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VOLUME I

ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

FALL MEETING

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

OCTOBER 10, 2012

Members Present:

- Dale Rabe, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Doug Alcorn, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Robert Henrichs, Chugach Regional Resources Commission
- Frank Woods, Bristol Bay Native Association
- Taqulik Hepa, North Slope
- Joeneal Hicks, Copper River Native Association
- Randy Mayo, Tanana Chiefs Conference
- Myron Naneng, Association of Village Presidents
- Enoch Shiedt, Maniilaq Association
- Joel Saccheus, Kawerak
- Rick Rowland, Sun'aq Tribal

Executive Director, Patty Brown-Schwalenberg (Acting)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 10/10/2012)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I'd like to ask the Council members to take their seats around the table and we'll get started. We'll call this meeting to order. It's 9:15, October 10th. We will begin our meeting with a moment of silence, please.

(Moment of silence)

CHAIRMAN ALCORN: All right. Thank you. We're on today's agenda for October 10 and 11 meeting. Down to Item 3, seating of the alternates. We have letters in the back behind the agenda page in front of Tab 1. Joel Saccheus is sitting at the table for Kawerak. Bob Henrichs sitting at the table for Chugach Regional Resource Commission. Are there any other alternates?  
Frank.

MR. WOODS: I don't know if I've ever seen the report for Molly retiring.

CHAIRMAN ALCORN: She retired in -- I know you've been her alternate in the past. Do we have anything from BBNA saying that you're the representative, Frank?

MR. WOODS: Not yet. (Indiscernible - away from microphone)

CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Use your mic.

MR. WOODS: I think I was seated as alternate, so I'll just fill in as alternate. Do I need to be recognized at this meeting is my question.

CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Well, you do, but I guess I can poll the Council members. Anyone oppose recognizing Frank given his history with AMBCC?

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We do need something in writing, Frank, if you can get that to us just for the record.

1 MR. WOODS: I will as soon as possible.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you. I'm going  
4 to ask the secretary to do a roll call. Dale, would  
5 you do a roll call for us. You are the secretary,  
6 correct?  
7  
8 MR. RABE: AVCP, Myron Naneng.  
9  
10 (No response)  
11  
12 MR. RABE: Not here. Bristol Bay  
13 Native Association.  
14  
15 MR. WOODS: Frank Woods filling in for  
16 Molly.  
17  
18 MR. RABE: Chugach Regional Resources  
19 Commission.  
20  
21 MR. HENRICHS: Yes.  
22  
23 MR. RABE: Copper River Native  
24 Association.  
25  
26 MR. HICKS: Here.  
27  
28 MR. RABE: Kawerak.  
29  
30 MR. SACCHEUS: Here.  
31  
32 MR. RABE: Aleutian/Pribilof Islands  
33 Associations.  
34  
35 (No response)  
36  
37 MR. RABE: Not present yet. Sun'aq  
38 Tribe of Kodiak.  
39  
40 MR. ROWLAND: Here.  
41  
42 MR. RABE: Maniilaq Association.  
43  
44 MR. SHIEDT: Here.  
45  
46 MR. RABE: North Slope Borough.  
47  
48 MS. HEPA: Here.  
49  
50 MR. RABE: Tanana Chiefs Conference.

1 MR. MAYO: Here.  
2  
3 MR. RABE: U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
4 Service.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Here.  
7  
8 MR. RABE: Alaska Department of Fish  
9 and Game. Here. Mr. Chairman, we have a quorum.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you, Dale. We  
12 do have a quorum, so this is an official meeting.  
13 We're at Item 5 in the agenda. We'll do introductions.  
14 Why don't we start -- we'll go around this table.  
15 Taqulik, if we could start with you, we'll just go  
16 around and then we'll go to the audience.  
17  
18 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My  
19 name is Taqulik Hepa. I work for the North Slope  
20 Borough and am the member representing our region.  
21  
22 MR. HICKS: Thank you. Good morning,  
23 everyone. My name is Joeneal Hicks. I represent the  
24 AHTNA Region, Copper River Native Association.  
25  
26 MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk Enoch Shiedt with  
27 Maniilaq Association, unretired again.  
28  
29 (Laughter)  
30  
31 MR. WOODS: Frank Woods, Bristol Bay  
32 Native Association.  
33  
34 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Patty Brown-  
35 Schwalenberg, executive director of Chugach Regional  
36 Resources Commission, currently serving as interim  
37 executive director of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-  
38 management Council.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I'm Doug Alcorn with  
41 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.  
42  
43 MR. RABE: Dale Rabe with Alaska Fish  
44 and Game.  
45  
46 MR. HENRICHS: Bob Henrichs. I'm  
47 president of the Native Village of Eyak, representing  
48 the Chugach Region.  
49  
50 MR. MAYO: Randy Mayo, Tanana Chiefs

1 region representative.

2

3 MR. SACCHEUS: Joel Saccheus, Kawerak.

4

5 MR. ROWLAND: Rick Rowland, Sun'aq  
6 Tribal Kodiak, representing Kodiak Archipelago.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: All right. Alfred,  
9 can we start with you and we'll go around the audience.

10

11 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Alfred Demientieff,  
12 Holy Cross Tribal.

13

14 MR. ROSENBERG: Good morning. Dan  
15 Rosenberg, Alaska Department of Fish and Game here in  
16 Anchorage.

17

18 MR. SFORMO: Todd Sformo, wildlife  
19 biologist, North Slope Borough.

20

21 MS. WOODS: Gayla Woods, Bristol Bay  
22 Native Association.

23

24 MR. PEDERSON: Mike Pederson, North  
25 Slope Borough, Barrow.

26

27 MR. ASHENFELTER: Roy Ashenfelter with  
28 Kawerak in Nome.

29

30 MR. OATES: Russ Oates, U.S. Fish and  
31 Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Management  
32 in Anchorage.

33

34 MR. TAYLOR: Eric Taylor with U.S. Fish  
35 and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird  
36 Management.

37

38 MR. TROST: Bob Trost with the Fish and  
39 Wildlife Service, Pacific Flyway representative.

40

41 MR. ANGLIN: Ron Anglin with Oregon  
42 Department of Fish and Wildlife, Pacific Flyway  
43 Council.

44

45 MR. REISHUS: Brandon Reishus, Oregon  
46 Department of Fish and Wildlife.

47

48 MS. NAVES: Liliana Naves, Alaska  
49 Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: All right. That's  
2 everyone. Thank you.  
3 We're at Item 6, reviewing and adopting the agenda. A  
4 motion would be in order to adopt.

5  
6 MR. HENRICHS: I'll make a motion to  
7 adopt the agenda.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We have a motion. Do  
10 we have a second.

11  
12 MR. WOODS: I'll second.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We have a second.  
15 Any discussion. Additions, retractions. Taqulik.

16  
17 MS. HEPA: I'm not sure, but if we  
18 wanted to have a Native Caucus, do we need to state  
19 when? I just want to make sure of all the  
20 representatives.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: You can call for a  
23 caucus during the course of the meeting and have that.

24  
25 MS. HEPA: Okay. The only thing that I  
26 don't see on the agenda and maybe we can get a brief  
27 update is -- because we're thinking about next year's  
28 harvest survey. Can we get an update of where we are  
29 on that. Thank you.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: So do we need to add  
32 it someplace in this agenda? We have the harvest  
33 survey, Item 12(b), AMBCC harvest survey. Do you want  
34 to add a third I or a fourth I, I mean?

35  
36 MS. HEPA: Uh-huh, thank you.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: So 12(b) and then  
39 Roman numeral (iv) report on next year's survey. Rick.  
40

41 MR. ROWLAND: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
42 I'm looking at the agenda and I'm wondering what time  
43 we'll be done during the day and where will we be at on  
44 the agenda at certain times during the day. That way we  
45 know that we can get everything done during the course  
46 of the next two days.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: There are no times  
49 associated with this. This is a 9:00 a.m. start and a  
50 -- there is no time associated with adjournment, so I

1 can't answer that. We will try to get through it. We  
2 have two full days scheduled, so I hope that those of  
3 you that are flying in and out of Anchorage have made  
4 arrangements to at least be here through late afternoon  
5 tomorrow. So we'll try to get us through this. If it  
6 looks like we're not making progress and you want to do  
7 just a kind of reshuffling of priorities or a time  
8 check, we can have that discussion through the course  
9 of today and tomorrow just to make sure we get to those  
10 items that need to be covered.

11

12                   Patty.

13

14                   MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Bob Trost  
15 needs to leave at 4:00 o'clock today as well, so we  
16 might want to take that into consideration in  
17 determining when we're going to do the action items.

18

19                   CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I appreciate people  
20 having other schedules and other commitments made, but  
21 we do have this time scheduled through 5:00 o'clock,  
22 given that we've got to be out of this building at  
23 5:00. We'll try to adjourn at 4:30, is the time when  
24 we tried to adjourn yesterday. We'll try to start  
25 wrapping things up, discussions up by 4:30 and let  
26 everybody excuse themselves.

27

28                   The record could show that Myron Naneng  
29 just showed from AVCP. We have a motion to adopt the  
30 agenda with the amendments that were offered. Any  
31 further discussion.

32

33                   Myron.

34

35                   MR. NANENG: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I'd just  
36 like to give an update regarding the Duck Stamp  
37 exemption legislation. It will be very short. Some  
38 place on the agenda, wherever.

39

40                   CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Would you like to do  
41 that under old business?

42

43                   MR. NANENG: Yes.

44

45                   CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. Let's see.  
46 Let's add Item D, Duck Stamp legislation report by  
47 Myron. All right. Call the question.

48

49                   MS. HEPA: Question.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Anyone opposed to the  
2 agenda as amended.

3  
4 (No opposing votes)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Seeing none, the  
7 agenda is adopted. That's now the rule of the day. So  
8 we are down to Item 7, an invitation for public  
9 comment. Does anyone in the audience wish to address  
10 the Council before we begin our discussions this  
11 morning.

12  
13 (No comments)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I see no hands  
16 raised. We'll move on.

17  
18 MR. HENRICHS: I do have one thing I'd  
19 like to comment on.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Bob, go ahead and use  
22 your mic. Thanks.

23  
24 MR. HENRICHS: Yeah, just so people  
25 could get a feel of what happens when you have a record  
26 snowfall, which we had in Cordova. We had 30 or 40  
27 feet last winter. We had a moose herd there that we  
28 planted in Cordova on the delta and there was a lot of  
29 concerns about the moose making it through the winter.

30  
31 A funny thing happened. They had all  
32 this snow and it would rain and then it would freeze  
33 and as it turned out they made it through the winter  
34 real well and they kind of actually flourished because  
35 they could walk on top of the snow it was so hard and  
36 they could eat the stuff off the trees, on the tops of  
37 the trees and the top six feet of the trees have the  
38 most nutrition. The moose herd actually flourished in  
39 spite of the record snowfall. So I just thought I'd  
40 throw that out for you to think about.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. Thanks. We  
43 are at Item 8, adoption of spring gathering notes, May  
44 7 and 8. A motion would be in order.

45  
46 MR. WOODS: So moved.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We have a motion to  
49 adopt.

50



1 MR. RABE: Second.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We have a second.  
4 Any discussion or corrections.  
5  
6 (No comments)  
7  
8 MS. HEPA: Call for question.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I'll call for the  
11 question. Does anyone oppose it.  
12  
13 (No opposing votes)  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. Those notes  
16 from the spring gathering were adopted under Item 8.  
17 Item 9, adoption of Council action items from the May  
18 9, 2012 meeting.  
19  
20 MS. HEPA: So moved, Mr. Chair.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We have a motion to  
23 accept the action items. Do we have a second.  
24  
25 MR. RABE: I'll second.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We have a second. We  
28 do have an Item 9(a), a Staff report on the action  
29 items. Do we need to have discussion of those action  
30 items or did you have a chance to review those and are  
31 you comfortable with those.  
32  
33 (No comments)  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. I'll call the  
36 question. Does anyone oppose adopting those action  
37 items from the May 9 meeting.  
38  
39 (No comments)  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Seeing none, those  
42 are adopted. Item 10. We're at regional representative  
43 reports from regional meetings, issues of concern and  
44 et cetera. We'll go around the table. Rick, would you  
45 like to begin.  
46  
47 MR. ROWLAND: Sure.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Start with you.  
50

1 MR. ROWLAND: Rick Rowland, Sun'aq  
2 Tribe, Kodiak Archipelago. We had our regional meeting  
3 a couple weeks ago and we had representatives come in  
4 from all the villages again and we followed up on our  
5 conversation that I had with the Regional Advisory  
6 Council and Kodiak/Aleutians related to Emperor Geese.  
7 We had a chance to have a detailed discussion about the  
8 term indigenous and it was quite interesting because  
9 most of the community members who were hunters that  
10 participated in the meeting really weren't familiar  
11 with that word and how it was affecting them. Some of  
12 the elders that were participating in the meeting said  
13 it seems to be getting worse and worse to duck hunt  
14 because they feel like they have to sneak around now to  
15 get food. So puts a lot of motivation on my part to be  
16 able to advocate for them as strongly as I can to keep  
17 their Native way of life.

18  
19 We also talked about the potential of  
20 finding a way to possibly lead towards compact  
21 contracting and one of the thoughts came up is that it  
22 would allow for a full time rep potentially in our  
23 region who would be able to take a good look at  
24 migratory birds and all the issues that are related to  
25 it so that the birds in our area aren't dealt with only  
26 twice a year for the regulation aspect of it. But for  
27 the lifestyle part of it is that everyone is dealing  
28 with hit continuously.

29  
30 They're excited to hear about positive  
31 results related to the Emperor Goose proposal. Again,  
32 we did have that communication with the Regional  
33 Advisory Council from Kodiak Aleutians for specific  
34 support for our area in hopes that it would carry on  
35 for all the areas to receive benefits from the Emperor  
36 Geese. I think that's pretty much it. We had a good  
37 meeting. Looking forward to the coming year.

38  
39 Oh, the one more thing that we have to  
40 do is format the letter to the Department of Interior,  
41 Secretary, Department of Interior for our area because  
42 they felt some of the things were important to them  
43 that aren't being addressed at this level. So thank  
44 you.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you, Rick.  
47 Joel, would you like to give a regional report.

48  
49 MR. SACCHEUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
50 Joel Saccheus, Kawerak. We didn't have our regional

1 meeting yet. Maybe it will happen after this meeting.  
2 I'm not too sure. I have a few observations about the  
3 birds and ducks. There was White Geese spotted in near  
4 Elim and Shaktoolik, Alaska this fall, like two weeks  
5 ago. That was kind of different for our area. Usually  
6 they pass somewhere else. There was lots of cranes and  
7 geese.

8  
9 This last spring when I was out boating  
10 there was a lot of Eider ducks out in the ocean in  
11 Norton Bay and we observed King Eider and that was the  
12 first time I seen one. That was unusual in May.  
13 That's all I have. Thank you.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you, Joel.  
16 Randy, would you like to report.

17  
18 MR. MAYO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Up in  
19 our region, the Tanana Chiefs region, we hadn't had our  
20 regional fall meeting yet. I'm working with staff up  
21 there to get that together and go over -- bring our  
22 representatives into Fairbanks and go over some of the  
23 issues we're looking at up in our region.

24  
25 The one issue is -- that goes back to  
26 the Invitation Committee on tribal members that do live  
27 and work in Fairbanks to be able to go home and hunt.  
28 One of the sticking points there is not being able to  
29 take the harvest back to feed your elders and other  
30 people that have no choice but to live in Fairbanks.  
31 So we'll be taking some of those up.

32  
33 A lot of the issues of concern are the  
34 same across the board with all other regions. The Duck  
35 Stamp issue and issuance of Duck Stamps and  
36 enforcement. In my community, we do have people that  
37 don't always -- aren't always able to keep up with the  
38 regs even though we try to do our best. There is  
39 information floating around. Like was mentioned in our  
40 work session yesterday, people are out there,  
41 documented or not, harvesting, practicing our inherent  
42 cultural and spiritual right to feed ourselves.

43  
44 Other regions, being minimally funded,  
45 our area is a large area, so I'm working with our  
46 limited staff at the organization to get in there and  
47 really help them out and try to make our limited  
48 dollars go a lot further. I'm working on communication  
49 scenarios, trying to get the message and reports out to  
50 the member tribes of the region.

1                   One of the things we're doing is  
2 bringing other regional representatives to these  
3 meeting so we can all kind of get the gist of what's  
4 going on here and this time around brought Alfred  
5 Demientieff, Jr. from the Lower Yukon subregion to sit  
6 in on the meeting and take material home too. That's  
7 about it for our region.

8  
9                   CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thanks, Randy. Bob,  
10 did you want to make a report.

11  
12                   MR. HENRICHS: I will defer our report  
13 to our executive director, but I noticed there's one  
14 omission on the written report that's been handed out.  
15 The 2012 annual subsistence memorial gathering on April  
16 20th, 2012 in Anchorage, Alaska. Donations from North  
17 Pacific Rim Housing Authority, Chugach Alaska, Chugach  
18 Heritage Foundation, along with funding from the BIA  
19 supported the event. The omission was that the Native  
20 Village of Eyak contributed 5,000 to that event and for  
21 some reason our executive director forgot to put it in  
22 there. So go ahead.

23  
24                   MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: I stand  
25 corrected and scolded. Sorry about that. Okay. I'm  
26 putting my CRRC hat on. The regional report from the  
27 Chugach Region is located in the back pocket of your  
28 binder. Basically we had, as Bob mentioned, our spring  
29 gathering and that's where information is shared  
30 between the villages and the regional organizations on  
31 natural resource issues of concern, things they'd like  
32 us to pursue. On the other hand, we share information  
33 with them. We also did share information on the AMBCC  
34 initiatives at that time.

35  
36                   There's a short paragraph in the report  
37 about our trip to Washington, D.C. and Spokane for the  
38 Pacific Flyway Council and the Service Regulations  
39 Committee meetings. There's a more extensive report on  
40 that trip in the AMBCC executive director report.

41  
42                   So we have been working with the  
43 villages on looking over the regulations that are  
44 currently in place, talking about climate change and if  
45 there's any differences that they see in the timing of  
46 the birds coming into Prince William Sound and Lower  
47 Cook Inlet and leaving. We'll be reporting on that  
48 more extensively probably at the next meeting. That's  
49 it for our report, Mr. Chairman.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thanks, Patty. We're  
2 going around the table, so, Dale, did you have anything  
3 that you'd like to share from the State.

4  
5 MR. RABE: No.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: You're not a region,  
8 okay. So you'll abstain. I will too. Myron, would  
9 you like to give a report for your region.

10  
11 MR. NANENG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
12 last AVCP Waterfowl Conservation Committee meeting we  
13 had was here in Anchorage last spring in April. The  
14 issues we talked about was the Cackler depredation  
15 concern that we all share with the Oregon farmers. We  
16 heard about the 500 White-Fronted Geese, which we never  
17 talked about, so that's something that we're going to  
18 bring back to the Waterfowl Conservation Committee.

19  
20 The other issues that came up this  
21 summer was the banding concerns, the Fish and Wildlife  
22 Service where they usually band. They weren't able to  
23 get that many geese to follow them to their banding  
24 area, so they wanted to look at other parts of our  
25 region. It has to be in my home village of Hooper Bay  
26 Village Corporation lands that they were looking at.  
27 However, we have an agreement that before any studies  
28 are done on our lands specifically to the village that  
29 you have to hire shareholders to work with you on  
30 anything that goes on within our village corporation  
31 lands.

32  
33 The thing that recently has come up  
34 that we still need to report to our Waterfowl  
35 Conservation is the Stellar Eiders reintroduction  
36 proposal. The village representatives from Newtok,  
37 Chevak, Hooper Bay and Paimiut had a meeting that was  
38 held with Fish and Wildlife Service a few weeks ago to  
39 talk about the reintroduction of Stellar Eiders down in  
40 the Y-K Delta. The last report we heard was that there  
41 was only one nesting pair left and their proposal is to  
42 use -- not Sea World. What's that place in Seward.  
43 Sea Life Center. Is to get eggs from that location and  
44 humans want to be mother hens or they want to monitor  
45 the introduced Stellar Eiders out in the Delta, but  
46 we've consistently told Fish and Wildlife Service and  
47 other people that come out to our region that human  
48 presence has an effect on the reproduction success of  
49 birds, so take it easy. That was the message that we  
50 gave back to them.

1                   The other thing that I think is worthy  
2 of noting is that there was a radio report, I think, on  
3 the Alaska radio that Jim Sedinger has had 30 years of  
4 studies of Black Brant, celebrating his anniversary of  
5 studies. Sometimes we don't necessarily agree with him  
6 studying the birds when he should be studying the  
7 impacts of humans on those that come from other parts  
8 of the area, but I think that he has put together a  
9 good study on Black Brants that is impacting the Y-K  
10 Delta nesting birds as well as how the winter down in  
11 California, the Baja California, not the U.S. of A.  
12 California, but out in that area. Over the years we've  
13 learned that human as well as development of wintering  
14 grounds also has a big impact on the nesting or the  
15 success of the population of the birds.

16  
17                   One of the other things I noticed  
18 within our region is higher flooding during the fall  
19 time that impacts lands within our area. The other  
20 thing that we observed this spring was that it was  
21 reported both by Fish and Wildlife Service and many of  
22 our people in the regions that snow stuck around for  
23 quite an extended period of time and they were  
24 observing a lot of ducks and geese, seagulls nesting on  
25 top of the snow, which was kind of strange, but they  
26 had to lay their eggs somewhere. As they say in real  
27 estate transactions, time was of the essence for the  
28 birds and they laid their eggs on top of snow and ice  
29 in many parts of our region this past spring.

30  
31                   Maybe if it's okay with the rest, I can  
32 give you a short update regarding the Duck Stamp  
33 exemption legislation while I'm at it.

34  
35                   CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We have that  
36 scheduled in the agenda. Is anyone opposed to him  
37 going ahead and giving that report now?

38  
39                   (No comments)

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay, go ahead.

42  
43                   MR. NANENG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We  
44 got an email from Bob King, who works for Senator  
45 Begich, AVCP and other members of the Alaska Migratory  
46 Bird Co-management Council and AFN have been working on  
47 trying to get the Duck Stamp exemption. The  
48 legislation is going to be up for a vote around  
49 November 13th. It's not necessarily the way that we  
50 wanted it to be seen originally, but it will provide a

1 waiver issued by the Secretary of Interior and the last  
2 vote count that was reported to us about three weeks  
3 ago was that 80 to 7 -- when it came to vote at the  
4 Senate floor, 80 to 7, 80 supported and 7 were opposed  
5 to it, to be added to an existing legislation. It must  
6 pass legislation during the lame duck session. Even  
7 though it was good news, we know how this Congress  
8 acts. They go for one thing and the next thing we know  
9 they're doing something else. Sometimes I wonder if  
10 they're human the way that they vote.

11  
12 Last week one of the things I'd like to  
13 share -- even though with that Duck Stamp legislation,  
14 one thing I'd like to share is that we had a good  
15 speaker from Washington who works with the Northwest  
16 Pacific Fish Commission, Billy Frank, Jr. A lot of  
17 people came to our country from Europe and now they're  
18 going to the moon or planning on going to the moon and  
19 he stated I wish they'd hurry up so we can get back to  
20 the way we used to watch our lands. In having to fight  
21 for Duck Stamp exemption, that was one of the thoughts  
22 that came across my mind when he made that comment.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Taqulik, do you have  
25 a question?

26  
27 MS. HEPA: Yeah, I do. Just for  
28 clarification, if it goes to vote on November 13th and  
29 it does pass, that means that it will become effective  
30 on a certain date.

31  
32 MR. NANENG: (Nods affirmatively)

33  
34 MS. HEPA: Okay. I just wanted  
35 clarification so I could report back to our people.

36  
37 MR. NANENG: Yeah, the way the  
38 legislation is written that the Secretary will have the  
39 ability to waive the Duck Stamp exemption and we've  
40 been requesting that waiver for a long time, since we  
41 started hearing that it was written in the regulation  
42 books, that we never supported this AMBCC, but we're  
43 working legislatively to try and get that corrected.  
44 So once the Secretary makes that waiver, then it will  
45 be in place.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. Frank, would  
48 you like to give a regional report.

49  
50 MR. WOODS: Frank Woods, Bristol Bay

1 Native Association. Our last regional meeting was in  
2 April. I think Molly brought that report. The  
3 regional report was -- she does a really detailed one  
4 and what came out of that meeting was, number one, our  
5 regional representatives thought that they had no  
6 regulatory  
7 authority because they put in like two proposals and it  
8 didn't go anywhere. The concern is that -- so I asked  
9 the chairman if he would at some point in time attend  
10 this meeting to figure out -- you know, to help him  
11 understand the process here. So if we don't get our  
12 process right here, it makes a huge impact on our  
13 region when we go back to Bristol Bay.

14  
15 We started inviting -- we invite  
16 everybody. We invite the State of Alaska and  
17 subsistence, migratory birds, climate change. We had  
18 Becharof Refuge come in and do a presentation on the  
19 sea birds in Bristol Bay. At that meeting, we found  
20 out that there's transect surveys done on a regular  
21 basis that aren't reported regionally. Obviously it  
22 comes to a State level or a Federal level office that  
23 we never see. You know the census survey that the U.S.  
24 Fish and Wildlife does or the transect survey, flying,  
25 taking pictures, I think will be -- it's good  
26 information at least for regionals to know.

27  
28 As this board starts growing and our  
29 needs are getting -- you know, in a regulatory process  
30 our needs aren't getting met. They're asking questions  
31 that aren't pertinent to the regulatory process of this  
32 board. So in that process I think -- you know, my  
33 feeling is there ought to be -- like we had a meeting  
34 in Nome about five years ago. Maybe have a meeting out  
35 in each region rotating just to get the word out and  
36 get people -- we didn't even see one public person  
37 attend this meeting.

38  
39 With that said, we're in a new cycle.  
40 We have a new -- Molly retired and there's a big void  
41 in our department trying to fill in the gap between  
42 administratively -- our last year's meetings our budget  
43 got eaten up with -- that was the other issue. We  
44 closed out 2011 survey in March and turned everything  
45 in to Liliana, but the contract for Molly, me and then  
46 we hired a new research specialist, Gayla, our budget  
47 got eaten up real fast and we're really grateful that  
48 our region financially supports our department. If we  
49 had to live in AMBCC funds, it would have been gone  
50 halfway through the year before that. That's just a



1 reality.

2

3                   The other issue is that when we had all  
4 those special meetings it looked like the funds got  
5 pulled out of our contract funds to come attend these  
6 meetings, so it ate up quite a bit of a chunk of  
7 change, Doug. Does that make sense? Went over. Our  
8 existing -- our new director put a freeze on our fall  
9 meeting because she didn't know -- we're over budget  
10 basically. So that put a hamper on a regional fall  
11 meeting.

12

13                   I would love to have that looked at at  
14 some point in time. That's last year's news, but if it  
15 happens again there may be a provision to add a little  
16 bit more to get us -- and I think it's a disservice for  
17 Bristol Bay that we don't hold those meetings annually  
18 and regularly. We miss a beat in the process and I  
19 think it's -- for me as a director to help hold our  
20 regional meetings. Like right now we're not going to  
21 meet until spring again. So what's going to happen for  
22 us is the Board is going to -- I think what we'll do is  
23 hold a teleconference meeting just to keep everybody up  
24 to speed, but there's a void and that creates kind of a  
25 hindrance.

26

27                   With that, that's our Bristol Bay  
28 Native -- or regional reports.

29

30                   CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thanks, Frank.  
31 Enoch, would you like to give a report.

32

33                   MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, I didn't have any  
34 regional meetings with the people, but I had a  
35 teleconference with them. Not all except one village.  
36 I went to Buckland, Deering, Noatak, Kivalina, Kiana,  
37 Noorvik. Migratory bird issues and other work-related  
38 issues with caribou, other work I do. When we met,  
39 they all recommend that we have our meeting in  
40 December, so I'm going to work toward that to see how  
41 much the fares are going to be and all that with what  
42 little money we have left.

43

44                   Their main concern is this, they all  
45 seeing -- they've never seen so many birds in a long  
46 time and they were pretty much happy. In fact, last  
47 week I just got a call that they were still seeing  
48 geese up north and they were staying there late for  
49 some reason and they were really happy. Something  
50 different. They still recommending, Myron, that they

1 don't have to pay Duck Stamps completely. I'm hearing  
2 that from every village.

3  
4 Like I say, I went to the villages I  
5 mentioned and it's highly recommended. They don't want  
6 to, but this is what they're scared of. If they get  
7 cited, are they going to be -- with the Federal system  
8 where they can't even travel out of our region to go to  
9 the hospital, are they going to lose their boat and  
10 motor. Because their boat and their snowmachine, they  
11 go harvest birds with, it's not just for birds. That's  
12 what they were saying. It's for other resources, even  
13 to get wood. That's what they're scared of and that's  
14 why they don't want to see that Duck Stamp.

15  
16 They see it like that. They strongly  
17 recommend that we don't -- just eliminate the Duck  
18 Stamps. Eliminate the enforcements because we have no  
19 birds in our region that's declining because we're  
20 seeing a lot of birds. Not only that our campers are  
21 out there. Some of them have not much. Whatever they  
22 harvest that day is what they eat that day. No  
23 refrigerators, no freezers out there.

24  
25 That's about it. Thanks.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you. Joeneal,  
28 do you have a report?

29  
30 MR. HICKS: Yes, I do, Mr. Chair.  
31 Thank you. We did not have our regional meeting  
32 either. We did earlier this spring and I did give you  
33 a report on that. I do have a report to give you on  
34 our camp that was held on August 5 through the 10th.  
35 It was held at Mile 56 on the Denali Highway. It  
36 consisted of 29 participants, which include 18 youths  
37 and 11 adults. The weather was poor to good. On our  
38 first day we got our four-wheeler stuck, buried in the  
39 mud. That put a little hamper on things. However, we  
40 were successful in taking a bull moose on the second  
41 day later that evening anyhow.

42  
43 We observed that moose and caribou were  
44 less than last year. We also observed that blueberries  
45 did not ripen due to weather is what I'm presuming.  
46 Usually they're ripe and they're able to pick.  
47 However, this time of year or at this particular  
48 instance it did not occur and I do not know the reason  
49 for it. I can always say probably climate change.  
50

1                   We had an invasive plant species  
2 class that was given by BLM. We scheduled a gun safety  
3 class by the State troopers, but that did not occur.  
4 We observed a Fish and Game officer at the particular  
5 site that was in the area and very noticeable. Why I  
6 do not know. He did not bother us, but he was pretty  
7 much visible about a quarter mile from where we were  
8 camping. Just visible. I don't know the reason why,  
9 but we did not question it.

10  
11                   We observed a lot of ducks, geese.  
12 Also observed a lot of traffic. I believe it's  
13 probably hunters as you might know. Like Bob Henrichs  
14 said, we do have a good moose hunting season in our  
15 area. The community harvest season begins August 10th  
16 and I believe that probably the reason why for a lot of  
17 traffic was that people wanted to get to their  
18 particular camping sites before the actual hunting day  
19 begins. In other words, if you go there on hunting  
20 day, your campsite is probably gone or taken by  
21 somebody else, so they were getting there ahead of  
22 time.

23  
24                   We had two designated hunters, myself  
25 and another person, legal. So, in other words, if the  
26 Fish and Game officer were to approach us, we had it.  
27 Duck Stamps or whatever it is that we needed. The bad  
28 thing about it was that the camp was cut short due to  
29 an emergency at home. On the fourth day we had to shut  
30 down and go back. We had a death in Copper Center.

31  
32                   There is one overall concern that I  
33 would like to point out and that's management of our  
34 particular grant mainly in regards to non-reporting and  
35 not following grant requirements such as lack of doing  
36 the minutes, lack of draw-downs on a particular grant.  
37 I think it has to do with excessive management by  
38 CRNAs. Because of the excessive management it results  
39 in poor communication.

40  
41                   That's my report. Thank you.

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thanks, Joeneal.  
44 Enoch, you had your hand raised. Did you have a  
45 question?

46  
47                   MR. SHIEDT: I forgot to mention an ad.  
48 When I went to Deering, even though it didn't have  
49 anything to do with migratory bird, from that little  
50 town I counted 37 duck hunters that wanted to talk

1 about ducks. I mean that's how much interest they have  
2 in migratory birds because they harvest a lot of birds  
3 there. I mean it's unusual for a little village like  
4 that to comment. A little IRA building, we were full.  
5 We're not having a meeting, but you're here. Thank  
6 you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you. Taqulik.

9

10 MS. HEPA: Thank you. Just briefly.  
11 For the regional report, we were not able to have our  
12 meeting in Point Lay. We received our funding late.  
13 In addition to that, there was no hotel space every  
14 time we tried to schedule a meeting in Point Lay and in  
15 Barrow. So we're going to have a meeting probably next  
16 summer. We try to travel to a different village to  
17 have our annual migratory bird meeting. Hopefully by  
18 next summer we'll schedule early so we can have a  
19 meeting there.

20

21 In regards to birds, it was a good year  
22 for migratory birds. The geese continue to flourish.  
23 White-Fronted Goose, Black Brant and Snow Geese looked  
24 very healthy. Came in large numbers. The fall  
25 migration was very evident that they're doing very  
26 good. Beautiful color on their new feathers. Again,  
27 it was a big year for White-Fronted Goose to come into  
28 the community and, again, five years before it was  
29 pretty much unheard of for that many geese living  
30 amongst our own village.

31

32 It was a good year for Loons. We saw a  
33 lot of Loons traveling back and forth from their  
34 nesting grounds to the ocean. Sandhill Cranes were near  
35 Barrow. They looked very healthy. Glad to report that  
36 Stellar's Eiders did have a nesting year in Barrow. I  
37 don't know the exact number. I didn't bring the report  
38 with me, but at some point I think that the Fish and  
39 Wildlife Service, Endangered Species folks could  
40 provide a report to this Council on how the Stellar's  
41 Eiders did.

42

43 It was a hot summer. I was traveling  
44 most of the summer, so I didn't get to see the Eiders  
45 migrate. I haven't heard any complaints from people,  
46 so I think the Eiders are doing fine as well.

47

48 We had a warm, wet fall. Very little  
49 snow on the ground. I just saw a small, brown bird  
50 still in Barrow, which is really unusual because

1 they're pretty much gone and migrated by then. On my  
2 way to the airport I saw a little bird. It was pretty  
3 small. I don't know what kind it was.

4  
5 One interesting thing again the second  
6 year I heard from a local person is that they're  
7 noticing that the spring geese is when we prefer to  
8 hunt geese. They are continuing to taste different.  
9 They're more milder, not as gamey. That was an  
10 interesting comment I heard from a local person. I  
11 think, just talking with Robert and others, maybe it's  
12 all the grass and grain -- rice and grain that they're  
13 eating in the Lower 48 before they come. They're fat  
14 is a lot thicker than it used to be when they come in  
15 the spring.

16  
17 We typically don't hunt geese in the  
18 fall after they spent the summer eating a lot of tundra  
19 grass. They say that -- it's good to hear local people  
20 bring this up now too even though they're so close to  
21 the community. They taste different in the fall too  
22 and we typically don't like that taste.

23  
24 For the Yellow-Billed Loon survey,  
25 we're continuing to make progress. Michael and Todd  
26 are both taking the lead in that and I just want to  
27 thank them for their leadership and dedication to make  
28 sure that survey gets done. Thank you.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: All right. Thank  
31 you. We're down to old business. Rick, go ahead.

32  
33 MR. ROWLAND: Rick from Kodiak area.  
34 Two things that I recalled were that during the meeting  
35 we had a chance to talk about the potential for Kodiak  
36 area becoming what they call on the chopping block for  
37 rural versus nonrural. And then we had the discussion  
38 about transportation of migratory birds that are hunted  
39 from rural areas into nonrural areas and how that's  
40 considered illegal in the Federal standings. If  
41 someone were to hunt ducks, it's illegal for them to  
42 carry those ducks from a rural area into a nonrural  
43 area or it's even illegal for them to take ducks and  
44 send them to some elder from a rural to nonrural area.  
45 So that was a big issue that we talked about.

46  
47 The other thing we talked about was the  
48 importance of outreach and education to not only the  
49 hunters but the tribal leaders and the community  
50 leaders and Native corporation leaders who aren't

1 tribes but they have tribal members in their  
2 corporations. We talked about the blood quantum issue  
3 about how some people's corporations have certain blood  
4 quantum, but then, when it comes down to the tribe,  
5 it's as if there's some disconnect between who can hunt  
6 and who cannot hunt. So that was in part of the  
7 discussion about rural versus nonrural, quantum, blood  
8 quantum and how tribes can really help out with that  
9 situation. So that's all I want to mention.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you. Frank,  
12 you had your hand raised.

13

14 MR. WOODS: Yeah, I'd like to hear from  
15 the Aleutians.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Let's let the record  
18 show that Peter Devine is here from Aleutian/Pribilof  
19 Islands.

20

21 MR. DEVINE: (Indiscernible - away from  
22 microphone) That's all, Frank.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you, Peter.  
25 Anyone else have any questions or comments.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: All right. Let's  
30 move on to Item 11, old business. Service Regulations  
31 Committee report, Flyway and SRC. Would that be our  
32 representatives or are we looking for a report from Bob  
33 Trost? That's Patty? Okay, Patty, would you give the  
34 report.

35

36 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, this is  
37 Patty Brown-Schwalenberg. Mike Pederson and I attended  
38 the Pacific Flyway Council and the Service Regulations  
39 Committee meeting. His report he passed out before the  
40 meeting and it should be at your table. He did two  
41 separate reports, one for the SRC and one for the  
42 Pacific Flyway Council.

43

44 My report is under the last report  
45 under Tab 1. If Mike could, I'd like him to come to  
46 the table to discuss the Yellow-Billed Loon proposal,  
47 but we did -- besides that, we did get the regular  
48 suite of proposals approved by the Service Regulations  
49 Committee and the PFC did agree to recommend those for  
50 approval as well. We also discussed the White-Fronted

1 Goose proposal that the State of Oregon had presented  
2 and now it's going to be discussed at a later point in  
3 the agenda, so I won't elaborate on it here.

4  
5 The other point was while in D.C. we  
6 met with Jerome Ford and Brad Bortner with Migratory  
7 Birds and the Fish and Wildlife Service to just keep  
8 them informed of how things are working at the AMBCC  
9 since we've had the Gathering because Brad did attend  
10 the meeting in May here in Alaska. We also met with  
11 Patrick Durham, who is the Native American liaison for  
12 the Service as a courtesy just to provide them with  
13 information about the Migratory Bird Council and talked  
14 about the various other avenues of funding for the  
15 harvest surveys and how we can increase the budget for  
16 the program.

17  
18 So if I could ask Mike Pederson to come  
19 up.

20  
21 MR. PEDERSON: Mike Pederson, North  
22 Slope Borough. I didn't include our 2011  
23 scientifically defensible report because it was  
24 discussed at the last AMBCC meeting and so was the  
25 proposal. At the Pacific Flyway Council both me and  
26 Patty attended like she said. There was some  
27 clarifications that we addressed at the Non-game  
28 Technical Committee meeting and then at the Pacific  
29 Flyway meeting itself there were no questions about our  
30 Yellow-Billed Loon survey or the overall Alaska Native  
31 subsistence rules.

32  
33 As you recall at the last meeting we  
34 added the Yellow-Billed Loon proposal to the consent  
35 agenda and that passed at the Pacific Flyway as well as  
36 the SRC meeting in D.C. In D.C., there were no  
37 questions on either the Yellow-Billed Loon proposal or  
38 the overall subsistence regs. They agreed to have the  
39 Yellow-Billed Loon proposal in the consent agenda so we  
40 don't have to submit a separate proposal now.

41  
42 It sounds like the SRC was glad to  
43 receive the scientifically defensible report. Todd and  
44 I are taking the lead. We have started doing that work  
45 in Barrow, Nuiqsut and Atqasuk, so that's progressing.

46  
47 And then if I could just add to  
48 Taqulik's regional report. Even though we did not have  
49 a dedicated meeting for migratory birds we did discuss  
50 migratory bird issues in January. We got an update on

1 our Steller's Eiders issues and then also last week we  
2 met in Barrow and had an update on what we did at the  
3 PFC and SRC meeting regarding Yellow-Billed Loons and  
4 stuff like that. So we were dealing with migratory  
5 bird issues, but we did not have a dedicated meeting.  
6 I don't have anything further to add about the PFC or  
7 SRC.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you, Mike. Any  
10 questions for Mike. Frank. Hold on, Mike.

11

12 MR. WOODS: Thanks, Mike. Your  
13 detailed report is appreciated. At the Pacific Flyway  
14 Commission, I'm just throwing out ideas. Would it be  
15 in our best interest to have an indigenous Native  
16 representative on that commission?

17

18 MR. PEDERSON: I'm not sure how to  
19 answer that, but I'll tell you I think what has worked  
20 in the past is when we're at the meetings and our  
21 agenda topics come up, it's a good thing for us to be  
22 in the room. The last few meetings they've had some  
23 questions, both at Pacific Flyway and SRC. While we're  
24 in the room we're able to answer questions as they come  
25 up, but the last two -- this last summer there were  
26 really no questions about our harvest in Alaska  
27 overall, so I think just being in the room has made an  
28 impact on answering questions when they do come up. So  
29 I wouldn't know how to answer that question, but just  
30 from experience.

31

32 MR. WOODS: Because, Ron, you haven't  
33 been here for a while and your presence is real  
34 important. We have to work together in this whole  
35 regulatory process. It's a whole different level at  
36 the Pacific Flyway Commission and I understand there's  
37 a big -- in my mind, there's a big disconnect for this  
38 board if we're going to work on regulation to that  
39 body. How do we improve that, I guess. So is it  
40 working the way that it is?

41

42 MR. PEDERSON: From my perspective it  
43 is. I guess only because that both me and Patty and  
44 the first year I was involved I forget who else  
45 traveled with us, but just being in the room when our  
46 agenda items come up, I think that's proven successful.  
47 I'll leave it up to the PFC reps to answer the other  
48 part of your question. To me, it's working.

49

50 MR. WOODS: Not to convolute the issue,



1 but I think Ron will probably do a presentation. The  
2 information from that Committee and that process has  
3 been limited on the Native Caucus side. When Myron has  
4 issues, regional have issues, these are huge issues.  
5 It has to include the Pacific Flyway Commission to some  
6 degree. If the agreement has to be changed and the  
7 laws have to be rewritten and that board is going to  
8 have to approve them at some point is my point, I  
9 guess. I'll leave it there. I'll leave the reports up  
10 to you and any discussions for you as going down to  
11 represent the AMBCC. Thanks.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thanks, Frank. Did  
14 you want Ron to address the question about the  
15 relationship between the Pacific Flyway Council and the  
16 AMBCC? Ron.

17  
18 MR. ANGLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For  
19 the record, Ron Anglin with Oregon Department of Fish  
20 and Wildlife and Oregon's representative to the PFC and  
21 also to the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management  
22 Council. So, from my perspective serving on the  
23 Council and being the liaison, you really have two  
24 strong advocates in the State of Alaska and in Oregon  
25 serving on the Council and being able to put forth the  
26 things that you're looking for.

27  
28 Also, at least from what I've had  
29 reported back to me within the study committees, State  
30 of Alaska involvement has also been very critical with  
31 their technical folks being able to talk about the  
32 things that have come forward out of the AMBCC and to  
33 help. Certainly, we view your folks's presence there  
34 as necessary and I think very, very important. As  
35 we've had to remind our own staff, it's hard for folks  
36 in the Lower 48 to envision what it is that you need  
37 and what it is that you're trying to do. The Council  
38 is very, very receptive to the things that come out of  
39 the AMBCC and go through the process.

40  
41 As far as an official seat on the  
42 Council or anything like that, I think, Doug, I'm not  
43 sure how that would work. I'm not sure if authorizing  
44 legislation sets up that kind of a relationship and  
45 allows for that. It also -- I know we've had requests  
46 in the past from Native American tribes in the Lower 48  
47 for similar type things and it's something that has not  
48 happened in the past, but I know that the relationship  
49 at least between the Pacific Flyway Council and the  
50 AMBCC, I think Alaska and Oregon and the Service have

1 all worked very, very hard to make sure that it is a  
2 good relationship and that once you've gone through  
3 your process that the Council not get in the way of  
4 your recommendations.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thanks, Ron. Dale,  
7 you had a comment.

8  
9 MR. RABE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
10 was just going to concur the sentiments of Ron as  
11 expressed and to state also that all of the  
12 recommendations that come out of this body as well as  
13 the Pacific Flyway Council are only advisory to the  
14 SRC. That's really where the decisions are made. The  
15 discussions relative to the regulations that go through  
16 the Flyway Council relative to the spring/summer season  
17 are outside of the normal kinds of responsibilities of  
18 that group in terms of agenda. Certainly it's of  
19 interest because there is a common base of waterfowl at  
20 stake whether it's spring hunting, fall hunting or any  
21 other time of harvest that impacts those populations.

22  
23 I would agree that -- my thought is  
24 that, you know, we are getting good communication, but  
25 I guess I may not be the best person to judge that. I  
26 do sit on both of those bodies in terms of the  
27 information. Clearly I change my hat depending on what  
28 the discussion topic is and I certainly try to  
29 represent all of the topics that come out of here just  
30 because of having the knowledge of sitting in on this  
31 body when those topics come up and questions arise.

32  
33 In terms of actually having a seat on  
34 that, having been tasked with the Pacific Flyway  
35 Council to look at the bylaws right now, that would  
36 require some changes is my understanding and I'm not  
37 sure, as his question, whether or not the enabling  
38 legislation provides for that at this point in time.  
39 That's something we'd have to look at.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Myron, you have the  
42 floor.

43  
44 MR. NANENG: Thanks, Frank. The  
45 question has some merit as to why we should have a  
46 Native representative on Service Regulations Committee.  
47 I guess at times we come up with a proposal that would  
48 benefit the Native hunters out in rural Alaska and then  
49 when the agency, the Service and the Alaska Department  
50 of Fish and Game representatives both know who is going

1 to advocate our position to bring to the Service  
2 Regulations Committee.

3  
4 The tribes have representatives on  
5 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council from the  
6 Lower 48. Up here in Alaska we're trying to get a  
7 Native representative or a tribal representative to sit  
8 on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. It  
9 seems like everybody else is sitting on those  
10 committees, yet the people who are most impacted for  
11 trying to harvest these resources for food are not very  
12 well represented. I know they come up with regulations  
13 for purposes of trying to set up how it will impact all  
14 the users in the migratory pathway of the birds.

15  
16 You know, whenever something comes up  
17 in terms of a conservation concern who do they turn to.  
18 Who do they ask to withhold hunting of these migratory  
19 birds if there's a conservation concern of a certain  
20 species. We've seen that with the Cackler Canada Geese  
21 in 1984. Who did they turn to? They turned to us that  
22 live in the villages asking us to withhold hunting to  
23 build up the population of that species.

24  
25 Today our success is kind of like a  
26 headache to the Oregon farmers, but at the same time,  
27 you know, we've got to remember the fact that the  
28 people who live in the nesting areas are very much  
29 impacted by whatever decisions that the Service  
30 Regulation comes up with.

31  
32 The Y-K Delta Goose Management Plan,  
33 when it was the Hooper Bay Agreement, State of Alaska  
34 representative, Ron Somerville, filed a lawsuit saying  
35 that you shouldn't give preference to people that  
36 survive off this land, you know, but those days are  
37 over. However, I don't think that we'll continue to  
38 have a good working relationship as we have today  
39 because somebody else may come up with a mindset that  
40 Ron Somerville had.

41  
42 So my comment is I think there has to  
43 be some consideration of this to include an Alaska  
44 Native representative on the Service Regulation because  
45 we're the ones that are impacted the most in terms of  
46 harvesting the birds for food and our winters are long.  
47 The birds don't spend eight to nine months up here.  
48 They spend like about three to four months up here in  
49 Alaska and we have limited opportunity to hunt. So  
50 that's my comment regarding the Service Regulations

1 Committee and membership on.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: So that was a  
4 comment. Do you have a recommendation for action?

5

6 MR. NANENG: Recommendation for action  
7 is that we pursue in some form or another to have a  
8 Native representative on the Service Regulations  
9 Committee. That is my recommendation.

10

11 MR. ROWLAND: I'll second.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: All right. We have a  
14 motion and a second to do what, to solicit a position  
15 on the Service Regulations Committee?

16

17 MR. NANENG: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The  
18 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council solicit  
19 that position in the Service Regulations Committee.  
20 You know, it doesn't hurt, it only helps.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: All right. We have a  
23 motion and a second. Do we have discussion. I see two  
24 hands raised. I saw Patty first and then I'll turn it  
25 over to Dale.

26

27 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr.  
28 Chairman. We did discuss this very same issue with  
29 Brad Bortner and Mike Johnson when they were here in  
30 Anchorage for the Gathering. They indicated that they  
31 would take that back to Washington, D.C. and find out  
32 more information. So, when we did go back there in  
33 July, I asked them again about that and they -- not  
34 Mike, but Brad, I discussed it with him and he said he  
35 was going to check and get back to me on it.

36

37 So that when the SRC met that week  
38 neither Mike nor I were offered an invitation to sit  
39 in, but one of the things that we did discuss, because  
40 of legal concerns or legal considerations or  
41 regulation, whatever, they couldn't give us a seat on  
42 the SRC, but they thought that maybe we could sit in on  
43 the SRC meetings during the deliberation of our  
44 proposals. So that was kind of where they were at when  
45 we were there in July. Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Dale.

48

49 MR. RABE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
50 Patty, I think, provided enough information. I was

1 simply going to ask the question in what form would  
2 this inquiry take, whether it would be a written  
3 communication to the Service or verbal, but it sounds  
4 like some of that's already occurring, so I have  
5 nothing to add.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay, Bob, you had  
8 your hand raised.

9  
10 MR. HENRICHS: Yeah. You know, during  
11 -- right before Statehood Alaska adopted the Tennessee  
12 Plan. They just sent people back to Congress  
13 representing Alaska. They always had a delegate back  
14 there, but they sent people back and they acted as  
15 though they were representing Alaska but they didn't  
16 have a vote. With our tribe, we always ran into this  
17 problem. They said, oh, well, your tribe doesn't own  
18 any land so you don't have any seat in this and we  
19 said, hey, the whole thing is our traditional homeland.  
20 Anything that affects us we would just pull a chair out  
21 and sit down at the table. If it's in our homeland, it  
22 affects us, period. I think we should have  
23 representatives at those meetings representing tribes  
24 whether they get bored or not.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I'm going to defer to  
27 the Council members and then I'll go to the audience.  
28 Taqulik.

29  
30 MS. HEPA: I am in support of the  
31 motion. I think that us, as Native people, are looking  
32 for every opportunity to have a meaningful role.  
33 Sitting on the AMBCC, it is a good start, but being  
34 able to have a seat at the SRC where the ultimate  
35 decision comes down to is what our goals are and I  
36 would support the motion that Myron made.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: All right. Any other  
39 Council comments. Go ahead, Randy.

40  
41 MR. MAYO: Yeah, I just wanted to speak  
42 in support of the motion and just wanted to point out  
43 that in this report it states that AMBCC and others are  
44 considered public observers, if this is supposed to be  
45 a co-management council, but yet we're just observers  
46 and advisors when it comes to the ultimate decisions.

47  
48 You know, it goes back to what Myron  
49 mentioned about us traditional people being out there  
50 on the land and we are the observers yet other people

1 relying on other scientific data or other information  
2 collected that might be skewed making decisions and  
3 some of these people making decisions 4,000 miles away  
4 about something they know very little about.

5  
6 So I speak in favor of the motion to  
7 have a tribal representative be there. Even if they  
8 don't get a vote, to help educate these decision-makers  
9 that probably know very little about what they're  
10 passing that's going to affect all of us out there on  
11 our land.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Enoch, go ahead.

14  
15 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, I'd like to support  
16 that motion strongly because when there's any question  
17 on birds, they're declining or something, they target  
18 the Natives to take a reduction and not the outside.  
19 We're the ones that worry about the future of the  
20 birds. We never overharvest our birds traditionally  
21 and it still goes on. We are the eyes of the north if  
22 they have any questions. We'll answer right what we  
23 see out there and that might help them make a decision  
24 the right way for Alaska here and our people we  
25 represent.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Bob, do you have a  
28 statement.

29  
30 MR. HENRICHS: Yeah. If it moves  
31 along, by any chance we actually get a voting seat on  
32 there representing the tribes, it shouldn't be up to  
33 the Secretary of Interior to decide who represents the  
34 tribes. The tribes should select someone to represent  
35 themselves.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Go ahead, Frank.

38  
39 MR. WOODS: I'm in support of the  
40 motion. Myron brought up the point of no seat and no  
41 voice on the SRC. My feeling is that, number one,  
42 Alaska is represented at this table. That number one --  
43 Alaska is, what is it, 78 percent rural, 28 percent  
44 nonrural. And then you add -- 82 percent of rural  
45 residents are Native, so you might as well say Native  
46 population. If you don't address that, it's almost  
47 racist when they sit there and -- as a Native person,  
48 to be represented on a national scale without  
49 representation -- and not to bring up any racial stuff,  
50 but it's really hard for a Native person to have their

1 voice heard and feel like it's being heard.

2

3 I'll tell you why from my regional  
4 report. If I put in a proposal and it doesn't even go  
5 anywhere, that is -- so our voice isn't heard and the  
6 people proposing it still have a heartburn and they go  
7 back and they still -- it goes over and over and the  
8 history, if we're going to allow it to continue without  
9 a voice, I think we're -- Myron's, I'll support it in  
10 that arena.

11

12 I would fully support a Native voice at  
13 some level and then at least our voice is heard on a  
14 national scale. At Pacific Flyway, we have it  
15 officially through you, Ron. Nothing against your  
16 position and seat. Also Gayle's, nothing against your  
17 positions here, not at all, but without a Native person  
18 on that seat I don't think we're going to have our  
19 needs fully addressed.

20

21 We've spent how many meetings, three,  
22 four. Doug. We just passed our special meeting  
23 minutes and notes. That was what this whole issue is  
24 about, for Native people to have a voice. That's why  
25 I'm talking now, just to present a way to officially  
26 recognize that voice. Thanks.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Dale, you had your  
29 hand raised.

30

31 MR. RABE: I guess at this point,  
32 because I do sense that this is going to come down to a  
33 vote, it's important for me to understand what's the  
34 nature of this communication that we're talking about?  
35 It really hasn't been defined. Patty has talked about  
36 that it has occurred at a verbal level and that there  
37 has been some commitment to follow through. It's not  
38 clear to me whether or not that discussion was closed  
39 out based on the conversations and the decision was  
40 rendered by the Service or not.

41

42 I can certainly be supportive of an  
43 inquiry in a formal sense to go forward and ask the  
44 question and ask for an answer back about what would be  
45 the process, what would be the parameters if there are  
46 any that the Service could consider that kind of a  
47 thing but in a more written format so you'd expect to  
48 get a written response back.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Myron, go ahead.

1 MR. NANENG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
2 Dale, I think that we can provide you history of what  
3 we had to go through. There's very few people that  
4 remember what we went through with the 1984 Hooper Bay  
5 Agreement when it was first implemented, you know,  
6 agreed to. And then a State representative, who  
7 eventually became the Commissioner of Fish and Game,  
8 ended up suing the Agreement, but the Secretary, with  
9 his discretion, supported the Hooper Bay Agreement  
10 because it was for the purpose of addressing the  
11 conservation concerns that we had with Cacklers.

12  
13 I'm not saying that -- well, I  
14 appreciate your support by sitting here, but if we have  
15 a some person that eventually shows up at some point in  
16 the future like who we had to deal with back then and  
17 who eventually became the Commissioner of Fish and Game  
18 and had filed this lawsuit against that Agreement,  
19 that's the reason why I'm saying that I think that we  
20 need a Native seat on the Service Regulatory Commission  
21 or because of the fact that whatever is agreed to is  
22 agreed to by everyone with the input of Alaska Natives  
23 on what regulations are going to be coming up with.

24  
25 That's the reason why I made that  
26 motion. That's why I brought that up, knowing from  
27 past experience and sitting on edge thinking that the  
28 Secretary may have supported that proposal by the guy  
29 who filed the lawsuit saying that that agreement was  
30 not valid. So that's why I made that motion. Thank  
31 you, Mr. Chair.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Patty, would you like  
34 to speak.

35  
36 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Yes. Thank  
37 you, Mr. Chairman. I would suggest -- I don't know if  
38 you need to add it to your motion or what, but that we  
39 do follow up from my discussions with the Fish and  
40 Wildlife Service with a formal written request telling  
41 the history and the justification behind our request  
42 and then at least they'll have a basis to provide us  
43 with a written response. Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Rick, go ahead.

46  
47 MR. ROWLAND: So I appreciate hearing  
48 all this discussion and the motion. The thought just  
49 crossed my mind that when I was a kid the skies used to  
50 be just dark with birds in the winter. I went to



1 California a few years ago and those skies are dark  
2 with birds there during the bird season. There's a lot  
3 of birds there. Then it made me start thinking about  
4 this.

5  
6 What's important is advocating for the  
7 birds. That's the most important, taking care of the  
8 birds. Natives have been doing it for thousands of  
9 years here. So, in my life I've seen changes to where  
10 there's less birds now. Somehow they're doing it  
11 pretty good in California because they've got a lot of  
12 birds there. Even problems in Oregon. So there's a  
13 way that it could balance and this might be it. So I'm  
14 in support of it.

15  
16 With that, I call for the question.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I haven't spoken yet.  
19 I'd like to ask Bob Trost if he wouldn't mind coming to  
20 the microphone. I have questions regarding the  
21 structure of the Service Regulations Committee and the  
22 charter or bylaws or however it is structured. I would  
23 like to have some clarification before I state the  
24 position I'm going to state for the Fish and Wildlife  
25 Service.

26  
27 MR. TROST: Hi. For the record, I'm Bob  
28 Trost and the Pacific Flyway representative. I think,  
29 as many of you know, I've also written a programmatic  
30 EIS that sets out the structure for how we do set  
31 regulations for migratory birds. Consequently, I know  
32 quite a bit of the detail and background that goes into  
33 this.

34  
35 Your question is understandable, first  
36 off, and one of the things I'd like to underline at the  
37 beginning is that every individual in this country has  
38 the opportunity to input or for input into the  
39 regulations process. The way this is set up, be it a  
40 tribe or an individual or an individual state, they  
41 don't have to come through the AMBCC, they don't have  
42 to go through a Flyway Council. They can respond to  
43 the Federal Register notices. If they have an issue  
44 that they believe they want to bring forward in a  
45 regulatory sense, everyone has that flexibility to come  
46 forward with a recommendation.

47  
48 The second part of this and it's a  
49 little bit of history, you are considering requesting a  
50 seat on the Service Regulations Committee and that's

1 very understandable. Similar requests have come from  
2 the states over the course of the years as you might  
3 well imagine.

4  
5 Right now the Service Regulations  
6 Committee consists of four Federal employees and those  
7 four Federal employees make a recommendation to the  
8 director of the Service, who, in the end, makes another  
9 recommendation to the Assistant Secretary of Interior,  
10 who is the person that signs the rule that establishes  
11 the regulations.

12  
13 It's at that point where this becomes  
14 less of a cooperative process, I guess, and more of  
15 what Doug previously described to you yesterday as an  
16 inherent Federal responsibility. Only the Federal  
17 government can enter into treaties with other national  
18 governments. So the treaties with Russia and Japan and  
19 Canada and Mexico set this up as a Federal process. At  
20 some stage, the Federal government is the sole entity  
21 that is in a position to make these regulations.

22  
23 I would like to point out that the  
24 history of waterfowl management, even before the Hooper  
25 Bay Agreement with the states in the Lower 48 has  
26 always been a cooperative venture. The effort has  
27 always been, I think, foremost to find a way to  
28 incorporate the views and interests of every individual  
29 group into what become the regulations.

30  
31 I would note I think with regard to  
32 subsistence harvest regulations almost every regulatory  
33 proposal that's come out of the AMBCC has been approved  
34 by the director of the Service. The issues that have  
35 not been resolved, the difficult ones, like what is an  
36 indigenous person, are you required to have Duck  
37 Stamps, do not fall within the purview of the SRC  
38 either. If you had a seat on the SRC, nothing would  
39 change in that regard.

40  
41 So some of the issues that you grapple  
42 with here and the issues that I think take up most of  
43 your time aren't really the regulation issues of when  
44 your season opens, when it closes, what birds are open  
45 to harvest. All of those recommendations that this  
46 group has ever made I believe have been approved.

47  
48 In regard to the past requests from the  
49 states to have a seat on the SRC, the Service has drawn  
50 that line of demarcation and said that, no, we have

1 consultants, you now send consultants to the SRC. The  
2 one difference that does exist between the relationship  
3 between the states and the Flyway Councils and the  
4 AMBCC is the Service has a formal Memorandum of  
5 Agreement with each of the Flyway Councils and the  
6 Flyway Councils have people that are designated as  
7 consultants that attend the SRC meetings.

8

9                   One of the difficulties in having that  
10 similar agreement with this body is that we have a  
11 Federal representative that sits on this body and that  
12 makes it somewhat awkward, I think, in the eyes of our  
13 solicitors to have a formal MOU with consultants  
14 provided. But I believe it's probably possible to work  
15 something out where the Native community could provide  
16 consultants to the SRC in a similar fashion that states  
17 do.

18

19                   If anybody has any questions of me, I'd  
20 be glad to try to answer those.

21

22                   CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I have a question,  
23 Bob. So the request that went to the SRC for states to  
24 actually have a position on the SRC, what was the  
25 reasoning that was given to deny the request.

26

27                   MR. TROST: The reasoning is at that  
28 stage it's a Federal responsibility to make the  
29 decisions about regulations.

30

31                   CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you. Any other  
32 questions for Bob. I'm going to ask Roy to come to the  
33 microphone. He's got his hand raised.

34

35                   MR. ASHENFELTER: Thank you, Mr.  
36 Chairman. My name is Roy Ashenfelter. I represent  
37 Kawerak. A question or comment on the motion. One of  
38 the things he mentioned was four regulatory members.  
39 How long do they sit? So the information to come back  
40 before the committee is -- how do you get  
41 representation that fill the four seats with a, quote,  
42 Alaska Native person? You could work on that. That's  
43 a long-term process.

44

45                   The other thing is to try to figure out  
46 -- and I heard it briefly from the gentleman that just  
47 spoke about the denial from the State. You still could  
48 request a process of how to do this if they were to try  
49 to get a response to trying to get a representative  
50 from a Native -- an Alaska Native on the SRC.

1                   There's two tracks. One, there's four  
2 seats there. It is up to the Alaska Native community  
3 to figure out how to fill one of those seats when they  
4 become vacant if that's possible. I would assume that  
5 person would have to be a Federal employee and  
6 hopefully there's an Alaska Native that's a Federal  
7 employee that could fulfill that role. That would be a  
8 long-term idea for us to work on.

9

10                   Then the other one that I just  
11 mentioned is how do you expand the SRC membership from  
12 four to five.

13

14                   CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you, Roy.  
15 Would you touch the button on the mic. Thank you.  
16 This is sort of out of the blue it's striking me. A  
17 number of thoughts go through my head. As a Federal  
18 representative, I have to kind of put my Fish and  
19 Wildlife Service hat on and think about the SRC and the  
20 existing system that is in place right now. As I  
21 understand it, the request -- the motion is to request  
22 a seat on the SRC.

23

24                   The reason I asked Bob Trost to come to  
25 the microphone and explain a bit of the history of the  
26 SRC and the structure of the SRC -- Bob, I don't know  
27 if I heard you say this, but the SRC has been  
28 functioning for a number of years, a number of decades.  
29 I'm guessing probably back into the '50s or '60s that  
30 the Secretary has been promulgating regulations through  
31 this type of process and it's a long-standing process.  
32 So, to make a request to change the process is pretty  
33 significant. I think it would engender much legal  
34 review and policy review given the way that regulations  
35 are made.

36

37                   I will say that when the request first  
38 came onto the floor I went back and I looked briefly in  
39 the letter of submittal and we referred to this page  
40 yesterday, page X in the letter of submittal in our  
41 binders. There's a paragraph that talks about the  
42 establishment of the management bodies and that  
43 ultimately became the AMBCC. We've talked about the  
44 history and how the AMBCC was structured and why it was  
45 structured the way it structured.

46

47                   One of the roles of the management  
48 body, it says that relevant recommendations will be  
49 submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the  
50 Department of the Interior, hereinafter DOI/FWS and to

1 the Flyway Councils. Regulations established should be  
2 enforced to prevent conservation problems. That's just  
3 a qualifier, but it does describe what this management  
4 body does and that's to make recommendations to the  
5 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

6  
7 So the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
8 hears recommendations and then deliberates and then, as  
9 an inherently Federal body, recommends to the Director  
10 what those regulations should be. The Director then  
11 makes recommendations to the Secretary and then  
12 ultimately regulations are promulgated. It is an  
13 inherently Federal responsibility.

14  
15 So I am not able to support a motion  
16 that would appoint someone without a Federal  
17 appointment, without being a Federal employee to the  
18 SRC. That doesn't mean that an Alaska Native or a  
19 representative for Alaska interests couldn't sit on the  
20 SRC. As a matter of fact, our Regional Director Geoff  
21 Haskett sits on the SRC this year and I think they  
22 rotate membership, but they are appointed for two years  
23 if I'm not mistaken. I think he's rotating off after  
24 this year.

25  
26 But the fact is it is an inherently  
27 Federal function and I can't support the motion as  
28 stated. If the motion were amended to ask questions  
29 about the possibility of that and how that might be  
30 accomplished, then I would support the motion because  
31 then I think it allows for more technical staff and  
32 legal review and have a more thorough answer. But the  
33 way the motion was stated, if I understand it, was just  
34 to solicit a seat on the SRC. I believe that it is not  
35 consistent with being an inherently Federal function,  
36 so I can't support the motion.

37  
38 Myron.

39  
40 MR. NANENG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
41 motion is to look into the possibility of getting a  
42 seat on the Service Regulations Commission for  
43 migratory birds. There's some legislation out there  
44 that are supposed to protect the Alaskan Native or  
45 rural subsistence. You take a look at ANILCA. The  
46 responsibility was given to the State of Alaska and to  
47 the Federal government to recognize and work with  
48 systems to make subsistence recognized under Title VIII  
49 of ANILCA.

50

1                   What do we have today? Dual management  
2 that seems to have allowed the Feds to give up their  
3 responsibility to the State of Alaska. Look at what  
4 happened with the salmon this summer on the Kuskokwim  
5 River and the Y-K Delta. Also some of the things that  
6 are causing our subsistence issues that we have today.  
7 It's by legislation that their roles and  
8 responsibilities were given to both the Feds and the  
9 State, yet they're not living up to their  
10 responsibility.

11  
12                   My suggestion by having a seat on this  
13 for everyone to look into how we can accomplish that.  
14 It doesn't mean that we automatically seat someone  
15 there, but look into the possibility of seating someone  
16 there so that we can have at least a voice on the  
17 Service Regulations Commission, which, in essence, we  
18 don't seem to have on the Federal Subsistence Board or  
19 the Feds are kind of in a way transferring their roles  
20 and responsibility to the State.

21  
22                   That's not recognized Native or rural  
23 subsistence, but makes it difficult for many of our  
24 people in the villages and, in essence, creates or has  
25 caused some of our people to become criminals for  
26 harvesting food. That's where I'm coming from. I want  
27 to avoid that. So I'm asking the Federal agencies to  
28 help us in looking into that possibility. This may  
29 have been in existence since 1960s or something, but  
30 that does not mean that there can be some changes to  
31 make it better. So that's all I'm asking, Mr.  
32 Chairman.

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Would you like to  
35 restate your motion.

36  
37                   MR. NANENG: So restated to the point  
38 where we are looking to -- meaning that everybody  
39 because we as -- even representatives from own  
40 respective regions, like we did with the Duck Stamp  
41 issue. So we pursue legislative change. My motion  
42 would be that the representatives of the Alaska  
43 Migratory Bird Co-management Council work together to  
44 try and identify ways to get a seat on the Service  
45 Regulatory Commission -- Committee. It does not mean  
46 that you're automatically seated, but you look for ways  
47 to make it happen.

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Patty, I believe you  
50 made the second. You don't even have a voting role on

1 this as executive director. Okay, Dale, you had the  
2 second.

3

4 MR. ROWLAND: Actually I did.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Rick. Okay. You  
7 seconded it, Rick. Do you support the motion?

8

9 MR. ROWLAND: Sure.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Discussion of the  
12 restated motion. Joeneal.

13

14 MR. HICKS: Mr. Chair. I would like to  
15 speak up and support the motion as amended. I'm taking  
16 a look at the bylaws, specifically under the preamble.  
17 I see that there is a loophole here where we can work  
18 towards that particular possibility. I know we have  
19 been talking about it since yesterday and even before  
20 during the spring Gathering that we are seeking a  
21 meaningful role in working cooperatively with Federal  
22 and State agencies. I really believe there is that  
23 possibility out there. I, again, would like to state  
24 the fact that I support the motion as amended. Thank  
25 you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Dale, you had your  
28 hand raised.

29

30 MR. RABE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If  
31 my understanding is correct of the way that Myron has  
32 restated or stated the motion, the focus is on looking  
33 for ways to more effective in carrying the message of  
34 this program into a regulatory decision-making arena.  
35 To the extent that that is an inquiry and to look at  
36 possibilities in requesting information, I can  
37 certainly be supportive that that should go forward and  
38 that a letter be sent and possibly other conversation  
39 occur to explore those options. I think that's part of  
40 the normal governing process is to allow for  
41 questioning to be asked about how things are done and  
42 whether or not there's better ways of doing things.

43

44 Given what I know in having represented  
45 the Pacific Flyway as a consultant to the SRC, I have  
46 some firsthand knowledge of how that process works.  
47 I'm not hopeful. I'm not expecting a positive outcome  
48 relative to having a seat on that body granted to our  
49 AMBCC Council or to the Alaska Contingency. Frankly, I  
50 could see that the precedence of that would be pretty

1 widespread relative to all of the other tribal entities  
2 around our nation that would also probably like to have  
3 something similar to that and the thought of what that  
4 would do.

5  
6 I am certainly not opposed to asking  
7 the questions about how to make a process more  
8 effective. In fact, the Service has undertaken, as  
9 required, a re-evaluation of the Environmental Impact  
10 Statement for hunting. One of the thing that they have  
11 done through that process is to consider ways of making  
12 that process more effective. So I see this discussion  
13 as nothing more than an extension of that same concept  
14 and for that reason I can support the concept of  
15 continuing a discussion.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Peter.

18  
19 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
20 just want to say that I am in support of this proposal  
21 to write the letter because, I don't know, this don't  
22 seem to be working. When the system was set up 40, 50  
23 years ago, was it set up with sport hunters in mind or  
24 did they take to the table subsistence users? That's  
25 what we're asking. We want a voice for subsistence.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I'm going to clarify  
28 the nuance as I understand it in the motion. If the  
29 motion is to -- or I'll ask a question for  
30 clarification. If the motion is to ask the U.S. Fish  
31 and Wildlife Service to do Staff work and analyze the  
32 possibility of having more direct representation on the  
33 SRC. I can support a request to have a thorough  
34 analysis and any kind of a dialogue with the U.S. Fish  
35 and Wildlife Service.

36  
37 I'm not in a position to support a  
38 position from the AMBCC that the solution to this is a  
39 new seat for restructuring of the SRC because those --  
40 the structure of the SRC is made at the Director's  
41 level, not at my level, not at a regional level. So  
42 I'm not in a position to support something that is  
43 contrary to a decision that's already been made by the  
44 Fish and Wildlife Service and established for more than  
45 50 years.

46  
47 As Dale described the nuance, if this  
48 is a request for information on how to be better and  
49 more effective in representing the subsistence needs,  
50 then I'm supportive of that request, but I'm not



1 supportive of the solution implied in the request.

2

3 I don't know if I'm making myself  
4 clear, Myron, but if the motion can be phrased so as to  
5 ask the question of what options exist for us to be  
6 more effective than the way we are, then I can support  
7 the motion.

8

9 MR. NANENG: Once again, trying to --  
10 you know, the way I understand your question is that  
11 you're not supporting the motion if it works to allow  
12 Fish and Wildlife to establish a subsistence seat  
13 representative, which is not your position, but,  
14 however, I think that by asking that it will ultimately  
15 -- it may ultimately get to that. That's why I'm  
16 asking that question. Look at the possibilities of  
17 creating a possibility of having a seat on the Council.

18

19 The reason why I stated that is what I  
20 explained earlier before. When we had a State  
21 representative -- and we've discussed this in our work  
22 session and I think that we've discussed this in our  
23 meetings before. When one of your representatives  
24 who's supposed to be making a -- or advocate your  
25 position that you're an Alaska Native representative,  
26 that you're pushing it forward to the SRC and that  
27 representative votes no on the proposal that's made by  
28 the Native community and we talked about this during  
29 the work session last spring.

30

31 Are they going to be the ones to push  
32 that proposal after voting no? No, they're not. What  
33 I'm asking for is the possibility of establishing a  
34 seat in the future after we look at all the things that  
35 we may need to look at to make it possible. What's  
36 wrong with that? What's wrong with asking? Ultimately  
37 you might end up saying no. You know, somebody will  
38 probably end up saying no, but asking doesn't hurt.  
39 We're not begging, we're asking.

40

41 Because of some of the things that  
42 we've seen here in the state of Alaska where Alaska  
43 Native subsistence rights are written into law yet at  
44 the same time nobody is really taking full  
45 responsibility to carry them out to protect the  
46 subsistence use. From that perspective that's why I'm  
47 asking if there's a possibility of Alaska Migratory  
48 Bird Co-management Council, after we look through all  
49 the processes, a possibility of having a seat on the  
50 Service Regulatory Committee.

1                   It may not happen, but just because it  
2 has been there for 60 years that does not mean that  
3 it's not necessarily working the way that we think that  
4 it should work. Maybe it can work better. It will give  
5 a voice to the Native subsistence users on migratory  
6 birds. You know, if you consider this proposal a  
7 regulation, think about this.

8  
9                   Those are some of the things that we'd  
10 like to suggest, but if we're advocating for a proposal  
11 and somebody says, oh, State of Alaska is going to be  
12 pushing your proposal to the Service Regulatory  
13 Commission, are they going to do that after voting no  
14 on the proposal that has come before this body? No,  
15 it's not going to happen. Day and night at that  
16 Service Regulatory Commission it won't be heard at all  
17 especially when both the Service and the State of  
18 Alaska have voted no on it. And it may be for the  
19 benefit of the subsistence user out in rural Alaska  
20 that neither the State nor the Feds even know about.

21  
22                   So that's why I'm saying that I think  
23 that we ought to take a look at this as a possibility  
24 because there might be somebody else that comes from  
25 the State of Alaska and so anti-subsistence users like  
26 there have been in the past that we'll never get things  
27 done. But, you know, I appreciate the fact that Dale  
28 is here and that Dan is there, but in the past we've  
29 had these people before that had the notion that, no,  
30 we never should recognize subsistence hunters in rural  
31 Alaska for them to be able to have food secured.

32  
33                   Everybody has every right to it, even a  
34 guy that comes here 30 days to the state of Alaska and  
35 becomes eligible for a Permanent Fund dividend. That's  
36 the reason why I'm stating that. I'm trying to find  
37 ways where our Native subsistence use of migratory  
38 birds can be further recognized by both the Service and  
39 the State. That's all I'm asking.

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Frank and then Dale.

42  
43                   MR. WOODS: Can I ask for a restate of  
44 the -- the motion is basically a request, a formal  
45 request for looking into Staff recommendations on how  
46 to get a voice at the SRC, is that correct?

47  
48                   MR. NANENG: Yes.

49  
50                   MR. WOODS: Call the question.

1 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I'm ready to call the  
2 question. Dale.

3

4 MR. RABE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
5 Relative to some of the things that Myron said,  
6 relative to the State position, I would fully admit  
7 that as a State representative to AMBCC, whether it's  
8 me or somebody else or whether those responsibilities  
9 are split, the State is in sometimes potentially  
10 awkward situation relative to regulations between two  
11 different regulated systems and the State of Alaska's  
12 constitution and interpretations that have occurred and  
13 it's not my role to set the policy.

14

15 It's my role to decide within the  
16 framework of all of the laws and regulations that exist  
17 what it is that the State is able to support. Now that  
18 may, in fact, get more complicated and I frankly was a  
19 little apprehensive at some of the ideas of using the  
20 Flyway Council as a mechanism to advance the fall  
21 hunting concern of this body, but even with that I can  
22 see where I could represent both groups to the extent  
23 that I can within those constraints.

24

25 Now having said all of that, that  
26 really wasn't the point I wanted to make as much as --  
27 I will support this motion if it's in the form of a  
28 letter to the Fish and Wildlife Service. I will  
29 further stipulate my support will be restricted to the  
30 fact that if we move and pass this now, that a letter  
31 be drafted and the drafted letter has to be approved by  
32 the executive committee before it's actually sent.  
33 That's my level of support. If Myron can.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: All right. Given the  
36 clarification from Frank, I appreciate that, Frank,  
37 that this is characterized as a letter asking to  
38 explore the possibilities of more effective  
39 representation on the SRC, I can support that because  
40 it does not pre-suppose -- it does not predispose us to  
41 the solution, so I can support it.

42

43 Is anyone opposed to the motion as  
44 stated, restated and then clarified with the nuance  
45 associated with the conditions we all would voice our  
46 support. Anyone oppose it.

47

48 (No opposing votes)

49

50 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I see no opposition.

1 The motion carries. Let's take a break. Russ, you had  
2 a question or a comment.

3

4 MR. OATES: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I  
5 waited until the motion was decided before I decided to  
6 speak up because I wasn't trying to influence the  
7 motion. During the course of the discussion on the  
8 motion, the proposal, some things were said that I fear  
9 may have created a misperception. A misperception that  
10 I think has the potential to sort of set a bad tone for  
11 this meeting, but I would just like to clarify if I may  
12 a couple of points.

13

14 One being I think a perception has been  
15 created that when there is perceived a resource  
16 problem, in example of the Cacklers, for example, that  
17 the subsistence hunting was closed and that the fall  
18 hunting was allowed to continue. In other words, I  
19 think it was actually stated at one point that only the  
20 subsistence hunters are punished or penalized when  
21 there are resource concerns.

22

23 I just want to remind the group that  
24 the Hooper Bay Agreement and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta  
25 Goose Management Plan and I think the spirit of this  
26 body is that users throughout the Flyway, all up and  
27 down the Flyway share these resources. When we have  
28 conservation concerns that both ends of the Flyway are  
29 taking restrictions when we get into that sort of  
30 situation.

31

32 I'll just use the Cacklers for example.  
33 I had to check with our Pacific Flyway representative,  
34 but during the period when the Cacklers were really low  
35 in the mid 1980s, the Cackler season in the fall hunt  
36 or sport hunt, whatever you want to call it, was  
37 closed, zero bag limit for 11 years in a row. Now  
38 until our surveys had demonstrated that the population  
39 had recovered was the season even opened in the Lower  
40 48 at all and then it was a bag limit of one. That bag  
41 limit has maintained at fairly low levels. At one  
42 point it went up a little bit more. Both ends of the  
43 Flyway have taken restrictions.

44

45 I'll just mention too the Pacific  
46 White-Fronts, which were also in trouble. In the Lower  
47 48 in California the bag limit on White-Fronts during  
48 the low period was dropped, I believe, to one bird. I  
49 don't know how many years it was. Also another species  
50 that was of concern is the Emperor Goose. The Emperor

1 Goose season for the fall hunt, sport hunt, if you want  
2 to call it that, was closed. I believe it was either  
3 1986 or 1987 and it's never been opened again.

4  
5 So there are other restrictions too  
6 that don't apply at all to the subsistence hunters and  
7 I'll just mention a couple of species. One is the  
8 Pintail. There have been restrictive bag limits on  
9 Pintails in all the Lower 48 Flyways for many, many  
10 years. There have been no restrictions on Pintail  
11 subsistence hunters. Another species  
12 includes the Scaup. There have been very restrictive  
13 bag limits on Scaup for the Lower 48 fall hunters for  
14 many, many years and those have not been the case for  
15 the subsistence hunters.

16  
17 So I just want to make sure that  
18 there's not a misperception that the fall hunters, the  
19 sport hunters if you want to call them that, are being  
20 given free reign to harvest pretty much at will. It is  
21 a shared -- these are shared resources and we are  
22 trying to be fair and equitable.

23  
24 The surveys that we do here in Alaska  
25 are the very best that we can make them for the bird  
26 populations. Eric Taylor will be talking about those  
27 more today. The best information that we have is  
28 brought all the way up to the Service Regulations  
29 Committee. They have the best information that we have  
30 available and I really don't feel that they're making  
31 decisions about things that they don't understand.

32  
33 So I just wanted to try to clarify  
34 that. I think we shouldn't view this as an us and them  
35 between the fall hunters and the subsistence hunters  
36 because I think our whole goal here is to share the  
37 benefits of the resource and when the resources are in  
38 trouble, we try to share the constraints.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you, Russ. Any  
41 other comments before we go to break.

42  
43 (No comments)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: All right. Let's  
46 take a 15-minute break.

47  
48 (Off record)  
49 (On record)

50

1 MS. DEWHURST: .....and that when  
2 there's a 30-day seasonal closure, it applies to both  
3 hunting and egg gathering, so we just wanted to clarify  
4 that. It's not a change in the regulations. The  
5 regulations have always meant that, but it wasn't clear  
6 to some users, so we just wanted to try to clarify that  
7 for folks. It's been in the public book for a couple  
8 of years. We just are now changing it in the Federal  
9 Register documents. I shouldn't say change.  
10 Clarifying it in the Federal Register documents.

11  
12 Then the other thing is the Yellow-  
13 Billed Loon, as was mentioned. We put on there that  
14 it's not an annual regulation anymore and it's going  
15 into the consent agenda and it will roll from year to  
16 year to year. So that's the other thing in this  
17 Federal Register document. Otherwise, all the  
18 regulations are the same. Hopefully that will make it  
19 for a clean passage and we won't have any problems.

20  
21 That's it for my report.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you. Any  
24 questions for Donna.

25  
26 (No comments)

27  
28 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: All right. Thanks,  
29 Donna. We're at old business, Item 11 , Council  
30 committees, reports and discussions on meeting schedule  
31 for update committee meeting. The first committee  
32 would be the Budget Committee. Do we have a report  
33 from the Budget Committee. I'll look to our executive  
34 director Patty. Do you have a report from the Budget  
35 Committee?

36  
37 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Thank you,  
38 Mr. Chairman. Just that the Budget Committee had met  
39 and looked at the potential budget for a fully staffed  
40 AMBCC and agreed upon those figures. They're planning  
41 on meeting again to look at the potential for budget  
42 cuts and where those would occur and the executive  
43 director position and other such matters that are under  
44 the radar right now with the entire AMBCC.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We do have an agendum  
47 later on in the meeting to talk about the 2013 budget  
48 and expectations. Joeneal, you had your hand raised.

49  
50 MR. HICKS: Just a question for Patty.

1 You said there was a budget meeting coming up?

2

3 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Yes. As we  
4 discussed in the workshop yesterday, we are going to  
5 try and schedule all the committee meetings either  
6 shortly after this meeting or before the next one.  
7 They haven't been scheduled yet, but we are planning on  
8 scheduling that. Hopefully set the date before we  
9 leave.

10

11 MR. HICKS: Thank you. Please give me  
12 advance notice as I am having trouble with my agency  
13 back home.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Patty, is it going to  
16 help you as executive director to have a wrap-up at the  
17 end of the meeting tomorrow to talk about committee  
18 assignments? We do have Item 14, committee  
19 appointments and assignments. Is that when you would  
20 try to schedule with the committees or do you just plan  
21 to follow up afterwards?

22

23 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, we can  
24 do it then. The other thing I wanted to add also with  
25 your permission, Mr. Chairman, is that under the  
26 committee discussion those are the list of committees  
27 that we had established at the Gathering in May and  
28 some of the ones are standing committees. As a follow  
29 up to the discussion we had yesterday and the  
30 infrequency or the inability, I guess, for these  
31 committees to meet and then the lack of technical  
32 expertise at the committee level available to the  
33 committee members. Some of these committees have met,  
34 but they really -- I mean the report is more or less  
35 that they met and identified the information gaps. So  
36 I don't know if you want to go through every committee  
37 or.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Well, that was going  
40 to be my intention. I was just going to go down the  
41 list. Would you rather do that in another way?

42

43 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: If the Council  
44 is okay with this, I can just go down myself one by one  
45 rather than.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: That would be -- if  
48 that's the quickest way to do it.....

49

50 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Yeah.

1 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: .....and the most  
2 efficient, then let's just do that.

3  
4 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: And then if  
5 any of the Council members would like to add anything,  
6 then that would be welcome. I'm going to skip down to  
7 the Indigenous Inhabitant Definition Committee because  
8 that was like the committee that met, but we also took  
9 up the Technical Subcommittee invitation issue, the  
10 fall/winter subsistence harvest and also the  
11 transportation of migratory birds from rural to urban  
12 areas.

13  
14 So that was all kind of rolled into  
15 that one committee and we did identify the information  
16 gaps, basically legal information that we would need to  
17 even establish a work plan or a strategy to address  
18 those issues and come to some type of a resolution,  
19 which was -- the group expressed a desire to do so at  
20 the May Gathering.

21  
22 The Tribal Consultation Committee did  
23 not meet, but Donna Dewhurst and I discussed this issue  
24 and we drafted a letter that is on the agenda later on  
25 and the day to have the Council consider sending out to  
26 the tribes regarding tribal consultation.

27  
28 The Co-management Principals Committee  
29 did not meet. The Executive Director and  
30 Contracting/Compacting Committees kind of were wrapped  
31 in together and we did those over the phone, discussing  
32 different ways for the Executive Director position to  
33 be filled and whether or not Contracting or Compacting  
34 under Public Law 93-638 would be an option. That's  
35 still under discussion. There's kind of a long road to  
36 hoe so to speak on that. I think compacting is an  
37 option, but the big consideration is a stable budget  
38 that's dedicated to the AMBCC rather than having the  
39 Service provide funding from their migratory bird  
40 budget to the AMBCC as they have been doing in the  
41 past.

42  
43 The Executive Director position we are  
44 still working on as to whether or not that would be a  
45 Federal employee, a contracted employee and where they  
46 would be housed and who they would be supervised by.  
47 Those issues have not been resolved so to speak, but  
48 they are being discussed.

49  
50 That's the -- unless any of the Council



1 members has anything to add, if anyone has been  
2 involved in any of those discussions.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Any questions of  
5 Patty.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thanks, Patty.  
10 Thanks for that report. We've already covered the  
11 report on -- that we'd added Item D, Duck Stamp  
12 legislation, so we'll pass that. That report has  
13 already been given by Myron. We'll move down now to  
14 Item 12, new business. Migratory bird population  
15 status and trends, Eric Taylor. Is it going to push  
16 you too much to get through 20 minutes?

17

18 MR. TAYLOR: (Nods affirmatively)

19

20 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: So you're not going  
21 to be able to get through it. Okay. Perhaps we can  
22 postpone that until after lunch. We can go into a  
23 discussion of AMBCC harvest surveys. Liliana, is this  
24 catching you too much by surprise if we have you come  
25 to the table and start that discussion?

26

27 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: She has a  
28 presentation too.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Oh, you also have a  
31 presentation. Okay. So that's longer than 20 minutes.  
32 All right. Patty, we're at 12, potential waterfowl  
33 issues, interim Executive Direct Schwalenberg,  
34 degradation permit for White-Fronted Geese.

35

36 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr.  
37 Chairman. With the Council's permission, I would like  
38 to ask Ron Anglin to come -- is he here? Did he leave?

39

40 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Our Oregon  
41 representative just stepped out.

42

43 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Oh, okay.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Hold on a second. I  
46 guess I probably could entertain a point of order if  
47 that's what's coming.

48

49 MR. DEVINE: That is pretty darn close  
50 there, Mr. Chair. I'd like to make a point of order and

1 suspend the rule of the day so we could take up these  
2 next items and come back to the other ones.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you. I saw two  
5 hands down there and I thought we would be reminded of  
6 that, so I appreciate that. Can we suspend the rule of  
7 the day and take this item out of order, Item 12 .  
8 We'll postpone presentations (a) and (b) because of  
9 timing of the day. Is anyone opposed to that?

10

(No comments)

11

12  
13 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Hearing no  
14 opposition, we'll suspend the rule of the day. We'll  
15 move to Item 12 . Patty, I'm sorry to interrupt.

16

17 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Thank you.  
18 Getting back to what I was originally saying is I would  
19 like to invite Ron Anglin from the state of Oregon up  
20 to discuss the degradation permit for the White-Fronted  
21 Geese. This proposal was submitted and withdrawn at  
22 the Pacific Flyway Council meeting and it was withdrawn  
23 at the request of the AMBCC reps because I felt that it  
24 was important in the spirit of cooperation that the  
25 AMBCC have an opportunity to hear about this issue and  
26 discuss it in our official meeting.

27

Ron, thank you for coming.

28

29  
30 MR. ANGLIN: Thank you, Patty. Again,  
31 for the record, Ron Anglin, Oregon Department of Fish  
32 and Wildlife. With me today is Brandon Reishus. He's  
33 our assistant waterfowl biologist. For those that  
34 hadn't heard Brad Bales has retired and has accepted a  
35 job with the Pacific Coast Joint Venture as their  
36 executive director. So he's officially started those  
37 new duties. We all get a chance to work with him  
38 still, but in a little different role as he has money  
39 that we can go after. He's very familiar with  
40 everything here on the Pacific Coast and obviously has  
41 a real interest in helping out waterfowl.

42

43 So Patty is correct. Last summer  
44 Oregon did have a recommendation in front of the Flyway  
45 Council asking for approval of us pursuing depredation  
46 permits in the Klamath Basin for White-Fronted Geese.  
47 White-Fronts are significantly over their population  
48 objective and we're continuing to see damage problems  
49 and concerns within the Klamath Basin on agricultural  
50 lands.

1                   The geese show up starting in February  
2 to some degree, but heavily into March, April and early  
3 May. We have a lot of pastures and cultivated crops  
4 that provide the first green feed and the geese are  
5 moving in on those green pastures and grain crops and  
6 are causing a significant amount of damage. We've been  
7 looking at all of our options trying to assist the ag  
8 community and one of those is pursuing a depredation  
9 permit that would give them limited ability to harvest  
10 some geese, kill some geese that would offer them some  
11 relief from the damage that they're suffering.

12  
13                   We've done a similar program with  
14 Cacklers in the Willamette Valley. Up to this point in  
15 time, even though the permits are available, the  
16 landowners haven't taken advantage of those permits to  
17 any degree. I don't believe it's resulted in the take  
18 of any or the killing of any birds at all. But it's  
19 one of those, you know, if you're told you can't do  
20 something, then you get your back up until you can get  
21 it changed and you can get the opportunity to do it.  
22 You may not actually go do it, but just knowing that  
23 you can provides some level of relief and that's what  
24 we're looking for here, is providing the opportunity  
25 for the farmers if they want to take advantage of that.

26  
27  
28                   Biologically, it would not have  
29 significant impact on the White-Front population.  
30 We're all, I think, concerned with where the population  
31 is going and whether it would end up having biological  
32 impacts on some of the breeding ranges. Patty's right.  
33 We hadn't talked to the AMBCC about it and we felt it  
34 would be appropriate based on Patty's concerns that we  
35 come here and have that discussion with you and get  
36 your input, so that's why we're here today.

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Earlier Bob had his  
39 hand raised. Bob, did you still want to speak?

40  
41                   MR. HENRICHS: What is this Pacific  
42 Joint Venture and you say the guy has money? Might as  
43 well let us know because we're going to find out  
44 anyway.

45  
46                   (Laughter)

47  
48                   MR. ANGLIN: So the Pacific Coast Joint  
49 Venture is funded through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
50 Service. There's several of these habitat joint

1 ventures scattered across the United States and their  
2 goal is to improve habitat conditions for waterfowl,  
3 including geese, and try and secure habitat and provide  
4 restoration on habitats so that we can sustain  
5 waterfowl populations for subsistence use and hunting  
6 use into the future.  
7 So the funding is typically aimed at the habitat  
8 restoration or acquisition and maintaining waterfowl  
9 populations.

10  
11 MR. HENRICHS: Sounds good. How much  
12 money does he got?

13  
14 MR. ANGLIN: That I don't know.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Dale, you had your  
17 hand raised. Thanks.

18  
19 MR. RABE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Ron,  
20 you mentioned that the program you're seeking to  
21 implement is intended to provide opportunity for  
22 landowners to help dissuade the birds from using their  
23 properties. You do, in fact, have another active  
24 program for depredation permits for Cackling Canada  
25 Geese, do you not?

26  
27 MR. ANGLIN: (Nods affirmatively)

28  
29 MR. RABE: Could you give the Council a  
30 little bit of background in terms of what's the status  
31 of that and how much use of those permits has occurred.

32  
33 MR. ANGLIN: Yeah, this is -- I believe  
34 we're coming into the third year. Yeah, this spring  
35 will be the third year of the ability of the farmers in  
36 the Willamette Valley to get depredation permits for  
37 Cacklers. Through the first two years I don't believe  
38 a single permit has been issued, so no geese have been  
39 harvested under that. I think some of it's growing  
40 pains, but I also -- as I said earlier, I think some  
41 of it is the farmers want the ability to do it, but  
42 when given the opportunity and the reality of just  
43 killing geese, most of them aren't prepared to do that  
44 or wanting to do that. It's having the ability to do  
45 that if they really feel like they need to.

46  
47 MR. RABE: As a follow up to that, what  
48 restrictions do you have on issuing those permits to  
49 people in terms of numbers and/or how they can be used  
50 to constrain that.

1 MR. ANGLIN: Certainly. Actually we  
2 don't put any restrictions on the permit at all. The  
3 permits are issued through the Fish and Wildlife  
4 Service and any restrictions that would be put on those  
5 would be done so by the Service. What we have  
6 negotiated in the past between the Service and our  
7 farmers has been a limit on the number of birds that  
8 might be harvested by an individual at any one time. A  
9 total limit of birds, like in this case 500 birds max,  
10 so is that 500 permits with one bird a piece or 10  
11 permits with 50 birds. That's, I think, the  
12 flexibility that we would encourage the Service to have  
13 and we'd be working with the Service out of the  
14 Sacramento office. Is that Region 1, Doug?

15  
16 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Sacramento is Region  
17 8.

18  
19 MR. ANGLIN: Region 8, okay. So we'd  
20 be working with the Sacramento office on the  
21 depredation permits. So there's -- and the Service has  
22 some other things, I think, just by rule that they're  
23 required to put into permits on disposal of the birds  
24 and things like that.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I have Peter and then  
27 Myron.

28  
29 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
30 just have a question for Ron. Are the farmers looking  
31 into any kind of deterrence, you know, other than  
32 shooting them? I know in a lot of our villages we have  
33 water where we have to keep birds, like seagulls, off  
34 of. You know, like shot cannons and stuff like that,  
35 are people using anything like that to deter the birds  
36 from coming to their fields?

37  
38 MR. ANGLIN: Certainly. Propane canons  
39 are available and are used by landowners. Some of the  
40 landowners actually will use stock dogs to haze geese  
41 off their property. Some of the landowners are  
42 actively going out themselves on their four-wheelers  
43 and hazing geese off their property, but there's so  
44 many of them that it becomes a little problematic.

45  
46 Some of the other hazing devices like  
47 shot shells, you know, the exploding firecracker shells  
48 and things like that, due to new Homeland Security  
49 regulations, they're very difficult for the landowners  
50 to get and are even becoming more difficult for the

1 states to get because of Homeland Security concerns and  
2 the fact that these are classified as explosives now.

3  
4 So they've been trying hazing devices  
5 and trying to haze birds off their property for a long  
6 time. It's just that continued level of frustration  
7 though. The population has continued to grow and at  
8 some point in time the landowners reach their tipping  
9 point.

10  
11 My personal experience in Klamath  
12 Basin, it's pretty amazing when a flock of 5-10,000  
13 birds move in to one of these newly sprouting grain  
14 fields and watch what they do and just pretty much  
15 destroy that portion of the crop, pulling it out of the  
16 ground and just leaving behind a muddy field. The  
17 landowners are pretty frustrated by that and feel like  
18 they've really been trying to work through all the  
19 regulations imposed by the State and the Federal  
20 government and are looking for additional relief.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I have a number of  
23 hands. Rick had his hand raised and Myron and then  
24 I'll go to Randy.

25  
26 MR. ROWLAND: Okay, thank you. Thank  
27 you for coming up here and communicating with us. You  
28 mentioned the Pacific Coast Joint Venture. Is that a  
29 private or a non-profit?

30  
31 MR. ANGLIN: It's a non-profit, Rick.

32  
33 MR. ROWLAND: Non-profit. Okay. And  
34 then you mentioned something. They're going to be  
35 doing habitat restorations or you guys will be doing  
36 habitat restorations?

37  
38 MR. ANGLIN: Well, the Pacific Coast  
39 Joint Venture does do habitat restoration work and they  
40 usually look for partners to come in and apply for  
41 money and they'll provide some matching funds and  
42 provide a way for people to partner up to accomplish  
43 some things, so there's been some significant wetland  
44 projects, restoration projects on the Pacific Coast  
45 that they've played a part in as well as the states and  
46 other non-profits, like Ducks Unlimited and others.

47  
48 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. And then one last  
49 question is that is it a group that is working towards  
50 conservation of lands and waters?

1 MR. ANGLIN: Yes.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Myron, did you have a  
4 question or comment.  
5  
6 MR. NANENG: I do have a comment.  
7 Thanks, Ron, for coming up here.  
8  
9 MR. ANGLIN: It's always a pleasure,  
10 Myron.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We're going to miss  
13 Brad, having known him for over 20 years and working  
14 with him with waterfowl concerns and issues. I do have  
15 a suggestion. The Fish and Wildlife Service has this  
16 issue about steel shot and need for training. If you  
17 invite the AVCP Waterfowl Conservation Committee to  
18 meet there in Oregon, we can also schedule a steel shot  
19 training and help you reduce the White-Fronted Geese if  
20 you can get permits lined up and maybe farmers that  
21 would be willing to see or people work with them hand  
22 in hand addressing the White-Front population.  
23  
24 We know that there's a lot of White-  
25 Fronts. This fall around Scammon Bay I couldn't  
26 believe the number of White-Fronts that I seen than  
27 ever before. If you take up that offer, I'll suggest  
28 to the AVCP Waterfowl Conservation Committee. Thank  
29 you.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We had Randy and then  
32 Taquulik had her hand raised. Randy.  
33  
34 MR. MAYO: I was just kind of comparing  
35 the Oregon situation to down around Delta where our  
36 tribal bison range is. A lot of birds come in up that  
37 corridor up the Alaska Highway and some of our  
38 neighboring places are a lot of waterfowl lands and  
39 some of those grain fields. It sounds like the Oregon  
40 situation. That's in the springtime, right?  
41  
42 MR. ANGLIN: (Nods affirmatively)  
43  
44 MR. MAYO: Okay. You know, some of the  
45 other landowners around us they let people hunt their  
46 fields and stuff under the fall hunt and the State too  
47 has a wild bison herd around there, so it's kind of the  
48 same situation, but it sounds like the Oregon one is in  
49 the springtime.  
50

1 MR. ANGLIN: That's right, Randy. We  
2 end up with the birds coming through in the fall across  
3 a pretty broad range of eastern Oregon. They'll stop  
4 in the Klamath Basin, a little bit in Summer Lake Basin  
5 and some other places, and then they drop down in  
6 central California for the most part. We do have a  
7 number of birds that do overwinter in the Klamath Basin  
8 depending on the severity of the winter, but then  
9 starting, like I said in February, they'll start moving  
10 back north. Again, depending on the year and the  
11 weather. By March a significant portion of the White-  
12 Fronts are actually back in the Klamath Basin on both  
13 sides of the border, Oregon and California. As the  
14 population has really risen, we end up with a  
15 significant number of birds there for that short  
16 duration of time.

17  
18 It's kind of mixed news as I heard  
19 people talking this morning. They were seeing lots of  
20 birds this spring. They were really encouraged by it.  
21 Lots of smiles on everybody's face. I can tell you  
22 down on our end our hunters are happy because there's  
23 lots of birds but our farmers aren't smiling at all.  
24 We're looking for ways to help reduce the population.  
25 I hope you're hungry and you're harvesting a lot.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Taqulik, you had a  
28 question or comment, then Frank.

29  
30 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just  
31 two comments. I just wanted to make sure those are the  
32 same White-Fronts that come up to the North Slope too.

33  
34 MR. ANGLIN: No.

35  
36 MS. HEPA: Okay. And then I was going  
37 to just say if they were, but just to share a little  
38 bit more information. I was talking about geese within  
39 the community and people all around the airport. But  
40 when we did our caribou hunting in the late part of the  
41 summer there's so much geese. Sometimes you get them  
42 mixed up for caribou when you see them in the distance  
43 because they are in such huge numbers. Rick was  
44 talking about the black sky. That's kind of like what  
45 we're seeing up on the North Slope. They're just  
46 everywhere in the late part of the summer.

47  
48 Then is there a limit in this proposal?  
49 That was my last question.

50



1 MR. ANGLIN: So there's the limit that  
2 we had talked about with the Flyway Council was a  
3 maximum of 500 birds and that would be total birds,  
4 then each permit that would be issued, I think that  
5 would be something that would be a negotiation point  
6 between the Service and the State on what's the maximum  
7 number of birds any landowner in particular could take  
8 under their permit.

9  
10 We haven't done a whole awful lot of  
11 this in the past, issuing depredation permits for  
12 geese. It could be anywhere from 10 to 20 birds would  
13 be my guess at the maximum that an individual landowner  
14 would have a permit for, but that's something that we'd  
15 have to sit down and negotiate with the Fish and  
16 Wildlife Service.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thanks, Ron. Frank,  
19 you had your hand raised.

20  
21 MR. WOODS: Yeah. The first question  
22 is what would the State regulation be for that time of  
23 the year? None, right? There's no spring hunt.

24  
25 MR. ANGLIN: Well, Frank, we actually  
26 do have a special spring hunt that runs into early  
27 March now. That is one thing that we were able to do,  
28 so we reduced the season in some other ways up front so  
29 we could extend it into the spring and target these  
30 birds a little bit, but that ends, I believe, the 10th  
31 of March. So the birds are still there for another  
32 month and a half after that season is over.

33  
34 MR. WOODS: The second question, you'll  
35 be issuing private landowners or individuals or how  
36 would you.....

37  
38 MR. ANGLIN: Typically the way a  
39 depredation permit works is that a landowner themself  
40 would be the one that would get the permit. It can't  
41 be as a sport hunt or anything like that. It has to be  
42 to address damage on that person's property.

43  
44 MR. WOODS: Alaska has huge tracks of  
45 private land, mainly Native corporation lands around  
46 surrounding villages and airports. I've had complaints  
47 coming to me too many geese are ruining the berry  
48 picking patches because there's crap all over them, but  
49 in that arena I'm just thinking ahead. Eventually full  
50 support of you taking care of whatever needs are down

1 in Klamath Valley and however it looks for you to end  
2 up with a permit to get your -- a lot of concerns.

3  
4 In the meantime, are those permits --  
5 see, AMBCC is regulated under -- we're not going to  
6 harvest anymore -- we monitor harvest to guarantee that  
7 we're not going to increase harvest, which kind of --  
8 as a representative on this board, I've been hearing  
9 for the last five or six years that we're not  
10 harvesting enough or we want to be harvesting an  
11 adequate enough to keep the population at bay.

12  
13 Again, my point is, I guess, that,  
14 number one, how do we -- where are these to be  
15 registered? My point is how are these being tracked?  
16 Do they go against the annual population estimate or  
17 harvest survey like Liliana is doing or where do they  
18 get reported to, the Pacific Flyway Commission?

19  
20 MR. ANGLIN: So, Frank, typically what  
21 would happen in a case like this is it's just part of  
22 the general harvest, so you've got your hunter harvest,  
23 you'd have your subsistence harvest and in a case like  
24 this it would be some additional harvest under the  
25 depredation permits. If there becomes a conservation  
26 concern, which there's not with White-Fronts, in my  
27 mind the first thing that drops off the table is the  
28 depredation permits.

29  
30 MR. WOODS: Thanks. You answered my  
31 question.

32  
33 MR. ANGLIN: Typically the way the  
34 states run these types of programs is if you're over  
35 population objective, you've got lots of animals, then  
36 you look at, okay, we're having a damage problem, what  
37 do we do to help relieve that problem for individual  
38 landowners and not have a negative impact on the  
39 population. So we're very sensitive to that. The  
40 Service is very sensitive to that.

41  
42 So it does get accounted, but I think  
43 that the fact that you're not talking about much in the  
44 way of numbers, 500 total and we're way, way, way over  
45 the population objective at this point, I think that  
46 kind of eases some of the concern from a long-term  
47 biological standpoint. Certainly we wouldn't be  
48 advocating anything like this for Duskie, for any of  
49 the other geese where's there's a conservation concern.  
50 It's just not anything that the State would ever

1 entertain and would tell the landowners, sorry, we're  
2 not going to go there.

3

4 MR. ROWLAND: I guess my last question  
5 would be how can we help you in that arena? If you  
6 have a proposal before us to approve or how do you.....

7

8 MR. ANGLIN: Well, it's just more of  
9 that coordination and making sure that there's  
10 communication going on between the State of Oregon and  
11 the AMBCC so that you're aware of where we're at. If  
12 you have concerns, we'd like to hear that. The Service  
13 would like to hear that because they're certainly the  
14 ones that have to issue the permit and they have to  
15 balance if you've got concerns versus what the State  
16 concerns are. Technically we don't need the Pacific  
17 Flyway Council's approval for something like this.  
18 It's something between the Service and the State.

19

20 But we felt that it was -- you know,  
21 Patty raised a very, very good point as Executive  
22 Director of the AMBCC that we hadn't talked to this  
23 group about that and we have placed a lot of importance  
24 on that communication. We felt that it was appropriate  
25 based on that to come back and talk to you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Rick.

28

29 MR. ROWLAND: One last question. I was  
30 wondering if I could after the meeting get that phone  
31 number to get a hold of them just so they know that the  
32 Sun'aq Tribe or Sugpiaq from North Pacific and I'm  
33 seeing Pacific Flyway or Pacific Coast Joint Venture  
34 and we're part of the Pacific Coast, so I'm sure that  
35 that tribe would appreciate communicating with these  
36 guys.

37

38 MR. ANGLIN: We will get you Brad's  
39 contact information. No problem.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: There is no action  
42 being called for. This was for information and  
43 coordination. We appreciate that. Appreciate you  
44 coming all the way from Oregon and also representing  
45 the Pacific Flyway Council for this group.

46

47 MR. ANGLIN: Thank you, Doug.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Any other questions.  
50 Peter.

1 MR. DEVINE: Yeah, I have a question  
2 for -- sorry, I forget -- never caught your name.  
3  
4 MR. REISHUS: Brandon.  
5  
6 MR. DEVINE: Brandon. Okay. If these  
7 birds, White-Fronted Geese aren't coming to Alaska,  
8 where are they going?  
9  
10 MR. REISHUS: Well, they are coming to  
11 Alaska. The White-Fronts that we deal with in the  
12 Klamath Basin, nearly all of those birds end up on the  
13 Y-K Delta for the summer. So the White-Fronts that  
14 come through the Klamath are the Pacific Coast  
15 population and some in the Bristol Bay lands, but the  
16 vast majority end up nesting on the Y-K Delta and then  
17 come back down through Oregon and California for the  
18 winter.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Myron, go ahead. You  
21 have the floor.  
22  
23 MR. NANENG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My  
24 offer still stands, Ron.  
25  
26 MR. ANGLIN: I heard you loud and  
27 clear. We'll be talking, Mr. Myron.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Frank.  
30  
31 MR. WOODS: I think we'd let you fatten  
32 them up before they come up to Bristol Bay would be a  
33 better solution. And Myron's motion, I'll support  
34 Myron in that arena.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: All right. I see no  
37 more hands. We have one question from another person  
38 in the audience and I think -- is it germane to this  
39 particular presentation, Todd?  
40  
41 MR. SFORMO: Yes.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: So you can come up  
44 and introduce yourself at the mic.  
45  
46 MR. SFORMO: Todd Sformo, North Slope  
47 Borough. Even if you do kill the 500 birds it's still  
48 not going to solve the agricultural problem, is that  
49 correct, or do you think it would?  
50

1 MR. ANGLIN: No, it will not solve the  
2 agricultural problem. It will still be there. Again,  
3 it's one of those -- it's the same thing you're facing.  
4 You're told that you can only do this and you can't do  
5 that. You say, well, I used to be able to do that all  
6 the time. So you're always can I get that back and  
7 that's something that these landowners are told can't  
8 do it, they're still having problems and they know that  
9 it is an option for them and they would like to have  
10 that as an option. Whether they will take advantage of  
11 it or not we can't say, but it's just one of those you  
12 always want to have it available to you as a just in  
13 case. It will not solve the damage problem, there's a  
14 lot of geese there, but it does provide a relief valve  
15 for the landowner.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thanks, Ron. Taqulik  
18 and then Myron.

19  
20 MS. HEPA: I was going to say maybe the  
21 discussion with Myron would be appropriate to pick eggs  
22 of the nesting birds. Yesterday we heard the topic of  
23 how expensive eggs are nowadays. Just a thought.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Myron.

26  
27 MR. NANENG: I kind of sympathize with  
28 Ron and what he has to deal with down in Oregon because  
29 it's not just White-Fronts, it's Cackling Canada Geese,  
30 Aleutian Canada Geese and other geese that they have to  
31 deal with on those farmlands. With the numbers that  
32 we've had, like I stated yesterday, our success is in a  
33 way kind of putting us in a bind with the conservation  
34 efforts that we've had over the years. I would like to  
35 say thank you for the good partnership that we've had  
36 and will continue to work towards that end.

37  
38 MR. ANGLIN: Thank you, Myron.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: All right. Thank  
41 you. The request was for comments. This will be a  
42 permit that -- a request that will be considered by the  
43 Fish and Wildlife Service in Region 8 and we can  
44 provide any comments that are on the record to the  
45 Region for their analysis.

46  
47 MR. ANGLIN: Okay.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: All right. Thank you  
50 very much. Let's break for lunch and come back at 1:15

1 promptly.

2

3 (Off record)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Call the meeting back  
8 to order at 1:27, 12 minutes after I said we would  
9 actually start. Right, Taqulik?

10

11 MS. HEPA: Right.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We're on new business  
14 Item -- we took out of order Item (c)(I) and we'll  
15 finish -- I propose we finish (ii) Emperor Geese  
16 limited harvest and then get back on the regular agenda  
17 that we approved earlier today. Patty is not here.

18

19 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: She's here.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Oh, she is. Did you  
22 want to introduce this or do we want to defer to Rick  
23 to present.

24

25 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr.  
26 Chairman. I apologize for being late. Doug Alcorn and  
27 I went to the Regional Advisory Council down in Sand  
28 Point this past month where Rick Rowland from Kodiak  
29 and Peter Devine was there also to present a concept  
30 for a proposal to do a limited harvest of Emperor  
31 Geese. That was discussed at the Regional Advisory  
32 Council meeting and I would actually invite Rick to  
33 give a full report on that for information for the  
34 Council, understanding that the proposal period for  
35 AMBCC doesn't open until November and we will actually  
36 be acting on this proposal if it's submitted or when  
37 it's submitted at the spring meeting.

38

39 So, Rick. Thank you.

40

41 MR. ROWLAND: Thank you. Rick Rowland  
42 from Sun'aq Tribe, Kodiak area. I wanted to say that  
43 this is information that's been put together for a  
44 couple of meetings with the regional group in our area  
45 and we really appreciated having some of Eric's  
46 information and styles of graphs and abundance of  
47 populations related specifically to the Emperor Geese.  
48 It allowed us to take a good close look at what kind of  
49 information was there.

50

1                   Then we looked at some other  
2 information and I found a couple documents. One was  
3 from a guy named Christian Dau and Edward Mallek  
4 related to aerial survey of Emperor Geese and other  
5 water birds in Southwestern Alaska, a report they made  
6 in spring 2010. Then another document was molt  
7 migration of Emperor Geese between Alaska and Russian,  
8 which was printed in August of 2006, along with the  
9 excellent information that Eric presented.

10  
11                   Because of the elders in the community  
12 of Kodiak are saying that there's an abundance of  
13 Emperor Geese and they're pushing the migratory ducks  
14 out of their habitat, food areas. Emperor Geese come  
15 in and they take over the area and they defend it, so  
16 could be pushing the migratory ducks away. The idea  
17 came up after we saw this Emperor Geese spring aerial  
18 survey that they might be a possibility that some of  
19 the numbers that are being checked because they're not  
20 heading out to western Aleutians it might be a little  
21 reduced.

22  
23                   Also we took a look at the amount of  
24 population that's being taken illegally throughout the  
25 Flyway related to those Emperor Geese that are  
26 traveling from Kodiak out to western Aleutians, all the  
27 way up north to eastern Siberia, which is in Russia.  
28 There's illegal birds that are being taken, about  
29 3,400, 3,500. That made us take a closer look at -- you  
30 know, if they're flying to Russia, what's the rules  
31 over there. It turns out that there is a registered  
32 LLC that is a business in Illinois that is selling  
33 hunts in the United States for hunters to pay them to  
34 go over to Russia to legally hunt the Emperors. I  
35 didn't call them or anything. It just made us think,  
36 you know, if these guys are doing it legally, why can't  
37 we do it legally.

38  
39                   So we decided, okay, we'll put a  
40 proposal together as a group. We came up with four  
41 Emperor Geese per household and then we thought, well,  
42 might be a good idea to communicate with the Regional  
43 Advisory Council for the Kodiak and Aleutians to see  
44 what they say about it. So they put us on the agenda.  
45 I was not there. I teleconferenced in for the last  
46 meeting and gave the Regional Advisory Council from  
47 Kodiak/Aleutians an explanation and their suggestion  
48 was to reduce it to two for members who are in the  
49 household 60 and over and include western Aleutians in  
50 there. After discussion with the regional

1 representatives from the village, they were okay with  
2 that change, so we made that change and this is the  
3 proposal that we'll be submitting. We also did submit  
4 this to the Regional Advisory Council for  
5 Kodiak/Aleutians in requesting a letter of support in  
6 relation to this.

7  
8 I'm also going to submit these two  
9 reports or this information we got from Eric and then  
10 those two other reports that I mentioned in relation to  
11 this. There's an abundance of information and some of  
12 it differs completely and we're hoping that we'll be  
13 able to get some Emperor Geese for the elders coming  
14 soon. That's it.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Any questions. It's  
17 a bit out of sequence here. We're going to actually be  
18 taking up the proposal at the spring meeting, which is  
19 our annual process and you recognize that because the  
20 proposal hasn't even been submitted yet, correct?  
21 You'll be submitting those additional reports.

22  
23 MR. ROWLAND: Yes.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Any questions.

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: That was for  
30 information. Action is not required at this point.  
31 All right. That concludes Item 12 under new  
32 business. So we would need a motion to go back to the  
33 rule of the day. Peter, would you like to make that  
34 motion.

35  
36 MR. DEVINE: So move.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: So moved. Do we have  
39 a second.

40  
41 MR. RABE: Second.

42 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We have a motion and  
43 second. Anyone oppose going back to new business Item  
44 12(a).

45  
46 (No opposing votes)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Seeing no opposition,  
49 that's where we are in the agenda. Back on the rule of  
50 the day. Migratory bird population status and trends.



1 Eric, would you come up and make your presentation for  
2 us.

3

4 MR. TAYLOR: Good afternoon. I'm Eric  
5 Taylor. I'm with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
6 here in the Migratory Bird Division in the Alaska  
7 Region here in Anchorage. I appreciate the opportunity  
8 to give you an update on abundance and trends of  
9 waterfowl as well as some other key birds. The  
10 objective is pretty simple. It's very similar to what  
11 I presented in the past. I'll talk briefly about  
12 distribution abundance and population trends, a bit  
13 about survey areas and design.

14

15 I'll start out with Pacific Black  
16 Brant, Greater White-Fronted Geese and Mid-Continent  
17 Greater White-Fronted Geese and Cackling Geese. These  
18 species are very important for subsistence hunters in  
19 Alaska. Then I'll also touch upon species that are  
20 currently closed to subsistence harvest; Emperor Geese,  
21 Spectacled Eiders, Steller's Eiders and Yellow-Billed  
22 Loons.

23

24 The information I'm going to report  
25 today I'm purely the messenger in the sense I get to  
26 work with a suite of talented people in the Waterfowl  
27 Management branch. We currently have three pilot  
28 biologists. Ed Mallek, who is actually in the audience  
29 today, Bill Larned and Heather Wilson. We have two  
30 quantitative biologists in terms of statistics and  
31 mapping, Bob Stehn and Bob Platte. Along with our  
32 pilot biologists we have observers and other  
33 biologists, Karen Bollinger, Dennis Marks, Debbie  
34 Groves, Chris Dau and Lynn Denlinger, then two field  
35 supervisors. We have three field offices all together.  
36 One in Fairbanks that Ed Mallek is the field supervisor  
37 and then one in Anchorage, Julian Fischer, and then we  
38 have another field station down in Juneau with Debbie  
39 Groves.

40

41 I'll start out with Brant. As most of  
42 you know, probably all of you know, about 80 percent of  
43 the Brant nest and breed on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.  
44 We have additional birds that nest on the Seward  
45 Peninsula as well as the Arctic Coastal Plain, as well  
46 as Russia. The entire population during the fall then  
47 stages at Izembek National Wildlife Refuge at Cold Bay  
48 along the Alaska Peninsula, then they winter in Mexico,  
49 Baja Mexico primarily, but they winter along the entire  
50 coast from British Columbia, Oregon, Washington and

1 California. The majority of the population winters in  
2 Mexico.

3

4 This is the type of figure that you'll  
5 see for most species that I'm going to present. The  
6 most important information is that population  
7 objective, which Pacific Black Brant is 150,000. Each  
8 individual white bar is the estimated population for  
9 that year. So, in this case, it goes from 1960 to  
10 2012. The line that's irregular across there is what's  
11 call the three-year average.

12

13 So in the Pacific Flyway we use three  
14 years, the most current three years, so in this case  
15 the estimate from 2012, 2011 and 2010 we average those  
16 three numbers and in this case the population estimate  
17 is 149,656 birds. So it's right below the population  
18 objective. In this case, Brant are right below the  
19 population objective.

20

21 If you look at -- even though that line  
22 is pretty irregular and squiggly, but if you look at it  
23 from about 1980 through 2012 and imagine looking at  
24 that, pretty much the population has been stable even  
25 though you see individual years that dip down  
26 particularly in 2005 and it looks like there's an  
27 increase. Overall the population has been relatively  
28 stable.

29

30 So, in summary, the objective is  
31 150,000, the current index population average is just  
32 about there, 149,600. Average population during that  
33 period for the last 30 years from 1981 to 2012  
34 relatively stable. The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose  
35 Management Plan as well as the Alaska Migratory Bird  
36 Co-management Council regulations state that there's no  
37 taking of Brant eggs or Brant during the nesting, brood  
38 rearing or flightless periods.

39

40 Something that we've discovered in the  
41 past and we've been noticing this because we take  
42 photographic surveys of the five nesting colonies on  
43 the Y-K Delta that there's been a significant decline  
44 in those historic nesting colonies. We're finding  
45 birds are moving outside the colonies and possibly  
46 outside of the Y-K Delta to nest.

47

48 The other phenomena that's pretty  
49 interesting is there's been a significant increase in  
50 the numbers of birds that are overwintering. In the

1 past, in the '70s and '80s and before that just a few  
2 hundred to a few thousand birds would winter at  
3 Izembek. What we're finding now is up to 20,000 are  
4 now spending the winter as opposed to migrating south  
5 to much warmer climates in Baja Mexico. We've got a  
6 substantive portion of the population that overwinters  
7 in Alaska Peninsula.

8  
9 Pacific Greater White-Fronted Geese and  
10 this is the population that Ron Anglin mentioned, so  
11 these birds, as Brandon mentioned, about 95 percent of  
12 the population nest on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.  
13 These are the birds that migrate along the coast and  
14 winter in the central valley of California and this is  
15 where the problem is occurring that Ron talked about.  
16 We estimate the population by our aerial survey, called  
17 the Yukon Delta Coast Zone Breeding Waterfowl Survey.  
18 It's a series of east/west transects that vary in  
19 density between each transect line. We do the survey  
20 in early June.

21  
22 Again, this is the same sort of figure  
23 you looked at before, so the estimated fall population  
24 is there on the vertical axis from 100,000 to 600,000.  
25 You see, as Ron mentioned, the population is  
26 substantively greater, in fact it's over two times the  
27 population objective. The population objective for  
28 Pacific Greater White-Fronted Geese is 300,000. The  
29 current population right now, the three-year average,  
30 is 640,437 birds. That kind of puts it in perspective.  
31 You've got 639,000 birds and California was asking for  
32 a depredation permit of 500, so you can see that there  
33 probably or almost certainly is not a biological  
34 concern relative to that proposal.

35  
36 The population is increasing at a rate  
37 of about -- let's see, if I remember correctly, almost  
38 6 percent per year is the annual population growth  
39 rate. So this population, even while it's twice the  
40 objective, is still continuing to increase in numbers.  
41 So, again, the population objective is 300,000. We're  
42 sitting at over 600,000 right now and for the past 30  
43 years the population is still increasing.

44  
45 So these are the birds that Taquilik  
46 sees, the Mid-Continent Greater White-Fronted Geese.  
47 Mid-Continent birds nest along the arctic tundra from  
48 Central Arctic of Canada across the North Slope of  
49 Alaska and then down in the boreal forest of Interior  
50 Alaska. These birds winter in Louisiana, Texas and

1 Mexico. We estimate the population index based on our  
2 Arctic Coastal Plain aerial survey that runs from Point  
3 Lay on the west all the way over to Kaktovik on the  
4 east, so this is based off -- we get a population  
5 index.

6  
7 Again, the important point is this is  
8 only for the Arctic Coastal Plain and this is just an  
9 index. So this is how we estimate the population  
10 trend. Again, we're seeing substantive increase of 8  
11 percent per year, the annual growth rate for Mid-  
12 Continent Greater White-Fronted Geese.

13  
14 Taqulik was right on the money in 2012.  
15 When she said you saw substantive numbers of birds, we  
16 did too. Actually there was a 20 percent increase in  
17 the three-year average. So right now the average  
18 population index on the Arctic Coastal Plain was  
19 185,108, if I remember correctly. The previous three-  
20 year index was 154,000.

21  
22 In terms of North America, the three-  
23 year average -- again, I know it's a bit confusing when  
24 you see the index is 185. We only monitor a portion of  
25 this bird's breeding range, but for North America the  
26 three-year average is 659,000 birds. The population  
27 objective for Mid-Continent White-Fronts is 650,000.  
28 Again, this is a population that is very healthy, doing  
29 very well and it's still increasing.

30  
31 MS. HEPA: How come the objective is so  
32 high?

33  
34 MR. TAYLOR: I think -- you know, I  
35 don't know the history of it, but it must be that this  
36 population relative to its historic levels has always  
37 been very high. Yeah, the population objective  
38 compared to Pacific Greater White-Fronted Geese is only  
39 300,000, so this is twice as high. So the breeding  
40 range for one thing -- Taqulik, if you remember that  
41 breeding range, I'll go back here, extends all the way  
42 from Central Arctic all the way across the Arctic  
43 Coastal Plain of Alaska and the North Slope of Alaska  
44 and all the way down. So the breeding range of  
45 Mid-Continents is significantly larger than that  
46 population that nests on the Y-K Delta. Overall,  
47 there's just way greater amount of habitat for these  
48 birds. Historically in the past there's just been  
49 higher numbers.

50

1                                   Okay, I'm going to talk about Emperors  
2 but I've also asked Ed Mallek to come down from  
3 Fairbanks. Ed's a biologist pilot in the supervisor  
4 field project leader for Fairbanks. Ed has done the  
5 survey of Emperors and I know there's been questions.  
6 Rick has had questions in the past as have others, so I  
7 thought I would ask Ed to fill in here. I'm going to  
8 give an introduction and then I'll ask Ed to come to  
9 the microphone.

10  
11                                   Emperor Geese breed primarily on the  
12 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta about 90 percent nest there, but  
13 10 percent or less also nest on the Seward Peninsula,  
14 St. Lawrence Island and Russia. As opposed to other  
15 waterfowl in Alaska, particularly geese, these birds  
16 winter in Alaska so they don't leave Alaska any time in  
17 their life unless they go to Russia. The wintering  
18 areas on the Alaska Peninsula, Kodiak and Aleutians.

19  
20                                   The population objective was set by the  
21 Pacific Flyway Emperor Goose Management Plan and the  
22 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan of 150,000.  
23 We monitor the survey via what's called the Spring  
24 Emperor Goose Survey that Ed is going to talk about.  
25 Hunting may be considered when the population average  
26 is greater than or equal to 80,000. Right now the most  
27 current three-year average of the index is 68,772.  
28 Again, that population objective and the level that  
29 when hunting can be reconsidered both set by two  
30 different documents.

31  
32                                   Again, that top line is the population  
33 objective at 150,000. The bluish line is 80,000, which  
34 is the line of the potential to resume harvest. Right  
35 now we're sitting at 68,772 birds for the latest three-  
36 year average. The population overall for the past 20  
37 years has shown a slight increase overall.

38  
39                                   In summary, again, population objective  
40 is 150, harvest can be reconsidered at around 80,000 or  
41 higher. The current three-year population index of  
42 2012, '11 and '10 is 68,772. Overall, if you look at  
43 growth rate, it's slowly increasing. They've been  
44 closed -- Emperors have been closed to subsistence  
45 harvest since 1987 and closed to fall hunting the year  
46 before in 1986. As Rick mentioned, the annual  
47 subsistence harvest estimate based on the Alaska  
48 Department of Fish and Game is around 3,500 birds.

49  
50                                   The slow population growth of the

1 Emperors has been a concern for a long time. Clearly  
2 there is interest by rural residents to have a  
3 legalized hunt. There are two factors primarily. We  
4 have a report that's in draft form by Bob Stehn in my  
5 office that should be finished within the next month  
6 and I'll make sure that Rick and Pater and others get  
7 copies of it.

8

9 We've looked at long-term datasets and  
10 we really think the slow population growth is the  
11 result of two primary factors. There's low egg and  
12 gosling survival. This has varied over time for our  
13 datasets, which extend over 30 years, but right now it  
14 seems to be very low. It's likely, even though we  
15 don't have the information, due to both fox and gull  
16 predation. Certainly, the continued subsistence  
17 harvest of birds and this is during spring of breeding  
18 adult geese is having a negative effect on trying to  
19 get this population to recover.

20

21 With that I'm going to introduce Ed  
22 Mallek and ask him to come to the microphone. As I  
23 mentioned, Ed is the project leader and the biologist  
24 pilot out of our Fairbanks office. He is responsible  
25 for conducting the spring and fall Emperor Goose  
26 surveys for Fish and Wildlife Service. I've asked Ed  
27 to give a summary of the survey methods and where he  
28 conducts the survey as well as he has a series of maps  
29 and I think he would like to hear a discussion from  
30 Rick and Peter and others where you might be seeing  
31 birds that we may or may not be surveying, so I think  
32 this is a great opportunity to ask some good questions.  
33 Ed.

34

35 MR. MALLEK: Howdy. As Eric said, my  
36 name is Ed Mallek. I live in Fairbanks and have been  
37 conducting the spring Emperor Goose Survey I think 13  
38 years, consecutive years. I conduct a survey with  
39 Chris Dau, who actually has been an observer and a  
40 pilot on this survey since we instituted the spring  
41 survey I think for 32 years. So we've had pretty small  
42 changes in personnel over time who conducts this survey  
43 and how it's conducted.

44

45 I have some slides to show you where we  
46 conduct the survey at. We conduct the survey in late  
47 April. This is a staging survey similar to the Brant  
48 survey. The big difference is with the Pacific Brant  
49 they all congregate essentially around Izembek Lagoon,  
50 so a real small geographic area. Emperor Geese, of

1 course, are a little more spread out.

2

3                   So we try to time the survey in very  
4 late April, sometimes it extends into May due to  
5 weather kind of slowing us down, to survey the Emperor  
6 Geese after they leave the Aleutian Islands but before  
7 they get on the Yukon Delta and spread out to their  
8 breeding areas. So the survey is conducted essentially  
9 in very late April and sometimes it goes into early  
10 May.

11

12                   Recently we've been using that aircraft  
13 there on the right. That's an amphibious equipped  
14 Quest Kodiak aircraft. Previously we conducted the  
15 surveys primarily with Cessna 206 aircraft. We fly at  
16 about 100 to 150 feet above the water and our air speed  
17 varies in the density of how many birds are in the area  
18 and if we can fly along a shoreline, but it's somewhere  
19 between 90 and 110 knots.

20

21                   Emperor Geese do react differently than  
22 some of the other birds we count like during the fall  
23 survey Brant and Canada Geese. Canada Geese are the  
24 calmest. A lot of times you can fly over Canada Geese  
25 directly over them at 100 feet and they won't even take  
26 wing. Brant get up quite a bit further ahead of the  
27 airplane and Emperor Geese get up significantly  
28 further, sometimes a half a mile or even a mile ahead  
29 of the airplane. So, as you're approaching the area  
30 for counting the birds you need to kind of look out  
31 further than you would for some other birds that we do  
32 count. And Emperor Geese are gray birds on gray water  
33 and sometimes a gray sky background.

34

35                   That is kind of a brief overview of how  
36 we survey. I'll actually show you a track file on a  
37 map of actual flight lines. In the spring survey we  
38 start at Jacksmith Bay, which is a little north of  
39 Platinum and Goodnews Bay, then follow the coast and  
40 cover all the estuaries to the King Salmon essentially.  
41 That's normally done in one day. The next day the vast  
42 majority of birds are counted from King Salmon to Cold  
43 Bay on the north side of Alaska Peninsula. If whether  
44 permits, and we're able to pull it off about two out of  
45 three times, we fly the south side of the peninsula  
46 where our average counts are a little less than 3,000  
47 birds.

48

49                   MR. DEVINE: Can you hold that slide  
50 there a minute.

1 MR. MALLEK: Sure.  
2  
3 MR. DEVINE: (Indiscernible - away from  
4 microphone) those aren't being counted? Because the  
5 islands are full. These two islands right here are  
6 just packed that aren't being counted (indiscernible)  
7 Unalaska?  
8  
9 MR. MALLEK: Yeah, no.  
10  
11 MR. DEVINE: Okay. Our regional  
12 management body member from Unalaska said he did a  
13 survey in Womens Bay in a skiff last year and he  
14 counted 3,000 Emperors in there. Nikolski is another  
15 hotspot. We have hundreds of islands out in the  
16 western Aleutians that aren't even being looked at.  
17  
18 MR. MALLEK: Yeah. The question I have  
19 is the timing. We do have contacts and we put it in  
20 our reports. Again, I work on this survey with Chris  
21 Dau and he has a contact in Kodiak and others in  
22 Unalaska on the departure dates of Emperor Geese that  
23 are there. So we certainly know there are geese there.  
24 Our attempt is to hope that all, if not all the vast  
25 majority of them are off the islands and on the  
26 peninsula in the staging areas. I'm not denying that  
27 there's lots of geese out in the Aleutians.  
28 Definitely. Just to explain our approach.  
29  
30 This looks very similar. That's  
31 actually the actual flight lines of our survey we did  
32 this spring 2012. So, no, we did not go out to the  
33 Semidi Islands.  
34  
35 Down in Unimak we have consistently  
36 surveyed the north end or east end of Unimak Island,  
37 St. Katherine's Cove, kind of right across from  
38 Bechevin Bay. That we do every year. Like I said, the  
39 south side of the Alaskan Peninsula can be difficult a  
40 lot of times due to weather. So if we get stuck for  
41 three, four, five days or more, then there's a concern  
42 that most of the birds that are there have moved on to  
43 the north side of the Peninsula.  
44  
45 MR. DEVINE: Okay. Another hotspot to  
46 look out for would be Simeonof Island. That's out on  
47 the further -- see where Pavlof is, then you go down  
48 that end of islands, that outer island the government  
49 went in and shot all the cows that were on that island  
50 and the foxes. I've seen, sitting on a hillside



1 myself, 7-10,000 birds coming up through the straits,  
2 coming from them outer islands. I mean if they're  
3 going to go in there and try to solve a problem, they  
4 should monitor to see if what they did actually worked  
5 because I believe it worked real well just by the  
6 numbers that I'm seeing fly by my islands coming up the  
7 strait heading for Izembek.

8

9 MR. MALLEK: Okay. Where are you at?

10

11 MR. DEVINE: I'm in Sand Point down on  
12 Popof Island. They come up right between Popof and  
13 Korovin. I mean there's anywhere from 500 to 1,500 per  
14 flock. I sit and watch them for two days flying by.

15

16 MR. MALLEK: What dates are those? I  
17 actually some more detailed maps here, slightly more  
18 detailed.

19

20 MR. DEVINE: That would be towards the  
21 latter part of April.

22

23 MR. MALLEK: Okay. And I think the  
24 timing -- we're potentially open for investigation of  
25 areas. The timing -- I know if I were to go two weeks  
26 to a month earlier we're definitely going to have a lot  
27 of birds spread out in a large area. If I attempted to  
28 do the survey just a couple weeks later, the vast  
29 majority of the birds will be completely off the  
30 Peninsula then. They'll be on the Yukon Delta.

31

32 MR. DEVINE: I have one more concern.  
33 Well, actually, I have a lot of concerns, but one is to  
34 elevation. I've been involved in marine mammal surveys  
35 and I know the higher up you get the more you can see,  
36 but one of the things that got me was when you guys get  
37 up to the AYK and you do your survey, you're doing it  
38 when the birds aren't there. Meaning you're doing it  
39 at high tide. The birds are there feeding at low tide.  
40 Just from my own observations, high tide, they go out  
41 to sea, get away from predators on land, out on ice  
42 flows, whatever. So if that adjustment could be made  
43 I'm sure you would find lots.

44

45 MR. MALLEK: The hard part is just how  
46 long it takes to fly a given area. So a flight from  
47 King Salmon to Cold Bay surveying takes just about five  
48 hours. In that time period, you're probably going to  
49 end up counting -- somewhere is going to end up being a  
50 low tide or high tide, which makes it kind of

1 difficult. Of course, down in Cold Bay that's where it  
2 even gets harder because it's high tide on the Bering  
3 side and low tide on the Pacific or vice versa. We  
4 have done winter surveys for Brant that Eric mentioned  
5 and have found significant numbers of Emperor Geese on  
6 some of the islands just south of Cold Bay there.

7

8                   So I have these maps. These are  
9 somewhat closer up than I had previously like this.  
10 Folks in other areas, just like Peter had mentioned,  
11 areas they had concerns about and I did bring up a map  
12 of Kodiak also.

13

14                   MR. ROWLAND: So those ones on Kodiak  
15 Island, put it the way one elder at home said, there  
16 were thousands, maybe even hundreds.

17

18                   (Laughter)

19

20                   MR. ROWLAND: Just a little survey joke  
21 there. We're located -- Sun'aq Tribe is in Kodiak area  
22 up on the northeast side, but there's Emperor Geese all  
23 the way down by Tugidak, down in Alitak Bay, over on  
24 Shelikof Strait, up at Shuyak Island and most of the  
25 time -- we haven't been over to the Katmai area in the  
26 wintertime, so there might be quite a few over there  
27 too. But, like I said, the population is getting so  
28 big there that they're pushing these ducks out of their  
29 habitat.

30

31                   A couple questions I have is similar to  
32 what Peter was saying. One is the elevation you guys  
33 are moving at, 150. It seems a little close. Then the  
34 other thing is I was wondering about you guys' recent  
35 plane crash. I was sorry to hear about that. Glad to  
36 hear that they're okay, they're safe. Then that made  
37 me think, well, is that going to be less of a plane.  
38 Then it made me think about, well, if they can't do --  
39 they've reduced the planes, they won't be able to do it  
40 for a while, so that might reduce the amount of  
41 information, so that made me realize is there any way  
42 we could get the school community kids to help out with  
43 a certain time during the year to where they could go  
44 take a look and make a report similar to how the  
45 Audubon Society does bird counts. So that's an idea  
46 for a survey. Then that led me to start thinking  
47 about, you know, when did the aerial surveys stop going  
48 out past Unimak? That was my question.

49

50                   MR. MALLEK: Okay. That Kodiak

1 accident is not going to affect whether or not we  
2 survey this area. The airplane accident, excuse me.  
3 I'm trying to remember all your questions.

4

5 MR. ROWLAND: Just one. When did you  
6 guys stop going out past Unimak?

7

8 MR. MALLEK: I've never gone past  
9 Unimak and we never have with a single engine aircraft.  
10 It's a long ways out there. Again, your question, I do  
11 not doubt you at all that there's -- we know there's  
12 lots of geese that winter on Kodiak Island and out in  
13 the Aleutians. Undoubtedly most of them do on the  
14 Aleutians with a large number on Kodiak.

15

16 I would be interested in getting some  
17 school kids involved as observers, but specifically as  
18 it relates to bird observations with specific dates.  
19 At what date are there no longer Emperor Geese in the  
20 areas you're referring to. So that relates to where we  
21 want to look for a survey.

22

23 For quite a few years the survey was  
24 conducted a little bit further north. Not on Unimak,  
25 but further north up towards Cape Douglas. At that  
26 time period in late April, early May they didn't find  
27 the birds, so that's why we stop short at Wide Bay  
28 instead of going further north along the coast. I'm  
29 not saying there's not birds there at other times of  
30 the year. I'm saying in late April, early May.

31

32 MR. ROWLAND: So, and then on your  
33 chart, I was looking at Eric's chart, he had the same  
34 slide about the areas that they go and I noticed that  
35 you guys don't go to a certain area north of that up  
36 there. What did you call it, Jack Bay?.

37

38 MR. MALLEK: Yeah, Jacksmith Bay.

39

40 MR. ROWLAND: Jacksmith Bay. You don't  
41 go north of there. There was some other information  
42 that I found that said that there were Emperor Geese in  
43 that area. So my question is how are you guys going to  
44 tighten up the expanse of looking at these birds? For  
45 example, those that are out on western Aleutians, those  
46 that are on Kodiak, and Alaska Peninsula, north and  
47 east of Wide Bay.

48

49 MR. MALLEK: Well, I guess that would  
50 be a question if we can get information that makes us

1 think there are still significant number of birds there  
2 during this time period. Timing is what's important.  
3 I don't question where the birds are, but during this  
4 time period. There's certain areas we could look into  
5 further and there's other areas that we're certainly  
6 not going to be able to. We're not going to be able to  
7 look far out in the Aleutians at this time of year due  
8 to weather extremes and type of aircraft we're going to  
9 need and the timing.

10

11 One thing you have to realize too is if  
12 we focus on some areas that maybe have a few birds, it  
13 could be at the cost of not spending as much time in  
14 areas that have more birds. The Emperor Geese more so  
15 than Brant. That's what I was trying to describe  
16 earlier. We have a pretty short time period in which  
17 you can survey where all the birds are in an area  
18 that's relatively accessible, but before they get to  
19 the breeding grounds.

20

21 MR. ROWLAND: Right, right. So I  
22 understand that. So like if you guys are informed that  
23 there are birds there during that time and you guys  
24 have your dates set, will you change your formula to  
25 make an exception and factor in those observed birds in  
26 a different area versus.....

27

28 MR. MALLEK: No, we could probably -- I  
29 mean if we think there's a significant number of birds  
30 there and people have seen those, we can go fly those,  
31 but part of that would be determined by my bosses and  
32 funding.

33

34 MR. DEVINE: The western Aleutians are  
35 really hard to get into. I mean it's -- like once you  
36 hit Unalaska, you're getting socked in, so it is a  
37 concern for their people to go out and do a survey out  
38 that way. I know the Audubon Society does a winter  
39 count in Unalaska. I don't know if they counted them  
40 geese that were in Womens Bay in their count or not.  
41 I'll have to talk to my regional rep to see. I mean if  
42 they could add numbers like that into their count,  
43 would you guys consider.....

44

45 MR. MALLEK: Well, those numbers -- you  
46 know, if we had someone there, but the numbers would  
47 have to be counted at the same period of time we're  
48 doing the survey. We couldn't use birds that were  
49 counted in December for our survey that's conducted  
50 in.....

1 MR. WOODS: Frank Woods. Maybe  
2 coordinate with the regional rep, Peter, to maybe ask  
3 for an Audubon Society count during the same time as  
4 your count is going on and at least help get accurate  
5 numbers.

6  
7 MR. MALLEK: That would be interesting.  
8 Like I said, if you look back actually over the years  
9 of our reports, we've had a lot of personal  
10 communication with several folks from Unalaska and  
11 Kodiak on observations of when the majority of birds  
12 left the area and when the very last sightings were as  
13 well as when the very first sightings on the Yukon  
14 Delta are. So we're trying to count these preferably  
15 when every bird is off the Aleutians and every bird is  
16 off Kodiak and they're on the Alaska Peninsula and  
17 that's our ideal. We know we're not going to get all  
18 the birds in the Alaska Peninsula. That's our goal.  
19 If we could figure out that there are other areas that  
20 perhaps in the past there weren't as many Emperor Geese  
21 or very few that are staying -- that are present during  
22 our survey time, we'd be very interested in that.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Myron.

25  
26 MR. NANENG: Good afternoon. You say  
27 that your survey flights are going as far as Jack Bay?

28  
29 MR. MALLEK: Yeah, Jacksmith Bay.

30  
31 MR. NANENG: Yes. Why are many of our  
32 seal hunters complaining there's airplanes flying  
33 around up there by Kwigluk, Kipnuk.....

34  
35 MR. MALLEK: That's a different survey.

36  
37 MR. NANENG: What survey is that during  
38 springtime when.....

39  
40 MR. MALLEK: That's a Steller's Eider  
41 survey and that's typically conducted a couple of weeks  
42 to a month prior to this.

43  
44 MR. NANENG: It disturbs our seal  
45 hunters, marine mammal hunters at that time. I wonder  
46 if there's an opportunity to take a look at that  
47 schedule and try and do it some other time so that you  
48 can avoid disturbing seal hunters that are trying to  
49 harvest food.

50

1 MR. MALLEK: I don't personally conduct  
2 that survey. That survey needs to be conducted at a  
3 certain time also to be able to count the Steller's  
4 Eiders. If it were conducted say a month later, the  
5 Steller's Eiders aren't there. That's a whole separate  
6 issue from the Emperor Goose survey. Yeah, we start at  
7 Jacksmith Bay. Years ago we did actually start over by  
8 Hooper Bay in the spring, but after looking at about 20  
9 years of data, if the survey is timed right, we don't  
10 count a single Emperor Goose until you get to about  
11 Jacksmith Bay is when they start to trickle in.  
12 Depending on the spring, we start picking some up at  
13 Chagvan and Nanvak Bays. North and west of there  
14 essentially if you're counting Emperor Geese there in  
15 late April, you've started the survey too late.

16  
17 MR. NANENG: And when did you stop  
18 doing the surveys further north beyond Jacksmith Bay?

19  
20 MR. MALLEK: Eight or ten years ago.

21  
22 MR. NANENG: This is the first time  
23 I've heard that they're doing Eider surveys. With all  
24 the years that I've been working with waterfowl issues  
25 this is the first time that I hear that anything beyond  
26 Jacksmith Bay the survey that's being done is for Eider  
27 ducks. I think that has to be explained to many of our  
28 people in the Y-K Delta.

29  
30 MR. ROWLAND: I overheard Doug mention  
31 when I was listening in on teleconference about survey  
32 versus census, right? It's not a census population,  
33 not an exact number. So how does that census  
34 information, which is not exact in the data here, this  
35 one right here, the Emperor Geese data, how does that  
36 fluctuate into finding a location on the population  
37 count to figure whether or not there's a harvest or  
38 not? What's the difference between tracking the census  
39 -- or tracking the survey versus the census in this  
40 number right here? Because we know that the population  
41 total is way more than this three-year average because  
42 it's just a survey, which isn't exact, right? So how  
43 can we figure it out to where we get like a better  
44 understanding of the population? We have better  
45 technology nowadays. How can we do a better job at  
46 getting a more exact answer about the population of the  
47 Emperor Geese?

48  
49 MR. MALLEK: I don't know. We try to  
50 do as good a job covering the largest area we can that

1 we think is worth surveying. We have to balance a  
2 bunch of -- whether it be safety risks, weather risks,  
3 cost and time. The weather plays the biggest issue  
4 here on what we can and can't get done.

5  
6           The number that you see on the graph  
7 there is the number that we estimate during our count.  
8 What I mean estimate is sometimes we're flying along  
9 and we'll come along and I'll see 12 Emperor Geese and  
10 I can count 1, 2, 3, 4, you know, 12, and I'll record  
11 it in our microphone Emperor Geese 12. Other times I  
12 may end up seeing a larger group get up, say 50. I  
13 can't quite count 50 fast enough, so I'm counting 10,  
14 20, 30, 40, 50, averaging like that. We actually have  
15 computer programs we practice on to check our accuracy,  
16 that kind of stuff.

17  
18           So, to answer your question, it's not  
19 an exact estimate. It is an estimate, but it's -- you  
20 know, sometimes we get larger flocks that could be  
21 thousands of birds. So that's where the number being  
22 an estimate as opposed to a true census where you can  
23 actually tally individual birds.

24  
25           For instance, another example that we  
26 do, it has nothing to do with Emperor Geese, it has to  
27 do with waterfowl, is Trumpeter Swans. There's few  
28 enough birds that we're actually flying around on a map  
29 we can track them. We can count every single bird.  
30 I'm certain we miss some, but we're counting individual  
31 birds every time. We count individual Signets in a  
32 group as opposed to with large flocks of birds we are a  
33 lot of times estimating because they're too large to  
34 count obviously.

35  
36           Our attempt is to gather the entire  
37 population. Do we meet that goal 100 percent? We know  
38 we certainly don't. There could be birds here and  
39 birds there. I'm not disagreeing with any of you guys.  
40 There's lots of birds on the Aleutians and Kodiak  
41 Island. The question is how many birds are there when  
42 we're doing the survey. The dates and the timing of  
43 the survey are the most important aspect of being able  
44 to say whether or not it's worthwhile. What I'm  
45 interested in is are there lots of birds where we're  
46 not looking when we're looking if you understand what  
47 I'm saying.

48  
49           MR. WOODS: Eric, I appreciate both you  
50 and -- I forget your name. I'm bad at names.

1 MR. MALLEK: Ed.

2

3 MR. WOODS: Ed, yeah. We appreciate  
4 all the work that you guys do. I didn't realize how  
5 much survey work U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service did  
6 until actually we got a report from Susan Savage. She  
7 works for Becharof or Aleutian. Really wonderful  
8 programs that work. We're just now getting that  
9 information, like this information on the Steller's  
10 Eider. One of the agenda items is tribal consultation.  
11 Communication is everything. On our end, if we're in  
12 the dark, we don't know any of this stuff. At least our  
13 regionals don't know. They're always creating what  
14 scenarios might be happening on a different level. So  
15 I really appreciate the work you're doing, not to  
16 discredit any of the work you're doing. Just question  
17 how to make it better.

18

19 Alaska is a huge -- just looking at  
20 that, that's where I live. This is about the only time  
21 I've ever heard or seen a survey getting done on a  
22 species of concern. I'm grateful but mystified on how  
23 at Togiak Refuge or Becharof or Aleutian Refuge hasn't  
24 had enough outreach to include the villages and  
25 information just in the migratory bird process. Our  
26 regionals would love to hear this stuff. I mean that's  
27 why they're there.

28

29 I requested Susan to come to our  
30 meeting and do a similar presentation of how and where  
31 she gets information from. The funniest thing I ever  
32 heard was they did a ptarmigan study and the cluck-  
33 clucks recordings that they limited and they actually  
34 got a number from the return clucks that came from the  
35 ptarmigan study for replacing some of the -- the  
36 concerns on the lower peninsula is actually how to feed  
37 people from caribou, how to replace that with different  
38 foods. These are people that have well intentions, but  
39 on the subsistence end it doesn't make any sense.

40

41 I guess I'm getting at some point in  
42 time we have to come together and figure out how --  
43 because we have three Refuges in that region, plus a  
44 Park or two Parks, I guess. It's even worse as you get  
45 north and more convoluted. I don't waste any more time  
46 in your presentation. I'm really enjoying it.

47

48 Do you have anything else? Is that all  
49 you're going to be presenting or do you have more?

50



1 MR. MALLEK: That's all I'm going to  
2 present. Eric is going to present more. One thing we  
3 could do is identify all the surveys we do and where  
4 they're completed and how they're conducted, where  
5 they're conducted from a migratory bird standpoint.  
6

7 MR. WOODS: That brings up a good  
8 point. Doug, when we do our regionals, if we would  
9 gather that information, the time, when and where  
10 they're going to be doing surveys, our regional people  
11 would love it. Contact me or pass on information when  
12 would be the best time and how and where to conduct and  
13 that kind of information is real vital. Then I'd feel  
14 part of a management team that would be effective in  
15 the arena of helping. I'll let you finish.  
16

17 MR. MALLEK: No, those are good  
18 comments and I think that's a really good idea. We've  
19 done that in the past. I've gone up to Barrow on a  
20 variety of surveys we conducted up in the Arctic  
21 Coastal Plain and I've explained those. This is the  
22 first time I've had a chance to meet you folks at  
23 AMBCC. That can certainly be done on a statewide  
24 scale.  
25

26 MR. ROWLAND: In relation to the  
27 planes, I was wondering since you guys had that plane  
28 crash are you scheduled to participate in any of those  
29 drone vehicles that are eventually coming online? If  
30 you are, how do you intend to use them and where are  
31 you going to take those at and who is going to man  
32 those systems?  
33

34 MR. MALLEK: That's a good question.  
35 We talked about that recently. I think the first thing  
36 before we even consider unmanned aerial system is  
37 evaluate the sensors on them, which we would do in a  
38 real airplane. So there's no sense going down the  
39 drone or UAV or UAS road and using an aerial platform  
40 that has sensors on it that doesn't collect the data  
41 you want anyway. So the first thing to consider first  
42 is to evaluate some of the sensors that we could use on  
43 these drones in a real aircraft and then compare that  
44 to the data we're collecting and see if it's  
45 worthwhile. There's a lot of folks that are interested  
46 in that. If you can't collect the data you want, it  
47 doesn't make a difference if it's a person flying it or  
48 some guy on the ground, you still have to make sure the  
49 data you're collecting is worthwhile.  
50

1                   We have done some of that work like at  
2 Cold Bay previously. It wasn't with drones, but high-  
3 level photography with Brant. Even with high-level  
4 photography, once we got high enough to not disturb the  
5 birds, it's very difficult to differentiate Brant and  
6 Canada Geese. Perhaps as technology advances we might  
7 be able to do that first in manned aircraft and then  
8 eventually in unmanned aircraft.

9

10                   MR. DEVINE: I'd like to thank Ed for  
11 coming down and sharing with us and hearing our  
12 concerns. I've been here for 10 years and I keep  
13 asking how these surveys are done and now I feel a  
14 pilot has our input, so maybe he'll help us get numbers  
15 back up so we can start hunting. Thanks.

16

17                   MR. MALLEK: Thank you. Appreciate  
18 that. One thing, just to make certain that you guys  
19 know, I would love nothing better than to have 150,000  
20 Emperor Geese. I don't like the numbers where they're  
21 at actually. It would make my job a lot easier. That's  
22 my goal. Thank you.

23

24                   MR. TAYLOR: I'll see if I can get my  
25 daughter and golden retriever off the screen here. The  
26 discussion was very good and I appreciate all of your  
27 questions. One thing I do want to suggest is there is  
28 an Emperor subcommittee of the AMBCC. In fact, Peter  
29 sits on it, Rick sits on it, Dan Rosenberg and myself.  
30 I think the problem is that there's no subcommittee  
31 chair of that subcommittee.

32

33                   My recommendation might be for the  
34 representatives that are most interested to either  
35 nominate someone or nominate themselves and then I  
36 would suggest that we have a meeting in the near  
37 future. I know travel is often restricted in terms of  
38 funds, but the questions and the interest I think  
39 warrant that subcommittee getting together. Certainly  
40 I think Ed and myself would welcome the opportunity to  
41 have people that are in the field in Kodiak and Sand  
42 Point and the Aleutians to be able to set up a  
43 communication network that we can send emails or set  
44 dates to say, okay, Emperors are still here or we see  
45 half as many as we did or they're gone, so now is the  
46 time to start the survey. It's only going to make the  
47 information better, which is what Frank and Rick and  
48 Peter and all of us want.

49

50                   I would strongly recommend that there's

1 some discussion among the representatives of that Brant  
2 Subcommittee, nominate a subcommittee chair and ask  
3 that person to call a meeting. Preferably now is the  
4 time to do it, in the fall or the winter, before the  
5 April survey, so we've got some time to get together,  
6 discuss observations like Peter and Rick have shared  
7 with Ed, determine if those observations are current at  
8 the same time we do our survey.

9

10 As Ed mentioned, our budgets are  
11 declining, but certainly this is a species of  
12 management concern and if it's within our realm of  
13 possibility of looking at new areas, we're certainly  
14 open to that suggestion. As Ed mentioned, there's  
15 nothing more than what we want is to see this  
16 population recover. I think the more communication we  
17 can have, particularly with folks in rural villages to  
18 understand what this species is doing, it's only going  
19 to be better.

20

21 So I'd make that suggestion. Rick,  
22 Peter, Dan, if one of you are interested in being a  
23 subcommittee chair, please speak up.

24

25 MR. DEVINE: I'll second your motion to  
26 make Rick the subcommittee chair.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 MR. ROSENBERG: I will volunteer to do  
31 it if you want me to. I don't want to take anything  
32 away from Rick. I'm happy with Rick, but if you want,  
33 I'll be willing to do that.

34

35 MR. ROWLAND: I'll defer that to Dan  
36 and appreciate it. I'd be happy to see you sitting  
37 there organizing that since most of the time you're  
38 dealing with migratory birds, right?

39

40 MR. ROSENBERG: Correct. I was just  
41 looking to see who was on the committee.

42

43 MR. TAYLOR: I think Carol Brown is on  
44 it, Chris Dau is on it and myself and then Peter, Rick.

45

46 MR. ROSENBERG: And Molly was on it, so  
47 we need someone, I guess, to replace Molly. So Frank's  
48 on it?

49

50 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Nathan is trying to

1 get this on the record. Can you come to the mic.

2

3 MR. ROSENBERG: I apologize. Okay.  
4 Thanks, Eric, for bring that up. Dan Rosenberg for the  
5 record. I have just been nominated to be the Emperor  
6 Goose Subcommittee chair, so I'm just trying to make  
7 sure we all understand who is on the subcommittee. The  
8 list that we have now has Chris Dau, Molly Chythlook,  
9 me, Eric Taylor, Carol Brown, Peter Devine and Rick  
10 Rowland. So Molly has retired from the AMBCC  
11 essentially, so I was just questioning whether we  
12 wanted to replace Molly with someone else from the  
13 BBNA.

14

15 MR. WOODS: I'd gladly fill that seat  
16 until we get official word from our executive committee  
17 or full board for that seat. Until then I'll fill in  
18 for Molly.

19

20 MR. ROSENBERG: Doug, I don't know if  
21 I'm getting ahead of ourselves, if we have a formal  
22 process for doing that or not.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We'll review the  
25 committees and committee assignments at the end of the  
26 meeting and membership. We'll take it up then.

27

28 MR. ROSENBERG: Okay. Just so we're  
29 all -- what I will try to do is have a meeting between  
30 now and April before the April spring Emperor Goose  
31 survey and before the April AMBCC meeting to discuss  
32 whatever it is we want to go over, including the  
33 proposal, because I think as a committee we may want to  
34 make a recommendation also on any proposals that are  
35 out there. Thank you.

36

37 MR. TAYLOR: Before I forget, one last  
38 item that I think Myron and Frank brought up. I've  
39 made this offer in the past. Joeneal has taken me up  
40 on it and a few others. Despite the internet having  
41 our reports posted and access to email and telephone, I  
42 think there's no substitute for personal visits in  
43 terms of making presentations to either Regional  
44 Advisory Councils or other groups in terms of what  
45 surveys the Fish and Wildlife Service does, when and  
46 why we do them, so that concerns like Myron raised, in  
47 terms of hunters potentially being disturbed by a  
48 survey aircraft, those sorts of things can be  
49 addressed. I think the best way to do that is in  
50 person.

1 I will provide this caveat. My budget  
2 is going in a downhill fashion. It would be impossible  
3 for me to visit all of the regions. There is a thing  
4 of teleconference and providing the PowerPoint  
5 presentation and the group getting together. I think  
6 that's a less attractive alternative than being in  
7 person. I think there's no substitute for actually  
8 being in person.

9  
10 When I visited with Joeneal and that  
11 committee, I thought it was very beneficial. There  
12 were some very good questions regarding the Trumpeter  
13 Swan survey, the abundance of Trumpeter Swans,  
14 potential interest in a Trumpeter Swan season for  
15 subsistence users and I think it was very good. So I  
16 would again encourage you if that would be something  
17 that you would like to contact me well ahead of time  
18 and I'll do my best to try to make it happen.

19  
20 I'll move on to Cackling Canada Geese.  
21 This is an overall map for all of the Canada Geese. As  
22 everyone is aware, virtually the entire world's  
23 population of Cackling Geese nest on the  
24 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Up until the mid 1990s these  
25 birds wintered primarily in the central valley of  
26 California. Since the mid 1990s they have shifted  
27 their wintering area to northwest Oregon, southwest  
28 Washington and have resulted in the depredation of  
29 agricultural crops that Ron Anglin alluded to and that  
30 all of you have heard about in the past.

31  
32 Cackling Canada Geese, like the other  
33 species, Emperors, White-Fronts and Brant, declined  
34 significantly from the 1960s until about 1984 when the  
35 Yukon-Kuskokwim Goose Management Plan, known as the  
36 Hooper Bay Agreement, was originally signed and then  
37 cooperation between fall hunters and subsistence  
38 hunters allowed this species to increase. Over the  
39 past 30 years Cacklers have done that. They are  
40 currently still below the population objective. The  
41 three-year average around 219,000. The population  
42 objective there by the kind of yellow line of 250,000.  
43 We're below that in terms of the three-year average.

44  
45 Overall, for the past 30 years, the  
46 population has been relatively stable. Because we have  
47 been below population objective, the Yukon-Kuskokwim  
48 Delta Goose Management Plan stipulates no taking of  
49 eggs or Cacklers during the nesting, that is egg-  
50 laying, incubation as well as the brood rearing, and

1 then in the flightless periods.

2

3 As I mentioned, the wintering area has  
4 changed from California to Oregon and there's been  
5 substantive depredation of agricultural crops primarily  
6 crops that are raised for turf grass or grass seed.  
7 Both in Oregon and Washington, but primarily in Oregon.  
8 This has been a substantive issue for the Oregon Farm  
9 Bureau and farmers there. The Oregon Farm Bureau in a  
10 recent meeting has asked for the Fish and Wildlife  
11 Service as well as the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta rural  
12 residents to consider a lower population objective in  
13 order to decrease the population.

14

15 One issue that has come up is that,  
16 like all of our surveys, we try to do the best we can,  
17 but as folks have alluded to, there's always sometimes  
18 a better way or a way to check. So we started in 2011  
19 to mark Cackling Canada Geese on the Y-K Delta in order  
20 to validate the population surveys and the index. So  
21 this is a three-year effort where we're marking birds  
22 and then counting them on the wintering grounds in  
23 order to determine if, indeed, our survey is a  
24 reasonable estimate of the population.

25

26 I'll move on to threatened species in  
27 Alaska. Spectacled Eiders listed as threatened in  
28 1993, closed to subsistence harvest and sport harvest.  
29 The Y-K Delta population. The reason it was listed,  
30 estimated decline of 96 percent on the Y-K Delta. At  
31 one time in the early '70s about 50,000 pairs of birds  
32 occurred there. In 1992, right before the bird was  
33 listed as threatened, an estimated 1,720 pairs.

34

35 Yeah.

36

37 MR. ROWLAND: Eric, on the last slide  
38 or two slides before where you had the graph of the  
39 Cackling -- right there, yeah. Then where it says  
40 population objective is 250,000 and then at your resume  
41 harvest and closure. Now I'm looking at those three  
42 lines there and seeing that there's a gap between the  
43 resumed harvest and the population objective. Now  
44 across all the range of migratory birds, is that gap  
45 percentage or is it per number or how do you decide on  
46 that gap?

47

48 MR. TAYLOR: Okay. So that was -- the  
49 resume harvest is if you had a population decline, so  
50 if you look at around 1980 and then the next year 1981,

1 you can see it dropped below that resume harvest. So  
2 closure then occurs at 80,000 and then between 80,000  
3 and the blue line so harvest could be resumed,  
4 consideration at 110,000. That distance between 110  
5 and all the way up to 250, one could harvest birds when  
6 the population was at those levels. So the overall  
7 population objective though is 250,000.

8  
9 MR. ROWLAND: Right. Okay, I got you  
10 on that. My question is, I'm looking at the Emperor  
11 Geese one here and there's a 20,000 difference. So  
12 what I'm wondering is, because it says 60 and 80,000  
13 for closure and potential for estimated harvest.

14  
15 MR. TAYLOR: I think maybe your question  
16 is is there a difference between species or among  
17 species because there is. Each species for their  
18 management plans as well as the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta  
19 have specific levels of closure or resuming harvest or  
20 population objective.

21  
22 MR. ROWLAND: I understand that and  
23 it's apparent in there, but how do you determine that  
24 one population has less number or another population  
25 has more number? For example, this one has from the  
26 closure to the resume harvest is, what, 30,000, but in  
27 this one right here it's only 20,000. How do you make  
28 that determination between 30 and 20?

29  
30 MR. TAYLOR: Those were set by the  
31 individuals that drew up the management plans when  
32 those management plans were drawn up in the Flyway.  
33 That was the agreement within the Flyway as well as the  
34 representatives on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose  
35 Management Plan, originally the Hooper Bay Agreement,  
36 which was in 1984. So the entities of the Flyway as  
37 well as the entities on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta got  
38 together and set those levels.

39  
40 All right. Spectacled Eiders nest  
41 primarily in two areas in Alaska, the Yukon-Kuskokwim  
42 Delta as well as the Arctic Coastal Plain or the North  
43 Slope of Alaska. There's also breeding areas in  
44 Russia. We do the same survey that we do for Cackling  
45 Canada Geese as well as other water birds on the Yukon-  
46 Kuskokwim Delta to estimate the numbers of Spectacled  
47 Eiders on the Y-K Delta. For the Arctic Coastal Plain,  
48 we do the Arctic Coastal Plain Breeding Pair Survey.  
49 So those are the two estimates.

50

1                   This is the current estimates of  
2 Spectacled Eider. There are two geographic regions.  
3 So the white bars indicate the North Slope or the  
4 Arctic Coastal Plain. The blue bars represent the Y-K  
5 Delta. The important thing is you'll see the three-  
6 year averages, the lines there that indicate the three-  
7 year average. Very different projections. For the  
8 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta we're seeing a significant  
9 increase in Spectacled Eiders. The current population  
10 index is around 6,565 birds for 2012. It's relatively  
11 stable for the Arctic Coastal Plain, so the birds are  
12 not responding, those birds on the Arctic Coastal Plain  
13 or North Slope. Relatively stable. The index is  
14 around 6,000.

15  
16                   The winter population. The entire  
17 population winters in that kind of dark orange area  
18 just south of St. Lawrence Island in broken areas in  
19 the sea. We do this survey every few years with a twin  
20 engine aircraft. This was recently discovered in the  
21 1990s actually where these birds overwinter.

22  
23                   Steller's Eiders were listed.....

24  
25                   MS. HEPA: (Indiscernible - away from  
26 microphone)

27  
28                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Duck soup.

29  
30                   MR. TAYLOR: I don't know. There's a  
31 lot. And it is a duck soup when you consider that many  
32 birds in one area. In fact, that's actually how they  
33 keep that area open, is the massive birds and the  
34 movement, keeps that area open. Taqulik, I can't  
35 answer your question.

36  
37                   MS. HEPA: (Indiscernible - away from  
38 microphone) one group of birds?

39  
40                   MR. TAYLOR: That's one group, yes.  
41 There would be other -- plenty is out there like that.

42  
43                   MR. NANENG: Eric, one question before  
44 you go on. Myron Naneng. I had a question regarding  
45 the picture with the ice conditions as they are up in  
46 the Arctic Ocean where there was a big melt up. Has  
47 anyone planned anything to see how it's impacting the  
48 wintering area of these Spectacled Eiders? Do you guys  
49 have any consideration for that?

50



1 MR. TAYLOR: If I understand your  
2 question, given the recent and substantive changes in  
3 ice in terms of shore-fast ice and ice leads and  
4 changes in the dynamics, our concerns or are we looking  
5 at how ice changes could affect wintering habitats of  
6 Spectacled Eiders.

7  
8 The Fish and Wildlife Service is not  
9 conducting studies in terms to address that question.  
10 There is a researcher, Jim Lovvorn, from University of  
11 Wyoming, that has through the National Science  
12 Foundation several graduate students and has quite an  
13 extensive list of publications in terms of what these  
14 birds are feeding on, what their condition is like over  
15 the winter, their movements between these open water  
16 areas. I don't think Jim is still out there at the  
17 present time in terms of studies, so I can't really  
18 answer your question in terms of are there any  
19 considerations, but I could check and see if he's still  
20 doing work and, if so, what.

21  
22 MS. HEPA: I have a question. You  
23 know, the Spectacled Eiders is one of the listed birds.  
24 I didn't see a graph about what was the conservation  
25 goal or the number that you're shooting for. I wanted  
26 to see a little bit more information on that.

27  
28 MR. TAYLOR: I think what you're asking  
29 for, Taqulik, is what are the recovery criteria, when  
30 would this bird be considered in terms of de-listing  
31 from threatened to a non-threatened status. I asked  
32 for a representative from our Endangered Species  
33 Office. Unfortunately I don't think they were able to  
34 show up. I do have a name because I gave that office a  
35 heads up that there could be some questions relative to  
36 Yellow-Billed Loons or Spectacled Eiders. I'll pass  
37 that on to you and Todd in terms of the name in terms  
38 of trying to ask questions about trying to get an  
39 answer on what are the recovery criteria.

40  
41 I know that given the increase on the  
42 Y-K Delta that population is doing quite well. The  
43 Arctic Coastal Plain population is not doing as well.  
44 There are recovery criteria in terms of numbers of  
45 birds and population trend if I remember correctly, but  
46 it would be best answered by an endangered species  
47 biologist.

48  
49 Steller's Eiders were listed as  
50 threatened in 1997 and closed to hunting. They are

1 sparsely distributed across the Arctic Coastal Plain.  
2 The highest density of breeding birds occurs near  
3 Barrow. Our best estimate for the Alaska breeding  
4 population, which is the population listed as  
5 threatened, not the world population, somewhere between  
6 500 and 600 individuals. Given the small numbers of  
7 birds, we really do not have a good idea of what the  
8 population trend is doing right now in Alaska.

9

10                   Again, the Alaska breeding population  
11 is there on the Arctic Coastal Plain and the North  
12 Slope of Alaska. Significant numbers of birds that  
13 also nest in Russia. The wintering areas along the  
14 Alaska Peninsula out into the Aleutian Islands and as  
15 well as Kodiak, as well as Russia.

16

17                   We estimate Steller's Eiders again by  
18 our Arctic Coastal Plain survey that extends from  
19 Wainwright all the way over to Kaktovik. Because we  
20 count very low numbers of birds you can see that our  
21 population estimates have a high degree of variability  
22 in them. Given that three-year average line you can  
23 see the significant highs and lows and that's because  
24 we count very few numbers of birds, so it's virtually  
25 impossible to do a population trend. Our best estimate  
26 is somewhere between 500 and 600 birds in Alaska.

27

28                   Myron.

29

30                   MR. NANENG: Regarding the Steller's  
31 Eiders, are you involved in any way with the plans to  
32 reintroduce Steller's Eiders to the Y-K Delta?

33

34                   MR. TAYLOR: I am not personally.  
35 Julian Fischer in the Anchorage project or waterfowl  
36 field station is. Dan Rosenberg also sits on the  
37 recovery team. I am not, but I am aware of the  
38 potential interest and efforts to reintroduce those  
39 birds on the Y-K Delta.

40

41                   MR. ROWLAND: One of the thoughts that  
42 came to my mind was the population decline of that  
43 Eider and I'm wondering if you have any knowledge about  
44 whether or not any studies have been done related to  
45 sodium lights in the Bering Sea on the Aleutian Islands  
46 related to those Eiders flying into them in the  
47 evenings and whether or not you guys have any data  
48 about populations that have dropped because of those  
49 sodiums.

50

1 MR. TAYLOR: No, I do not have it  
2 either for the Eider species or for other sea birds. I  
3 know there's counts of significant numbers of birds to  
4 the point where they've actually caused ships to sink  
5 if you look at the historical record in terms of the  
6 numbers of birds colliding with offshore vessels  
7 because of lights, but I don't really have any  
8 estimates for Eiders.

9  
10 MR. ROWLAND: So in order to address an  
11 issue like that I'm sure I could put a proposal in, but  
12 I think it might make sense if we have a discussion  
13 about how important it is to the survival of the birds  
14 and if we have an expert like yourself helping us out  
15 with how to format a proposal to reduce the amount of  
16 deaths caused by sodiums, I think it might be really  
17 beneficial to the bird population.

18  
19 MR. TAYLOR: You know, if you go back  
20 to why the Steller's and Spectacled Eiders were listed  
21 under the Endangered Species Act, I'm sure all factors  
22 of mortality from collision to oil spills to  
23 contaminants to predation, those factors were  
24 considered in listing that bird. Again, I can't -- I  
25 haven't read the document, so I can't say how it  
26 factored in. Certainly if you look at the record,  
27 there may be interest in terms of trying to get better  
28 information, but I'm not familiar with the literature  
29 to give you a good idea.

30  
31 All right. I'll move on to the last  
32 species, Yellow-Billed Loons. The nesting populations  
33 distributed from the Canning River to Point Lay. They  
34 also nest on St. Lawrence Island in Seward Peninsula.  
35 Our best estimate 3-4,000 birds nest on the Arctic  
36 Coastal Plain every year and the current population is  
37 showing a positive population growth, about 2 percent  
38 per year. They were closed to subsistence harvest  
39 since 2003. In March 2009, the species was considered  
40 warranted but precluded under the Endangered Species  
41 Act for listing.

42  
43 As I said, probably the best estimate  
44 of the population comes from the State of Alaska in  
45 terms of our estimates and our surveys. Three to four  
46 thousand birds. When you look at the other areas where  
47 these birds breed and nest, Canada the estimate is 12-  
48 20,000. Again, the information is quite a range in  
49 terms of that population. It's even worse for Russia  
50 in terms of an estimate 5-8,000 birds. So the best

1 estimate worldwide 20-32,000 birds.

2

3                   We again use the Arctic Coastal Plain  
4 Survey to estimate to provide a population index. In  
5 terms of the index in 2012, around 1,400 birds. When  
6 you consider that we survey about 50,000 of the  
7 breeding range and that we see about 80 percent of the  
8 birds, probably the visibility detection, so we  
9 probably miss around 20 percent. Our estimate is  
10 somewhere around 3,400-3,500 birds.

11

12                   With that, I don't know if there's any  
13 more questions. Again, I encourage you that if you  
14 would like a regional talk or a talk specific to your  
15 region, if you would like what Myron mentioned, a  
16 summary of all the surveys that we do, I certainly  
17 would try to do that. Also this presentation, please  
18 feel free, I've got pretty thick skin, if there's  
19 information that you would like to hear that you didn't  
20 see presented today, please feel free to give me a call  
21 or send me an email. There's always a balance between  
22 how long I sit at the podium versus you're not getting  
23 the information that you need. I certainly can put  
24 together a presentation on the types of surveys, when  
25 we do them and why we do them as well as try to make  
26 the talk in terms of region specific.

27

28                   MR. DEVINE: I just wanted to touch on  
29 Rick's question. Well, 37 years of fishing in the  
30 Shumagins, the only birds I've seen on deck was Storm-  
31 Petrels and Kenugies (ph), but I've got reports from  
32 other people who used to fish in the Bering Sea that  
33 when they go through Unimak Pass the decks used to load  
34 up with birds because of them striking the sodiums.

35

36                   Indigenous people, we're smart enough  
37 to shut the lights off if the deck starts filling up,  
38 but if you have someone coming from a western state  
39 who's on a boat and don't know, the deck could be  
40 loaded before the skipper wakes up. I mean as far as  
41 bird strikes in our region, we try to prevent it. If  
42 we're coming up on a hotspot, we shut the lights off.  
43 Sodiums are more or less for protection to see where  
44 the waves are coming from. We have smaller lights that  
45 we could turn on. Maybe something like a fog light  
46 they could turn on instead of sodiums. Then again,  
47 who's going to tell them they can't have their lights  
48 on. I don't know if you would go through the Coast  
49 Guard to get a regulation like that, no lights after  
50 dark. That was all.

1 MR. TAYLOR: It's a good point. There  
2 are some mitigating measures that could be taken  
3 whether it's the color of the bulb or taking the light  
4 and shining it downward as opposed to shining it out.  
5 When we worked with British Petroleum on their  
6 Northstar project in the island that was offshore, we  
7 were concerned with bird strikes and were able to work  
8 with British Petroleum in terms of the lights  
9 surrounding their island so that they would point  
10 downward as opposed to out. You're always balancing  
11 human safety versus bird strikes and wildlife issues,  
12 so obviously safety trumps bird strikes in this case.  
13 So there's a balance though and I think there was some  
14 good agreement on both sides and some benefit.

15  
16 MR. DEVINE: I did see on that new ship  
17 they took up north that the lights were different. I  
18 mean they're blue, not like the regular sodiums. The  
19 whole ship was surrounded with different color lights,  
20 so that must have been one of the measures that they  
21 took to deter that.

22  
23 MR. ROWLAND: Eric, I have one last  
24 question. Appreciate all the information that you  
25 always share with us. When I was down south I was  
26 doing a presentation at Oregon about marine debris and  
27 they had that tsunami over there in Japan and that  
28 marine debris is coming, so that might be something to  
29 look at how it might affect the habitat potential in  
30 the north coast.

31  
32 The question I have is down there I saw  
33 a graph that was presented that showed the -- it was  
34 about fisheries. It was commercial use. It was about  
35 personal use and it was sports use. It was a good  
36 presentation of how the fisheries were used in the  
37 state of Alaska. I'm wondering if you know of where we  
38 could find some information that talks not about the  
39 populations but who in those populations are taking  
40 what. Like, for example, all the Ducks Unlimited that  
41 are flying up or those big-time hunters that go to Cold  
42 Bay and whack all those geese over there. Who's taking  
43 the big populations. I wonder if you could tell us  
44 where to find that. How many subsistence hunters are  
45 taking in comparison in one graph. Where could we find  
46 that information?

47  
48 MR. TAYLOR: It's a complex question.  
49 A good question, one that's going to take a myriad of  
50 references and reports to come up with it. For example

1 Liliana with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
2 should have estimates in terms of at least to give you  
3 some idea of the number of subsistence hunters. There  
4 is the Pacific Flyway data book that I can provide you  
5 the URL site, the internet site where you can download  
6 a copy of it. That provides harvest estimates for many  
7 of the species that you would be interested in.

8  
9 There's what's called the HIP survey, a  
10 harvest program through the Fish and Wildlife Service  
11 that would also provide or shed some light in terms of  
12 numbers of hunters by state. Then there's something  
13 called a Wing Bee that occurs in all four Flyways and  
14 that gives us harvest estimates, species makeup, age  
15 and sex composition for the species that are harvested.

16  
17  
18 So I can provide you either the reports  
19 themselves or where you can get them to actually start  
20 to tease apart that information. It's not one-stop  
21 shopping unfortunately. You'll have to look at several  
22 documents. Thank you.

23  
24 MS. HEPA: Do you have any idea looking  
25 at the White-Fronted Goose increase what is the cause  
26 of that or what's contributing to the great increase in  
27 these geese?

28  
29 MR. TAYLOR: You know, I don't,  
30 Taqulik. It is interesting that both the Pacific  
31 Greater White-Fronted Goose population that nest on the  
32 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta as well as the Mid-Continent  
33 White-Fronted Goose population that nest on the North  
34 Slope and Arctic Canada as well as the boreal Interior  
35 Region. Both of those populations of White-Fronted  
36 Geese are showing very similar, very parallel trends in  
37 terms of population increases.

38  
39 Favorable habitat, favorable climate  
40 would probably be as well as favorable wintering  
41 habitats and abundance of agricultural crops so that  
42 birds have good breeding conditions and when they  
43 winter ample food resources and both in availability  
44 and high nutritional quality so that when birds return  
45 they're in excellent body condition. Consequently they  
46 turn around and lay a large clutch and have good  
47 production.

48  
49 I am guessing and I don't know, but if  
50 I had to guess both conditions in breeding areas and

1 wintering areas I think are favorable both for the  
2 birds that winter in California that Ron alluded to in  
3 terms of agricultural resources that they use as well  
4 as the birds that winter in Texas, Louisiana and Mexico  
5 for the Mid-Continent. I would say very favorable  
6 wintering conditions probably would be the top answer.  
7

8 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thanks, Eric. Dan,  
9 your name was on the agenda for the presentation. Did  
10 you have anything to add?  
11

12  
13 MR. ROSENBERG: Only if people have  
14 questions I'd be happy to try to address those, but I  
15 didn't want to jump in.  
16

17 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you. Thanks,  
18 Eric. How are we doing? Do we need a quick break?  
19 Let's take a quick break. Let's get back at quarter  
20 after.  
21

22 (Off record)

23  
24 (On record)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I'll ask the Council  
27 members to take their seats. We'll reconvene. We're  
28 at Item 12(b), AMBCC harvest surveys, Liliana Naves.  
29 You have a presentation for us.  
30

31 MS. NAVES: My name is Liliana Naves.  
32 I work for the Division of Subsistence for the Alaska  
33 Department of Fish and Game. I'm the statewide  
34 coordinator of the Harvest Assessment Program of the  
35 AMBCC. There are a few topics I would like to  
36 communicate today.  
37

38 One of them to start with is a brief  
39 presentation. That's an overview, big picture showing  
40 numbers for total birds for harvest for both the  
41 subsistence hunt and the sport hunt for the whole  
42 state. This presentation today is a follow up on the  
43 decision they had made in a previous meeting that in  
44 the fall meeting we would have some sort of  
45 presentation on harvest data to relay information, to  
46 facilitate communication.  
47

48 This is a very big picture here today.  
49 For this presentation I will use the terms rural and  
50 urban, but this is not by law, the terms that I usually

1 use for the management for migratory birds, but it will  
2 simplify the communication here. The rural pretty much  
3 overlap with areas of the state that are eligible for  
4 the subsistence harvest of migratory birds and the  
5 urban areas roughly overlap with the areas that are not  
6 eligible for the subsistence harvest. They are only  
7 eligible for the sport hunt season that starts on 1st  
8 September.

9  
10 Starting with the subsistence harvest  
11 in general, all resources together. So the yearly  
12 subsistence harvest is estimated at 38.3 million edible  
13 pounds. So here we're talking about edible pounds.  
14 This is very common when talking about subsistence  
15 harvest. Soon we'll switch to number of birds, but  
16 here it's edible pounds per year.

17  
18 So on that colored bar on the left side  
19 we have the proportion of the different categories of  
20 resources, making up the data 38 million edible pounds.  
21 So salmon and other fish accounts for more than half of  
22 all subsistence harvest in the state. Birds and eggs  
23 together account for 3 percent of the yearly harvest or  
24 1.2 million edible pounds per year. So these numbers  
25 come from the recent overview produced by the Division  
26 of Subsistence and this is mostly work by Jim Fall.

27  
28 Seeing it all together like that it may  
29 look as birds and eggs are a small part of the pie, but  
30 birds are very important because they are mostly  
31 harvested in the spring. It was a critical time when  
32 all their subsistence resources are many times not  
33 available yet. Also the bird hunt has very important  
34 cultural and social impacts on the communities. Also  
35 birds bring the diversity to the diet.

36  
37 Going to numbers of birds, I would like  
38 to show some preliminary results on statewide harvest  
39 estimates for Alaska and then how Alaska fits with the  
40 whole of Pacific Flyway. I break up Alaska harvest by  
41 geographic areas, rural and urban, not by season right  
42 now. So rural roughly applies to the part of the state  
43 that are eligible for the bird subsistence harvest and  
44 for these areas the estimates of both the spring and  
45 summer subsistence season and the fall sport season.  
46 Urban applies only for parts of the state that are not  
47 eligible for the subsistence harvest and estimates for  
48 this area though only go over the fall season.

49  
50 To put this information together I use



1 four main categories of surveys. Naturally, the AMBCC  
2 survey that started in 2004 and is an ongoing program  
3 that go over the rural areas. The regions surveyed in  
4 this program are the colored blocks in that table, so  
5 you can see that there's a bunch of gaps and I used  
6 data from surveys conducted by the Division of  
7 Subsistence, the University, consulting companies,  
8 Native organizations, to fill some of those gaps. So  
9 it was a second degree of certain information that I  
10 used.

11  
12 Then I also used data from the sport  
13 hunt survey conducted by the Division of Wildlife  
14 Conservation of Fish and Game between 1971 and '97 for  
15 the fall and also information from the HIP survey that  
16 was first implemented in Alaska in 1998 that replaced  
17 the survey that was done by the Wildlife Conservation  
18 Division. So those two surveys on the bottom there go  
19 over fall only.

20  
21 This pie chart is for the rural areas  
22 is the average year harvest. All birds together and  
23 all seasons together, they estimate it's close to  
24 343,000 birds per year. On the map we have the  
25 breakdown by regions. About the 140,000 birds annually  
26 in the Y-K Delta 61,000 in the Bering Strait Norton  
27 Sound, 41,000 in Interior Alaska and so forth.

28  
29 So we have five regions and this is on  
30 the pie chart there. The Y-K Delta, Bering Strait,  
31 Interior, Bristol Bay and Northwest Arctic, those five  
32 main regions account for 88 percent of bird harvest in  
33 the whole state in the rural areas.

34  
35 MR. ROWLAND: On your handout I see it  
36 says 2011 draft subsistence harvest estimates.

37  
38 MS. NAVES: Yes.

39  
40 MR. ROWLAND: But then up here it says  
41 average yearly harvest rural areas. So now are you  
42 considering this estimates or actual data?

43  
44 MS. NAVES: Oh, the estimates are  
45 calculated based on what people report on their survey.  
46 So everything comes from same data. So in the surveys  
47 people report a number of birds harvest, but the  
48 surveys don't go over all households in all areas of  
49 the state, so we use the number of reported birds and  
50 expanded that to the households not surveyed within a

1 village, within a subregion and then the region.

2

3 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. So this is  
4 estimate too then.

5

6 MS. NAVES: Yes. So this is for a  
7 presentation just after this. This is for the 2011.  
8 So another thing about those estimates for the AMBCC  
9 survey is that although the regulations refer to  
10 migratory birds, the AMBCC survey also includes grouse  
11 and ptarmigan that are not migratory and grouse and  
12 ptarmigan are included in those numbers.

13

14 So those bars show a breakdown of the  
15 rural harvest by season. So a spring and summer  
16 harvest in the subsistence season accounts for an  
17 average 70 percent of the yearly harvest. This is the  
18 gray part of those bars. And 30 percent occurs during  
19 the fall sport season although subsistence hunters  
20 don't perceive their harvest as a sport. So this is  
21 just for the rural areas.

22

23 This graph shows the statewide harvest.  
24 Here comes a new piece of information. That's the  
25 harvest in the urban areas that show in blue. You have  
26 the urban harvest in blue and the rural in green. The  
27 estimate now is for the whole state. For the whole  
28 state the average is about 400,000 birds per year. The  
29 rural harvest, as you saw in a couple slides ago, is  
30 about 343,000 birds per year, so 86 percent of the  
31 state total and the urban harvest 55,500 birds per year  
32 accounts for 14 percent of the state total bird  
33 harvest.

34

35 Now putting the state with the whole  
36 Pacific Flyway, the state harvest show in blue on those  
37 bars and the whole Pacific Flyway, or better, all the  
38 other states but Alaska of the Pacific Flyway are shown  
39 in red. So, on average, the harvest of birds on the  
40 Pacific Flyway is about 4 million birds per year.  
41 Alaska as a whole accounts for 10 percent of the Flyway  
42 total and all the other states together for 2.5 million  
43 birds per year represents 90 percent of the total  
44 Flyway. So this is for total birds.

45

46 When we're looking at the species  
47 level, we might find that Alaska may account for pretty  
48 much the whole harvest of a single species such as  
49 Emperor Goose and other sea ducks that do not occur or  
50 are not harvested in other states of the Pacific

1 Flyway. The contrary also is true for some species  
2 that are harvested in large numbers in the other  
3 states, Alaska may only be 10 percent.

4  
5 So to address specific questions we  
6 needed to look at another level in the data and go with  
7 species specific. For the big picture I think 10  
8 percent of the Pacific Flyway harvest occurs in Alaska.  
9 Do you have questions or comments.

10  
11 MS. HEPA: I do. On that one can you  
12 just -- do you know what the bulk of the take is for  
13 the urban -- or the other states?

14  
15 MS. NAVES: Oh, no, I don't have right  
16 now here the breakdown of other states. Do you  
17 have.....

18  
19 MR. OATES: Primarily Dabbling Ducks.

20  
21 MS. NAVES: Is there a breakdown by  
22 state? Are there states that account for most of the  
23 take?

24  
25 MR. TROST: A dangerous thing at my age  
26 to rely on memory, but at least 50 percent of the  
27 Flyway harvest occurs in the single state of California  
28 and the bulk of the harvest is geese and Dabbling Ducks  
29 and we don't shoot that many Diving Ducks in the  
30 Flyway. Following California, the states of harvest  
31 are Oregon and Washington, basically the coastal states  
32 kill the vast majority of waterfowl.

33  
34 MR. ROWLAND: Now of that 400,000 in  
35 Alaska do you have information that says how many of  
36 those are sports hunters and how many of those are  
37 sport hunters that have come up from the Lower 48?

38  
39 MS. NAVES: No, I don't have a  
40 breakdown for out of state. I'm not sure that this is  
41 an easy thing to answer because in the HIP survey  
42 report it shows by state, so it's really difficult to  
43 get the breakdown. The estimates are at state level,  
44 so to get any other breakdown we need to work with Dan  
45 to ask for that. Then it's going to be based on the  
46 registration on their HIP enrollment. When you buy a  
47 State Duck Stamp, you provide that information, but  
48 it's not much. I look at HIP enrollment and it's not  
49 much at least as enrollment. I don't know what this  
50 paper is taking as number of birds, but the proportion

1 of enrollment of the states is small.

2

3 MR. ROWLAND: But you're saying you  
4 don't have that information.

5

6 MS. NAVES: No. I was just referring  
7 to the proportion of enrollment. No more questions on  
8 this?

9

10 MR. DEVINE: Not on this one. Peter  
11 Devine here. Can we go back to that previous graph.

12

13 MS. NAVES: This one?

14

15 MR. DEVINE: No. There was another  
16 one. There you go. I don't agree. That 12,170. That  
17 would mean each one of my villages is consuming 1,000  
18 birds. I've pointed this out before that whatever  
19 strategy you guys are using is not correct because of  
20 my 12 villages three of them only have 30 people. I  
21 just don't agree with those numbers. I could identify  
22 all 10 people who hunt in Sand Point and tell you how  
23 many birds. It's probably under 200 birds that we take  
24 in our village. Just because we have a seafood plant  
25 with 600 people in it, that makes our numbers go up.  
26 The same thing with Unalaska. They've got 5-10,000  
27 people out there in the cannery and makes our numbers  
28 go up. We know we are not consuming that much. I'm in  
29 disagreement.

30

31 MS. NAVES: So I'm looking here Peter  
32 at the 2011 draft report. It has total birds for all  
33 the regions, all the years. So one problem we have in  
34 the Aleutians is that we only had 2.5 years of survey  
35 there, so it's scant data. The total birds for 2005,  
36 the estimate was almost 17,000 birds and for 2007 it  
37 was 7,300 birds and for 2008 it was 7,500 birds. All  
38 this for the villages. Unalaska had only one survey in  
39 one year and you had 760 birds estimated for harvest in  
40 Unalaska. So these are the numbers that we have from  
41 the previous years and probably what's driving the  
42 average there to 12,000 is this year that you had  
43 almost 17,000 plus the other two years, which was  
44 around 7,500. So maybe it's 2005 there that's driving  
45 this average.

46

47 In Unalaska, people that are not  
48 permanent resident of a place, for instance the group  
49 quarters, they don't enter in the calculations. Those  
50 people don't participate in the survey and they don't

1 enter in the estimate, so it's unlikely that this is  
2 causing inflated numbers there. So I don't know. We  
3 can go back to this data and look again and see what's  
4 going on there, but this is the data we have from  
5 previous surveys.

6

7 MR. DEVINE: Well, just looking at our  
8 12,000 versus Kodiak's, I mean Kodiak has a heck of a  
9 lot more people than us, so how could their number be  
10 lower than ours, which has less people.

11

12 MS. NAVES: Kodiak is another area that  
13 the survey has met difficulties. It also has only two  
14 years of survey for Kodiak. So in 2006 -- and Kodiak  
15 is broken into villages and the city and road  
16 connected. So estimate for the villages in 2006 is  
17 5,500 birds and in 2010 for the villages is almost  
18 2,000 birds. For Kodiak city and road connected only  
19 have one year of data 2010 with almost 5,000 birds.  
20 So, for Kodiak, the whole thing together there, the  
21 only year that you have data for both the villages and  
22 the road connected is about 7,000 birds.

23

24 MR. HICKS: Liliana, do the numbers  
25 include eggs? Your data compiles all birds, seabirds,  
26 eggs, ducks, geese?

27

28 MS. NAVES: No, those numbers are only  
29 birds. Eggs are presented in separate tables and  
30 they're not included there. This is just total birds,  
31 all birds combined.

32

33 MR. HICKS: When you say birds, you're  
34 talking about ptarmigan, geese, owl.

35

36 MS. NAVES: Everything.

37

38 MR. HICKS: Snipes, whatever.

39

40 MS. NAVES: Uh-huh, everything  
41 combined. Yeah.

42

43 MR. HICKS: So it's not just ducks or  
44 geese.

45

46 MS. NAVES: No, everything.

47

48 MR. DEVINE: Okay, I have to throw it  
49 out. When the heck did the ptarmigan become migratory?

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MS. NAVES: Well, ptarmigan is not a  
4 migratory bird for sure and the idea of including it on  
5 the subsistence survey was to have a complete picture  
6 of the birds as to subsistence resources. In some areas  
7 ptarmigan are really important resource and the people  
8 that set the survey in 2003 felt that it was important  
9 to capture these birds as important subsistence  
10 resources. In some areas where they don't have  
11 ptarmigan and grouse they're not going to appear there,  
12 but in some areas they're really important. Some years  
13 they may be 30 percent of the harvest in some  
14 subregions. If the interest is to put only migratory  
15 birds, sure, we can put only those species from the  
16 report.

17

18 MR. DEVINE: That would probably work,  
19 you know. Just put a footnote saying that the  
20 migratory ptarmigan is what's driving these numbers up.

21

22 MR. WOODS: Liliana, just for a point.  
23 He has a good point. You know, like in Bristol Bay  
24 ptarmigan and grouse probably take about 10 percent,  
25 probably more.

26

27 MS. NAVES: Harvest of ptarmigan and  
28 grouse, this is very variable by year because those  
29 birds fluctuate a lot from year to year. In some years  
30 it may have a bunch of them and you see that for  
31 Bristol Bay this year in 2011, I mean last year, it was  
32 really important, but other years they are just a  
33 little slice of the pie.

34

35 MR. WOODS: And that is a good point.  
36 Ptarmigan, like rabbits, come in a cycle. Rabbits,  
37 like every seven years they die off and then they come  
38 back again. The same thing with Ptarmigan.

39

40 MR. ROWLAND: So thanks for presenting  
41 us this information. As you mentioned, the surveys are  
42 difficult on Kodiak Island. I could honestly say  
43 there's a trust issue related to those apprehension for  
44 surveys. The Natives there don't feel like they really  
45 want to communicate with somebody about something  
46 that's a food source that there's a potential that they  
47 might be able to get their boat, guns, get a ticket,  
48 get fined. There's not a trust level there.

49

50 That leads me to what I was thinking

1 about. This is a management responsibility that we're  
2 sitting here, co-management. The co-management relates  
3 to the population and having relevant data that's  
4 realistic for the population choices and decisions that  
5 I have to take that information back to the people that  
6 are already apprehensive.

7  
8                   So it makes me think about the  
9 gentleman who came up from Oregon to talk about their  
10 overabundance of birds down there. Like we're sitting  
11 in a spot right now to where we're being told there's  
12 not many birds, but we're sitting here saying, oh,  
13 yeah, maybe it makes sense, there's more birds than  
14 what you're saying. Are we going to let it go to where  
15 we get to a drastic situation to where we're going to  
16 have an emergency order request for managing  
17 populations that are out of hand or are we going to be  
18 able to pass through time with relevant data that  
19 allows us to make prudent decisions.

20  
21                   So, from looking at this, I don't want  
22 to talk too much about it, but there could be some  
23 better effort put into -- whether it's an average or an  
24 estimate or clearer information so that I can  
25 understand it better.

26  
27                   MS. NAVES: In the reports, we have all  
28 the species by year, by season. This is a set of data  
29 that I organized in this way to have a big picture. If  
30 anyone -- these reports are public information. Anyone  
31 that wants to pull any information off of these reports  
32 are welcome to do so. If there is any kind of specific  
33 information that you want to see presented in a way,  
34 you can ask me and I'll work on that. We can have a  
35 presentation that shows different specs of the data  
36 that is in the report in a future meeting. This is  
37 just a way to organize a part of the data that is in  
38 the report and there is many ways of doing it.

39  
40                   MR. SHIEDT: I'm trying to figure out --  
41 you said you used the ptarmigan for average, yet  
42 they're not stable. If they're high in some years,  
43 then how are you going to average out -- you decided to  
44 go an average the year they're low for a couple years,  
45 how are you going to use the ptarmigan in the count,  
46 yet here we're talking about migratory birds and  
47 ptarmigan are not migratory. I'm just trying to figure  
48 out how you worked into that ptarmigan. If we're going  
49 to do a survey, it will have a question on it, I need  
50 to understand. If the ptarmigan are not averaged

1 because they're up and down different years, so how are  
2 you going to average that out?

3

4 MS. NAVES: Well, the survey now has  
5 eight years of data, so this average across years, so  
6 years that are low are averaged with the years they're  
7 high. Understand this is a very large picture. If  
8 you're looking for each species in particular, you need  
9 to put data together in a different manner. If the  
10 interest is to look only at migratory birds, so we can  
11 have a presentation for only migratory birds. My idea  
12 with this was to show how birds in general are  
13 important for people as to subsistence resources and as  
14 ptarmigan is very important in certain areas.

15

16 The thinking since the early days in  
17 the Harvest Survey Committee is that it was important  
18 to capture ptarmigan in the survey, but in the report  
19 we have ptarmigan separate on a line for ptarmigan. So  
20 if you wanted to pull only ducks, it can pull only  
21 ducks from the report. If you wanted to do only  
22 migratory birds, you can do that. They are together in  
23 this number here, but you can put similar numbers  
24 together that don't include grouse and ptarmigan.

25

26 MR. NANENG: So on your average of the  
27 area, you do not survey ptarmigan. How are you going  
28 to compare the average with other birds that don't take  
29 survey for ptarmigan, like Northwest Alaska, maybe  
30 Barrow or some place that don't take as much ptarmigan  
31 as Kodiak area? So how are you going to average that  
32 out with the others that don't take birds? We're  
33 talking about migratory birds. I mean your average.

34

35 MS. NAVES: I think there here we have  
36 total birds and if you want a presentation only with  
37 migratory birds, you can do that in the future. This  
38 presentation here is just for information so you can  
39 take a look at the whole picture and see what's going  
40 on. If there's interest to getting this kind of  
41 average without ptarmigan we can work on this.

42

43 MR. WOODS: The handout you said  
44 separates ptarmigan, so you can pull the data and just  
45 do migratory birds. So you could pull the blue right  
46 out of it and the rest will just be migratory birds.

47

48 MS. NAVES: Yeah, uh-huh. You can  
49 break it down at the species level. You can break it  
50 down as you want. Okay?



1 MR. NANENG: I have a comment. At the  
2 time of the Migratory Bird Treaty negotiations, one of  
3 the issues that came up was that we recognize that a  
4 total harvest of migratory birds by the Native  
5 community at that time is 3 percent and it just comes  
6 up again that it looks like we're looking at the 3  
7 percent total harvest of birds at that level on your  
8 report. One of the comments that I heard back then,  
9 back in 1990s, when we get to the Migratory Bird Treaty  
10 we'd like to try and find a way to keep that Native  
11 subsistence harvest because we did not get into that  
12 terminology of indigenous at that time. They said,  
13 well, we're going to try to keep that Native  
14 subsistence harvest at 3 percent. So it just reminded  
15 me of the discussions we had about this back at the  
16 time that we were negotiating the treaty.

17  
18 MS. NAVES: Is this a question, Myron?  
19

20 MR. NANENG: No, it's a comment to let  
21 people know that that was a discussion item at the time  
22 we were talking about the Migratory Bird Treaty. I  
23 heard from some of the Service people and some of the  
24 people that were on the negotiating table that we don't  
25 want to see an increase of Native subsistence harvest  
26 above 3 percent because that was the estimated numbers  
27 of harvest back then that they were working off of. So  
28 I just wanted to let everybody know that this is not a  
29 new discussion. It just reminded me by the fact that  
30 you're reporting this that 3 percent of the total  
31 harvest in Alaska is 3 percent. So just reminded me of  
32 back in the old days.

33  
34 MR. ROWLAND: Myron, that sparks an  
35 interest in that 3 percent. When you guys had that  
36 discussion, I think it might be a good idea if we have  
37 a discussion that's related to that 3 percent and what  
38 you guys were thinking about, how you thought it might  
39 be able to be an opportunity. Eventually in the future  
40 if we have time.

41  
42 MR. NANENG: At that time we weren't  
43 thinking about limiting ourselves to 3 percent, but  
44 just having the opportunity for our spring and summer  
45 hunt to be recognized by the Federal government and the  
46 countries that had that Migratory Bird Treaty at that  
47 time. You know, the number 3 percent was not brought  
48 up by the Native negotiating team, but was brought up  
49 by Fish and Wildlife Service and some of the members  
50 who were on the International Fish and Wildlife

1 Association.

2

3                   So I just shared that as information  
4 because that was one of the things that they brought up  
5 as a way of trying to keep the Native harvest at 3  
6 percent back then. As far as I know. As long as the  
7 population can sustain it and we have bigger numbers of  
8 people in the villages now, we know that 3 percent is  
9 not going to be the limit at some point. There's an  
10 increase in population.

11

12                   CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I have a question. I  
13 didn't see a 3 percent, so could you go back to the  
14 slide that has that on it.

15

16                   MS. NAVES: No, I think the 3 percent  
17 that Myron is talking is older number from the time of  
18 the agreement.

19

20                   MR. NANENG: You showed it up there  
21 earlier.

22

23                   MS. NAVES: Where? Oh, okay. This 3  
24 percent is relative to all other subsistence resources.  
25 It's not birds in Alaska compared to birds somewhere  
26 else. It's among all subsistence resources in Alaska.

27

28                   MR. WOODS: I think it's just a history  
29 point, Liliana, not a critique of your presentation.

30

31                   MS. NAVES: No, I'm just trying to  
32 understand which is the 3 percent that we're talking  
33 about.

34

35                   MR. TROST: If I could interject here  
36 and having been a part actually as far back as the  
37 treaty negotiations too in all this. The 3 percent  
38 that I think Myron is referring to is if you take the  
39 proportion of the national waterfowl harvest that is  
40 subsistence harvest, it was and still is about 3  
41 percent of the total national harvest. What your  
42 figures showed was only the Pacific Flyway harvest.

43

44                   So, during the treaty negotiations  
45 there were several statements in general made that one  
46 of the goals would be that the proportion of the  
47 overall waterfowl harvest that came from subsistence  
48 seasons would not change appreciably. I don't think it  
49 was anyone's intent either if I can speak for Doug.  
50 That's something I've heard him say too. In a case

1 where population is healthy and growing, I don't think  
2 there's any concern about subsistence harvest  
3 increasing on those birds.

4

5 MR. SHIEDT: So could you come back.  
6 So what you're telling us, the birds and eggs are 3  
7 percent of all our subsistence harvest. We take a lot  
8 of eggs, you know. If you take the eggs off and  
9 Liliana said she don't use the eggs on one of her  
10 surveys to average it out how many birds is being  
11 taken. So even that 3 percent will even drop further  
12 just if we use birds, right, down to maybe 1 percent of  
13 all our subsistence take of all resources in Alaska?

14

15 MR. TROST: That would be true as far  
16 as how much birds make up your overall subsistence  
17 harvest, but the number of birds you take when compared  
18 to the number of birds that everyone else in the  
19 country takes still turns out to be around 2-3 percent.

20

21 MR. WOODS: It'S about 50 percent of  
22 the bird harvest in Bristol Bay. Does that make sense?  
23 My grandmother told me never play with your food, so  
24 let's continue on.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MS. NAVES: Thank you. So the next  
29 topic for discussion today is about the 2010 data. The  
30 2010 draft report was first made available in the 2011  
31 fall meeting and the period of review following the  
32 regular survey time table is that adoption of the 2010  
33 harvest estimates was scheduled to happen in the spring  
34 2012. At the spring meeting this year, the Native  
35 Partners decided to postpone adoption of the report  
36 because some Regional Councils had not met. So now,  
37 this comes back to the agenda to act on the adoption of  
38 the 2010 report.

39

40 Since the first version of the 2010  
41 report was related, I worked further on the session of  
42 methods. So I just brought a few copies to this  
43 meeting and this is how it looks. Since then the  
44 harvest estimates had not changed. During the process  
45 of revision of the data I received input from staff  
46 from Kawerak that a note that the harvest of guillemots  
47 seemed too high. We double checked that answer and  
48 that analysis. We could not find the mistake.

49

50 Jim Fall had the opportunity also to

1 consult with George Noongwook from Savoonga. That's a  
2 person very familiar with harvest patterns in that  
3 area. So to address that a footnote was added to the  
4 Bering Strait/Norton Sound region table, putting a  
5 comment on that and also presented the number of  
6 reported birds. So this was the only notification that  
7 was done in the 2010 report.

8

9 One thing that's in the 2010 report  
10 that's not on other reports that includes a list of  
11 Native bird names for other regions and subregions  
12 using most of the languages and dialects, so this is  
13 part of the revised survey materials. It's not going  
14 to appear on other reports until we have a body of  
15 updates or additions to that.

16

17 I think on the 2010 report there is an  
18 action to be taken if you are ready to adopt it at this  
19 point.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. We've had that  
22 information now for six months or thereabouts. In  
23 April we were given that -- well, actually a year ago  
24 in October we were given the 2010 statewide harvest  
25 survey report with the expectation that we would come  
26 in the spring prepared to adopt the numbers with  
27 caveats. The prerogative of the regions is to put  
28 comments on the tables that represent their regions and  
29 subregions. We deferred until this meeting any action  
30 in order to allow regional representatives to go back  
31 and discuss those numbers, those draft tables with  
32 their regional councils with the expectation that we'd  
33 come back to this meeting with a recommendation.

34

35 Liliana has asked us as a council then  
36 to take action. Basically we're picking up on a  
37 deferred action from the spring meeting. I would say a  
38 motion would be in order so that we can discuss it.

39

40 MR. HICKS: Mr. Chair, I so move.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We have a motion to  
43 adopt.....

44

45 MR. SHIEDT: I'll second it.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: .....the 2010 survey  
48 and a second. Thank you. A motion by Joeneal and a  
49 second by Enoch. Discussion, please. Myron.

50

1 MR. NANENG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
2 think this information -- you know, we have not had the  
3 opportunity to bring it up to the Waterfowl  
4 Conservation Committee and it has not been presented  
5 like we usually have done in the past whenever we have  
6 our Waterfowl Conservation Committee meeting. It's  
7 specific to our region.

8  
9 MS. NAVES: I'm sure, Myron, that  
10 you're talking about the 2010 report because we just  
11 distributed the 2011 report. Are you sure you're not  
12 talking about the 2010.

13  
14 MR. NANENG: Yes. I'm not sure if it  
15 was presented. Maybe I was asleep when you presented  
16 it.

17  
18 MS. NAVES: The report was distributed  
19 a year ago and different waves of the report followed.  
20 I believe that one of those waves hit AVCP.

21  
22 MR. NANENG: So you presented it at the  
23 Waterfowl Conservation Committee meeting?

24  
25 MS. NAVES: No, the revision process  
26 for the AMBCC data is done through the original bird  
27 councils of the AMBCC. There is usually not a specific  
28 presentation at the Waterfowl Committee.

29  
30 MR. NANENG: The reason why I asked  
31 that is that every year especially during fall time we  
32 usually have a presentation of the harvest -- I mean  
33 the bird populations that were counted that spring as  
34 well as the harvest survey that was done -- or harvest  
35 from the year before. The Waterfowl Conservation  
36 Committee usually reviews them and approves them. I'll  
37 take the stance that the State and the Feds usually  
38 take. At this time, even as regional representative  
39 for WCC, I appreciate the report, but I'm not ready to  
40 vote on it until the Waterfowl Conservation Committee  
41 has an opportunity to look at it.

42  
43 MS. NAVES: Myron, I don't know who  
44 makes the presentation or this has happened in the  
45 past. I have not ever made a presentation at the  
46 Waterfowl Committee. I don't know if we're talking  
47 about the same thing here.

48  
49 MR. NANENG: As you know in the past  
50 historically, the harvest survey has been done in the

1 Y-K Delta for about 20-some odd years and then since  
2 State of Alaska took over the harvest surveys we have  
3 not gotten any reports. This information is useful  
4 because of the fact that it presents the estimated  
5 waterfowl population and also the estimated harvest so  
6 that our Waterfowl Conservation Committee knows about  
7 it.

8

9 One of the requirements of the Y-K  
10 Delta Goose Management Plan is to report on population  
11 levels as well as harvest. It gives us a tool to work  
12 with the other states, like Washington and Oregon, that  
13 are having issues with goose depredation on farmlands.  
14 So it gives a better understanding from our people  
15 within the region who represent various villages  
16 throughout the region.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: So we have one voice  
19 that's opposed to approving and releasing, so we do  
20 work by consensus. What would be the will of the  
21 Council now to discuss this further. Liliana.

22

23 MS. NAVES: Just to make sure that  
24 we're talking about the same thing, Myron, you are  
25 looking at the 2011 data. Are you talking about the  
26 2011 or 2010?

27

28 MR. NANENG: 2010 then. Whatever is  
29 going to be provided to us with the 2011 survey. Every  
30 year we get the reports at the Waterfowl Conservation  
31 Committee or we used to. Nowadays we don't get those  
32 reports like we did in the past. I'm not trying to  
33 hold up the process, but I think it's good information  
34 that our people in the villages can bring back to the  
35 villages saying that this is where the populations  
36 levels are for birds and this is how much is being  
37 harvested by the people in the Y-K Delta.

38

39 The other thing too that is helpful is  
40 because some of our lands are within the wildlife  
41 refuges and some of them are within State lands.  
42 People in Upper Kuskokwim feel that they're being  
43 treated differently than those that live within the  
44 wildlife refuge. So that's why it would be good to  
45 present this to the Waterfowl Conservation Committee  
46 for review and approval or present it to the Waterfowl  
47 Conservation Committee for adoption, which we usually  
48 did in the past.

49

50 MS. NAVES: Frank has a comment.

1 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Frank, go ahead.

2

3 MR. WOODS: I think it's in our best  
4 interest that we look at the process and how it should  
5 run, at least in my mind. Nothing to do with your  
6 survey process, but in the past we had come up with a  
7 report and it was pretty detailed. Your '11 report is  
8 well detailed and well put up. I think what happened  
9 last year is we got hung up on those two special  
10 meetings and also the process got stopped. We were in  
11 a pause mode. Maybe Patty can help at some point. I  
12 can't remember if we -- as a regional, it would be in  
13 my best interest to review the data first with my  
14 council, like Myron, before we can actually act on it.  
15 As a board now, we can approve your data to bring back  
16 to the committee. That said, I'll leave it up to  
17 process, Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Well, we do have an  
20 approved process. We approved it probably four or five  
21 years ago and that was that the survey that would be  
22 conducted through the summer and fall months would be  
23 analyzed in the winter and presented in the -- would be  
24 analyzed all the next year and then presented in the  
25 fall meeting. So every year in the fall we would be  
26 presenting like Liliana has presented the 2011 survey  
27 data. So it's 13 months old roughly, 12 months old.

28

29 She's presenting it and the process  
30 that we approved we would then as regional  
31 representatives and as agencies take that draft report,  
32 go back and discuss it amongst our colleagues and then  
33 be prepared in the spring to approve and to not adjust  
34 the numbers but to provide comment and context for  
35 those number. Those would be footnoted in the tables  
36 and then it would be released. The reason that that  
37 process was important was because then we would be  
38 approving data that would be roughly a year and a half  
39 old and that was determined to be about as current as  
40 we could get and go through the vetting and approving  
41 process.

42

43 Now, go back to last year, the 2012  
44 spring meeting, just six or eight months ago, we opted  
45 not to adopt the 2010 survey because some regions  
46 hadn't vetted it and then we said we would postpone  
47 approval until this fall meeting, the meeting that  
48 we're at today. So we extended that review process by  
49 another six or eight months with the expectation that  
50 regional representatives and agencies would continue to

1 vet it, discuss it and come back to this meeting  
2 prepared to make a recommendation.

3  
4 So now we have one regional  
5 representative that's not willing to approve it.  
6 Because we work on consensus, that stops the Council's  
7 ability to approve by consensus. We could do a roll  
8 call vote, but that wouldn't be in the spirit of the  
9 way we try to use this data and apply it.

10  
11 I will say that this information is  
12 important that we get it approved as timely as we can  
13 because it's used then in all of the different  
14 environmental analyses that we have to do to make  
15 regulations for the subsequent years.

16  
17 MR. WOODS: So, in that arena, this  
18 '10, I'll put it in perspective of what I think we got  
19 where we were. The '10 results -- part of it had the  
20 Yellow-Billed -- maybe, Taqulik, you can help me. Are  
21 the Yellow-Billed Loon numbers up there accurate and  
22 vetted by your area?

23  
24 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Taqulik, go ahead.

25  
26 MS. HEPA: I was going to say that the  
27 Yellow-Billed Loon -- we do a separate survey.

28  
29 MR. WOODS: Good. Okay.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Joeneal had his hand  
32 up and then Patty.

33  
34 MR. HICKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm  
35 looking at the action item from the April 11th meeting  
36 and it's just exactly what we have said, Mr. Chair.  
37 The action on adoption of this draft survey was  
38 postponed until, if I remember correctly, several  
39 regional bodies had not reviewed it or needed to make a  
40 change to something. So it was deferred until this  
41 particular fall meeting. According to the motion here,  
42 that's the reason why it was deferred. Had there been  
43 a concern back then that it needed to go to the WCC it  
44 should have been addressed at that particular time. It  
45 is my particular feeling that this action needs to be  
46 adopted and I would recommend that it be adopted. Thank  
47 you.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you. Patty.  
50 Myron, go ahead, then Patty.



1 MR. NANENG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We  
2 had our WCC meeting the day before the AMBCC meeting  
3 last spring and we didn't have this report available to  
4 us at that time. It was provided to us the next day at  
5 the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council  
6 meeting.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. Responding to  
9 that comment and then I have Patty.

10  
11 MS. NAVES: The 2010 report was  
12 distributed in fall 2011, so at the spring meeting this  
13 year the report had been available already since six  
14 months. So the report was not distributed at the  
15 spring meeting. At the spring meeting was the time to  
16 act on adoption of the report, but it had been already  
17 six months prior to that opportunity to review the  
18 report. So, altogether there was a full year for the  
19 review process.

20  
21 I think that's interesting to have some  
22 sort of closer communication with the Waterfowl Council  
23 from the Y-K Delta and if you give me enough notes of  
24 when you're having your meetings I will do my best to  
25 be available for that. If not in person, at least over  
26 a call. But I don't get a word when those meetings  
27 happen, so for me it's really difficult, a kind of a  
28 cat and mouse game, to try to catch up with the  
29 original meetings. But we need to communicate that you  
30 need the information and when you need it. I think to  
31 communicate closer, Myron, to have presentations at the  
32 Waterfowl Committee in the future.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you, Liliana.  
35 Patty, did you have a comment.

36  
37 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: I was going to  
38 add to the collective memory, but everything I was  
39 going to say has been covered, so thank you.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: You have perfect  
42 recall then, right? All right. I'm not going to ask  
43 the question as Chair because I know that we do not  
44 have consensus, so it would be pointless to ask for the  
45 call. Does anyone have an alternative strategy to  
46 recommend. Rick.

47  
48 MR. ROWLAND: I appreciated what Geoff  
49 said at our summit this spring. He said how do we get  
50 to yes. So this is a clear example of frustration on

1 both sides and I'm sure if we sit down and communicate  
2 about it, how we get to yes, we could find a way to get  
3 the information that we're looking for for stuff that  
4 shouldn't be in there and know how we could really  
5 express that information to our area members and have  
6 it presented in a way to where it just isn't numbers in  
7 a bunch of pages, which is difficult for some people  
8 who in my area don't even know what the word indigenous  
9 means. So I'm sure if we discuss a way to transfer the  
10 data and information we'll get to yes. I know it's  
11 real difficult to make a decision right now for me.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Liliana, go ahead.

14

15 MS. NAVES: The reports, it's main  
16 source of information and it has all the detailed  
17 information by species and this is a main vehicle to  
18 communicate information among agencies and the AMBCC  
19 members to communicate the data to the villages and at  
20 the more local level. We have produced a series of  
21 handouts with summarized results of the survey. We  
22 don't have one of those for Kodiak because I only have  
23 two years of survey, but we have one for the Y-K Delta,  
24 Bristol Bay and Interior that are the regions that have  
25 been better covered. I don't have a copy of those  
26 here. I have brought those to the last several AMBCC  
27 meetings and now I stopped bringing them. We can work  
28 on making one. If you have only two years of data for  
29 your region, we can work on that. We already worked on  
30 this product that was designed to have clear delivery  
31 of the information to more the local level. Those are  
32 called the survey overviews, is how we are calling  
33 those.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Given that we have a  
36 couple of members that have stepped out, we'll pause  
37 discussion by the Council. Roy has raised his hand to  
38 address the Council. If you have a good idea, I'd like  
39 to hear it. Give us your name.

40

41 MR. ASHENFELTER: Yes. My name is Roy  
42 Ashenfelter from Kawerak. Would it be okay to pass  
43 this in concept. The reason I ask that is because the  
44 data could be available, it could be passed by AMBCC.  
45 At the same time, in the concept mode, you would give --  
46 I don't know what Myron is talking about, the WCC.  
47 First of all, this is my second AMBCC meeting, so I  
48 need to learn a lot. But if you pass it in concept  
49 based on what Myron would like to do to bring it to the  
50 organization that hasn't had a chance to review it from

1 what I've heard, would that be okay with agencies and  
2 people here. If there are issues that would come up  
3 from Myron's organization in review of the data, then  
4 you could come back and say this is the changes we want  
5 to do or have and then you could finalize it based on  
6 that review after Myron's had -- whoever WCC is. Just  
7 an idea. Thank you.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you, Roy.  
10 That's perhaps a good idea. Does anyone want to  
11 discuss that as an option. We still have a motion and  
12 second on the table and I've chosen not to call the  
13 question. Myron.

14  
15 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman. Back then  
16 in April where I made a comment we're going to try and  
17 get the WCC meeting together about a month later,  
18 however we could not do it because many of our WCC  
19 members go either seal hunting or preparing for their  
20 summer harvest season. The reason why we had the  
21 spring meeting here in Anchorage the day before the  
22 AMBCC was trying to deal with some of the concerns that  
23 were raised regarding depredation of farms in Oregon  
24 and how we could try and get some plans to work  
25 together with the Oregon farmers.

26  
27 In the past, when we've had the  
28 Waterfowl Conservation Committee meeting, similar to  
29 what's going on here at AMBCC where you have the bird  
30 populations presented, the harvest surveys that were  
31 done by the villages or the harvest surveys that were  
32 done within the region presented at that meeting,  
33 especially during the spring meeting so that our people  
34 would know what had happened the previous season.

35  
36 Also, one of the other things that  
37 happened during the spring meeting is that Fish and  
38 Wildlife or other entities, like the universities who  
39 have biological study proposals would make their  
40 presentations of what they plan on doing during the  
41 summertime in lands surrounding our area, so that some  
42 of the concerns that have been raised, like what I just  
43 found out that there's Eider studies that have been  
44 going on for 10 years and everybody thought that it was  
45 a survey of Emperor Geese all during this time.

46  
47 And the people in the villages  
48 complaining that there hunting is being disturbed while  
49 seal hunting, is being disturbed by the airplanes that  
50 are flying around the area. I know we've had a lot of

1 discussions with Fish and Wildlife Service over this  
2 and tried to find out how it could work better and  
3 ultimately they started showing us the airplanes that  
4 they were going to use for certain surveys, which  
5 resulted as a lot of complaints that were brought in  
6 from people in the villages while they're out seal  
7 hunting or harvesting other resources, their  
8 opportunity is being disturbed by those. And we find  
9 out that even if we reported the tail numbers of those  
10 planes or the survey numbers nobody ever claimed that  
11 they were their airplanes or they were using them.

12  
13 I think that issue is now becoming  
14 something of the past because we now know the type of  
15 airplanes that the Service is using to do the work that  
16 they are doing in the Y-K Delta or in our area. I'm  
17 not trying to hold the process, but this information is  
18 good for our people in the villages because there are  
19 other issues that are raised by members of the  
20 Waterfowl Conservation Committee that more often than  
21 not the surveys are good numbers from within the  
22 Wildlife Refuge because we have a Wildlife Refuge about  
23 almost the size of Oregon almost with a few acres less,  
24 but there are other villages within our region that are  
25 within State lands and some information we get from  
26 them and some we don't. Then they start complaining  
27 about various law enforcement issues that come about  
28 with the waterfowl issues, law enforcement.

29  
30 So that's the reason why I bring this  
31 up is that it's good information for people to look at  
32 and knowing the areas where these birds are harvested  
33 and compare what they've had to go through to make sure  
34 that their subsistence harvest of migratory birds is  
35 done without being harassed as some of the people feel  
36 like they're being harassed upriver where there's no  
37 Wildlife Refuge lands. That's the reason why I bring  
38 this up as something I think that needs to be provided  
39 as information.

40  
41 MS. NAVES: I understand your point,  
42 Myron. I'm agreeable about making presentations at the  
43 Waterfowl Committee. I also would like you to remember  
44 that you try to agree on a process to have a time table  
45 to work on the report so the reports are available.  
46 The regular time table already accounts on a year and a  
47 half of delay between collection of the data and the  
48 release of the data.

49  
50 I thought at this point everyone was

1 already well familiar with the process of revision of  
2 the data. I just wish that you had brought this up a  
3 year ago when the 2010 data was first released so that  
4 there is opportunity for that, for this communication.  
5 It's just nice that all the partners keep their eyes  
6 and ears open during the meeting and it can work in the  
7 timeline that we all agreed upon.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Can I offer  
10 something, Myron. Maybe this would be acceptable to  
11 you. Given that there's a need to apply this  
12 information for a number of reasons, by my agency,  
13 perhaps by the State Department of Fish and Game and  
14 other regions, would it be acceptable to you -- given  
15 that I've not heard any other concerns expressed yet,  
16 would it be acceptable if we were to pass this as  
17 approved with the opportunity for regions to come back  
18 and offer context or caveats, observations of those  
19 numbers in future meetings, it's their prerogative to  
20 do so, but the numbers are not going to change anyway  
21 because that's the way our process works. The numbers  
22 come back with comments associated with them, but not  
23 changing the numbers. That's to protect the  
24 credibility and sovereignty of the survey process and  
25 the numbers.

26

27 So would it be acceptable to allow you  
28 an opportunity to come back and provide that context,  
29 but go ahead and support the release of the information  
30 and use of the information?

31

32 MR. NANENG: Yeah, I think we can.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you. So, given  
35 that and given that we have a motion to adopt on the  
36 table and a second, we've had discussion, is there any  
37 other discussion. Rick.

38

39 MR. ROWLAND: Yeah, I appreciate all  
40 the conversation, but I can't support it. I talked to  
41 my representatives in the villages and that information  
42 related to Kodiak, there hasn't been any surveys down  
43 there except for the two. Seeing that information  
44 didn't make sense to how we were looking at the  
45 information, so something needs to be done to where we  
46 can have a better understanding of it. The 2010  
47 information, we couldn't say we understand it, so we  
48 can't say we can support it if we don't understand it.

49

50 MS. NAVES: I don't know if I'm getting

1 this wrong, but for me now the 2010 report is starting  
2 to be such old business that I don't know if I'm  
3 getting mixed up or if our partners are getting mixed  
4 up on the opportunities that were were offered for  
5 review of this data. I think that we always have  
6 multiple survey years going on and I wonder if there's  
7 confusion about which year we're talking about because  
8 this is such old business now. To hear from multiple  
9 partners that there has been no opportunity to review  
10 the data, I'm getting confused.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you. That's a  
13 fair comment. Fred, would you like to help clarify.

14  
15 MR. WOODS: Yeah, I'll help clarify.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I mean -- I'm sorry,  
18 Fred -- Frank.

19  
20 (Laughter)

21  
22 MR. WOODS: Frankly speaking. So only  
23 three voting members on it are sitting at the front  
24 head of the table. Can we call the question? I mean,  
25 number one, like you said, the numbers are there.  
26 Nothing against -- we need to sort out the survey  
27 process for Kodiak. That would be the first thing to  
28 bring to the table  
29 next agenda. That would be calling you, calling the  
30 director herself, and tell you why.

31  
32 Bristol Bay has been actively involved  
33 in the whole survey process from hiring, implementing,  
34 reviewing because we want the accurate science that  
35 you're talking about and understanding. When I first  
36 got to this, the training manual was a day and a half,  
37 two days long with Cynthia Wentworth. A day and a  
38 half, two days of training just to understand a survey.  
39 She wanted me to pass that back to our villages. The  
40 process is responsibility for each member sitting here  
41 is to bring this back to our area. The survey process  
42 that Myron's concerned with, that some people might  
43 have concerns that aren't valid. Yours are perfectly  
44 valid.

45  
46 So what we've asked the State of Alaska  
47 and Liliana on a regular basis is asking her for  
48 accurate, readable data, right? This is the conflict.  
49 I could read this statement. The ones before were  
50 about three pages long with trigonometry and algebra

1 equation at the back explaining how we got to that  
2 process. You're right, I couldn't read it. Nothing  
3 against the Kodiak area, but we need, number one --  
4 Bristol Bay stepped up and said, number one, we want to  
5 be part of the process. Number two, we want accurate  
6 information and readable information so when you have  
7 your meetings back home the people understand what  
8 you're talking about.

9  
10 So, that said, my understanding is  
11 there's only three voting members on this Committee,  
12 right? So, no matter what I say, if I jump up and down  
13 and scream and holler and say what I need to say, it  
14 doesn't matter. It does, but it doesn't.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Well, everyone's  
17 opinion matters and when I call the question I ask is  
18 there anyone opposed and all of the representatives  
19 have an opportunity to oppose. If there is opposition,  
20 then we call a roll call vote. That's the process that  
21 we've gone through.

22  
23 MR. WOODS: Of just you three.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: No. The roll call --  
26 well, the roll call vote is the three voting entities,  
27 correct, but very typically there is a Native Caucus  
28 prior to the casting of that one vote. That's the way  
29 we've functioned in the past.

30  
31 MR. WOODS: I'll leave it up to the  
32 Native Caucus.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: All right. I'm going  
35 to call the question. Is anyone opposed -- Taqulik,  
36 I'm sorry, I didn't mean to cut you off. You had your  
37 microphone keyed.

38  
39 MS. HEPA: No, I was just going to  
40 state this and I think we've said it before that if it  
41 comes to a report that does not contain data on our  
42 region, we don't feel like we need to approve someone  
43 else's region, so we approve the report as a whole  
44 depending on what each region has to say. So if our  
45 information isn't there, it's not really our business  
46 to say that it's okay for AVCP region.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. I'm going to  
49 call the question. Is there anyone opposed to  
50 approving the 2010 report.

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Hearing no  
4 opposition, the motion carries to approve the 2010  
5 report. We are at 4:30. It is time to adjourn for the  
6 day because we have to be out of this building. They  
7 close it up, lock the doors at 5:00, so this gives us  
8 time to.....

9

10 MR. NANENG: Can I make a further  
11 comment, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Yes, go ahead.

14

15 MR. NANENG: I'm not opposed to getting  
16 survey reports from anybody. It's just the process  
17 that we need to have our village representatives  
18 understand that some of these surveys are going on so  
19 that they can be informed. We may be informed as AMBCC  
20 representatives, but I think it's also better for our  
21 villages to understand it because they play a big role  
22 in what happens what you report.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Go ahead, Frank.

25

26 MR. WOODS: Liliana, thank you. Rick,  
27 not to point the finger, but these reports have been  
28 really a big thorn in my region's side for ever since  
29 they started and hard to get it right. It's almost  
30 there. Not quite, but almost.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We're recessed for  
33 the day. We'll come back in the morning at 9:00 a.m.

34

35 (Off record)

36

37 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)



