

1 NORTH SLOPE ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
3
4 PUBLIC MEETING
5
6 VOLUME II
7
8 Barrow, Alaska
9 March 8, 2011
10 9:00 a.m.
11
12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
14
15 Rosemary Ahtaungaruak, Acting Chair
16 Ray Koonuk
17 Lloyd Leavitt
18 James Nageak
19
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22
23
24 Regional Council Coordinator, Barbara Atoruk
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2
3 (Barrow, Alaska - 3/8/2011)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Good
8 morning. We'd like to reconvene the meeting of the
9 North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council here
10 in Barrow. We have one more objective to review, the
11 Memorandum of Understanding.
12
13 Do we have any discussion from our
14 Board? Lloyd.
15
16 MR. LEAVITT: The Federal Subsistence
17 Board and the State of Alaska mutual agreement, I read
18 that some time ago and I'm in concurrence with this and
19 the designated local agencies or representatives on
20 day-to-day communications. I'm for this here. I don't
21 want to see any changes, other than utilize and use the
22 MOU to benefit the Federal Subsistence Board also.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay. We
25 had discussion yesterday for Page 46, No. 9 to add in
26 -- to identify local -- or tribal and/or local agency
27 representatives. And that's what he's referencing.
28
29 Is there any other discussions. Ray.
30
31 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, one question. Are
32 each regions selecting from their regions, selecting
33 two.....
34
35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong.
36
37 MR. KOONUK:according to this
38 letter -- I mean, this MOU?
39
40 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you -- Thank
41 you, Madam Chair. Are each regions -- is each region
42 selecting -- do you mean two Board members?
43
44 MR. KOONUK: No.
45
46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No. There will be
47 two Board members for the whole State, for the whole
48 Board.
49
50 MR. KOONUK: I know -- I know like

1 North Slope will select, Northwest Arctic Borough, will
2 they do the same thing?

3

4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No.

5

6 MR. KOONUK: No.

7

8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No. There will be
9 just be two overall new Board members.

10

11 MR. LEAVITT: From -- from the ten
12 regional councils.

13

14 MR. KOONUK: So that means we will have
15 to figure out or else.....

16

17 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, you know,
18 that's the thing. We don't know what the process will
19 be. There isn't anything in that proposed rule as to
20 how they're going to be -- what the criteria will be
21 for selection or anything like that. But -- but I -- I
22 think it would be wise for the North Slope to come up
23 with somebody that they would like to suggest to be on
24 the Board. Absolutely, and put forth, you know -- I --
25 they -- they haven't explained that. And that's --
26 that's part of -- that as part of your comments
27 yesterday, was that you wanted to know what the process
28 for the appointment would be, because it will -- it
29 will come out of the Secretary of Interior's Office,
30 the appointment, so.....

31

32 DR. YOKEL: Do you think it would be
33 reasonable to assume that there would be a nomination
34 process of anybody.....

35

36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We -- we don't know
37 what the process is. That -- that's the thing. We
38 don't -- we don't know what it will be, but -- but your
39 comments yesterday indicated you'd like to know what
40 the nomination process would be.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yes.

43

44 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, okay?

45

46 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Does that
47 answer your question, Ray?

48

49 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, yeah.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay.
2
3 MR. KOONUK: But still, you know,
4 I'd.....
5
6 REPORTER: Ray. Ray.
7
8 MR. KOONUK: I'd like to know what the
9 other regions going to do. I guess we won't know, you
10 know, who -- because this is a statewide thing that
11 we're talking about and I know that it would be good if
12 we select one from here and maybe from the North Slope.
13 That would be good. And that sure will help us.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Right.
16
17 MR. KOONUK: You know, because we have
18 a lot of issues around our area. And we have a vast
19 area of hunting areas that, you know, has been talking
20 -- talking about in the last day or two. And -- and
21 the problems we're facing. And to my understanding,
22 commercial fishing is trying to get here around our
23 area and we're going to have to look at that in the
24 future. And it would be -- be nice to have at least a
25 Board member there from our area to represent us.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Helen?
28
29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: One of the things I
30 -- I said yesterday and I -- I think we should remember
31 is that the Board member will be required to represent
32 all Alaskan rural.....
33
34 MR. KOONUK: Right. But still we have
35 issues, you know.....
36
37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Exactly, but -- you
38 know, but I -- the other thing I wanted to just say is
39 that Barb can keep all of the Council members up to
40 date as to where we are and how that's moving along and
41 what's happening with the process for the two -- the
42 selection of the two Federal Board members.
43
44 You can also, as a private individual
45 -- and if you'd like to submit comments on this on your
46 own, you can. It was the -- I'll go back to where that
47 is in the book. On Page 41, you can send it by -- by
48 mail, or you can send them by email online, or you can
49 -- or -- or at this meeting. But you can send your own
50 comments. Even, you know, if you leave this meeting

1 and you -- you feel really strongly about something
2 like -- about this, go ahead and send in a comment.
3 And it doesn't hurt to have individual comments in
4 addition to Council comments.

5
6 So -- and get your, you know, your
7 friends to make comments on how they feel about
8 representation. You know -- you know, if you -- if you
9 think there should be ten -- ten people on that Board,
10 one from each Council, make that comment. You know, so
11 it's -- this is your opportunity to make comments on
12 it.

13
14 And -- and -- and Ray, if you'd like me
15 to add a comment from what we talked about yesterday,
16 that you want to see representation, that's what I'm
17 hearing you say, that you would like to see
18 representation on the Federal Subsistence Board from
19 all of the Councils. I can make that comment from this
20 Council.

21
22 MR. KOONUK: Thank you.

23
24 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Do we have
27 any other comments or discussion?

28
29 MR. J. NAGEAK: Yeah, I think I have
30 one, Madame Chair.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: James.

33
34 MR. J. NAGEAK: I know what -- how
35 important whereas are in the -- understandably. But
36 such as words like such as, opens up -- on that first
37 whereas there, whereas the State under these laws --
38 State of Alaska on a sustain yield principle, subject
39 to preferences among beneficial uses, such as providing
40 a priority for subsistence in the way of use of fish
41 and wildlife. But if -- if a word like especially,
42 especially providing a priority -- you know, when --
43 when you have such as, you know -- that opens up to
44 other possibilities to interject fisheries for one
45 thing.

46
47 You know, that's -- that's a comment
48 that I -- you know, the words like that make it.....

49
50 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So especially?

1 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah.
2
3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay.
4
5 MR. NAGEAK: I know therefore is the
6 one that really counts. I didn't see anything that
7 would.....
8
9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: All right.
12 Do we have any other discussions or comments.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 MR. J. NAGEAK: It's pretty good.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: All right.
19 Hearing none, do we have -- do we need to take more
20 action? Just give you the recommendations? All right.
21
22
23 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'll -- I will just
24 submit your comments.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Great. All
27 right. That's the only thing we had left to do, right?
28
29 MR. KOONUK: Yeah. Are we just talking
30 about trying to get a selection or can -- or we talking
31 about trying to.....
32
33 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: We're doing
34 the MOU right now.
35
36 MR. KOONUK: Are we -- okay.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Did you
39 review this -- do you have any recommendations for
40 changes in the wording?
41
42 We also can take the discussion that
43 you had, if you're interested, to make the
44 recommendation that each region have representation on
45 the Federal Board. We can make that recommendation. I
46 think it is a very important point.
47
48 Each of our regions are very unique and
49 very diverse. And various regions have gone through
50 various changes over many years. Some are more

1 acceptable to levels of change, whereas others have not
2 had to deal with the compounding effects of land use
3 changes and are more protective of their areas.

4
5 And it's a different person sitting at
6 the table when you're looking at these various changes.
7 So if you'd like to make the recommendation, I do agree
8 with that consideration.

9
10 MR. KOONUK: Well, you know, the reason
11 I -- I'm sure is that, you know, I -- I come from Unit
12 23 and it's right in between 23 and 26. And I don't
13 know where -- or what Northwest Arctic Borough
14 Subsistence Advisory Board going to do. And I'm going
15 to be going there on the 16th or 17th and hopefully
16 that will be discussed too, but I don't know. I
17 haven't seen the agenda.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay.

20
21 MR. KOONUK: So, you know, I sit right
22 in the middle of -- and my hunting grounds are mostly
23 mainly within Unit 23, so it's.....

24
25 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: James.

26
27 MR. J. NAGEAK: Madame Chair, if the --
28 if the administration finds out that there is such a
29 process for selecting those two people and how they are
30 going to be selecting, I think that it -- I think it
31 would be prudent for this Council to have a quick
32 meeting to even select somebody from the Council to be
33 considered for -- for the Board. You know, even
34 through teleconferencing or emailing or, you know, you
35 know how to contact us if there is such a process,
36 so.....

37
38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So that each Council
39 -- one suggestion that I could take forward in a
40 comment would be that each Council would come up with
41 -- would nominate a person to be considered for being
42 on the Board; is that -- that's what you're.....

43
44 MR. J. NAGEAK: To be included.....

45
46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

47
48 MR. J. NAGEAK:in.....

49
50 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

1 MR. J. NAGEAK:in the name
2 selection.
3
4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right, okay.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay.
7
8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: All right. That's
9 a.....
10
11 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: That's good
12 for.....
13
14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:that's a good
15 suggestion, yeah.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay.
18
19 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And I -- I was
20 thinking when Dave made the comment about the
21 nomination process that -- that I think what -- what
22 you were describing yesterday, that I took all the
23 notes on, that that is kind of the nomination process
24 but we could -- but it could be termed that. There
25 needs to be a nomination process.....
26
27 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Right.
28
29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:that's clear
30 and transparent. And I -- I may have even -- I already
31 wrote up the notes, but -- but just make that really
32 clear what you were saying.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yes, I
35 agree with that.
36
37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Okay. All
38 right.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay. Do
41 we have any other discussions on the MOU.
42
43 (No comments)
44
45 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: All right.
46
47 MR. J. NAGEAK: Madame Chair.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yes.
50

1 MR. J. NAGEAK: Madam Chair. That the
2 -- the process we're going through means that the MOU
3 is going to be extended for another five years?
4 Because it said in there that if no process is used,
5 then it's defunct in five years, so.....
6
7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That -- that --
8 that's correct.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay, we've
11 got the recommended comments for the MOU. Do we have
12 any final comments on this issue? Hearing.....
13
14 MR. J. NAGEAK: What if.....
15
16 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Go ahead.
17
18 MR. J. NAGEAK: Madame Chair. What if
19 the -- the Federal Board decides to add something or
20 delete something within this MOU, would -- that has to
21 go to RACs too, right? Before they can adopt something
22 like that? If there is going to be a change in the
23 MOU?
24
25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I -- I believe so.
26 I don't want to speak incorrectly, but I believe that
27 it would go back. That the new MOU would go back out
28 to the Councils in the fall. But -- but certainly at
29 least it would be sent out in writing, you know, to you
30 by the mail. But -- but I can double-check on that,
31 too.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay.
34
35 MR. J. NAGEAK: Yeah, because the
36 letter of the Chair of the Board says that RACs are an
37 integral part in the process of the section.
38
39 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Exactly. Right.
40 Right.
41
42 MR. J. NAGEAK: Yeah.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yeah, good
45 comment.
46
47 Hearing no further discussion, we'll
48 move on to closing comments.
49
50 Do you want to start?

1 MR. J. NAGEAK: I want to start, yeah.
2
3 (Laughter)
4
5 MR. J. NAGEAK: I heard rumors
6 yesterday that there is someone that is probably
7 contemplating retirement. And before that happens, I'd
8 like for that person to be recognized as -- that she's
9 a really hard worker for us. She keeps us on our toes.
10 We, you know, you got to do this, you got to do that.
11 So to recognize such a person, I have a little gift
12 here for you.
13
14 Come on over.
15
16 MS. ATORUK: Oh, you're talking about
17 me?
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 (Applause)
22
23 MS. ATORUK: Oh, my goodness. Oh geez,
24 how nice. Thank you very much. (In Inupiat)
25
26 MR. J. NAGEAK: When you're cutting up
27 fish, you'll remember.....
28
29 MS. ATORUK: Yeah.
30
31 MR. J. NAGEAK:that it comes from
32 the rural.
33
34 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, thank you. My
35 goodness, thanks.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Thank you.
38 Thank you.
39
40 MR. LEAVITT: Going back to village
41 life, remember?
42
43 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, wow.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: That's the
46 big ulu to catch up with all those grandkids. Maybe
47 you'll get enough cut.
48
49 MR. J. NAGEAK: Actually, that's a
50 pizza cutter.

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: It's a
4 culinary knife, all uses.
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay. Do
9 you have any additional closing comments from your
10 village?
11
12 MR. J. NAGEAK: Yeah, we have had a
13 really nice winter because the caribou hasn't really
14 gone away from us this winter. And they've been pretty
15 healthy and -- and it's -- it's always nice. But I'm
16 sure there are some concerns about the road to Umiat,
17 is one of the big ones that we really are keeping an
18 eye on.
19
20 And the other, you know, that I've been
21 very thankful for the Board of Game, for the -- for the
22 State made that no fly zone area, you know, that --
23 during the summertime where there are a couple guys
24 that use that northern part of Anaktuvuk Pass. And
25 it's been helpful in that the Board of Game, for the
26 first time I guess they were listening to the native
27 people and voted 7-nothing to -- to keep -- to expand
28 the -- the what do you call that? Yokel said it
29 yesterday, no fly zone area.
30
31 DR. YOKEL: Controlled use area.
32
33 MR. J. NAGEAK: Hmm?
34
35 DR. YOKEL: Controlled use area.
36
37 MR. J. NAGEAK: Oh, he -- and so, yeah.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Controlled
40 use.
41
42 MR. KOONUK: What area?
43
44 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Northeast
45 part of Anaktuvuk Pass, there's been some additional
46 restrictions put into that area to help with some of
47 the conflicting uses. And one of them was restricting
48 flight traffic in that area. And that's been.....
49
50 DR. YOKEL: Well received.

1 MR. J. NAGEAK: During certain times
2 when the caribou are migrating.....
3
4 MR. KOONUK: Oh.
5
6 MR. J. NAGEAK:you know, for --
7 and we've been trying to help those people that -- if
8 you guys are shooting the first group of people.....
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 MR. J. NAGEAK: Which reminds -- which
13 reminds me. There were two hunters though.
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 MR. J. NAGEAK: First group of caribou
18 coming through and they shoot at those things and they
19 divert the -- the traveling of the caribou and they go
20 some other way. Then the ones behind will be following
21 that different route that they have.
22
23 And so we've been trying to educate the
24 guards that you have to let -- even if you are hungry,
25 you know, you have to let -- that's what the Numinuit
26 are doing. People that -- out in the migratory route
27 of the caribou have to do that. They wait until the
28 first group of caribou come through and then they're
29 able to hunt the ones behind that.
30
31 And so we've been able to try to
32 educate those people up north. That's what they need
33 to do in order for us -- because they haven't reached
34 our area yet when -- when the hunters they're shooting
35 at them.
36
37 Thank you.
38
39 MR. KOONUK: Next.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Ray.
42
43 MR. KOONUK: The issues that I brought
44 out yesterday about the caribou that we haven't seen
45 all year, Point Hope to Noatak, Kivalina, and Kotzebue.
46 It's been really hard on -- on the people, especially
47 the elders that, you know, live on caribou and don't
48 really depend on beef, you know, for soup or fry, or --
49 or using, you know, the meat, you know, with seal oil.
50 So everybody had suffered. A little -- a little bit of

1 caribou would show up, maybe one or two or three and --
2 but hunters would just get them and that's it.

3

4 And like he said, educating, you know,
5 even our hunters because we don't get commercial
6 hunters at all that way. And that's one thing we've
7 been trying to do, is educate the younger ones from not
8 going out too early when the herds start coming in.
9 And then often they just go out right away and then
10 they scare the caribou. And then they're gone.

11

12 On the ocean itself, we've been having
13 a hard time getting tomcods. It's been how many years
14 now and I -- I know I brought this some time ago and
15 it's still ongoing. For whatever reason, we don't
16 know. And that's part of our diet, the tomcod. And
17 we're -- you know, we're, you know, real happy when we
18 get them this time of the year, January or during the
19 fall when they wash in from the shore. And also, the
20 clams don't even show up now, tomcods and the clams
21 during the fall time. And then during the winter, in
22 January we're -- we haven't got any -- any tomcods. So
23 for whatever reason, we're -- we don't know. Something
24 must have happened out there or -- as far as maybe the
25 currents.

26

27 But we still, you know, see a lot of
28 beluga whales during the spring.

29

30 And now we have polar bears running
31 right into town. And it's getting worse. And with the
32 winters we've been having for the last two or three
33 years, getting worse too. And the snow is just piling
34 up, you know, ten, fifteen feet high. And we have
35 children that walk to school because of our
36 transportation where, you know, our kids have been
37 broken down almost all year. And we have polar bears
38 running around, you know, in town and man, that's
39 dangerous for our kids. You know, the vehicles that we
40 own privately are sometimes buried and they have to end
41 up walking. And there's -- you know, the North Slope
42 Borough has been hollered at because of the polar bear
43 issue. We have polar bear watch but, you know, all
44 that snow comes right in and it just slows down
45 everything. You know, and it's getting more dangerous
46 for them polar bears, as far as them coming in.

47

48 Wolverines, they've been getting a lot
49 of wolverines and wolves. And they've been -- they're
50 coming in closer. And they're only about maybe two or

1 three miles from town now, especially the wolverines.
2 Boy, we were, you know, surprised they're -- they're
3 that close. So they -- they're getting a few, not a
4 whole bunch, but a few. But now there's at least --
5 you know, they'll start seeing wolf packs and that's
6 rare for us to see this -- you know, around our area.
7 So there's something going on.

8

9 That's all I have I guess.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Thank you,
12 Ray. Lloyd.

13

14 MR. LEAVITT: One thing I did bring out
15 was the weather, global warming, where some villages
16 get caribou during certain times of the year. Some
17 caribous leave before even -- before the proper freeze
18 up. And I follows, listen to my ancestors and my
19 parents that the caribou goes where the eating's going
20 to be easy or when they know there's going to be harsh
21 winters, such as rain or warm weathers, they'll go
22 where life's going to be easier.

23

24 And that's one study that needs to be
25 studied, is the weather pattern. The so-called global
26 warming we're encountering, we're learning to adapt to
27 the changes. And I did look at that tagged bearded
28 seal from last winter. During the winter months,
29 during year-round they go back and forth down to Nome
30 area up to Barrow area, on over to Russia. This one
31 traveled over 1,600 miles in one winter. So Western
32 Alaska takes what we take and we take what they take so
33 all the critters travel.

34

35 I would encourage that we meet with the
36 Nome Peninsula and Northwest Arctic RAC on the global
37 warming and the weather changes we're encountering.
38 And it would benefit all the tribal councils with the
39 changes that we're seeing.

40

41 And there's also the bearded seal
42 hearing on March 22nd, I believe, right here in Barrow
43 in this building. These are just some of the issues
44 that we're going to be encountering. And like I
45 stated, these bearded seal traveled from here to Nome.
46 And it's been a known fact over the last several years.
47 So I would encourage the Federal government to study
48 the weather patterns, the so-called global warming and
49 encourage the Federal government to support our needs.

50

1 That's pretty much all I have to say.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Thank you,
4 Lloyd.

5

6 We've had some pretty good discussion
7 of our issues throughout our region. We've had a good
8 year in Barrow area. There's been a lot of caribou
9 around. We've had some good hunting summertime and
10 falltime and wintertime. We've had very limited walrus
11 hunting with the changes that are occurring in the near
12 shore environment. And the haul out that's moved to
13 the west side at Point Lay area.

14

15 It's one that my mother really likes
16 and I've had a hard time trying to get some fermented
17 walrus this year. This is the first year I've had such
18 difficulty. Usually when we have an elder that's
19 requesting a certain type of food, we're able to find
20 it. It wasn't so this year.

21

22 We've had a lot of good efforts to work
23 with the many different processes that are bringing in
24 changes to our region, in various communities. In
25 Nuiqsut there's been a lot of work to try to look at
26 ways to work with the people that are bringing in the
27 land use changes in ways that we might protect
28 traditional and cultural uses. Some of these things
29 have gone in a good way. Some of these things have
30 not.

31

32 There was discussion in the past to
33 look at ways that recommendations are being put in to
34 help protect our traditional and cultural uses. And
35 the report was supposed to come out. I haven't seen
36 anything of that sort. It's working through the
37 mitigating measures and those assessments. That's
38 something that's really important to follow and to
39 assess.

40

41 There's other regions that are going
42 through some changes and are looking at ways to try to
43 protect their traditional and cultural uses or ways
44 that they can protect their harvests with the changes
45 in the weather patterns. Some of these discussions
46 really need to be put forward in a strong way, having
47 the ice cellars, changing the way they have, it's
48 affecting the way we're storing our foods. It's
49 affecting our continued usage of the storage of those
50 foods. And unless we're working together and sharing

1 things that are working well, there's problems.

2

3 So supplementing Lloyd's comments,
4 there's definitely a lot of ways that we can work with
5 inter-region discussions on these issues and learn from
6 one another and work at preventing the loss of
7 traditional and cultural uses and foods that are
8 important to us.

9

10 We've also had interactions. I
11 traveled through all the villages last May. Four
12 villages gave me concerns for seals, the health of the
13 seals. One village talked about the seal that they had
14 harvested in the springtime was very, very skinny.
15 There was no fat content. Another one had talked about
16 changes to their lungs. They don't know what caused
17 these changes but they could tell that the lungs were
18 damaged.

19

20 These kinds of things are concerns that
21 are coming when we're interacting with people that are
22 very concerned and willing to speak out. It's very
23 difficult to get these concerns brought into the right
24 realm so that we can bring these kinds of concerns into
25 the area that can look at ways that we can address them
26 or look at ways we can assess these animals. It is
27 something that was brought to me.

28

29 Another concern that was brought to me
30 was one of the lakes within five miles here of Barrow
31 had some changes to it. The fishermen that use that
32 area had been fishing in that area for over 50 years.
33 He talked to me that the harvest had greatly increased.
34 He was very concerned about the seismic activity near
35 Cape Simpson and the additional gravel placement
36 related to the development of that area, whether it had
37 affected the ability for the fish to move in and out of
38 that lake. He said that the numbers were the greatest
39 that they had ever been. All his life he would catch
40 about fifteen in a setting of the net. But all of a
41 sudden, it changed to about 300 fish. And this is the
42 broad whitefish.

43

44 So those kinds of things are very
45 concerning. We don't know what's causing those kinds
46 of things. But getting some further communication from
47 the community about things like that, that are a
48 concern.

49

50 One of the others in our reason, Sam

1 Taalak really worked with some of the fishery studies
2 because he knew it was not well understood within the
3 fishery studies how the fish move through these
4 waterways when the water levels changed. Like in the
5 spring meltdown, the fish are moving. But they come
6 out in July to do these assessments and so they're
7 missing some of the important times of when the fish
8 are in these areas to be counted.

9
10 But with the increased land use changes
11 occurring in the near shore environment and the
12 increased changes of things coming in the future, it is
13 something we need to be very aware of and start some
14 communications, getting some processes to make sure
15 that we're protecting these deltas and the fish
16 migration passages that are so important.

17
18 The discussions that we had last month,
19 with the meeting in Anchorage, were very important. We
20 brought out some of those discussions. The importance
21 of our process is for the health of our people, for the
22 health of our foods, for the health of our future
23 generations. When we have so many regions that are
24 facing changes and have concerns to the traditional and
25 cultural uses, it's very important that we have this
26 process that we can bring these concerns out. And that
27 we give the importance of protecting these uses and the
28 health of these foods for the future generations.

29
30 We had a lot of discussions that
31 occurred. It was difficult to participate in the
32 process because we were addressing concerns that were
33 affecting region to region. But the crossover between
34 some of these concerns were very strong. And it was a
35 difficult process to go through, but it was important
36 to stay strong on these issues.

37
38 As these processes move forward, it's
39 very important. If there is changes that are coming
40 with the traditional and cultural uses, or there are
41 precedent-setting factors that may affect our region
42 from other regions have regulatory changes, that's very
43 important that we're informed of these processes.

44
45 I appreciate the opportunity to go to
46 the meeting last month. It was a very different
47 process, but it was very important in protecting our
48 traditional and cultural uses in subsistence. And I
49 appreciate that we were given the opportunity to
50 participate.

1 And I agree with the Board's
2 recommendation that we consider getting representation
3 onto the Board. It would be best if we could get every
4 region, because every region is so very diverse and the
5 resources that we have in some areas are very different
6 from resources in the other. The timelines of how we
7 utilize our resources vary throughout the state. And
8 when you're working through a process and you're from a
9 certain area, you bring to the table who and what you
10 are.

11
12 And it's difficult, without having the
13 proper exposure to the various regions, to bring the
14 strength of the discussions from the various regions
15 into the process. So I hope that that concern is taken
16 into this process as they move forward and look at --
17 it -- it's very similar to saying to a native from the
18 Lower 48, you've got to talk for all the tribes in the
19 Lower 48 in this issue. And we would not expect our
20 Federal government to expect one Native to cover all of
21 the tribes in the Lower 48.

22
23 It's very similar up here. We have
24 over 200 tribes in Alaska and we're very diverse. We
25 have very unique perspectives. We have a general sense
26 of the importance on some of these issues and yes, we
27 can discuss things on a State-wide basis. But when
28 we're looking at the importance of protecting regional
29 uses, then it becomes more difficult.

30
31 So I think everyone for participating
32 and working with us on these issues. We've had a great
33 process.

34
35 And, Barb, we have had a great time
36 working with you. Your information and your longevity
37 of participation has really aided our process and we
38 hope you the best in all of your endeavors. And we
39 know that you may be going into Kiana, but sooner or
40 later we'll be interacting with these issues that we've
41 been working on. So we thank you.

42
43 MS. ATORUK: Thank you.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: James.

46
47 MR. J. NAGEAK: We could get ten more
48 years from you, right?

49
50 (Laughter)

1 MR. J. NAGEAK: As -- as a closing
2 comment from me, I think that the elders that we grew
3 up hearing and -- and how we were brought up makes it
4 hard for sometimes the elders to participate. Because
5 we don't talk controversy about our animals, you know.
6 We -- we don't argue about them. They are a part of
7 our family. And -- and when -- like the caribou, you
8 know, they know when you are treating them good.

9
10 I just saw a book by Harry Brower, you
11 know. Whales, they give themselves. It's not just the
12 whales, I think. I think that the animals that we eat,
13 the animals that we get our uses out of are very
14 perceptive as to how we are as Inupiat people. And
15 when there is a controversy, an argument going on that
16 the Fish and Game or Fish and Wildlife people bring to
17 the Inupiat people, sometimes it's hard to respond
18 because they don't want to get into a conflict
19 concerning those resources that we use in our
20 communities.

21
22 And -- and there could be consequences.
23 If such a confrontation happens between let's say the
24 Federal Wildlife Services and the Inupiat people, that
25 we sometimes say we can't argue with you guys because
26 the caribou are listening, the walrus are listening,
27 the bears are listening, as to what you are saying.
28 And so it's -- it's Catch-22 for us. To -- to get into
29 a situation where we have to argue about the resources
30 that we have.

31
32 So I just wanted to let the world know
33 that we do have concerns, but it's hard for us to make
34 it known and make it -- but there are times when --
35 like my grandfather, the one that Sam Taalak quoted one
36 time, you know, concerning the sheep when they were
37 making that ANWR. I have a document that -- that said
38 that you guys are trying to give us regulations
39 concerning what we as Inupiat people have used for
40 centuries. And now you want us to argue with you. But
41 all he said was hunger knows no law. You know, and
42 that's -- that's where Sam had really done his
43 homework. And -- and I have a document that -- a
44 letter to the Territorial Governor in those days. And
45 so it's hard sometimes to reply and respond to -- in a
46 confrontational process.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Thank you,

1 James. That's in important point. And it's not always
2 well-articulated but it is something that we recognize
3 when we're working in these processes.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 Any other final comments.

8
9 MR. KOONUK: One more.

10
11 MR. LEAVITT: After James had said that
12 animals do listen to us, here's a very good one. 2002,
13 we were out -- out on the ice. I was leading my
14 brothers. And I told them that we're going to --
15 within an hour we're going to catch the first whale. I
16 have that feeling. Guess what? The whale did pop up,
17 but none of my crew members wanted to catch that whale.
18 He followed me walking. But 100 feet away he followed
19 me right to the boat.

20
21 Before that my brother was -- he was in
22 a very bad mood. And the whale just kept popping up
23 and down. And I figured it out. I told my brother,
24 younger brother, you need to go home for the day.
25 Whales know when somebody's mad. They know when we're
26 arguing. They know when the crew's not the same.
27 We've been told that year after year. I, as a young
28 man, preteen whaling, learning the ways of whaling,
29 this whale gave himself to us.

30
31 And he wouldn't -- he wouldn't just
32 give himself to us. He kept going under every time we
33 catch -- tried to get the harpoon in. Billy was in a
34 very bad mood so I directed him to go home. I didn't
35 ask him. You need to go home Billy. That whale is
36 giving himself up to us and you need to go home for the
37 day. He looked at my other brother and asked do I have
38 to do what Lloyd says? Anything and everything he
39 says, dad said we need to follow him.

40
41 No more than ten minutes after he left,
42 the snow machine sound was gone and I go that whale
43 that -- there he is. He swam about -- he was about
44 150-feet away in front of me northwest. He swam all
45 the way, didn't go underwater, and stopped right there,
46 right in front of me. I mean, just stopped. I looked
47 at Billy, Richard. And this was on Mother's Day. The
48 whale -- if you believe and the family's been working
49 together that entire year, and you have a clean cellar,
50 they do give themselves.

1 I believe that all creatures really do
2 give themselves away. That is our belief and has
3 always been our belief. And it is given to us by our
4 ancestors. So I really believe in animals. Creatures
5 really do give themselves if you believe in the Lord
6 Jesus Christ.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Thank you,
9 Lloyd. Ray.

10

11 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, just one item here.
12 Hopefully, in the future, but I don't know. It's going
13 to be our responsibility to deal with off shore as the
14 impacts that we're going to be facing here pretty soon.
15 After the seismic operations, when they start drilling.
16 But I don't know if we are to get involved or not, but
17 I just want to bring this out.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: That is a
22 big issue and in our processes, dealing with
23 subsistence and cultural uses, there is processes that
24 we can bring some of our concerns forward. Some of
25 these processes will get intermingled with other
26 processes. And having key participants like you
27 involved in the process, that is involved in the
28 various layers of the process where decisions are made
29 that affect our traditional and cultural uses are very
30 important. And to mentor your follower into the
31 process also so you build the depth of understanding in
32 the person following after, as well as who you can send
33 into various processes.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 And do we have any other final
38 comments?

39

40 MR. KOONUK: One more. Say something
41 about Barbara, now, I know she took care of my child
42 once a long ways -- a long ways back. And, you know, I
43 just want to thank her for doing everything that -- to
44 get me down here and get me back home. And I've known
45 her for a long time and I wish you good luck.

46

47 MS. ATORUK: Thank you.

48

49 MR. KOONUK: And I'll let
50 (Indiscernible) that you want your seal oil.

1 MS. ATORUK: Okay.
2
3 (Laughter)
4
5 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Thank you.
6
7 MS. ATORUK: Thank you.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: All right.
10 Hearing no additional closing documents, we're ready
11 for adjournment. The time is 9:45.
12
13 (Off record)
14
15 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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STATE OF ALASKA)

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