

ALASKA LEGISLATURE SPECIAL COMMITTEE / SUBJECT FILES 86 / 2

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The answer lies with the people who manage these resources, and the mistakes they made in years past and continue to make in our time. It's about time these problem areas are recognized and we put people on our local, state and national boards, who are cognizant of the problems of the subsistence users and recognize that the people who rely on the land & sea for their food, clothing & shelter are also guaranteed their happiness in life & liberty by allowing their traditional heritage of the hunting & gathering process.

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PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY

BY THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
INTERIM COMMITTEE ON SUBSISTENCE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Nels A. Anderson, Jr.,
Chairman
Representative Steve Cowper
Senator Pat Rodey

STAFF PRESENT

Adelheid Herrmann

PUBLIC HEARING LOCATION

NANA Regional Corporation Museum
Kotzebue, Alaska

Date September 16, 1977
Time 3 00 P.M.

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JUNEAU ALASKA

Alaska State Legislature

House

INTERIM COMMITTEE ON SUBSISTENCE
Nels A. Anderson, Jr., Chairman
P. O. Box 234
Dillingham, AK 99576 Tel: 842-5970

September 16, 1977 - KOTZEBUE PUBLIC HEARING

Representative Nels A. Anderson, Jr., Chairman, called the Interim Committee on Subsistence to order at this time and made a very brief statement. I know that you people have been having alot of meetings up here lately, and I know that subsistence got lost in the whaling hearings. But, we do want to hear whatever comments people may have at this time. Mr. Anderson introduced himself, Pat Rodey and Steve Cowper and Adelheid Herrmann, Secretary.

Representative Steve Cowper One of the reasons we want to hear the people on subsistence is that on the D-2 Hearings on the bill in Washington. I'm involved in trying to put across the Alaska viewpoint in Washington and we are going to make every effort to make sure that D-2 law takes care of subsistence rights on federal land and in order to do that, we have to know what those subsistence needs are and that is one of the main reasons for this hearing today.

John Schaeffer - President of NANA I'd like to make a few comments on what my idea of subsistence is and explain why it cannot be defined to any great degree and try to give you my perception of what is involved in subsistence.

Subsistence, I feel if anything, is a style of living in the State of Alaska and it has to be perceived as such if it's going to be regulated

for the benefit of those citizens in the State that want to live this kind of a lifestyle. The Eskimo people have a little bit more involvement than just the lifestyle and we have tried to show it here in our museum and I think in the whaling hearings that have gone on this has been brought out and it's more a part of the spiritual part of our culture that we have had in the past we feel a closer tie to the land, to the animals, the game that live on the land and provide for our survival. That is the only difference between how the Natives perceive a subsistence lifestyle and the non-Natives and I'm not sure that there's that great difference. I think we look at as being a little closer because we have had 100 years to change from our old culture to the new one and our ties are a little closer to using the land, whereas, non-Natives have 200 years to change in the U. S. and that is the only difference.

The subsistence consists of the use of natural resources by the people in the State of Alaska - it is not a Native issue. We have many non-Native subsistence users. The degree of use may be more - where you can define on racial lines because the bulk of the Natives in the State live in the rural areas where the resources are more available and more necessary for survival. The non-Natives who live in Anchorage or Fairbanks and who move from other states up here to be in an area where it is a little bit more open, more wilderness where they can go out and hunt and utilize wild game are just as much subsistence users as the Natives are, maybe they can get by without it. We have got to

differentiate the subsistence user from the big game trophy hunter. We have a few of those in Alaska, but not many, most of those come from other states and other parts of the world. I'm not talking about these people. They are a different class, they are a different taker.

They may, in some cases, be subsistence users, too, although it is very difficult to transport wild game meat from Alaska to Germany to Mexico City or someplace like that. So most of them couldn't or it isn't practical for them to be subsistence users. Subsistence from what we can see is a use of resources and not just game. Although game, because it is harder to manage is what we look at the most. It's the use in some cases, up here, of the furs of the animals that are trapped to take care of the people when other resources are not available so trapping even is a part of the subsistence lifestyle. It takes you out in the country that we, Alaskans, love so much.

The regulation of subsistence is no different than the regulation on any other game species or any other use as far as I can see. It is a matter more of need. Who needs it the most when a population of species is down? Where there are so many users, you have to regulate it. It's not a matter of regulating color, this is a problem with regulation that people in the State of Alaska have because in the rural area, the greatest user is Native. They tend to look at subsistence use as a Native issue, it is not a Native issue. We have tried to maintain that and the problem is that with this kind of attitude is that we start defining things on racial lines and it is unconstitutional for the State government to regulate on the basis

of race. You can't do it, the feds can do it. And when the State starts to pressure us on racial lines, we have no alternative than to go to the federal government for protection. This is why we worked so hard to get subsistence regulations into D-2 management from a practical standpoint. The management of all game resources in the State should be handled by the State government. We know that. But the State has been unwilling, up to this point, to regulate subsistence use on the basis of need. They want to define it on racial lines.

All the incidents, and I can go over them, that have occurred have been along these lines (racial lines) and it is not necessary. I don't care what you say or what anybody says, it is not necessary in my mind to regulate the game in such a way that the office worker in Anchorage gets the same use of game as somebody who is living out in the bush who has no job that I feel requires it more. The State can, I believe, manage subsistence properly if it does two things. If the Department would dig out the old resolution on priority use of game resources for subsistence that the Fish and Game Board several years ago passed, which was well-written. I think it hit the nail on the head. As soon as it was passed, they threw it in the trash can and if they can find it, they ought to dig it back up and use it as a policy. I think the Board of Fish and Game saw that the problem, the need as it existed and they passed a very fine resolution. The trouble is the Administration of the Department of Fish and Game did not take it into consideration as far as management of game resources. That would work.

The other thing is that the way the Fish and Game Department is structured and where it is located, and the way that we handle the formulation of regulations and the management is a little lopsided. Several years ago the guides became a very powerful lobbying force in the State and they maintained that political power. They have been able to put pressure on the State and the Fish and Game Department so that the regulations are in their favor and no one else's which means that our game is regulated for the benefit of outside hunters and fisherman. Our whole funding structure is based the same way, I understand. The Fish and Game Department even if they might be sympathetic to what I'm talking about that the game should be managed for the use of the people of Alaska can't do it because their bucks are coming from outside license fees and permits and they have got to look to that.

Our society is set up so that all of us tend to have some respect if not total respect for where the dollars come from and this is true with the Fish and Game Department. Their reliance on these outside dollars is enormous and it tends to dictate the way they manage the game. I think that has to be changed, they should not have to be reliant on one source of income because through the guide organizations, and this income from out of state, they are able to influence the Department of Fish and Game too greatly. That should be cut off first of all.

The other thing is that the people of the State need to have a bigger say in what is going on. We tried that with the cooperation of Fish

and Game last year when we had the problem with the Western Arctic caribou herd. After months of name-calling and dirt-throwing, where the Department of Fish and Game blamed the Eskimos for the depletion of the herd and we blamed them for mismanagement. Then, we all blamed the wolves. We finally sat down, and say, hey, let's quit throwing mud at each other and come up with a solution. They felt that they could not discriminate on the basis of need and we said, okay, let us do it and in effect, they turned the authority to issue permits over to the local community and of course, a court decision was made that this was unconstitutional which I don't believe is right because the judge acted on wrong information. The point I want to make is that we need more local input from the local areas. The one way to do this is to delegate some of this authority for management of the game resources to the local level. I know it's not possible to get any further than on a regional basis but I think that is a step in the right direction. It's going to be necessary in order to work with these new parks and refuges that are being formed under the D-2 legislation because all the trend is to regionalize the game management on these parks and refuges. It's going to be done by the federal government and in order for the state to interface with that, they are going to have to do it too.

I think it's going to be forced on us if the legislature doesn't take the initiative and do it ahead of time. If you do it early on I think it will solve a lot of problems. The last comment I want to make is on the attitude of the Department of Fish and Game - their attitude is that subsistence is a Native problem and if they

didn't have this attitude I think we could get along very well even with the system as it exists today but they choose to make it a racial issue and we will continue to have problems if their attitude continues in this direction. It's not going to help anybody, right now we have this year some very powerful U.S. Congressmen on our problem and they are willing to take some of the regulatory management powers of the State away as far as federal lands are concerned. Which I don't think is good for the State in the long run and we're supporting that because of the attitude of the Department of Fish and Game. If they want to make it racial, then we have only one recourse and that is to go to the one body in the U.S. that can regulate on a racial basis for our own protection. I don't think we are talking about just protecting the Native peoples' lifestyle. We're talking about protecting the lifestyle of the people - a lot of the people of the state of Alaska and it should be viewed this way. That's it."

Representative Nels Anderson - "Steve Cowper has a question."

Representative Steve Cowper - Asked about the Fish and Game regulation - when it was and who was on the Board? How can I find it?

John Schaeffer - The Department of Fish and Game should have it. It was prior to when the Fish and Game Board was divided."

Representative Steve Cowper - "How would you feel about the subsistence use priority written into legislation based on a locality. In other words, local subsistence users get priority as to use of fish

and game in their area and you would define subsistence somehow so it evolves around a lifestyle for people who depend on the fish and game for food would receive a priority. Do you think it would work?"

John Schaeffer - "Well, I think that was the intent of the policy statement that was approved by the Board of Fish and Game was if the resource needed to be regulated because of the size of the species going down so that all the users could not continue to use it with very little regulation then it got to the point where you have too many users and not enough - you've got 400 hunters and only 200 caribou could be taken then you would have to break that down and it would be on the basis of need. The head hunter, the trophy hunter getting the lowest priority."

Senator Pat Rodey - "In regard to funding, you mentioned this as a crucial issue in the Department, how might we move away from this problem?"

John Schaeffer - I'm not that familiar with the way the funding works but your licenses and fees should go right to the general fund and not be earmarked for use by the Department of Fish and Game."

Senator Pat Rodey - "One other question. It has been mentioned that Fish and Game should be a title 26 organization much like the Department of Education and free of political interference. It has been kicked around in Juneau, as you know."

John Schaeffer - Well, that happens, and I think our state is probably better than other states as far as political influence on

John Schaeffer's testimony cont.

running the Departments - we're much more free than other states because we're young. I don't think we need to put anyone free of political influence because this is one process where the people can get something in if the bureaucracy falls down on its face. I don't like to see the legislature regulating say, for instance, cow moose. That has nothing to do with management but what it points out is that the Department is not doing their job. The legislature steps in - I think this is a good part of the political process that has made America what it is.

If the game is managed properly you're going to have a lot of scientists working for the Department of Fish and Game who are going to be concerned about the biology or zoology or whatever they're are interested in - unfortunately these people but blind-folders on themselves when they are doing these things and they look at only one aspect of what that species means to the detriment of others. I'm not saying that there's anything wrong with these people - it's true of all of us when we're concerned with one thing, we let other things go and sometimes the scientific type can get pretty powerful - these scientific types - the technicians and very impractical and then that is when it is necessary for people like you in the legislature to step in and straighten them out."

Representative Nels Anderson - Well, John, I have a couple of observations and I wanted to share some of the ideas that have been cropping up from other parts of the State. I think that just about every place that I have been, Dillingham, we had a hearing and a

hearing in Kipnuk and basically the people are saying what you are and I wanted to ask you a question and it is one that one of the people in Kipnuk brought out - He said that because of the ANCSA the Federal people in Washington and a lot of people in our state itself in the Administration think that the shareholders of regional corporations are rich and this for some reason is having a sort of negative affect that is contributing to what you said that the Department of Fish and Game has an attitude that the subsistence problem is a Native problem but then what contributes to that thinking is people are saying well you're a shareholder and you have all this land, etc....Do you have any observations on that?

John Schaeffer - "Well, I think that is a misconception that has been cleared up by many people over the years. The first time people started looking at a billion dollar settlement I think this may have been true but since then there has been enough press and conversation about this that it shouldn't be anymore cause they know how much money the people have gotten from this settlement. In our case here most corporations that are rural based the land has no value except for subsistence which brings no money in so the value is in the use of the natural resource and not in the monetary sense. But it does propose some problems for a few people, I'm sure for instance myself because I'm a spokesman for continued subsistence use of resources. I get a lot of flack from people, some of my own stockholders some from non-stockholders about me being a corporate official with a good steady job and a good income, and, what am I doing taking these resources that other people that I say need it more are having trouble getting, and what I did was

stop hunting..that's contrary to my lifestyle - I grew up a hunter, too, but in order to continue to speak for the subsistence hunter, I quit hunting. I just won't hunt. And I think they're right there is a lot more people who need it more than I do..they can't afford it - they can't afford not to do without the resource. We can talk about figures and we have had studies made that where they have tried to put a dollar value on a pound of caribou meat and it's just not replaceable at this time unless you change the whole lifestyle and I don't think - I know our people don't want to change than much. The people in the rest of the State don't want to change their lifestyle either. What we have to do is bring the management of these resources around to fit the needs of the people of the State."

Representative Nels Anderson - "You know, John, the kind of work that we're doing now is that we're beginning to, at least I am as Chairman of the Committee, beginning to realize that subsistence is shaking out a lot of ways of doing things in the State that I think that people had some idea that we did have some problems but we didn't quite know how to resolve it so this year when the Interim Committee on Subsistence was created and supported by the Legislative Council this is in as far as I know, is the first time we will take on the word subsistence. One of the things I told you about yesterday that I got kicked around on was the attempt to try to define subsistence and one of the first guys that took me on was Willie. To try to define it I have to come to the conclusion based on conversation with guys like yourself and Willie and other people throughout the State is that, to attempt to define the word is going to be a self-

defeating exercise. But we are getting into things that the State of Alaska has failed to really recognize. One is the funding policy for the State of Alaska - I really believe that has to be looked into but it's coming out in hearing people talking about subsistence and it's all interrelated - bringing the authority back to the local people - management authority down closer to the local level. That is beginning to filter out.

The administration as I said yesterday, the administration is recognizing that they have to bring back the management authority down because we're never going to straighten this thing out if you're going to have one person down in Juneau making all the decisions. The attitude problem is something that I think has been prevalent in a lot of minds but has never been articulated like you just did. That attitude has to change, I don't know how we're going to change it but I think talking about it I think we're going to be able to make those people realize that we don't like it and there are a lot of people that feel very strongly about that and I think your idea of getting the subsistence policy that was developed in 1973 reactivated as a real policy of that the Department of Fish and Game uses I think we've got to make sure that they do that and what you have told us in line what we have been hearing throughout the State and it seems to be a commonality of the feeling or purpose on this.

John Schaeffer - It can't be any other way Nels, because like I say, the subsistence issue is not a Native issue. It's a statewide issue, the people in Anchorage and Fairbanks are subsistence users too. This is why it's so hard to define - you can't define it.

The corporate executive in Anchorage that needs to go out and get his moose every year because that is why he quit his job in some other state and moved up here and every year he goes out and gets that moose and has a moose burger sometime during the year and invites friends over for moose is just as much a subsistence user as Bob Yule who is a non-native who lives out here and lives off of the land throughout the year and has no employment who uses subsistence totally throughout the year and the other some of them native people who do the same thing. There are no racial lines unless you want to make them racial. You can't define subsistence as this, you have to utilize game resources 50% of the year. What you're going to do is start excluding a lot of people in the State who are subsistence users. We have to define subsistence user only generally and as a priority for use over other things that we can define fairly well - head hunters and that type of thing. When it's necessary to reduce the take. Other things they keep trying to throw in - the use of airplanes, that type of thing. I think that is a separate issue. It is a method of take and that can be handled very easily by the Fish and Game if they want to do it. It gets to be difficult when they start throwing it in on a racial basis - most of the pilots are non-native - so they make that anti-airplane hunting is a Native issue. It's not."

Representative Nels Anderson - One other comment - "When the legislature steps in and starts making management decisions you know there's something wrong someplace because I really hesitate to pass laws that say you can't hunt moose or you can't do this but sometimes it becomes necessary, we've got a situation right not in

Bristol Bay down in the Peninsula where our moose season starts on September 10th because on September 10th the moose are getting wild and gamey and I think that's what a sports hunter wants, he wants a real wild animal to go after - to go after him so he gets some sport out of it and thrill. But that moose that they killed is not worth eating and it is my intent this year that if the department doesn't do something about that situation, changing that season to August sometime, I intend to enter some legislation to change that season."

John Schaeffer - "This is why I think you shouldn't make the Department of Fish and Game an autonomous organization because it's things like that and it's this dependence on outside funds from the sports hunter so that they regulate by the influence of these outside hunters. This regulating for outside hunters as opposed to someone else causes a lot of wasted meat. This is the type of thing that if the subsistence user in the state being Native or non-Native is the prime user that will benefit from the management of the game resources and the Department of Fish and Game regulates for that purpose then we wouldn't have this problem. It's only when they don't take this attitude the legislature needs to step in. I don't think the problem is when you do it it takes so long to come back and change that legislation which may be detriment to that particular species. If the whole attitude of the Department of Fish and Game is wrong and we can't change it then I think the legislature might as well make a whole bunch of laws and regulate the game because you're not going to do it any worse than they are."

Representative Steve Cowper left to go to the Budget and Audit meeting.

John Schaeffer - This is an important issue to the people in this area because we have nothing else to go on. Most people depend very heavily on the game resources and if they didn't have it they would have to go on welfare because there is no other alternative. We keep our welfare rolls down mainly because the people are able to use our limited fish and game resources that are available."

Lena Sours - (translated by Robert Newlin) - "She was raised and taught how to preserve the meat and whatever greens that grew off this land. The meat of the seal, the oogruk, the Beluga have always been preserved and put in seal pokes - that was the best way that these were preserved. This type of preserving resists the heat - it gets put in oil and it lasts longer. The furs and the sinews of all animals were dried and used by the natives.

When she grew up there were no caribou in the Kotzebue area. The men had to go way up into Noatak to hunt for caribou. The caribou that they caught were all used and dried up and packed into, or taken back. The skins and the sinew were saved for winter clothing. All other fur bearing animals were taken for the same reasons which were also used for clothing. There was no cloth or other fabrics being used by the natives - only the skins were used for clothing at that time. There were no other activities outside of hunting at that time. They worked very hard and had no time for recreation or other type of things during the gathering time..Most of their time was spent in hunting and putting away these resources that they use.

And now she says that times have changed. These have been reversed now from subsistence to the present economy - she says that even the

fish, the catching of fish, has changed. - the fish are now regulated by Fish and Game. If a person had license the fish and game would restrict this person from subsistence fishing so there is a conflict in problem that she sees. Other than fish and game, ducks has also been regulated by Fish and Game, also the bears are being restricted being taken by the natives. She said she seen in her camp, lots of bear. Bear tracks or bear droppings and she said after she left her camp a bear had gone into her cabin. She has a report that her things have been torn up on the Noatak just up the river. The thing she complains is that these bears aren't allowed to be shot by natives even the natives know that these bears are dangerous and kind of a nuisance in camps. She say in order to get a bear, a native has to purchase a \$25.00 tag first so the natives have resisted getting these bears because of this regulation.

Game was used by natives at all times, the fish, the game and she mentions squirrels, muskrats and all the fur-bearing animals were being used by natives. She couldn't understand why Fish and Game are saying that these game are not scarce. She says lots of people are using the staple goods they can buy from the store now, supplementing the Native food. She say that there are lots of physically fit people here in Kotzebue which have lots of food stamps which they purchase or which are granted. This spring she was contacted by the welfare people, she purchased food stamps for one month. She only had these food stamps for one month and she discontinued getting the food stamps because she was paying more for the food stamps than these physically fit people who are just lazy or have been buying booze and trying to get the food stamps for free this is why she discontinued her food stamps. Other people have the

same feeling now about people who are doing nothing in the village and are asking the other people for meat and food. These people have resisted giving the lazy people the meat or food.

She also stated that her feeling that getting one caribou....It will not last long - at the most one or two months. One moose per hunter or per family will go quite a ways but there are people who would come in and ask for meat and being a Native she has had bad feelings if she refuse to give a little anyway. So she gives a little anyway even knowing that these people who have made lots of money and use most of that money to buy alcohol which is a problem in Kotzebue as she stated. She stated that if it wasn't for misuse of alcohol some people would real fine and lots of money to buy food with. This is a problem. She thanks you very much for letting her testify.

Marty Strauss - Working with Mauneluk since last October as an environmental planner, most of my work has been dealing with socio-biological impact due to growth. His statement is attached.....

Willie Goodwin - "I was born and raised here in Kotzebue and I apologize for not having a written statement but I do have a few comments that I would like to bring out on the issue. I don't have a definition for the word subsistence although I practice or I do participate in the subsistence that we have here in the region - from the sea and from the land.

Yesterday's comments will bring out the importance of the whale and the sea mammals that the people use. Some of the comments that were brought out about the resources of the land. However, there

were some comments that were not brought out like cooperative management concept, the state actions resource management for instance, the crash of the caribou herd. Always the state reacted after the fact - then they had some reactions after something happened. They said they had not money to study the caribou which is not true because part of the plan for the resources of the whole state is the legislature which you are part of which allocates money for that purpose and as I see it, it was an oversight on their part for not watching the caribou in the first place.

The federal concerns that we have now, The D-2 lands, whether or not the Feds or the Congress is debating and the Federal Government whether or not to leave that in State control on the Federal lands their resource management. As John pointed out as long as we continue to get the treatment we have from the State, we here at the N.W. would push for Federal control of the resources. Right now the activities that have taken place - fishing in the Noatak, the seining that they do now - there's a lot of people up along the Noatak River. They're hunting caribou, they're fishing, hunting moose. We're in a position now where we are in competition for these resources. By competition, I mean the head hunter, the big game hunter, the guy that has an airplane vs. the people that go out with a boat. Take myself for example, I went up the Kobuk River to hunt but I had to spend about \$200.00 to go up there and come back to get a moose. I still didn't see any caribou. I think that through regulations of accessibility these subsistence issue could be eased or the needs could be met by the people. They would have an equal chance to get the resource if the accessibility regulations were a little bit stricter.

In the cooperative management concept we have made all of our land selections already - all the natives - there's some native allotments that are scattered throughout the State that have to be taken into consideration when the State or Federal governments start to make their management concepts for certain parcels of land for State parks, Federal parks, wildlife refuges for the natives themselves when they start to make their own regulations to fit their peoples' needs. We have to keep in mind that the resources don't know or they don't have any idea of where the boundaries are - they just come marching right across. Take the caribou - they start from Pet 4, they go through the proposed Noatak Ecological Range, they cross the Kobuk Valley National Monument, through the proposed Selawik Wildlife Refuge and in between there is all of our lands - the native lands (native allotments or some of our selections). Our village or regional corporation selections that are within the migration paths of the caribou. The feds know even though the state has control of the resources now they have to take into consideration our land because the same resources use the same habitat which is our lands or native allotments. We have a lot of problems with the Department of Fish and Game. That concludes my statement - if you have any questions."

Representative Nels Anderson - You mentioned accessability - In what context are you saying it - are you saying that we ought to be a little bit more restrictive in controlling methods we use in getting into an area.?"

Willie Goodwin - "That, plus the airplanes - it took me a whole day

to go up there. Airplanes - Fish and Game can't be all over at once enforcing the law that you can't fly and shoot the same day."

Representative Nels Anderson - Willie, is it true that guides have created exclusive areas for themselves that map out the line very carefully and don't allow any other person to go in and hunt in that area?"

Willie Goodwin - That's true. Here in the N.W. there's some guides that have mapped out their own areas that we've never even heard of or seen. Large areas outside of Kotzebue that have been claimed by these guides from Anchorage or Fairbanks areas."

Representative Nels Anderson - One of the earlier comments made by Lena Sours was she was saying that she felt that because of the additional restrictions that were being placed on people that it's getting harder and harder for local people to go out and get or have access to where the meat is. Is that what she was referring to - could this be a problem?"

Willie Goodwin - I'm not too sure - I wasn't here to hear her questions or her points but it probably would have an effect on the subsistence because the guides do have a powerful lobbying force - they could make it tough for us down in Juneau.

Representative Nels Anderson - On the cooperative management deal - as you know we did develop that legislation with your help down there and it did pass the Senate, House and was signed into our statutes. And we do now have the capability of cooperatively managing lands within the State of Alaska in cooperation with the

Federal government, regional cooperations, villages and private individuals. And we've got the system all set up now and all we have to do is get the state to establish some kind of a management policy so that we can take into consideration things like you've been talking about migration of our game, fish, birds - they do use a lot of land and they do go through several jurisdictions - federal, state and private land holdings. It seems to me that we are going to have to diffuse this very intense feeling of that people are getting about competing uses. How are we going to establish the strata of use? Who are going to be the ones to have access to the fish and game? The way it is right now as I indicated earlier down in my part of the country, the Fish and Game regulates the taking of moose to suit the interest of sport hunters and September 10th is when the season is open and this is when the meat starts to get pretty gamey and I don't like it."

Keith Lawton - I'm a representative of the Episcopal Church and the Arctic Coast for the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska. My concern is one that involves the difficulties between subsistence hunting and sports hunting on the one hand and also the great number of pressures that are being placed upon the culture of the people of this area. It may well be that the question of subsistence hunting is but one of many pressures being put upon these people for many different kinds of reasons by many different kinds of groups.

First let me address the question of subsistence hunting or sports hunting. I have lived in Alaska for 8 years and those years were split up by a number of years that I spent on the East Coast. I was able to see when I lived at Point Hope between 1959 - 1965,

the affects of guides who brought game hunters, head hunters up from the lower 48 states who were in competition with the people who used in entirety such an animal as a polar bear whereas the game hunter usually if they are feeling in a pretty good mood might make an extra trip out on the ice to bring back some of the meat for some of the old people in the village. The questions of morals and ethnics which is one of the points of views that I approach things from, it's my opinion that the people who use the game in an entirety stand a much better position before any bars of justice that the universe might have or that nature might bestow. They stand in a much better position than the game hunter who takes a trophy head and leaves the rest of the game on the ground to rot. I have heard trophy hunters make statements that they imply to me that they feel badly about the fact that people who hunt for subsistence sometimes get the trophy head. There by making it impossible for those heads to be secured by those clients of the guides You have people in competition here for a given number of animals of any given species and this is a part of the tension the people in this area are also beset by very high prices for meat. You can go down to the stores here in Kotzebue and pay \$4.10 for a few pieces of chicken. Sometimes that over a long period of time works a great hardship on people who do not have access to good jobs over long periods of time. It would seem to me that some of the people that would be against subsistence hunting would be people who be in a food processing business.

I think you have a lot of things operating in this area of sub-

sistence hunting. There is a syndrome or state of mind that exists in the U.S. and many other places in the world that stands over against the hunter. The person who hunts for their meat - there are many people who would rather think of a human being going to the store and buying food that is being raised for being killed, being processed, being packaged, wrapped up in cellophane and delivered to the grocery store or supermarket thereby to be picked up by an individual who is not a hunter, who is somehow more sophisticated, they might think or stand in some kind of frame or stature than the person who hunts for their meat. I think from the point of view of ethics and morals and maybe one of philosophy and theology there is a sickness involved when people think that if they separate themselves from sacrifice of life that has to take place when someone pulls a trigger and shoots an animal and has to gut it and skin it and has to bring it to their own table...if people are so of a mind that they think that they separate themselves by that by picking up something that has been packaged and cellophaned and processed by someone else, they fool themselves. I have many statements in mind about many people and not just vegetarians who seem to look down upon a person who is a hunter - who hunts for their meat. And to provide their own life by their own hand wherever they may hunt.

I also see over the number of years and that is only 8 that I have been in Alaska, attempts by many different people to move the native culture as well as other people who might live on the land and move them physically off the land. I have lived in Point Hope in the 60's and one of the programs of the Atomic Energy Commission at that

time was to move the people from Point Hope to some other place - they offered places as far away as California and Hawaii as enticements to get people to leave that area. Because the Atomic Energy Commission at that time wanted to make a harbor to test the use of atomic energy for development. Then you have all radioactive debris and fall out and over pressure problems and would create a real problem for the people who are as close as Oogataruk Creek as Point Hope was. But there would also be many other interests who would want to move the people from the land and I think this has already been brought out. This area is great in mineral resources and one of the ways people want to have access to mineral resources - have access to mineral resources is to move the people from the land who own the land or to move them by many different kinds of pressures one way or another so such resources fall into the hands literally of people who have money and the power and access to the ways of development for their own purposes. Part of what I see is the problem that is involved in this whole question of subsistence hunting is power struggles that are between cultures and between peoples who hunt for their meat, that is their life and their food and from where I stand one of the ways that this question can be perhaps not solved but at least helped, for for some of those people who can in federal government, city government and state government to try to approach this whole question on a moral and ethical basis and I thank you for the opportunity to speak today."

Fletcher Gregg, Sr. - From Kotzebue - I have lived nearly most of my life here. As long as you're talking about caribou, moose,

seal,. When I was a little boy we used to be down at Cape Lawson- Pappy used to hunt seal - I go with him. He have to crawl on the ice to hunt seal and I stay with the dogs. When he get a seal I go over with the dogs and we load the seal on the sled. We would be hunting during the day sometimes 6, 8, 10 - just from the top of the ice. Sometimes we get young seals too. And those young seals-the skins we have use for them as seal skin pants. They are waterproof and don't get wet most of the time when you crawl on the ice. They make water mukluks out of them too. Bearded seal they use those for mukluk bottoms. When I was a boy we were raised on seal meat, fish, we'd have seal meat for breakfast, have seal broth, soup, stays longer than whiteman food and you don't get cold because there is blood on that broth. Sometimes we had little hot cakes with it. Mama would skin the seal and sometimes she makes pokes so she can store the blubber into that poke. Dried seal meat or oogruk meat they put them in the poke with the seal oil. That's good - good nutrition. I start in to hunt seal myself too. That's the way we lived when I was a boy - hardly any whiteman's clothes - seal skin mukluks, seal skin pants - no rubber boots. Mama used reindeer sinew for making parkas, mukluks and pants.

After seal hunting we usually go down to Sadie Creek, that's our fishing camp, we get salmon there, dry the fish and sell them to stores for dog feed because there's no snow machines or vehicles when I was a boy - they use dogs and sleds. They use dogs when there is no wind - they use dogs to pull the boat with long line. After fishing we used to go to school when school starts. Kotzebue

has a lot of reindeer in them days. Now the reindeer is gone for awhile until the Caribou came. Then we use caribou skin - the mattress and the meat for our food and the sinews we saved for sewing the back and legs. Caribou legs for mukluks and the hide they made into mukluk soles too - they're warm. They use all of that for subsistence. Now a days one caribou is not enough for a big family for winter use. My wife use to say if you get 12 caribou that's enough for our winter use. That was after we get snow machines. Before we used to get a little more because we use them for dog feed too. The skin once we use for dog feed - the dogs eat the bone and all. Save the head, cook the heads - it makes good broth so does the meat. There was hardly any moose them days - there would be a few strays around and they were closed - no moose hunting then later on when moose were starting to get numerous then the season opened for us and we can get one. Store away and some dried makes good jerky. They don't waste anything - like I said yesterday.

On the waterfowl - they used to come to me sometimes if they can get waterfowl - I said I have no authority but if you if you really get hungry you can get waterfowl - a few for the family - and don't let Fish and Game know about it - cause you got it for your family and don't spread it around - keep it to yourself, that way you won't get into trouble if you keep it to yourself. Sometimes one would come around - Fletcher, I want to talk for a minuter, if you'll keep it secret. I say sure I'll keep it secret. I've got geese and few ducks for you here because you good to us. I accept this and tell no one. That was while Alaska was territorial. Same way

when Alaska became a state - I do the same thing. Sometimes I go out with Fish and Game when I was working for the State as a Magistrate. I had no trouble with the boys they're all good boys. No complaints - I don't know what they get but they keep it to themselves. I guess I advised them not to spread it around but the family got to eat. You get tired of one kind of food. You got to have a little change. Native don't get more than what they should anyhow. They eat, after they when they're satisfied they don't bother with it but when they first came that's the time they get them and I get my share once in awhile. I was Magistrate I take food when it is given to me - it's just like bribing. Nowadays we've got to have something - we've got to have a little more than one caribou per year. If we can get it probably 11 or so would be all right for big family because meat and the chicken and the turkey they are expensive around here. Over \$2.00 a pound and we don't have that kind of money to buy meat.

Representative Nels Anderson - I really thank you for taking time to let us know how you feel because this is basically what we're looking for and it's important to us to let you know how we feel and it is also important I think and I really am glad that you shared some of the history of how things used to be and how things are changing now and I think a lot of people don't understand especially in Anchorage and Fairbanks and I know in Washington, D.C. they don't understand that we don't have a lot of money and that the meat and the game and the fish and the birds, ducks, geese and so forth are needed to keep us alive. It's not a game, it's simply survival and when people try to take this away from us, it really

hurts and the same thing with the whaling problem - that is really a terrible thing and I think the people are going to put up a strong fight and try to get the International Whaling Commission to change their minds and allow the Eskimo people to continue to take whale cause that's the only right thing to do. I'm hoping that this committee will be able to convince at least out state that we have to take another look at what we are trying to do as we manage our fish and game and try to make sure that the people who live off the land have a better opportunity of using the fish and game."

Elvira Downey - From Kotzebue - I've been listening at home to the radio and decided to come down and talk about caribou too because we raised with caribou meat and I don't know how to talk about it but ever we were little kids we start eating caribou. I have large family raised with caribou meat, raised with caribou clothing. I have heard about these meetings about Caribou first time I heard about it I wanted to come down and talk about it because we can't live without caribou. One caribou is not enough for the family, the big family, because I have to cook a big large pot of caribou soup. One caribou don't last about a week in my family as long as I had caribou meat and seal oil my kids won't starve. I was telling the game warden's secretary that when I don't eat caribou in a year, I think I'm sickly now because we were raised with caribou. I think caribou is part of my blood. Since they stop us hunting from caribou I don't see my family eat good no more. We were raised eating caribou even though we were up at Noatak as long as we have caribou meat and seal oil my kids won't starve. Even if they don't have milk, cereal or some kind of

groceries. And we want our kids to be healthy too. And when they get sick I'm always worried about them so I want them to eat good. Since they stopped us from hunting caribou we didn't have much to eat at home. They don't like to eat fish. They're not used to eating fish even if we have lots of fish. I want to talk about caribou a little bit that's why I come down here - I know all the villages, if they had transportation to come down here for this meeting I know they would but I know we're not Eskimos that make money to fly around or anything mostly when they stop us from buying caribou. It's so hard for us Eskimos maybe will just have to start eating mouse pretty soon. Because it's the only one that have no law now. They're stopping us from eating everything, hunting everything. We want our family to be happy and to be healthy and caribou and seal oil are our only health. I could live with caribou and seal oil even if I don't have groceries like sugar, coffee, tea, rice - I could live with only caribou and seal oil.

Senator Pat Rodey - The point Mrs. Downey made is very important because we realize that whiteman food isn't good for us let alone good for anybody else and I think it's a very important point that you made that we do need to preserve traditional lifestyles and diets especially and I wish that we in Anchorage could get back to some of the traditional diets.

Levi Kowunna - I'm from Point Hope and I'm going to bring out my opinions too. I was living in Point Hope this summer and worked up there. When I was up there I went on a trip to Cape Lisbourne,

walked up there and walked back and it took us about 8 days altogether. During that time we saw a lot of game, even saw 13 moose all at one time and I don't see that very much but there it was, 13 moose altogether and they usually run in packs. There was a lot of caribou - we lived off the land - all kinds of game up there. Everyday we saw something - everyday we saw caribou. Climb a mountain and there's caribou over there. Even there's a lot of whales - one day we saw about 80 whales. They try to stop us and they can't do it. That's all my opinion.

Judith Allen - Living here in Kotzebue formerly from Noatak. I'm a housewife and I took up bilingual-bicultural teaching last year. Right now I'm unemployed because of bilingual funds being held. I'm very interested in teaching our children about Eskimo background and the language. This is my first plea to our government to please help us get our language back after all they are the ones who took it from us, the Eskimo race. Last year was the first time here in Kotzebue we had a bilingual program. To me it has been both wonderful for little children and the teacher. I could say this because when I meet my little students on the street they say Hi and they ask me are you going to teach us more Eskimo words? This always encourages me to keep on going.

Another think I want to say today is about subsistence fishing and hunting. I never believe Fish and Game wardens when they say there's no fish and caribou. I say this because ever since I'm born to this world we never lack of fish and meat except for weather conditions. And I've heard Oral stories from our oldest people while they were alive a long time ago they had hard times. That

some of the first Eskimo starve to death. They go from land to land - follow the seasons - like winter is for caribou, spring is for hunting seal, fall time is for fish, summer is for preparing and preserving what you gather in the summer. This is Noatak people's way of life where I was raised. Nobody likes to waste anything and they work very hard in spring and summer getting ready for winter. But when the rules are there it's not much fun and we get headache when the fish and game tell us we can't fish or hunt caribou. About caribou - I strongly feel that each Eskimo needs to feed on it. Last year in 1975 up to 1977 - it was tough for us - families with big families - I tried to buy reindeer from NANA but they said they didn't have any to sell. We buy beef meat sometimes from stores but it doesn't fill up the Eskimo's stomach either forgetting the price. Even though my husband works I had to get food stamps last year because doesn't cover up our needs at home. So expensive in grocery stores just to buy supper for nine people each day without caribou sometimes I pay \$30.00. I'd like to say some things about whaling too. Also I've been listening to peoples testimony too, on the radio - they really say the truth. I'm glad and I'm proud of those people that testified yesterday and today. They really have dignity for themselves. I do understand the struggles like you heard them say in their testimonies. They are telling the truty. The people really work hard to get their whale because that's the biggest mammal we have up here - whenever somebody get a whale from Point Hope, Kivalina, Point Barrow, even at St. Lawrence Island we always really rejoice in our own river villages because we know we'll get to eat that

good stuff again. Even though we've never watched them hunt it. Most of us never watched them hunt it. We always really rejoice over it sometimes we hug each others, that's how much we like to eat Bowhead whale. The person that said in one of the testimonies, I want to pull for her - "When our creator made us he also gave us those animals to feed us." That's so true cause nobody hunt them to get rich or for selfish gain, they get them only for survival and I say this too - they get them only for survival. I've been thinking too when I read on newspaper that the whaling might be banned those people down there somewhere in the Legislature sure don't know what they're talking about. They don't know what they're doing to us Northwest Alaska people. I also remember my little students - what am I going to teach them now? If that banning of the whale - if they keep it up or ban it up here especially because the Bowhead Whale is the greatest animal to teach with. Not only to get it but it makes the Eskimo heart very happy. That's all I have to say and I thank you for this opportunity."

Robert Newlin - I'm from Noorvik. Most of the time I live in Kotzebue - not because of choice but because of making a little money so I can feed my family too. I'm in favor of continuation of subsistence used by natives in the region, on all public and Native lands. Our lands were used by our Native people physically for economical and cultural uses. I've heard stories from the older people prior to the coming of the Western society saying - In evenings the older people would tell stories to the younger group where the best hunting grounds were, how the best ways to dry up their catch. The best meant to preserve their meat - if they were

out on long hunting trips like they used to in them earlier days. People used to go out from Kobuk - walk onto the heads or over the Brooks Range to get skin and meat for their families. Whatever they dry up they pack home. Whatever excess meat they get they would store it underground under rocks and come back in the winter and pick that meat up. These are the things that were taught in the Kazigis. These people were the best conservatives people. They were real concerned that this game - whatever game was in the region was taken rightfully with no waste. I guess doing this and teaching the people in these kazigis was the only means of passing the information to the younger generation. The older people had no written history on their native culture and then the whiteman came and kids start going to school. In the schools the children were restricted from talking their own language which kind of wipes out the culture and the teaching that was done prior to these white people. Like what Mrs. Allen said she taught bilingual and language last year. This brings back some cultural things that was passed on by our ancestors and I'm pretty sure that she was involved in preserving how the old folk and preserved their catch. This type of thing and I'm pretty sure that there was some teaching - that some of this Native culture was on conversation type which the natives now that they see that are misused. The reason for misuse is primarily to the ways that the government and federal agencies drafted up these regulations cause there was no involvement in the natives in drawing up these regulations but with a new cooperative management if the federal and state should select land outside our native

selections. If the natives were involved in drawing up some guidelines on regional level because the state regulations are now drawn up statewide although they are designated for certain areas but like the old people we should get them involved in this cooperative management levels. We do have a lot of designated D-2 lands within our region like Willie said Kobuk, Noatak, the Krusenstern, the Selawik, all the lands outside our regional selections are designated for D-2 selections. I am real happy that if we should get involved in part in management and drafting the guidelines or whatever within these lands. These lands have always been used by our people or by us. We do know that the Noatak people hunt towards upper Noatak, right now and this area is also designated as National lands.

Also we know that all the lands between Ambler and Kiana is designated as part of Federal lands. And these areas are the best land that natives subsist on. We would like to see some language written that these natives be allowed to subsist on these lands. We know that Krusenstern is a very important area because every spring natives from Noatak and Kotzebue spend spring time over there hunting for ooguk and seal for their winter uses. Not only for their winter uses but for all native uses in the region because like I said in my little speech yesterday that all fish, meat, greens and berries, are used by natives with seal oil regardless of how they prepare it. It is part of their diet. It is really important that Krusenstern is open to native hunting because everybody in the region share the catch of these people that hunt in that area. We either trade with the people down here or it's passed on to their

relatives in the other villages which do not get the seal oil. A lot of the seal oil is not traded, it is given - as a native way of sharing their catch with their relatives. This has always been done. There are some techniques that will be lost if this cultural bilingual thing is being stopped because we would like to have our kids being taught of our history also conserving the wildlife within the region. This is part of it. I'm glad we have come up with this museum here, it's part of the history and part of the teaching that these kids come here to see. See the program - I'm pretty sure they have gotten something out of it. When we opened this museum, kids were the first to see this program and I'm really proud of that.

Marty Strauss - I'd like to take the opportunity to supplement the question you had as far as management versus development. With the industrial and subsistence problem colliding with each other. One answer that you had a very good start on was State Natural Resources Planning and Research - Dave Hansen's division has developed an inventory and it's available - a report of the different uses, forest mineral deposits of the land inventory of the state and if this if overlaid by the different subsistence uses that Robert just mentioned of the different areas, I believe then you could come up with tools to start making logical decisions for management versus development.

Adjourned at 12:30.....

DEAR SIR,

Please find enclosed a typed copy of
my testimony given in KOTZELUC
ON September 16, 1977

Sincerely
MARTY STRAUS
ENVIRONMENTAL
PLANNER

BX 256, MANUELUC
KOTZELUC, AK 99752
Ph 907-442-3311

"Get off this land its mine! Well how did you get this land? My Grandfather. How did he get it? He fought for it! Well then I will fight you for it." -Carl Sandbourgh.

I wish to take this time to address the problem of subsistence. In the short time I have been here I have discovered this word, subsistence, impossible for an outsider to truly understand. The closest meaning I have as an outsider now living here, is the ability to live off the land.

I have seen this ability in my travels throughout the world's four corners, Arizona, South America, North Africa; the Sudan in Africa and now here, being destroyed in the name of economic development. This is not the first place where energy hungry cultures destroy another culture due to purposely or absently overlooking the needs and lifestyle of the people now living in the area development is to take place. I am not antidevelopment as my title to some denotes, (Environmentalist), but instead believe in controlled growth. There is no reason to rape the land.

Today Alaska subsistence users are viewing the D-2, issue, mineral exploration, economic development, etc., as threats to their lifestyle. The people have the right to feel this way after past events and the treatment by the government, whether its State or Federal. Rural Alaska is treated like a crown colony being exploited by the mother country.

When a food shortage occurs in this area due to depleting of the natural resource base it cannot be replenished with food stamps. The

stores in rural Alaska do not have the inventory capacity to have the food to be bought. This is caused both by the lack of ready cash and high prices of shipping and food.

The modern world views Alaska as the treasure house of minerals and open land it lost due to its blind industrial economic growth. In its attempt to satisfy its hunger for energy and open recreation land it is also destroying in culture. I question how many people from outside of Alaska will use the Federal lands.

I believe the need for parks is necessary but must not be allowed to destroy a vital part of life, subsistence, here without adequately replacing it. The same problem occurs when minerals and energy development occurs. As the modern world continues to encroach the amount of game for food is restricted; whether it is artificial or natural, with no viable alternative in its place.

Industrial development in this area is not that far away. Several news releases have announced findings of coal on the land; Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Exploration may take place within 7 years and the State has planned ~~road~~^{roads} ~~running~~ throughout this area. Presently they are doing the surveying work to start construction on these roads. The energy hungry world could build these roads in 5-10 years to get at these minerals. Yet few rural Alaskans are aware that such an action is going on that will totally upset their lives.

The trade for one resource for another, human culture vs. minerals, must not be allowed. But it is sad, like other places I have been, as

long as Alaska is a crown colony it will continue.

My last point is that of the price of energy to heat homes here. We, the outside world, have taken a low energy society and created a high energy dependent one. Yet they pay the highest prices in the country even though it is here the energy fuel come from. When requesting funds for research and development to creat alternatives I am told Alaska does not have enough people to justify the high costs of research. I question this!

~~Marty Strauss~~

~~Environmental Planner~~

— Marty Strauss
Environmental Planner

PLEASE NOTE: THE PRECEDING PAGES WERE TREATED
AS A UNIT IN THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.

PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY

BY THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
INTERIM COMMITTEE ON SUBSISTENCE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Nels Anderson, Jr.,
Chairman
Representative Steve Cowper

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dorothy Larson, Staff Assistant

PUBLIC HEARING LOCATION:

GEORGE HALL
NENANA, ALASKA

DATE: October 5, 1977
TIME: 6:00 P.M.

THOSE REGISTERED IN ATTENDANCE AT PUBLIC HEARING

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Winnie Charlie	Nenana
Eli Charlie	Nenana
Colleen Loard	Nenana
Paul Esau	Nenana
Mary Demientieff	Nenana
Daniel Bettis	Nenana
Paul George	Nenana
Joe Williams	Nenana
John C. Gonsazles	Box 320, Clear
Andrew P. Souders	Box 43, Clear
Lawrence A Persley	Nenana
Steve Matthew	1st & Hall Doyon Bldg, Fairbanks
Walter Lord	Box 83, Nenana
Richard Ketzler	Box 23, Nenana
Larry Ketzler	Box 23, Nenana
Victor Lord	Nenana
Henry Ketzler	Box 35, Nenana
Mitch Demientieff	Nenana
Cathy Demientieff	Nenana
Jeff Kennedy	Fairbanks

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NOTE: Mitch Demientieff testified at the Anchorage Public Hearing on November 10, 1977 changing some of his previous testimony noted in this transcript.



JUNEAU ALASKA

Alaska State Legislature

House

INTERIM COMMITTEE ON SUBSISTENCE
Nels A. Anderson, Jr., Chairman
P. O. Box 234
Dillingham, AK 99576 Tel: 842-5970

OCTOBER 5, 1977 - NENANA PUBLIC HEARING

Representative Nels Anderson: We'll call the Interim Committee to order at this time and for those of you who don't know me my name is Nels Anderson, I'm Chairman for the Committee on Subsistence for the State Legislature and Representative Steve Cowper from Fairbanks is also on the Committee and we hoped that other members of the Legislature would be here with us tonight but apparently they had last minute changes of plans so they departed the Fairbanks area and went down to Anchorage. But we are here and we are soliciting comments and your feelings about the term subsistence, we would like to know whether or not the term subsistence should or should not be defined. And if it is to be defined, how should it be defined. We would like to know what your feelings are about the term subsistence, about hunting, fishing and gathering activities and we would also like to know what you think about what the State should do about protecting subsistence hunting and fishing. We have held several hearings around the State and we're hoping that people of Nenana will give us your views.

This may have been a bad time to hold a meeting but if it is a bad time then if people couldn't make it because of subsistence activities then of course we can't blame people for not being here but we would encourage people to let us know how you feel through your representative from the area or write the committee a letter and let us know by letter how you feel about the term because every comment is going to be extremely important and we are going to

be needing your views on this subject. I'd like to at this time ask Representative Cowper if he has any comments before we take our first statement.

Representative Steve Cowper: No comment, Mr. Chairman, except to note that I'm working with the D-2 Legislation in Washington also, so we of course the Federal U. S. Congress is in the process of making a subsistence preference on Federal lands so they've got a problem defining it too.

Representative Nels Anderson: And to my immediate is Dorothy Larson, she is our Staff Assistant for our Committee on Subsistence. Mitch if you would like to start us off we would appreciate it.

Mitch Demientieff: First, I would like to thank you for coming and having the hearing here to give a few of us a (inaudible) opportunity to speak on subsistence and you are correct in realizing that this is a very heavy subsistence time of the year and I know that there a lot of people who are out hunting, people are busy pulling up fish wheels and things of this nature and I'm sure that this has something to do with the light turnout although I don't think that it's - the turnout would be representative of the people in Nenana's concern for the continuation of a subsistence lifestyle.

I think it's, first I would like to address the issue of definition of subsistence, I don't know realistically of the feasibility of the State of Alaska or Congress defining subsistence. It's a funny thing, but I think it's a very conscientious thing at the same time. Let me speak for myself personally, last year I didn't go to work until November, I think of last year and during that time I was very heavily involved with subsistence activities. I got my share of moose, my share of fish and up until the time that I went

in November of 1976 and I worked through August of 1976 during that period of time I didn't hardly catch any fish to speak of. What I could working full time in Fairbanks, 60 miles away, and barely enough to feed dogs and I was mostly feeding them commercial feed at that time which having a job I could afford and did during that time I harvested no meat whatsoever, no moose meat, no caribou, no bear no nothing. The only subsistence foods that I had during that time were what other people essentially gave me from their activities. During August of this year I left my place of employment in Fairbanks returning to Nenana and immediately began fishing and you know getting meat and everything of that nature. So I think if you were to define a subsistence person, for my case personally it would be difficult to do because of the fact that I'm capable of going away, if I should choose to go away to seek employment, that's a very hard thing for myself to do, since who the hell wants to leave home to go to work, you shouldn't have to leave home to go to work. When I'm just as capable of earning a living at home here. Essentially that's what I do when I'm home, I harvest subsistence. There was some concern, maybe it's just been talk around town, but several people have mentioned to me that one of the things that was happening in the State, like I say there may not be any truth to this concern, there may not be I'm not sure.

But there was some concern that people in the State were taking a position that rural people on highways systems have no need for subsistence activities. To this I would like to address a portion of my statement. I think that it would be safe to say that people on highways. The highways system itself have as a whole people have a less dependency as opposed to someone not on a highway or is not on a main transportation system, I think there is a less dependency because of the fact that there are other areas of

employment, businesses would support of a highway system here, truck restaurants, everything that goes with a highway and plus the fact that as far as Nenana is concerned we do a lot of freighting out of here, in the summer months there is a lot of things happening in the Nenana area. So I would say as a whole the people in Nenana have a less dependence on subsistence than do let's say somebody in Juslia or some of the remote areas in Alaska. But that does not mean we are not dependent on subsistence. A great number of people here work seasonally and a significant number of us are not able to gain employment at all. Thus those people that do have the need to live subsistence lifestyle are very dependent on subsistence lifestyle as anybody in Alaska. Towards, that's the comment I would like to make towards the stories that I heard that there was going to be some curtailing of subsistence activities along highway systems. It would hurt us just as much as it would hurt anybody in the State if subsistence activities were curtailed in this area.

We do run into a number of subsistence problems in the State. I talked to Representative Cowper earlier in the day. One of the things that we're most concerned about is with respect to fishing. Right now today we have reached our subsistence egg quota which I understand is set by the Legislature and therefore the people in Nenana are deprived of a source of income. Now, I think that in some parts of the State, and I don't want to address myself to that, at all too much, in some parts of the State I have heard that there is some waste of salmon, people catching the salmon, taking the eggs out and throwing the salmon away. I don't know if there is any truth to that kind of a rumor or not. But I have heard stories, but until I see something for myself and I've never seen anything like that happen, I just don't pay any attention to it but even if it does happen in other areas it does not happen the Tanana River. Nenana, we haven't seen it happen here,

we just don't do that. Those people who fish, some people have stopped fishing for now. They've gotten fish that they need, they pulled up their wheel, I doubt that it has anything to do with the us reaching our salmon roe quota. I'm not sure on the poundage or anything but I just know we have reached our quota.

Now today, I'm fishing yet, I still have the wheel turning in the river, I'm catching eggs and those eggs are going into the dog pot. Our prices this fall were \$2.50 a lb. for those eggs, money that I could use in support of my going out and harvesting those fish and we do run into significant expenses. Outboard motors, are up near \$1,500, river boats are about the same price. The cost of gas is out of sight, so is oil. All the different little breakdowns you have, everything else that you got to have, you got to have cable, you got to have this, you got to have that for your fishing operation. I've got a smoke house down there that I can't afford to put roofing on. You just need a million things to gather these fish in. I think it's very tragic that we would have this opportunity to have an income from those fish while we're catching them and keeping the fish for our own use for subsistence purposes, I think it's very tragic that we'll be deprived of that source of income. Now like I say, I've heard that some people waste but we just haven't seen that around here at all. I don't think that we'll ever see that if a limit for subsistence roe was taken off I don't think we'd ever see anybody fishing just for the eggs and throwing the fish away. It just won't happen. That is a great concern of among people who are fishing in Nenana. I think when it comes down to subsistence hunting, it's damn hard problem for us to deal with here in Nenana.

There are but maybe 2 or 3 people manage to get a moose. I think that

this kind of a thing has really hurt us heavily now. Part of the problem I think is that is also comes from fishing, the same time you're hunting you're going to be fishing. September 1 through the 10th is our season and it just happens to be when the fish are here as well and you can't fishing is a full time job by itself and so is hunting. There was a time you could jump in your car and take ride out to Clear area toward Healy and go out in the morning or in the evening after work or after you take care of fish or before you take care of fish or whatever and you would have a very good chance of getting or running into a moose, moose were plentiful here 10 to 15 years ago. But now your chances of doing that are really astronomical with the amount of traffic with the new highway system. It's damn near impossible to tet a moose using that kind of hunting so really you got togo hunting to get a moose and even if you do your competition is so overwhelming that it is virtually when you get down to prime hunting areas Tolzona River that area, ther's virtually a hunting camp on every bend in the river and Tolzana River has a lot of bends.

You got airboats zipping through inches of water, airplanes zipping around, I think they had an airplane collison down there in Minto this fall, this hunting season. Somebody was out hunting and they ran into a charter outfit over near Minto somewhere. I understand down in the (inaudible)??? River two hunting boats collided- that's how busy. They ought to have turn singles or traffic lights on the river, if traffic is going to be that great. You chuckle about it, it no laughing matter. It is a very serious matter because of the fact that now we're faced with a few fish to get through the winter, but no meat. What kind of a situation is that going to cause 10 to 15 years ago, just about everybody got a moose now hardly anybody is getting a moose. It's about turned around

Completely the number of people that used to not get a moose was just those people that didn't hunt now everybody is hunting and nobody is getting anything. I think it's completely turned around. I think this is really going to cause some problems now.

I know that the legislature and different people around, the decision making people that have the authority to make decisions in Juneau and Washington are heavily pressured to provide opportunities for sports hunters and things of this nature. Well, we've seen our share of that. You know there is no reason for me to run through all the stories of people coming out with the horns and all that sort of thing. Because those things happen and everybody knows they happen. But getting down to it how does it impact us it impacts very significantly. We have to go through the winter with no meat, what are we going to do? We look to the legislature for some leadership in this respect. I think if that is would be totally unrealistic for us to take a position as well - subsistence is the only form that game should be allowed to be taken in Alaska, it's very unrealistic. We know it is not going to happen, case in point: the caribou situation that developed last winter and Tanana Valley Sportsmen took it to court and the Board of Game was shot down on a subsistence stand that they had taken, a very gutsy stand by the Board of Game. But I think that the important, not too much that we try to classify subsistence in terms of limiting it to areas on basis of well, this area is more remote they are more heavily dependent on subsistence. If there are people in Anchorage or Fairbanks who are dependent on subsistence for their lifestyle they ought to have the same opportunities as somebody in a more remote part of the State. I think that it is very important that the Legislature seriously prioritize in some manner and I have no suggestions to offer, that

activities be the number one priority in the taking of a limited resource. The game and the fish in the State of Alaska. Right now this is the first year after commercial season, after the commercial fishing season closed that we got 5 or 6 days this year, we're limited on our subsistence fishing to five days a week. It's the first year, and frankly it was a surprise to me when after commercial closed. Then I was fishing my wheel and then Saturday at 6 o'clock everybody's heading out to close down their wheel and I said what's going on, what are you guys closing down your wheels for? Everybody says well, we've got to close down, we're only fishing subsistence 5 days a week, that was a very big surprise to me because I just never lived with that. Before, we always fished subsistence 7 days a week. We're just getting run out of our lifestyle around here and I think whatever the legislature does they ought to prioritize those people who truly depend on subsistence in the establishing of any quotas or stipulations or legislation that deals with subsistence. I think I'd like to take this occasion and give everybody else a chance to talk.

Representative Nels Anderson: I have a question or two. Okay, you've made some general suggestions on what we ought to do and I think I can understand what you're saying but I'm not quite sure if I understood what you were saying that there were people that were saying that residents who live on the highway system don't need subsistence? I haven't heard that.

Mitch Demientieff: Well, there was some talk going around, it may have been some rumor cooked up because this meeting was coming to town to hold these hearings. But, like I say, if there is an issue with the State, I wanted to comment to it. If it's not an issue with the Committee then just disregard that portion of my testimony.

Representative Nels Anderson: Just to set your mind at ease. It is not an issue of the Committee, at least I speak for myself, I don't know about other committee members. There were some suggestions made last night at the Fairbanks hearing that there is no need for subsistence period. Just across the board throughout the State but the statement wasn't directed to residents who lived along the highway. That did come through pretty clear last night from a couple of individuals.

Mitch Demientieff: I read some of those comments in the paper last night. I just don't know how the hell they make it here if they live here and didn't have a job. I don't know. I say when I'm working in Fairbanks, I've got a job, I can see for myself personally that there is no use for me out harvesting a limited resource. So when I'm here and I don't have a job, if I didn't participate in subsistence activities, hunting, fishing whatever there's just no way I could make it. I'd be I suppose on welfare rolls or something. I just don't see perhaps people have that attitude, switch places with us who depend on subsistence. That they'd have a more clearer, broader outlook at this. And I'd say I've the outlook. If I was there I could see where I wouldn't need it but still I could see where other people would. I think that is a very closed view of an issue. And a very closed one sided view.

Representative Nels Anderson: I think members of the committee are at least those that have been traveling extensively with the committee are beginning to understand that point a lot more now. There isn't only one way of life like Anchorage or Fairbanks people have confined to that area. Don't I think understand beyond what their experience, how far that experience takes them. So there are different sides of the story and I think our committee is beginning to grasp that. But I want to get back to another point that you raised regard-

ing the pressure that the legislature is under by the lobbying force of the sports interest. It is a true statement that you make, that there is a tremendous organized effort on the part of game guides and so forth to make sure that the allocations and access to the resource is fairly much guaranteed by legislation that has been passed by both bodies and also approved by the administration.

Just for your information, you probably already know this, that in the Kotzebue area there are large tracts of land that are exclusive hunting areas for game guides. No other game guides can go in and hunt. I don't think they deny access to meat hunters and so forth but just the idea that they have created exclusive areas it's quite interesting as far as I'm concerned so your statement that the legislature is under pressure by sports hunters interests is true and it is valid statement.

Mitch Demientieff: I think further on that point. That's why I say I think it is important that the committee come to rural as well as urban Alaska because the opportunities for subsistence people to have the money to afford themselves to travel into Fairbanks to attend a hearing are remote at best our chance of having a mechanism to voice our opinions. We're heavily dependent on our regional Native organizations. Those of us who are Native. Those of us who are non-native I suppose are even more hard to get the subsistence issue across. So I commend the committee for coming to Nenana to allow us to express our opinions

Representative Nels Anderson: For those of you who came in a little late. My name is Nels Anderson, and I'm Chairman for the Committee on Subsistence. I'm the Representative from Dillingham, in Bristol Bay and with me is Re-

representative Steve Cowper from Fairbanks. I don't know if the hour was wrong or if the time we picked for the hearing was wrong but I'm pleased that you are able to be here and I appreciate Mitch making this statement but we would like as many people that would like to at least to come forward and make their feelings known about the issue of subsistence.

Lawrence A. Persley: My name is Lawrence Persley. I've lived here for 5 years and 6 years in Fairbanks before that. As far as a definition of subsistence, in my book, being non-native and all, if a person is going to eat it, by god, it's subsistence. I'm sure that the Native people who are losing their lifestyle have a quite legitimate disagreement with that deal but nonetheless. But like you say that is my view of subsistence and when the legislature takes a different view I'm afraid that I'll be a poacher instead of a subsistence hunter or fisherman, and like I say that is one persons' point of view. As far as solutions, I can think of a bunch of those. As far as the Fish and Game Departments methods of dertermining the avialable resources, it's ridiculous in my book. Like in 1969 we had a little letter that went to everybody up on the slope with a hunting license that said you can't shoot moose anymore because there were only 50 of them in the North Slope. And there were 50 of them 120 miles of Sagwon. They go over and they want to fly a grid pattern or whatever, you don't fly a pattern to hunt for moose on the slope, because the moose hide down in the river banks in the willows. And they come out and fly out in a pattern instead of flying right over the rivers and gullies and they are not going to find anyting and they come up with these figures that are just totally unrealistic. I don't really know how they figure available resources on fish but that as far as I'm concerned could be settled by throwing the big boats from Seattle out of the State. There again you have immensley powerful lobbyists to buck on an issue like that. (inaudible)

is rather gigantic but I can't see a 50 ton commercial boat coming from out of State and telling a person that he can't eat salmon. In the State of Alaska and that just doesn't really strike me as being fair at all. And also on a Federal level, if this has anything to do with the federal level. That 200 mile limit is the worst shaft job that the American fishermen took . A lot of people get a surprised look on their face, in by-gone days they couldn't fish within fifteen miles and they faced a very stiff penalty for doing so now they can legally apply for a permit and fish right straight up to the beach and they pay a (inaudible) per ton and when they're shipping in fish at 50 cents a pound from Taiwan and they're paying \$50 a ton, if it's \$5,000 a ton they can still undersell the American fisherman, there's no American fisherman as Mitch said with the cost of gear and operation they could never compete with Taiwan fish. It just can't be done. Nobody can go around selling fish at 50 cents a pound.

Now these things to me are the, well, I don't say the cure-all but I think they go a long way toward rectifying the problem with the subsistence fishermen. Like I say get the foreign and the out-of-state commercial interests. Let them sacrifice some of their catch for what's going to go in somebody's belly. The last issue of Alaska Magazine is something everybody ought to read. The articles on Barrow. What they are eating now. What they have available now. It would really make a person leary about going to Barrow, I wouldn't want to be on your committee going to Barrow, you might get some rather hot remarks up there.

I think that is basically what I wanted to say, is to regulate the amounts that the people can catch and also the State Government with their giant royalty nest egg now, historically governments have found fantastic ways to

burn money. They want to burn money and burn money in the Fish and Game Department then let them field 10,000 fish and night life officers, by god, let them go out and skin these rascals that are taking horns, the sports hunters. Just dump the sporting entirely, anybody that doesn't pack the meat out should be skinned right where he's standing. Now if they want to control Fish and Game or game in particular control the sport hunter and that's about the total of what I've given.

Representative Steve Cowper: I 'm well aware of the business of wasting meat just by ways (inaudible) I remember about 10 years ago I tried a case down here in Nenana. I was a prosecutor in those days for wasting meat and people said you'll never get a conviction down here for wasting meat before the local jury and all that sort of stuff. The jury was out for four minutes and the person was convicted so you know I know a lot of people feel that way.

What we're talking about here is setting up priorities of classes of users. We don't have to worry about it if there's plenty of fish and game. When things start getting short, who is going to take the game? Who are we going to allow to have preference. Well, the Federal Government on their lands which is of course is almost 150 million acres, it's more than that as a matter of fact, about 225. They have already set up in the Udall bill a subsistence preference on those lands and one of the reasons why we're holding this meeting is to find out how people feel about setting up a subsistence preference in the same way on State land and among other things. If they're only able to harvest 2,000 fish in a certain area, who should get it, the people in that area? Should it be subsistence users outside, no matter where they come from or should it be any sort of users within that area. That's the kind of questions we're going to be looking at. Whether it should be

broken down in terms of priorities onto geographical basis, whether it ought to be broken down on an economic basis where a person works part of theyear maybe he shouldn't be able to harvest as many fish as a person who doesn't work at all. These are the sorts of things that we have to talk about, you know that we've got to decide here to?

Lawrence Persley: Well, it does explain some things that I wondered about and like I said from my personal standpoint the guys that eat it should be the ones to get fish and I realize that they're going to try to get the entire quota which as I also said you know that they're a powerful interests. The (inaudible) group for one so it's rather unrealistic in some ways but by god when I think about feeding my kid my wife it's not very unrealistic. I'd rather (inaudible)

Ron Nusinginya: My name is Ron Nusinginya. I think the subsistence living should be granted because it was the way of life before time (inaudible) I guess. I'm just a human being born and raised in Barrow, where things are really rough. How I managed to live 58 years going on 59 that should be considered. The subsistence living was from my side long time ago. Arnold Brower in Alaska Magazine said "bowhead whaling has been going on from ever since he could remember, ever since I could remember." Now they say that whale is getting depleted. So, therefore, what the people up at Barrow take is for their - for years. Okay, now they're getting depleted so there's got to be other people hunting those whales. Now for other subsistence living I got a mother in law over 80 years old, she has subsistence living for 80 some years, okay, moose during the winter, fish during the summer, and what is being depleted is being commercialized. Why, I don't have nothing against the commercial fisherman, that's his way of living. I'm lucky enough to get

a job sometimes and most of the time I live off the store, beef, the whole thing. But my way of diet is like my mother-in-law, I like a change. I like a little bit of moose meat, a little bit of fish, ducks, whatever. But I still think that we the people that were born and raised in Alaska should have a little bit of a chance should have a little bit of subsistence hunting.

Representative Steve Cowper: Mr. Nusinginya, I went to the Bowhead hearings in Kotzebue, and I think you're exactly right, the people of northwestern Alaska, who have hunted whale for I don't know how many years, are being asked to pay for the excesses of the so called advanced countries. I think you're exactly right.

Andrew Souders: I'm Andy Souders from Clear. I've been in the area for approximately 12 years. I would be considered a sport hunter. What subsistence hunting and fishing is to my mind should be on an (inaudible) I don't see anyone bringing in \$30 or \$40 thousand a year being allowed subsistence rights regardless of their race or whatever. I don't think anyone will argue with that. As far as the sport hunting, the Sportsmans Club at Clear, I petitioned Fish and Game in 1970 or 1972 to close the cow season in the area and to restrict hunting within (inaudible) I admit the State is large enough they don't have enough people they can't afford enough people to properly (inaudible) the State. They should pay attention to local input. Our club has sent several people down to Juneau to testify. Their testimony was ignored completely, regulations were written and they pretty well favor one particular guide in Fairbanks. I don't want to see the sport hunting take all the blame which isn't really the sports hunting, because mostly a sports hunter will take out the meat if they can carry it and it is useable. They also may bring a horn out or a rack or whatever. But they will and I guess that in

general will bring out and they should (inaudible) and definitely prosecute heavily anyone that wastes any meat. Basically, thats all I have to say.

Representative Nels Anderson: Well, Mr. Souders you mentioned something about the Fish and Game, and you state that, is it correct when I heard you say that you feel they are guilty of mismanagement.

Andrew Souders: To a great extent they've been late on all their regulations and restricting the hunting, they've done it with the caribou herd, they've done it with the moose.

Representative Nels Anderson: Do you have any idea why this might be the case? Why they are late, always behind?

Andrew Souders: I think a little bit of it is the size of the State and the personnel they have and the budget they have and also I think a good bit of it is that there's too much political influence.

Representative Nels Anderson: Okay, when you say this, I understand the size of the state and the number of personnel, do you feel there aren't enough personnel to enforce or to go out.

Andrew Souders: For the size of the State I don't see how they can economical-ly afford to get enough coverage on the proper game management without taking local input and paying attention to them. This has been going on since I've been up here, it's not any recent administration or anything else.

Representative Steve Cowper: Yeah, Mr. Souders, if you were going to manage

some population of fish lets say or some animal and you had an area that the animal went he maybe migrated, maybe it's a caribou and he migrates from this place to this place through the years and you discover you have to limit the harvest now how do you think should get precedence if you can say only harvest 600 animals. Do you think the people living right in the area should get precedence? Do you think everybody in the state should have the same chance. How do you think that ought to work?

Andrew Souders: That is a rather tough question. My personal feelings would be if it has to be restricted to give the people in the immediate area a preference.

Chris Anderson: I was born and raised in Fairbanks, and lived there for all my life essentially. Speaking today as a private citizen for the concerned, I testified briefly last night at the hearing in Fairbanks and I'd also like to spend a very brief time just for the record. And that point is something that I read in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner, I believe about a month ago. It was an article dealing with subsistence and I think it centered around the problems that the caribou herds up in the Northwest and Anuktuvik Pass and this and that. Very briefly, what that article said was, it centered around a quote from a nutritionist that is in the Fairbanks area, and what the nutritionist said was that it is very possible for subsistence users or people that live in the rural areas that do eat caribou and live off the marine mammals and things of this sort, to have a very good diet, a very nutritious diet and if something happens where they do have to change their diet, buying hamburgers, big macs or whatever, (inaudible) that could be very damaging to their metabolism, to their diet. I would like to enter that into the record and if possible I would like to have the Committee take a look or

even talk to, this certain nutritionist to get some more information concerning diets and nutrition and things of this sort.

Representative Nels Anderson: Do you have the name of the person?

Chris Anderson: Margariete Stetson.

Representative Nels Anderson: And where does she work?

Chris Anderson: She's in Fairbanks. She works for the University of Alaska Extension service.

Representative Nels Anderson: That's one aspect that was brought out in Nome, I believe by one of the people that worked in the Health Corporation that there is a direct relationship between people that live in rural communities who use moose, caribou, seal, walrus, and whatever and apparently there is some kind of a not only a physiological breakdown if there's a sudden switch to another diet but there's also a psychological problem experience as well. I think that was brought out last night. A gal named Marian Hao made a statement.

Steve Matthew: First of all I'd like to express my gratitude for you being here. My name is Steve Matthew, I'm associated with Tanana Chiefs Health authority. I seem to get carried away with words so I thought I better write down what I'm going to say. I'm here primarily to speak about the health related (inaudible) I've been traveling, first of all I must say to you what my job is in Tanana Chiefs. I'm a village liaison officer with Tanana Chiefs Health. Consequently, I've been traveling these last two weeks soliciting

resolutions for Health Authority to contract with the Federal Government under 638 (inaudible) I've been hearing the Native people in our area saying there's not enough control. There's not enough local control of the game. First of all, migratory birds. Birds, that's okay if you're going to give Alaskans a fair chance but migratory birds are only allowed to be shot there between September 1 and thereafter. Adn we all know that they go down south and the Mexican Government and the Canadian Government do not have no control over it. We have laws with those two special government. In fact the Mexican Governemtn allows migratory birds to be put on their market year round and why couldn't we get our birds, migrating north in the Spring to be allowed to be killed by Indians and Eskimos and whites, whoever wants those birds in the spring instead of after September 1. They're not here after that.

And secondly, the moose, now I'm getting away from my written testimony. I drove between Anchorage and Fairbanks one time about two year ago. That last 100 miles toward Anchorage I counted 17 cow moose not one bull did I see in the 17 Now those guys that want to to to college to say that we're going to regulate yourmoose and save all the cows for no bull to service them. That's uncalled for. I mean, you can save all the cows in the world but you're not going to reproduce if there is no bull to service them. 17 cow moose, I saw and not one bull, all cows. That's not very good management. I just heard over the radio just recently, yesterday really, they finally discovered that brown bear and bear especially to moose calves. Well, Indians knew that for 2,000 years. If they just utilize the Indian knowledge of game management our game management would be superb now but just because we don't have a PH.D. in back of our name they think that's wrong. They think that's absolutely ridiculous to have some uneducated Indian on the board and that's where they're making their mistake. Indians knew that bears were predators

of cows and calves especially in the spring. Just as much as wolves. Christ, they asked us 200 years ago we would have told them that. And you know with my other two jobs, I wouldn't say the figure I make, but I make, but I make a pretty good wage but I still can't hold my head above water. Above flooding with bills and my wife she makes \$16,000 a year. Both of us, you take in Fort Yukon, I was over there for the last couple of weeks and you know what is costs? I went into this one person's house my really good friend. And do you know what I saw? And you people talk about subsistence. \$14.74 for 3 lbs. of coffee and they don't work. And you know another thing I saw two years ago. I'm pretty well acquainted with welfare because a lot of my clients were welfare recipients and in this one (inaudible) he bragged to me about making \$22,000 that year clear and this one woman (my grandchild in Indian) she said to me, she says no I would rather not fool around with that food stamp. It's not worth it to save \$11.00 and this guy who made \$23,000 bucks was getting them for nothing. This is where you people got to clamp down on those people that taking advantage of those old people like that. Those old people are the ones that are the backbone of this country and there's so many laws that's forgetting that.

Another thing subsistence hunting, well, I told you I been on the road for the last two weeks, but I was down Koyukuk, and three years ago there was one Swedish resident that came to Koyukuk (inaudible) Last year there was two. This year there was 15. And only one of those Swedes could speak english. Now there needs to be some control there.

You know as far as I'm concerned what needs to be done, drastic measures, anybody that makes over \$15,000 dollars shouldn't have a hunting license. And restrict the moose population altogether, if we're going to have moose another

50 years from now. We blame the wolves, we blame everybody else, but I did not hear anybody blaming us, humans. We're the worst son of guns, in the whole damn country. I'm associated with pretty prominent people, doctors and stuff and one of my doctor friends told me, that you know when I was hunting, he said this is an educated man, I shot my own dog, I said what you mean, you shot your own dog? He said, this was a brush shot, he said, I heard the brush moving, so I shot. And he shot his own lab. Now, this kind of instance we got to prosecute them buggars.

Representative Nels Anderson: The reason why we would like to ask for your statements is that we're going to need some help in drafting legislation and your views on what we ought to do would be helpful.

Mary Demientieff: My name is Mary Demientieff, and I work for the Tanana Chiefs as the health aide for the Native people in Nenana. Let me go back, not a few hundred years ago, but about 50 when I lived down at Holy Cross with my husband. And we fished and we hunted, that was our way of life. In the spring, my husband would go out hunting beaver, he got his limit of beaver, came home, paid his bills, got enough food to last through the summer then we went fishing. Now, the best part was we could get as much fish as we wanted, there was no wasting, we made our fish wheels and if our neighbor was not able to set up his own fish wheel, everybody helped, we just helped each other. Without pay, and when our wheels were overloaded with fish, what we couldn't handle ourselves, we gave to the neighbors who didn't have much in his fish wheel. This was our way of life, we help each other. There was no laws in those days as to how much fish you could catch. I remember one summer we caught over 300 salmon by nets and 18,000 dog fish by fish wheel and we cut every bit of it. Every bit of the fish, regardless of what it was, we put it away, we dried the heads, the tails,

the eggs, everything, and we had - my husband took care of about 80 or 90 dogs, they belonged to the mail man.

In those days, you know, there was no airplanes and the mail was brought from one village to the other by dog team and he took care of all those dogs in the summer time. I think it was \$4 or \$5 a dog for the whole month. After the fish was all dried, we sold what we couldn't use to the storekeepers and they in turn gave it to us in groceries. Then in the fall time we loaded our boats and went up the Iditirod River and we stayed there all winter, we fished and we hunted and we trapped. My husband trapped. I never did any trapping, I never went behind the dog team in my life, but I helped, in my own way. I raised nine children, of course when they were school age, we had to move back to Holy Cross. We never known among my own people, down at Holy Cross and even here at Nenana, I've never known the people to waste any part of the meat, the head even was boiled and made into head cheese, the meat was put into, if they had freezers, if they were well off they put the meat into freezers or they iced the meat or they bottled it, canned it, there was nothing wasted.

Now, I've sons that go out hunting in the fall time, they go out and they come back and they say - Mom, you know what we seen out there? There's a moose out there at such and such a place and the best parts of the meat, are taken perhaps the horns or the hind quarters or perhaps the front, and all the rest is left there and that's not the first time. That happened several times already. Right now, of course, I don't fish or hunt, but the people here in Nenana and elsewhere, they have to pay for that to have a fish permit, which I don't know how much that fish wheel permit is, they have to have a boat permit, they have to have a permit to go commercial fishing. Now, they have to catch only so much

fish for their own use. It's not like years ago, when you could go out and catch your own fish, get what you want and leave the rest. Why are the laws made so confusing for people now, at least for the Native people. They don't even make enough out of fishing during the summer months to take care of their families during the winter time. That's all I have to say.

Representative Steve Cowper: I would like to ask you a question, I've been asking some of the other witnesses here, if you've only got a certain number of fish or animals that you can harvest - who do you think should have the preference? In other words, who do you think should have the animal?

Mary Demientieff: Well, there are alot of people who make alot of money, who have year round jobs. I think, to me, the ones who have part time jobs or no jobs at all, or people who have large families even if they are working. This would give them a little more money you know, for their families to take care of them. Because coffee, sugar, anything you buy from the stores is sky high right now to what it was 50 years ago. And I've lived in Nenana since 1945 and I've seen the price of food go sky high and every bit of that money goes into paying for something.

Representative Steve Cowper: And you know something about the price of groceries in Holy Cross, too?

Mary Demientieff: Yes, we used to buy one pound can of butter, they had no margarine in those days, and it was \$1.25 and tea was \$.75 and I guess coffee was a little bit higher and flour was \$7.00 and 50 lbs.of sugar was \$8.00. And everybody used coffee in those days, but, of course, we didn't have grocery stores,

we had grocery stores, but there was no baked goods in the stores, there was no baked bread or cookies or anything. We made our own at home. We baked our own bread and made our own cookies and there was no meat in the stores, either, like pork chops, ham, all that fancy food we eat today. The trouble right now, you wonder why a lot of our children are sick, because they don't eat the right kinds of foods. The food right now is all bought in the stores where if the parents were able to go out and hunt moose and catch all the fish that they want, put it away the way they should, the children would grow up strong, their bodies would be strong and they wouldn't get sick all the time. Now this continually sore throats and colds and pneumonia and I don't know what not right here in Nenana, right at the present time. I think it's due to their diet.

Steve Matthew: I would like to say a couple of more words in regard to your question. On who do you think should be allowed to fish. I know there's some people on the Yukon River that take advantage of limitation of fishing for profit and I think, I really don't know what control can be enforced. But on the profit part, I really don't know how to control that, but I really think that Mrs. Demientieff said that subsistence limitation should be lifted because this is my primary concern, for the health of our people. I've seen up in Anaktuvik, I've seen up in Arctic Village, I've seen in Rampart, everybody is talking about subsistence limitation. They can't get enough fish to carry them over through the winter and believe you me, that there is those people out there that live there that have nothing else on their diet. Sometimes in the winter months and they are just lean, lean months, is fish and rice. If our regulations are going to restrict their fishing that means that they are just going to have rice. They're not going to have protein, nothing in it. I really think that if your committee should have any impact to lift those subsistence limitations because

I know our people in the Tanana Chiefs Region have to have that lifted, otherwise, they are going to go hungry.

Representative Nels Anderson: We hope that we'll be able to give the Department of Fish and Game a little bit more direction when it comes to the development of regulations regarding subsistence because I do know for a fact that only in the salmon industry is there some real effort to take into consideration the subsistence use of salmon. We're right now in the process or I should say the State of Alaska is now in the process of defining rules and regulations regarding the take of herring on a commercial basis. There are no rules and regulations now that control access to the herring along the westcoast of Alaska and last year, I think they took something like 1,240 ton of herring out of the Togiak area. People there are really concerned because they're thinking if there's this kind of take on an annual basis, that, that resource is going to disappear in a relatively short period of time. One of the things that we've tried to do and I think that we are going to be successful is that in the development of the herring fishery since there is no really big commercial history of fish taking of herring along the coast of Alaska, but the first allocation shall be for the taking of subsistence for subsistence purposes. We have found in the information that we have developed through research of Fish and Game records and other information that people take approximately, and this is only the recorded take of herring. And it's something like 600 ton of herring on an annual basis on the westcoast of Alaska. That's the sizable amount of protein and so I think that what we're going to be able to do is to allow first allocation - the proposal that's going to be made by the Department of Fish and Game - they are going to say, okay, for commercial activity, you are going to be allowed to take 6,000 tons of herring,

the first 1,000 tons of herring will be allocated to subsistence purposes. We are going to try to have impact in making sure that these kinds of considerations are made.

I wanted to share with you something that I learned, or the Committee learned in Glenallen. She mentioned that she doesn't look at grayling like a sports fish. She looks at it as food on the table and in their area, they are allowed only five per person, I believe, but she was saying that she had a big family, four or five kids and five grayling just doesn't cut it. The people need more. These are the kinds of things we want to hear from you. If you feel like you said, Steve, that there are some unfair limitations placed on people because they need more and we have to know about this, so we can make recommendations to the Department of Fish and Game, the Boards of Fish and the Board of Game to let them know that people, that people in the rural areas and in the State of Alaska, generally, are not being fairly treated and that allocations ought to be more liberally granted than they are now. Is there anyone else at this time who would like to make a statement for the Committee?

Male Participant: May I comment again on Mr. Matthew's and Mr. (inaudible) on Fish and Game licenses that the funds should be put in the general fund like everything is. I run around with a 40 horse Mercury and these Fish and Game have two 50's. It should be put on the general fund like everything else.

Representative Nels Anderson: Well, I get your point and I read you loud and clear. One of the things that I'm going to hopefully get the Committee to adopt for recommendation to the Legislative Council is that we're going to make a recommendation that the sports licenses and the game tags and so forth are not put into - put into a separate fund and matched with federal funds. We're

going to try, at least, I'm going to make an effort to make sure the Department of Fish and Game has their budget taken out of the General Fund so that they are not overly swayed by sports interests. Because I do know, that there is a great deal of pressure applied by the sports interest. I'm not saying that by my statement I'm not trying to alienate sports hunters. I do know that they have tried without success to get the Department of Fish and Game to change their way of management. They've not been successful in doing so. I'm also aware of the fact that there have been citizens on the local level have been trying to tell the Department of Fish and Game that some of their activities have not been correct and because the Department of Fish and Game hasn't adopted the local people's expertise. That we have all suffered and our game and fish resources have declines dramatically. And it's made it harder for all of us to go out and get what we need.

Male Participant: Can you tell me or tell us how, the Governor appoints the Board of Fish and Game? The regulatory boards?

Representative Nels Anderson: The Department of Fish and Game and the appointment of their board members, they've got two boards. We've got a Board of Fish, and a Board of Game. Now, these people that are appointed by the Governor, of course, he uses local representatives from my area. He'll listen to the Senator from that area. And representatives from all over the State. The sportsman's associations will have a say. Every special interest group has an opportunity to write a letter to the Governor and say, okay, we'd like to have this person appointed and we would like you to (inaudible) nominate people and have them appointed to these boards, in other words people in Bristol Bay would have their

own Board of Fish and Game, what you people up here have to do to maintain what you need for your take and so forth would have nothing to do with what we do down in Bristol Bay. And, quite frankly, I'm not satisfied with the amount of voice we don't have on the existing Boards of Fish and Game. I'd like to have another member, or one member on the Board of Game, too, so that our voice could be heard a little bit louder, but it isn't. I'm not satisfied with the status quo, I want to see it with the local people involved.

Steve Matthew: I would like to say one more thing real quick. Regarding what you talk about herring. Half of us in the northern part here don't know what the herring is. I do because I ate damn thing down in Edgcomb so damn long, tired of it. This is what I'm trying to say, you're controlling herring and we're trying to control moose. Up in Anaktuvik and Arctic Village, they're trying to control caribou. I went up there two weeks ago, it's in my statement there, I was up in Arctic Village and the people say and the news media says that all those people up there are wasting caribou. They are not - I was up there and they got about 15 caribou that one day, but everything on that one caribou was used. Only things I can say they wasted was a couple of skins, that's all. They threw it over trees where they'll pick up later. (Inaudible) Cripes, they even eat the marrow, (inaudible). It never rots because it never thaws out. You can go up there nine months later and eat the marrow and it's like its been killed yesterday. So, there's nobody that's wasting the caribou up there. The game biologists go up there and they want a big story, sure you say that.

Joe Williams: My name is Joe Williams, I'm from Nenana, I've been here all my life. There is one thing I would like to substantiate and this was the word

that Steve said in accordance with the people in the lower Kuskokwim area and the lower Yukon with the people that had come in, the outside people, I had a chance to be in Huslia the other day and there were 15 people that had come from out of the country, could not speak the language, and were strictly sports hunters. This is their right. We do have a lot of economic pressures, there is a lot of sportsmen that do make livings. We're not trying to keep someone from making a living in the State. There are regulations in the sporting industry that are pretty strict. I'm sure in the future it's going to be even worse. This is just a matter of regulatory power that what's going to stand up first. Do we need the money, or do we need the people that are subsistence type in this category. One of the things that your Committee might take up is a firm stand. A definite firm stand on the definition of subsistence, I would sure hate to be in your boots, for sure. There was a Fish Board meeting in this town and they tried to come up with a solution on how many fish were actually here and they don't know. To this day, I wouldn't hesitate to say that they still don't know. Through electronic gear and the rest of it, information is just not available. Our fall runs here have been great. One year they are down, to go into the whole international fisheries program, it's just absurd because we're looking at it on a strictly local level. You try to tell them the international program and people have been fishing for years, it's a lost program. Getting back to the reason you're here and the prioritizing of who should or who shouldn't get a definite view. I believe in the aboriginal right of the people that are here, with older people coming first, no doubt. Giving them almost carte blanc to subsistence rights, taking in there an economic and a physical standpoint of view. There's people that are 45, 50 years old, they're not going to be here much longer, how much are they going to actually take if they're making only \$6,000 a year?

The younger people that are coming up, they're subsistence users. I hate to say it, but, there is going to be a lot of people on welfare. It's just a matter of you're going to have to make a priority, it's coming. And it's just a matter of who is going to get it first. Like you said, this is the main reason that you're here and it's just definite view and I really don't have that much else to say. There's so many conflicts of interest when you get into sportsman and the rest of it - subsistence itself. It just should be defined and there is going to be a lot of people trampled on. A lot of people with hurt feelings, but it has to be defined and kept up.

Representative Nels Anderson: Joe, I've got just two comments on your statement. I just want to read to you something that I had written to my constituents in the Bay. I'll just read it verbatim. We had hoped to define subsistence as it relates to Alaskans throughout the State. Arguments against defining subsistence are: "That subsistence values and uses vary greatly across the State and that any attempt to define subsistence in the same way throughout the State will greatly undermine subsistence hunting and fishing in every region of the State." And, in this point in time, at this point of history, I'll tell you I'm not too comfortable with the suggestion you are making that this Committee take a firm stand on the definition of subsistence. I think what we've got to do after hearing the comments that we've heard already is to try to put into language that approximates what people like yourself have been saying and throw back out to the public and see whether or not a general definition of subsistence would be satisfactory, but I'd just really, to be very frank, really afraid of the prospect of just saying, okay, this is it.

Joe Williams: At a certain point in time, which is coming shortly, I don't know whether you really agree with it or not, there's going to be a point that most game hunting is going to be limited to a very few people. And this is why I say that something has to be specifically done. This is to at least maybe you won't end up with 50% of the people that now come under the general subsistence ruling, but there will be the other 50% and like I say, this doesn't meet the rule first by age, aboriginal rights, means of income. Ten years from now, if they cut it off from everybody, fair is fair, because when these people, the older people, especially, that have brought us up in this country have lived their lifestyle the way they see fit have wanted to go fishing, hunting, trapping, more power to them. We should give them carte blanc. Whatever they want. I have been very proud to be a member of this State, and I've been here all my life and been proud to see that older people have been well taken care of, in general. There are specific instances, that we shouldn't be very proud, but in general, we've been very considerate to the older generation and this I'd like to see carried on and this is why I say specifically protect the rights of the older people.

Mitch Demientieff: One more point that I think that I would like to address tonight. In my earlier testimony I didn't deal too much on specifics the first time because I was just trying to get the hearing going and trying to make general comments. Through the meeting, through the reading in the papers of the nature of the hearings, particularly, the one held in Fairbanks last night and I know the issue goes one and one, of different conflicts of interest, different areas of interest, different pressures put on people when it comes to regulating fish and game. I think that there is one universal stand. I think

that this Committee could have some influence in leading a charge of this nature. I think that a real study has to be done on the current management of the Department of Fish and Game. Everybody that I know of has their own particular story of the incompetency of the Department of Fish and Game. The kinds of things that they do, last year, I was involved with the caribou issue of the Western Arctic herd working with the people on the Koyukuk River, Allakaket, Alatna, Hughes and Huslia. I went over and did a personal study on the dependency as an issue. Whether or not the people on the Koyukuk River should be allowed to participate in the taking of the 3,000 subsistence quota allotted for the caribou taken out of the Western Arctic her.

I went over and did a personal study on the dependency of caribou as opposed to the availability of moose and what the dependency breakdown is. I can't recall, it's been a year, I can't recall the exact numbers, but there was a December meeting of the Board of Game. Caribou (inaudible) and on record of that meeting there are the figures I laid out and meeting prior to that one held in September in Fairbanks by the Board of Game in that meeting, the Department laid out alot of their figures on the dependency of different people on moose and on caribou. But, I would wager that I got within five moose and five caribou on the whole Koyukuk River of what people had taken in three years prior to December of 1976. I know I did. I went from house to house, person to person, somebody would say, well, last three years, last year I didn't get any moose. You mean to tell me you lived here all last year and you didn't take any moose? The guy says, well, I did get two. Well, I know that got moose, I know that they need to get moose, I know that they can't make it if they didn't get moose or caribou or fish and bears. I know they can't make it, there's just no way, what are they going to eat? So, I got the figures, I say within five moose,

five caribou in three years time of what was taken out of there and I computed it in, the Department personnel was giving testimony to the Board on the usage, well, we estimate, the Department biologist estimates X number of caribou were taken in the fall and spring hunting season of 1975. They were estimations and they readily admitted they said that these are department estimations.

Supposedly, theoretically, these are supposed to be ball park figures, in the neighborhood, in the vicinity, a thousand moose were taken, those, of course, aren't the figures. They weren't even close, on no counts, no particular year were they close to estimating the actual take and yet when it comes time for the decision to be made by the Board of Game, they used their staff's data and it was incorrect in that particular instance. And, I know that countless people throughout the State, the Department is continually responding to a crisis situation.

The gentleman from Clear said that there were some problems and there are problems. They're constantly responding to crisis situations as opposed to managing to prevent those crisis situations. And, I think that there is one thing that this Committee should do is take a look at the management practices of those department personnel. There's just no way that any university in the world can teach department personnel to manage the game, if when they get their degrees and go to work they can't even come up with ball park figures of what the actual take is, or how many are in there. The way they compute on what the escapement is on salmon, is for instance, which is always an issue with us here on the river. They go into the spawning grounds, fly over, take a look, there must be a 100 fish down there, I can see - clear water streams when they're spawning, there must be a 100 fish down there, and there's their estimation, that's