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VOLUME II

ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SPRING MEETING

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

APRIL 11, 2014

Members Present:

- Doug Vincent-Lang, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Pete Probasco, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Peter Devine, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association
- Jack Fagerstrom, Kawerak
- Cyrus Harris, Maniilaq Association, Kotzebue
- Taqulik Hepa, North Slope Region, Barrow
- Joeneal Hicks, Copper River Native Association
- Gayla Hoseth, Bristol Bay Native Association
- Randy Mayo, Tanana Chiefs representative, Interior
- Myron Naneng, Association of Village Presidents
- George Squartsoff, Kodiak
- Jim Ujioka, Chugach Regional Resources Commission

Executive Director, Patty Brown-Schwalenberg

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

2  
3 (Anchorage, Alaska - 4/11/2014)

4  
5 (On record)

6  
7 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: We're going to get  
8 started. Tim, do you want to come join us. I think we  
9 can proceed without Myron here because we're going to  
10 hear some staff reports rather than any decisions at  
11 this point in time or action items. I think the first  
12 thing we're going to hear is Ron Anglin. He's on the  
13 Flyway Council and he's got some reports he's going to  
14 provide on the new schedule for the SRC and I'm not  
15 sure what else. Ron.

16  
17 MR. ANGLIN: Thank you, Doug, and  
18 members of the AMBCC. It's good to see you all again.  
19 I am Ron Anglin, Wildlife Division Administrator with  
20 the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the  
21 representative to the Pacific Flyway Council and the  
22 Council's liaison up here to the AMBCC. I'm currently  
23 the chair of the National Flyway Council.

24  
25 The main thing that I did want to touch  
26 on with you today is the Service is in the process of  
27 developing changes to the regulation cycle for how they  
28 set waterfowl seasons. That affects the AMBCC as well  
29 as all four of the flyway councils. We are in the  
30 process right now. We had some draft proposals from  
31 the Service on the new timing. Right now, as you're  
32 aware, they have a mid-winter meeting. Usually occurs  
33 late January, early February. Then they have their  
34 June meeting where they hear early regulations, and  
35 then they have their summer meeting in July.

36  
37 What the service is going to be doing  
38 is moving to two meetings and that's where the whole  
39 discussion is currently taking place on when those two  
40 meetings will be held. So they will only have one  
41 where they actually set the regulations and that will  
42 be sometime in the spring of each year. They're  
43 looking to implement this starting with the 2016  
44 seasons. So we're working with them on when those  
45 meetings would occur.

46  
47 The National Flyway Council, and like I  
48 said I'm currently the chair of that, we're taking the  
49 lead on working with the four flyway councils and we've  
50 also reached out to Patty as the executive director of

1 the AMBCC to have her participate in that because  
2 obviously we want to be sensitive to the timing of when  
3 your proposals need to be submitted and your meeting  
4 schedule and how that all plugs together.

5  
6 So we're early in that process. The  
7 NFC has had one conference call at this point in time  
8 and we've got another one coming up fairly soon and I  
9 don't think, Patty, I got you the date on that one.  
10 We're talking through from the flyways, the timing  
11 concerns, and when meetings need to occur from a flyway  
12 standpoint and how we need to plug that into our state  
13 processes and then we'll be making recommendations back  
14 to the Service on what we feel would be, from a flyway  
15 standpoint and the AMBCC standpoint, a workable  
16 solution to or alternatives to what they've already put  
17 out.

18  
19 So our goal is to have everything in  
20 place for the 2016 seasons, which is what the Services  
21 said they want to implement and we probably will need  
22 to have those recommendations pretty much identified  
23 and worked out between the Councils and the Service and  
24 the AMBCC sometime this year for implementation  
25 starting in 2015. So it does affect you and the timing  
26 of your meetings and we've wanted to make sure Patty is  
27 involved in that so she can make sure that your  
28 interests are being watched out for and your needs are  
29 being met.

30  
31 So, outside of that, from a Council  
32 standpoint, we've been very involved with Myron's group  
33 and the Village Council Presidents on Cacklers and to  
34 some extent Duskie. The WCC and the Village Council  
35 Presidents were actually down in Oregon here not too  
36 long ago and had a good meeting down there. Met with  
37 them and had an opportunity to see some of the geese  
38 that you hunt up here for subsistence needs down there  
39 on the Oregon side and how they act and interact with  
40 the farmers. We continue to work on items of mutual  
41 interest for both the WCC and Fish and Wildlife Service  
42 and the State of Oregon and our constituents.

43  
44 Outside of that, I apologize for not  
45 being here yesterday. I got a little screwed up on my  
46 schedule, but I am here today and happy to answer any  
47 questions and look forward to continuing our working  
48 relationship.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thanks, Ron.

1 Questions or comments. Myron.

2

3 MR. NANENG: Good morning, Ron. Did  
4 you bring any birds?

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. ANGLIN: You know, Myron, I was  
9 kind of trying to herd them up and shoe them out on the  
10 way, but I don't think I was very successful.

11

12 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Other comments.  
13 Taqulik.

14

15 MS. HEPA: So with that change of the  
16 schedule, Patty, what do you envision for funds  
17 available, our meetings? When would be the purposed  
18 new deadlines or have you even thought of that?

19

20 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Actually we  
21 have and I don't know  
22 if we have included the Jerome Ford letter in the  
23 packet and we can make copies of that available, but  
24 depending on when the SRC decides to have their  
25 regulatory setting meeting, right now it's July, so  
26 what we requested was for them to -- May would work for  
27 us or late April because then we would still be able to  
28 vet the proposals through the winter months when people  
29 are pretty much available.

30

31 If it gets moved any earlier than that,  
32 say February or March, we would have to have what we  
33 usually call our fall meeting like in May and June. We  
34 would have to have the proposal submission period in  
35 July and August because, as you know, everyone is out  
36 and about in the summertime doing their subsistence  
37 activities, so that would pose a problem for us. And  
38 then we would be vetting the proposals in the  
39 communities September, October and November and then we  
40 would have to have our quote/unquote spring meeting in  
41 December.

42

43 So depending on what SRC decides we  
44 will have to have some further discussions on how we  
45 and the AMBCC are going to participate in their  
46 process.

47

48 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: So, in other  
49 words, we prefer the previous one rather than re-  
50 definition of a spring meeting to a winter meeting.

1 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Yes. And in  
2 our literature Jerome Ford stated that our preference  
3 was like April or May. Thank you.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Sonny.

6  
7 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yes. I recommend we  
8 should have the meetings during AFN so you can invite  
9 some youths and elders to listen in and see what's  
10 happening.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: The AMBCC  
13 meeting?

14  
15 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. So there will  
16 be more people here so they can see what's happening to  
17 their future and the elders know what's going on.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Other comments.  
20 Myron.

21  
22 MR. NANENG: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
23 Chair, and thank you, Ron, for your report. As you  
24 know, the Waterfowl Conservation Committee has made at  
25 least four or five trips down to Oregon so far to try  
26 and be educated on the impacts of farmlands and this  
27 year I think for many of our people and for some of our  
28 delegations that went down also made comments that  
29 Cackling Canada Geese not only has an impact on  
30 farmlands during the wintertime but they do have an  
31 impact on many of our berry picking grounds out in the  
32 Y-K Delta with their numbers.

33  
34 So we're impacted too with our  
35 opportunities to pick berries. Last fall I was out at  
36 Hooper Bay about the time that many of the birds were  
37 flying and I couldn't find a patch of blackberries that  
38 usually are growing all over the tundra. So birds do  
39 have an impact on some of our own natural gardens out  
40 in the back yards out on the tundra. So I just wanted  
41 to share that with everyone. Quyana.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Other comments.

44  
45 (No comments)

46  
47 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you, Ron.

48  
49 MR. ANGLIN: Thank you, Doug.

50

1 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Next we're  
2 going to invite Eric up to the table and he's going to  
3 give his -- oh, I'm sorry. Pete.

4  
5 MR. PROBASCO: Thanks, Doug. I don't  
6 think Patty is going  
7 to say anything, but I think all of the treats and  
8 sandwiches and coffee and pop have been brought to us  
9 by Patty through Patty's own personal fund, so if you  
10 get an opportunity and feel so inclined, please drop a  
11 few bucks in the cup back their please. Thank you.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Is anyone here  
14 from the public. I would like to provide an  
15 opportunity to comment to the AMBCC.

16  
17 (No comments)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. Eric,  
20 you can start.

21  
22 DR. TAYLOR: Good morning. I'm sorry  
23 that my back is to the audience. I'm Eric Taylor. I  
24 am with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the  
25 Division of Migratory Bird Management here in Anchorage  
26 and I appreciate the opportunity. Many of you have  
27 seen this presentation before, but I believe for Jack  
28 and Cyrus and Sonny this will be some new information  
29 that I hope will be of interest and value to you as we  
30 continue our discussion of migratory bird harvest and  
31 the importance t subsistence users in Alaska.

32  
33 So I'm going to talk about the  
34 distribution, abundance and population trends of eight  
35 different species. Certainly as subsistence users you  
36 know there's a lot more numbers of species that you use  
37 in terms of your particular region, but for a matter of  
38 time I'll talk about what we have generally considered  
39 as some of the most important species; Pacific Black  
40 Brant, Pacific Greater White-fronted Geese, Mid-  
41 Continent Greater White-Fronted Geese and Cackling  
42 Canada Geese. The species that are closed right now to  
43 subsistence harvest including Emperor Geese, Spectacled  
44 and Steller's Eiders and Yellow-Billed Loons.

45  
46 I'm kind of the messenger today and the  
47 data that you will see are the results of a team of  
48 experts and some of the top-shelf people in the Fish  
49 and Wildlife Service. We have three pilot biologists;  
50 Heather Wilson, Anna Anderson and Brad Shults. I think

1 Heather and Brad -- I think you're here. Can you stand  
2 up. All right. Thank you. Then our biologist  
3 observers; Dennis Marks, Debbie Groves, Chris Dau.

4

5 A supervisor for Anchorage, Julian  
6 Fischer, has given this presentation in the past. We  
7 have a person that specializes in sea ducks, Scoters,  
8 Eiders, Goldeneyes, Mergansers in Alaska and he's  
9 actually part of an international team, Tim Bowman.  
10 Then folks that crunch the numbers that you will see  
11 today, the people that actually develop the population  
12 estimates, develop the maps and the trend lines, Bob  
13 Stehn and Bob Platte.

14

15 So these are the individuals that are  
16 actually behind the data. This is the team. And you  
17 are looking at greater than 150 years experience if you  
18 look at all these individuals. Debbie Groves from our  
19 Juneau office has about 30 years serving as a right  
20 seat observer primarily for the waterfowl breeding  
21 population and habitat survey. Chris Dau, many of you  
22 know, was a biologist out at the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta  
23 Refuge. At Izembek Refuge, Brad, who you just met, is  
24 a recent grade hire with our shop coming from the  
25 National Park Service with several decades worth of  
26 experience in doing surveys for the Park Service.

27

28 Heather and Dennis Marks, they're on  
29 the right-hand side. As I mentioned, Bob Platte and  
30 Bob Stehn, the two people on the left, are the folks  
31 that run the numbers through the analyses. Tim Bowman  
32 there with the sea duck joint venture. Julian Fischer,  
33 who you've heard before, is our supervisor. And Anna  
34 Anderson is a new pilot biologist coming from Wyoming.  
35 Anna has a broad breadth of experience and has about a  
36 decade's worth of experience of surveying wildlife in  
37 Africa. Again, a great hire for us.

38

39 The first species I want to talk about  
40 are are Pacific Black Brant. Brant nest primarily on  
41 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. We also have birds in the  
42 Seward Peninsula as well as the Arctic Coastal Plain.  
43 Birds winter primarily in Mexico, down here in Baja,  
44 Mexico, as well as the western coast of mainland  
45 Mexico, but we have birds that winter up and down the  
46 Pacific coast; California, Oregon and Washington, as  
47 well as British Columbia.

48

49 This is figure that you will see  
50 repeatedly, so I'll take a little bit of time to

1 explain it. The Y axis or the vertical axis here is  
2 the population estimate going from 20,000 to 180,000.  
3 This is the number of years we've done this survey. So  
4 in this case from 1960 to 2012. Each one of these  
5 bars, white bars, represents a population estimate of  
6 Brant.

7  
8 In this case, the population objective,  
9 what we would like to see this population at, that's  
10 been agreed upon by the plan that Myron was behind, the  
11 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan, as well as  
12 the Pacific Flyway Plan that Ron Anglin and Todd  
13 Sanders are represented, is 162,000.

14  
15 The dark line that goes up and down, as  
16 I mentioned, we manage birds on what's termed a three-  
17 year average. So each one of those dots represents the  
18 three previous years of that survey. So right now the  
19 three-year average is 161,000, just about the  
20 population objective. This kind of orange/yellowish  
21 color, which is kind of difficult to see, is the growth  
22 over the last ten years. Over the last ten years Brant  
23 had grown about 4 percent per year. However, if you  
24 look about the last 30 years from about 1985 to 2015,  
25 Brant have been relatively stable.

26  
27 Some of the key things that we're  
28 seeing with the Black Brant, which are a species of  
29 many interests from Peter at Izembek to Myron at the  
30 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, to Taqulik with Teshekpuk Lake  
31 molting area. Population objective 162,000. We're  
32 sitting right about at the population objective of  
33 161,000.  
34 In the last ten years the population has been growing,  
35 but if you look over the last 30 years, it's relatively  
36 stable.

37  
38 Something that Myron mentioned was that  
39 he has seen a decrease in the number of Brant at  
40 Tutakoke when he used to walk around he said and he  
41 cited yesterday, a boy with his father. What Myron has  
42 seen is actually what we are seeing in other colonies  
43 as well. We are seeing a decline in the historic  
44 colonies, all five colonies, on the Yukon-Kuskokwim  
45 Delta. This is something that Heather Wilson has headed  
46 up for the past decade.

47  
48 And we have seen a shift in that  
49 distribution, interesting enough, from these five  
50 historic colonies to other areas on the Y-K Delta as



1 well as the Arctic Coastal Plain. In fact, our most  
2 recent prediction is that the Yukon Delta no longer  
3 holds about 80 percent of the nesting Brant, but more  
4 likely about 60 percent of the nesting Brant now on the  
5 Y-K Delta. Other birds most likely on the Arctic  
6 Coastal Plain.

7  
8                   The other thing we've seen is a shift  
9 in distribution. These birds, as I mentioned, have in  
10 the past wintered in California, Oregon and primarily  
11 Mexico. For some reason they have decided they would  
12 rather winter in the harsh climate of Izembek and in  
13 the Alaska Peninsula. In fact, we had a record count  
14 last year of just about 42,000 Brant overwintered in  
15 Izembek National Wildlife Refuge instead of migrating  
16 down to Mexico. This is something that we have not  
17 been able to determine, what are the reasons why Brant  
18 are no longer migrating but now overwintering at  
19 Izembek, nor, more importantly, what effect it might  
20 have on eventual production and recruitment in the  
21 future of the population.

22  
23                   Also in Mexico more Brant are wintering  
24 north of Mexico in the northern parts than southern  
25 Mexico. And, as I said, we're seeing a greater  
26 proportion of Brant that live around the North Slope.

27  
28                   Greater White-Fronted Geese. This  
29 shows a map of the entire Great White-Fronted Goose  
30 from the west all the way out to the east. Let's talk  
31 about what's termed the Pacific population. These are  
32 the birds that nest on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.  
33 About 95 percent of the Pacific population nest on the  
34 Y-K Delta. They winter in the Sacramento and San  
35 Joaquin valleys of California. This population is  
36 measured by our Yukon Delta Coastal Zone Breeding  
37 Waterfowl Survey. So this is the survey. These are the  
38 lines that run from east to west that we do in June.  
39 That's our aerial survey. That's how we get a  
40 population estimate for this bird.

41  
42                   Again this is the same figure kind of  
43 that you have seen before with Brant. The estimated  
44 fall population. This is the three-year average. In  
45 this case, this is the population objective, which is  
46 300,000. Right now the population three-year average  
47 is 2.1 times the population objective. So we're  
48 sitting at 616,000 birds, when in this case we were  
49 hoping for 300,000 birds. So this particular species  
50 has done very well.

1 In fact, it's still growing at about 5  
2 percent per year if you look at this last ten-year  
3 line. You can see it declines within the first 20  
4 years. This is where the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose  
5 Management Plan was implemented in 1984, an agreement  
6 between the fall hunters in California, Washington and  
7 then with the subsistence hunters in Alaska. Once that  
8 plan was implemented and some other steps were  
9 incorporated or implemented, that population responded  
10 very positively.

11  
12 So again the population objective is at  
13 300,000. We're sitting at over twice that right now,  
14 616,000, and we're still growing at 5 percent per year.

15  
16  
17 The other portion of Greater White-  
18 Fronted Geese, the other population that occurs in  
19 Alaska, and this is the population that Taqulik will  
20 see as well as Randy sees in the Interior, as well as  
21 Cyrus sees. This is the Mid-Continent population of  
22 Greater White-Fronted Geese. They occur in the Boreal  
23 Forest as well as the Arctic Coastal Plain. We measure  
24 this population from the Arctic Coastal Plain Survey  
25 that we do in June, again from Point Lay on the western  
26 coast of Alaska all the way to Kaktovik. Those are our  
27 survey lines.

28  
29 Same response as you saw for the  
30 Pacific population for the Mid-Continent Greater White-  
31 Fronted Goose population for the Arctic Coastal Plain.  
32 Again we're seeing a positive growth rate. In this  
33 case, an actual growth rate of 10 percent per year.  
34 These birds, and I think Taqulik has reported this in  
35 the past of greater numbers of Mid-Continent Greater  
36 White-Fronted Geese on the Arctic Coastal Plain.  
37 Indeed what she's seen is what we're recording.

38  
39 We also have estimates for birds in the  
40 Interior. There's about another 30,000 birds that  
41 occur in Interior Alaska. So the three-year population  
42 index, 257,000, is growing at 10 percent per year.  
43 What we're finding for the Interior of the Northwest  
44 the Mid-Continent White-Fronted Geese are relatively  
45 stable in those regions, but on the Arctic Coastal  
46 Plain they're definitely growing.

47  
48 Relative to the North American fall  
49 population index, 700,000, and for that entire  
50 population, that's Canada and Alaska, it's 650,000. So

1 again, just like Pacific Greater White-Fronted Geese,  
2 these birds are over population objective.

3  
4 Cackling Canada Geese, something that  
5 Ron mentioned and as Myron mentioned, the Waterfowl  
6 Conservation Committee just met in Oregon to look at  
7 where these birds winter because of depredation on  
8 agricultural crops in there. Cackling Canada Geese,  
9 like Brant and Mid-Continent showed a decline kind of  
10 the first 20 years before the Y-K Delta Goose  
11 Management Plan was implemented and then it showed a  
12 positive response since about 1985. The population is  
13 about growing at 2 percent per year. The population  
14 objective is 250,000 right now. The best population  
15 estimate we have is 232,000.

16  
17 One study the Fish and Wildlife Service  
18 that Todd Sanders, who you met, is leading up is a  
19 mark-resight effort where we are marking birds on the  
20 Y-K Delta for the last three years and then they're  
21 being resighted on the wintering grounds for us to  
22 verify our aerial survey to make sure our aerial survey  
23 is an accurate assessment of this population.

24  
25 So here's a picture of where they occur  
26 on the wintering grounds. And as Ron had mentioned as  
27 well as Myron, 95 percent of the Cacklers winter in  
28 northwest Oregon. It's safe to say that the numbers of  
29 wildlife refuges that we have there provide  
30 insufficient winter habitat. So there's insufficient  
31 amount of public lands. The birds typically roost  
32 there. Will eat there as much as possible, but then  
33 they can recognize agricultural crops and the higher  
34 amount of nitrogen and greater digestibility of food,  
35 so they move over to agricultural crops and, therefore,  
36 causing some landowner complaints.

37  
38 So the history of this is about 10 or  
39 15 years ago these birds were wintering in California.  
40 For a couple of reasons they have moved north, much to  
41 the state of Oregon's dismay, and now winter primarily  
42 in Oregon with some birds in Washington as well. With  
43 Cackling Canada Geese, 250,000 is the population  
44 objective. We're about 232,000. As I mentioned, we're  
45 just finished up marking Cackling Canada Geese on the  
46 Y-K Delta and Todd is just about ready to provide the  
47 third population estimate for this year, so 2011, 2012  
48 and 2013. We'll use that estimate to compare with our  
49 aerial survey to validate or indeed correct that survey  
50 if necessary.

1                                 We're seeing about 2 percent per year.  
2 As I said, Cacklers have changed their wintering  
3 grounds from California to Oregon and, as I mentioned,  
4 Oregon Farm Bureau is very concerned. The Oregon  
5 farmers are very concerned. They would like to see the  
6 Pacific Flyway Management Plan changed to lower the  
7 population objective and decrease the population in  
8 order to provide farmers some relief from depredation  
9 of agricultural crops.

10  
11                                 Relative to what Cackling Canada Geese  
12 do on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta they play several  
13 important roles. Clearly they are the most important  
14 subsistence bird to coastal communities for subsistence  
15 hunters. Because of their abundance they provide prey  
16 to arctic fox and gulls. When you have a prey base  
17 like Cackling Canada Geese that don't defend very well,  
18 they reduce the predation pressure to other species  
19 like Brant, Emperor Geese and Spectacled Eiders.

20  
21                                 Finally, the people that have worked on  
22 the Y-K Delta for a long time believe that Cackling  
23 Canada Geese also create and maintain what's termed  
24 grazing lawns or brood habitat for Black Brant.

25  
26                                 All right. Emperor Geese. As everyone  
27 knows, the primary breeding areas are the Yukon-  
28 Kuskokwim Delta. About 90 percent of the birds nest  
29 there. We also have a few nests that are reported on  
30 the Seward Peninsula, St. Lawrence Island, as well as  
31 Russia. The wintering area there is shown; Aleutian  
32 Islands, Alaska Peninsula and Kodiak.

33  
34                                 The population index objective is  
35 150,000. So I think this was the plan that was written  
36 in 2006 that four members of the Migratory Bird Co-  
37 management Council were a part of as well as the State  
38 of Alaska and the Fish and Wildlife Service. It also  
39 mirrors the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan  
40 from 2004 to 2006. The population is monitored, as I  
41 mentioned, by our Spring Emperor Goose Survey.

42  
43                                 Relative to those two management plans  
44 that I just cited, hunting may be reconsidered when the  
45 three-year population index average is greater than or  
46 equal to 80,000. Right now our three-year average is  
47 about 69,000 birds and I'll show you the population  
48 response. So those are the two management plans. On  
49 the left, the Pacific Flyway Management Plan for  
50 Emperor Geese, and then the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose

1 Management Plan.

2

3

So this is the spring aerial survey.

4 So when those management plans were created in 2006 and  
5 1984, the spring aerial survey was determined as the  
6 best index to estimate the numbers of birds for this  
7 population. This is a better map here that shows you  
8 where it starts out. It starts up here on the north at  
9 Jack Smith Bay, goes along the coastline, goes out to  
10 Bechevin Bay here and then on the southern part of the  
11 Alaska Peninsula to Wide Bay.

12

13

Heather Wilson, who is here in the  
14 audience, will conduct a survey starting in about a  
15 week with Chris Dau, who you met yesterday.

16

17

So what have Emperor Geese done because  
18 clearly there is a lot of interest in trying to get  
19 this population to a level that can support a  
20 sustainable subsistence hunt. The population objective  
21 was set back in 2006 in the Goose Management Plan at  
22 150,000 based on our best estimate back in the 1960s.  
23 As I said, 80,000 is the potential. It is the three-  
24 year average that we have to hit to resume harvest.  
25 Closure is at 60,000, so if birds were below 60,000, we  
26 would close it. Right now it's closed. We have not  
27 hit this threshold. Right now it's about 69,000.

28

29

If you look at the 10-year growth rate  
30 for Emperor Geese, it's about 2 percent, but if you  
31 actually look at the statistics associated with that,  
32 the population is relatively stable if you look at the  
33 variances associated with that growth rate. So it's  
34 somewhere in between stable and slightly increasing.

35

36

So what do we know about Emperor Geese  
37 in summary. Population objective was set at 150,000.  
38 They've been closed to sport harvest in 1986 and to  
39 subsistence harvest in 1987. I think that's a concern  
40 raised by several of you on the AMBCC Council. It's  
41 been closed for a long period of time and we haven't  
42 been able to get to a point to allow harvest.

43

44

As I said, the current three-year  
45 average is 69,000, so we're about 10,000 birds less  
46 than where we should be. Harvest would be reconsidered  
47 according to the management plans that we all agreed to  
48 when the population is at 80,000 or higher. Population  
49 is about 2 percent growing per year. Statistically,  
50 it's actually relatively stable.

1                   Some have reported subsistence harvest  
2 based on the estimates that Liliana has just provided  
3 of Emperor Geese of about 3,500 birds primarily from  
4 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and the Bering Straits/Norton  
5 Sound Region. Despite this population being closed to  
6 subsistence hunting since 1987, we still have birds  
7 being taken.

8  
9                   So what's keeping this population from  
10 recovery. So you saw several populations like Brant,  
11 Pacific Greater White-Fronted Geese, Mid-Continent  
12 Greater White-Fronted Geese, all showing a very  
13 positive growth rate. Emperors are the exception and  
14 why. That's what I think everyone is trying to  
15 understand, certainly including the Department of Fish  
16 and Game and the Fish and Wildlife Service as well as  
17 the USGS Alaska Science Center.

18  
19                   Certainly Emperors don't do well in  
20 terms of predation. Greater White-Fronted Geese can  
21 fend off gulls and foxes to some extent. Emperors do  
22 not. They're a bit more timid and, therefore, they are  
23 more susceptible to predation on their eggs and  
24 goslings.

25  
26                   Recent research by the Alaska Science  
27 Center from USGS shows that these birds could be more  
28 highly susceptible to disease, infection and  
29 contaminants. As you know, these birds overwinter in  
30 the Aleutian Islands. They overwinter in a tougher  
31 environment than the other geese that nest in Alaska  
32 and, therefore, they may be more susceptible because  
33 they have to endure those conditions. If they are in  
34 poor health, they may indeed include a higher mortality  
35 rate.

36  
37                   Finally, continued harvest. The birds  
38 that are being harvested are those birds that are  
39 coming back to nesting areas. They're adults and,  
40 indeed, that could very well have some impact on why  
41 this population is not recovering.

42  
43                   I'm going to stop there because I know  
44 this is an important species that has a lot of interest  
45 and I'll try to address any questions you may have.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Questions.

48  
49                   MR. HICKS: I have one, Eric. The  
50 annual report of subsistence harvest. What do you mean

1 by annual report? In other words, they come forward  
2 and just tell you, hey, I took two of them or  
3 something?

4

5 DR. TAYLOR: The reports from the  
6 subsistence harvest that Liliana distributed, has  
7 distributed in the past years, show that, yes, indeed  
8 people are reporting taking Emperor Geese. So, on  
9 average, in the two regions that are reporting it,  
10 primarily are the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and the Bering  
11 Straits/Norton Sound Region. On average, for the past  
12 about eight years or so, somewhere between 3,200 and  
13 3,500 birds are still being taken.

14

15 This is obviously a concern. The  
16 population has been closed since 1987. The Fish and  
17 Wildlife Service has, through our Refuge Information  
18 Technician, like Jon Dyasuk in our audience, as well as  
19 others with the refuge system, have tried to ensure  
20 people understand the species is closed to subsistence  
21 harvest and taking them may be affecting the population  
22 growth. Maybe we need to do a better job at that.  
23 Maybe we need to throw some additional dollars at that  
24 and increase the level of outreach and education to try  
25 to decrease that level of harvest.

26

27 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: I have a  
28 question for you. So if this population is growing at  
29 2 percent per year and it's currently about 70,000,  
30 that's growing at about 2,100 birds a year, rough  
31 numbers, so in four years you think you'll be at a  
32 point where without an adjustment or anything else, we  
33 could be above the 80,000 number and legalize this  
34 harvest? Is it that easy of math or is it a little bit  
35 more complex, compounding math we're talking about?

36

37 DR. TAYLOR: No, if everything was  
38 stable and correct, it's that easy of math.  
39 Unfortunately, there's a variance associated with that  
40 population growth. If you look at it statistically,  
41 it's actually stable. So, over the long term we're not  
42 seeing that. I don't think it's going to be that easy.  
43 We haven't see that -- this population has been growing  
44 at that for the past 10 years on average and yet we  
45 still have not seen that population get to where we  
46 want it to go. So, statistically, to answer, it's a  
47 stable if you look at it over time.

48

49 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Other  
50 questions. Sonny.

1 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Animals and stuff  
2 that's not hunted is weak, you know. If you hunt them  
3 and stuff, they're stronger and they survive better too  
4 because they're not scared of anything. Anything that  
5 catches them, kills them. If they're hunted and stuff,  
6 then they learn and then they get a lot stronger and  
7 protect themselves better. Have you ever considered  
8 something like that?

9  
10 DR. TAYLOR: No. I mean I think in  
11 some ways that may apply for some wildlife species. In  
12 areas, for example, that -- I'll use white-tail deer as  
13 an example. In areas where white-tail deer are heavily  
14 hunted, I would expect animals to be smarter and more  
15 leery. One might make the argument that the population  
16 that is escaping being hunted is a healthier  
17 population. I'm not for sure if that same argument  
18 could be held for migratory birds however.

19  
20 MR. SQUARTSOFF: But it's possible.

21  
22 DR. TAYLOR: It's possible, that's  
23 correct.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Other  
26 questions. Go ahead, Cyrus.

27  
28 MR. HARRIS: My question is not on  
29 Emperor Geese, but has there been population trend  
30 levels on Snow Geese and other stuff we might be  
31 interested in?

32  
33 DR. TAYLOR: We do have estimates of  
34 Snow Geese, Cyrus. I'm not presenting them today, but  
35 I certainly can provide you that information. Snow  
36 Geese are a concern. I will tell you that right now on  
37 the Arctic Coastal Plain on the North Slope of Alaska.  
38 They are growing at a very high rate. Several  
39 agencies, USGS and Fish and Wildlife Service are both  
40 concerned in terms of the growth rate.

41  
42 We've seen exponential growth rates of  
43 Snow Geese in other parts of North America that are  
44 causing substantive damage to breeding areas and  
45 potential damage to other migratory birds that nest in  
46 the Arctic areas. So we're watching that very closely.  
47 I'll be happy to provide you what information we have  
48 on Snow Geese.

49  
50 MR. HARRIS: Thank you.



1 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Other. Come on  
2 up. Grab a free mic.

3  
4 MR. SFORMO: Hello. This is Todd from  
5 the North Slope Borough. I wasn't sure I understood  
6 what you were saying about their overwintering  
7 environment, that it was tougher. I mean is this a new  
8 place or have they been overwintering there for a long  
9 time and has something changed that's making it tougher  
10 for them?

11  
12 DR. TAYLOR: They've been overwintering  
13 there since I'm sure the species first evolved, so it's  
14 nothing new in terms of them. What could be new is  
15 exposure to disease, infection or contaminants. So, as  
16 a result of the exposure to those new things in the  
17 environment, their ability to withstand in that  
18 environment in the winter may be less. So that's what  
19 I was trying to get at.

20  
21 The other comparison I was trying to  
22 make is Cacklers, White-Fronted Geese and Brant winter  
23 in what would generally be termed as easier, warmer  
24 environments, less environmentally-challenging  
25 environments compared to Emperors. What has changed,  
26 Todd, is not their wintering grounds, but their ability  
27 to perhaps handle the wintering grounds because of  
28 exposure to these other things.

29  
30 MR. SFORMO: And there's evidence that  
31 there are -- a lot of pollution has affected them?

32  
33 DR. TAYLOR: Not pollution. We're  
34 certainly looking at the factors that Joel Schmutz is  
35 looking at is primarily disease infection. That's one  
36 of the things that Joel is looking at. Parasitic load,  
37 for example, and numbers of parasites that these birds  
38 might be able to handle. Contaminants I'm not -- it's  
39 a potential, but at least that hasn't fleshed out yet  
40 at this point.

41  
42 MR. SFORMO: Thanks.

43  
44 DR. TAYLOR: You bet.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Anything else.

47  
48 (No comments)

49  
50 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thanks, Eric.

1 Proceed to the next.

2

3

4 DR. TAYLOR: All right. On to other  
5 species that are concerned in terms of their population  
6 status. Spectacled Eiders were threatened in 1993,  
7 listed in the Endangered Species Act. The reason why  
8 is the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta population declined by  
9 about 96 percent, from 50,000 pairs to less than 2,000  
10 pairs in 1992.

11

12 Spectacled Eiders nest primarily in two  
13 areas there in the red. The breeding range is shown.  
14 I want to thank David Safine from Ecological Service  
15 with Fish and Wildlife Service who drew up these maps  
16 for me. They're a bit clearer than my old ones. The  
17 primary areas are in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta as well  
18 as the Arctic Coastal Plain.

19

20 The molting sites, the two big areas  
21 that are important, Ledyard Bay and eastern Norton  
22 Sound. Everyone knows recently in the 1990s the  
23 wintering grounds were found for Spectacled Eiders and  
24 that's that area kind of in teal color south of St.  
25 Lawrence Island, so the world's population overwinters  
26 there.

27

28 We measure Spectacled Eiders with two  
29 surveys on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Coastal Zone  
30 Breeding Waterfowl Survey that you see, that you've  
31 seen before, as well as the Arctic Coastal Plain  
32 Survey, so we measure both those populations by these  
33 two surveys.

34

35 This is a bit interesting in the sense  
36 that the two populations, the one that nests on the  
37 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta versus the one that nests on the  
38 Arctic Coastal Plain, are showing two different growth  
39 rates. Here in blue is the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta  
40 population of Spectacled Eiders. They're growing at a  
41 growth rate of about 8 percent per year. So this  
42 population is doing very well. This is the population,  
43 I think, that Kate Martin cited yesterday is certainly  
44 good news for this species and that community.

45

46 The Coastal Plain population is  
47 relatively stable. It has not grown. The breeding  
48 population index on the Coastal Plain is about 7,000  
49 birds, on the Y-K Delta about 6,000 birds. The reason  
50 the population -- we don't really know what the factors  
51 might be relative to why these populations are showing

1 two different growth rates.

2

3                   Y-K Delta it may be that lead shot,  
4 which was once a factor that we believed caused this  
5 population decline, possibly subsistence harvest has  
6 decreased and certainly it has. But lead shot may be  
7 getting out of the environment and this population is  
8 recovering as a result of not being exposed to that  
9 contaminant. It could be other factors, decreased  
10 predation. Higher numbers of Cacklers may be such that  
11 the foxes are paying more attention to Cacklers and  
12 less on Spectacled Eiders. Whatever the reason,  
13 they're certainly doing very well.

14

15                   Steller's Eiders, the discussion  
16 yesterday relative to the Service's interest in re-  
17 establishing this population on the Yukon-Kuskokwim  
18 Delta. The North American breeding population was  
19 listed as threatened in 1997 and closed to subsistence  
20 harvest. The birds are sparsely -- the breeding  
21 population in Alaska is sparsely distributed across the  
22 Arctic Coastal Plain. The highest density is near  
23 Barrow. Our best estimate for the numbers of birds  
24 that occur in Alaska, about 5-600 only. The population  
25 trend right now about 2 percent growth rate per year in  
26 the last 10 years.

27

28                   CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: I just have a  
29 question. How is it closed? Is it closed under the  
30 Migratory Bird Treaty Act? It's not closed under ESA  
31 because ESA has an exemption for Alaska Native harvest.  
32 So how is it closed?

33

34                   DR. TAYLOR: I believe the Migratory  
35 Bird Treaty Act. Is Ryan here? Ryan's not here. I'm  
36 going to go on record on that, but it would be good for  
37 a native species biologist to address that one, but it  
38 is the Migratory Bird Treaty Act I'm just about sure.

39

40                   The birds did nest at one point on the  
41 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Now, as I said, they're on the  
42 Arctic Coastal Plain, pretty much restricted to the  
43 Barrow area and I said was our best estimate. About 5-  
44 600 birds nest on the Arctic Coastal Plain.

45

46                   In terms of their molting areas and  
47 wintering areas, the molt areas that are particularly  
48 important that are critical areas, Seal Island, Nelson  
49 Lagoon, the Kuskokwim shoals area and then birds  
50 overwinter all along here from Kodiak all the way out

1 to the Alaska Peninsula.

2

3

4 We measure the Steller's Eider by the  
5 Arctic Coastal Plain survey that you've seen before.  
6 As you can imagine, because there's very few birds, we  
7 have our aerial index that varies widely. So from here  
8 to here over a period of time. So this is the three-  
9 year average. The reason for that is because we count  
10 very few birds. The amount of variance is associated  
11 with our estimate is very high. In 2013, we had an  
12 aerial index of about 300 birds.

12

13

14 Lastly, Yellow-Billed Loons, which you  
15 heard about from Neesha yesterday in terms of the Fish  
16 and Wildlife Service making a decision on whether this  
17 species will be listed or not by September 2014.  
18 Yellow-Billed Loons are distributed in Alaska from  
19 Point Lay to the Canning River, St. Lawrence Island,  
20 Seward Peninsula. The world population is estimated  
21 somewhere between 16,000 and 32,000. For the Arctic  
22 Coastal Plain, our index is around 2,300 birds in the  
23 last three years.

23

24

25 The good news is, based on our surveys  
26 in the Arctic Coastal Plain, the population is showing  
27 a positive growth rate, a significant growth rate at 6  
28 percent per year. As a result of a lawsuit, as Neesha  
29 mentioned yesterday, the species was closed to  
30 subsistence harvest in 2003. In terms of 2009, we  
31 determined that the Yellow-Billed Loon was warranted  
32 but precluded from the Endangered Species Act and then  
33 we will make a decision in September 2014.

33

34

35 Clearly the good news is -- there are  
36 two major factors I want to stress. One is the reason  
37 this decision was made in 2009 was, as Neesha  
38 mentioned, the very high reported rate at St. Lawrence  
39 Island. That came in just when the Fish and Wildlife  
40 Service was considering that decision thanks to the  
41 efforts of Liliana Naves and Tamara Zeller, who  
42 expended a substantive amount of effort in terms of  
43 surveying subsistence harvesters at Gambell and  
44 Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island.

44

45

46 The Fish and Wildlife Service has  
47 concluded that a subsistence harvest is not a threat to  
48 this species and, therefore, is not a contributing  
49 factor to the species population. Then based on our  
50 survey from the Arctic Coastal Plain, we're showing a  
51 population growth rate of 6 percent per year. So those

1 are certainly two pieces of evidence the Fish and  
2 Wildlife Service will use in its decision.

3  
4 This is the aerial index of Yellow-  
5 Billed Loons as measured by our Arctic Coastal Plain  
6 survey. As I mentioned, our three-year average over  
7 the last three years about 2,400 birds and there's your  
8 10-year growth rate from 2003 to 2013, growing at 6  
9 percent per year.

10  
11 With that, I'll end that we are  
12 changing our survey platform that we use of survey  
13 aircraft in Fish and Wildlife Service. We are going  
14 back to a Cessna 206. In the past few years we have  
15 been using what's called a Quest Kodiak aircraft, an  
16 aircraft that's much larger than a 206. We have tested  
17 that aircraft for the past several years and determined  
18 for multiple reasons it's not the aircraft that we  
19 would like to use to survey migratory birds in Alaska  
20 and, therefore, we're moving back to a 206. Probably  
21 one of the most proven airframes in Alaska and  
22 certainly has proven its ability relative to an aerial  
23 survey aircraft.

24  
25 So this is the current aircraft that we  
26 have. Ends 9623 Romeo. You might want to write that  
27 number down. The Fish and Wildlife Service as well as,  
28 I'm sure, the Department of Fish and Game and local  
29 offices in rural areas get calls about low flying  
30 aircraft at certain times of the year. We want to make  
31 sure that when those calls come in people take tail  
32 numbers down and call the Fish and Wildlife Service.  
33 If we can address those concerns, we certainly will do  
34 so.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: The tail number  
37 doesn't match the aircraft.

38  
39 DR. TAYLOR: No, it does not. That's  
40 just an example of a 206.

41  
42 MS. HEPA: The same color, blue and  
43 white with red stripes?

44  
45 DR. TAYLOR: Yeah. The main thing is  
46 the tail number N9623.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: It's not a bait  
49 and switch though.

50

1 DR. TAYLOR: I will supply -- Heather,  
2 where are we at relative to our second aircraft?

3  
4 MS. WILSON: It will be flying probably  
5 on the Yukon Delta and 23 Romeo will be on the North  
6 Slope. That one is 77554 and it's also blue and white  
7 with red stripes, I believe.

8  
9 DR. TAYLOR: So, again, 77554. So I  
10 will supply those numbers as well as the color schemes  
11 to everybody as well just to make sure there's no bait  
12 and switch.

13  
14 (Laughter)

15  
16 All right. With that, there's my  
17 contact information. I'll be happy to provide a copy  
18 of this PowerPoint presentation as well as provide hard  
19 copies. If I did not address a species, I know Cyrus  
20 mentioned Snow Geese, and Tim Andrew, at the WCC  
21 meeting, I provided him some Scoter information. I  
22 know Joeneal's interested in a possible Trumpeter Swan  
23 subsistence hunt in his area, so he may, indeed, want  
24 some information on Trumpeter Swans. I will be happy  
25 to provide that information.

26  
27 The other important thing I want and I  
28 extend this invitation every year and Joeneal has been  
29 after me and I haven't been able to make it, but I  
30 promise this year we will. If there is interest for  
31 the Fish and Wildlife Service or Migratory Bird Office  
32 to attend your regional meetings, we will try to do so.  
33 We're trying to incorporate that into our budget. We  
34 will tailor the presentation for your particular  
35 region.

36  
37 So if Taqulik is interested in a  
38 presentation on birds that are of interest to North  
39 Slope residents, then we will take out species that  
40 don't occur in her region and address those that  
41 perhaps aren't on this region, like Snow Geese. I want  
42 to make sure everyone feels free to contact me. We  
43 don't have an unlimited budget, but I don't think  
44 there's any substitute for face-to-face time and  
45 actually addressing these concerns.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Well, thank you  
48 very much. We really do appreciate the presentation.  
49 If you could give us copies of it, I would like to get  
50 it distributed out, if you could send it to Patty.

1 First off, I want to say please be safe this year as  
2 you conduct your surveys. I understand those things  
3 are dangerous surveys flying low and safety comes  
4 before counting birds. So, please, as you move  
5 forward, have some safety.

6  
7 I think we have a few questions around  
8 the room. We have the gentleman back here and then  
9 Taqulik next. Find an open mic.

10  
11 MR. AHMASUK: Brandon Ahmasuk,  
12 Subsistence Director at Kawerak. Sorry I had to step  
13 out during the Emperor Goose presentation. I had a  
14 couple of questions. We do have the U.S./Russia  
15 Migratory Bird Treaty. Is there going to be any  
16 attempt to get the harvest information from Russia for  
17 Emperor Geese? I mean that might help alleviate some  
18 of this. Also, I'm not sure if you can back up on your  
19 slides to the map for Emperor Geese. My second  
20 question is you're only surveying this area for your  
21 population, correct?

22  
23 DR. TAYLOR: That's the area that we're  
24 surveying for the spring index. So, from Jack Smith  
25 Bay. That's our survey route right there.

26  
27 MR. AHMASUK: Okay. If you could back  
28 up to the other map. Myself, I see a flaw with only  
29 this area. The residents of St. Lawrence Island, when  
30 the migration is occurring, they're seeing thousands  
31 upon thousands -- I mean more or less 24 hours a day, 7  
32 days a week for more or less a month and a half, a  
33 month. So I mean you're seriously, seriously missing  
34 some birds. To me, there's nothing saying that these  
35 birds out here wouldn't just go straight up to here,  
36 over here and bypass this area.

37  
38 DR. TAYLOR: I'm going to first address  
39 your question on the level of harvest that could be  
40 occurring in Russia, so there's been concerns that have  
41 been raised in the past relative to what is the level  
42 of both subsistence harvest in Russia as well as a  
43 sports harvest. There's a website that if you jump to  
44 Google and you type in Russian waterfowl hunting or  
45 Emperor Goose hunting, you can find a site that has a  
46 guide in Russia that offers to take individuals hunting  
47 and Emperor Geese is listed as one of the species that  
48 are offered.

49  
50 We have looked into this issue. It has

1 been raised all the way at the Migratory Bird Chief  
2 level to Brad Bortner as well as Jerome Ford, who is  
3 our Assistant Director of Migratory Birds at Fish and  
4 Wildlife Service. I will tell you those communications  
5 have been made at what are termed trilateral meetings.  
6 Those are meetings between Canada, Russia and the  
7 United States. We are trying to gather the  
8 information. As you might guess, gathering information  
9 sometimes from Russia is not -- is more difficult, plus  
10 these are rural communities.

11  
12 I may ask Todd Sanders to come up. I  
13 know I have raised this issue to Todd Sanders in his  
14 capacity as the Pacific Flyway rep. Todd is dealing  
15 with several individuals from Russia in terms of  
16 Wrangell Island research as well as some other aspects  
17 on waterfowl ecology in Russia. Todd, if you have a  
18 second, maybe you could come up and provide what  
19 information you have found.

20  
21 MR. SANDERS: Todd Sanders, U.S. Fish  
22 and Wildlife Service. I realize there's substantial  
23 concern about Emperor Goose harvest in Russia. I  
24 contacted the All Russian Institute of Nature  
25 Conservation. I spoke with two representatives there  
26 to express concern about the harvest but also to get  
27 harvest information. They confirmed that the sport and  
28 subsistence harvest in Russia is closed, so there is no  
29 legal take of Emperor Geese in Russia.

30  
31 The one website is the only information  
32 we have that there could be some sport harvest in  
33 Russia. There's no evidence that those birds are  
34 actually being taken. Regardless, I did pass that  
35 information on to the All Russian Institute and they  
36 will look into that, but that is a U.S.-based website,  
37 so I'm not sure how much they can do about that, but  
38 they can certainly look into the Russian guide.

39  
40 As far as subsistence harvest, they do  
41 recognize that there is some illegal take of Emperor  
42 Geese for subsistence harvest and we're trying to get  
43 estimates of that. I have requested that information.  
44 I will pass it on as soon as I get it. Again, they  
45 confirmed that the season is closed for subsistence  
46 harvest as well, but there's limited ability in some of  
47 the northern villages to enforce that but also to  
48 collect that information.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you.



1 We've also been told there's no harvest of polar bears  
2 because it's illegal too, but I think there is a  
3 subsistence harvest.

4

5 MR. SANDERS: Yes, they recognize that  
6 there is a subsistence harvest and they said that polar  
7 bears are a significant issue as well.

8

9 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Taqulik.

10

11 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Eric.....

12

13 DR. TAYLOR: Can you hold on just a  
14 second?

15

16 MS. HEPA: Yes.

17

18 DR. TAYLOR: Brandon had asked another  
19 question and I want to try to address relative to our  
20 survey methods. Brandon, there's no doubt birds are  
21 occurring elsewhere besides when we conduct this  
22 survey, when Heather starts to fly the survey in the  
23 latter part of this month, this is the survey that has  
24 been decided upon by the Pacific Flyway Management  
25 Plan. The important point is this is an index and not  
26 a total population estimate.

27

28 So, indeed, there are birds that are  
29 very likely occurring out here. There are birds that  
30 are occurring that are residents of Kodiak Island.  
31 There are birds that we're going to miss because we fly  
32 over them. The idea is that this is, again, not a  
33 total population estimate, but it's an index.

34

35 So assuming that we fly the same  
36 geographic area at the same time, using the same level  
37 of expertise and experience, using the same survey  
38 platform, trying to monitor for weather, as Chris Dau  
39 mentioned, with certain wind conditions, visibility,  
40 precipitation, we should get a reliable index that we  
41 can base on what this population is doing and for which  
42 the management plans are based.

43

44 Your question is could there be birds  
45 that are distributed elsewhere or could the population  
46 that we are estimating here could it have shifted to  
47 someplace else, that's certainly a potential. We do  
48 not have any reason to believe that it has, so we  
49 believe this population estimate and index is still  
50 accurate.

1                   Now, that said, I'll complicate it a  
2 little bit further and say that we have four different  
3 indices, four different population estimates that we  
4 could use for Emperor Geese. Based on a recent meeting  
5 that we had, we would like to look at all those  
6 datasets to determine if they're perhaps in  
7 disagreement. If they're in disagreement, why. And is  
8 there any reason to adjust this survey. The point I  
9 want to make is we believe that this index that you see  
10 here on this map is still a reliable population  
11 estimate based on these management plans.

12  
13                   CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: We certainly  
14 hope that when you switch platforms to the 206 that you  
15 suddenly find 10,000 more geese.

16  
17                   (Laughter)

18  
19                   CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Just kidding.  
20 Taqulik.

21  
22                   DR. TAYLOR: The good news, Doug, is  
23 that we've been using the 206 for the past 25 years.

24  
25                   (Laughter)

26  
27                   DR. TAYLOR: So if that was going to  
28 happen, you had your chance with the Kodiak and we  
29 didn't see extra birds. If anything, we're going back  
30 to a platform that we have a greater level of  
31 confidence in. Taqulik.

32  
33                   MS. HEPA: Thank you, Eric, for your  
34 presentation. I always enjoy this part of the meeting  
35 the most. I just had to say that.  
36 Really I do and I appreciate you coming up to the North  
37 Slope to share this information.

38  
39                   I think I asked this last year. The  
40 Spectacled Eider slides. You didn't put what the  
41 population objective was, the closure mark and then the  
42 open harvest mark. I know it's closed, but do you have  
43 that exist for the Spectacled Eiders?

44  
45                   DR. TAYLOR: I might ask Todd to come  
46 up here because Todd serves on the Recovery Team and he  
47 may have those figures available. I don't have them in  
48 this presentation and I don't know them off the top of  
49 my head. Todd, do you know?

50

1 MR. SFORMO: No, I don't have them with  
2 me.

3  
4 DR. TAYLOR: All right. So we can  
5 provide that based on the recovery plans.

6  
7 MS. HEPA: Yeah, that would be good. I  
8 know that their population has been increasing and  
9 looking good. It would be good for us as migratory  
10 bird hunters to know because that bird is important to  
11 us for subsistence. So thank you.

12  
13 DR. TAYLOR: You bet.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Tim and then  
16 Peter.

17  
18 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman  
19 for allowing me to ask questions. Timothy Andrew with  
20 AVCP Natural Resources. I'm also staff to the  
21 Waterfowl Conservation Committee. Eric, thank you for  
22 your presentation and thank you for presenting this  
23 information to the WCC as well when we met in Oregon.

24  
25 Several years ago Dr. Jim Sedinger had  
26 presented a population extinction model for the Black  
27 Brant. Given the current population that we have and  
28 increasing beyond the population objective, I was just  
29 wondering what are the success attributes to the  
30 population increase of Black Brant. I guess the area  
31 that I'm really interested in is the co-relation that  
32 Cacklers and Black Brant may have. Thank you.

33  
34 DR. TAYLOR: We just actually had a  
35 meeting on Black Brant that Jim attended. Jim Sedinger  
36 was up here from -- Jim is a professor at University of  
37 Nevada Reno for those of you that might know him. He  
38 has about 30 years experience. He's probably one of  
39 the top Brant experts, if not the top Brant expert in  
40 the world.

41  
42 We had a meeting with Jim as well as  
43 several representatives, Paul Flynn, Joel Schmutz and  
44 some other research scientists from the USGS Alaska  
45 Science Center. Dan Rosenberg, Mike Petrula and Jason  
46 Schamber from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
47 as well as our shop, just met last week. The reason  
48 being is concern for Brant. As I mentioned, Brant are,  
49 based on Heather's aerial survey of the colonies over  
50 the last decade, have been showing a steady decline on

1 those five colonies on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.  
2 Obviously the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge when  
3 Brant was one of the primary species for why that  
4 refuge was established.

5  
6 So the Service is concerned relative to  
7 what are the factors behind the decline of Brant on a  
8 National Wildlife Refuge and then also what is the  
9 relationship of that decline that we are experiencing  
10 versus the mid-winter count that we based our survey or  
11 population estimate on. So we're seeing a decline on  
12 what was considered the primary nesting areas and yet  
13 we're seeing a stable to potentially possible some  
14 growth in the last 10 years of Brant in the overall  
15 population.

16  
17 The reason we had this meeting is where  
18 is the difference making up. If the Yukon-Kuskokwim  
19 Delta is so important to Brant and those colonies are  
20 declining, then where are they coming from to keep that  
21 population stable to slightly increasing. It's a  
22 general perception that we're seeing increased  
23 recruitment in population growth on the Arctic Coastal  
24 Plain. So the North Slope is providing a more  
25 important area for Brant population ecology than it has  
26 in the past.

27  
28 Tim, you mentioned what is the  
29 significance or the relationship between Cacklers and  
30 Brant. That's a good one. It's Jim's, as well as  
31 several other research -- Jim Sedinger's opinion as  
32 well as some other researcher, Paul Flint and others at  
33 the Alaska Science Center that Cackler's do play a role  
34 because of their abundance on the Y-K Delta and their  
35 ability to graze kind of taller vegetation. They graze  
36 the taller vegetation and when they graze it at a  
37 pretty heavy density, that basically converts that  
38 habitat from a tall grass to a shorter grass habitat  
39 that Brant goslings then use the following year.  
40 Although we've not studied this in terms of a peer-  
41 reviewed study, but the general feeling is Cacklers do  
42 provide a benefit to Brant in terms of Brant brood  
43 rearing habitat.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Peter.

46  
47 MR. DEVINE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
48 Eric, you mentioned Emperor Goose Recovery Team. I  
49 keep asking questions on how the survey is done and I  
50 keep getting told how it's done and one of the things

1 that concerns me is the altitude that these surveys are  
2 done at. I mean you're flying 150 feet off the ground.  
3 The further you go up the mountain, the further you can  
4 see. So I would request again that you guys raise the  
5 elevation of the survey to 600 to 1,000 feet to where  
6 you could see further and maybe get a better count on  
7 these. I don't know what it would take to get that  
8 across, the higher up the more you can see.

9

10 DR. TAYLOR: I've got an expert here  
11 who has been doing surveys for the last 10 years or so  
12 on waterfowl. Heather, do you want to take a stab at  
13 why we fly this survey at 150 feet. What would be the  
14 advantages or disadvantages at flying at higher  
15 elevation in terms of trying to get a better estimate  
16 of birds.

17

18 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Heather, you've  
19 got to come up and introduce yourself. You looked  
20 enthused when he invited you up.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MS. WILSON: I'm Heather Wilson. I'm a  
25 pilot biologist with Migratory Bird Management, Fish  
26 and Wildlife Service. Most of our surveys are transect  
27 based surveys. This one is not and the fall count as  
28 well. We follow the shoreline. We do go up to higher  
29 altitudes. Not 600 to 1,000 feet. At those altitudes  
30 it becomes really difficult to even spot birds. You  
31 can see them in groups and you can estimate and it's  
32 true Emperor Geese do stand out as a very unique  
33 species.

34

35 In terms of trying to count birds that  
36 are flying while you're flying the airplane, et cetera,  
37 those altitudes are very difficult. We use them for  
38 photographic surveys. Again, because Emperor Geese are  
39 not sort of static on the water, they tend to flush  
40 well ahead of the plane, that would be difficult to use  
41 to survey them. So I would say that the 125-foot  
42 altitude that we use for most transect-based surveys is  
43 more flexible on the survey. We probably go up to  
44 around 300 feet. Sometimes even a little higher to get  
45 overviews and back down again. I think up to 600 feet  
46 plus would be too high to be able to do a decent job of  
47 actually counting birds.

48

49 One example I'll give that's an  
50 exception to that would be Brant at Izembek. Sometimes

1 we will get up a little higher because the birds are  
2 grouped into such large flocks to try and make sure  
3 that we're not missing the overall picture before we  
4 dip down. It isn't exactly 125 feet for this survey.  
5 It goes up a little higher.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you.  
8 Sonny.

9  
10 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, that 125 feet or  
11 so, is that a fact that that's the best way to do it?  
12 All the altitudes that you said, that's just your way  
13 of doing it, but if somebody else is flying, they might  
14 fly a different spot. That's just your way of doing  
15 it.

16  
17 MS. WILSON: So the 125 feet and kind  
18 of with a little bit of wiggle room up to 150 feet is  
19 -- like I said, that's basically based on transect-  
20 based surveys. So like we see for the Arctic Coastal  
21 Plain we're flying back and forth. Those have a much  
22 different regimen I would say. That is the distance  
23 out from the side of the airplane that both the  
24 observer and the pilot are looking is fixed, so the  
25 altitude has to be fixed as well to make sure we're  
26 sampling the same area on the ground. It's just a  
27 relationship that has to remain static.

28  
29 With these, there's more flexibility  
30 and we utilize that, but in my experience from being in  
31 the plane, once you get above 300 feet with Emperor  
32 Geese it gets more difficult to see birds essentially  
33 out in the distance. You can detect them, but seeing  
34 them in mixed species flocks it's hard to tell things  
35 apart sometimes. So, like I said, I think 125 feet is  
36 not completely static on these surveys, but once you  
37 get above those higher altitudes it becomes more  
38 difficult just visually to see and count what's going  
39 on.

40  
41 MR. SQUARTSOFF: One more question.  
42 Are you sure you're counting the right birds? Are you  
43 positive that what you see birds are the right ones  
44 that you're putting down?

45  
46 MS. WILSON: Right. What I'm saying is  
47 above 300 feet I think that would get more difficult.  
48 The reason we fly these surveys at lower levels is so  
49 we can be sure about species identification. At the  
50 same time, we're also trying to estimate the number of

1 birds that we're seeing. Some of these flocks are so  
2 large that we can't physically count them when we're  
3 flying. So it's a compromise between those two things.

4  
5

6 Again, with Emperor Geese it's a bit  
7 unique because they are so distinct compared to other  
8 species. Counting Brant and Cacklers, it's harder.  
9 The colors are there, they're much more mixed in their  
10 group. Emperors act a lot differently than those other  
11 species. They tend to be off in small groups. They're  
12 easier to count, so we're not as much estimating, but  
13 because of their behavior they tend to flush well ahead  
14 of the plane.

15

16 MR. SQUARTSOFF: See, if they're a  
17 smaller flock of Emperor Geese and you're counting a  
18 different kind of geese, what are the few flocks around  
19 them you don't count? Do you put them in the big  
20 flock, you just say they're all the same? Is that  
21 possible?

22

23 MS. WILSON: That we misidentify  
24 Emperor Geese?

25

26 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah.

27

28 MS. WILSON: I guess what I'm trying to  
29 say is there's always the possibility. We're not  
30 perfect. But I would say that's the lowest possibility  
31 of all the species confusion just because they're the  
32 only white goose out there and it really stands out on  
33 the landscape. Just in my experience from doing it.  
34 It would be the same thing for Snow Geese on the North  
35 Slope. It's hard to miss them. They stand out on the  
36 tundra, they stand out on the water there. Whereas the  
37 dark geese, yeah, I think there's more confusion there  
38 because you have to see more finite plumage  
39 characteristics in order to distinguish them or flight  
40 characteristics.

41

42 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Okay. One more  
43 question. What I think you guys should do is open  
44 everything up until you get the facts that prove you're  
45 right. There's not that much facts. You guys are just  
46 -- it's just a guess or theory is all it is. There's  
47 no real facts.

48

49 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: I'm not so sure  
50 that's a question, Sonny, as much as a statement.

1 MR. SQUARTSOFF: To you. You're always  
2 laughing.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: No.  
5  
6 MR. SQUARTSOFF: You can go do your  
7 thing after.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: No, I'm just  
10 saying.....  
11  
12 MR. SQUARTSOFF: It's just a game  
13 around here for you.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: .....I don't  
16 think she can answer that question, so maybe we'll  
17 get.....  
18  
19 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Every one of you is  
20 laughing. I'm really serious about this.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: I understand  
23 that, but I don't know if that's a survey question as  
24 much as it is a statement.  
25  
26 MR. SQUARTSOFF: There's no facts.  
27 Just what they guess.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you.  
30 Gayla.  
31  
32 MS. HOSETH: Hi. Thanks again for your  
33 presentation. We are going to have our meeting at the  
34 end of the month. I don't know if it fits you guys's  
35 schedule to come out, but I think that we'd love to  
36 have a presentation in our area.  
37  
38 The question that I did have and it  
39 kind of goes with what Brandon was asking, have the  
40 birds migrated further north whereas your history of  
41 doing this flight survey? That's part of the question.  
42 If so, how come we're not moving the survey to where  
43 the birds are moving?  
44  
45 DR. TAYLOR: That's a good question,  
46 Gayla. We've looked at that information closely and we  
47 do not have any indication the birds have shifted their  
48 distribution in terms of this survey for spring Emperor  
49 Geese. We've looked very carefully at that because of  
50 the interest that Sonny has and Peter has and other



1 individuals to make sure this survey is as accurate and  
2 is there a potential problem with it. In our analysis,  
3 there is not, so we've not had any indications the  
4 birds have shifted, therefore justifying a shift in  
5 this design.

6

7 MS. HOSETH: Is there any way that you  
8 guys could fly that just to count to see how many birds  
9 there are in that area this year?

10

11 DR. TAYLOR: If there's any indication  
12 that birds -- Ed Mallek was a pilot biologist that we  
13 had here last year at this meeting and what Ed said --  
14 I'll just reiterate because I'm sure Heather would say  
15 the same thing. If there's an indication that there  
16 are large groups of birds that we are missing at this  
17 time of year -- Heather, your departure date is what?

18

19 MS. WILSON: The 24th of April.

20

21 DR. TAYLOR: Okay. So what I would ask  
22 is as people go back to their rural villages and if  
23 there's any indication that you're seeing large  
24 concentrations of birds during that last week of April,  
25 what I would ask you to do is contact me with that  
26 information that you have. I can contact Heather as  
27 she's flying the survey and if she's in that area she  
28 certainly can check it out.

29

30 MS. HOSETH: Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Other  
33 questions. Brandon.

34

35 MR. AHMASUK: Brandon Ahmasuk,  
36 Subsistence Director. Basically what I was getting to  
37 with the Island, that is an indication that there's  
38 larger concentrations going elsewhere. To me -- I mean  
39 you can't tell me that some of them aren't nesting in  
40 different areas when they are. You have high  
41 concentrations going over to St. Lawrence Island and  
42 also over to Russia. So what Gayla was just saying,  
43 you know, if you have an indication that there's large  
44 concentrations, I just told you.

45

46 DR. TAYLOR: Brandon, do you know what  
47 time of year you're seeing those large concentrations,  
48 what month?

49

50 MR. AHMASUK: I'm not seeing them.

1 It's at St. Lawrence Island. I mean getting out there  
2 is kind of difficult.

3

4 DR. TAYLOR: But you'd indicated large  
5 concentrations?

6

7 MR. AHMASUK: Yes. The residents from  
8 St. Lawrence Island are stating this.

9

10 DR. TAYLOR: And what they are  
11 observing is what's terms a non-breeding or failed  
12 breeding migration, sometimes referred to as a molt  
13 migration. We know that up to 20,000 birds will leave  
14 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and molt over in Russia, so  
15 that could very well be those birds that are occurring.  
16 My guess is that is happening in June and not during  
17 the time period, so that is a little bit later. The  
18 spring staging is -- these birds are moving from their  
19 wintering areas back to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. My  
20 guess is the migration and the birds that the  
21 St. Lawrence Island residents are seeing is that non-  
22 breeding molt migration from the Y-K Delta over to  
23 Russia.

24

25 MR. AHMASUK: It does occur at  
26 different times of the spring, but the main part of it  
27 is in April.

28

29 DR. TAYLOR: Well, we should chat and  
30 try to get some verification on that. You bet.

31

32 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Come on up.

33

34 MR. DYASUK: Remember those graphs you  
35 saw earlier? You know that we -- I started in '87. I  
36 was 37 years old in 1987. That's when the RITs were  
37 hired to get the numbers up, to get that information.  
38 At that time, when I was 37 years old, I am from that  
39 village. See that. You know how far we go out to meet  
40 the Emperor Geese. When you post about those numbers  
41 that go to St. Lawrence Island, we hunt in this area.

42

43 You know how we hunt in our villages?  
44 See, when you're looking at the Emperor Geese like  
45 this, they're in the water. When they fly -- you know  
46 what 115 horse is? When we go through them, they don't  
47 fly like that, they fly like this and we ran into them.  
48 That's what we do, we ran into them, shooting to the  
49 hell out of the birds. I'm 63, 64 now. That's what we  
50 did when I was younger. And I would do that since I

1 was 16 years old. We know the numbers of the Emperor  
2 Geese were low then. They've become lower. When you  
3 become my age, you'll know how we used to hunt. We're  
4 not doing that any more. In fact my cousin, Frank, we  
5 have cousins in Bethel area, they used to come to our  
6 village just so they could meet the Emperor Geese on  
7 this side.

8

9 Remember some years ago there was a  
10 person from Platinum right there that was drifted all  
11 the way from this here all the way to this Port Heiden  
12 area. He was found over here. That's how far out we  
13 go hunt. The thing is that we also respect that the  
14 bird data come first. Even though we're hungry or  
15 whatever might be, there's other species to hunt. The  
16 thing that we depend on is the number that we don't do  
17 anymore. We have no elders anymore to tell us where  
18 the birds might be at. We depend on people like Eric  
19 and other researchers. The birds should come first.  
20 Emperor Geese should come first.

21

22 Like my cousin Frank said, he doesn't  
23 even remember when he ate his last Emperor Geese. Gail  
24 is from my region, a young person, wants to learn lots  
25 more. She listened to one person, Frank, from my  
26 village. He doesn't even remember when he hunt last  
27 time. The number that you think that you saw Emperor  
28 Geese going to St. Lawrence, they would not be there if  
29 we kept on hunting the way we did. I'll tell you one  
30 thing, there's a lot more young people that we wish to  
31 tell them, hey, hunt like we did before, but we cannot  
32 do that anymore. That's what we're trying to teach  
33 people.

34

35 Eric's presentation go out to my  
36 village exactly the way he said it, but one thing that  
37 we add -- because also we add the waterfowl diseases  
38 and banding and stamp, waterfowl Federal Duck Stamp.  
39 That's what we adding to it. That succeeded in my area  
40 because we have to tell it just the way it is. I  
41 haven't lost my language yet. That's the thing. When  
42 you start losing your language, you don't get  
43 information anymore especially from the older people.  
44 Actually our library.

45

46 These are the things I'm facing now.  
47 I'm not an RIT. You know what's happened to them?  
48 They become terrible alcoholics. I'll tell you the  
49 exact same thing. I am a terrible alcoholic. You know  
50 what happens when you work for other people don't like?

1 You become left out. People leave you alone. They  
2 don't talk to you too well.

3

4 Over the years I keep mentioning that  
5 I'm not looking for any friends because I don't relish  
6 that. You know what happens when I come back -- come  
7 to villages and there's lots of people in the crowd? I  
8 start scratching myself to pieces and I tell them,  
9 well, I stayed in a cheap hotel and I've got jumping  
10 bug. And these are the facts how to be avoided. These  
11 are the things that we face.

12

13 You get into our shoes or other  
14 people's shoes, get into that first. If any species  
15 that you can be targeting that you want, learn that  
16 from them first and get to your own shoes. Every  
17 species, every animal that we hunt should come first  
18 before a human. You might think, well, my children  
19 should be eating a little bit like this. I tasted  
20 that. I don't want my grandchildren to be tasting  
21 that.

22

23 So next time you can be questioning  
24 something like this, learn it first, see it first,  
25 experience it first, suffer first. Suffer from what I  
26 just find out. Suffer to the hilt when we're out in  
27 the ocean, 300 miles out there someplace else, and you  
28 just can't and if something happened, there's no EMT or  
29 anything else. There's nobody going to rescue you.  
30 Nobody is going to come to your aid especially when  
31 you're out in the ocean.

32

33 Experience those first and question  
34 like that. Make your question heard. That's one thing  
35 I want to tell you because I might conk out and die.  
36 I'm an old man. But I want you to hear that before I  
37 leave because this is the day I'm going to go someplace  
38 else. I'm telling you this because you're not going to  
39 hear it from somebody else. When I say something, it  
40 not come from me, it come from experience. You know  
41 what dyslexia is?

42

43 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: I'm sorry,  
44 what?

45

46 MR. DYASUK: Dyslexia.

47

48 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Yes.

49

50 MR. DYASUK: I'm dyslexic. That means

1 in the afternoon I cannot even read my own signature.  
2 I have to rely on my memory. I have a super memory. If  
3 I see somebody, I don't forget. That's one thing.  
4 That's my disability. I didn't choose it, but I have a  
5 very great memory. Once I see a person I don't forget  
6 and she knows that because I met at a different time  
7 when one of the species was having a problem. That's  
8 what it is.

9  
10 I want to thank you for listening to  
11 me. I hope I didn't put you on the spot, but you're  
12 young and I want you to hear that. Not just from me,  
13 but I want you to go back sometime -- if you don't live  
14 here in town, listen to the people that are dying,  
15 people who still have their own language left. I heard  
16 there's none left now.

17  
18 Because I can read and write my own  
19 language. I'm an interpreter. I speak. That's one of  
20 the things that you have to listen very carefully  
21 because I have a problem. I have to listen. You know  
22 what my grandmother used to say? If you don't listen  
23 to me now in the morning, you're not going to listen to  
24 your teacher in the afternoon. That's what it is,  
25 especially for me that has a mind that's for a lot of  
26 things. Listen first so you can listen tomorrow.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Other questions  
29 and comments for Eric.

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: I have one,  
34 Eric. On your Emperor Goose survey it's growing at 2  
35 percent per year, but I might have missed it, I had to  
36 walk out for a quick second, how variable are those  
37 numbers that you count annually? Your raw counts, are  
38 they like 50 one year, 500 the next year that you're  
39 averaging?

40  
41 DR. TAYLOR: This will give you an  
42 indication in terms of.....

43  
44 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. That's  
45 the population. What are the raw numbers? Like  
46 Yellow-Billed Loons, you know, you're getting that  
47 population estimate that's from like 20 birds one year,  
48 the next year 100 birds. How variable are the actual  
49 counts?

50

1 DR. TAYLOR: This is an actual count.  
2 So what you're actually seeing is the actual count.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. Thank  
5 you. Any other questions, comments. Taqulik.

6  
7 MS. HEPA: Not a question, but just a  
8 concern. Again, going back to the Spectacled Eider, I  
9 like those blue and red numbers and I think that's  
10 needed for your slide. The reason I say that is  
11 because the Spectacled Eiders are doing a lot better  
12 now and he did indicate that in his slide. Because  
13 they're doing a lot better, there is the potential that  
14 our hunters could harvest them and it does happen. You  
15 know, to not put our hunters in the position to be --  
16 have the potential to be cited, that we need to think  
17 about that as the AMBCC and how can we help our hunters  
18 and prevent them from getting citations for something  
19 that really isn't their fault. So I just wanted to  
20 express that concern.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. I don't  
23 see anymore hands up. Eric, thank you very much. I  
24 think we will take a 10-minute break and then hopefully  
25 get in proposals before lunch or get through proposals  
26 before lunch. Thank you.

27  
28 (Off record)

29  
30 (On record)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Let's get  
33 seated. The first order of business we need to seat an  
34 alternate. Myron had to leave us. Is there any  
35 opposition to Tim taking Myron's seat.

36  
37 (No opposition)

38  
39 MR. PROBASCO: I think, Mr. Chairman,  
40 we've got a great  
41 replacement. Thank you.

42  
43 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: I oppose.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Oh, Patty's got  
46 some opposition over here.

47  
48 (Laughter)

49  
50 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Give me some

1 of your Easter bread and I'll let you stay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: What I plan to  
4 do before lunch is take up the three proposals and if  
5 we get done with those, the consent agenda, leaving  
6 this afternoon to have any further discussion on  
7 committee reports that we all reviewed last night,  
8 right. Then get into the budget and grants update.

9

10 With that, the first proposal we need  
11 to bring on the table is the Proposal No. 1, which is  
12 the Bristol Bay Regional Council for Migratory Birds  
13 proposal. It would allow a limited harvest of Emperor  
14 Geese for cultural and spiritual purposes, utilizing  
15 bag limits and a permit system.

16

17 Gayla, would you like to speak to that.  
18 First I guess we need to bring it on the table.

19

20 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. chairman. I move  
21 that we bring Proposal No. 1 as you've just described  
22 onto the table.

23

24 MR. ANDREW: Second.

25

26 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Tim. Okay. Go  
27 ahead, Gayla. Do you want to speak to that?

28

29 MS. HOSETH: Do you want to wait for  
30 other people to come back in here or just keep going?

31

32 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: You've got the  
33 floor. Get going here.

34

35 MS. HOSETH: Okay. This is the first  
36 time I'm actually presenting a proposal, but this is a  
37 proposal that our Regional Council wanted to present  
38 here. Do you want me to just read through the proposal  
39 or what would you like me to do, Mr. Chair?

40

41 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: I guess give a  
42 little background to the Council about the purpose of  
43 the proposal and where you would like to, as the  
44 representative of this area, where you'd like to go  
45 with it.

46

47 MS. HOSETH: Okay.

48

49 MR. UJIOKA: Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Yes.

2

3 MR. UJIOKA: I'd like to point out that  
4 everyone that has a book it's under Tab 5 if you want  
5 to follow.

6

7 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. Thank  
8 you.

9

10 MS. HOSETH: Okay. I guess the problem  
11 that we're trying to address is Emperor Geese are  
12 closed to harvest and while some birds are taken  
13 inadvertently the subsistence harvesters have  
14 identified a cultural and spiritual need for these  
15 birds. We would like to allow for a limited harvest of  
16 Emperor Geese in the Bristol Bay area. The harvest can  
17 be documented through a permit system. Bag limits can  
18 be set by using the method the International Whaling  
19 Commission uses to set quotas to allow for a limited  
20 harvest for this traditional bird.

21

22 I guess how should the new regulation  
23 read? Allow for a limited harvest of Emperor Geese for  
24 cultural and spiritual purposes utilizing the  
25 International Whaling Commission's model to set bag  
26 limits, quotas and using a permit system to document  
27 the harvest.

28

29 To what geographic area does this  
30 regulation apply? To the Bristol Bay area in Alaska.

31

32 What impact would this regulation have  
33 on migratory bird populations? No known impact.  
34 People will be able to get their traditional needs met.

35

36 How will this regulation affect  
37 subsistence users? They will not have to continue to  
38 feel like criminals when they traditionally hunted  
39 Emperors.

40

41 Why should this regulation be adopted?  
42 This will follow the intent of reporting the  
43 traditional subsistence harvest of migratory birds.  
44 Right now subsistence users are put on the spot for  
45 hunting species that they have traditionally utilized  
46 in the past.

47

48 We had a meeting before and came here  
49 to this meeting and we talked about it and what our  
50 Council would like to see is a quota set to where we'd



1 be able to harvest up to five, no more than 10 birds.  
2 That was the proposal that I have to present to you.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Is that five to  
5 10 birds per individual or per community?

6  
7 MS. HOSETH: We talked about it. I  
8 have some notes here. We should be able to harvest for  
9 up to five families. Some of the Council members were  
10 saying -- some people mentioned per household, but if  
11 we could just set a quota for at least five birds is  
12 what we're asking for.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. Comments  
15 from around the table. Pete.

16  
17 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chairman. Patty,  
18 this proposal is submitted during the regular proposal  
19 framework and process. Would you give the Council  
20 direction on how we should proceed with that.

21  
22 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Before Tab 1  
23 there's a meeting protocol. So we have the proposal  
24 introduced and then we have the ADF&G Staff analysis,  
25 Fish and Wildlife Service Staff analysis, the Technical  
26 Committee analysis and then public comments, Council  
27 discussion and then we do that for each proposal. If  
28 the Native Caucus needs to get together to decide their  
29 position, the opportunity is provided and then the  
30 Council will take action after that.

31  
32 So the next step in the process would  
33 be the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff  
34 analysis.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Dan, would you  
37 like to join us at the table.

38  
39 DR. ROSENBERG: Sure.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you,  
42 Gayla. That was a very good introduction.

43  
44 DR. ROSENBERG: Dan Rosenberg, Alaska  
45 Department of Fish and Game. Remind me if I've talked  
46 to you about this before. I'm trying to gather my  
47 thoughts here. I'm going to start, just because it's  
48 as good a place as any, with what the harvest is  
49 currently in the Bristol Bay Region based on the  
50 subsistence harvest surveys.

1                   So there's three subregions in Bristol  
2 Bay that are surveyed and have been surveyed from 2004  
3 to 2011, although not I don't believe in every year  
4 each subregion has been surveyed. The average annual  
5 harvest that's been reported for Emperor Geese. All of  
6 Bristol Bay combined, the three subregions combined,  
7 the average annual harvest is 66 birds. That's what's  
8 being taken presumably already. Eleven in the South  
9 Alaska Peninsula Subregion and an average 34 in  
10 Southwest Bristol Bay and 21 in the Dillingham  
11 Subregion.

12  
13                   So that's just for information  
14 purposes. That is what is being harvested as of now.  
15 As I said many times before, that is an illegal  
16 harvest, but that is what is going on out there right  
17 now. That scenario and some other harvest scenario  
18 that is going on, we still believe the population is  
19 stable or increasing.

20  
21                   Again, the Emperor Goose harvest  
22 strategy is guided by the Pacific Flyway Management  
23 Plan. It was last revised in 2006 and it is currently  
24 under revision. As we've discussed, our plan is to go  
25 through that process of revision, try to get a better  
26 handle on what the true population size of Emperor  
27 Geese is, what the index reflects, then come revise the  
28 plan and see if under the revision of the plan, which  
29 members of the AMBCC will be involved with, if we can  
30 now open this species to harvest for some limited  
31 harvest or what have you.

32  
33                   Other than that, I'm happy to take any  
34 questions.

35  
36                   CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Questions for  
37 Dan. Sonny.

38  
39                   MR. SQUARTSOFF: Limited harvest would  
40 be fine just to people that need it in their diets and  
41 like to have it for a special meal sometime. That's  
42 all we're asking for. All I'm asking for.

43  
44                   CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: I understand  
45 that. We'll get to that.

46  
47                   MR. SQUARTSOFF: Like give permits to  
48 the tribal. The tribal will know who uses it for that.  
49 Have a couple for every family or something. Let the  
50 tribal people in the village control that. You go to

1 them to get a permit to go out and get a couple and you  
2 still have it under control.

3

4 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: I think we  
5 should have that discussion during the number 8 when we  
6 talk about -- you know, the Council is going to take  
7 discussions and deliberate on the proposal.

8

9 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Okay. This is my  
10 first time. I've never been to one before.

11

12 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: That's okay.  
13 Any other questions for Dan.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thanks, Dan.  
18 So Eric.

19

20 DR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
21 Eric Taylor with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
22 Migratory Bird Management. We appreciate the interest  
23 by the Bristol Bay Region in terms of re-establishing  
24 the traditional, cultural and spiritual hunt of Emperor  
25 Geese. Your region has been one of about four regions  
26 that has submitted a proposal expressing an interest  
27 to, once again, allow a legalized hunt of Emperor  
28 Geese, a subsistence hunt that's been closed since  
29 1987. We're all aware of the interest by Native elders  
30 and the interest to carry on the tradition of Emperor  
31 Geese.

32

33 As Dan Rosenberg referenced in his  
34 presentation, the management of this species is guided  
35 by two documents in the Flyway, the Pacific Flyway  
36 Goose Management Plan and this was last revised in  
37 2006. I think it's important to note that the authors  
38 of this proposal included Peter Devine, Austin Ahmasuk,  
39 Ralph Anderson and Tim Andrew, as well as  
40 representatives from Fish and Wildlife Service and  
41 Department of Fish and Game.

42

43 The other management plan that guides  
44 Emperor Geese is the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose  
45 Management Plan, which was signed by representatives of  
46 the state of California, state of Washington, the  
47 British Columbia Canadian Wildlife Service, USGS and  
48 Fish and Wildlife Service. So there's two management  
49 plans that guide this. I think it's important to note  
50 that when we, as management agencies and organizations,

1 sign on to a plan to guide the conservation of a  
2 species, that we stick with that plan until that plan  
3 is revised.

4  
5           The current plan states that harvest  
6 could be considered -- any harvest could be considered,  
7 even a limited permit harvest would be considered when  
8 a three-year average is at least 80,000 birds. Right  
9 now, just a few minutes ago, I gave my presentation and  
10 I stated the three-year average of Emperor Geese based  
11 on our spring index, which is the index that's adopted  
12 by both of those management plans is at 68,000. So we  
13 remain below a level at which these plans state that  
14 subsistence harvest could be reconsidered.

15  
16           So the Fish and Wildlife Service's  
17 position, our technical review of this proposal, is  
18 that we believe the management plans should be followed  
19 until such time that it's necessary to revise them. As  
20 Dan referenced in an earlier presentation, the Fish and  
21 Wildlife Service and Department of Fish and Game are  
22 committed to look at this plan and revise it and look  
23 at the survey. Several representatives from regions  
24 have questioned the design of the survey, whether the  
25 distribution of birds has changed, whether the survey  
26 that we used to estimate this population is still  
27 accurate. I have committed that our office will do so  
28 and we will do so within the next year.

29  
30           Until such time, we do not support that  
31 in terms of the potential biological impacts. Even an  
32 associate or a permit hunt  
33 we believe is not supported.

34  
35           CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you.  
36 Questions for Eric.

37  
38           (No comments)

39  
40           CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Seeing none. I  
41 guess Dan is now going to come back and join us for the  
42 Technical Review Committee.

43  
44           DR. ROSENBERG: Dan Rosenberg, Alaska  
45 Department of Fish and Game. The Technical Committee  
46 met to address this proposal on February 11th. In  
47 attendance was Carol Brown as the chair and Patty, Jay  
48 Stevens, Jim Fall, myself, Todd Sformo with the North  
49 Slope Borough was on the phone, Eric Taylor was on the  
50 phone. Former members were not there. Enoch Shiedt

1 from Kawerak was not there. He was gone from the  
2 Council at the time. He used to be a member of that  
3 committee. Frank Woods was not there because he had  
4 moved to a new position. And Rick Rowland was not  
5 there. He has left the Council.

6  
7 Be advised that again the purpose of  
8 the Technical Committee is not to vote yea or nay on an  
9 issue, okay. We're here. We're not making a  
10 recommendation to this body. All we're doing is -- our  
11 purpose is to raise the issues, identify problems,  
12 solutions if we can and discuss sort of the pros and  
13 cons of the technical issues that surround this.

14  
15 Most of those, I think, have been  
16 addressed in what I previously stated, what Eric has  
17 previously stated. One thing that -- you know, we've  
18 had several proposals in front of this body from the  
19 Kodiak RAC, from Bristol Bay, Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak.  
20 Because of that, one of the things that we thought was  
21 important to this body that if there is a proposal it  
22 considers all user needs, not just an individual  
23 region. If we're going to allocate birds, we kind of  
24 wanted to see the big picture of how they would be  
25 allocated among everybody that was interested in having  
26 those birds.

27  
28 Of course, the conflict at the same  
29 time of having said that is what we've talked about  
30 with the management plan. All right. So it's more of  
31 a long-term vision among the technical team of revising  
32 the management plan and then looking at it from a  
33 holistic perspective of all the interested regions that  
34 want to harvest and how we can accommodate that.

35  
36 I'm just going to look at the notes  
37 here that were in your packet, but part of that was we  
38 did look at whether the index is appropriate, as I've  
39 talked about before, as Eric has talked about, I've  
40 talked about. There are four surveys that do have some  
41 conflicts, conflicting information. As I've said  
42 before, these proposals have essentially moved us  
43 forward in recognizing the need to revise this  
44 management plan and look at our current index to see if  
45 it truly is the best way of measuring this population,  
46 assessing this population or if we need to come up with  
47 a better way. Because of these proposals we have  
48 started this process to look at a better way to do  
49 that.

50

1                   We recognize the frustration that you  
2 have with this. There's no question about it. As with  
3 everybody else, we are limited in how quickly we can  
4 get this done. This was all addressed in the committee  
5 and we are working to try to reassess our current  
6 monitoring scheme as to what it's telling us and see if  
7 we can come up with a better estimate for the number of  
8 birds that are truly out there. With that, either see  
9 if it meets the population objective we already have or  
10 as part of this plan revise that population objective.

11

12                   These are all open for discussion.

13

14                   CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Does the  
15 committee have a recommendation on the proposal?

16

17                   MR. ROSENBERG: As I said earlier,  
18 Doug, the committee is not here to make a  
19 recommendation. We're just here to bring out the  
20 issues, discuss those issues and make people aware of  
21 them.

22

23                   CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you.  
24 Questions. First Pete then Taqulik.

25

26                   MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
27 Dan, this proposal brings an issue that is unique to  
28 other subsistence management boards if you will as far  
29 as looking at cultural, customary and traditional use  
30 of these birds. Some of these other boards have looked  
31 at a way, even with concerns for populations that had  
32 either a little or no harvestable surplus, to allow for  
33 a harvest. Has the committee looked into that yet as  
34 far as what can be even allowed under the Migratory  
35 Bird Treaty Act as far as addressing the spring  
36 subsistence hunts for cultural and traditional use?

37

38                   CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: More  
39 specifically, could there be a mechanism for a cultural  
40 or educational permit similar to what the State has for  
41 potlatch ceremonies?

42

43                   DR. ROSENBERG: I don't know if I can  
44 answer that question. I don't know what the Service's  
45 policy is on allowing that. I mean I think that the  
46 Pacific Flyway -- this is a Pacific Flyway Council plan  
47 with AMBCC involvement, the Emperor Goose Management  
48 Plan. My experience, which is limited, the Service at  
49 least -- the Flyway Council both and the Service is  
50 that, you know, the first question that gets asked is

1 is it in the plan. How rigid is the plan and are there  
2 other mechanisms to have a harvest regardless of the  
3 plan.

4

5 I think that there certainly are other  
6 mechanisms available, whether that's just coming up  
7 with an alternate strategy that's acceptable to  
8 everyone even though it's not in the plan, but I don't  
9 know what you're alluding to as far as permits that  
10 would be useful in this situation.

11

12 MR. PROBASCO: Well, based on your  
13 answer it sounds like -- as I stated, in other arenas  
14 it's been explored and in other arenas it's been  
15 approved. This one looks like, to this date, we  
16 haven't explored that yet to the depth as other bodies  
17 have.

18

19 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Please come  
20 join us.

21

22 MS. DEWHURST: It's come up before. We  
23 haven't really pursued it. There's no mechanism under  
24 the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to go there, so we would  
25 have to tread new ground, get with the solicitor and  
26 figure out a mechanism and write it in regulation to  
27 even allow an avenue for it.

28

29 As Pete is familiar, if you do  
30 something like that, unless it's done during the  
31 regular regulatory cycle, it requires publishing in the  
32 Federal Register. Not necessarily a full rule, but you  
33 have to do a notice in the Federal Register if it's out  
34 of cycle.

35

36 In the past, we haven't gone there yet  
37 because we have to develop the whole avenue and ability  
38 to do it, get that published under the rule, and then  
39 we could approach different camps or potlatches or  
40 things like OSM does and go there, but we haven't had  
41 enough of a request to even get the avenue built that  
42 we could do it.

43

44 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Could that  
47 request come from the AMBCC to start that process?  
48 Clearly I'm very interested in allowing limited harvest  
49 of birds to ensure that cultural and traditional  
50 practices are done, but not for a wide-open harvest or

1 for potlatch ceremonies.

2

3 MS. DEWHURST: That would probably be  
4 the thing to do would be to have a motion and the  
5 Service pursue it with the solicitor and see what would  
6 need to be done to open up that avenue and at least get  
7 procedure established that we could pursue.

8

9 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Sonny. Oh,  
10 Taqulik first, then Sonny.

11

12 MS. HEPA: He addressed it.

13

14 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Sonny.

15

16 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, even on a 3-year  
17 basis, just try it and see how it works. You know,  
18 like every three years. Try it on a three-year thing.  
19 If it works, you know, it's fine, but if it doesn't  
20 work, then we know we could close it down and not have  
21 so many arguments about it. Just try it out, you know.

22

23

24 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: We'll get to  
25 that during our discussion around the table here. Any  
26 other questions for Dan.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Public comment.  
31 Anybody want to testify on this.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Council  
36 discussion. Now we can have that discussion, Sonny.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Council  
41 members. Joeneal.

42

43 MR. HICKS: I had asked earlier a  
44 question on the annual report. It said that there was  
45 an illegal subsistence take of about 35-3,700 birds.  
46 My question here is maybe to expand that first  
47 particular question, but when you say 35 or 3,700  
48 birds, in those that reported it, are you talking about  
49 3,500 people reporting it or are you -- well, I guess  
50 that's the first question. Or are you talking about



1 maybe 1,000 people reporting it and of that five goose  
2 were taken?

3

4 DR. ROSENBERG: This data is from  
5 Lilian's subsistence harvest surveys that were  
6 conducted from 2004 through 2011. So they rotate among  
7 regions and subregions, so not every area is surveyed  
8 in every year. But she estimates from the data that  
9 she collects from the survey data, she extrapolates out  
10 based on what she's got, and she estimates the average  
11 -- she estimates the annual harvest. From that data,  
12 the harvest from 2004 to 2011, all the regions that  
13 harvest Emperor Geese, and there's about five of them,  
14 I believe, if you average that out over that time  
15 period, I think it comes out to about 3,200 Emperor  
16 Geese, is what the estimate is of the average annual  
17 harvest.

18

19 Do you follow that? Did I make that  
20 clear? I'm sorry if I didn't. So essentially we think  
21 that about 3,200 Emperor Geese are harvested every year  
22 in the spring/summer hunt.

23

24 MR. HICKS: Okay. But, again, like I  
25 said, how many people are reporting this? Is it  
26 households, is it the number of people reporting it, is  
27 it the idea?

28

29 DR. ROSENBERG: Well, it is a household  
30 survey and I don't know how many households -- I don't  
31 know the raw data. I don't know exactly. Liliana may  
32 have that somewhere. I don't know if she has it off  
33 the top of her head. If she wants to come up and  
34 address that, please do. I don't know how many people  
35 are reporting a harvest that gets extrapolated out to  
36 this estimate of 3,200 per year.

37

38 MR. HICKS: Is there a specific  
39 location where this is occurring?

40

41 DR. ROSENBERG: Yeah, let me get my  
42 chart. Oh, thank you, Eric. Let me get my glasses.

43

44 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Yes, Taqulik.

45

46 MS. HEPA: Maybe, Joeneal, just in the  
47 history, I think when we did the harvest surveys that a  
48 lot of the regions didn't want them to be used in that  
49 fashion, going to specific subregions and households or  
50 to communities. It would be more of a broader thing.

1 I recall that discussion, so let's be a little bit  
2 careful.

3

4 DR. ROSENBERG: Yeah, this is -- the  
5 way it's reported, it was agreed not to report this  
6 data at the village level. It's reported at the  
7 subregion level. So, for example, Kodiak, the average  
8 harvest in Kodiak -- and there weren't many surveys in  
9 Kodiak in that time period, so this only represents a  
10 couple years. But the average annual harvest in Kodiak  
11 was 17. I'd have to do some -- Aleutian/Pribilof it  
12 was the -- in the Aleutian/Pribilof village subregion  
13 there was 160. In Unalaska, it was 65.

14

15 In Bristol Bay, there were three  
16 subregions, as I mentioned earlier. Alaska Peninsula  
17 11, Southwest Bristol Bay 34, Dillingham 21.

18

19 On the Yukon Delta there's seven  
20 subregions, okay, and it's by no means equally  
21 distributed. Most of the harvest is in the south coast  
22 and the mid coast, but the total for the Yukon Delta --  
23 the average I should say for the Yukon Delta in a given  
24 year is 1,623 birds.

25

26 At Bering Strait/Norton Sound where  
27 there's three subregions, again, the mainland villages  
28 and St. Lawrence Diomedes combined their average harvest  
29 was 1,249 birds. So you can see the Yukon Delta and  
30 Bering Strait/Norton Sound have the bulk of the  
31 harvest.

32

33 Northwest Arctic there was one bird  
34 reported. Oh, there was not any. I'm not sure if  
35 that's because there were very few or no surveys there.  
36 I'd have to go back and look at that. For whatever  
37 reason, there was some harvest reported in the  
38 Interior, in the mid-Yukon/Upper Kuskokwim Subregion.

39

40 Anyway, that came out to an average  
41 annual harvest of 3,214 birds.

42

43 MR. HICKS: So what I'm getting at here  
44 is that there proves to be a demand for this harvest.

45

46 DR. ROSENBERG: Correct.

47

48 MR. HICKS: Just by the illegal take of  
49 it.

50

1 DR. ROSENBERG: Absolutely.  
2  
3 MR. HICKS: I would support the  
4 proposal to make it legal. Thank you.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Other comments.  
7 Peter.  
8  
9 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
10 Aleutian/Pribilof Region does support this proposal  
11 because we partake in the hunt ourselves.  
12 Unfortunately, my kids became accustomed to the  
13 microwave age. They'd rather cook a chicken nugget.  
14 This year during Thanksgiving meal I had my grandson  
15 sitting at the table with me, he's four years old, and  
16 sitting there telling his mom how good this goose  
17 tasted.  
18  
19 As far as traditional and customary, I  
20 would like to bring that back to our people to where --  
21 I mean we know we missed a generation, but if we could  
22 teach younger ones what we used to do and what we still  
23 do, I support this proposal.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Randy.  
26  
27 MR. MAYO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
28 just wanted to make mention in listening to the  
29 discussion here that in our situation a few years ago  
30 we started building our tribal infrastructure with --  
31 these weren't state VPSOs, but full-blown tribal police  
32 officers. We worked pretty well with the local  
33 agencies and state police and we were policing our own  
34 tribal members, civil and criminal, and tribal wildlife  
35 enforcement also, so we were policing our own people  
36 instead of having it done without the community. So if  
37 this is looking at opening opportunity, if tribes have  
38 infrastructure, this could be a way to look at it too  
39 if tribes have the ability to police their own  
40 membership under tribal law and order.  
41  
42 So I just wanted to make mention of  
43 that. Eventually this is where it has to go.  
44 Communities have to develop structure to interface with  
45 the outside agencies and whatnot, you know.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you.  
48 Other comments. Taqulik and then Sonny.  
49  
50 MS. HEPA: From the North Slope Region

1 we would support this proposal. I also want to mention  
2 the proposal by Kodiak/Aleutian Chain with a similar  
3 request. This is to ensure that they meet their  
4 cultural and nutritional needs for harvesting Emperor  
5 Goose. The main reason why I support this is even with  
6 the illegal reported harvest there's still -- it is a  
7 stable or increasing population for this bird. So we  
8 would support this proposal.

9

10 And then also support to identify or  
11 begin the process for allowing the ceremonial or  
12 potlatch type of opportunity for the people around  
13 Alaska.

14

15 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you,  
16 Taqulik. Sonny.

17

18 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Right now a lot of the  
19 younger generations in the villages think you guys are  
20 like the enemy. Fish and Game comes and everybody quit  
21 because they're going to find something that you did  
22 wrong. You're taking their livelihood, what they lived  
23 with all their life, then you guys come around and say  
24 you can't do that because you're saving it for the  
25 outside guy, the sports guy to come in. They're losing  
26 faith in you guys. You're like the enemy when you come  
27 around. Nobody wants nothing to do with you guys. Try  
28 to make some things right. Start somewhere.

29

30 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you.  
31 Pete and then Tim.

32

33 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair and to the  
34 Council. I think we have a proposal here that has a  
35 lot of potential to provide a limited harvest. But,  
36 for my view, unfortunately, there's still a lot of work  
37 that needs to occur. Specifically to the proposal, the  
38 proponent asked for a limited harvest of Emperor Geese.  
39 Limited is a very subjective term and we would need to  
40 define that.

41

42 Also, if you listen to what Dan and  
43 Eric have said, we have two management plans that may,  
44 in the eyes of the SRC, have to be amended to look for  
45 a harvest like this.

46

47 I think it would be prudent, because of  
48 the legal requirements that are placed on the AMBCC we  
49 must follow this process and we also have to look into  
50 the process on what we think has a high probability of

1 passing. So I look favorably on this process, but I  
2 need some more answers. One is the regulatory side,  
3 but also more specifics.

4  
5 If you look at Sonny and Peter's area,  
6 what they're asking for we can't provide. Our body is  
7 the spring/summer subsistence season. The access to  
8 the birds that they're looking at are in the fall. I  
9 guess the question is do we have an avenue to look at  
10 that would provide for a limited harvest of those birds  
11 in the fall. I don't have an answer to that. That  
12 needs to be explored.

13  
14 How and what mechanism would we use for  
15 permitting a cultural and spiritual permit? We have  
16 some very good examples in other arenas. The Office of  
17 Subsistence Management, Alaska Department of Fish and  
18 Game. They both have processes that have been  
19 established that we could follow.

20  
21 Mr. Chair, without going into a long  
22 dissertation, I think it would be prudent for us to  
23 take this proposal, give specific direction to the  
24 Technical Committee and provide those answers so that  
25 we forward a recommendation to the Flyway and to the  
26 SRC that has more than just a slim chance, a very high  
27 chance of passing. Mr. Chair.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you.  
30 Tim.

31  
32 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We  
33 do agree that we have a process we need to follow in  
34 respect to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management  
35 Plan. That plan or the reauthorization of the plan has  
36 been in limbo for the last several years primarily  
37 because of the Cackler issue that's occurring down in  
38 Oregon and Washington.

39  
40 I don't have any problem with the  
41 concept of the proposal. I think it has a lot of merit  
42 that we do need cultural and spiritual access to our  
43 resources that we have customary and traditionally used  
44 throughout the millennia that we've been in existence  
45 here, even prior to U.S. independence or people  
46 arriving in Plymouth or perhaps the Russians coming and  
47 selling our country to the United States.

48  
49 These are age-old traditions and  
50 customary practices that we've been carrying on for

1 thousands and thousands of years and the customary and  
2 traditional and spiritual utilization of these  
3 resources, I think that's very important. Thank you,  
4 Mr. Chair.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: I guess I'll  
7 put myself on the record here because you guys will go  
8 back in the Native Caucus after we hear all three  
9 proposals. I'm inclined to ask that this be tabled at  
10 this point in time for a lot of the same reasons that  
11 Pete spoke on. I fully support passing a traditional  
12 and cultural harvest.

13  
14 I'm not convinced that a small harvest  
15 -- I don't think we can allow a harvest of 3,500 at  
16 this point in time, but some small harvest that's put  
17 onto a quota system is going to cause long-term,  
18 irreparable harm to Emperor Geese and other things.

19  
20 Again, my preference will be to table  
21 this proposal, work through it in context of the other  
22 four regions that would like to have Emperor Goose  
23 proposals, but then also have a separate motion that  
24 specifically asks the Fish and Wildlife Service to work  
25 with the solicitors on a customary and traditional  
26 permit that allows a limited harvest for birds that  
27 currently is -- short of having a wide-open harvest  
28 that's done.

29  
30 I think it can be done. There's other  
31 migratory species that are dealt with that are dealt  
32 with under international treaties, whales and caribou.  
33 I think this could be accomplished. It's going to  
34 probably take a little bit of time, but I think the  
35 precedence to do this would also then apply potentially  
36 to Eiders and a variety of other species.

37  
38 So I think this is a very good process  
39 to go forward with, but at this point in time I think  
40 there's too many unanswered questions for me just to  
41 say that we should forge ahead until we have some of  
42 the more quantifiable numbers associated with how large  
43 -- you know, what the permit system would look like.

44  
45 Taqulik and then Peter.

46 MS. HEPA: Maybe for consideration for  
47 Fish and Wildlife Service and Alaska Department of Fish  
48 and Game if we accept up to a certain amount for these  
49 specific region that requested for a hunt and say that  
50 in the meantime we'll have what you guys just spoke of.

1 To meet the needs of the communities or of the regions  
2 we accept this much for now and it's based on the  
3 stable or increasing population, but we have to go  
4 through this process to develop a process or a  
5 mechanism for it to legally -- or to happen.

6

7 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I still don't  
8 see why not just try like a three-year limited. That  
9 will answer a lot of questions, how true these guys'  
10 surveys are. Just to make it legal, why not let these  
11 guys go out and they feel guilty about it. Just try it  
12 on a three-year basis just on the amount what you got  
13 on your survey. Just a few more off of that, it  
14 shouldn't hurt it because that's what they're getting  
15 anyway. If it goes down, then we'll understand, but if  
16 it don't, then we can get a few more maybe or  
17 something, whatever. Just try it.

18

19 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Pete.

20

21 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
22 want to make a statement and then I would like to ask  
23 Eric to come up here. Taqulik and Sonny, I'm following  
24 the same thing you're -- I'm thinking the same way. My  
25 concern is I don't even think we have a legal process  
26 yet to allow for a hunt under the auspices of cultural  
27 and spiritual. I don't think we have the language that  
28 would allow us to do that. So that's my concern. I  
29 don't even think we would get to first base on a  
30 proposal yet until we make those changes both  
31 regulatory as well as in the plan.

32

33 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Eric.

34

35 DR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36 Eric Taylor with Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm going  
37 to speak both from a Fish and Wildlife Service  
38 perspective but also as a member of the AMBCC  
39 Subcommittee on Emperor Geese, and as well as a member  
40 of the Pacific Flyway Emperor Goose Subcommittee.

41

42 A recommendation that the Council may  
43 consider is that the Council has -- which is comprised  
44 obviously of three management boards, including my own  
45 agency, but the Council has the option of submitting a  
46 letter, much like the Council has done in the past, to  
47 Jerome Ford. In this case, you have Todd Sanders, who  
48 is the Pacific Flyway representative, who is present  
49 today, and Ron Anglin, who is the Pacific Flyway  
50 Council representative to the AMBCC.

1 I may suggest that the Council may  
2 consider submitting a letter to one or three of those  
3 entities. That is the Pacific Flyway Council, asking  
4 the Pacific Flyway Council to make the revision of the  
5 Emperor Goose Management Plan a priority. By making it  
6 a priority, ask the Pacific Flyway Council to identify  
7 a time period on when that management plan could be  
8 revised.

9  
10 As I stated on the record a couple  
11 times, we have three plans currently underway. We are  
12 scrambling on the Cackler Plan, the Dusky Plan and the  
13 Brant, so I'm in some ways increasing the numbers of  
14 hours that our crew will stay at the office as well as  
15 kind of obligating Dan Rosenberg. Nonetheless, it's  
16 clearly a priority.

17  
18 As I stated in my testimony, plans are  
19 only as good if we follow them. If we don't follow a  
20 plan, then why is my agency as well as the Department  
21 of Fish and Game as well as the Pacific Flyway Council  
22 even investing the time in them.

23  
24 The other word of caution I'd like to  
25 make is I've heard on occasion this activity is  
26 illegal, so it must be warranted and, therefore, let's  
27 legalize it. I think that's a very dangerous road to  
28 go down. The subsistence harvest survey shows that  
29 we're taking Spectacled Eiders and Steller's Eiders.  
30 So the same rationale could be used for those two  
31 species; since we're taking  
32 them now, let's go ahead and legalize them. I don't  
33 think that's what this body wants to do.

34  
35 So instead of saying something like  
36 this is illegal, so let's legalize it, let's determine  
37 why that is occurring. I think Randy mentioned tribal  
38 entities trying to police their own. I guess in this  
39 case my question might be to Randy or where the illegal  
40 harvest is occurring where have we failed to  
41 communicate to where the harvest is occurring to the  
42 villages. Again, we don't collect or distribute that  
43 information on the villages, but where have we failed  
44 to identify that the species is closed and it's still  
45 being taken.

46  
47 Anyway, I'm touching upon several  
48 areas, but the most important thing is I know the Fish  
49 and Wildlife Service listens to the AMBCC, a letter  
50 that comes from Patty to Jerome Ford is taken very



1 seriously. I would suggest that if this is indeed a  
2 priority of this management board that a letter be  
3 drafted both to Mr. Ford and to Mr. Anglin in terms of  
4 his role on the Pacific Flyway Council stating that the  
5 Emperor Goose Management Plan needs to be revised, it  
6 needs to be looked at in terms of the survey that we  
7 do, allowing a potential harvest, the population  
8 objective, the harvest thresholds, what information we  
9 know about disease, contaminants, parasite load, what  
10 do we know about predator control that could possibly  
11 help the species.

12  
13                   There's many aspects of the Management  
14 Plan, but the important point is, in order to raise  
15 this issue, I would suggest a letter would be  
16 appropriate.

17  
18                   CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you.  
19 Other Council discussion.

20  
21                   MS. HOSETH: I just have one thing. I  
22 don't think it identifies that it was just to get them  
23 in the fall. That's not identified on which, spring or  
24 fall.

25  
26                   CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Go ahead, Pete.

27  
28                   MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
29 That's correct. The Bristol Bay proposal is  
30 specifically only to Bristol Bay. If we were to put  
31 this back in the committee, we could actually come back  
32 hopefully with a proposal that not only gets at your  
33 area, but would get at Pete's and Sonny's and Jack's.  
34 Right now that proposal is specific to Bristol Bay only  
35 and the spring.

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. Any  
38 other comments.

39  
40                   (No comments)

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: We'll set this  
43 aside pending the Native Caucus meeting and move into  
44 Proposal No. 2, which is a proposal to salvage all  
45 edible parts of migratory waterfowl  
46 harvested during the spring/summer subsistence harvest  
47 season. That was done by Bristol Bay Regional  
48 Corporation. Gayla or Tim, either one of you.

49  
50                   MS. HOSETH: I can go ahead and read

1 the proposal.

2

3 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: First we need  
4 to put it on the table.

5

6 MR. ANDREW: Move to approve Proposal  
7 No. 2.

8

9 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: To bring it on  
10 the table?

11

12 MR. ANDREW: Yeah.

13

14 MS. HOSETH: Second.

15

16 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. Please  
17 proceed, Gayla.

18

19 MS. HOSETH: So I guess what problem or  
20 issue are we trying to address? Wanton waste of  
21 migratory birds. State regulations define edible meat  
22 as the breast meat. Subsistence users view this as  
23 wanton waste.

24

25 How would the new regulation read? All  
26 edible parts of migratory waterfowl must be salvaged  
27 when caught during the spring/summer subsistence  
28 harvest season.

29

30 To what geographic area does this  
31 regulation apply? Bristol Bay.

32

33 What impact will this regulation have  
34 on migratory bird populations? No negative impact on  
35 the migratory bird population will occur.

36

37 How will this regulation affect  
38 subsistence users? Subsistence hunters will be  
39 required to salvage all edible parts of the migratory  
40 waterfowl. This will affect some hunters who only take  
41 the breast meat of the birds.

42

43 Why should this regulation be adopted?  
44 This will follow the intent of the traditional  
45 subsistence harvest of migratory birds.

46

47 When we had our meeting, all of our  
48 council members identify as edible meat as the whole  
49 bird. It is hurtful to the Native people that only the  
50 edible parts are defined as breast only to some people

1 and the Natives consider this wanton waste. So that's  
2 what this proposal was written for, so that all the  
3 bird will be taken, all edible parts.

4

5 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you.  
6 Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff analysis.

7

8 DR. ROSENBERG: Mr. Chair. Dan  
9 Rosenberg, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. A  
10 similar proposal was presented to the Board of Game  
11 from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and also from a citizen  
12 in Homer at the last statewide meeting to salvage all  
13 edible portions of the bird.

14

15 Our position now is the same as it was  
16 then. We don't see this as a biological issue. We see  
17 this as a cultural, ethical type of issue. To us, the  
18 key to addressing this was really that if it was to be  
19 addressed it was vetted through law enforcement and  
20 legal staff as opposed to the biological staff in terms  
21 of how to write up a regulation that was enforceable.

22

23 Having said that, I can tell you what  
24 the Board of Game did to address this and whether that  
25 was to everyone's satisfaction or not I don't know, but  
26 in that process several of the Advisory Committees -- I  
27 can't say all, I don't have that presentation in front  
28 of me, I did one for the Board and I have it with me,  
29 but I haven't looked at it since then. Several of the  
30 Rural Advisory Committees all supported using the whole  
31 bird. So I can't say it was everyone that addressed  
32 it, but many did. Many of the more urban Advisory  
33 Committees did not.

34

35 Also, at the same time right now, the  
36 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.....

37

38 (Telephone ringing)

39

40 DR. ROSENBERG: Excuse me. Okay, that  
41 changes everything.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 DR. ROSENBERG: Several of the urban  
46 Advisory Committees did not. Also I'll say at the same  
47 time U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is addressing their  
48 wanton waste regulations and the Canadian Wildlife  
49 Service is addressing their wanton waste regulations.  
50 I had not seen -- the Service has not published yet

1 what theirs are going to be. The draft that I've seen  
2 pretty much followed the definition that was formerly,  
3 before I get to this Board of Game definition, was  
4 formerly in the Alaska regulations, which was just the  
5 breast meat as minimal salvage.

6

7                   The Canadians have recognized that  
8 there are cultural and traditional practices throughout  
9 the country that vary from region to region and that  
10 perhaps they should address it that way.

11

12                   To end my rambling here, I'll just tell  
13 you what the Board of Game came up with in their  
14 attempts to satisfy this question statewide for Alaska.  
15 They changed nothing for anything for ducks and  
16 anything smaller than that. That remained the same as  
17 the minimal salvage, was the breast meat.

18

19                   In the case of -- the language is,  
20 except for cranes, geese and swans, the meat of the  
21 breast. In the case of cranes, geese and swans, the  
22 meat of the breast and the meat of the femur and  
23 essentially what is the tibia/tarsus, the legs and the  
24 thighs. So for geese, cranes and swans they required  
25 salvage, which will begin September 1, which is the  
26 femur, the thigh, and the tibia/fibula, which really  
27 should be the tibia/tarsus, which is the leg, the  
28 drumstick if you're talking about a chicken.

29

30                   CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: The current  
31 minimum harvest requirements for ducks are the same as  
32 they are under Federal regulations, which is breast.

33

34                   DR. ROSENBERG: No. The Federal  
35 regulations currently don't have a minimum salvage  
36 requirement. The State is more restrictive.

37

38                   CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: My  
39 understanding, based on the advice we got, is that  
40 regulation the Board adopted applies year round, not  
41 just to the State season during the fall.

42

43                   DR. ROSENBERG: The Board of Game  
44 regulation?

45

46                   CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Yes. That  
47 would apply to the summer.

48

49                   DR. ROSENBERG: I don't believe that's  
50 true. Is Ryan here?

1 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: I thought that  
2 the State could adopt a more restrictive requirement.  
3 If we have a minimum salvage requirement, it applies  
4 year round.

5  
6 DR. ROSENBERG: Year round. We can  
7 adopt a more restrictive requirement, but the Board of  
8 Game, as I understand it, adopted this for the sport  
9 hunting season. We don't even recognize the  
10 spring/summer subsistence season. The Board of Game  
11 has no regulations that affect the spring/summer  
12 season. So my understanding is that this only applies  
13 to the sport hunting season.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay.

16  
17 DR. ROSENBERG: You know, if you're  
18 interested, and I don't want to put Ron Anglin on the  
19 spot, but Ron is here. Oregon probably has the most  
20 restrictive regulations for salvage of anywhere in the  
21 country as far as I know and Ron could probably address  
22 that more definitely than I can. But if you're  
23 interested in a state that does have more restrictive  
24 salvage requirements than Alaska for sport hunting,  
25 Oregon is that state.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Any questions  
28 for Dan.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: None. Okay.  
33 Let's get to the Fish and Wildlife Service staff  
34 analysis.

35  
36 DR. TAYLOR: Eric Taylor with U.S. Fish  
37 and Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Management. The  
38 Migratory Bird Management Office has reviewed this  
39 proposal and does not have any concerns relative to its  
40 merit in terms of potential biological impacts or  
41 concerns.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you.  
44 Pete.

45  
46 MR. PROBASCO: Hey, Eric, help me with  
47 this one. The regulations that the Board of Game  
48 passed for the fall season would also apply to the  
49 Service, i.e. the Refuges, none of the other BLM, Park  
50 Service lands as well. Is that correct or are you

1 going to pass on that as well?

2

3 DR. TAYLOR: I'm going to venture to  
4 say that is correct. I would prefer if Ryan Noel was  
5 here, but I believe that is correct.

6

7 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Taqulik.

8

9 MS. HEPA: Preserves are managed by the  
10 State and then Parks are managed by, I think, the  
11 Federal Subsistence. No? Is that the wrong question?

12

13 MR. PROBASCO: No, it's on the same  
14 theme, but the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as it  
15 pertains to Refuges as far as regulations affecting the  
16 harvest of, i.e., other animals, adopts those State  
17 regulations. Go ahead, Dan.

18

19 DR. ROSENBERG: Yeah, I asked Ryan Noel  
20 about that a while back and my impression was that he  
21 had mentioned it didn't apply to Wildlife Refuges, but  
22 I asked him again yesterday and he wasn't so sure of  
23 that yesterday, so I'm not sure if we had a  
24 misunderstanding or what. So this needs to be  
25 clarified, so I don't have an answer for you. I'm more  
26 confused by it now than I thought I was a couple days  
27 ago.

28

29 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Other  
30 questions. Donna.

31

32 MS. DEWHURST: Ryan and I discussed  
33 this yesterday. Yes, all State laws apply on National  
34 Wildlife Refuges. I'm not so sure about Park Service  
35 or BLM or the other Federal lands, but I know for sure  
36 -- but Ryan was mentioning that he wasn't sure if --  
37 like the wanton waste stuff was actually codified under  
38 State law or if it's only in Part 20 of the Federal  
39 Regs. Is it actually in State law?

40

41 DR. ROSENBERG: Dan Rosenberg again.  
42 Yes. Well, it is in State law currently and it has a  
43 definition of what edible meat is and it defines what  
44 the minimum salvage requirements are. Under this new  
45 Board of Game regulation beginning in September 1, it  
46 will again be codified in the State regulations with a  
47 more restrictive requirement for cranes, geese and  
48 swans.

49

50 MS. DEWHURST: Does it specify the

1 dates of only the sport hunt or is it wide open that  
2 any time waterfowl are harvested? That was the other  
3 question because Part 20 applies to after September 1.  
4 We don't have any language in Part 92 for the spring  
5 hunt. That was Ryan's other question, was if the State  
6 law is specific to the sport hunt or if it's any time  
7 waterfowl are harvested.

8

9 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: I think our  
10 salvage requirement applies year round that the Board  
11 adopted. It's not tied to a season. It's currently  
12 written for breasts.

13

14 MS. DEWHURST: What Taquilik just handed  
15 me is -- yeah, that's what it says. It doesn't have a  
16 season. So, yes, then that would apply on Refuges.

17

18 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: And to my  
19 understanding it applies to Park land and Refuges.

20

21 MS. DEWHURST: Probably.

22

23 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Other than the  
24 Parks that are closed to all hunting.

25

26 MS. DEWHURST: Right.

27

28 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: It still  
29 applies, it's just there's no season.

30

31 DR. ROSENBERG: Just for your  
32 information, and I'm not disagreeing, but I have asked  
33 this question of the Attorney General and I have asked  
34 this question of Captain Bernard Chastain of the State  
35 Troopers and I haven't gotten a definitive answer.

36

37 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: I think the  
38 State is not going to be enforcing that activity  
39 outside of its sport season because we don't have a  
40 legal hunt then, but I think our State regulation would  
41 apply. We'll explore it some more.

42

43 DR. ROSENBERG: Yeah. And the State  
44 does enforce that sometimes.

45

46 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Other  
47 questions. Carol. Where did Carol go? Dan, did the  
48 Technical Committee have anything on this one?

49

50 DR. ROSENBERG: Okay, I think I'm still

1 Dan Rosenberg. Someone is going to have to help me  
2 out. Who is the chair on the Technical Committee,  
3 Patty?

4  
5 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Carol, and she  
6 was just sitting there a second ago.

7  
8 DR. ROSENBERG: I'm trying to refresh  
9 my memory how we address this. I don't have my notes  
10 in front of me. Is Carol here? No.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Here, let me  
13 read what the Technical Committee said.

14  
15 DR. ROSENBERG: Thank you.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Mr. Rosenberg  
18 stated that subsistence has 92 species eligible for  
19 harvest from small to large. What species do you want  
20 to identify. He felt the Board of Game should decide  
21 on wanton waste on their wanton waste proposal. Donna  
22 Dewhurst stated that Federal proposals should mirror  
23 each other. The Federal government, for example, may  
24 model the Federal regulations after State regulations.  
25 It was noted that the definition is only for the breast  
26 meat harvested and that this is not a biological issue.

27  
28 DR. ROSENBERG: There you have it.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Here's Carol.  
31 Carol, we're discussing the Technical Committee  
32 recommendations on wanton waste. I read the first  
33 paragraph of your wanton waste summary here, not the  
34 second paragraph.

35  
36 MS. BROWN: Okay. Sorry. We basically  
37 don't have much more to add. It primarily was an  
38 enforcement issue and we kind of look at it more of an  
39 ethical concern. I really don't remember what the  
40 recommendations were on that because I was on the phone  
41 and I didn't really hear a lot.

42  
43 DR. ROSENBERG: Again, we don't --  
44 we're not making recommend -- the Technical Committees  
45 are not here to make recommendations, but we are here  
46 to address the issues and it was not a biological  
47 issue. It is, as I said, a cultural, traditional,  
48 ethical type of concern. It's whether law enforcement  
49 can address it in a meaningful way, if that's what the  
50 goal is, and if the language can be constructed so that



1 people understand it.

2

3 MS. BROWN: Just to add too, we talked  
4 about maybe adding some language to the website that's  
5 similar to the regulation booklet, to flag it.

6

7 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: I think also  
8 you decided to defer the decision until the Federal CFR  
9 is finalized in the Board of Game meeting in March.

10

11 MS. BROWN: Yeah, we did reference  
12 that.

13

14 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Questions for  
15 Carol or Dan.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you.  
20 We're into Council discussion now.

21

22 MR. PROBASCO: Public.

23

24 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Oh, public  
25 comment. Anybody want to comment on this one from the  
26 public.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. Council  
31 discussion. Tim.

32

33 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
34 AVCP did submit a proposal before the Board of Game,  
35 Proposal No. 12. We discussed this issue extensively  
36 at the meeting in Kotzebue. At that time it was  
37 determined that this should be taken along with another  
38 statewide proposal at a statewide meeting in March, so  
39 the Board of Game did take up the issue. At both  
40 meetings we had continuously advocated for the full  
41 salvage of all migratory bird parts because we see just  
42 the harvest of the breast meat on any of the birds,  
43 migratory or resident species as waste. We continue to  
44 view it that way. It is a regulation that continues --  
45 I don't know how to say it less lightly, but a legacy  
46 of waste.

47

48 The reason why this issue came up and  
49 why we had brought it before the Board of Game was the  
50 dumping of a number of swans into a dumpster in Bethel

1 during the fall hunt where just only the breast meat  
2 was salvaged. It drew a lot of community -- a lot of  
3 people were totally dismayed, they were totally  
4 disgusted that somebody had thrown away edible parts of  
5 a swan. Others in the community have witnessed this  
6 practice starting to occur in the spring hunt.

7  
8 If you look at what the intent of the  
9 Migratory Bird Treaty Protocol Amendment, which  
10 developed this -- or recognized the spring and summer  
11 hunt, the original intent of that Protocol Amendment  
12 was to recognize the Alaska Native hunt in the spring  
13 and summer. Thanks to, back then, Senator Frank  
14 Murkowski in a letter of transmittal, had redefined the  
15 term indigenous inhabitants to include all people that  
16 reside in rural areas.

17  
18 Had this been a continuous Alaska  
19 Native hunt only, this would probably not have needed  
20 to come up for the spring and summer migratory bird  
21 hunt in our area. Since we do have a lot of people  
22 that do participate in the spring hunt in the villages  
23 and in the community of Bethel, if you take a look at  
24 the bird survey list or the list that we're allowed to  
25 harvest at that time, it's a broad range of birds,  
26 migratory birds, and also resident species. A lot of  
27 them are smaller than the geese, swans and crane. A  
28 lot of people in our area continue to salvage all the  
29 edible parts of the bird regardless of how small it is.

30  
31 We have shorebirds, like the Whimbrel  
32 Curlew Godwit, Golden and Black-Bellied Plovers. You  
33 know, those are relatively small birds, but people  
34 still nit-pick and grab every little piece of meat that  
35 you can probably get off there just to show to the  
36 spirit of the birds that we are respecting you for  
37 allowing us to harvest you to feed our families. If we  
38 didn't do that, then we would be showing disrespect and  
39 perhaps the bird populations would decline to where  
40 some of our species are today.

41  
42 It is important and our customary and  
43 traditional and spiritual belief that people harvest  
44 and salvage and utilize as much of the bird as possible  
45 just to eliminate the waste like the swans that ended  
46 up in the dumpster. There was a lot of edible parts  
47 that could have been utilized or shared with some of  
48 the less fortunate people that we have in our  
49 communities, like the elders, the widows and people  
50 less fortunate, but it ended up in a dumpster.

1 We would like to see this regulation  
2 adopted. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you.  
5 Joeneal.

6  
7 MR. HICKS: I believe that this is a  
8 statewide issue and in my opinion it should apply to  
9 all species regardless whether it's big game, moose,  
10 caribou, sheep, goat, you name it. It also should  
11 apply to the small species, as in rabbits, spruce and  
12 grouse, whatever you want to name it.

13  
14 We have seen, and it's been reported on  
15 many occasions through the Fish and Game, the Wildlife  
16 officers, and I'm talking about my region at this time,  
17 where only the hindquarters or let's say, for instance,  
18 the moose, just the hindquarter, the horn and the  
19 tongue is removed. The rest is left out there in the  
20 woods to rot. It is edible parts that we use; the rib  
21 cage, the backbone, the neck, the head. I mean those  
22 are all foods that are traditional and cultural to our  
23 people.

24  
25 That is the same way that we treat our  
26 migratory birds; mallards, geese, you name it. We use  
27 the entire bird. We pluck as much feathers as we can  
28 off of it and then we burn the rest over a fire. We  
29 cut the entire bird up. Even the gizzard. The heart is  
30 eaten and saved and cooked.

31  
32 That has been brought up before. Not  
33 going to the Board of Fish, like as in, for instance,  
34 salmon, but also the Board of Game. We adopted a  
35 cultural -- a community harvest hunt that begins on  
36 August 10th for community members of the Ahtna region.  
37 One of the regulations says that if we were to take an  
38 animal, a bull or a cow, all of it will have to be  
39 transported back to your domicile or your home  
40 regardless. If you are not, then you are cited for it.

41  
42 Anyhow, what I'm saying is that -- and  
43 I should maybe clarify with Gayla, this particular  
44 proposal as written, does it only apply to Bristol Bay  
45 or are you saying it's statewide?

46  
47 MS. HOSETH: The way the proposal is  
48 written it says Bristol Bay, but I agree that it should  
49 be statewide. In the proposal it says Bristol Bay.  
50

1 MR. HICKS: Well, I would ask for a  
2 friendly amendment to that effect if that's possible.  
3 My final say-so on this proposal is that I fully  
4 support it with the amendment.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Other comments.  
7 Peter, then Taqulik.

8  
9 MR. DEVINE: Yes, Aleutian/Pribilof  
10 Island Association also supports this proposal as a  
11 statewide proposal.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Taqulik.

14  
15 MS. HEPA: Yes. For the record, the  
16 North Slope Borough supports the proposal with the  
17 amendment that Joeneal had suggested for statewide.  
18 Thank you.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Anybody else.  
21 Pete.

22  
23 MR. PROBASCO: I appreciate the  
24 comments and my comments will be very short. I think  
25 at a minimum when we do discuss and take action that we  
26 should at least mirror what the Board of Game proposal  
27 because right now our regulations are different.  
28 Mr. Chair.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Well, I guess  
31 I'll put myself on the  
32 record here so you can have some things to think about.  
33 I don't think you can regulate cultural practices as  
34 easily as you want. I guess I just am very worried  
35 that this proposal doesn't define some key words, like  
36 edible and a variety of other things, which may vary  
37 across the state.

38  
39 Since it only applies to the  
40 spring/summer season where there isn't a State hunt,  
41 I'm not going to stand in the way of this one, but I  
42 think there is some work that needs to be done probably  
43 with the Enforcement Committee to get some of these  
44 definitions of what an edible part is because I think  
45 you could end up with somebody in one region of the  
46 state thinking one part of a bird is edible and in  
47 another region it's not and then leaving the Fish and  
48 Wildlife Service enforcement officer, who is out in the  
49 field, trying to make a decision whether or not a  
50 person that is Native harvesting resources is actually

1 breaking the law by not salvaging edible parts, every  
2 similar to how we're dealing with the handicraft issue  
3 across the state.

4

5 So, again, I'm not going to stand in  
6 the way of this one, but I guess I urge you during your  
7 caucus to think very carefully about where you want to  
8 go with this one and how you want to define edible and  
9 whether you want that to be a definition that applies  
10 equivalently across the state.

11

12 We are at 12:15. I guess the question  
13 is do we want to take the last proposal up so that we  
14 can get that off and then you can break into caucus  
15 after lunch or would you rather break for lunch and  
16 take that up and then break for caucus?

17

18 Okay, let's take the proposal up.  
19 Proposal No. 3, which is to amend the spring/summer  
20 subsistence harvest season dates in the Bristol Bay  
21 Region to April 12 through June 14 and July 26 through  
22 September 20th.

23

24 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. I move to  
25 bring this proposal on the table.

26

27 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Second.

28

29 MR. PROBASCO: Second.

30

31 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Gayla.

32

33 MS. HOSETH: This proposal, what  
34 problem or issue are we trying to address? Following  
35 the intent of the subsistence harvest within the  
36 Pacific Flyway protocol of 120-day hunting season,  
37 Bristol Bay Region would like to adjust their season to  
38 meet their needs. On September 1st every year  
39 subsistence hunters are required to follow State sport  
40 hunting regulations for migratory birds. This limits  
41 many subsistence hunters that hunt for the family  
42 members in the community.

43

44 How should the new regulation read?  
45 The spring/summer subsistence harvest season dates for  
46 migratory birds in the Bristol Bay Region shall be  
47 April 12 through June 14 and July 26 through September  
48 20th.

49

50 To what geographic area does this

1 regulation apply? Bristol Bay, Alaska.

2

3                   What impact will this regulation have  
4 on migratory bird populations? No impact on migratory  
5 bird populations.

6

7                   How will this regulation affect  
8 subsistence users? Subsistence hunters will be able to  
9 practice our traditional and cultural methods of  
10 harvesting migratory birds when the birds are migrating  
11 through their traditional use areas outside of the  
12 regular spring/summer season dates of March 10th to  
13 August 31st.

14

15                   Why should this regulation be adopted?  
16 This will follow the intent of the traditional  
17 subsistence harvest of migratory birds.

18

19                   CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you.  
20 Well done for your first time on three proposals.

21

22                   MS. HOSETH: Thanks.

23

24                   CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. ADF&G  
25 analysis.

26

27                   DR. ROSENBERG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
28 Dan Rosenberg, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.  
29 This proposal falls out of the limitations that the  
30 Migratory Bird Treaty Act applies to the spring/summer  
31 subsistence hunt. Under the 1997 amendments to the  
32 Migratory Bird Treaty Act, it allowed for a  
33 spring/summer subsistence hunt in Alaska. The season  
34 is allowed to run from -- the season includes a 120-day  
35 period from March 1st until August 31st -- March 10th,  
36 I'm sorry. Did I get that right? I'm getting my  
37 numbers mixed up today. Anyway, from March 10th to  
38 August 31st, okay. So this falls beyond that August  
39 31st deadline for when a subsistence season can occur.  
40 So our analysis is just simply that that would be an  
41 illegal period to have a subsistence season.

42

43                   The AMBCC has addressed this repeatedly  
44 over the years and we understand the desire to have  
45 that hunt in the fall. There's a white paper that the  
46 AMBCC has put out on the issue. We've brought it to  
47 the Pacific Flyway before. It's gone back to the SRC  
48 before, but essentially we're restricted by the  
49 Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

50

1 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you. Any  
2 comments. Tim.

3

4 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
5 Dan, I was just wondering what would be the process to  
6 extend the subsistence hunt into the fall season.  
7 Would that be a treaty amendment or how would that  
8 work?

9

10 DR. ROSENBERG: That would be a treaty  
11 amendment, right. Anything beyond September 1 would be  
12 open to all residents of the state. So we can't have a  
13 more restrictive hunt regionally -- well, regionally, I  
14 guess, maybe we could, but we can't have it be a  
15 subsistence hunt without opening it up to the entire  
16 state. So you could have a regional hunt in a given  
17 region, but everybody from the state would have access  
18 to that hunt.

19

20 So really the only mechanism that we've  
21 come up with to allow for a fall hunt as desired by the  
22 AMBCC by the regions would be to change the Migratory  
23 Bird Treaty Act.

24

25 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Other  
26 questions.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay, Eric.  
31 Carol, don't run off, you're next.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 DR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36 Eric Taylor with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the  
37 Migratory Bird Management Office. The Federal Code of  
38 Regulations 50 CFR Part 92 do apply to the spring and  
39 summer subsistence hunt. As Mr. Rosenberg stated, the  
40 Migratory Bird Treaty Act was amended in 1997 to allow  
41 and legalize that hunt. The ending date for that hunt  
42 is August 31st and, therefore, this proposal falls  
43 outside of what was agreed upon in the 1997 amendment  
44 of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

45

46 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you.  
47 Questions or comments.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thanks, Eric.  
2 Carol, Technical Committee.

3  
4 MS. BROWN: Carol Brown, Technical  
5 Committee chair. Flag the same issue. The harvest  
6 dates and the user group are an issue. We obviously  
7 are flagging this as a continual concern. It's just  
8 going to have to be addressed somehow, whether it's  
9 through a treaty amendment. Further discussion needs  
10 to happen on this.

11  
12 We also talked about how best to handle  
13 proposals that really fall outside our authority,  
14 whether they're a legal issue or some other issue,  
15 that's not something that we can endorse. So we  
16 referred some kind of -- to come up with some kind of  
17 mechanism to change possibly the proposal form as well  
18 as the guidance that we talked about a couple days ago.

19  
20  
21 So the standard operating procedure  
22 will be working on that, reporting on a more efficient  
23 form so that we don't have this unfortunate waste of  
24 time on talking about something that could possibly be  
25 addressed in another form with a more productive result  
26 to the issue. That's it.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Questions for  
29 Carol.

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. Thank  
34 you. Public comment. Anybody that would like to  
35 provide public comment on this proposal.

36  
37 (No comments)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Hearing none,  
40 we're into Council....

41  
42 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Wait. Yes. This is  
43 my first meeting.....

44  
45 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Wait. It's  
46 Council discussion or public comment? You remember the  
47 Council.....

48  
49 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Public comment.

50



1 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: What?

2

3 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Comment.

4

5 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay.

6

7 MR. SQUARTSOFF: The Council and  
8 everything, how you guys -- do you guys ever pass  
9 anything that helped the Natives? The way it looked to  
10 me, I asked a few people, same thing every year. Did  
11 anything ever happen or are we just coming here to tell  
12 you -- you to tell us no again?

13

14 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Council  
15 discussion on this proposal. Tim.

16

17 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, I guess I'll take  
18 the first crack at this. We've historically,  
19 customarily, traditionally have always thought that all  
20 the hunting that we've done across any species, even  
21 besides migratory birds, moose and caribou and bear and  
22 harvesting salmon and resident species, gathering of  
23 berries and whatnot, is all part of our way of life.  
24 It feeds our families, it nourishes us both physically  
25 and spiritually. We have a connection with these  
26 species that we harvest. So any time we have an  
27 opportunity to harvest animal species, fish, whatever  
28 it may be, it nourishes us spiritually and physically  
29 as well. It also continues our way of life.

30

31 It is only by international treaty that  
32 our lives are defined and governed to determine if  
33 we're going to be sport hunters or subsistence hunters,  
34 but we look at it totally in a different manner. Every  
35 opportunity that we get to harvest our customary and  
36 traditional resources, it is a physical and spiritual  
37 relationship that what we're doing regardless of when  
38 those seasons occur.

39

40 If we can find any way to accommodate  
41 this proposal to extend it into the fall hunt, we would  
42 support that process. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you.  
45 Joeneal.

46

47 MR. HICKS: I fully support Andrew's  
48 statement. We do the same thing in our area also. In  
49 other words, in the springtime, we go out to muskrat  
50 camp. At muskrat camp, it's not just about muskrat,

1 it's about harvesting ducks, it's about harvesting what  
2 we call roots. It's about looking for grayling. It's  
3 about a whole bunch of stuff. It's just not one thing.  
4 The same thing goes into the fall after September when  
5 we go out to moose camp. It's not just about moose,  
6 it's about, again, muskrat, it's about ducks, it's  
7 about picking berries. I mean you name it. It's all  
8 of those activities involved in it.

9

10 I would like to see some kind of  
11 approach taken so that this proposal that's before us  
12 could be granted. I know that there's a dilemma in  
13 there attached from subsistence to sport hunting, but  
14 there's some way that we can accommodate that. It's  
15 just a matter of how, I suppose.

16

17 There is one question I have for Gayla.  
18 In the regulation booklet, am I correct to state that  
19 the season dates that you are trying to change -- if  
20 you look on your Bristol Bay Region there.....

21

22 MS. HOSETH: Yeah, I did look at that.  
23 I seen that.

24

25 MR. HICKS: It says April 2 and you're  
26 changing it to April 12th?

27

28 MS. HOSETH: No, I'm not the one who  
29 wrote the proposal, but I did look in the book. The  
30 season is April 2nd. It must have been a typo on the  
31 proposal. I'm not sure why it says the 12th.

32

33 MR. HICKS: It also says July 26th. Is  
34 that -- or should that be 16th?

35

36 MS. HOSETH: Did the dates change in  
37 the book before this new one, Patty, or have these  
38 always been the dates?

39

40 DR. ROSENBERG: Donna, correct me if  
41 I'm wrong on this, but in Frank's proposal I think he  
42 recognized that within that period from March 10th to  
43 August 31st we're limited to a 120-day season and so  
44 what Frank, I believe, did, he shifted everything to a  
45 later date to accommodate the 120 days still, but I  
46 haven't added it up to look at that, but I think that  
47 might be what he did. So he shifted it from -- it was  
48 originally April 2nd to April 12th and added those days  
49 on later on somewhere. I'm not positive of that.

49

50 MS. HOSETH: Oh, to get the 120 days of

1 that season.

2

3 DR. ROSENBERG: To keep it, but I'm not  
4 positive of that.

5

6 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: It would make  
7 sense because that would take it to September 20th and  
8 those are 20 days.

9

10 MR. HICKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do  
11 support the proposal.

12

13 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Other comments.  
14 Pete, did you have something.

15

16 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
17 Andrew, earlier in his questions, Eric hit the nail on  
18 the head as to what has to occur for a fall subsistence  
19 hunt, if you will, and that's an amendment to the  
20 Migratory Bird Treaty Act. So right now, today, as far  
21 as our Council, we're confined to what 50 CFR Part 92  
22 states, so we're looking at the spring/summer. This  
23 proposal goes outside of that window. Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: I'll put myself  
26 on the record. I agree with Pete. Until the Migratory  
27 Bird Treaty Act is changed, we can't do anything about  
28 it. We could vote something, but it's not going to go  
29 anywhere. The treaty is the treaty. I would encourage  
30 everybody -- I guess we could write a letter asking  
31 Congress to amend the treaty to deal with this issue,  
32 but us voting on it isn't going to do anything. Patty.

33

34 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr.  
35 Chairman. As the Native Caucus and the full Council, I  
36 guess, is aware, we have had other proposals addressing  
37 the fall/winter subsistence harvest season in the past,  
38 so we did establish a Fall/Winter Subsistence Harvest  
39 Season Committee that is working on this issue. So I  
40 would suggest that this proposal also be referred to  
41 that committee. We understand that this is going to be  
42 a complex problem or issue. It's going to take some  
43 time. The Native Caucus has dedicated some funds to  
44 work with Sky Starkey to help us navigate through these  
45 several proposals. So just a point of information.  
46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Other comments.  
49 Sonny.

50

1 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yes, I'd like to, you  
2 know, like on the AFN have some youths and elders here  
3 and let them see what's happening too and get their  
4 comments on what they think is going on. I think it  
5 should be moved to when AFN is here, when the youths  
6 and elders are here.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. Well,  
9 that takes us through the committees -- I mean through  
10 the proposals and it goes into Native Caucus. It is  
11 now 12:30. I suggest we break for lunch and then give  
12 the Native Caucus an opportunity to meet. We do have  
13 several things left on our agenda, so I suggest we pull  
14 back together as a Council at 2:30.

15  
16 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Too much time.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: What, too much  
19 time? Okay. 2:00. I was giving you lunch and then  
20 the Native Caucus, two hours. That would get you to  
21 2:30. Is that too much time, Patty.

22  
23 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: We did have a  
24 caucus earlier this week, so I guess we would ask the  
25 Native Caucus if they want to caucus again.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: I was just  
28 going by the.....

29  
30 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Yeah. I don't  
31 know what they want to do.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: What's the  
34 wishes of the Native Caucus? Okay. Why don't we come  
35 back at 2:00. We'll have an hour for lunch and if you  
36 want to chat, Pete and I won't be back until 2:00.

37  
38 (Off record)

39  
40 (On record)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: All right. Can  
43 we get seated. I have a gavel here that says Vikings.  
44 What do we do now? Do we take them up individually,  
45 these proposals?

46  
47 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Yes.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: So I'd like to  
50 begin discussion of Proposal No. 1, which is the

1 Emperor Goose proposal for cultural and spiritual  
2 purposes, utilizing bag limits and a permit system.  
3 What is the wishes of the Council.

4

5 MS. HEPA: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Yes.

8

9 MS. HEPA: I would like to make a  
10 motion to approve the proposal.

11

12 MR. UJIOKA: Second.

13

14 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Discussion.

15

16 MR. ANDREW: Call for question.

17

18 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: I want to make  
19 sure there's nobody that wants to discuss this before.  
20 Pete.

21

22 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. I respect  
23 Mr. Andrews' call for the question. I just want to go  
24 on the record, since we actually have a formal motion  
25 for Proposal 1, to incorporate the comments that I  
26 stated before the Native Caucus -- prior to the Native  
27 Caucus on how the Service would like to move forward on  
28 this proposal. Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you. The  
31 question has been called. Who votes, just the three of  
32 us here. Do you take a roll call vote?

33

34 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: We can at the  
35 request of the Chair.

36

37 MS. HEPA: For discussion, you know,  
38 that the Native Caucus, we do support this proposal,  
39 the concept, but I do want to say that it's very  
40 important, as everyone has stated, that this really  
41 needs to be a priority and to move forward the concept.  
42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Pete.

45

46 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. Whatever  
47 actions on this proposal, if it is voted down, I still  
48 am going to have my staff make this a priority to work  
49 through. We had lunch with Ron and Todd and Eric and  
50 we're trying to figure out a way to expedite this, Mr.

1 Chair, as well as you.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you. The  
4 call for the question has been raised.  
5  
6 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: State of  
7 Alaska.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: No.  
10  
11 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: U.S. Fish and  
12 Wildlife Service.  
13  
14 MR. PROBASCO: No.  
15  
16 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Native Caucus.  
17  
18 MR. ANDREW: Yes.  
19  
20 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: The motion  
21 fails, Mr. Chairman.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: So now do we  
24 decide what we would like to do with this?  
25  
26 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: I think there  
27 is a motion that's going to be made by somebody.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Any further  
30 action on this.  
31  
32 MR. UJIOKA: Mr. Chairman. I make a  
33 motion to forward this  
34 to the appropriate committee, which is the Emperor  
35 Goose Committee, Subcommittee or Committee.  
36  
37 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: They're a  
38 subcommittee.  
39  
40 MR. UJIOKA: Subcommittee.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: So moved.  
43 Second.  
44  
45 MR. ANDREW: Second.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Any discussion.  
48 Tim, go ahead.  
49  
50 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, thank

1 you. If we can possibly amend this motion to put this  
2 forth and any other committee that might have a say in  
3 the process, like, for example, the Law Enforcement  
4 Committee and whatnot.

5

6 MR. UJIOKA: I'll change my motion to  
7 that effect. Does the second agree?

8

9 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

10

11 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Any other  
12 discussion.

13

14 MR. PROBASCO: I'd like to bring Eric  
15 up.

16

17 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Eric.

18

19 DR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
20 Eric Taylor with Fish and Wildlife Service. I  
21 appreciate the Council forwarding this to the Emperor  
22 Goose Subcommittee of AMBCC. I also, again, put  
23 forward the suggestion that a letter come forward from  
24 AMBCC to Fish and Wildlife Service, particularly the  
25 Assistant Director of Fish and Wildlife Service,  
26 stating that this is a priority of the AMBCC and that a  
27 revision of the Emperor Goose Management Plan and the  
28 Pacific Flyway be a priority of the Alaska Fish and  
29 Wildlife Service, Region 7, in cooperation with the  
30 Department of Fish and Game and other partners and that  
31 the AMBCC request a date on when a plan revision could  
32 be underway and when it could be completed.

33

34 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Anybody opposed  
35 to that.

36

37 (No opposition)

38

39 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Any opposition  
40 to the motion.

41

42 (No opposing votes)

43

44 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Hearing none,  
45 so moved. The only other piece of item on this one  
46 that I remember from our earlier discussions in the  
47 work session was do we want to write a letter asking  
48 about legal authorities to deal with customary and  
49 traditional permits?

50

1 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair, if I may. I  
2 already wrote that  
3 down as assignment. I don't need a letter.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay.

6  
7 MR. PROBASCO: I'll be working with  
8 your staff and vice versa. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Taqulik.

11  
12 MS. HEPA: In looking at our  
13 regulations for a migratory bird subsistence hunt, if  
14 you look at the definition of subsistence means the  
15 customary and traditional harvest or use of migratory  
16 birds and their eggs by eligible users for their own  
17 nutritional and other essential needs. So there is  
18 language in here that fits with our regulation booklet  
19 that refers to customary and traditional nutritional  
20 needs as well.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. Any  
23 other discussion on this proposal.

24  
25 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Do we want to  
26 take action stating that this is a priority of the  
27 AMBCC as Eric recommended so that I can put that in the  
28 letter?

29  
30 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: I think you  
31 heard nobody disagree with Eric, so we thought we would  
32 have that as part of the motion to have that come  
33 forward in the letter.

34  
35 MS. HEPA: Yes.

36  
37 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Okay.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Proposal No. 2  
40 is the salvage requirements for all edible migratory  
41 waterfowl harvested during the spring/summer  
42 subsistence harvest season.

43  
44 MS. HEPA: Mr. Chair. I'd like to make  
45 a motion to approve Proposal No. 2 with a brief  
46 amendment to include all regions.

47  
48 MR. HARRIS: Second.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Discussion.



1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Call for the  
4 vote.  
5  
6 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: State of  
7 Alaska.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Yes.  
10  
11 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: U.S. Fish and  
12 Wildlife Service.  
13  
14 MR. PROBASCO: Yes.  
15  
16 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: And the Native  
17 Caucus.  
18  
19 MR. ANDREW: Yes.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Any further  
22 discussion on this proposal.  
23  
24 (No comments)  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Does this get  
27 referred to a committee then?  
28  
29 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: With this  
30 action, this proposal would move forward as presented  
31 to the Service Regulations Committee. I think we need  
32 further work on it actually.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Is there an  
35 opportunity now that we voted yes on it to assign this  
36 to a committee before it goes forward to the SRC,  
37 including a definition of edible parts?  
38 MS. HEPA: Law Enforcement.  
39  
40 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Yeah. We  
41 could have the Council direct us to work with the Law  
42 Enforcement Committee and Law Enforcement Office to  
43 further refine the proposal. So I would recommend a  
44 motion to that effect.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Discussion  
47 Council. Jim.  
48  
49 MR. UJIOKA: I'm just trying to figure  
50 out what you -- do you want a motion to refer to a

1 committee?

2

3 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Well, what we  
4 just did is we just passed this, so it goes right to  
5 the SRC, but I think what you're hearing is at least  
6 some degree of concern around the table about some  
7 further work on this to define things like eligible  
8 parts and a variety of other issues. Do you want as a  
9 Council to have some opportunity to flesh this out a  
10 little bit before it goes to the SRC? Tim.

11

12 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
13 Chair. If we can perceive the action that we've just  
14 taken as an approval in concept but refer it to  
15 whatever, the Law Enforcement Committee, to draft up  
16 the appropriate language to forward to the SRC.

17

18 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Pete.

19

20 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. I agree with  
21 Tim that the concept is there, but I think we need to  
22 maybe clarify what our intent is. We addressed all  
23 species, which is different than what the State has,  
24 which is fine. I think it would be wise for us to  
25 entertain the thought of maybe grabbing how they define  
26 the edible parts from the Board of Game's, what they  
27 passed. I don't have everything written down. My  
28 chicken scratch says breast, femur, legs, thighs and  
29 something else you said, Dan, but I think if we define  
30 what we're talking about as far as all edible parts,  
31 it's real clear on what the Regulation Committee would  
32 work on. Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: So what I'm  
35 hearing is a desire to -- even though we approved this  
36 in concept, that we would refer this for those  
37 discussions to the Law Enforcement Committee and then  
38 proceed with that pending the discussion that we get  
39 back from the committee on that. Is everybody fine  
40 with that?

41

42 (Council members nodding)

43

44 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Three voting  
45 members. I'm hearing nods. Okay. Any other  
46 discussion on this proposal.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Proposal No. 3

1 calls for the proposal to amend the spring/summer  
2 subsistence harvest season dates in the Bristol Bay  
3 Region to April 12 to June 14, July 26 to September 20.  
4 Do we have a motion.

5  
6 MS. HOSETH: I make a motion that we  
7 approve this proposal.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. Second.

10  
11 MR. UJIOKA: I second it.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: We can't take  
14 any discussion, right. Do you want to do roll call.

15  
16 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: State of  
17 Alaska.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: No.

20  
21 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: U.S. Fish and  
22 Wildlife Service.

23  
24 MR. PROBASCO: No.

25  
26 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Native Caucus.

27  
28 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

29  
30 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Motion fails.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: I think we  
33 would like to take some further action on this based on  
34 some of the discussions we had around the table this  
35 morning. If any of the Council would like to put this  
36 to committee or to have some additional work on  
37 especially the season ending date that conflicts with  
38 the Migratory Bird Treaty, I'm open to suggestions.  
39 Anyone.

40  
41 MS. HEPA: I'm thinking, Mr. Chair.  
42 The Native Caucus did support the concept that this --  
43 and it's been a long discussion -- at the AMBCC we want  
44 to encourage those groups and committees that are  
45 working on the issue to continue to push forward  
46 because this is a serious deep flaw in the AMBCC  
47 subsistence hunt for Alaska.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Do you have a  
50 suggestion on how to move forward? Should we assign it

1 to possibly the fall season committee that's been  
2 formed?

3

4 MS. HEPA: Yes, I would like to refer  
5 it to that specific committee.

6

7 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. Does  
8 anybody have any opposition to forwarding this on for  
9 further work by the Fall Committee?

10

11 MR. UJIOKA: Fall/Winter Committee.

12

13 (No opposition)

14

15 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Hearing none,  
16 that will be the wishes of the Council. Any other  
17 action on this.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. I think  
22 we're done with the three proposals. That brings us to  
23 the consent agenda items, which, by default, it's a  
24 tool used to streamline Council meeting procedures by  
25 collecting routine, non-controversial items into a  
26 group whereby all are passed with a single motion and  
27 vote. So all of these items that are underneath the  
28 consent agenda have been agreed upon by the State,  
29 Federal government and the Native Caucus to things that  
30 we all agree on and we can move forward on and I'm  
31 pleased to say that a vast majority of the proposals  
32 are things that we agree on and that's good.

33

34 I need a motion to put these on the  
35 table with a motion to pass them, I so believe, and a  
36 second. Pete.

37

38 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. I move to  
39 approve the consent agenda as provided in the booklet  
40 for the 2015 regulations.

41

42 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Second. Go  
43 ahead. Do you want to second it, Tim?

44

45 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, I'll second it for  
46 discussion.

47

48 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. Go  
49 ahead.

50

1 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm  
2 just taking a real quick look to see if the Duck Stamp  
3 requirements are still in here or not. Yes, they are  
4 here. I'd just like to go on record. We have always  
5 objected to having the Duck Stamp requirement in the  
6 regulations that the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-  
7 management Council produces. We are currently working  
8 on a Federal exemption for the spring and summer hunt  
9 for migratory birds. I'd just like to state my  
10 objection to the requirements for license and stamps.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: So noted.  
13 Taqulik.

14  
15 MS. HEPA: Then just to be on record  
16 for the North Slope Region, also recognizing that the  
17 Federal Duck Stamp also expires June 30, which is very  
18 inconvenient for folks that actually purchase Federal  
19 Duck Stamps.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Anyone else.

22  
23 (No comments)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. We have  
26 a motion on the table and no further discussion. Ready  
27 for a question.

28  
29 MR. PROBASCO: Question.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: The question  
32 has been called. Anybody opposed to approving the  
33 consent agenda.

34  
35 (No opposing votes)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Hearing none.  
38 The consent agenda has been approved.

39  
40 Yesterday afternoon I asked whether  
41 people had an opportunity to read the committee reports  
42 and I said they could read them over the evening if  
43 they had any further comments or discussions on them.  
44 This is an opportunity to come back to the committee  
45 reports and discuss any one of them that you want or we  
46 can say that as they're prepared in the book they're  
47 fine and move forward.

48  
49 Taqulik.  
50

1 MS. HEPA: I'm not sure who put the  
2 reports together, but they were very informational. I  
3 don't know if it's the chairs or if it's staff, but  
4 very good information. I want to thank the staff for  
5 wonderful communication to the committee members.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: I can say it  
8 wasn't me, so we can probably look to our staff. Good  
9 job. Any other comments.

10  
11 (No comments)

12  
13 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. We'll  
14 take those and move forward. Budget and grants update,  
15 Pete Probasco and Donna.

16  
17 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 As I look around the table here, I think everybody is  
19 going to hear it again, so I'm going to ask the Chair  
20 in what kind of detail you'd like me to go into the  
21 budget update. We spent a lot of time on it. The  
22 State came to the table saying they are looking at a  
23 request that may help offset some of the costs for  
24 AMBCC, but that is yet to play out.

25  
26 The bottom line is that we have been  
27 able to fund the base part for AMBCC and where we're  
28 falling short is meeting the full request from Patty's  
29 shop, the full request from the State of Alaska and  
30 actually we're substantially below what they've  
31 requested.

32  
33 I recommended, and unless I hear  
34 otherwise, that we would -- for the Executive  
35 Director's Office, the additional \$92,500 requested, I  
36 would fund \$40,000. For the ADF&G cooperative  
37 agreement, the remaining \$135,910 I would fund an  
38 additional \$50,000 and I would fully fund the Togiak/Y-  
39 K RIT positions at \$60,000. So that would be my plans.  
40 I didn't hear any objections yesterday to that, so I  
41 would proceed with that. Mr. Chair.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Other comments.

44  
45 (No comments)

46  
47 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: I'll add  
48 something. We have money that's in one of our capital  
49 budgets that's working its way through the legislature  
50 with the intent to fund \$80,000 of Liliana's salary

1 into the future for three years, so that would be a  
2 commitment of \$240,000 over three years to the survey.  
3 We should know within a week and a half whether that's  
4 going to be funded. We could start that on July 1st.

5  
6 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. Still in the  
7 budget and grants, Donna does a lot of the -- I  
8 shouldn't say a lot, 99.9% of the heavy lifting on the  
9 grants. We will fully fund the grants. We partially  
10 funded each of you prior to our final budget being  
11 approved and we will now fully fund the additional  
12 amount for a total of \$201,194. So all grant monies  
13 for the regions will be coming forward.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Good news.  
16 Taqulik.

17  
18 MS. HEPA: Good news. I just wanted to  
19 express concerns from the North Slope Region. I know  
20 that we do receive about 21,000 for the North Slope  
21 Region to hold our regional management body meetings,  
22 but the reality is that it does not cover the meetings.  
23 We always fall short. For some reason last year I think  
24 there was some miscommunication within our own staff to  
25 why we did not spend that money down.

26  
27 The reality is that the North Slope  
28 Borough does provide in kind services to those  
29 meetings and I think that's great, but we are all  
30 experiencing cuts to our budgets. It is going to be  
31 very difficult for us to meet the needs as what is  
32 presented in the budget here.

33  
34 The other thing to consider too is that  
35 we do send Staff to the SRC and I noticed that Michael  
36 is going to be appointed to attend the Pacific Flyway  
37 meetings and the SRC meeting. I know it's written in  
38 the grant again to be able to send our staff, Michael,  
39 a representative for the Native Caucus to those  
40 meetings in D.C.

41  
42 There's got to be some money because  
43 it's very important for us as the Native Caucus to have  
44 representation in D.C. and at the Pacific Flyway  
45 meetings, but it doesn't cover it. In the past, we  
46 were able to do the in kind, but it's going to be very  
47 difficult for us to do that. So I just wanted to  
48 express that concern.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Other comments.

1 Patty.

2

3 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: so now that  
4 the regional management body grant agreements will be  
5 fully funded, can you or Donna give us a timeline as to  
6 when that additional funding will be added to those  
7 grant agreements that were not fully funded initially.

8

9 MR. PROBASCO: I'm looking at Donna and  
10 I think you're asking for a specific date.

11

12 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Well, not  
13 necessarily.

14

15 MR. PROBASCO: All I can say, Patty,  
16 and you've heard it before.....

17

18 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: April 12th  
19 would work well.

20

21 MR. PROBASCO: Yeah. I want to do this  
22 soon as possible. Like I reported to the Budget  
23 Subcommittee, I'm meeting with my counterpart, the  
24 Assistant Regional Director, Karen Clark, on how we can  
25 streamline this and I will do my best to get this out  
26 the door as soon as possible.

27

28 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you.  
31 Anything else on grant updates. Taqulik.

32

33 MS. HEPA: And just maybe for planning  
34 purposes for Patty and for your shop there, Pete, in  
35 the past when we started sending staff or a  
36 representative from our region to the SRC in the other  
37 meeting that there was funding provided directly from  
38 the AMBCC to cover those costs. It wasn't until  
39 recently it was kind of -- what do you call it --  
40 included with our regional management body meetings.  
41 Yeah, I think that just happened recently, but there  
42 would be funding available from AMBCC to sponsor the  
43 travel for that individual. Even if it wasn't our  
44 department, it may be AVCP or someone from TCC.

45

46 MR. PROBASCO: Okay. I'll take that  
47 back to the office and I'll explore that. Keep in mind  
48 I've been in my current position a little over a year,  
49 so I'll look back at the past, how we accomplished  
50 that.



1                   One thing that comes to mind, maybe my  
2 counterpart or the person before me, Doug Alcorn, was  
3 able to leverage other funds, maybe fiscal year funds  
4 or some other, to help offset that cost, but I need to  
5 look into it.

6  
7                   MS. HEPA: Thank you.

8  
9                   CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Tim.

10  
11                  MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
12 Just as Taquilik stated, some of the regions do do other  
13 work outside the confines of the Migratory Bird money  
14 that we receive. Like for our region we host a huge  
15 percentage of the Cacklers and the Cacklers are  
16 starting to increase and it's becoming an issue with  
17 the Oregon and Washington states and with the farm  
18 bureaus in those two states as well. So it becomes  
19 additional work that we do in migratory birds for the  
20 interest of all.

21  
22                  I was just wondering if there's any way  
23 that we could possibly advocate for additional funding.  
24 I know it's fairly difficult at this moment with the  
25 current financial -- or Federal budget world, I guess,  
26 and possibly the State too as well. It takes a lot of  
27 my time and also takes a lot of staff time from AVCP in  
28 working towards these issues.

29  
30                  The other concern that I have in money  
31 matters is some way to work with the Oregon Farm  
32 Bureau, with the Oregon Department of Fish and  
33 Wildlife, Washington Department of Fish and Game and  
34 try to determine what's the best practical approach in  
35 the interest of subsistence hunters and the interest of  
36 maintaining biological diversity in the Yukon Delta  
37 National Wildlife Refuge and those corporation lands in  
38 addressing the Oregon issue as well. I don't know if  
39 there's Federal funds that could possible address this  
40 situation that we're in now.

41  
42                  I'd definitely like to see a study of  
43 some sort determining the co-relation between Cacklers  
44 and Brant and start from there to try and work toward  
45 that common solution so that we can get the Goose  
46 Management Plan signed. It's been a number of years  
47 since it has not been signed.

48  
49                  We have a core committee within the  
50 Waterfowl Conservation Committee that is assigned to

1 work with Oregon and the goose depredation and Cackler  
2 population issues as well.

3

4 MR. PROBASCO: Ron, do you have a  
5 follow-up, please.

6

7 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Can you get  
8 into that Farm Bill and find a bunch of money to  
9 address this?

10

11 MR. ANGLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For  
12 the record, Ron Anglin again from Pacific Flyway  
13 Council and also the Oregon representative. No, I  
14 don't know that we can get into the Farm Bill and find  
15 money, but we certainly do want resolution, just like  
16 everybody else on the Y-K Delta Plan and the population  
17 objectives. We're working towards that and we're  
18 committed through the Flyway process and through all  
19 means possible to come to a resolution on the Cacklers  
20 in the plan.

21

22 Like everybody else, we are interested  
23 in the relationship between Brant and Cacklers. Is  
24 there really a tie or a link there, what it would take  
25 to determine that. I don't know, but we are interested  
26 in that also.

27

28 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Any other  
29 discussion on grants for 2014.

30

31 MS. HEPA: One more thing. This is  
32 just -- this year was a very different year, receiving  
33 the grant funds in two years. From a grant  
34 administration point of view, it was a nightmare. Very  
35 confusing. I don't know what the reasoning for it is.  
36 I would rather for our region to receive one pot of  
37 money, then we use -- it's only one appropriation for  
38 us and I don't have to go and try to explain why we're  
39 getting two different pots of money. It just gets very  
40 confusing. I don't know what the reasoning is, but I  
41 really appreciated receiving the money in one lump sum  
42 and not two.

43

44 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Go ahead, Pete.

45

46 MR. PROBASCO: Me too. We were in a  
47 very difficult situation in that -- you know, well into  
48 the budget year we had no idea what our budget was, so  
49 we weren't even comfortable at that point in time  
50 allocating the full amount for AMBCC because we didn't

1 know what type of reductions. We were comfortable that  
2 we could partially fund knowing that if we did get cut  
3 more than we expected, that we had the ability to  
4 rebound. So that was why you got two different -- or  
5 will be getting two different amounts. I hope I don't  
6 have to do that from here on out, but that's why we did  
7 it this fiscal year.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Other  
10 discussion.

11  
12 (No comments)

13  
14 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Hearing none, I  
15 guess we're on the update on 2014.....

16  
17 MS. HEPA: Mr. Chair.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Oh, I'm sorry.  
20 Taqulik.

21  
22 MS. HEPA: Maybe the other thing. We  
23 had a discussion about funds that aren't used that are  
24 dedicated to the AMBCC. A recommendation that if there  
25 are any unused funds that the Executive Director and  
26 her staff or the support that she has that the funds go  
27 to her because I know that we are not providing what  
28 her request was. And if at all possible, we would like  
29 any unused funds to be directed to Patty and her shop.  
30 Does that make sense?

31  
32 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Go ahead, Pete.

33  
34 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. What I  
35 actually did this year for this fiscal year because we  
36 did get cut substantially is I took surplus funds from  
37 fiscal year '13, a total of \$232,135 and put that  
38 specifically to AMBCC. I used surplus funds not only  
39 from AMBCC, but also from other projects that are in  
40 Eric's shop to help forward fund and leverage dollars  
41 so that we were able to meet more of AMBCC's mission.

42  
43 The other point is it's a misnomer that  
44 if you go to the Federal budget and you'll see AMBCC  
45 and a funding amount. There's not. So we use a  
46 combination of 1231 and 1261 funds to fund this  
47 program.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: I think what  
50 Taqulik is talking about is this number in red on this

1 table on the bottom, that that gets reallocated back.

2

3 MR. PROBASCO: That's what I'm talking  
4 to, Mr. Chair. That in part.

5

6 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. Other  
7 questions.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. Pete, do  
12 you want to do the update in the 2014 Y-K Delta survey  
13 plans.

14

15 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. Until we see  
16 what the total, i.e. your part, I cannot say in certain  
17 what Dr. Fall's shop will be able to do for 2014. I am  
18 only bringing 100K to the table. So at this point in  
19 time we would not be able to do a full survey like we  
20 saw for Fiscal Year '13. Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: So if I brought  
23 80K to the table and you brought 100, how much short  
24 are we? I don't have those numbers in front of me.  
25 Come on up.

26

27 DR. FALL: Mr. Chair. Jim Fall with  
28 the Subsistence Division. If, indeed, for the survey  
29 project this coming year, if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
30 Service can provide 100,000 and the State Legislature  
31 comes through with approximately 80,000, I think we're  
32 looking at implementing the survey for the Y-K Delta  
33 area at basically the same level that we did this past  
34 year. So it would be a green light to move forward  
35 with those plans.

36

37 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. We  
38 should know probably in about two weeks. That's good  
39 news. Any other discussion on this item.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. Hearing  
44 none. I think we're done with the budgets and grants  
45 update. We have another invitation for public comment.  
46 Anybody. We're not that scary, are we?

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: That leads us

1 to the committee appointments and assignments. Patty,  
2 do you want to lead us through that.

3

4 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Yes. The  
5 Native Caucus met and we'd like to make the following  
6 changes to the Committee appointments and then that  
7 could be followed by the State and Federal  
8 representatives if they have any changes.

9

10 Just as a broad, so I don't repeat  
11 myself, remove the following members from the  
12 committees that they are currently on: Enoch Shiedt,  
13 Frank Woods, Rick Rowland, Joel Saccheus and Rose  
14 Fosdick. So they're just being removed from all the  
15 committees that they're on.

16

17 We would like to add Cyrus Harris to  
18 the Technical Committee, Cyrus Harris and Gayla Hoseth  
19 to the Emperor Goose Management Subcommittee, Taqulik  
20 Hepa to the Invitation Subcommittee, Cyrus Harris and  
21 Gayla Hoseth to the Harvest Survey Committee. Remove  
22 Sky Starkey from the Standard Operating Procedures  
23 Committee. Add Gayla Hoseth to the Long-Term Goals and  
24 Objectives Committee.

25

26 In regards to the representatives to  
27 the Flyway Council and the Service Regulations  
28 Committee, Joeneal Hicks and Mike Pederson are the new  
29 primary representatives. Jim Ujioka and Myron Naneng  
30 are the alternatives.

31

32 For the Law Enforcement Committee we  
33 would like to add Jim Ujioka and Gayla Hoseth. To the  
34 Budget Committee we would like to add Gayla Hoseth and  
35 Sky Starkey. Add Jim Ujioka and Joeneal Hicks to the  
36 Government-To-Government Consultation Committee. Sky  
37 Starkey and Randy Mayo we would like to add to the  
38 Indigenous Inhabitants Committee. Add Brandon Ahmasuk  
39 to the Fall/Winter Subsistence Harvest Season  
40 Committee.

41

42 Finally, as you know, we took action  
43 yesterday or the Council took action yesterday to  
44 create a new committee called Handicrafts and the  
45 people that are on that committee are Peter Devine,  
46 Sonny Squartsoff, Jack Fagerstrom, Ryan Noel, Todd  
47 Sformo, Carol Brown, Jim Fall, Brandon Ahmasuk and Pete  
48 Probasco.

49

50 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you.  
2 Pete, do you have any changes?

3  
4 MR. PROBASCO: I do, Mr. Chair. For  
5 the Government-To-Government Consultation, I would like  
6 to remove Doug Alcorn and add Crystal Leonetti to that  
7 committee. You already caught the other change for the  
8 Handicrafts, so that's all I have, Mr. Chair.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: If you could  
11 share that list with me so that I could take a look at  
12 it. We're going to stand down for a couple minutes.

13  
14 (Pause)

15  
16 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. The  
17 State would like the Long-Term Goals and Objectives and  
18 I'll put myself on that committee. No, Dan Rosenberg  
19 is on there. That's fine. Dan can stay in there. I  
20 don't need to be in that one. Government-To-Government  
21 Consultation. I don't know what that committee does.  
22 Tribal consultation.

23  
24 MS. HEPA: That would be great for you  
25 to be on that.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay.

28  
29 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: You're on.  
30 There's no changing your mind, you know.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Does the State  
33 belong in the Executive Director?

34  
35 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: It could.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Oh, Dan is on  
38 that. So we're fine. Okay. Next is Council and Staff  
39 comments, but I think we ought to probably pick the  
40 date and place of our next meeting and then we can  
41 close with Council and Staff comments. When do we  
42 usually have our next meeting?

43  
44 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Mr. Chairman  
45 and Council members. There are two calendars in the  
46 back pocket of your binders, one for September and one  
47 for October, so now is the time when people can look at  
48 their schedules and find a date that's mutually  
49 acceptable to everyone.

50

1 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Personally I'd  
2 rather be in the  
3 month of October than September. September is busy for  
4 me. Pete.

5  
6 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. I agree that  
7 September is not only a bad month for many of us,  
8 there's also a lot of other meetings going on in the  
9 Service arena. I'm looking at my calendar and the week  
10 of October 20th is a possible suggestion. That's AFN.  
11 That's not a good week.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: So I've got  
14 October 13th or October -- oh, please.

15  
16 MS. DEWHURST: Keep in mind the grants  
17 end September 30th and I can guarantee we won't have  
18 funding available by October.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. That  
21 brings us back into September.

22  
23 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah. I was going to  
24 say then that basically means they'd have to send their  
25 folks on their own nickel and then get reimbursed.

26  
27 MR. UJIOKA: Mr. Chair. On my calendar  
28 already I have September 25th for AMBCC. What am I  
29 missing?

30  
31 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: It's not on my  
32 calendar. Maybe you're hopeful wishing.

33  
34 (Laughter)  
35 MR. UJIOKA: Well, I don't think that's  
36 the case.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: I can do the  
39 25th and 26th. I think I'll be back from -- do we have  
40 anything 25th and 26th?

41  
42 MS. HEPA: IWC meetings in that time.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Or we can do  
45 the 29th and 30th. How about the 29th and 30th,  
46 Monday, Tuesday.

47  
48 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Well, we also  
49 need a day for the committee meetings and work session.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Do we have to  
2 end by the 1st? For budget purposes, we need to be  
3 done by the 30th or can we go into the 1st?

4  
5 MS. DEWHURST: I think they can buy the  
6 tickets by the end of the year. I think it will be  
7 okay even if the person was traveling back home on the  
8 1st.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. How  
11 about the 29th, 30th and 1st?

12  
13 (No comments)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. Where do  
16 we want to have it?

17  
18 MR. MAYO: Mr. Chair. If budget  
19 allows, I'd like to have it in Fairbanks.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Any opposition  
22 to Fairbanks.

23  
24 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Kodiak.

25  
26 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: In light of  
27 the previous discussion on budgets, I would like to ask  
28 Donna if she could come up and let us know how much of  
29 an additional expense that would be to have the meeting  
30 somewhere else. We used to have every fall meeting in  
31 another location and that was really great getting the  
32 outreach and education plus allow community members to  
33 come to our meetings, but I also remember Fred talking  
34 about additional expenses for having it in other  
35 locations. So if you could kind of recap that, I'd  
36 appreciate it.

37  
38 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, we used to always  
39 have the fall meeting remote for those of you that have  
40 been on the Council for a while. Dillingham, Nome,  
41 Fairbanks, Barrow. It just depends on the location.  
42 Barrow was the most expensive and I think that was  
43 10,000-plus. Our main expense, of course, is having  
44 all the Federal people travel because we're paying for  
45 that and per diem. If we have to rent meeting space.  
46 Like in Nome, I think we actually had to pay for the  
47 meeting hall in Nome. In Barrow we didn't because it  
48 was just at the museum. So it just depends. In  
49 situations like that we have to deal with the food and  
50 the beverages and all that unless the sponsoring region



1 does it.

2

3                   So I think Fairbanks was the cheapest,  
4 but I seem to recall Fairbanks even still cost us  
5 5,000-plus at the time. That's why at the time Doug  
6 had made a motion to not do that anymore. This has  
7 been several years ago. And not to have the statewide  
8 meeting other than Anchorage. It also costs the  
9 regional folks more money because Anchorage is a hub  
10 for the airlines, so if we go any place else you pay to  
11 get to the hub and then pay to go to the next leg. As  
12 many of you know, like even just to go from Anchorage  
13 to Nome I think is around \$800 a piece, which comes out  
14 of your grants.

15

16                   So the decision -- and I'm just  
17 rehashing. The decision several years ago was to put  
18 emphasis with the limited funding on staff attending  
19 the regional meetings because we couldn't afford to do  
20 both. So the emphasis was what little travel money we  
21 had would be to put staff to the regional meetings and  
22 not have the statewide meeting other than the Anchorage  
23 hub. I'm not saying we have to be held to it. That  
24 was just the decision several years ago.

25

26                   CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. What's  
27 the wishes of the Council. Where would you like to  
28 meet? Randy suggested Fairbanks and Sonny suggested  
29 Kodiak. Pete.

30

31                   MR. PROBASCO: During a break Randy and  
32 I were talking and my understand Randy is to help  
33 reduce the cost TCC might want to sponsor as for as the  
34 meeting room, which we wouldn't have to pay for. I'm  
35 not sure, but that's one thing he mentioned to me.

36

37                   MR. MAYO: Yeah, I can check on that,  
38 but t sounds like you need a decision today, you know.

39

40                   CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: No, I think we  
41 can tentatively schedule it in Fairbanks pending that  
42 discussion and, if not, it can go to a different  
43 location. Sonny.

44

45                   MR. SQUARTSOFF: I'd say we just keep  
46 it here in Anchorage. It will be a lot cheaper.

47

48                   MS. HEPA: I think the Executive  
49 Director could communicate with all of us. At least we  
50 have the dates. So potentially Fairbanks or Anchorage.

1 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Did I hear Cabo  
2 in there too?

3  
4 (Laughter)

5  
6 MR. UJIOKA: Mr. Chair. Just to let  
7 you know -- never mind.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay. So we  
10 have the dates set, September 29th through October 1st  
11 with either Anchorage or Fairbanks as the locations.

12  
13 So that brings us to Council and Staff  
14 comments. Anybody want to provide any closing comments  
15 before we gavel up. Pete.

16  
17 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 I'll just make mine real brief because I've talked way  
19 too much the last three days. I do want to thank Patty  
20 and Jay, along with Donna. They do a lot of the heavy  
21 lifting if not the majority of it and the success of  
22 this meeting and how well it ran is a reflection of  
23 that. And so I thank you Patty and Donna and Jay.

24  
25 Dave and Ron, I appreciate you guys  
26 traveling all the way up to the 49th state and we look  
27 forward to working with both of you. Thank you.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: I'll also say  
30 something. This was my first meeting chairing. I  
31 totally enjoyed it. It was good. I think you seeing  
32 the State come more and forward to the table by  
33 bringing some money to the table to contribute towards  
34 the harvest survey. I think the harvest survey is the  
35 backbone of trying to understand subsistence needs  
36 across the state and trying to make sure that we  
37 provide it.

38  
39 I don't want my no vote on the Emperor  
40 Goose proposal to be taken out of context. I certainly  
41 empathize with what I'm hearing around the table about  
42 the importance of Emperor Goose to cultural and  
43 spiritual needs across the state by our residents.  
44 That said, I do think we have a little bit more work to  
45 get this done and get that approved to take it to the  
46 SRC and actually have an opportunity and you'll have my  
47 commitment once -- you know, there's other commitments  
48 on Dan's time, but we will try to provide some  
49 additional analytic support to Dan to try and move that  
50 ball forward a little bit more and hopefully get to a

1 good point where we can harvest some Emperor Goose  
2 short of having a complete rewrite of that management  
3 plan.

4  
5 I'm also very interested to find out  
6 where we could end up with some kind of a cultural and  
7 traditional permit that would allow for harvest that  
8 recognizes that short of having a complete rewrite of a  
9 plan.

10  
11 I think it was a very good meeting. I  
12 learned a lot and I certainly appreciated your patience  
13 with me as Chair, but I certainly really welcomed all  
14 the different input that I heard. I appreciate the  
15 honesty and what you bring to the table and talk about.  
16 So thank you all.

17  
18 Anybody else?

19  
20 MR. HARRIS: This will be my first  
21 meeting also. I've learned a lot and I'd like to thank  
22 the rest of the Native Caucus here and everybody in  
23 this room that I talked to so far, you know, gave me  
24 some pointers on what this meeting is about and how I  
25 could better represent my region. Thank you.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Taqulik.

28  
29 MS. HEPA: I just want to thank our new  
30 Council members that are here today and Sonny's  
31 comments keep ringing in my ears, you know, like what  
32 have we accomplished. It seems like it's -- I think  
33 being a new member it kind of seems really down, but  
34 actually since the Alaska Migratory Bird Native Working  
35 Group -- I think that's what they were called -- first  
36 started coming together to tackled the idea of  
37 legalizing our hunts was once of the biggest  
38 accomplishments. And we're here today to participate  
39 in this whole management effort.

40  
41 Definitely there's been some major  
42 challenges and there's going to continue to be because  
43 our world of practicing our customary and traditional  
44 practice of providing food and sharing to our  
45 communities into our cultures is a huge challenge and  
46 trying to fit that into co-management process is a  
47 challenge. What we're trying to do is match what we do  
48 in our customary and traditional practices in these  
49 laws and regulations an it gets so complicated with  
50 dual management, marine mammal management, migratory

1 bird management and the list goes on.

2

3                   So it may seem like we're not making a  
4 lot of effort, but it's very important for us to be  
5 here and to spend time here and voice the concerns that  
6 we have from our people. So thank you.

7

8                   CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Tim and then  
9 Sonny and Gayla.

10

11                   MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd  
12 just like to mirror the comments made by Taqulik. We  
13 are far better off than where we were prior to the  
14 adoption of Migratory Bird Treaty Protocol Amendment  
15 which authorized the creation of this body here. I just  
16 remember back then the fear of going out hunting during  
17 the spring. Every time a plane flew by we'd run and  
18 hide, as if we could hide from an airplane. This was  
19 when I was quite young. And throw our shotguns and  
20 whatnot in the water so we didn't have anything, no  
21 hunting implements in possession.

22

23                   But definitely being able to continue  
24 on our customary traditional way of life and harvesting  
25 and egg gathering of migratory birds we have come a  
26 long way. In the earlier stages of the Alaska  
27 Migratory Bird Co-management Council we had some pretty  
28 rocky years. We've had walk-outs, we've had  
29 disagreements. Today we seem to be in a better  
30 environment where -- in a situation where we can say  
31 let's see how we can make this work to allow for our  
32 customary and traditional hunts to occur, both in  
33 spring and definitely moving towards the fall.

34

35                   There seems to be more understanding of  
36 our spiritual and physical connection to the resources  
37 that we harvest and how they are extremely important to  
38 our way of life and this wouldn't be accomplished  
39 without people that are committed like those of you  
40 that have been around for quite some time and then the  
41 audience as well and working towards that direction. I  
42 really appreciate it. Thank you.

43

44                   CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Thank you.  
45 Sonny.

46

47                   MR. SQUARTSOFF: On your reports I'd  
48 like to have more facts instead of guesses and surveys  
49 or whatever you guys do and have some facts in there  
50 too of what's really happening and how many birds there

1 is, not just guessing and go from there. I know you  
2 guys think you have the experience, but I think them  
3 guys in the villages and elders know a lot more. You  
4 guys have a piece of paper that show you've been to  
5 college or whatever. That doesn't make any difference  
6 in the village. You're not going to survive with that.  
7 So just get some facts and then I'll believe you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Gayla.

10

11 MS. HOSETH: I just wanted to thank  
12 everybody for all the hard work that is put into the  
13 migratory birds and this Council. This is my first time  
14 sitting at the table, so it was a really good  
15 experience and I think it was a positive one and  
16 everybody seems to be working together and thank you  
17 for everything that it's done.

18

19 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Anyone else.

20 Jim.

21

22 MR. UJIOKA: Mr. Chair. I just want to  
23 say the location here, I like the room, I like the  
24 location in town. I thought it worked out well. I  
25 just wanted to let people know.

26

27 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: It's always  
28 nice to be able to look outside. Randy.

29

30 MR. MAYO: Yeah, in closing I'd just  
31 like to thank all the people that make this possible,  
32 Patty, Donna and also the Native Caucus and I'd just  
33 like to echo what Tim was saying. As a traditional  
34 Native person, sometimes it seems like these endeavors  
35 fall short of the mark, but it's better than not having  
36 these discussions at all even though they could be  
37 frustrating at times for all parties involved.

38

39 In the future, when I hand this off to  
40 another younger person, that we're further on along in  
41 achieving the objectives here of sustaining these  
42 species for the cultural and spiritual right of our  
43 people. Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Go ahead, Jack.

46

47 MR. FAGERSTROM: Thanks in particular  
48 to those members that have been here for years. Your  
49 guys' work is appreciated way back in the village. You  
50 learn something new every day. These raven, for

1 example. Keep up the good work. Thanks.

2

3 CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: So that leaves  
4 it to our esteemed Executive Director.

5

6 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr.  
7 Chairman. Well, some of the Council members, Taqulik,  
8 Tim, Randy, very eloquently stole my thunder. I also  
9 wanted to recognize the strives that the AMBCC has made  
10 as a group, as working together, the State  
11 representatives and their staff and the Federal  
12 representatives and their staff and then the Native  
13 Caucus.

14

15 Just to recap a little bit. We had the  
16 spring gathering two, three years ago and the big  
17 message at that gathering was getting to yes. How can  
18 we take these proposals that we receive and make them  
19 work and get them passed. Since then the Executive  
20 Director, as you know, has moved from a Federal  
21 employee to added to our grant agreements, so that's  
22 kind of gone into the Native realm.

23

24 We were able to take the Yellow-Billed  
25 Loon inadvertent harvest proposal and make it part of  
26 the consent agenda so we don't have to address that  
27 separately each year at the SRC. The invitation  
28 proposal was one of the first ones where we actually  
29 got a proposal that was not going to pass but we were  
30 able to work with the community and get that passed as  
31 well as the Eyak hunt. I know Eric put a tremendous  
32 amount of work into that proposal, working with John  
33 Whissel of Native Village of Eyak and they are now  
34 enjoying their first subsistence spring/summer harvest  
35 season.

36

37 As a result of the issues that have  
38 been frustrating us over the years, the Native Caucus  
39 has taken a more active role in trying to resolve the  
40 things that can't be resolved at the AMBCC level.  
41 Things like the Duck Stamp and the handicrafts and  
42 indigenous inhabitant. Now we're looking at the  
43 fall/winter subsistence harvest. Some of these are  
44 going to take legal fixes and the Native Caucus has  
45 really impressed me with the fact that they've  
46 dedicated the time to these. They've dedicated funds  
47 to these issues, so I really think that we have done an  
48 incredible amount of work over the past two, three  
49 years as a group, everyone.

50

1 I've been working in -- this year I'll  
2 work my 30th year working for tribes and tribal  
3 organizations. You know, people come and go. They  
4 come and go at the tribal level, the State level, the  
5 Federal level and you never know who is going to  
6 replace them. If it's going to be someone who is  
7 supportive or someone who is not going to be  
8 supportive. I have to say that working now with Eric  
9 and Ryan and Pete and -- well, okay, Doug.....

10

(Laughter)

11

12

13

MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: It's been  
14 refreshing, it's been great, and Dan has always been  
15 very supportive in helping us at the State level. Of  
16 course, Lili and Jim. So I really think that we have a  
17 really good team and we can do a lot of good things in  
18 the next coming year.

19

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41

So thank you, everyone, for all of your  
support and hard work.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay, that's  
all that's on the agenda.

MR. UJIOKA: Mr. Chair. Motion to  
adjourn.

MS. HOSETH: Second.

CHAIRMAN VINCENT-LANG: Okay.

MS. DEWHURST: Since we're getting out  
early can we have the Council out on the deck for a  
photo.

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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STATE OF ALASKA )

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