PUBLIC MEETING ON 1995 WORK PLAN (JELECONFERENCE) 9/28/94

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL SETTLEMENT TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Restoration Office Simpson Building 645 G Street Anchorage, Alaska

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE 1995 WORK PLAN

(Teleconference)

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TRANSCRIPT

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EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

EVOS TRUSTEE COUNCIL STAFF:

MR. JIM AYERS, Executive Director

MS. L. J. EVANS, Public Information Officer

PUBLIC COMMENTS via teleconference:

MR. JEROME SELBY, Kodiak

DR. JOHN FRENCH, Kodiak

MR. TOM VANBROCKLIN, Valdez

MS. ESTHER RONNE, Seward

MR. ARNIE HATCH, Seward

MR. JIM GRAY, Cordova

MS. MONICA RIEDEL, Cordova

MS. CARMEN YOUNG, Seward

MR. KEN BLATCHFORD, Seward

MR. JAMES MYKKELIN (ph), Cordova

MS. TORIE BAKER, Cordova

MS. PAM THOMAS, Cordova

MR. KEVIN LAWFORD, Seward

MR. GERALD MCCUNE, Cordova

PROCEEDINGS

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MR. AYERS: Good evening, this is Jim Ayers, Executive Director of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Counsel. I'm in Anchorage with Molly McCammon, our Director of Operations; Dr. Robert Spies, our Chief Scientist; Mark Broderson from the Department of Environmental Conservation; and Bob Loeffler, Rebecca and L.J., additional staff support for this evening's public meeting. I wanted to just briefly review that this discussion is about the 1994 Work Plan, and rather than have us take up a lot of your time, I'll just do a brief overview and then for those who have comments, we welcome comments. The Trustee Counsel has engaged in the development of a comprehensive balanced approach to restoration to restore the resource and services damaged by the 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. We are currently in the process of completing an environmental impact statement required under the National Environmental Protection Act. We anticipate that the EIS will be completed sometime the end of October. The 1995 Work Plan is designed to be in concert with the Environmental Impact Statement and the Restoration Plan which have been out for public review and are in their final stages, as I've mentioned, under the environmental impact statement process. The 1995 work plan was built around a solicitation from the public regarding ideas and proposals for the restoration effort. There were one hundred and seventy-two projects submitted with a combined FY 95 cost in the neighborhood of some seventy million dollars. The proposals were

organized into categories: research, monitoring, general restoration, habitat protection and acquisition, and administration, science, management and public information. we tried to do is -- is supplied the public with an overview of those projects and actually an initial categorizing of those projects so that the public would have a view of our initial thinking about those projects and divided them into categories one through six, and those are described in the '95 Work Plan Executive Summary. But, basically, category one would be priority projects; category two would be projects that appear to be permissible, but are of lower priority than ones; threes were found to be incomplete or lacking a clear relationship to restoration; category fours were legal or policy issues associated with the project proposal; and category fives were close-out projects from FY '94; and category six were projects that were proposed for carry forward. They weren't completed in the previous fiscal year and so they're proposed for carry over.

OPERATOR: Excuse me.

MR. AYERS: Yes.

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OPERATOR: Valdez, Seward and Cordova have joined you.

MR. AYERS: Good, thank you, welcome. This is Jim Ayers in Anchorage and I was just providing an overview of our public meeting tonight with a focus -- which is focused on the fiscal year 1995 Work Plan, and the Trustee Council's effort to develop a work plan for '95 that is developed in a manner that is

consist with our comprehensive balanced approach to restoration, which includes our Restoration Plan that has also been out for public review. But, our focus tonight is specifically on 1995's Work Plan, which is divided into three primary parts: research, general restoration and habitat, and protection. Under research, we are trying to focus the proposal in '95 into -- into areas that would find out why some resources are not recovering or are recovering very slowly. Those categories are described under research in the draft Work Plan and those should be available at your site. Under monitoring, the monitoring of the recovery of injured resources and services has been an important part of the restoration process since '89, since the spill, and information about recovery is, obviously important in designing restoration activities. Monitoring means exactly that -- monitoring the resources to see what is occurring, what is happening with the population, as well as their habitat in some cases. Under general restoration, those are projects that are related specifically designed activities of what we might do to manipulate, so to speak, the environment to facilitate or help or enhance the recovery of the injured resources. Under habitat protection, and I'm going to take just a minute on this one, and then I'll stop, but under habitat protection, the general public through a variety of public hearings, scientists, and not only agency scientists, but our peer review and our Chief Scientist, have clearly recommended that we design a method and approach that includes protecting the critical habitat areas throughout the spill area. And that we do so in a

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manner that would allow the injured resources to have specific areas that are protected in the long term and that provide for the long term recovery of those resources, and the various -- meeting their various biological needs including breeding, nesting, feeding, etc. Throughout the spill area, because we know that many of these species may not benefit if we restore and protect only one particular subregion of the spill area. Therefore, the Council has made it clear that the protection effort should be a comprehensive effort throughout the spill area, but with the understanding that that package should be designed so as not to preclude other opportunities that have been identified as necessary for restoration. And that translates in don't spend all the money on habitat acquisition, which is also something that we heard from the public and the scientists. And, that's why the Council has focused on a comprehensive balanced approach that includes all of the categories, all of the areas of restoration that I mentioned, including habitat acquisition, and, in fact, it's envisioned and identified in the preferred alternative recently adopted by the Trustee Council at its August 23rd meeting. So, with that said, let me just close with, we'd appreciate any of your comments. Our primary focus is on the 1995 Work Plan proposals, and that summary document should be available at each of your locations, but feel free to comment on any aspect, at this point, that you may feel like expressing tonight, and I welcome you all to this public meeting. And, why don't we identify by site if you have people that would like to testify, and I'll just walk through them now.

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Juneau do you have people to testify? Cordova do you have anyone there who wishes to testify?

CORDOVA LIO: Yes, I have five so far.

MR. AYERS: Five. Okay. Seward do you have people in Seward that wish to testify?

SEWARD LIO: Yes, we have five people here to testify.

MR. AYERS: And Valdez, do you have people there who - who wish to testify?

VALDEZ LIO: Yes, Valdez has one.

MR. AYERS: Okay, Soldotna, are you on line? Soldotna? (No response) Kodiak, are you on line?

KODIAK LIO: Yes, we have two, Jim.

MR. AYERS: Okay, good evening, Mr. Mayor.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good evening.

MR. AYERS: Is there anyone else on line other than those sites that I named? Okay, why don't we start at -- I was going to say most distant, and I assume that's Kodiak. Why don't we take testimony from Kodiak. I would ask that, before we start, that the general rules be no swearing, just kidding, go ahead. If people would state their name and spell it for the record, and -- when you begin your comments, and let's say -- let's try for three minutes since there are some fifteen people to testify, let's go for three minutes and see how that works out, and if someone needs longer, then we'll come back at the end and I'll be glad to stay around if people need additional time. And, if that's

satisfactory, let's begin in Kodiak.

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Okay, thanks, Jim, this is Jerome MR. JEROME SELBY: Selby, Mayor of Kodiak Island Borough. I just have a few comments. First of all, we've always supported and we like the way the Trustee Council is going as far as trying to spread the funding that's available to cover a number of areas. We are particularly interested in the habitat acquisition program, as you're aware, and would hope that one of the richest areas in the whole spill area which is that north of Afognak-Shuyak corridor would be a high priority for the -- for the acquisition -- as a primary activity during the FY '95 effort. In addition to that, we're very interested in seeing Project 95027 which is the Kodiak shoreline assessment project funded, its under category two right now and we'd like to see it popped up to category one, primarily because there's no survey work that's been done down here since 1990. So, we've kind of gone four years and are operating a little bit in a vacuum as far as what is happening on the shoreline. concern I have is the fact that the two pink salmon projects that we've identified, and that we've actually been kind of working on over the years are not on the list at all, and we still are very concerned about -- some strange things are happening with our pink salmon population down here that no one has really fully investigated. Meanwhile, we still need these restoration projects for the pink salmon back on line. We didn't have a real good year salmon fishing down here this year. We ended up, I think, about a little over seven million pink salmon is all that we were able to

harvest, which is pretty low compared to last year, which was thirty-four million. So, you can tell there's a big wow, including the two years, in terms of actual salmon harvest. We're still quite concerned about that. Final comment would be just that, please see that restoration reserve is in for another twelve (indiscernible). We've supported putting aside a portion of that money for the future. I think -- be able to taking up some of these studies and what-not, and would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify.

MR. AYERS: Thank you, Jerome. I didn't mention the reserve, but let me say that it is -- it is identified as a proposed project in the '95 Work Plan. The Council has certainly indicated recently by instructing us to incorporate that into the overall Restoration Plan and identified it in the EIS as a part of the preferred alternative. And, I believe that the Council is committed to the creation and annual commitments to the restoration reserve. I appreciate you bringing that up. I also appreciate your coming out this evening, and if there's someone else in Kodiak, why don't we go ahead and finish Kodiak, and then we'll go to Valdez. Was there someone else in Kodiak?

DR. JOHN FRENCH: Yeah, Jim, this is John French. I don't think I need to spell my -- anyway, I'll say two words now, you'll hear from me again later in a PAG meeting. But, I definitely wanted to voice my continued support for the restoration reserve. I think that's an excellent project and an excellent way of setting aside money to deal with the issues that we expect to be

coming up after 2001. I continue to be very concerned about the lack of research and restoration projects outside of the Prince William Sound, particular in the Kodiak Alaska Peninsula area. I think there are projects within the work plan, particularly in terms of forage fish and tidal studies that could have appropriately been extended to cover Kodiak areas and issues that we have with ongoing fisheries. As Jerome said, why -- not everything is completely rosy and not everything is completely predictable down here as everywhere else. So, I guess -- yeah, in that sense, once again like to express discouragement that we don't (indiscernible) more non-Prince William Sound projects drop out of the science process. I do recognize some of the reasons why that is so, but I do think that we need to look forward to trying to incorporate some of these issues into future work plans. That's all I have for now, Jim.

MR. AYERS: Thank you, John. And, let me say that I agree with the basic tenets of all of your comments. I look forward to your assistance in expanding some of the research in areas like forage fish, that certainly may be a part of the reflection or indicators of the overall health of the ecosystem, and think that -- as Molly McCammon as pointed out that we've initiated various projects that certainly have the capability to expand and the prudent approach appears to be exactly that, to get a project initiated and develop the methodology that we can find some confidence in and then begin to expand it, and I know that -- I'm confident that you can help us do that in -- in, particularly

those areas that you mentioned. And, the reserve, as I mentioned earlier, is certainly one the Council is committed to and I -- I think that that's had fairly broad support from all quarters, and see no problem with that. Is there anyone else in Kodiak? If not, we'll move to Valdez.

DR. FRENCH: No, there's no one else here, Jim.

MR. AYERS: Thanks a lot, John, for coming out this evening. Let me remind you that Dr. Spies is with us this evening, and -- some point, Dr. Spies, if you'd like to make any comments, you're certainly welcome. And, we do -- we are here and will be here for the next hour or as long as people want to stay on line. So, let's go to Valdez and -- Valdez you're on.

this is Tom Vanbrocklin calling from Valdez, and I'd like to talk briefly tonight addressing two projects, the first one I apologize, I don't have down by number. I didn't receive the matter via fax that I had — thought I'd have today. But, I understand that on — in category four is a project that's put forth by the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation, to have the hatchery work in helping to enhance wild stock salmon in Prince William Sound. And, although I've not seen more than just a brief description of it, I think that this is a natural project given the damage that was done to seven runs in the Prince William Sound, and I believe that the Aquaculture Corporation would be an ideal organization to be at the — the front of such a project, so I'm hoping that the issue of policies can be address regarding this project, and that the

Trustee Council will look with favor on that project. Jim, secondly, I want to just take the -- brief opportunity to also mention, again my support, and certainly an endorsement, and hope that the project 95115 which is the solid waste management plan, which is in category one, move forward. We here in Prince William Sound know that -- know that as the expansion of the use of Prince William Sound continues, (indiscernible) degradation came to the Sound, into the Sound as a result of the spill. It needs to be exacerbated, and we hope that this project will help to put Prince William Sound on a level to both deal with what came out of the spill and be ready to -- with -- deal with the future ahead of us. And, so again I -- thank you for the kind night to address both of these projects, again, the one on behalf of Aquaculture Corporation, to enhance wild stock in Prince William Sound, and last the solid waste management plan. Thank you, both.

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MR. AYERS: Yes, I'm sorry, I didn't catch your name.

MR. VANBROCKLIN: Oh, I'm sorry, Jim, this is Tom

VanBrocklin.

MR. AYERS: Oh, hi Tom. Can you hang on just a second, I want to see if Dr. Spies -- did you have a question there?

DR. SPIES: I just wanted to comment Tom, that part of the ongoing process of evaluating the projects that have been submitted for the '95 Work Plan is to hold a series of meetings for review -- for the review of these things, who got a preliminary ranking here, as Jim said earlier. The next two days in Anchorage

here, we're going to meet and consider this wild stock enhancement as part of a larger review of what should be done for pink salmon in 1995. So, we'll continue to make efforts in an area.

MR. VANBROCKLIN: Dr. Spies, thank you very much. The wild stock enhancement is certainly something that fishermen in the Prince William Sound have felt -- have -- been needed for a long time, since before the spill, and certainly since the spill. And, I certainly appreciate the effort -- attention -- you and Jim and other members have given that project. Once again, thank you.

MR. AYERS: Tom....

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MR. VANBROCKLIN: Yeah, Jim.

MR. AYERS: Yeah, let me -- let me clarify one issue, just for the sake of -- not being a wet blanket, yet, but I want to be crystal clear that in some cases the issue of enhancement has raised legal policy and scientific questions, and I think that Dr. Spies's comments are extremely important, and that is we're taking a hard look at that from all aspects. We certainly want to do everything we can to help the fishermen, that certainly endured at least the impact of any other group with regard to the oil spill. We'll also want to be sure that if we begin to involve ourselves in the biology and the actual biological mechanism of this ecosystem, that we do so in a prudent manner. And, that caveat is to say that it is important that we look beyond simply the economics of the opportunity and look at the important scientific repercussions that may result from our actions. And, I think that, I need -- I felt like I needed to say that, just to let you know that we are looking

hard at it, but we're looking hard at it from all aspects. About, if we're going to do, how to do it, and we have not yet figured that out. So, I just didn't want you to go away thinking that this was something that was set -- you know, it was a great idea, we all agreed it was a great idea, and we felt like it was time to move forward. There's a lot of questions involved in it, as you know, and I didn't -- I felt like I needed to be -- open that one up a little bit.

MR. VANBROCKLIN: I read you loud and clear, and thank you for that, Jim. I also just wanted to briefly say, I'm glad to see you folks moving forward on a restoration reserve. I hadn't -- I've been out of the loop and just heard about that tonight. I assume, perhaps, that that's some sort of endowment, and I applaud your efforts to have funds available -- again, following the tenyear cycle.

MR. AYERS: Good. Thanks, Tom. And, thanks -- you know, for getting involved in some of these. I know you're a busy guy and you've got a lot of things in your plate, but I appreciate you taking the time, the dedication you have to your community. Is there anybody else in Valdez, Tom?

MR. VANBROCKLIN: No, I'm it.

MR. AYERS: Okay, let's move to Seward. We'll take a couple from Seward and then we'll go to Cordova and then come back to Seward to finish them. So, are you on line there in Seward.

MS. ESTER RONNE: Yes, we are. Okay, my name is Ester Ronne. I serve on the Qutekcak board in Seward, also on the

Qutekcak board of directors. In that capacity, I've had an opportunity to travel to the villages over the past ten or fifteen years, and have heard the Natives talk about how clams are a very important source of food in the past, and how much they miss having them now. I believe we've (indiscernible) subsistence resource will be a very appropriate use of restoration money. I support the clam restoration project. Thank you.

MR. AYERS: I'm sorry Ester, would you pronounce and spell your last name, please.

MS. RONNE: R-O-N-N-E.

MR. AYERS: Thank you very much.

MR. ARNIE HATCH: Good evening, my name is Arnie Hatch, representing Qutekcak tribe also, and I'd like to speak in favor of project 95131, also, the clam restoration project. I'm a commercial fisherman, and have fished these geographical areas for quite awhile, and I'm familiar with the need for clam restoration in the area, and I think this project would be worthwhile use of EVOS funds. And, be happy to answer any questions you might have.

MR. AYERS: I don't think we have any questions. The project is 95131, the clam restoration project, that's the project that you're referring to?

MR. HATCH: Yes, it is.

MR. AYERS: We -- in our discussions, ranked it as a category one, as a reasonable approach, particularly on a pilot project basis. Frankly, we had some concerns. We intend to work on that and get some additional information with regard to the --

both the initial cost which was some -- somewhere over four hundred thousand dollars, and whether or not there wasn't a pilot project that might be more prudent to get started, develop a methodology, and then also making it clear that, you know, the long-term projected cost to that needs some review. But, I did want you to know that -- you know, we agree it's a -- it looks like a good project and what we'd like to do is -- in a way to design it as a pilot project and develop the methodology. I think that's kind of where we were on that, isn't it, Dr. Spies.

DR. SPIES: Yes, that's true. Make it work on a small scale first and then go ahead and expand it after it's successful there.

MR. AYERS: Okay, thank you. Let's go over to Cordova, and we'll do a couple over there and then we'll come back to Seward. Cordova?

MR. JIM GRAY: Okay, Jim, this is Jim Gray, I'm a fisherman from Prince William Sound. I'd like to voice my support for proposal 95093 and for proposal 95024. These address the restoration of pink salmon wild stock in Prince William Sound by PWSAC and the Native Village of Eyak Tribal Council. I believe that it proves to be within the spirit of EVOS restoration plan draft classification that proposal 95093 to category four does not seem appropriate to me. This proposal is not hatchery funding. It should not raise any legal problems. All (indiscernible) funds, it's up to you (indiscernible). When you've talked about the question haven't been answered, we're not going to answer any

questions unless we do a study to figure out whether we can do wild stock restoration. And, my understanding of this proposal at this time is that what we're going to do is see what kind of nuts and bolts things can be done and what we can do, and so if we don't look at this question, I have a lot of problem figuring out how we're going to come up with an answer on it. I'd also like to remain on the record in support of the SEA plan and continued funding of this plan. I think they've done a great job, and I think a lot of people are realizing that they're making big progress. And, finally, I'd like to encourage the Trustee Council to continue efforts to come to an agreement with Eyak Corporation in regards to habitat acquisition on Eyak lands.

MR. AYERS: Thank you, Jim. I -- I'm sure you heard my comments to Tom, and that's why you were being emphatic about we do need to take a look at it. I -- I agree, we need to bring some closure to the legal questions, the policy questions, and the science questions with regard to enhancement, and we are working hard on doing exactly that, and these projects have certainly raised the issue, and we're going to work our way through it, and we will get to a response on each one of those -- both -- and each -- both those projects are related to wild stock enhancement, and there are three aspects to both of those, and we are talking with the scientists about the aspect and the impacts of wild stock enhancement, and I'd be glad to -- once we've been through our review, be glad to get to our summary, get our scientists together and talk with you and come over and talk with the Cordova fishermen

association about that.

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MR. GRAY: Well, thank you. I think also this plan has the support of the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, and it also has broad-base support in the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, the essence of this program, so I just want to go on the record here that -- you know, we're not just talking about hatchery funding here, we're talking about enhancement of the wild stock and restoration of wild stock in Prince William Sound which is part of the draft Restoration Plan, and we have to look at the ways to do it, so I just don't want to bury this thing down with -- with all the baggage here, that this is not a hatchery funding issue.

MR. AYERS: Well, I agree with you, Jim, and that's exactly right. It's not just an old hatchery issue, and it also is not a -- and I think Fish & Game knows this, and I know they're telling you they support this project. But, it also is not a just black and white issue of simply fry introduction into the streams. There -- or even eggs -- fry eggs. It is an issue of genetic impacts, competition, a number of other significant issues that are related to the science -- the reaction of the ecosystem and the impact that this kind of a project would have in the environment, and I think, you know, you as a fisherman, I know, want to know that we're going to conduct this kind of activity in a prudent manner. And, that's what we're taking a look at, from a science point of view. And again, I'll be happy to -- to put together a discussion with CDFU and fishermen once we have walked through this with our peer reviewers and some scientists take a look at this.

From the legal standpoint, let me tell you, and I think I said this when I over in Cordova, and I did meet with CDFU and the PWSAC group, the Department of Justice, and there are a couple of issues in the court now with regard to enhancement, the Department of Justice has taken the position that there has to be an environmental finding, and I'll use the word "finding" because I'm not sure that in this particular case would require an Environmental Impact Statement, but it is subject to NEPA. And so I — it would be easy for me to sit here and shut up, probably, but there are some of those issues, and I want you to know there are those issues, and this is — and we're going to work with you so that you understand each step of way what those issues are, and what people are saying about them, and we intend to come back over there once we get to the bottom of this, and we can sit down and talk to you about it, whatever we decide on these projects.

MR. GRAY: We're with you, Jim.

MR. AYERS: Okay, thank you.

MR. GRAY: Everybody (indiscernible) one hundred percent, we want it administrative done. We would just want to leave the door open to looking at the possibility and see what's available. We -- I agree with you one hundred percent, and I think that most of the people here agree with you. We want to make sure that we're not doing more damage than good though. So, if we need to look at the proposal. So, thanks a lot.

MR. AYERS: Okay, thank you, Jim. Is there somebody else in Cordova there?

MS. MONICA RIEDEL: Yes, Jim, this is Monica Riedel. R-I-E-D-E-L., and I am at Cordova. And, I'd like to comment on two of the proposals, 95024, enhancement of wild pink salmon stock, we're on the same subject, and number -- oh, that one was submitted by the Native Village of Eyak, and number 95093, the restoration of Prince William Sound natural stock salmon, submitted by Prince William Aquaculture in cooperation with the University of Alaska. I've been listening to all of your comments, and I believe that -well, everyone's going to meeting in the next couple of days, and I really like Dr. Spies, and everyone will be there, and really hope to see something, you know, come out of it. But, mainly, the wild salmon stock is listed as injured, it's listed as commercial fishing and recreational resource. The Native people have been heavily impacted by the damage of these resources. Certainly there are not (indiscernible) but I believe by rehabilitating and restoring the wild stock salmon in Prince William Sound, and involving those people who are mostly adversely affected, will create hope for the future. The Native Village of Eyak has the local area knowledge and can carry the logistical report with vessels and crews required to accomplish the field work. PWSAC has the facilities and the technical support required to meet the needs of those proposals, and UAF has the technical support for genetic research which would be done during the restoration activities. To points, I'd like to cover number one is that this will not purely a study and it will -- will be a -- the production proposal where we can get out there with hands on, do the work, and number two, it

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will involve the local people who are directly hurt by the damage and allow us to be able to restore the resource and being involved in the healing process. Cordova has done the work needed to put together the ecosystem plan, SEA plan, and now we need to be able to do the work. Thank you.

MR. AYERS: Thanks a lot, Monica. Let's go back over to Seward, and I believe there are three people left in Seward. Is that correct?

CARMEN YOUNG: Yes. Hi, my name is Carmen Young, and I work for the Qutekcak shellfish hatchery. I'm calling in favor of the 95131 clam restoration project. You were speaking earlier that developing a pilot project for producing the clam feedstock. We have developed the technology to produce littleneck clam feed in the hatchery. We now have approximately one hundred thousand clam feeds, up to five minutes old. I'm excited about this project and I feel confident that the hatchery can do its part to help restore the clam beaches.

MR. AYERS: Thank you.

MR. KEN BLATCHFORD: My name is Kenneth Blatchford, that's B-L-A-T-C-H-F-O-R-D. I'm chairman of Qutekcak Tribe, also former National Board Director of Native American Fish & Wildlife Society, and I'm on the local Fish & Game Advisory Board. I'm testifying today in favor of project 95131, the clam restoration project, and I too have had the opportunity to travel around to the villages in our region, more specifically in Prince William Sound areas, and I have -- I've seen the need for the restoration project for the

clams. So, again, I'd like to say I'm speaking in favor of project 95131. Thank you.

MR. AYERS: Thank you. Is there someone else in Seward.

MR. JEFF PETRICK (ph): Yes, my name is Jeff Petrick. I'm -- I came down from Moose Pass this evening, and I'm also speaking in favor of 95131, the clam restoration project. I've lived in Prince William Sound for over eight years and currently own an oyster farm out there called Alaska AquaFarm, and the shellfish caught brings the clams -- butter and littleneck clams have been depressed for sometime now, and I believe the restoration fund is an ideal way to help restore the population. And, I'd also like to speak in support of project 95124A and 95134, and that's the mariculture project at Tatitlek and Chenega Bay.

MR. AYERS: Thank you.

MS. YOUNG: That's all the people to testify, right now.

MR. AYERS: Okay, I believe there are three people left to testify over in Cordova. Can we go back to Cordova, please.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There's actually one more that came in.

MR. AYERS: Okay, why don't you go ahead.

MR. JAMES MYKKELIN (ph): Oh yes, Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak tonight. My name is James Mykkelin and I reside in Cordova. I

have been a commercial fishermen in Prince William Sound for the last twenty years. I have been a supporter of the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation, PWSAC, since it's conception in the Without PWSAC we would not have had any increased salmon runs that have supported the fishing communities during the last seventeen years here in Prince William Sound. EVOS Trustee Council lists pink salmon as a non-recovering resource. salmon returns have sustained the livelihood of many of the fishermen that resided in communities around Prince William Sound. Pink salmon make up over ninety percent of the total catch of the entire Prince William Sound purse seine fleet. I urge you to consider funding proposals, number 95093 and number 95024, which is PWSAC and the Native Village of the Eyak Tribal Counsel have offered. We need to restore the natural salmon stock in Prince William Sound through research and restoration activities. We have been waiting a long time for proposals such as these. consider these proposals when you decide on funding for the '95 I'm also on the Board of Directors for the Cordova District Fishermen United, a three hundred member regional fishermen's organization that's based in Cordova. The board today adopted a resolution supporting Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation and the Native Village of Eyak Tribal Council and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, in the collaterative proposals to the Trustee Council to restore natural salmon stock to Prince William Sound. We believe the time is right for us to restore and monitor damaged natural

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salmon stocks in Prince William Sound. I urge you to act on this in the '95 Work Plan. I would also urge you to continue funding of the SEA plan, which is the old number 95320. You started this funding in the '94 Work Plan, and I would like to see it continue. I have attended a number of public meetings that have been held in Cordova to explain the progress of the SEA plan. I have been very impressed with for the results so far, and what they have planned for the future. Once again, please continue funding of the SEA plan. Thank you for listening to me tonight, and good luck in your deliberations. Thank you.

MR. AYERS: Thank you, James. James, could I ask you a question, are you there?

MR. MYKKELIN: Sure you can, is this Jim Ayers?

MR. AYERS: Yes, sir.

MR. MYKKELIN: Hi, Jim, how you doing?

MR. AYERS: All right, how about you? Do you know -you're the second speaker tonight and has mentioned the
University's participation in this 95093. Do you know who from the
University is involved in the collaboration effort here?

MR. MYKKELIN: I think it's a Mr. -- I think it's Nels Smoker (ph). I think Nels Smoker is also on a PWSAC board, and I'm also a board member of the PWSAC, Aquaculture Corporation. I got elected on that position in (indiscernible), but I met him -- Mr. Smoker, at the June meeting, and he wasn't at our fall meeting that we just had, but I believe that he is involved in UAF, in this proposal, okay?

MR. AYERS: Okay.

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MR. MYKKELIN: That's S-M-O-K-E-R.

MR. AYERS: Okay, thanks a lot.

MR. MYKKELIN: And, also an A.J. Gharrett, G-H-A-R-E-T-T, and Patricia Crandell and Andrew Craig.

MR. AYERS: All righty, thank you.

MR. MYKKELIN: Thank you, Jim.

MR. AYERS: See you later.

MR. MYKKELIN: You're doing a good job.

MR. AYERS: Thank you, so are you. Was there someone else there in Cordova.

MS. TORIE BAKER: Yeah, there's a couple more of us. This is Torie Baker, I'd like to say it's (indiscernible). I just wanted to take a second, as well, to echo, I think the rest of us (indiscernible) here in Cordova. (Indiscernible) the Eyak Corporation proposal, as well as the obvious support that has been given and continued progress that's been made on the SEA plan. As well, I'd like to voice my own personal support for the continuation of the Eyak negotiations, and hopefully the successful conclusion to all parties. I know that on the issue that the question of public access is one that pervading all the different portion of that negotiation, from what we understand here in Cordova, and we find that the -- an issue is that negotiation that is the broad-base interest here, but again in general we would like very much encourage all the Trustees on the state and federal side to really sit down and bear through with this negotiation. I

realize that it is difficult, but we applaud the efforts you've made thus far, and we just encourage you all to hang in there and -- on that one. I'd also like to take a second and look at a couple of other proposed projects in the FY '95 Work Plan, particularly the forage fish project and also voice my support of the continuation of and completion of many of the hydrocarbon analyses that are being done, particularly by NOAA. I think that that's one of the baseline researches that would ultimately with -- you know, an ongoing basis that has the most impressive results, the most valuable results. What it really comes back, this kind of budget for research that has to do with oil spill and direct oil effects. Again, I'd like to voice my support and -- and I guess offer my -my thanks to all the work that you've all done. I was impressed with the amount of books that were being forwarded to my post office box this summer that had the EVOS Trustee Council logo on them. Well, I guess we kept the home fires burning this summer. And, again, thanks for all the work, good and (indiscernible). Thanks.

MR. AYERS: Thank you Torie.

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MS. PAM THOMAS: Hi, this is Pam Thomas. I'm a commercial fishermen here in Prince William Sound and I would like to speak in support of three of your proposals tonight, pretty much echoing what you've heard here from Prince William Sound -- and from Cordova. First of all, I'd like to speak in support of proposal 95093 and 95034 which is the joint proposal for Eyak Tribal Council and PWSAC to restore the natural salmon stock in

Prince William Sound. This is a proposal that I think is very important for what's going on and it's about time it should happen. PWSAC has all the infrastructure to make this happen, and I would like to see, first of all, it -- reclassified to category one. It is not a hatchery proposal, its just -- you'd fund the hatchery to rehabilitate the wild stock in Prince William Sound, and I think that's what's important. Also, I'd like to see the continued funding for proposal 95320, the SEA plan. This summer they collected a lot of excellent data and they're just getting started on this project, and we can't let it stop now. We -- it's got to be continued. And, I'd also like to speak in support of the continued negotiations with the Eyak Corporation. I think the most important point at this -- the most important part at this point, is just getting -- make a sure a deal gets done. So, thank you. Guess that's everybody for right now.

MR. AYERS: Okay, thank you very much.

SEWARD LIO: Mr. Chairman, this is Seward and we have one more person that came in to testify.

MR. AYERS: Please go ahead Seward.

UNKNOWN: Thank you.

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KEVIN LAWFORD: It's -- my name is Kevin Lawford and I live in Seward. I'm president of the mariculture development team, which has been active in Seward for about the last nine months, trying to promote the shell fish hatchery that we hope to get sited here. We recognize the need for it. The clam project, we would like to see here in Seward. We have the -- I am at the center

that's very interested in supporting the research for the facility. There's also several private businessmen that are members of the development team who are interested in seeing this research continue in the area. I'd like to ... (End of tape.)

MR. AYERS: Is there anyone else on line who wish to speak this evening that has not had an opportunity? Does anyone have any other comments that they'd like to make this evening.

MR. JEROME SELBY: Yes, this is Jerome Selby in Kodiak again.

MR. AYERS: Go ahead, Jerome.

MR. SELBY: The number on that one pink salmon project that we're particularly interested in was 95139D, Jim, that's Horse Marine and Pink Creek restoration project and it's for \$61,500. I just wanted to get the number and title on the record for you.

MR. AYERS: Yeah, I'm just looking at it, the abstract on it, Jerome. (Pause) I think one of the things that we'd talked about, and, Dr. Spies if you want to add to this, jump in, but I think what we were looking for from Fish & Game was some additional information about did -- what their probability of success in particular streams and the cross-benefit on it, and there was some question about the technical merit, at least in the way they presented it. So, we were trying to get them to pare it out a little better. What the probability of success and some of the cost benefit that they anticipated -- what the cost benefit was and what was the probability of success that they anticipated.

MR. SELBY: You just didn't get it, Jim.

MR. AYERS: Say what? 1 2 MR. SELBY: You just didn't get it? 3 MR. AYERS: Well, we're kind of -- we're waiting to hear from them. We want to hear more from them about this project. 4 5 MR. SELBY: We have ways of encouraging them and we'll do something. 6 MR. AYERS: Okay, thanks, Jerome. Was there anybody 7 else on line who -- well's stay on line here for couple of minutes, 8 9 and see if anyone else shows up. 10 Jim, there's one -- this is Bob Spies, DR. SPIES: there's one more thing I wanted to say that this winter we had 11 12 preliminary plans to review some of these small-scale specific 13 restoration programs for salmon at various parts and kind of look 14 at the policy issues and what works, what doesn't work, what has 15 worked in other areas, and try to develop some clear policy rather than just drafting these single projects as they come. So, I hope 16 17 that will help us to guide us and the '96 Work Plan will be better, 18 and that these projects for specific area salmon rehabilitation. 19 MR. AYERS: I don't recall what specie of salmon in 20 Horse Marine Creek, do you Jerome? Are they all pink? 21 Pardon, Jim, I didn't catch the last part MR. SELBY: of that question. 22 23 MR. AYERS: What -- we're talking about spawning 24 habitat for which species of salmon, do you recall? 25 MR. SELBY: It would be for pink salmon, Jim.

It's all pinks.

MR. AYERS:

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MR. SELBY: Yeah, that's the ones that seem to have taken -- yeah, we have two problems down here. We have the over escapement problem which mainly seems to be the red salmon into the lakes, and we've got something going on with the pink salmon in these even number years that no one quite understands, Jim, and that's the concern with these two pink salmon projects. You funded the one last year...

MR. AYERS: Right.

MR. SELBY: ... and, you know, we need to try to get these pink salmon counts back up on these even number years where, you know, nobody really figures out what -- what happened to it.

MR. AYERS: I think that's a kind of discussion that we need to get into with Fish & Game and explore that a little bit with them and how they came to this conclusion this approach on those -- that particular class.

MR. SELBY: Well, we'll have them get that information to you that you asked for, Jim.

MR. AYERS: I'm sure you've got your ways, your honor.

MR. SELBY: While I have you on line, what's the -- is there a firm date for the next Trustee Council meeting?

MR. AYERS: October 5th there will be a briefing session with the Trustee Council. It's an overview of various issues, but it's primarily a briefing session. The portion having to do with habitat acquisition, there will be -- will be primarily an executive session, where we're going over strategies and discussions of the various issues involved in each of the

respective negotiations. Then the next action-oriented meeting will be November 2nd and 3rd in Anchorage.

MR. SELBY: Thanks, Jim.

MR. AYERS: You bet you. Unless there's someone else that's come in, I think I'll close the meeting. Is there any site who wishes to have additional time?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, Cordova has one more question.

MR AYERS: Please do.

MR. GRAY: This is Jim Gray, and we wondering when we might get some determination on this legal issue that things have been hanging around here for a couple of years? Do you have any idea what the time frame is on -- when we might get some kind of decision about that?

MR. AYERS: Legal issue on -- on the issue of enhancement?

MR. GRAY: Roger.

MR AYERS: Yeah. One of the things that was posed at one point was whether or not any particular hatchery or entity wanted to submit a request for an EIS, and we -- no one pursued that particular tack, which was what Justice suggested based on the issues that are currently in the court surrounding the Main Bay Hatchery might be necessary. So, what I anticipate happening with this project with regard to the legal issues, is the Department of Justice is going to continue to say that they think it requires NEPA compliance. Whether or not an environmental assessment will

satisfy that requirement will be the question, but they -- they certainly have made it clear that -- that it's got to comply with NEPA, and that's going to require at least an environmental assessment. Whether they will require an EIS or not, I don't know, and I don't think we'll get a legal closure to it until we complete an environmental assessment of a particular project and find out whether or not Justice is going to provide that. I suspect that they will want to see a science -- a scientific review of the genetic -- of the impacts, including the genetic implications of introducing stocks into the stream and beginning to affect the natural competition, as I understand it. But, I think they want to hear what the project is. They want to hear from scientists, they want to see somebody do an environmental impact statement -- I'm sorry, an environmental assessment of what that might be, and then there will be a determination about whether or not they're going to require an environmental impact statement. Now, they have not given that to us in writing yet, but they have -- they have said, and I believe that there was some people from Cordova who met with the Assistant Attorney General of the United States when he was here, and he relayed that message. (Indiscernible - simultaneous talking) And I assume that he is going to say that in writing to us soon, but he has not to date.

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MR. GRAY: In regard -- in regard to this proposal then I guess, I mean, I'm coming off the top of my head here, but I guess that that would mean that if we were going to try to do something like this, the Trustee Council would have to fund the

EIS. Right? I can't imagine how you could possibly want somebody to fund that EIS. Our understanding was that the Main Bay Hatchery deal was a done deal, it was over, finished, but I don't know how that relates to all of this. But, anyway, well, that kind of --actually that doesn't clear anything up, but we'd sure like to see some kind of resolution to this at some point, here. It seems to have gone on and on here in -- in a gray area for quite a while, so we should definitely step up to plate here and make a call here one way or the other. But, if you have to have EIS, I guess that would just increase the cost of this proposal with the Trustee Council, what -- to proceed -- it was a good proposal, something they wanted to try to do.

MR. AYERS: I think -- I appreciate -- I appreciate your frustration, and I got to assure you nothing frustrates me anymore than the ghostly opinions that you referred to about not having someone step up to the plate and have the courage of their own convictions. You know, one of the most frustrating things for you as a fisherman and a member of a community that was impacted by the spill is to have so many people with authority and so few with responsibility. And, I understand that, and I appreciate your feelings on that. What we're trying to do is drive the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Justice, toward a written opinion about the question, but I think that you have hit the nail I think it is going to require an environmental on the head. impact statement, and I want to be clear here, I'm not going to ask the Trustee Council for the funding and authorize the pursuit of an

environmental impact statement before we have a conversation, and by we, I mean the community of Cordova and fishermen, and the people involved with the hatchery, and we sit down and talk with the science about -- how you'd like to proceed, because I'm going to do it with you, I don't -- you know, I don't want us getting off on a tangent here without us, you know, working together on this So, with that said, I appreciate -- I appreciate what thing. you're saying, I understand your frustration, and I think that that's exactly what we got to find out is, first, what do the scientists have to say, I want hear from -- I want to have them really look through this project over the next couple of days, and then we want to sit down with the Department of Justice and get a clear reading if they're require an Environmental Impact Statement and I -- if they are, then we need to sit down over in Cordova and kind kick around how we'd like to pursue that.

MR. GRAY: That sounds good. We'd just like to -you know, draw up some line on the sand here somewhere. But,
anyway we've got two very important people that have come in here
at the last minute here to testify, Jim, we have Jerry McCune here
first.

MR. McCUNE: Hi, Jim.

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MR. AYERS: Hi, Jerry.

MR. McCUNE: Jerome and Jim, you know I've been on the Public Advisory Group, you know, to the Trustees and also President of Cordova District Fisherman United. My first statement I wanted to make sure that you know that CDFU, according to SEA plan, which

is 95320, and that projects that we talked about up to four point million -- that we talked about for little bit, so hopefully we'll see that funded. As far as the PWSAC proposal 95093 and Eyak Tribal Council proposal 95024, we CDFU fully supports these proposals, and the reason is we haven't seen any great gains in the wild stocks in the Prince William Sound, although some people like to count the hatchery stocks that had a great success this year, the PWSAC and Valdez, as we're recovering. That's not the case as far as the wild stocks are concerned, and Dave Billings fully knows that and so do we. So, in my mind, (indiscernible) to this process, just a little bit longer than you have even, I don't think this requires an EIS. For one thing, this is a -- restore the natural stock in Prince William Sound, and if we get in with the Justice Department, they're going to drag their feet for the next year or so, and we don't have a year or two to drag this out with the Justice Department because they do not make a clear decision in a fast manner, they never have. They still haven't made a decision before you came along yet. I'm going -- on what can be done. So, I don't think this requires EIS, and so we welcome you coming done here to -- to talk to us about this whole proposal. And, I'll tell you, if PAG was excited -- excited that Jim (indiscernible) this proposal or any proposal for a long time, because this is direct restoration on wild stocks that were damaged and other resources that are -- important to the Natives, that was damaged clearly by what the federal government said. The Restoration Team said these stocks are damaged, and that goes along with the subsistence stock

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and the -- and all the common property stocks in Prince William Sound, as far as the wild stock go. It's a clear-cut picture, and it fits right into the criteria of the Trustees. I'm done.

MR. AYERS: Thank you, Jerry. Is there anybody else in Cordova that wishes to testify?

CORDOVA LIO: No, no they're done, thanks.

MR. AYERS: Okay. Is there anybody else on line this evening that has not had a chance to testify that wishes to do so at this time? I want to thank you all for taking the time to come out, and I know that, as Jerry points out, you've been at this a lot longer than I have, and you certainly have endured more and longer than probably all of us. And, I appreciate the fact that you are staying involved and taking the time to continue to work through this with us and your guidance is appreciated. We look forward to your continued involvement, and as soon as we have put together our review of the public comments, we'll be back together going through these projects. We'll be meeting with the Public Advisory Group on the 12th and 13th of October, and then we'll be putting together recommendations for the Trustee Council, and the Trustee Council will be holding a meeting making decisions on the '95 Work Plan at the November 2nd and 3rd meeting. Well, that's Thank you all very much for coming out tonight, and have a good evening.

(OFF RECORD: 8:07 p.m.)

END OF PROCEEDINGS

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CERTIFICATE

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I, Linda J. Durr, a notary public in and for the State of Alaska and a Certified Professional Legal Secretary, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing pages numbered 03 through 36 contain a full, true, and correct excerpted transcript of the Public Hearing on the proposed 1995 Work Plan of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustees Council; that the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by me to the best of my knowledge and ability from the electronic recording provided to me by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Information Office.

That I am not an employee, attorney or party interested in any way in the proceedings.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 12th day of October, 1994.

PUBLIC Y PUBLIC TO THE OF THE

Linda J. Durr, Certified PLS
Notary Public for Alaska
My commission expires: 10/19/97

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