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PUBLIC MEETING SESSION

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
DRAFT LOWER SNAKE RIVER JUVENILE SALMON MIGRATION
FEASIBILITY REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
WITH
FEDERAL CAUCUS CONSERVATION OF COLUMBIA BASIN FISH
"ALL-H PAPER"

CITY HALL
PETERSBURG, ALASKA

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

MARCH 9, 2000
6:30 P.M.

COURT REPORTER: WILLIAM J. BRIDGES, CM, RMR, CSR

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1 MS. JESSI PHELPS: We will begin by
2 allowing five of our elected officials a brief word.

3 Thank you in advance for your consideration
4 and assistance in making this a fair hearing for
5 everyone who has taken the time to be here and to
6 comment.

7 So, with that, we'll start with our elected
8 officials. Ted Smith, Barry Brackman, and Dave Beebe.
9 And you know who you are.

10 I would like to apologize. If I say your
11 guys' name wrong, please let me know. I am trying to
12 do my best here.

13 MR. TED SMITH: My name is Ted Smith,
14 the Mayor of Petersburg. I thank you for the
15 opportunity to testify on behalf of Petersburg and
16 southeast Alaska in general.

17 I think my comments will be a little more
18 personal than your statistical ones that you just
19 presented to us.

20 I certainly do not profess to know the
21 solution to the Snake River Chinook salmon problem.

22 But I'm a hundred percent sure that
23 attacking and effectively destroying the southeast
24 Alaska troll fishery is not your answer. This problem
25 was created by the federal government's decision along

1 with the states of Washington and Idaho and Oregon to
2 drastically modify the Columbia and Snake Rivers by
3 building a series of dams at the expense of the salmon
4 species. I believe this happened as long ago as the
5 1930s.

6 While Alaskan fishermen, State of Alaska
7 Fish and Game Department, southeast Alaska communities
8 have done an exceptional job at managing our wildlife
9 and wild salmon fisheries, it seems all the federal
10 government can offer is a fix for their Northwest
11 decreasing salmon population, is to limit Alaska
12 fisheries.

13 Starting in the early 1980s the southeast
14 Alaska troll harvest has been drastically reduced to
15 protect salmon from the Columbia and Snake Rivers. In
16 the early 1990s king salmon fishing was implemented to
17 protect Snake River Chinook salmon.

18 The results of these reductions and quick
19 fixes have produced no significant change in the
20 recovery of Snake River Chinooks.

21 In fact scientific studies indicate that of
22 all the southeast Alaska fisheries, they are
23 responsible for no more than three-tenths of one
24 percent of the human-induced mortality of these Snake
25 River Chinook while 95 percent of the mortality rate

1 of these Chinooks are caused by dams on these rivers.

2 Whoever believes that destroying the
3 southeast Alaska troll fleet and disrupting the lives
4 of thousands of southeastern Alaskan families that
5 depend on wild fish will save the Snake River Chinook
6 salmon, despite scientific studies to the contrary in
7 my opinion have proved once again there is no known
8 limit to the depth of human stupidity.

9 Thank you for your time and patience.

10 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Okay. I just
11 want as to remind you that the first bell you will
12 hear will mean years a minute left, and then the
13 second bell will mean that your three minutes is up.
14 So I have Barry Bracken.

15 MR. BARRY BRACKEN: Good evening.
16 Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

17 My name is Barry Bracken. I'm a retired
18 fisheries biologist, as well as being a member of the
19 City Council. I will give you the short version. I
20 think a lot of it has been said. I am kind of
21 preaching to the choir here.

22 As you all know in the 1930s residences of
23 the Northwest began a journey of no return,
24 sacrificing a natural river system for cheap power,
25 flood control, and irrigation.

1 At Bonneville Dam, the lowest in the
2 Columbia River, and the first to be completed, the
3 fish pass was an afterthought. That's just really
4 frightening to me.

5 Grand Coulee, which was completed in 1942,
6 blocked all upper river passage of salmonids to the
7 hundreds of miles of spawning habitat in the upper
8 Columbia Basin.

9 Subsequent abuses, including industrial and
10 agricultural pollution, stream side grazing, logging
11 on tributary streams, filling and development of
12 critical estuary habitat and channelization have tamed
13 the rivers, destroyed their natural ability to produce
14 salmon.

15 After decades of warnings it has now become
16 widely accepted and painfully obvious that hatchery
17 mitigation will never replace natural production.

18 Alaska should be applauded for its success
19 in conservative management, not punished because of
20 habitat degradation and management abuses further down
21 the coast.

22 A quote I heard recently probably says it
23 best, it's a sad commentary in resource management
24 when the safest way for salmon to travel down the
25 Snake River is by truck.

1 And there again we've got salmon traveling
2 by truck so that we can have grain traveling by water.
3 It seems to be pretty ironic.

4 And I don't believe that a few months of
5 political wrangling or maneuvering is going to reverse
6 70 years of habitat abuse and mismanagement of the
7 salmon stocks in the Northwest.

8 If the federal agencies are really sincere
9 by a improving the status of the Salmon resources in
10 the Columbia River system, I suggest that you take
11 major steps to reverse the habitat degradation in that
12 system.

13 And I just recently had an opportunity to
14 look at the H paper, but it looks to me like from just
15 a preliminary review, that Alternative A, the dam
16 breaching, would probably be the most effective. But
17 Alternative C, aggressive nonbreach, appears to be the
18 most political acceptable.

19 And that will end my comments. Thank you.

20 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you, Berry.

21 Next we will have Bill Trembley and Sheila
22 McFadden.

23 MR. BILL TREMBLEY: I have more
24 handouts to you. I am Bill Trembley, Councilman here
25 in Petersburg, and I appreciate the opportunity to

1 speak to you.

2 In front of you this evening you will note
3 there was a McDowell study group that was done for the
4 communities of Ketchikan and Rangal and I think some
5 other local communities down there. These were just
6 provided to the council a short time ago, and I
7 thought they were something you should consider in the
8 impacts or potential impacts to southeast communities
9 in the decisions that may affect further reductions to
10 our economic benefits here.

11 Along with that I'm also providing you
12 another cause and effect kind of a thing, which is the
13 recent decision by Undersecretary Lyons on the Tongass
14 land management plan.

15 I would not only advocate but I would
16 insist that you start with some of those studies to
17 work on the economic analysis and the impacts that may
18 occur based on the alternatives that you are providing
19 here. You need to be specific.

20 Down south you have an opportunity where
21 you have displaced workers or a longer distance to go,
22 you can go somewhere, trail, road, whatever.

23 Up here, we are on an island, folks. If we
24 don't have the economy here, we have no place to go
25 except off this island, probably out of this state.

1 You need to be specific with the impacts of the local
2 economies.

3 And in that, too, you know, we've seen not
4 only the reductions of, let me go back, in 1990 we
5 were harvesting as much as 350 million board feet off
6 of federal lands.

7 This new plan says we may be able to do up
8 to 150 million board feet. However, we still have the
9 wilderness issue pending, which would further degrade
10 the economic basis of this system.

11 Okay. Tongass national forest is the size
12 of New Jersey. Get that in your mind. Population, if
13 you know anything about the Pacific Northwest, you're
14 familiar with Husky stadium. You could fit the entire
15 population in Husky stadium and invite quite a few
16 friends along, too.

17 Not many people, fragile economics, and we
18 need you to pay attention to them. Part of the basis
19 of the analysis also points to the fact that you have
20 an increasing tourism and fishing, viable fishing
21 industry to help sustain the economics here.

22 That won't happen if we can't catch fish.
23 80 percent of the tourism that we have in this area
24 are on the big boats that float through, look at
25 scenery, and leave. That's not what generates an

1 economy. They have to stop here, spend some time,
2 spend some money. Looking at scenery won't generate
3 that money. They need to stop and do something, which
4 fish will do.

5 As a part of any mitigation that you may
6 have to discuss or consider, while you're talking
7 hatcheries down south, we have a local hatchery here
8 producing Cohos and Chinook.

9 You say we can't afford to have a fishery
10 here because we have to protect the Snake River
11 hatcheries and the fisheries down there, that's fine,
12 I would suggest that part of the mitigation would be
13 including the cost of running the operations here at
14 our local hatchery to provide us some service.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you, Bill.
17 Okay. And Sheila McFaden.

18 MR. SHEILA McFADEN: Thank you very
19 much, and thank you for coming.

20 I don't know where you'll send this, but I
21 can only appreciate the wealth of your knowledge and
22 the work that you have done for us. And you are the
23 ones that are going around doing this. I assume
24 you're doing it in Washington State, Idaho, down
25 there.

1 We need something from you guys, and that's
2 that when you talk about the people in the Tri-Cities,
3 Lewiston, Walla Walla, you know, it's only an accident
4 of fate that what happened in Washington state and the
5 dams hasn't happened here. It's nothing we're all
6 personally responsible for.

7 We lucked out. We did. And the history is
8 slow for things to change up here, that it wasn't for
9 down there. But Alaska has done its part, as you
10 know, seriously, from the get-go, on our fisheries,
11 and we need people like you to travel with this dog
12 and pony show on this very important subject, to let
13 those people know that this isn't Alaska, this is the
14 United States of America, a state called Alaska.

15 We're with them. We have done our part and
16 seriously done our part. And I understand when a guy
17 goes to the stream where his grandfather fished and
18 can't get a salmon and he looks at us, oh, they've got
19 zillions.

20 You know, the short picture doesn't look
21 good. But you are the people who are in the position
22 to be ambassadors for the reality of the situation for
23 us, and I'd like to encourage you to do that for us.
24 It's what we need, really listening to this, most of
25 all, because, now, this is probably a 95 percent

1 experts room, these people here in Petersburg know
2 what they're talking about.

3 But we're not going to be there in Walla
4 Walla when the B.S. comes up or the instant solution,
5 the knee jerk reaction as to the problem between
6 Alaska and the fish and what's going on in the States
7 down there.

8 So, you could do this for us and we'd
9 really appreciate it, because we don't have the means
10 to do it. And we have been doing as good as we can.
11 We still want to do as good as we can, you know. When
12 it gets down to whether we breach or not, you know,
13 yes, I can see already you guys know from the way you
14 talk, the most reasonable alternatives.

15 You know, this didn't happen overnight,
16 it's not going to be solved overnight. But we can't
17 communicate our side, and it would be wonderful for us
18 if you would in your meetings.

19 Thank you very much.

20 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you, Sheila.

21 MR. RUTTER: Just as a matter of
22 interest to people, is that message will be carried in
23 a variety of ways, but Peter Burke has the distinction
24 of having the last of our 15 or 16 of these meetings.
25 So you've got our ear, the last.

1 MR. WADDELL: So whoever's the last,
2 you're on the spot.

3 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Are there any
4 other effected officials? All right. With that, we
5 will start the public comments.

6 Also, if you guys have your comments that
7 you've given orally in written form, we would like a
8 copy of those. That way the court reporter can, you
9 can pass them out to the court reporter and he can
10 make sure that it's all transcribed.

11 Okay. With that, we have Suzanne West, Kim
12 Betzina, and Dave McFaden.

13 Suzanne?

14 MS. SUZANNE WEST: Okay. I have
15 two, I have mine and I have that of Ed Wood, who is on
16 a fishing vessel, Tallen.

17 His is, I have salmon fished commercially
18 in southeast Alaska since 1964. During this time I
19 have willingly accepted numerous cuts in my harvest in
20 the name of conservation and will continue to do so as
21 needed.

22 Unfortunately sport fishermen and their
23 guides in both Alaska and Canada have only
24 sporadically contributed a conservative effort.
25 Meanwhile the Columbia and Snake River dams have

1 remained the only obstruction for both outmigrating
2 smolts and returning spawners.

3 Where is the rationale in removing 50
4 percent to 75 percent, even 100 percent for that
5 matter, of our harvest so that 13 Chinook salmon can
6 spawn in Idaho?

7 This is a very minor contribution to Snake
8 River conservation, but has an extremely negative
9 impact on my income and lifestyle. Should this
10 reduction happen and the dams remain status quo, then
11 it would be totally unconscionable to not be
12 financially compensated.

13 This is the first time in my fishing career
14 that I have felt justified in taking this position for
15 conservation.

16 And my comment is I'm considering the Snake
17 and Columbia River dams 95 percent fall Chinook salmon
18 mortality rate. It is beyond comprehension to even
19 consider southeast Alaska for further reductions.
20 Southeast Alaska is not the culprit as it is the
21 southeast catch is to repeat Snake River Chinook
22 salmon according to data from the Oregon Department of
23 Fish and Game.

24 Reducing the southeast Alaska harvest
25 levels 50 percent, 75 percent or even 100 percent for

1 a period of up to ten years will not save the Snake
2 River Chinook salmon.

3 Fish and dams are not environmentally
4 compatible. Yes, attempts have been made with barging
5 smolts and installing fish ladders. However, fish
6 need river current and habitat to survive. Hydropower
7 dams off neither. Reducing the southeast Chinook
8 salmon quota 50 percent or 75 percent will unleash
9 additional financial hardship on the commercial
10 fishing fleet and crew, their canneries and staff,
11 southeast Alaska communities and the state of Alaska.

12 Bonneville Power authority and the federal
13 government should be held accountable for compensation
14 to southeast Alaska commercial fleet and the state of
15 Alaska for these losses.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you, Suzanne.
18 Kim Betzina, Dave McFaden, and on deck is Alexander
19 Behdry.

20 MR. KIM BETZINA: My name is Kim
21 Betzina, and I represent myself and my family. I just
22 wanted to come and let you know that the trollers, I
23 have been trolling since 1983, and we've carried the
24 burden for many, many years, and made a lot of
25 sacrifices.

1 It's hard sometimes to make a business
2 decision whether or not you even can participate
3 without knowing whether or not you're going to be able
4 to fish as much as 24 to 36 hours before our summer
5 season opens, and we've also had seasons as short as
6 three and a half days.

7 So we've carried the burden, we've made the
8 sacrifices. So please make the proper choices for us.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you, Kim.

11 Dave McFaden.

12 MR. DAVE McFADEN: My name is David
13 McFaden, and I was a troller from 1980 to about 1993
14 when I started my ship wreck business. From being a
15 troller and being a active in troller's
16 organizations,.

17 I am well aware of the conservation cuts
18 that the trollers have taken. I'm not going to
19 reiterate what we all know, the short seasons, the
20 small number of affected fish that are represented by
21 our not catching thousands of fish.

22 Basically, I'm just going to cut to the
23 quick and say that you should consider Alternative A
24 very seriously, but I see a deficiency here, I do not
25 know why you don't maximize the impact and in addition

1 to the things you had here, instead of having you
2 continued currently plan hatchery program, why don't
3 you increase your hatchery conservation programs? Why
4 don't you take all these various things, other things
5 that you can do, some of these options, increase this,
6 do a little more of this? Why not combine all those
7 in addition to breaching the dams and make a really
8 effective option. Okay?

9 Just forget about this one that asks, this
10 minimal result and maximum impact to the fishermen and
11 the economies of southeast Alaska.

12 This does affect everyone. This affects my
13 business, even though I'm not a fisherman right now.
14 If they have a 50 percent reduction.

15 Anyway, thank you very much.

16 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you, Dave.
17 Alexander Behdry, Carl Crome, and on deck will be Mark
18 Hoffman.

19 MR. ALEXANDER BEHDRY: My name is
20 Alexander Behdry. I am a troller here in Petersburg.
21 I have to say first that I came from Oregon, and I
22 remember how National Marine Fisheries treated us in
23 Oregon.

24 Their idea of conservation is there was
25 take the troll quota away, and let the lake fishery

1 use it as catch. So I'm familiar with your procedures
2 in the past.

3 In 1995 I was here in Ketchikan, and you
4 people came to Ketchikan and told us you wanted to
5 take a hundred thousand of our kings then, so that we
6 could help the Snake River fish. The Governor at that
7 time said that was unacceptable, and it didn't happen.

8 Well, after that point in time I wonder how
9 important these Snake River fish are, because at that
10 point in time, in 1995, California, in their
11 commercial troll fishery, caught 679,000 kings. Up
12 here in Alaska we catch quite a few less than that,
13 because of our treaty and so forth.

14 So I have to ask, if it isn't necessarily
15 for California or Oregon, who have been catching quite
16 a few more kings than we have in the past, and been
17 allowed to do so quite seemingly unrestrained, where
18 we have the treaty to go through and we're kept at
19 specific numbers, and specific areas and locations
20 where we are allowed to fish so that we don't impact
21 other treaty fish that we're allowed to catch, it
22 seems to me that if those people down there care as
23 little as they do, or their fishery management people
24 do, then it shouldn't be given to us as a solution.

25 We should not be penalized for this state's

1 ability to raise fish, to maintain stocks, and to do
2 the type of things that they've done in the past. We
3 should not be held and given these fish down there so
4 that we solve the inequities of various states in
5 different locations.

6 Thank you very much.

7 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you,
8 Alexander.

9 All right. Carl Crome, Mark Hoffman, and
10 Dan Hickman.

11 MR. CARL CRANE: I am Carl Crome.
12 I'm 41 years a fisherman this year. I started on the
13 tuna boats in San Diego in 1960. I have been here
14 since 1970. Most of my salmon fishing is, well, 30
15 years of gill nets, 25 years as a seaner, and about
16 three or four years as a troller.

17 In response to the question that Dan had a
18 while ago when he said it's basically share the pain,
19 in the early '70s I trolled probably 250 days a year.
20 In the summer fishery at least, trollers are fishing
21 about 11 days now.

22 So I think we share considerable pain
23 already.

24 I started writing letters to politicians on
25 this issue at least six or seven years ago. I see a

1 terrible discrepancy this evening in some of the
2 figures years given me and some of the figures I get
3 in other publications. As to the amount of fish that
4 gets through the dams, as to what our contribution
5 would be or wouldn't be if we stopped fishing
6 altogether. And I don't know what to make of that.

7 Basically, as so many people already said,
8 I think we've suffered enough. Especially the
9 trollers. And I don't think it's reasonable to share
10 the pain approach.

11 That's it.

12 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you, Carl.
13 Mark Hoffman, Dan Hickman, and Scott File.

14 MR. RUTTER: I want to take a moment
15 to clarify something. I did not suggest that cutting
16 Alaska's fishery was my view, I haven't expressed such
17 a view, of what's fair as far as sharing the pain.

18 I was responding to the question, what
19 argument would anybody use to cut, and that's the
20 argument that somebody else would use.

21 MR. MARK HOFFMAN: My name is Mark
22 Hoffman, and I'm here to represent myself and my
23 family, wife and children.

24 The first thing I would like to say is I
25 think it's totally socially irresponsible, whatever

1 action happens, whether you cut our harvest or whether
2 you wipe out the dams or whatever.

3 You know, the dams and stuff were built for
4 a purpose, starting, as people said here in the '30s
5 and it was for a reason; fighting a war, feeding the
6 country, so forth.

7 But no matter what happens, somebody's not
8 going to get the fair end of the stick.

9 But the whole issue here is taking care of
10 the fish, is my understanding, ESA is to protect that
11 resource.

12 Currently there's millions of dollars spent
13 to truck fish and to barge grain. To me it kind of
14 makes sense that you go back and let Mother Nature
15 take care of the fish, and we can take care of the
16 grain.

17 There were railroads and stuff built and a
18 lot of those have been disassembled or, you know, not
19 used anymore, because it was cheaper to take the stuff
20 by water than it was to take it on the rails.

21 There's evidence, you know, those dams, the
22 last built dam was completed in 1976 or 1975.

23 You know, there was evidence way before
24 that that the stocks were being, you know, getting
25 weaker and weaker and weaker all up and down the

1 Columbia system, yet the dams kept being built.

2 I kind of get the feelings you guys realize
3 that taking it out of our hides isn't going to save
4 the fish, that something is going to have to be done
5 on that end.

6 I think everybody in southeast here, at
7 least the majority say, we've done our part, Alaska's
8 got great fisheries management, and, you know, you can
9 take that to the bank as far as I'm concerned.

10 The Tri-Cities area, if you breach the
11 dams, it will be a redistribution, like you guys were
12 talking about. That's just all part of life. But
13 you're trying to protect these fish.

14 There's a lot of things that you guys have
15 discussed. One of them was taking the dams out.
16 There's predators. There's something I never heard
17 about here tonight, there's predators along that
18 system, there's pike and bass, all of these other
19 stuff. These fish are getting sucked up not just by
20 the dams, but the other stuff that's created by the
21 dams.

22 In 1985 when the U.S. and Canada signed the
23 treaty, they said there would be a hundred thousand
24 more king salmon in our fish hulls by 1998. We have
25 seen continued reductions.

1 I believe that if we're taking off the fish
2 for ten years, we will never see a chance to go out
3 and harvest king salmon again.

4 It happens time and time again. You take
5 stuff away and they say, oh, they're insignificant,
6 and you starve to death in the meantime.

7 I think Alaska should take no more
8 concessions. We have done our part and it is time to
9 give the fish back their habitat.

10 Alaskans won't stand for anything less.
11 Last thing I would like to say is railroad the grain
12 and the feed, not Alaskans.

13 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you, Mark.

14 Dan Hickman, Scott File, and Jay Dall.

15 MR. DAN HICKMAN: Ladies and
16 gentlemen, my name is Dan Hickman. I have been here
17 for 25 years as a commission fisherman.

18 I don't have a prepared statement. And I
19 just wanted to take the tack of urging you people to
20 realize that generally speaking, and I'm sure you've
21 already picked this up in the meetings you have
22 already attended, that no matter what Alaska fisheries
23 do, there is a consensus that without complete
24 restoration of the habitat, ecosystems, dam removal,
25 whatever it takes, we're not going to solve the

1 problem.

2 I urge you people to make recommendations
3 in all your meetings, upcoming meetings with the
4 federal agencies, various federal agencies involved,
5 to not get involved in Band-Aid management. Because
6 it's not going to solve anything.

7 We've been through this hundreds of times,
8 in the treaty process, as Larry can remember, we've
9 done this and studied it and kicked it and stomped on
10 it and moved it around from agency to agency, from
11 state to state, and we've solved nothing. Alaska's
12 already made contributions to the Snake River falls,
13 in reductions in their fisheries, and we've solved
14 nothing, because we don't have the cooperation.

15 All we did was reallocate fish, between
16 either state, province or Tribes or whatever. I guess
17 my total statement is, do not get involved in trying
18 to make short-term decisions. This is going to cost a
19 lot of money. It's going to affect a lot of people in
20 the areas down there where the systems have been
21 destroyed.

22 Trying to solve the problem by taking a
23 blanket -- making a blanket policy that affects people
24 whose total survival depends on natural resource based
25 economy is not responsible.

1 Thanks.

2 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you, Dan.

3 Scott File, Jay Dall, and again, I
4 apologize if I don't get your last name right, and
5 Stan Hjort.

6 MR. JERRY DALL: I think Scott
7 left. But I'm Jerry Dall. I don't want to
8 regurgitate a whole bunch of information you just
9 heard, but I just want to put emphasis on that, you
10 know, the mortality rate, 90 percent of the outgoing
11 salmon are killed in the dams, 66 percent of the
12 returning adults.

13 I mean, the numbers are there. It's
14 pretty obvious. I just hope you put those numbers
15 into effect when you help make a decision.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you.

18 Okay. We have Stan Hjort, John Kiazer, and
19 Wendel Gilbert.

20 MR. STAN HJORT: I am Stan Hjort.
21 Thank you for being here. I have observed with
22 interest for years the haggling and lack of
23 cooperation of state and federal agencies and various
24 other entities regarding the enhancement of the
25 Chinook salmon traveling up the Columbia River to

1 spawn in various tributaries, including the Snake and
2 Willamette Rivers.

3 The one thing lacking I've noted is that
4 everyone involved gives lip service to enhancement but
5 nothing positive gets done except to want to further
6 restrict Alaska's Chinook harvest.

7 Having spent time in Washington and Oregon,
8 the opinion I've heard in Eastern Washington in 1994
9 when there was hearings about barging salmon or
10 drawdowns, I believe it was drawdowns, if we want a
11 fish, we will go to the store and buy a fish.

12 Has all possible in-stream enhancement been
13 achieved before using Alaska as a scapegoat? I think
14 not.

15 What about the dredge spoil island, Rice
16 Island, below Astoria or Bonneville, wherever it is,
17 where the sea birds are decimating the juvenile
18 salmon.

19 And I have been reading about this in other
20 sport fish magazines. The upper Snake River salmon
21 right there, that would be our share probably going to
22 those sea birds.

23 Anyhow, solve this problem first before
24 blaming Alaska.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you, Stan.

2 John Kiazar or Kaiser, Wendel Gilbert, and
3 I can't remember the first name but the last name is
4 Coon.

5 MR. WENDEL GILBERT: Hello. I am
6 Wendel Gilbert. I'm the plant manager of Tongass Sea
7 Foods near in Petersburg. We are a custom processor
8 of commercial product and also sport caught product.

9 And a reduction in the sport catch and also
10 of the commercial troll king salmon in this whole area
11 here would really impact my business tremendously.

12 Just custom processing of sport caught fish
13 attributes to about 60 percent of my business.

14 Another big portion of my business,
15 probably another 10 percent anyway of my business, is
16 directly related to commercially caught troll caught
17 king salmon.

18 If we lose the ability to catch this kind
19 of fish, it would impact my business tremendously.

20 And commercially, not just myself but my
21 employees as well, because I will not have the number
22 of employees that I do now. And because the king
23 salmon is something that is the earliest fishery here,
24 most of that is hatchery fish that are coming back,
25 and it will, you know, not being able to fish them at

1 all, that does nothing for our hatchery fish.

2 That means those aren't going to be able to
3 be caught either. That makes a big difference.

4 It sounds like you've done a lot of studies
5 already on the problems down there. You've already
6 identified the problems. And it seems to me by
7 listening to this that the least of your problems is
8 the fishery in Alaska. And impacting Alaskan's like
9 myself, having small businesses, would close me down,
10 basically.

11 We're not making any money now, but cutting
12 off another leg would really topple the whole thing.

13 So, I encourage you to use those reports
14 that you've already got to identify your problems and
15 solve them in-house, stop fishing in the rivers.

16 One of the statements that you made, the
17 National Marine Fisheries agency, that if you stop
18 fishing those fish completely in the river, it would
19 solve most of the your problems, including bypassing
20 the dams, would also compensate for that, by just stop
21 fishing.

22 We learned that a long time ago in Alaska.
23 You don't fish them in the river unless you've got
24 more than you can handle.

25 But that doesn't seem to be the case down

1 there.

2 I know there's a lot of issues with the
3 natives involved down there. I think some
4 negotiations are in order, though. If they want to
5 save what fish are there, they need to start taking
6 that into consideration.

7 Catching fish down there in the river for
8 your own use is one thing, but catching fish and
9 selling them for your own personal gain is something
10 else entirely.

11 Thank you very much.

12 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you,
13 Wendel.

14 Okay. We have John Kiazer, Tim Bristol and
15 Gerry Morrigan.

16 MR. JOHN KIAZER: My name is John
17 Kiazer. I have been involved in the troll fishery for
18 50 years now. Everybody's pretty much said what I
19 would say, I was going to say.

20 But when we get all done and said here, you
21 get your fish out of the rivers, you've got a predator
22 problem, and it's very large, it's getting larger by
23 the day, and that's the sea lions. Those fish aren't
24 going to get out of the river, aren't going to get out
25 of basins down there, and they aren't going to survive

1 anyplace, until you answer that one.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you, John.

4 Is the gentleman with the last name Coon
5 present?

6 MR. D. A. COON: Howdie. I am D.A.
7 Coon. I have been an old troller for 60 years, more
8 or less, and I'd like to read a letter that's in the
9 Petersburg Pilot today. And just sort of start in
10 with the second paragraph because you have a copy of
11 the whole letter.

12 How did the Alaska fishermen get into this
13 place is because the people in Washington, Oregon and
14 Idaho during the past 50 or 60 years or so decided
15 cheap hydroelectric power and irrigation water was
16 more important than fish on the Columbia and Snake
17 Rivers and the tributaries.

18 This tri-state area, besides getting cheap
19 electricity, sells it to California and the millions
20 of dollars earned and saved is kept in this tri-state
21 area.

22 They have turned a deaf ear to any
23 complaint regarding fishing as if the dams had nothing
24 to do with the decrease in fish runs and this lie told
25 over the years has become the truth in this area.

1 They, having to blame someone for the
2 decrease of fish in the Columbia and Snake River,
3 zeroed in on the Alaska trollers who were catching all
4 the Columbia and Snake River fish and where the whole
5 caused a catastrophe. They don't mention that
6 hundreds of Indians and who knows, some whites, gill
7 nets the whole river between the dams and actually
8 catch king salmon that alludes the predators in the
9 open ocean. Especially seals and sea lions that are
10 carefully protected by our federal government.

11 That doesn't give a damn about the dams or
12 the fish. Four dams in Idaho being removed isn't
13 going to solve any problems at all as the majority of
14 the spawners are caught en route or killed by the dams
15 before they even find the Snake River.

16 Interestingly enough, the failed democratic
17 candidate, Bill Bradley, last week was even trying to
18 get votes by eliminating the Elwaw Dam as a vote
19 getter. This probably won't happen as the lake is
20 surrounded by many summer homes and by people with
21 political ties.

22 The only way the Columbia and Snake Rivers
23 are going to have salmon runs again of any
24 significance is to remove all the dams in both the
25 Columbia and Snake Rivers and get lots of hatcheries

1 going to replenish the lost runs of fish.

2 And we all know that this is not going to
3 happen.

4 So the Columbia and Snake River problems
5 are theirs and the Alaska king and coho runs belong to
6 us in Alaska, and we should manage them without any
7 input by Washington State, Oregon and Idaho fisheries
8 experts. They made their own bed and we should let
9 them lie in it.

10 I really have a solution or two to the
11 problem. I think that you ought to charge the power
12 users in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and California a
13 higher rate so they are paying like we pay here, like
14 ten cents a kilowatt.

15 And with the millions of dollars generated
16 from that, they can fund all these hatcheries.
17 Actually, they can fund hatcheries in Alaska so they
18 can get eggs to use in all these hatcheries.

19 And I was thinking that it would only be
20 below the first dam. But actually if you can
21 transport the fry anywhere along the river, you should
22 have hatcheries all the way up and down the Columbia
23 and Snake and transport the fry below the lowest dam
24 and then you would have the problem solved for getting
25 killed during their transit to the ocean.

1 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Would you
2 please --

3 MR. COON: Is my time autopsy?

4 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Yes.

5 MR. COON: The second bell run?

6 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Yes.

7 MR. COON: I can't hear it. I'm
8 deaf, too. I want to read three more items here. I'm
9 old and deaf.

10 We should eliminate the seals and sea lions
11 in the river as any salmon that gets as far as Astoria
12 probably is going to make it all it all the way up.
13 And it's an interesting thing. Our representatives,
14 Representative Young was saying he didn't think the
15 dams had anything to do with the decrease in the
16 fisheries.

17 Now, I think that's a strange thing for him
18 to say. But that was on the Tuesday news.

19 The dams are the problem, and nothing else.
20 And the bureaucrats should start to see what the
21 situation really is.

22 And I thank you.

23 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you.

24 Tim Bristol, Jerry Morrigan, and followed
25 by a ten minute break.

1 MR. TIM BRISTOL: My name is Tim
2 Bristol, and I am here from the Save Our Wild Salmon
3 Coalition. It's a coalition of commercial fishing
4 organizations, lower 48 and up here in Alaska.
5 Supporting Alternative 1, or Alternative A, the
6 immediate breach option. I think it has the best
7 chance of success for bringing back in particular the
8 fall run of Chinook, the ones that Alaskans are on the
9 hook for so to speak.

10 I think people need to keep in mind that
11 the reason we're here is because the other options,
12 these technological fixes, hatcheries, they just have
13 not worked.

14 One thing when you are talking about the
15 economics of these thing, you need to incorporate the
16 three billion dollars that's already been spent over
17 the last 25 years, moving fish around dams. I think
18 it's really more to use history as a guide here. And
19 that it's dams and habitat degradation, and building
20 these ineffective technological fixes have got us to
21 this point now.

22 I think alternative ones makes the more
23 sense, and I don't think those dams do anymore.

24 Alaska recently signed the Pacific Salmon
25 Treaty, and we gave up fish, and in exchange for us

1 giving up fish, the Northwest agreed to safe passage
2 of fish, and right now the Northwest is not living up
3 to their end of the bargain.

4 And I would just ask the Northwest to do
5 so, and guarantee safe passage, and that means
6 removing, at least starting with the removing the
7 earthen portion of four dams on the Snake.

8 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you, Tim.
9 Jerry.

10 MR. GERRY MORRIGAN: My name is Gerry
11 Morrigan and I am speaking on behalf of Petersburg
12 Vessel Owners Association with 62 commercial
13 fishermen and 18 associated businesses.

14 Mostly commenting on the Columbia Basin
15 All-H paper. I only looked at the fact sheets for the
16 Draft EIS and I was a little over awe'd when I saw the
17 table of contents was 31 pages long.

18 And I would like to ask for an extension on
19 the draft study on the drawdown for John Day, because
20 I think there is more merit to that, particularly the
21 negative value on fish production.

22 I find that a little suspect, and I think
23 having an extinction on that period, that would be
24 helpful.

25 Most of the comments will be on Snake River

1 fall Chinook but I can think Alaskan fishermen should
2 be aware, and maybe more threatened in the future by
3 the other ESA listing, the upper Willamette spring
4 Chinook in the future.

5 In my mind it is questionable whether that
6 is an evolutionally significant unit because part of
7 it is at risk because of extensive genetic dilution
8 from nonlocal hatchery stock.

9 In other words, if it's not a distinct
10 stock, I'm not sure how it can be an ESU. It is like
11 cleaning up your family tree.

12 I would like to thank you for coming to
13 Petersburg and holding this hearing. I must recognize
14 this hearing was scheduled after the request by the
15 Governor. But nonetheless, we thank you for coming
16 here.

17 Five years ago there was a crew of people
18 here with a recovery plan that at that time was
19 proposing a reduction of 75 percent, and got a lot of
20 play, and the idea was to study the dams for five more
21 years.

22 I guess that's where we are now. And in
23 that testimony Governor Knowles said, well, he put it
24 best when he compared recovery plan approach at that
25 time to a sign in a bar in Anchorage which said, we

1 screwed the other guy and passed the savings on to
2 you.

3 Well, now it looks like five years later
4 the major change in the alternatives is including the
5 dam removal that we are breaching from the lower
6 Snake, so we have broadened the field of who gets
7 screwed, harvest or hydropower.

8 In the past five years harvest has been
9 further reduced and the savings seem to have gone into
10 increased interdam adult loss. I really don't think
11 savings relate to the spawning ground. Time's running
12 out.

13 We will also consider to do our part
14 proportional to our harvest, but these alternatives
15 fly in the face of the recent ten-year agreement of
16 the Pacific Salmon Treaty. We are for the continued
17 health of the wild salmon, but I think you have
18 touched on it, the real measure is, are you going to
19 save these fish?

20 It doesn't almost seem practical, but then
21 you have to write the ESA or your native trust
22 responsibility. If you are going to save them, you're
23 going to have to increase in-stream passage. I don't
24 think harvest is the answer, and I am talking for
25 harvest for all sectors.

1 left to give comments. So we will start with Amy
2 Skillbred, Ed Jones and Kris Sharpsteen.

3 MS. AMY SKILLBRED: Hi. My name is
4 Amy Skillbred and I am with the Department of Fish and
5 Game, and I would first like to say that Commissioner
6 Frank Rew apologizes that he isn't able to make it
7 here tonight and I am going to submit his comments for
8 the record, and then make some brief comments.

9 First of all, welcome to Alaska, and Fish
10 and Game supports the fishermen and fishing
11 communities of southeast Alaska and believes that they
12 have made significant sacrifices to the recovery of
13 the Snake River fall Chinook.

14 We have comments on specific -- specific
15 comments on the different studies, and first on the
16 John Day drawdown. We're also asking that the comment
17 deadline be extended on that, as the complete document
18 is not yet available.

19 Further when this summary was reviewed by
20 Fish and Game biologists, they came to a vastly
21 different conclusion than the Corps, and believe that
22 the Corps has greatly underestimated the possible
23 biological benefits of a drawdown and would recommend
24 that a Phase II study be undertaken.

25 Secondly, on the DEIS for the Lower Snake

1 River, Fish and Game, based on its review of the
2 documents on the Corps' own assessment and on the U.S.
3 Fish and Wildlife Service recommendations believes
4 that Alternative 4 will provide the best benefits for
5 endangered salmon and offers the best chance of
6 restoring fish populations. That's the natural river
7 drawdown.

8 And third, on the All-H paper, Fish and
9 Game believes that alternative B, the harvest
10 reductions alternative, will not recover Snake River
11 salmon but would greatly affect all southeast Alaska
12 fishermen, commercial, charter and sport fishermen.

13 Furthermore, that this cut from 50 -- of 50
14 to 75 percent would not recover the fall Chinook and
15 would doing nothing for the spring and summer Chinook
16 and steelhead.

17 Furthermore, Fish and Game backs the
18 scientific findings demonstrating that the best option
19 for recovery of Snake River salmon includes removing
20 the earthen portions of the four Lower Snake River
21 dams, restoring the habitat, and increasing the water
22 flow.

23 Thanks.

24 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you, Amy.

25 Okay. We have Ed Jones, Becky Knight, and Kris

1 Sharpsteen. We will have Becky Knight, Kris
2 Sharpsteen and Marilyn George.

3 MS. BECKY KNIGHT: Hi there. My name
4 is Becky knight. I'm a southeast Alaska commercial
5 salmon fishing permit holder, and my family's income
6 relies heavily on salmon fishing in southeast Alaska
7 and the economic vitality of our small fishing town is
8 directly dependent on this as well.

9 I won't quote the statistics in great
10 detail, but as you know, out of 10,000 juvenile Snake
11 River fall run Chinook 8,000 die on downstream
12 migration at the dams, or by natural causes leaving
13 only 2,000, a meager two Snake River fall run Chinook
14 are caught in southeast waters out of those 10,000.

15 The two proposed Federal Caucus
16 alternatives to drastically curtail harvest of king
17 salmon in southeast Alaska are a mere Band-Aid
18 solution for the massive hemorrhage created by
19 construction and operation of the Snake River dams.
20 These proposals are also an affront to the
21 conservation measures Alaska fishermen have been asked
22 to endure for three decades. Not to mention the
23 tireless efforts of those who have sought habitat
24 protection in their own watersheds.

25 Simply stated, laws of the Pacific

1 Northwest salmon runs are the price of hydropower
2 development there. A conscious and costly choice. 15
3 years and three billion dollars have been spent on
4 salmon recovery efforts that did not work.

5 The single most important step you can take
6 now in order to restore PNW salmon run is removal of
7 the dams. Not only do they degrade habitat but they
8 also violate the Clean Water Act by elevating water
9 temperature, and the reservoirs behind the dams, and
10 increasing dissolved gases to levels intolerable for
11 salmon and trout.

12 As you know, the lethal temperatures
13 experienced in recent years in the Columbia and Snake
14 River have resulted in documented fish kills of
15 disastrous proportions.

16 I am further not convinced that power
17 generation is the issue. These dams only supply about
18 5 percent of regional power needs and with the rapid
19 advent of individual fuel cells, hydropower is sure to
20 be a relic of bygone days in the near future.

21 Given that Alaska fishermen stand to lose
22 yet more than they already have, it leaves me
23 wondering just who the Alaskan politicians'
24 constituency is.

25 And I'm disappointed that the full

1 compliment of the Federal Caucus panel was not present
2 at our public hearing, only NMFS, Corps of Engineers
3 and Bonneville Power Administration were available to
4 hear our comment.

5 An addendum also is that support of dam
6 removal, lower 48 as been overwhelming in rural as
7 well as urban. This point was not made during your
8 presentation tonight.

9 And I would like to list a few of the
10 groups that have endorsed removal of the four Lower
11 Snake River dams. Alaska trollers, Alaska Long Line
12 Fishermen's Association, Midnight Sun Chapter of Trout
13 Unlimited, State Council of Trout Unlimited, 500
14 Alaska fishermen, who have also signed on as support
15 of damage removal, Tongass Sport Fishing Association,
16 Alaska Marine Conservation Council, ADF&G and the port
17 of Alexander.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you, Becky.

20 Okay. We have Kris Sharpsteen,
21 Marilyn George and Mack Holtzinger.

22 MR. KRIS SHARPSTEEN: My name is Kris
23 Sharpsteen, I am a troller, I live here in Petersburg,
24 I am representing myself and my family.

25 Since Becky just mentioned Port Alexander,

1 Port Alexander in the 1930s was a thriving trolling
2 community down on the tip of Paranot Island.

3 That community went in decline as soon as
4 the dams were put on the Columbia River.

5 It just so happens that was the fish that
6 they were basically fishing on. And they were fishing
7 with antiquated trolling technique.

8 The dams are the problem. The dams and the
9 habitat degradation that resulted, that is the
10 problem.

11 And the decision that has to be made, are
12 you going to fix the problem or are you going to keep
13 massaging the situation. I have taken hits in my
14 commercial fishery since the 1980s. And that has not
15 resulted in any increased escapement for these fall
16 Snake River Chinook.

17 And when I hear that the Hells Canyon dams
18 eliminated 80 percent of the spawning habitat without
19 any fish passage, and the Grand Coulee Dam has
20 eliminated over 50 percent of another species spawning
21 habitat, I think it's time to start looking at what
22 the real problem here is, and I hope that you
23 seriously consider option number A as a start anyway
24 to bringing back some habitat for these fish.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you, Kris.
2 Okay. Marilyn George, Max Holtzinger and George
3 Mentel.

4 MS. MARILYN GEORGE: I am
5 Marilyn George. A lot of the people have said a lot
6 of the things that I was going to say. And I think
7 they said them very well.

8 I came to Alaska in 1946 as a troller. We
9 believed the biologist when they said that it is more
10 efficient to grow salmon in hatcheries where we have
11 96 percent survival from the eggs as compared to 6
12 percent in the wild.

13 Then I moved to Idaho in the 1960s. I
14 lived along the Snake River. Everyone said, we had
15 many salmon until they allowed Idaho Power to build
16 Hells Canyon, Oxbow and Brownlee dams, which had no
17 fish ladders.

18 I was happy to hear tonight that maybe they
19 are going to redo those agreements and maybe they
20 could remake them have some ladders on them.

21 Another fellow who worked on the dams told
22 how thousands of salmon tried to get over Hells Canyon
23 Dam and they had to dig holes and bury them.

24 Then I worked on the Nez Perce Reservation
25 when they dedicated the three dams on the Snake that

1 they are proposing to remove.

2 Now the ocean going tugs could come to
3 Lewiston, and they could ship out all the wheat from
4 Montana, Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho
5 cheaply. They built mammoth grain elevators to hold
6 it until the tugs could take it out.

7 An old Indian said, we used to catch many
8 salmon for ourselves, our families, and could even
9 sell or barter some. Now we aren't allowed to catch
10 enough for our families. We'll be put in jail if we
11 sell any.

12 My husband lived near Kettle Falls. His
13 family went there and bought salmon from the Indians
14 who fished there until Grand Coulee Dam was built
15 without a fish ladder. Then the Indians could catch
16 no more salmon. Dwarshach Dam out of Orofino, Idaho,
17 was going to raise salmon, but now they converted it
18 to steelhead. The agreement was that no dams would be
19 put on the Salmon River, but now outfits are proposing
20 to put dams on it.

21 With the exception of the 12 years I was
22 south I trolled for salmon from 1946 to '86. Alaska
23 has handled its salmon resource conservatively. The
24 Alaskan trollers and sport fishermen should not be
25 penalized for the mistakes made in Washington and

1 Oregon, mostly by the federal government.

2 I just returned from Astoria, the Corps of
3 Engineers is proposing to dredge the Columbia from its
4 mouth to Portland so that even larger barges can be
5 brought up to load grain and other supplies.

6 The fishermen are fighting it. This will
7 be even more -- there will be even more pressure to
8 keep the dams on the Snake to ship even more grain
9 cheaper.

10 Remember the salmon.

11 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you,
12 Marilyn.

13 Okay. We have Max Holtzinger, George
14 Mantel Paul Bowen.

15 MR. MAX HOLTZINGER: I am Max
16 Holtzinger. I'm a troller, have been for 20 years.
17 But I grew up in Washington next to the Yakima River.
18 And I watched that river be depleted by irrigation
19 dams and small power dams, some which aren't even
20 over, say, six foot high, just because there was no
21 ladders and there was diversions around them that went
22 back into the rivers, that the fish tended to fall,
23 with no screens, which now they have changed.

24 But I look at that situation, and as simple
25 as it was to fix, and it's been that way for years,

1 kept blaming the fishermen, and they blamed the
2 Indians, they blamed the commercial fishermen, they
3 blamed everything but what the problem was.

4 And I look at that situation, and look at
5 the dams on the Snake River, which are tremendously
6 larger, financially a much huger project, I look at
7 the public even afraid to look at a smaller situation,
8 afraid to fix that, and wonder how they're going to be
9 convinced to fix something that's going to cost
10 millions and millions and millions more.

11 And I think what we need is good press from
12 you guys. They will listen to you. You represent
13 them. If you show them our side of the story, we
14 aren't the problem, the dams are. I think we have a
15 lot better chance at solving the situation.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you, Max.

18 Okay. George Mentel, Paul Bowen and
19 Richard Van Trump.

20 Paul?

21 MR. PAUL BOWEN: My name is Paul
22 Bowen. I have been a commercial fisherman, troller,
23 since 1967 to the present here in Petersburg.

24 I concur with the statements that were made
25 previously this evening, the testimony, including the

1 opportunity for us to be able to testify to you.

2 Thanks for coming. I'm not going to take
3 any more time because I would be repeating many of the
4 statements here tonight.

5 I would like to give my time to some of the
6 bell ringers.

7 I would like to say, though, in closing,
8 that I urge you to take south with you the concern
9 that you have heard tonight, and that to protect and
10 to restore the habitat, I might call it the dam
11 habitat.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you, Paul.

14 Was George not here? Okay. Then we have
15 Richard Van Trump, Jim Schramek I believe, okay, and
16 Stacy Hjort.

17 MR. RICHARD VAN TRUMP: I am Richard
18 Van Trump. I'm here representing myself. Just a few
19 thoughts.

20 I'm a sport fisherman. I'm a deck hand.
21 I'm a cannery worker. I'm an Alaskan who relies on
22 subsistence fishing. And I'm looking at a hand troll
23 permit to try to break into that fishery. It's an
24 entry level permit.

25 Alaska has given up a lot of rights and

1 fish to Canada, and the world. They screw up the
2 habitat and such. You can pick your fisheries and
3 Alaskans give in an effort to save their stocks.

4 Now this time it's not another country
5 that's attacking the state, this time it's our own
6 countrymen. I'm not sure, but it seems that the most
7 common perception that I see is Alaska is the land of
8 exhaustible resources, that it's okay to take from us,
9 since there's so much.

10 Well, I'm here to tell you it's not
11 inexhaustible. Look around. Fishermen grouse about
12 quotas and junk, but for the most part they're willing
13 to live with it so they can pass on, they can make a
14 living and they can pass on to their kids their way of
15 life.

16 Now, in the early days of Alaska, Seattle
17 ruled. Laws were passed, they were enacted for the
18 good of a few at the expense of Alaskans. I have only
19 been here for a couple years, but it really kind of
20 feels like that's happening again.

21 Once upon a time the people of this nation
22 faced similar circumstances, with others imposing, you
23 know, their will, their taxes, their whatever, and not
24 allowing them a whole lot of say in their governing.

25 At that time they had a tea party. This

1 time what does it take, a fish fry?

2 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you,
3 Richard.

4 Jim Schramek, followed by Stacy Hjort.
5 MR. JIM SCHRAMEK: Hi. My name is

6 Jim Schramek. I have been an Alaskan for 24 years
7 now, sport fished for king salmon for 24 years. And
8 I'm not going to repeat a lot of what I have heard
9 tonight because there were a lot of good comments.

10 But what I see, I didn't get the chance to
11 see all of the reports, but in looking over the
12 written documentation I see a rather limited list of
13 alternatives to be considered that I feel like there's
14 been more detail that's not expressed, and that's
15 difficult to communicate to people.

16 But one thing that occurred to me is it
17 would be good to look at, instead of removing all four
18 at once, you might think about the downstream three,
19 if there's most of the sediment behind the upstream
20 one, and try to get more recovery going, because you
21 may lose a lot of fish because of sediment problems,
22 just disturbance that's going on while you have so few
23 fish around to tolerate it.

24 I also wonder if anyone's considered some
25 sort of a condoor type stock backup, where, you know,

1 it's not generally considered a good idea to move
2 stocks very far for a hatchery program, but maybe look
3 at someplace where you could go where there's no
4 possibility of dilution, and either farm raise some of
5 these stocks that are in jeopardy and try to preserve
6 that stock, regardless of what might happen during the
7 recovery period.

8 It's kind of breaking some of the rules,
9 but if you can find a site where you can have a
10 hatchery where you're not mingling with other stocks,
11 it might be the kind of backup that it would take to
12 make it work.

13 Definitely you've got to look at other ways
14 to reduce the in-stream harvest in terms of lifestyle,
15 maybe for a period of time transportation could be
16 paid for these people to enjoy their lifestyle in
17 another location.

18 It was mentioned here about Point Baker,
19 but I think it's worth considering, that southeast
20 Alaska has already lost so much by the construction of
21 these dams.

22 There's a 134 pound king salmon mounted
23 down there. That entire race that used to come by
24 here is lost to us. But the comments by G A Coon I
25 think are probably appropriate.

1 Look at raising the power cost down there
2 to match ours, and use some of that money to pay for
3 some of the things you might do to increase the supply
4 of fish.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you, Jim.

7 And our last person signed up for comments
8 is Stacey Hjort.

9 MR. STACEY HJORT: Thank you. My
10 name is Stacey Hjort. I don't have a prepared
11 statement, but I am -- I have lived in Petersburg for
12 many, many years, I have a small business, bed and
13 breakfast, which depends a lot on people that come to
14 our town for the sport fishing activities, and also
15 actually I occasionally have fishermen staying with
16 me.

17 But I just want to say that I am in support
18 of the alternative for the dam breach, or other
19 methods like that in restoring habitat, as opposed to
20 further cutting into our commercial fishermen's way of
21 life, and also for, like the other guys have said
22 before, the fish, Alaskans have given up a lot on the
23 fish in the past, and I think it's time that we face
24 what the problem is for those fish there, and that we
25 need to seriously consider the dam breaches is the

1 first step in the restoring habitat for those fish.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you, Stacey.

4 Okay. We're through with all of the people
5 who have signed up.

6 Is there anybody else who didn't sign up
7 that would like to testify?

8 MR. WADDELL: It's your last chance.

9 MS. JUDY BEHARY: I would like to.

10 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Okay.

11 MS. JUDY BEHARY: My name is Judy
12 Behary, representing my family. Relatively new to
13 Alaska, six year resident, here because we technically
14 went broke on the Oregon coast.

15 We know many people that have lost homes,
16 boats, everything that they have had, worked for many
17 years for.

18 What we felt happened down there was by the
19 time things got to the point that we are here, and we
20 spent many, many days, not just hours, but many days
21 in meetings, we felt that the decisions had already
22 been made as to what was going to happen, and that the
23 public comment meetings were just a formality, a legal
24 formality.

25 I saw in a meeting a man as big as Tiny Van

1 Trump on his hands and knees, begging for somebody to
2 do something to help us not lose all of our fisheries,
3 which we did, and that's why we're here now.

4 And I personally don't ever want to see
5 that happen again.

6 People talk about losing their incomes,
7 relocating, and learning new trades. That sounds
8 good, you know.

9 They offered computer school to people down
10 there. You know, well, you'll just have to relocate,
11 relearn. Well, you know, when you're 50 years old,
12 more than 50 years old, those things are not so easy
13 to do.

14 And I think that at this point here, I know
15 everybody's looking at this really seriously, but I
16 think when you've seen happen what we saw happen, you
17 see how really serious it can be and how quick it can
18 turn very, very serious. And in a small town like
19 this, if we lose the fishery here like we did there,
20 it will be totally devastating.

21 And I'm not talking about just
22 economically. Emotionally, physically. It is just
23 something that we can't let happen.

24 So we all need to spread the word through
25 the state somehow, and absolutely put our foot down

1 and not let these things happen to anyone else.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. JESSI PHELPS: Thank you, Judy.

4 Is there anybody else who would like to
5 give a comment? Okay. Jim?

6 MR. WADDELL: I really appreciate
7 you folks coming. We have had some great comments
8 here. Got a lot of good input.

9 I can say that, because this is the last
10 meeting and I personally have listened to 833 people
11 testify, and, yeah, there's basically overwhelming
12 support for breaching dams, but, you know, this isn't
13 an outright referendum or vote, but that is an
14 important statement of value that is part of this
15 public process.

16 And I think just for your information, we
17 will probably receive another 100 to 200,000 comments
18 in the form of a card signed, you know, stating a
19 preferred alternative or a course of action or
20 something like that.

21 So, there's an enormous amount of interest
22 and input into this public process, and the neat part
23 about it, it's all public record, it's all part of the
24 documented process, it doesn't go away, it doesn't get
25 lost, and it's going to be there for all the decision

1 makers to use.

2 And even at my level of the district where
3 I'm the first person that has to say something about
4 what the Corps of Engineers does, it is part of that
5 process. But it also will be used, like we said, this
6 ultimately will end up in Congress, it will be part of
7 that input to that process.

8 So anyway, I just want to conclude by
9 saying that you guys have followed quite, several
10 thousand people before you at these public meetings,
11 and it's been a tremendous turnout, and I think it's
12 reflective of the national importance of this issue.
13 This particular issue, the Snake River dams, and the
14 salmon in general, but especially these dams, has
15 become kind of a bell weather environmental issue of
16 this new millennium, and so there's a lot of attention
17 focused on it, and I think that what the public says
18 will have a lot to do with the way this goes.

19 Larry?

20 MR. RUTTER: Oh, I just also want to
21 thank everybody for coming. This has been an
22 extraordinary four days of meetings that we have
23 attended, starting in Ketchikan, then in Sitka, Juneau
24 last night, and finally here. I am more than anything
25 impressed with the quality of the testimony that we

1 STATE OF OREGON)
) ss.
2 County of Umatilla)

3

4 I, William J. Bridges, do hereby certify
5 that at the time and place heretofore mentioned in the
6 caption of the foregoing matter, I was a Certified
7 Shorthand Reporter for the State of Oregon; that at
8 said time and place I reported in stenotype all
9 testimony adduced and proceedings had in the foregoing
10 matter; that thereafter my notes were reduced to
11 typewriting and that the foregoing transcript
12 consisting, of 57 typewritten pages is a true and
13 correct transcript of all such testimony adduced and
14 proceedings had and of the whole thereof.

15 Witness my hand at Pendleton, Oregon, on
16 this _____ day of April, 2000.

17

18

19

20

21 _____
William J. Bridges
22 Certified Shorthand Reporter
Certificate No. 91-0244
23 My certificate expires: 10-31-02

24

25