species in harvest surveys  
31 and the bottom ones there, the three on the bottom, are  
32 composition of Loon species in fall bird counts. So we  
33 have much more years for harvest surveys. This  
34 includes old surveys that we get to work there pulling  
35 data from other reports starting in '93, I think.  
36

37                   The last three pie charts there in the  
38 harvest survey set is 2010, 2011 and 2012. So the last  
39 two ones there is our study, the dedicated study. So  
40 black is Common Loons, gray is Pacific/Arctic Loons  
41 together. It's difficult to tell them apart, so we  
42 lumped them together. Yellow is Yellow-Billed Loon and  
43 the blue is Loon in non-breeding plumage. We cannot  
44 tell the species, just that they're non-breeding  
45 plumage. The same thing for the code for the pie chart  
46 there for the fall bird counts.  
47

48                   So what you can see in the harvest  
49 surveys, although Common Loons occur very rarely around  
50 St. Lawrence Island, they have been a big part, the

1 black part, of the pie chart for the harvest surveys.  
2 When we changed the bird ID guide in 2012 to include  
3 the non-breeding Loons, the non-breeding Loons came to  
4 be the biggest proportion of the harvest.

5  
6 In the fall bird counts, the  
7 Pacific/Arctic Loons together accounted for more than  
8 90 percent of all Loons seen there. So this was a kind  
9 of representation that we're aiming for when we start  
10 to do the surveys. How they harvest, the composition  
11 of Loon species in the harvest compares to the Loons  
12 that are occurring out there.

13  
14 In the fall bird counts, the biologists  
15 that are there counting birds, which not by coincidence  
16 are all nuts bird watchers, they were able to tell  
17 apart breeding and non-breeding plumage for all the  
18 species, so we have this information for the fall bird  
19 counts, but we don't have this information for the  
20 harvest surveys because we cannot get this finer detail  
21 of species identification in harvest surveys. So we  
22 used this information for the fall bird counts to  
23 readjust the numbers from the harvest surveys when it  
24 comes for a species composition.

25  
26 So this is what's on those tables  
27 there. In the first one, you have original harvest  
28 estimates showing, for instance, 42 Pacific/Arctic  
29 Loons in 2011 and 17 Yellow-Billed Loons. In 2012, 47  
30 Pacific/Arctic Loons and 3 Yellow-Billed Loons with a  
31 majority of Common Loons in both years. So 81 Common  
32 Loons in 2011 and 115 in 2012.

33  
34 Using that composition of species and  
35 plumage for the fall bird counts, I reduced these  
36 estimates for the numbers that I believe are the most  
37 correct harvest estimates for this area. So we come  
38 with a total of 136 Pacific/Arctic Loons in 2011 and  
39 158 in 2012 and 7 Yellow-Billed Loons in 2011 and 5 in  
40 2012.

41  
42 So, according to the best available  
43 information, the most current data that was collected  
44 with all this care and attention to detail with a  
45 multi-disciplinary team, we now believe that the  
46 harvest of Yellow-Billed Loons in St. Lawrence island  
47 are a few birds per year, not 1,000 birds as people  
48 think before.

49  
50 MR. SFORMO: So I was just trying

1 to.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: If you could identify  
4 yourself, please.

5

6 MR. SFORMO: Oh, Todd from North Slope  
7 Borough. What do you make of the numbers for the  
8 unidentified? How do the 99 and the total 115, how  
9 does that figure into some of these estimates?

10

11 MS. NAVES: Well, the unidentified were  
12 birds in non-breeding plumage, so I used a proportion  
13 of non-breeding plumage in the bird count. There is  
14 detailed information of this in the draft report,  
15 exactly how the little nuts and bolts of how this  
16 calculation was done. I think that's going to be a  
17 little too much for right now.

18

19 MR. SFORMO: No, that's fine. But it's  
20 as simple as saying this is the proportion of the  
21 species of non-breeding Loons and then of the  
22 unidentified ones you're just going to use that  
23 proportion for saying this is the common one, this is  
24 the Pacific unidentified.

25

26 MS. NAVES: Yeah.

27

28 MR. SFORMO: Okay.

29

30 MR. WOODS: Due to population indexes?  
31 I mean the bird counts, is that what you're saying?  
32 Oh, sorry. So your question was how you get them in  
33 unidentified Loon population harvest on record and how  
34 you're recording those. My understanding -- I'll let  
35 you finish, but yeah.

36

37 MS. NAVES: They are -- put simply, we  
38 used a proportion of species in breeding and non-  
39 breeding plumage from the bird counts to break down  
40 what was unknown on the harvest survey in the species.

41

42 MR. WOODS: Thank you.

43

44 MS. NAVES: Uh-huh. Just to wrap up  
45 this now, some conclusions -- I just put everything in  
46 there and go down the road. Some conclusions from the  
47 point count research. The fall relative species  
48 composition was consistent in all we studied years.  
49 This means 2011, which we're not presenting results  
50 here, 2011 and '12. That the Loons comprised less than



1 .0 percent of all birds counted in fall. So there, by  
2 far, the most wanted bird is the Short-tailed  
3 Shearwater. That's kind of 98 percent of all birds  
4 that are around during fall. There's a bird that  
5 migrates from Australia and New Zealand. On average,  
6 Yellow-Billed Loon comprised 7.5 percent of Loons  
7 counted at St. Lawrence and, on average, Pacific  
8 outnumber Yellow-Billed by an average 10.1 ratio.

9  
10 My conclusions for the harvest survey  
11 is that St. Lawrence yearly regional harvest is in the  
12 low hundreds all Loons together. St. Lawrence Loon  
13 harvest is selective as for other species, so it  
14 happens most in fall. There is a preference for young  
15 Loons, as there's a general preference for young birds  
16 in general. Mostly non-breeding Loons and small Loons,  
17 which are the three species of small Loons.

18  
19 The Loon identification subsistence  
20 harvest survey is challenging and it's not the  
21 situation that is specific to St. Lawrence. It's all  
22 across the state. It's difficult to identify Loons  
23 period. The modifications of the harvest survey that  
24 we did for the St. Lawrence, we are going to adapt it  
25 for all other regions so we have a better Loon harvest  
26 for all the other regions, so we are already using this  
27 system for the Y-K Delta survey this year.

28  
29 I want to really point it out on this  
30 survey is the fine detail of adjustment that's needed  
31 to correct information when we're dealing with species  
32 that are difficult to identify and the species that are  
33 rarely taken. So it was really a fine tuning of the  
34 bird ID guide that helped us tease out what's there.  
35 It took three years to go through this process to work  
36 with the communities. This may be the situation for  
37 other species, but just bring out how this fine tuning  
38 makes a difference, but how difficult it is to come to  
39 it too.

40  
41 Along those three years we worked with  
42 a whole lot of people in both villages and with  
43 different agencies too, so we could not have done this  
44 without the support and engagement of both villages.  
45 There are several people that helped with the bird  
46 count in both villages, those or bird watchers that  
47 were recruited from all over the U.S. We had several  
48 anthropologists that worked collecting harvest data  
49 with the local surveyors. The local surveyors -- we  
50 worked with different people in different years if we

1 could not get the same person that worked in the  
2 previous year. So we work with lots of local people as  
3 local surveyors.

4  
5 We thank Donna for making the liaison  
6 and support from the Fish and Wildlife Service side and  
7 also we thank Fish and Wildlife Service that funded the  
8 whole project and made everything possible.

9  
10 Thank you.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Questions for  
13 Liliana. Julian.

14  
15 MR. FISCHER: At the end there you said  
16 you were adopting this strategy for other parts of the  
17 state for Loon harvest. How are you doing that if  
18 you're not going out and getting all the point count  
19 information from all over the state?

20  
21 MS. NAVES: Well, the names was --  
22 there's no problem in using a bird ID guide that has no  
23 names and adding a Loon non-breeding plumage. There's  
24 no problem too. The thing that gets a little tricky  
25 there is to account for the different proportion of  
26 species in different parts of the year, but they aren't  
27 talking about bird ID guide only. So what may not be  
28 exactly around to other areas without a little bit of  
29 adjustment is to present the Loons starting from left  
30 to right, which is the most common in this area and so  
31 far, so far, but as for the other two there is no  
32 problems.

33  
34 So when I say those modifications, I  
35 refer to the bird ID guide and to harvest report form.  
36 Not for data analysis. I think how it's going to  
37 appear is that juvenile unknown.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: I wonder if you can  
40 introduce yourself.

41  
42 MR. AHMASUK: Brandon Ahmasuk,  
43 subsistence director. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Harvest  
44 data is good when all areas are included in the data.

45  
46 MS. NAVES: I think that harvest data  
47 is good when it's available. If it's available for  
48 only part of the state, those are going to be useable  
49 for that part of the state. We cannot do a survey in  
50 every single region in every village in every year.

1 It's just an effort that's not possible. I'm not sure  
2 if I'm understanding what you refer when you're saying  
3 that when everything is covered.

4

5 MR. AHMASUK: Well, I asked this  
6 question before and it is in reference to St. Lawrence  
7 Island. There's no data showing what's harvested  
8 overseas and when this first came about, there was --  
9 and you stated that there was problems with how the  
10 data was being received. They had one general name in  
11 their native language, you know, and then it all got  
12 put together.

13

14 I still have a hard time swallowing the  
15 idea that law enforcement doesn't have access to this  
16 information. When this first came about, all of a  
17 sudden law enforcement, Fish and Game, state troopers  
18 showed up out there. True, no citations were issued,  
19 but, like Mr. Andrew said, there was a harvest in his  
20 area where there was not overharvest but a higher  
21 number and law enforcement made their presence known.

22

23 My question is, is this harvest data  
24 biased? When I asked the question before is there data  
25 showing what's being harvested overseas and the answer  
26 I got was no.

27

28 MS. NAVES: The main information that  
29 focused efforts on St. Lawrence it came from the  
30 migration routes that are known for the Yellow-Billed  
31 Loon, which is shown there in the map, so people know  
32 that Yellow-Billed Loons are not common in the whole  
33 mainland part of the Bering Strait region, but they  
34 know that there is a migration route that passes around  
35 St. Lawrence Island, so this was the information that  
36 focused the efforts to work with those two communities.

37

38 What's going on in Russia we don't know  
39 exactly in terms of harvest and it's really difficult  
40 to know. I know how difficult it is to do surveys in  
41 Alaska. Imagine for us to try to do surveys in Russia.  
42 So this information I don't think that we're going to  
43 get anywhere there.

44

45 Were those the only parts of your  
46 question?

47

48 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you.

49

50 MR. VINCENT-LANG: You know, when the

1 information was originally collected in that survey,  
2 there was a lot of skepticism regarding the magnitude  
3 of harvest just because there wasn't a suspect that  
4 there were that many Loons being harvested in the area.  
5 I know from my perspective, you know, the first thing  
6 we did as the State was to ask Liliana to design a  
7 specific survey to get to the bottom of how many  
8 Yellow-Billed Loons were actually being taken given the  
9 significance of that number in terms of making a  
10 decision to list Yellow-Billed Loons and the  
11 significance that that decision would then have on a  
12 wide range of activities on the North Slope, including  
13 subsistence harvest of other birds that could  
14 potentially be taken.

15  
16                   If you're suddenly harvesting Yellow-  
17 Billed Loons, then you potentially could not harvest  
18 other species of Loons just because of look-alikes. So  
19 we immediately came in and tried to collect the right  
20 data, whatever it was. We were going to live with the  
21 results, but get a more clear estimate of the number of  
22 Yellow-Billed Loons that were taken out there.

23  
24                   Now I'm not aware that Alaska State  
25 Troopers, State officials showed up to do enforcement  
26 actions out there. As a matter of fact, I don't think  
27 that they did. I can't vouch for what the Service did,  
28 but I'm not aware that this was used as Fish and  
29 Wildlife protection on the State side going out to do a  
30 major effort. I think our effort, the State side at  
31 least, was focused on bird identification and accurate  
32 accounting of species that were taken so that, again,  
33 we could inform a status review that was coming out  
34 this year with the hope of hopefully precluding the  
35 need to list that species and the resultant  
36 implications that that listing decision would have on  
37 bird harvest and other activities in the area.

38  
39                   MS. NAVES: And I think that they were  
40 flagged of this, of how the process was conducted of  
41 the villages, really straightforward, clear  
42 communication and absence of law enforcement  
43 involvement. They agreed to release data at the  
44 village level and also ask to release older data at the  
45 village level. As far as I understand, working  
46 directly with them, they're comfortable with the  
47 situation, they're comfortable with the numbers right  
48 now and I think that we are in good shape now with  
49 better information.

50

1 MR. AHMASUK: When I talked to the  
2 residents from St. Lawrence Island, the only reason  
3 they agreed because the finger pointing had already  
4 started that they were overharvesting. Then with your  
5 more extensive research showed that they weren't, but  
6 they still, as a whole, they do not agree to the  
7 village-based data release.

8  
9 MS. NAVES: Well, this was not  
10 information that was relayed to me in the tribal  
11 council and community meetings and you were there and  
12 you were there asking them, offering a bunch of options  
13 about data release and how to go about the process and  
14 this was not what I heard when I was there. That's not  
15 what is in the letter that was signed by the tribal  
16 council. So I feel comfortable working with them and I  
17 have a good working relationship with both villages. I  
18 think that they are happy that the situation was  
19 solved.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: So this village  
22 specific survey or data release was just done for this  
23 project here.

24  
25 MS. NAVES: Yeah.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Frank.

28  
29 MR. WOODS: Brandon, the Harvest  
30 Committee had a heated discussion on what to do with  
31 this survey because basically it's a survey just  
32 without any conclusions or the conclusions was shared  
33 with Liliana's presentation. Where do you put that in  
34 the limelight with the existing harvest data that we  
35 have? So we asked for a summary. Are you going to  
36 present that summary now or during this session?

37  
38 MS. NAVES: I'm not sure that I'm  
39 following there, Frank.

40  
41 MR. WOODS: Is it in the paper?  
42 Brandon, we have the same concern as you. The survey  
43 is specifically to address the harvest data that came  
44 up in '09 that set up a bunch of red flags for  
45 everybody. What we're going to do with this data is  
46 exactly what you want to prevent.

47  
48 You're right, Liliana. The cultural  
49 barrier -- people will tell me things more than they  
50 will you. You're not only ADF&G, you wear a different

1 hat and you speak a different language and a dialect  
2 and people will not -- and it's universal. What they  
3 tell me is totally different what they'll tell you.  
4 That's not to disregard anything that you -- we're  
5 really thankful that this whole survey is put in place  
6 to help clarify the Yellow-Billed Loon harvest data.

7  
8 And Dan's point I'm going to bring out,  
9 to let him present, what we want out of this survey  
10 process.

11  
12 MS. NAVES: I think if you could stop  
13 there, Frank. What we discussed at the Harvest Survey  
14 Committee is that the final version of this report,  
15 including all the comments provided by both villages,  
16 biologists at Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish and Game  
17 and USGS and anthropologists too, is that this report  
18 needs to make clear on why and where this data it's  
19 better and answered the question that the old data  
20 didn't. This is going to be included in the final  
21 report. So, yeah, this is the summary that's going to  
22 be presented there.

23  
24 MR. WOODS: Okay. We're good. Mr.  
25 Chair. Just to clarify that we agreed upon a summary  
26 that would refute her harvest survey data that was  
27 inconsistent to the actual numbers and this survey will  
28 do that. That work?

29  
30 MR. ROSENBERG: Yeah, I think that's  
31 good. I mean it's a context issue. We wanted to put  
32 this survey in the context that it was intended for,  
33 which was essentially a response to the earlier survey  
34 and why it was an improvement over the earlier survey  
35 and why the State has better data and Liliana agreed to  
36 do that.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Any further questions  
39 for Liliana. Doug.

40  
41 MR. VINCENT-LANG: Liliana, I just want  
42 to thank you for the work done up there. I think, you  
43 know, again there was a significant decision that's  
44 coming out in the next 12 months on Yellow-Billed Loons  
45 that has potential to effect a lot of people. I want  
46 to personally thank you for the efforts you did these  
47 last two years in collecting this information and  
48 working with the community. I think these decisions  
49 have got to be made on the best available information  
50 and when we don't have it, it's incumbent upon us to

1 make sure we get it and I think you did a good job.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MS. NAVES: Thanks. I just want to be  
6 clear, I could not do this alone and Tamara was a great  
7 co-worker there and the participation of the villages  
8 was fundamental. So the support that I get along this  
9 work from Fish and Wildlife Service and from the local  
10 villages I think that's what's made it possible.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Yeah, I think the  
13 compliment and commendation is shared all around the  
14 table to clarify this issue.

15

16 Thank you very much.

17

18 Okay. We're very close to the lunch  
19 hour and like my -- the usual chairman says, I hear  
20 some grumbling or some noise around the table, so we'll  
21 take a lunch break until 1:15. Before that, Joeneal.

22

23 MR. HICKS: Mr. Chair. I ask that I be  
24 excused. I'm going to head on home. The weather is  
25 terrible and I've got about five hours of driving on  
26 the highway.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Okay. Have a safe  
29 trip and thank you for coming.

30

31 MR. PROBASCO: Take care, Joe.

32

33 (Off record)

34

35 (On record)

36

37

38 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Okay. I hope  
39 everybody had a great lunch. We'll call the meeting  
40 back to order. Perhaps before we get done or finalize  
41 the final leg of our meeting here, I'd like to tell a  
42 story since we're about the end of moose hunting.

43

44 Anyway, this story was told to me.  
45 There was a family that went out moose hunting  
46 somewhere up the Kuskokwim or Yukon River. They had a  
47 mom and a dad and a young one, probably about 11, 12  
48 years old. A game warden stopped by to pay the family  
49 a visit and went up and checked the hunting licenses  
50 and whatnot of the adults of the family. While they

1 were talking, all of a sudden the kid runs up from the  
2 beach. There's a moose across on the other side of the  
3 river. Grabbed the rifle and the game warden says,  
4 whoa, whoa, whoa, wait, wait, wait. The kid runs down  
5 to the beach. Hey, that's a cow. No, the kid hollers  
6 up to the game warden, no, that's a moose. Boom! Got  
7 it. There was a bull in the area.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Okay. Next up on the  
12 agenda is item number C, financial report. Pete and  
13 Donna.

14

15 MR. PEDERSON: Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Yes.

18

19 MR. PEDERSON: Before we proceed I'd  
20 like to make a motion to adopt the Yellow-Billed Loon  
21 report that was presented by Fish and Game. It was  
22 discussed at this level at previous meetings, so I  
23 think that would be appropriate.

24

25 MR. WOODS: I second that.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Seconded by Frank.  
28 Any further discussion.

29

30 MR. PROBASCO: Question.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: The question has been  
33 called. All in favor say aye.

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: All opposed.

38

39 (No opposing votes)

40

41 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Motion carries.  
42 We'll go on to the financial report. Pete.

43

44 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
45 know yesterday Donna passed out revised budgets based  
46 on the Budget Committee's recommendations. There's two  
47 parts to our presentation. We first have a summary of  
48 the fiscal year 2013 and then we'll follow up with the  
49 proposed budget for fiscal year 2014.

50



1                   With that said, I just want to lay a  
2 little groundwork like I do with the Budget Committee.  
3 For fiscal year 2014, we're continuing going through  
4 the sequestration exercise. We have no idea what our  
5 budget will be. Keep in mind last year for fiscal year  
6 '13 we found out our budget approximately late March of  
7 this year. So we're working on estimates if you will  
8 for fiscal year 2014 and we're anticipating somewhere  
9 in the neighborhood, if sequestration continues,  
10 another reduction of 5-7 percent. So we continue to  
11 deal with the challenges of a budget that's declining  
12 instead of increasing.

13  
14                   When we go through the budget exercise,  
15 what I would like from the AMBCC is to help us to  
16 assist the Service as we deal with how best to  
17 prioritize funding levels for AMBCC. I would like --  
18 again, not knowing what our allocation will be, I would  
19 like the AMBCC group to take a look at the  
20 recommendations that the budget committee submitted and  
21 discuss them and establish some priorities so that we  
22 can use that as a measure to determine how best to  
23 allocate our dollars.

24  
25                   So, Mr. Chair, with that, I'll go  
26 through with the 2013 budget and I hope I have the  
27 right paper. Do I have the right one, Donna?

28  
29                   MS. DEWHURST: It should be -- the  
30 harvest survey revision should be 100 if you have the  
31 right one, not 175.

32  
33                   MR. PROBASCO: Yes, I have that. Thank  
34 you. So, if we go to FY2013 AMBCC budget  
35 reconciliation. The reason we have FY12 presented is  
36 that's been our baseline as we've gone through  
37 sequestration. So everything has been based on the  
38 allocation for fiscal year 2012. So, for fiscal year  
39 2013 our budget was reduced approximately 6 percent of  
40 what the fiscal year 2012 indicates.

41  
42                   I think the big -- if you go through  
43 fixed costs, they're fairly straightforward. If you go  
44 through discretionary costs as identified, you'll note  
45 that the harvest survey revision has 100K. When AMBCC  
46 looked at the harvest revision survey study, we were  
47 anticipating issuing an agreement for year one to be  
48 \$100,000. That did not happen. In fact, we had no  
49 interested parties submit proposals for the harvest  
50 survey revision, so we're back to square one. However,

1 Eric Taylor has made contact with an interested party  
2 and we are going to go back out to bid or seeking  
3 proposals I should say.

4  
5 So what I have elected to do is take  
6 that 100K that we had allocated for fiscal year '13 and  
7 move it forward to fiscal year '14 and that's to our  
8 advantage in that it will allow us to take fiscal year  
9 '13 dollars, place them in '14 and free up some  
10 additional dollars to help with some of the other  
11 priorities within our program.

12  
13 With that, any questions on FY13. Go  
14 ahead, Frank. Doug.

15  
16 MR. VINCENT-LANG: So we have this red  
17 sheet of paper here or there was a piece of paper that  
18 was handed out, money that went to the regional  
19 associations and there was a bunch of red money  
20 reverted funds.

21  
22 MR. PROBASCO: Correct.

23  
24 MR. VINCENT-LANG: Where does that play  
25 into this FY13 budget?

26  
27 MR. PROBASCO: If you go to the top,  
28 Doug, on FY13, it says grants to regions.

29  
30 MR. VINCENT-LANG: Okay.

31  
32 MR. PROBASCO: And what Donna provided  
33 was those grants that go to each of the respective  
34 regions, the number in black is what was allocated to  
35 them and the number in red indicates what had been  
36 spent.

37  
38 MR. VINCENT-LANG: Okay. But I think I  
39 recall seeing the numbers. Not everything was spent  
40 that was allocated.

41  
42 MR. PROBASCO: That is correct.

43  
44 MR. VINCENT-LANG: So my question  
45 becomes are we more in the black because of that?

46  
47 MR. PROBASCO: Go ahead, Donna.

48  
49 MS. DEWHURST: Prior to just this year  
50 we had to do our grants on an annual cycle, so if money

1 was turned back at the end of the year, it just  
2 basically was lost in most cases. It would just go  
3 into the general fund. This year we started a five-  
4 year cycle on grants, so the nice thing about that is  
5 we can roll the money over. If there's left-over  
6 money, it rolls over into the next year with that same  
7 organization.

8

9 MR. VINCENT-LANG: Okay. I guess.

10

11 MS. DEWHURST: So if they don't spend  
12 their money, they actually get to keep it one more  
13 year.

14

15 MR. VINCENT-LANG: I guess, you know,  
16 we're going to be facing a decision in FY14 of having  
17 to reduce the budget and I would hate to reduce the  
18 budget when we're turning -- I don't know what those  
19 figures are, \$30-40,000 back into the general fund. I  
20 would rather not cut something and have those figures  
21 reflective of what's actually being spent with like a  
22 vacancy or unused factor, you know, rather than turning  
23 it back and making a cut unnecessarily.

24

25 MS. DEWHURST: In the past, the timing  
26 wouldn't allow us to get the funds the way our system  
27 is built. We were getting the money back too late to  
28 be able to get it, so it would go back to Regional  
29 Director's discretion, which is basically the general  
30 fund for Region 7. Just because of the timing of one  
31 group's returning it back, they're turning it back  
32 usually in December and January and February and March.  
33 We're getting it very late.

34

35 MR. PROBASCO: Doug, I think your  
36 question is a good one. The key here is that these  
37 dollars, which just looking at it will probably be in  
38 the 35-40,000 range, will remain within the AMBCC  
39 program to that region. So that's a plus. However,  
40 the thing that's improving, but the regions still need  
41 to work on is reporting of their grants and their  
42 expenditures. We have some regions that are very good  
43 and utilize their funds and provide the reports by the  
44 deadlines, but we still have some regions that need to  
45 pay a little bit closer attention to their financial  
46 situation as it pertains to AMBCC.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Frank.

49

50 MR. WOODS: Donna, you kind of answered

1 my question. So the rollover dollars that each grants  
2 regions, like I'll take for instance Bristol Bay. If  
3 we didn't utilize the 25,000, it's up to our discretion  
4 to roll it back into the 2014 budget, but still get the  
5 full amount or how does that still work?

6

7 MS. DEWHURST: Right now it does, but  
8 it's kind of a double-edged sword because we made the  
9 decision to increase -- give a cost of living increase  
10 to groups, but it's based on whether or not they zeroed  
11 out. So if you don't zero out and turn a bunch of  
12 money in, you won't get the 2 percent cost of living  
13 increase.

14

15 MR. WOODS: That answered my question.  
16 Thanks.

17

18 MR. PROBASCO: Frank, I think the other  
19 crucial thing that Donna said, that money that comes  
20 from FY13 is rolled over to '14. You only have one  
21 more year to spend that, so you need to be cognizant of  
22 that.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Much of the money  
25 that is allocated to the regions is primarily to cover  
26 regional management body meetings. For my region, I  
27 don't foresee having more than two meetings per year.  
28 However, since we do have a Goose Management Plan, we  
29 may have some -- either have some meetings in Portland  
30 or subcommittees travel to Portland, Oregon to try and  
31 work out some of the provisions of the Goose Management  
32 Plan. Would programs like that be allowable under this  
33 program?

34

35 MR. PROBASCO: We sort of -- well, we  
36 did run into that on the Emperor Goose this fall here  
37 in the September meeting. We learned -- it was a good  
38 session for us to learn how best to accompany the  
39 regional members attending.

40

41 So, in your case, under AVCP, if you  
42 had a remaining balance in your funds, you could  
43 utilize that for travel associated with the AMBCC. If  
44 your funds were zeroed out, then there's another avenue  
45 where we can provide funding through my general fund  
46 budget to allow that travel to occur. It's a little  
47 more challenging and a little more time consuming, so  
48 we need to be out in front of it well in advance of  
49 that meeting if that's the case.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Thank you. Any other  
2 questions. Rick.

3  
4 MR. ROWLAND: Yes. I'm looking at that  
5 AMBCC approximate budget for fixed costs and where it  
6 says grants to regions and it says 216 there. We're  
7 looking at this?

8  
9 MR. PROBASCO: Right now, Rick, we're  
10 just talking about FY13. We haven't got to 14 yet.

11  
12 MR. ROWLAND: Oh, okay.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Patty.

15  
16 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: I just wanted  
17 to comment that at the Budget Committee we did -- Donna  
18 and Pete and I did commit to meeting on a regular basis  
19 to review the budget for yours to make sure we stay on  
20 track and if any regions aren't spending their money or  
21 if we find any savings or overages, we can address it  
22 in a more timely manner.

23  
24 Thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Frank.

27  
28 MR. WOODS: So maybe -- my question on  
29 the 2013, all these -- so the amount that was awarded  
30 is the actual number on the budget for the grants to  
31 regions? Since there's some that never even received  
32 their money, does that go back in the general fund on  
33 your level maybe, Pete?

34  
35 MR. PROBASCO: The answer to your  
36 latter question is yes. It stays within Migratory  
37 Birds and would be utilized first for AMBCC. If there  
38 was no use for it, then it would be utilized in other  
39 migratory bird programs.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Rick.

42  
43 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. Thank you. The  
44 question was relevant for 2013 also. So on this budget  
45 it says grants to regions 2013 is 213,600, but then we  
46 go look at this annual summary and then on that program  
47 annual totals it says 288,600, so now there's quite a  
48 variance there. And how come that doesn't show up on  
49 that 2013 grants to regions?

50

1 MS. DEWHURST: It does. It's in a  
2 different place. The difference is exactly \$75,000,  
3 which is the amount that goes to Patty to be paid for  
4 the Executive Director, but we have to put it in her  
5 grant. That's the function of how we have to pay  
6 Patty. So under the grants is an extra 75,000, but if  
7 you look at the budget, it's broken out. If you look  
8 at this figure for the '14 one, it's broken out. The  
9 75,000 isn't lumped in. Do you understand?

10  
11 MR. ROWLAND: I understand what you're  
12 talking about, but I don't see it on this budget.

13  
14 MS. DEWHURST: It is. On 75,000.....

15  
16 MR. PROBASCO: He's looking at '13,  
17 Donna, and I don't see it either.

18  
19 MS. DEWHURST: Okay. It is under  
20 salaries. In the '13, it got lumped under salaries,  
21 where under '14 we split the salaries up.

22  
23 MR. WOODS: I'm good. You clarified it  
24 for me, Donna. Thanks.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Any other questions,  
27 comments.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 MR. PROBASCO: Okay. Mr. Chair, it  
32 might be good at this point before I get into '14 is to  
33 hear from the Budget Committee, what their  
34 recommendations since it's pertinent to developing our  
35 recommendations for '14.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Okay. Budget  
38 Committee chair.

39  
40 MR. PROBASCO: Patty's got it.

41  
42 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr.  
43 Chairman or Pete, I mean. Sorry. Mr. Federal  
44 representative. You're not the chairman yet. Joeneal  
45 was appointed the chairman of the committee and so I  
46 did pass out the minutes from the meeting the other  
47 day. What the committee talked about -- and we went  
48 over the budget that's under tab 6, the FY13 and FY14  
49 sheets that were provided in the packets.

50

1                   We went over those and what the  
2 committee recommended was -- the motions are all on the  
3 second to the last page, so they did ask that a letter  
4 be drafted to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
5 Commissioner requesting their consideration in  
6 financially supporting the AMBCC as a co-management  
7 partner. They made a motion to support the CRRC  
8 proposal for \$92,682, support the harvest survey on the  
9 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta for \$60,000, support funding for  
10 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game cooperative  
11 agreement for \$203,573. And fund the harvest survey  
12 revision at \$175,000 and support the hiring of an  
13 intern for the AMBCC.

14  
15                   The committee did not prioritize the  
16 funding. I would also like to note that many of the  
17 motions were based on recommendations by the Native  
18 Caucus and the Harvest Survey Committee. If you have  
19 any questions, I can field those.

20  
21                   CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Thank you, Patty. I  
22 guess what I'd like to maybe get an answer from the  
23 State representative, Doug. The State's support for  
24 the AMBCC. I know it's been an issue in the past and  
25 has been well pointed out and it seems like it hasn't  
26 really gone anywhere. I was just wondering if a  
27 request like this would be a possibility.

28  
29                   MR. VINCENT-LANG: I haven't been a  
30 part of this process. I'm trying to figure out what  
31 that first recommendation means, supporting AMBCC as a  
32 co-management partner. Certainly sitting at this table  
33 is support of the process. Are you looking for  
34 financial support?

35  
36                   MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, I was  
37 supposed to say financially supporting.

38  
39                   MR. VINCENT-LANG: Okay. Well,  
40 certainly as a manager of bird species, having the  
41 kinds of information that we provide that our Staff is  
42 currently providing in terms of harvest assessment is  
43 critical towards the needs we have. So I think we  
44 can't commit right now to money, but certainly as we  
45 move forward in time we see the value of that  
46 information on a harvest assessment and we'll look at  
47 ways to try to start contributing a fair share towards  
48 that program, but I can't commit to it right now  
49 because we're in the budget process right now for  
50 future years.

1 MR. WOODS: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Frank.

4

5 MR. WOODS: Doug, thank you. I think  
6 that the Department's input and their Staff  
7 recommendations from Dan Rosenberg to Liliana and Jim  
8 Fall and all the other Staff at ADF&G including your  
9 position right there is real important. What we don't  
10 have is a breakdown of each salary. You know, I mean  
11 Dan's position, for instance, is a fully-funded ADF&G  
12 function, correct?

13

14 The reason I asked early in the meeting  
15 is that, you know, ADF&G take a look at the sports  
16 license is getting issued in the fall versus the  
17 residents, non-residents and non-local residents. If  
18 you break down the income generated from migratory  
19 birds and you put that back into a perspective of how  
20 important it is for the State and the Feds and local  
21 residents of Alaska to have that information.

22

23 Also we have a financial breakdown and  
24 some of the departments, like I know DNR, one of the  
25 functions of DNR is to provide safety education and  
26 outreach to rural areas. One of their functions is to  
27 collect snowmobile registration funds and distribute  
28 that throughout the state. Whether that happens or  
29 not, I'm just making an observation that we don't know  
30 what Dan's salary is. I don't want to know, but your  
31 income contribution on a regular basis has been really  
32 appreciated. Like you said, for future reference and  
33 down the road, the competition for resource, and I'll  
34 tell you why, is that when we start managing and  
35 there's a shortage in certain species, we want you  
36 aboard.

37

38 I'll be quiet from there. Thanks.

39

40 MR. VINCENT-LANG: I appreciate the  
41 fact that you recognize the in-kind contribution. Like  
42 Dan and I were talking after the meeting yesterday.  
43 The State Duck Stamp raises \$40,000. I can tell you  
44 ADF&G's Waterfowl Program is a lot larger than that.  
45 We at least pour that much back into the process and  
46 I'm guessing we probably pour at least \$40,000 of the  
47 Waterfowl Program specifically into this program as  
48 well as the Pacific Flyway and the National Flyway  
49 Councils, which are integral parts of this. So I think  
50 we have a significant in-kind contribution.



1 I think the question that's really  
2 being asked though is as we move forward in time,  
3 what's the State's capacity to fill in some of the  
4 holes due to sequestration on the Federal side and I  
5 don't have an answer for that right now, but I've  
6 learned a lot at this meeting about the necessity of  
7 harvest survey information to make sound management  
8 decisions.

9  
10 Certainly, as we move forward, we'll  
11 look for those opportunities because we have that  
12 expertise at ADF&G and we have the expertise on some of  
13 the flight patterns and things, but clearly that's an  
14 area where we have clear expertise and we could  
15 continue to provide that support.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Okay. I believe Pete  
18 was asking for direction from the Council as far as  
19 priorities.

20  
21 MR. PROBASCO: Yes, Mr. Chair. Before  
22 we get into that, let me just break down very quickly  
23 what we're looking at for fiscal year '14. If you pull  
24 out your paper where the title is AMBCC approximate  
25 budget, the fixed costs are self-explanatory. We have  
26 Donna's salary, we have the grant, Patty's organization  
27 is 75K that grants the regions and everything else.  
28 They have administrative cost, which breaks out to, as  
29 Rick corrected us yesterday or the day before,  
30 \$464,728. Those are costs that, unless we're totally  
31 zeroed out, we're confident we will meet.

32  
33 Now where we need to look at is what I  
34 call optional costs. It's not discretionary because  
35 discretionary implies that you guys would have the  
36 final say on the dollars and we don't. Our  
37 recommendations or your recommendations carry a lot of  
38 weight, so that's where we need to roll up our sleeves  
39 and look at this. I think in concept the Budget  
40 Committee was very clear that they support all those  
41 recommendations.

42  
43 Looking at instead of replacing Terry's  
44 position at a GS-13 level, we would utilize some of  
45 those funds to bring in a level entry person to assist  
46 Donna. Patty's organization requested an additional  
47 funding of \$92,682. That was supported both by the  
48 Native Caucus and the Budget Subcommittee. Based on  
49 Eric Taylor's recommendation, the harvest survey  
50 revision will probably go out in the neighborhood of

1 175K for the cost for proposals. Utilizing \$100,000  
2 from fiscal year '13 and only utilizing \$75,000 from  
3 fiscal year '14. The ADF&G Cooperative Agreement,  
4 which Liliana and Dr. Fall laid out very in detail to  
5 the Budget Committee, is 203,573. We're estimating,  
6 based on the recommendation an additional harvest  
7 survey in Y-K Delta of approximately 60K.

8

9 I can say right from the onset meeting  
10 all of those are going to be very challenging. In  
11 fact, I would probably say, based on what has been  
12 provided to date for outlooks for fiscal year '14,  
13 difficult. So what I would like to hear from this  
14 group is how you would like me in developing the budget  
15 approach this. Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Thank you, Pete.

18

19 Doug.

20

21 MR. VINCENT-LANG: I'll throw something  
22 on the table just to have a discussion around. The way  
23 I look at it is the target, based on what we heard  
24 yesterday, was about \$800,000, give or take a few  
25 dollars. The sum total here is \$950,000. We have  
26 \$75,000 for Terry's position, which seems to be in the  
27 bank someplace, so if we take 75,000 off 950, that  
28 leaves \$875,000.

29

30 I would say although it would be nice  
31 to fill the \$50,000 ANSEP position, I would say that  
32 that's one of my lower priorities for the initial  
33 point. So take 50,000 off, that leaves 825 and then  
34 you have a 25,000 overage off of \$800,000, which I  
35 would say we could leave that on the books depending  
36 upon what happens with reverted funds from the grants  
37 to the regions. Every time we're reverting some money  
38 and I think that gets us close at least for planning  
39 purposes given the uncertainty of what's going to  
40 happen in sequestration to move forward with.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Will that be your  
43 motion?

44

45 MR. VINCENT-LANG: Yeah, I could make a  
46 motion for it. Yeah, I'll make that as a motion so we  
47 can discuss it.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Second.

50

1 MR. WOODS: Second that for discussion.

2

3 MR. VINCENT-LANG: I'll add just one  
4 more comment to it. To me, this motion funds the basis  
5 of our decision-making recommendations, which it funds  
6 data collection, which is really the most important  
7 thing that we need to make recommendations on  
8 regulations as we move forward.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Okay. A motion has  
11 been made and seconded. Further discussion. Mike.

12

13 MR. PEDERSON: Getting to the point  
14 that Pete made, the only thing that I heard in your  
15 motion about prioritizing is that ANSEP would be the  
16 least. So how are you prioritizing the other issues?

17

18 MR. VINCENT-LANG: I'm really not  
19 because of the way the match works out, if we don't --  
20 if we bank the \$75,000 from Terry's position and don't  
21 fund the 50,000, the rest is basically covered. We  
22 could go through a priority exercise, but the target  
23 was to get to 800,000, so I didn't prioritize the rest  
24 of it.

25

26 MR. PEDERSON: I heard Pete say he  
27 wants us to prioritize these, so I think we should  
28 prioritize them.

29

30 MR. WOODS: A good discussion. I think  
31 you're right. In light of that, I think Patty's  
32 position would be our number one priority because if  
33 you look at our committee process and communications  
34 statewide and the issues that are brought up -- I'll  
35 let Pete comment.

36

37 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
38 And thank you, Mike and Doug. I think we're going in  
39 the right direction and I think we'll get to where I'd  
40 like to land. Patty's 75K is a priority, so that's  
41 covered in the fixed costs. That's Regional Director  
42 Geoff Haskett made that commitment and he's going to  
43 continue that commitment.

44

45 What's on the table is -- you know,  
46 we've gone through approximately a year and it's become  
47 quite evident that the 75K is not sufficient to cover  
48 the cost of what Jay does, et cetera. So what we're  
49 looking at is that \$92,682.

50

1 MR. WOODS: That would be a \$17,682  
2 increase. That would be a priority. I would rephrase  
3 my comments to forward fund that as a priority for '14  
4 in the Patty position because it's allocated right now.  
5 Right?

6  
7 MR. VINCENT-LANG: Frank, I think the  
8 confusion that's rising is Patty's salary is covered  
9 under the fixed cost. There's a requested funding  
10 increase associated to the association you're with to  
11 cover the actual reflected cost of what administration  
12 of AMBCC costs. I agree, that should be a priority and  
13 we should fund that. It's different than Patty's  
14 salary. It should accurately reflect the actual cost  
15 of what it costs to manage her program.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Okay. My question to  
18 Pete at the moment would be would the motion that we  
19 have on the table suffice to meet your concerns about  
20 the anticipated budget cut and the needed priorities?

21  
22 MR. PROBASCO: The direct answer to  
23 your question would be no, Mr. Chair. Doug's last  
24 comment in response to Frank would be where I'd like to  
25 see the discussion go in that you're talking about how  
26 those other requested items stack up against each  
27 other.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Doug, if you could  
30 restate your comment, please, or if you want to amend  
31 your motion.

32  
33 MR. VINCENT-LANG: Well, I think I'd  
34 like to handle this in two motions. One is the first  
35 motion gets it down to \$800,000 and get that as a soft  
36 landing. Then number two entertain a motion to have a  
37 discussion of how we would prioritize the remaining  
38 optional cost, which includes Patty's requested funding  
39 increase, the regional education outreach, the harvest  
40 survey revision and the ADF&G cooperative agreement and  
41 the regional harvest survey.

42  
43 MR. PEDERSON: Question.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Okay. The amended  
46 motion.....

47  
48 MR. VINCENT-LANG: The motion on the  
49 table is to not fund Terry's position, use that  
50 \$75,000, not fund the ANSEP position and then use

1 remaining regional tribal grant -- revision of tribal  
2 grants to get us to \$800,000 and that will be one  
3 motion to get us to \$800,000, then we'll take a second  
4 motion to prioritize the remaining.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Okay. Any further  
7 discussion on the original motion.

8  
9 (No comments)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Okay. The question  
12 has been called. All in favor say aye.

13  
14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: All opposed.

17  
18 (No opposing votes)

19  
20 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Motion carried.  
21 Doug.

22  
23 MR. WOODS: This confuses me on this  
24 vote deal. Thank you for your input, but I'm a little  
25 bit confused.

26  
27 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair, if I may. I  
28 think in this situation we're not voting on regulatory  
29 action. We're working as a council, AMBCC, so I think  
30 it would be appropriate to hear from not only the  
31 regional members, but the three as well.

32  
33 MR. WOODS: Thank you for that  
34 clarification. It makes perfect sense to me.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Doug.

37  
38 MR. VINCENT-LANG: So now we're down to  
39 prioritizing the five projects; Patty's requested  
40 funding increase, regional education outreach, harvest  
41 survey revision, ADF&G cooperative agreement and  
42 regional harvest survey Y-K Delta. I'm going to throw  
43 out, number one, would be Patty's requested funding  
44 increase, number two, ADF&G cooperative agreement. The  
45 reason I say that is I think it's incredibly necessary  
46 to have that harvest information to inform our  
47 regulation development. Number three, regional harvest  
48 survey Y-K Delta, then the \$75,000 for the harvest  
49 survey revision and then the regional education  
50 outreach for \$2,200.

1 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Is there a second to  
2 the motion.

3  
4 MR. VINCENT-LANG: And the priority  
5 would be, starting with number one and working down.

6  
7 MR. WOODS: I got them. Thank you. I  
8 would second that motion with the 92 for Patty, number  
9 one. Number two, ADF&G cooperative agreement, number  
10 three would be harvest survey Y-K Delta, number four  
11 would be a fourth priority for revision and the last  
12 would be the education outreach. For discussion  
13 purposes, I second that motion.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Okay. There's been a  
16 motion and a second. Is there any further discussion  
17 on the motion. Pete.

18  
19 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
20 appreciate the priority. Just so everybody is aware on  
21 how the budget game is played. These will be taken  
22 into consideration and we may, as the Service, elect to  
23 meet in part maybe the top four of those  
24 recommendations, particularly since the group has  
25 already made a decision to launch on the harvest  
26 revision survey and we've got information that the 100K  
27 may not be sufficient for your one, so that puts me in  
28 a situation where I have to look at meeting AMBCC and  
29 the Service's request to get the harvest revisions  
30 study completed, so that puts me in a place where I  
31 have to look at how best to put a proposal in the  
32 street that will meet that.

33  
34 So just to let you know where we're at.

35  
36 Mr. Chair.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Thank you, Pete. Any  
39 further discussion on the motion.

40  
41 Rick.

42  
43 MR. ROWLAND: The discussion previously  
44 in the Native Caucus was talking about requesting  
45 additional financial assistance for meeting the needs  
46 of the committees. So in this budget formation where  
47 is that going to be covered at?

48  
49 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair and Rick. To  
50 date, the grants have adequately met all regional

1 meeting costs and we have not received any request for  
2 additional funding. What I need from your group, from  
3 Frank's or Tim's, if they do see additional costs, I  
4 need a letter written to me and if it's well within the  
5 fiscal year, hopefully I have some leverage. I have a  
6 much larger budget than just this where I could help  
7 offset those costs. Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Thank you, Pete.

10

11 Frank.

12

13 MR. WOODS: Responding to that.  
14 There's a deadline. We talked about this in the Budget  
15 Committee and we heard your request. I think that  
16 maybe July, before the end of July. How many days  
17 before you have to do a budget revision before the end  
18 of the year? Just to clarify. When we get to that  
19 point, I think it would be a good idea to continue that  
20 discussion before July.

21

22 MS. DEWHURST: Modifications on the  
23 grants have to be done -- well, this year the deadline  
24 was like July 3rd, was the last date I could do a  
25 modification on a grant.

26

27 MR. PROBASCO: But, Frank, I think  
28 you've got a lot of room, this being September. Patty,  
29 I and Donna making a commitment to be a little more --  
30 not a little more, a lot more out front identifying  
31 committee meetings so that we could let each regional  
32 council be aware.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Any more discussion  
35 on the motion. Rick.

36

37 MR. ROWLAND: And then the final  
38 question was, under these -- well, I guess the harvest  
39 survey revision, but we did -- maybe it fit under  
40 harvest survey revision, but my question was about  
41 revisiting the Goose Management Plan at the AMBCC level  
42 to where we could take a closer look at it and whether  
43 or not funding was needed for that.

44

45 MR. PROBASCO: I would say just like  
46 September, if the group and Dan decides, I think he's  
47 identified potentially January as a meeting. I don't  
48 think a course of action has been clearly set out what  
49 you're going to do with the Emperor Goose Plan yet, but  
50 we would be ready to address those meeting needs. Dan.

1 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Doug.

2

3 MR. ROSENBERG: No, I just wanted to  
4 clarify if that's what you were talking about, the  
5 Emperor Goose Management Plan. Okay.

6

7 MR. VINCENT-LANG: And for my first  
8 time in this chair I heard Emperor Goose is a major  
9 issue. It's an issue that I think, Dan, through his  
10 Flyway Council and seat on the Technical Committee, can  
11 make progress on, so I commit that we will work some  
12 progress on that management plan through that process.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Any further  
15 discussion on the motion. Frank.

16

17 MR. WOODS: For future budgets, in  
18 light of cooperative understanding and collaboration, I  
19 guess, you know, the State does a wonderful job of  
20 compiling all the data and information and then they  
21 get fully funded under that and the State's burden is  
22 supplying Liliana and her department all that  
23 collection. That's a pretty valid and important  
24 process.

25

26 In this revision process, I asked Jim  
27 why isn't the State looking at not only applying and  
28 taking over having a plan to maybe have a little more  
29 cooperative system because they have a full data  
30 collection. I read their mission statement this  
31 morning. In light of that, whose decision is it? Do  
32 we have to sit down at the Director's office, your  
33 office, to work out a State survey process that would  
34 be compatible with the Federal system or does Jim Fall  
35 have to put in a direct request for the grant that  
36 you're issuing out or I'm thinking -- and then how is  
37 that process on our level looking?

38

39 I know Federal systems have a way of  
40 issuing them programs and data collection into like a  
41 bid process. And Rick's question yesterday, on the  
42 outside looking in, it looks like the State is getting  
43 a free ride, just to be frank, on processing and data  
44 collection, but they've already been doing it for so  
45 long, they're good at it, why hasn't the State taken  
46 that responsibility on for this agency and this group  
47 in the Federal system?

48

49 It would seem like a more user friendly  
50 management tool to have it -- in my eyes, I guess, say



1 like for a -- I'm just trying to put it in perspective  
2 of how to address it without having everybody feel  
3 uncomfortable about having what we talked about earlier  
4 as the State going for a free ride. They were already  
5 engaged in this process and it was done before I got  
6 here and it works out really well, but the system in  
7 place isn't -- you know, it's kind of cumbersome.

8  
9                   The Feds come up with a survey process  
10 and I take that on as regional and then I cooperatively  
11 work with ADF&G in that process and then I have to turn  
12 that information over to the State and they disseminate  
13 it on a State level and then they pass it out to  
14 regional bodies, whatever it may be at this board to  
15 utilize that data.

16  
17                   MR. VINCENT-LANG: Well, first of all,  
18 I don't think.....

19  
20                   CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Excuse me. This  
21 discussion is starting to skirt outside the motion.  
22 The motion was to prioritize the priorities that we  
23 have outlined one, two, three, four, five. If you can  
24 hold your discussion around that, that would make the  
25 process move a lot faster.

26  
27                   Thank you.

28                   Any further discussion.

29  
30                   (No comments)

31  
32                   MR. PEDERSON: Question.

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN ANDREW: The question has been  
35 called on the motion. All in favor say aye.

36  
37                   IN UNISON: Aye.

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN ANDREW: All opposed.

40  
41                   (No opposing votes)

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Motion carries.

44  
45                   MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. I think we  
46 discussed with all the questions and the grants for  
47 2014, Donna said that she looked at those grants where  
48 their money was spent or there was additional needs and  
49 we boost that up and that's reflected in the budget  
50

1 that was presented, so I don't think we need to say any  
2 more about grants unless you have something, Donna.  
3 Okay. That's it, Mr. Chair, for our report.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Okay. Thank you very  
6 much. We talk about money and we really went through  
7 that process fairly fast.

8  
9 Pete.

10  
11 MR. PROBASCO: Your last statement, I  
12 think the key why it went so fast was the work of the  
13 Budget Subcommittee. I mean there was a lot of --  
14 there was some hard questions asked. Both Frank and  
15 Mike and Rick were on their game, so we had a good  
16 discussion on the budget and I think it's reflective on  
17 how we went through this. Mr. Chair.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Great. Thank you  
20 very much Budget Committee. We will go on with the  
21 agenda. Number 12, invitation for public comments. If  
22 there is anyone that would like to provide public  
23 comment.

24  
25 (No comments)

26  
27 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Okay. In the absence  
28 of any hands going up. Committee appointments and  
29 assignments.

30  
31 MR. PEDERSON: Mr. Chair. I make a  
32 recommendation that we remove the Maniilaq rep from any  
33 committees that he's listed on. Under the Budget  
34 Committee I don't see Rick's name there, but he  
35 participated in the meeting, so we probably need to add  
36 you there. On the Harvest Survey Committee, I'm under  
37 the understanding that Joe Asuluk is going to be  
38 retiring, does anyone know? But those would be my  
39 recommendation.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: On Mr. Asuluk, I  
42 haven't heard. He is a person from our region. I  
43 don't know if he's retiring or not.

44  
45 MR. PEDERSON: Yeah, it was mentioned  
46 at our Harvest Survey Committee meeting that he's  
47 probably going to be retiring.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Okay. The motion has  
50 been made to make the changes as requested to remove

1 the Maniilaq representative from where he is appointed  
2 and add Rick, but I think that was already done. And  
3 to remove Joe Asuluk from the Harvest Survey Committee.  
4 Is there a second.

5  
6 MR. WOODS: Before I second that, I'd  
7 like to ask Maniilaq about appointing another  
8 representative to that committee if they wish. We're  
9 eliminating one, but we're replacing -- I think the  
10 process would be replacing that position, right?

11  
12 MR. PEDERSON: Donna had mentioned at  
13 our meeting that she's had trouble working with them  
14 and they're going through changes right now and  
15 Maniilaq has eliminated the natural resources program  
16 from their office, so it might be a while if what you  
17 just asked happens.

18  
19 MR. WOODS: In light of, I guess,  
20 having representation just for this committee.

21  
22 MR. PEDERSON: We could put it as a  
23 placeholder. Just put Maniilaq as a placeholder.

24  
25 MR. WOODS: I would second that motion  
26 if we keep the position open until filled. Not that we  
27 remove it because we never know what would happen in  
28 the next -- they might have another election and they  
29 might reinstate.....

30  
31 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: If there is no second  
32 to the motion, it is going to die. Is there a second  
33 to the motion.

34  
35 MR. ROWLAND: Second.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Okay. The motion has  
38 been made and seconded. Pete.

39  
40 MR. PROBASCO: I think Frank and Mike,  
41 where you were going there at the end there is where  
42 you want to land. I think addressing the current  
43 representative, Enoch, is appropriate, but I think  
44 you'd want to maintain Maniilaq's organization until we  
45 hear officially from them how to proceed.

46  
47 Mr. Chair.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Thank you, Pete.

50

1 Any further discussion on the motion.  
2  
3 MR. WOODS: So maybe clarification from  
4 the maker. Mike, you agree to take his name off but  
5 leave the position vacant?  
6  
7 MR. PEDERSON: Yeah.  
8  
9 MR. WOODS: Thank you.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Any further  
12 discussion.  
13  
14 (No comments)  
15  
16 MR. ROWLAND: Call for the question.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: The question has been  
19 called. All in favor of the motion signify by saying  
20 aye.  
21  
22 IN UNISON: Aye.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: All opposed.  
25  
26 (No opposing votes)  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Motion carries. Now  
29 we're at the point of council and staff comments.  
30 We'll start with the person -- that will be Frank,  
31 Frank.  
32  
33 MR. WOODS: The whole meeting or just  
34 this part of it, Mr. Chair.  
35  
36 (Laughter)  
37  
38 MR. PROBASCO: I'd like to hear what  
39 you did not say.  
40  
41 MR. WOODS: Okay. Then I'll shut up  
42 because I probably said too much. Everything I say is  
43 not to offend anybody, I'm just here to clear the air  
44 to make you more efficient. I see this process working  
45 really well and it is working really well for the last  
46 year and a half, two years, since Patty got on board  
47 and clarified a whole bunch of stuff.  
48  
49 Communication is real important. As  
50 many committee meetings that she's in charge of, let

1 alone this meeting and an annual information and  
2 dissemination of all that stuff, each representative is  
3 well informed when they get here. Also, they're well  
4 informed when they leave here.

5  
6                   When we go through this process, it's  
7 real important to -- my point is to bring this home.  
8 When I get done here, I'll have enough information to  
9 pass on and thanks to Patty's office and her staff  
10 basically I get a real good summary, you know, of each  
11 committee. All the minutes are in order. Everything  
12 that we do on action items are clear. When I bring  
13 that home to my body, it makes it a lot more efficient.

14  
15

16                   I'd like to thank everybody who  
17 listened to me and I'll shut up for now.

18

19                   CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Thank you, Frank.

20

21                   We'll go to Joel.

22

23                   MR. SACCHEUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
24 This meeting was very interesting and to meet different  
25 people from other areas. I try to bring some of this  
26 information to the meeting next month, but we're going  
27 to do it in teleconference.

28

29                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30

31                   CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Thank you, Joel.

32

33                   Pete.

34

35                   MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. I do want to  
36 echo Frank and not only do I want to recognize Patty, I  
37 also want to recognize Jay. Those people, along with  
38 Donna, do a lot of heavy lifting for this meeting and  
39 I'm very appreciative of that. I'm glad to see you  
40 back, Doug, working side by side with you and I hope  
41 you continue, but I know you've got a lot.....

42

43                   MR. VINCENT-LANG: Speak to the big G.

44

45                   (Laughter)

46

47                   MR. PROBASCO: .....but I know you've  
48 got a lot on your plate. Tim, it's good to see you as  
49 Chair.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: We'll skip over me  
4 and go to Doug.

5

6 MR. VINCENT-LANG: My first meeting, I  
7 survived. I actually learned a lot and I thank you for  
8 letting me attend and listen in and I look forward to  
9 the spring meeting where we actually make some  
10 regulatory revisions.

11

12 One thing that became clear to me is  
13 the necessity of good data to make decisions and I was  
14 impressed with the Fish and Wildlife Service's report  
15 on -- I know I asked a lot of questions, but the report  
16 on the population numbers and I'm impressed with the  
17 work that's being conducted to give us good  
18 information.

19

20 I know flying 150 feet above the  
21 ground, while it might be disturbing to wildlife, it's  
22 not the safest thing to do in the world under any  
23 conditions, so you've got my appreciation for the work  
24 you do out in the field and certainly on the harvest  
25 survey information. Working out in the communities is  
26 a challenge. I understand that. There's cultural  
27 differences, there's language barriers and a whole  
28 variety of other things, but we're getting the  
29 information, which is good.

30

31 Although there's challenges in the  
32 enforcement world and a variety of other things, I  
33 certainly appreciate the fact that, again, we have good  
34 harvest information upon which to make recommendations.  
35 I think as long as we move forward with a firm  
36 foundation based in good data, both on the population  
37 side and the harvest side, we'll be well situated to  
38 make good informed decisions and recommendations as we  
39 move forward.

40

41 Thank you and I look forward to  
42 participating.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Thank you, Doug.  
45 Patty. Okay, we'll come back to you.

46

47 Rick.

48

49 MR. ROWLAND: Thank you. I appreciated  
50 being able to come and meet with all of you.

1 Representing the individuals on Kodiak Island that  
2 participate in the migratory bird hunt, some of the  
3 things that they talked about on the island were  
4 reducing the competition from the sports hunters,  
5 creating ways to motivate the youth to hunt more,  
6 finding ways to increase the duck populations so that  
7 there could be more food available for customary and  
8 traditional uses.

9

10                               Coming to these meetings, it allowed me  
11 to gain information about the harvest and the  
12 population and learn that a lot of monitoring is going  
13 on and there should be more proactive management. I  
14 was happy to hear that 85 percent of the birds taken in  
15 Alaska are subsistence, but in relation to worldwide  
16 population of the birds biomass, in the mind of the  
17 Native who lives out on an island in the North Pacific,  
18 it seems like we have to bear the burden of not being  
19 able to hunt for food for the table for some reason.

20

21                               So it's important that the concerns of  
22 the people in the communities are heard so that they  
23 could be able to continue to live their customary and  
24 traditional lifestyle. It is very important to them  
25 and that's what they asked me to mention when I come  
26 and participate in these meetings. This dialogue is  
27 important for their information to come forward and as  
28 well as taking the information back. They were pleased  
29 to hear about the possibility of having migratory bird  
30 feathers used for handicraft items and they look  
31 forward to being able to in some way figure out the  
32 Emperor Geese issue on Kodiak Island.

33

34                               Thank you.

35

36                               CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Thank you, Rick.

37

38                               Patty.

39

40                               MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr.  
41 Chairman. I'm obviously very grateful for the  
42 opportunity to work for AMBCC. I've been learning a  
43 lot in this position and I'm actually enjoying it,  
44 which is scary, but I also appreciate everyone's  
45 support and especially the Native Caucus and the AMBCC  
46 as a whole and the support of the Chugach Regional  
47 Resources Commission in taking upon the role of the  
48 executive directorship.

49

50                               I want to take a short minute to

1 recognize Dale Rabe, who has been on the council for I  
2 don't know how many years, but he's been a great person  
3 to work with. He's a good leader and I called upon him  
4 personally for advice on council issues and PFC issues,  
5 so I'm going to miss him. If Doug is the new person,  
6 welcome. If he's not, I look forward to working with  
7 the next State representative.

8  
9 I also wanted to recognize the  
10 technical people that we work with. Jay and I can't do  
11 our job if we aren't able to call on people like Eric  
12 and Liliana and Dan and I'd be remiss not to mention  
13 Donna, of course, because she's got the institutional  
14 memory of this organization and I really do rely on her  
15 a lot for her guidance and expertise. I'm just real  
16 grateful to be able to work in this arena of  
17 professional people, especially with this council.

18  
19 Please, if any of you need anything, if  
20 you want me to attend any of your meetings, I'd be more  
21 than happy to work as hard as I can to schedule that in  
22 given our budget and time constraints.

23  
24 Thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Thank you, Patty.

27  
28 Dan.

29  
30 MR. ROSENBERG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
31 First of all, I just want to say it's always a pleasure  
32 to work with this group and I really appreciate  
33 everybody's input and it's just a group that I enjoy  
34 interacting with and hearing different perspectives and  
35 trying to work towards getting to yes.

36  
37 I also want to reiterate what Frank  
38 said from the regional perspective and Pete said from  
39 the Federal perspective and I want to reiterate it from  
40 the State perspective of how valuable Patty has been to  
41 this whole process. I think when Bill Ostrand left  
42 there was a real vacuum, a real void that needed to be  
43 filled and it's been more than Donna could possibly  
44 handle over the years. Since Patty has taken on the  
45 role of Executive Director, she has really picked up  
46 the ball and gotten a lot of committee work moving and  
47 not only moving, but following through with it and  
48 brought it to fruition often enough.

49  
50 So I think it's made a tremendous



1 difference to this whole organization. As someone  
2 that's on a lot of committees, I just can't tell you  
3 how much Patty has contributed to this whole process  
4 and it's really making it work the way I think it was  
5 intended to work. So it is money very well spent. Jay  
6 also has stepped in and is helping Patty in a lot of  
7 very big ways and his contributions have also been  
8 really important to making these committees work.

9

10 So thank you very much.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Thank you, Dan.

13

14 Julian.

15

16 MR. FISCHER: I'd just like to say  
17 thank you to all of you for being patient with the long  
18 presentation and my absence of answers to the wide  
19 variety of questions that many of you posed. It's the  
20 questions that allow the communication between  
21 individuals and I really appreciate that because it  
22 shows interest. Everyone on this council is very  
23 passionate about this issue and that shows in the  
24 questions and the comments. So I'm happy to  
25 participate in this this week and I thank you for your  
26 patience.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Thank you, Julian.  
29 How about the Native partners staff. Anybody would  
30 like to make any comments.

31

32 Donna.

33

34 MS. DEWHURST: Since I keep getting  
35 referred to as the institutional memory of the  
36 organization, it isn't making me feel any younger. But  
37 we have moved. I've seen a huge progress in the past  
38 three or four years. There was a lot of concern, as  
39 many of you remember, when Fred was the Executive  
40 Director and there was concern he was in the Federal  
41 shop and that the Federal shop was getting bigger and  
42 it wasn't co-management.

43

44 But you look at the way things have  
45 turned out and with giving extra money to Patty to have  
46 Jay on full time, fully funding Lili and the whole  
47 subsistence shop and that also includes Dan even though  
48 he's not in subsistence, but having the State's side of  
49 it and then having us, I feel like we're finally  
50 getting to co-management. It's going in the right

1 direction. It's taken a few years, but it seems like  
2 it's worth a shot.

3  
4 I felt like this meeting was one of the  
5 more positive, proactive meetings I've sat through in a  
6 few years. We've had quite a few negative meetings, as  
7 many of you remember, and this seemed to be a very  
8 proactive meeting and that was nice. So I thank  
9 everybody for their patience. I think we're going in  
10 the right direction now and I think it has some  
11 promise. So we'll just have to see where it goes if  
12 they don't pull the money out from under us. As long  
13 as we can keep some money going and keep it working, I  
14 think we'll keep working together and tackle the  
15 problems.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Thank you, Donna.  
18 Any other Staff members that would like to provide  
19 comments.

20  
21 (No comments)

22  
23 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Seeing none, that  
24 leaves it to the Chair to comment. It's been a great  
25 pleasure to Chair the AMBCC. I've never served in this  
26 capacity for this body. I've served as Chair in  
27 several other organizations. I've been involved with  
28 this process since the passage of the Migratory Bird  
29 Treaty Protocol Amendment. There's something special  
30 in the air, MarkAir's old business motto. There is  
31 definitely something special in the air.

32  
33 MR. VINCENT-LANG: That's institutional  
34 memory.

35  
36 (Laughter)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Yeah. The meetings,  
39 the way they're going, the committee meetings, they're  
40 going into place. The travels out to the regional  
41 management body meetings and to other meetings that  
42 we're holding within the regions, you know, this  
43 transfer from the Federal shop to where Patty is today  
44 has definitely seen its fruits really come out.

45  
46 The State partners, the Federal  
47 partners, the willingness to work together for a common  
48 goal to conserve and perpetuate our very precious  
49 resource that we hold for our users, people that we  
50 represent in general and it's definitely moving at a

1 positive pace and I commend all the people that work  
2 very hard through the committees and on this council.  
3 We come from a pretty broad area across the state. I  
4 think somebody made a comment about even if we divided  
5 Alaska in two, Texas would still be the third largest  
6 state. A big area.

7  
8 But definitely it's been a pleasure to  
9 Chair this wonderful group. It comes to the point,  
10 number 15, where I shall no longer be the Chair and  
11 transfer the gavel to the incoming chair.

12  
13 Doug.

14  
15 MR. VINCENT-LANG: Thank you. Good  
16 job.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN ANDREW: Thank you very much.

19  
20 (Applause)

21  
22 MR. ANDREW: So you have two parts of  
23 the agenda you need to complete.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Should we go to  
26 adjournment first?

27  
28 MR. ANDREW: No, Mr. Chair, I have to  
29 make a motion actually.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay.

32  
33 MR. ANDREW: I make a motion to add 10  
34 additional agenda items to work on. I'm just kidding.

35  
36 (Laughter)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Denied. Date  
39 and place of next meeting. Patty.

40  
41 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: In your  
42 packets I believe under Tab 8 are the -- or maybe not  
43 8. Jay, where are they? Seven maybe.

44  
45 MR. STEVENS: Seven.

46  
47 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Seven are the  
48 calendars. I wasn't sure, you know, with the Federal  
49 process of going to one meeting I kind of put a variety  
50 of calendars in, but there's March and April and if we

1 want to go to May, I guess we'll need to pull out our  
2 iPhones and look at that. We met in April last year,  
3 so I think that would be appropriate for next spring  
4 meeting as well. So any suggestions we'll entertain.

5  
6 MR. PEDERSON: The last two weeks for  
7 us is pretty inconvenient, so if it can be in the first  
8 two weeks, I'd appreciate that. Me and Taqulik would  
9 appreciate that.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Dan, when do we  
12 need to have these into the Federal government or Pete?  
13 What's our timeline constraints here?

14  
15 MR. ROSENBERG: I've got the date here.  
16 I can look it up, but I think it's in June and Donna  
17 knows better than I. It just seems sometimes when we  
18 get proposals, like we had the Eyak proposal this year  
19 and we had to do some work on it to finalize it, so we  
20 need a little bit of time between the June, whatever,  
21 mid June deadline and when we have this meeting.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: So I'm hearing  
24 the first two weeks of April? Pete, go ahead.

25  
26 MR. PROBASCO: I was going to suggest,  
27 hearing Mike's recommendation, the 8th, 9th and 10th.

28  
29 MR. WOODS: Seconded.

30  
31 MR. ANDREW: Call for the question.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: And we have a  
34 second?

35  
36 MR. WOODS: Yes.

37  
38 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, Frank's.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Any other  
41 discussion.

42  
43 MR. ANDREW: Question.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Call for the  
46 question. All in favor.

47  
48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: All right. We

1 have a place -- we have a date. Now we need a place.  
2 Go ahead.

3

4 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: I appreciate  
5 the use of the Gordon Watson Conference Room. First of  
6 all it's free and it's convenient for us from where our  
7 office is, but I've gotten a few complaints from  
8 meeting participants that they can't get on the  
9 internet here, so I don't know if the group wants to  
10 entertain an alternative location that we can research  
11 or if that's a minor issue, we'll continue to meet  
12 here.

13

14 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Pete.

15

16 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. If this does  
17 provide those kind of problems, we do have other  
18 agencies. I think we're far enough out that we could  
19 investigate those that would probably not cost us  
20 anything. No guarantees, but if you give Donna and I  
21 and we'll work with Jay sometime, we could come back  
22 with a recommended location where internet works.

23

24 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. So we'll  
25 leave the location to be determined yet.

26

27 MR. PROBASCO: But I'm assuming  
28 Anchorage, correct?

29

30 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Yes. Okay.  
31 Any other business? Other than I want everybody to  
32 know that the official colors of the AMBCC now are  
33 green and gold for the next year.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: They can turn  
38 to be something else after this year is done, but for  
39 the next year we'll be flying green and gold colors.  
40 With that, I'll take a motion for adjournment.

41

42 MR. PROBASCO: So moved. Oh, wait,  
43 real quick. Patty, do we have to do fall meeting time,  
44 October, or not?

45

46 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: No. We  
47 normally set the fall meeting date at the spring  
48 meeting.

49

50 MR. PROBASCO: Okay. Jay is in front

1 of us here. He had October in the book.

2

3 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: I told him to  
4 put it in there because we may be discussing the change  
5 of the meeting, which won't happen until 2015.

6

7 MR. WOODS: State issued uniforms.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. Any  
12 other business.

13

14 MR. PROBASCO: Move to adjourn.

15

16 MR. ANDREW: Second.

17

18 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Anybody

19 opposed.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Hearing none,  
24 the meeting is adjourned.

25

26 (Off record)

27

28 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)  
) ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

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

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DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 15th day of October 2013.

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Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires:9/16/2014