

1 NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL
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3 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
4
5 PUBLIC MEETING
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9 VOLUME I
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11
12 Barrow Inupiat Heritage Center
13 Barrow, Alaska
14 March 17, 2015
15 9:30 a.m.
16

17
18 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
19
20 Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak - Vice Chair
21 Gordon Brower
22 Lee Kayotuk
23 Sam Kunaknana
24 Robert Shears
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29 Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Barrow, Alaska - 3/17/2015)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: We're on record. The first thing we need to do is get a roll call.

MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council. We do have several excused absences this morning and some for the rest of the week.

Teddy Frankson is in the hospital and he's doing better, but he will not be able to participate with us this week.

James Nageak is also on leave to attend to a funeral in Anaktuvuk Pass. He may be joining us by teleconference later this afternoon if he's able.

I believe we have Sam Kunaknana on teleconference with us.

Harry Brower is stuck in Anchorage at the moment. He was hoping to join us by teleconference this morning and then will be flying back this afternoon.

We'll begin with the roll call of members present. Gordon Brower.

MR. G. BROWER: Good morning. I'm here this morning.

MS. PATTON: Robert Shears.

MR. SHEARS: Good morning. Robert Shears is here.

MS. PATTON: And Harry Brower may join us by teleconference and then will be arriving late this evening. Do we have Sam Kunaknana on teleconference?

MR. KUNAKNANA: Good morning.

MS. PATTON: Good morning, Sam. Welcome. Thank you for joining us. Sam Kunaknana is

1 our new Council member just appointed this year in
2 December. A big welcome to Sam.
3
4 James Nageak.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 MS. PATTON: Theodore Frankson.
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 MS. PATTON: Lee Kayotuk.
13
14 MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning. Here.
15
16 MS. PATTON: And Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak,
17 Vice-Chair.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: I'm here
20 too.
21
22 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
23 we have a quorum. Our current membership is eight
24 members and we have 5 present, including Sam on
25 teleconference.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon
28 Brower is going to do the invocation.
29
30 (Invocation)
31
32 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: All right.
33 We're officially calling the meeting to order. It's
34 9:19. I'd like to welcome everyone to the North Slope
35 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. My name is
36 Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak. I live here in Barrow. I've
37 been engaged in many issues on the North Slope for a
38 few decades now.
39
40 Thank you, everyone.
41
42 We'll go to the right. Lee.
43
44 MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning, Madame
45 Chair, Council members. My name is Lee Kayotuk and I
46 live in the village of Kaktovik. Good morning.
47 Welcome you all.
48
49 MR. G. BROWER: Good morning,
50 everybody. This is Gordon Brower. I'm from Barrow and

1 a whaling captain and getting all prepared. I hope you
2 guys can drive by my house and see my skin boat. It's
3 drying out over there. Just welcome everybody.

4

5 MR. SHEARS: Good morning. Robert
6 Shears. Most people call me Bob and you're welcome to
7 too. I'm currently residing in Barrow for the last
8 year, year and a half. My seat is through the
9 community of Wainwright where I moved here from to take
10 a job working for the North Slope Borough. Today I'm
11 here representing both communities.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: On the
14 phone we have Sam Kunaknana. If you could introduce
15 yourself, Sam.

16

17 MR. KUNAKNANA: Okay. Good morning,
18 everybody. My name is Sam Kunaknana from Nuiqsut. I'm
19 president for Native Village of Nuiqsut.

20

21 MS. PATTON: Good morning, everyone.
22 Eva Patton, Council coordinator for the North Slope
23 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. Welcome and
24 thank you for joining us. I want to extend a special
25 thank you. It's humbling and an honor to work with the
26 North Slope Council. So many of the Council members
27 wear many, many hats. Take care of their communities
28 and subsistence in many ways. So thank you for being
29 here and your dedication.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: If we could
32 have those online starting the introduction.

33

34 MS. HYER: Good morning. It's Karen
35 Hyer from the Office of Subsistence Management.

36

37 DR. YOKEL: Good morning, Madame Chair.
38 Dave Yokel with BLM in Fairbanks.

39

40 MR. LIND: Good morning, Madame Chair.
41 Orville Lind, Native liaison for OSM.

42

43 MR. CRAWFORD: Good morning, Madame
44 Chair. This is Drew Crawford, Alaska Department of
45 Fish and Game in Anchorage.

46

47 MR. SHARP: Dan Sharp with BLM in
48 Anchorage.

49

50 MR. RICE: Good morning, Madame Chair.

1 This is Bud Rice, National Park Service in Anchorage.

2

3 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Madame
4 Chair, members of the Council. This is Robbin LaVine
5 with the Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage.

6

7 MR. H. BROWER: Good morning. This is
8 Harry Brower with North Slope Regional Advisory Council
9 calling in from Anchorage.

10

11 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Harry.
12 Welcome.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: If we have
15 no more on the phone, then we'd like the people in the
16 audience to step up to the mic and do an introduction.

17

18 MS. PETRIVELLI: I'm Pat Petrivelli,
19 BIA subsistence anthropologist out of Anchorage.

20

21 MR. BROOKS: Good morning, Madame
22 Chair. Members of the Council. It's a pleasure to be
23 here today. I'd like to thank the people of Barrow and
24 this community and this facility for having us. I'm
25 going to be here for the entirety of the meeting and
26 I'm very happy to help you work through some of these
27 issues and listen to your concerns and needs on the
28 North Slope. My name is Jeff Brooks. I work in the
29 Division of Anthropology at the Office of Subsistence
30 Management in Anchorage.

31

32 For the last two years I have been
33 working with your Council telephonically from
34 Anchorage. I was assigned to the North Slope, the
35 Northwest Arctic and the Seward Peninsula Regional
36 Advisory Councils. This is the first opportunity that
37 I've had to be in person with you in Barrow or one of
38 the communities up here, so I'm really looking forward
39 to this.

40

41 I used to work for the Refuge system
42 for five years and I helped the Selawik Refuge, the
43 Arctic Refuge with their management plans. Most of my
44 experience in Alaska, which is only seven and a half
45 years, has been in the north and the northwest for the
46 most part. I'm a social scientist. I also have some
47 training in biology.

48

49 I've lived and worked in five, six
50 different states. I was a Peace Corps volunteer in

1 rural West Africa. I was born in Bay City, Michigan.
2 I'm the son of Jim and Carol Brooks, who are from
3 Tawas, Michigan and my family pretty much, as far as I
4 know, settled in the Great Lakes area and came from
5 northern Europe. Finland, Germany, Ireland and
6 England, I believe, are my ancestry.

7
8 I've been willing and able to work with
9 this Council for a couple years now and I'm looking
10 forward to the conversations that we'll have here.

11
12 Thank you, Madame Chair.

13
14 MR. KRON: Good morning. Tom Kron with
15 OSM.

16
17 MR. SCANLON: Good morning. My name is
18 Brendan Scanlon. I'm a fishery biologist for Northwest
19 North Slope Department of Fish and Game. I have a
20 short slide show tomorrow on some fish research we've
21 been doing up here and some proposed research we'd like
22 to do and I'd like to get some input on the Council as
23 well.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MR. EVANS: Good morning, Madame Chair.
28 My name is Tom Evans. I'm a wildlife biologist with
29 Office of Subsistence Management.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: For those
32 on the phone we're going through the room and doing
33 introductions and we'll come back to the phone if we've
34 missed anyone.

35
36 MR. CASTELLANOS: Good morning, Madame
37 Chair. Good morning, Council members. Thank you for
38 having me here. I'll have the opportunity to present
39 myself a little bit more later in the week and a
40 presentation. My name is Gilbert Castellanos. I'm the
41 International Affairs Specialist with the U.S. Fish and
42 Wildlife Service. I'll be talking to you a little bit
43 about the work that we're doing in the Arctic and the
44 Arctic Council, so I look forward to that. Thank you
45 for having me. Thank you to the City of Barrow, the
46 Borough and the Council.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 MS. AVEOGANNA: Good morning. My name

1 is Olivia Aveoganna. I'm here on behalf of ICAS. I'm
2 the natural resources office specialist.

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Good morning. My name is
5 Vince Mathews. This is a great day for Irish. This is
6 St. Patrick's Day, so I'm glad that the Vice-Chair is
7 wearing green. So anyway I'm the Refuge Subsistence --
8 yes, you have green on there, Gordon, somewhere. It's
9 in your thing. Anyway, it's a great day to be in
10 Barrow. I'm the Refuge Subsistence Coordinator for
11 Arctic, Kanuti and Yukon Flat. The Refuge Manager,
12 assuming the planes fly, will be in later today.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MS. OKADA: Good morning. My name is
17 Marcy Okada. I'm the Subsistence Coordinator for Gates
18 of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MR. AHSOGEAK: Good morning. My name
23 is Bart Ahsogeak, NSV land management specialist. Also
24 involved with NPR-A Subsistence Advisory Board.

25

26 MR. FRANTZ: Brower Frantz. I'm a
27 field inspector for the North Slope Borough, working
28 for the land site. I came to see what the Council was
29 about.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: May I have
32 our court reporter.

33

34 REPORTER: Lynn, Computer Matrix.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.
37 Do we have someone on the phone that was unable to
38 introduce?

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Did we have
43 a question from someone on the phone?

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: All right.
48 Hearing none. Thank you, everyone. We welcome you to
49 our process. We're here to talk about subsistence and
50 the importance of our traditional lands and waters.

1 Next on the agenda is to review and
2 adopt the agenda.

3
4 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Yes,
7 Gordon.

8
9 MR. G. BROWER: I'd like to make a
10 motion to adopt the agenda.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: We have a
13 motion.

14
15 MR. SHEARS: Second.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: We have a
18 motion and a second to adopt the agenda. Do we have
19 any discussion?

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: We have a
24 new agenda that was printed out and handed out to
25 everyone. There are some modifications from the
26 handbook. Those of you that are following that, due to
27 the reality of the extreme Arctic business we have
28 participants that have various times that they are able
29 to participate, so we have some modifications. The
30 modifications are available in the room and we'll go
31 over them as we move forward.

32
33 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Yes,
36 Gordon.

37
38 MR. G. BROWER: I was going by the book
39 here, so the handout here is the modified agenda?

40
41 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Yes.

42
43 MR. G. BROWER: I just want to make
44 sure we're clear on which one to use.

45
46 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
47 The agenda is the same content that was in your
48 original books and also the additions that we added
49 with the extra day for the Council. We did make some
50 minor rearrangements to try to accommodate the Council

1 being able to take up action items when we have a full
2 quorum. We're welcome to make changes as the Council
3 needs in order to ensure that you're able to take
4 action on your business.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 MR. G. BROWER: Call for the question.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: The
11 question has been called. All those in favor of
12 approving the agenda do so by saying aye.

13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Those
17 opposed.

18
19 (No opposing votes)

20
21 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: All right.
22 The agenda passes. Harry, you're on the phone. Next
23 on the agenda is the election of officers. Do we want
24 to push that back on the agenda until you arrive here
25 in town and go over it tomorrow? What is the wish of
26 the Council.

27
28 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon.

31
32 MR. G. BROWER: I would propose to
33 table the election of officers until we have a full
34 board present to make a proper election. I say that as
35 a motion.

36
37 MR. SHEARS: And I concur, Gordon.

38 Second.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: We have a
41 motion and a second to table the election of officers
42 until we can have it done in a face-to-face meeting.
43 All those in favor do so by saying aye.

44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Those

48 opposed.

49
50 (No opposing votes)

1 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: All right.
2 We're tabling the election of officers. Next on the
3 agenda is the review and approval of previous meeting
4 minutes.

5
6 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
7 Your minutes are on Page 5 of your meeting books. If
8 you've had an opportunity to review those. I know
9 James Nageak -- I call my professor. He finds typos of
10 all my misspellings. So if you see any corrections,
11 additions or edits, please do let me know.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: We have
14 before you the minutes of the August 19th and 20th,
15 2014 meeting minutes.

16
17 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair.

18
19 MR. H. BROWER: Madame Chair. Motion
20 to approve the meeting minutes of August 2014.

21
22 MR. G. BROWER: Seconded.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: We have a
25 motion and a second to approve the minutes. Do we have
26 any discussion.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair. Hearing
31 no discussion, at this point I call for the question.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: The
34 question has been called. All those in favor of
35 approving the August 2014 meeting minutes do so by
36 saying aye.

37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Those
41 opposed say aye.

42
43 (No opposing votes)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: The minutes
46 are approved. Next we have Council reports. Going to
47 the right, Lee.

48
49 MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning, Madame
50 Chair. For Council reports, I don't have none at this

1 time.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon.

6

7

MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair. Gordon
8 Brower for the record from Barrow, Alaska. I just want
9 to talk a little bit about some of the things I've
10 experienced over the past year. My primary hunting
11 areas are around the Ikpikpuk and Chipp River. Last
12 fall it was difficult fishing again. I just seem to
13 have a hard time finding a good ice platform to put
14 nets under the ice. When there's slush moving down the
15 river, it's almost pretty near impossible to fish
16 unless you're in a slough or something like that.

17

18

Having very thin ice and you can't get
19 on top. Normally I fish from on top of the ice, so I'm
20 really thinking about how I'm going to accomplish
21 fishing if this trend continues. It's very difficult
22 to fish the right time to get this fish for our
23 community. I'm trying to think about what I need to --
24 I even thought about these plastic boat docks and
25 collecting that kind of stuff to make an artificial
26 place so I can put nets under the ice because I just
27 can't fish when there's slush moving around.

28

29

Anyway, I got what fish I could. The
30 fish runs were right on the money. It's just being
31 able to harvest them. Mother Nature is not
32 cooperating. Again, this year on caribou, the same as
33 last year. Very difficult hunting for caribou in my
34 area. They seem to have created a new path and they're
35 sticking to it it looks like and I need to do
36 extraordinary measures on my part to find their path
37 again. It seems like it's kind of like moved west
38 about eight to ten miles according to my binoculars
39 anyway.

40

41

Normally when I'm harvesting I'm very
42 successful in these areas and this trend of caribou
43 issues not being where they're normally found. I can't
44 pinpoint to what's doing it, but I can only guess, you
45 know, something is wrong with their original trail that
46 they're not -- I'm used to seeing them since I was 10
47 years old in these same areas. They'd always be
48 predictable to move in these areas and I'm just trying
49 to figure things out. So that part of hunting has been
50 difficult.

1 Being a whaling captain, I try to think
2 about what my needs are going to be to feed people and
3 feed my whaling crew, my family and ultimately the
4 community when we're having our festivals. Sometimes
5 I'm kind of troubled as to why these things are
6 happening and I think there needs to be some other
7 causes and I don't know what they are. They're
8 certainly moving. I could see them. They're just out
9 of reach, you know. They're just very difficult to get
10 to them.

11
12 Other concerns I've had are concerning
13 to Nuiqsut and I think maybe Sam or others can speak to
14 that. I had attended a recent RAB meeting in Nuiqsut
15 with some Federal agencies. What is it, the Rural --
16 Restoration Advisory Board meeting. Some of the
17 concerns out in Nuiqsut are kind of alarming. I
18 happened to be stuck in a vehicle with Dr. Craig George
19 for about four hours and we were trying to solve the
20 world's problems while we were stuck together in this
21 one vehicle. It's amazing what kind of dialogue you
22 can have with a biologist for four hours.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 MR. G. BROWER: But it was pretty
27 interesting. Some of the issues we were talking about
28 were what are the possible causes of fish mold issues
29 that Nuiqsut is encountering. One of the things I
30 thought was worth -- and I had asked Todd Sformo too
31 from the Wildlife Department about four or five months
32 before this one was what do you think about stagnant
33 lakes that are used to withdraw water for building ice
34 roads and some of the lakes we avoid for drinking water
35 for our personal use at our fish camp where you can get
36 actually sick from these lakes and they're kind of
37 preferred for less regulatory requirements when there's
38 no fish in these lakes and they've been tested to have
39 minimal life form or something like that and they're
40 really preferred to build ice roads with these things
41 and spreading that water around.

42
43 That was one theory because the Nuiqsut
44 area is strewn with ice roads from lakes and anywhere
45 you can get availability of these water sources. That
46 was one theory. Now that the Alpine has been developed
47 over there and the continuing development, there's
48 probably about 1,000 wells now in that area. I'm just
49 guessing. There could be around 300.

50

1 The last 15 years just dealing with
2 Prudhoe Bay, Kuparuk and dealing with subsidence, all
3 of these well housings tilting over to the side and
4 trying to figure out what's causing all of this
5 subsidence issues. It's the warming of the surrounding
6 adjacent tundra from these well houses when they're
7 producing 145-degree Fahrenheit oil from renewed gears
8 and bringing it up. It has this effect of thaw and the
9 subsidence issues.

10
11 Thinking about that and how they
12 addressed it in Kuparuk, but thinking about it having
13 that kind of subsidence issues in a thaw bulb, I think
14 the Kuparuk River has this thaw bulb, larger thaw bulbs
15 in all of these wells that are strewn. If you look at
16 all of their diagrams and they're engineered for
17 getting them permitted. They show all of these
18 diagrams and wells going horizontally, up and down,
19 under the rivers and all of this.

20
21 MS. PATTON: Can I interrupt, Gordon.
22 I just want to -- for folks that are joining us on
23 teleconference there's a lot of background noise. I
24 think someone is enjoying their morning coffee.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 MR. G. BROWER: Oh, I thought you were
29 going to tell me to shut up.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 MS. PATTON: No, no. Pardon me,
34 Gordon. I didn't want to interrupt, but there is a lot
35 of background noise. If you can push *6 and that
36 should work if you're on your cell phone or if you're
37 on a regular phone and that will mute the noise in the
38 background so you can enjoy your morning cup of coffee.
39 If you wish to speak, then just push *6 again.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 MR. H. BROWER: Madame Chair, pardon
44 me. (Indiscernible) be excused (indiscernible).

45
46 MR. G. BROWER: He wants to be excused,
47 Madame Chair.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Yes, Harry.

50

1 MR. H. BROWER: Thank you. I'd like to
2 be excused at this time. (Indiscernible) this morning,
3 but I'll be heading to Barrow this afternoon.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: All right.
6 We'll be looking forward to having you here for the
7 caribou discussions.

8
9 Thank you, Harry.

10
11 MR. H. BROWER: Thank you, folks.

12
13 MR. G. BROWER: All right. See you
14 later, Harry. Well, anyway, long story short because I
15 don't want to repeat the entire dialogue with Craig
16 George. That will take four hours. But anyway I think
17 there's some merit to studying these thaw bulbs where
18 major fisheries for subsistence exist. You know, if
19 you're looking at subsidence issues and trying to crack
20 that nut over at Prudhoe Bay and the wells. It came
21 down to wellhead integrity in Prudhoe Bay. How do you
22 stabilize the ground around these heated wellheads that
23 are producing oil.

24
25 But that same issue surrounding a thaw
26 bulb, me and Craig kind of thought, you know, this
27 could have some merit to thinking about industrializing
28 a delta where it's a very vibrant, extensive fisheries
29 in these areas and those types of concerns. I thought,
30 well, you know, I think there should be some level of
31 interest for biologists and folks that need to study to
32 take some level of interest in studying the
33 temperatures of active thaw bulbs in deltas, like the
34 Ikpikpuk River where it's basically untouched right now
35 and other deltas and compare that with what's going on
36 with the Colville River delta thaw bulb.

37
38 I don't know. I mean those are just
39 some of the things that I can think of. I think Craig
40 thought that was an interesting way to look at, you
41 know, if it's temperature-related issues for mold.
42 Anyway, I would like to give everybody else an
43 opportunity to say what's on their mind. I wanted to
44 say these things because they've been kind of brewing
45 around in my mind and I've got to go to another meeting
46 tomorrow and got to be excused tomorrow. I'm very,
47 very sad about not being able to participate,
48 especially in the caribou dialogue, because that, to
49 me, is -- I've got caribou issues and what's going on
50 with our caribou and trying to understand it better.

1 Anyway, that was Gordon Brower.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you,
4 Gordon. We'll go next to Sam on the phone. Do you
5 want to give an update of concerns around your
6 community?

7

8 MR. KUNAKNANA: Yes. Good morning,
9 everybody. I'd like to say a few things about the
10 Restoration Advisory meeting over here. For the past
11 couple years I've noticed around our area mold fish, as
12 they called it. Me, in my own opinion, I think it's
13 from the drums that are coming down the Colville River
14 from Chandler. There's a lot of drums that are on the
15 river right now as I speak. For the past couple years
16 I haven't been fishing on the Colville River because of
17 these issues that we have with our fish. I've talked
18 with Craig George on a couple occasions trying to
19 figure out if there is really some petroleum byproducts
20 in our river.

21

22 One suggestion that I said was that why
23 don't we get some ice core samples on the river this
24 year like they do in Antarctica and the North Pole.
25 The fish over here are affected and I don't think it's
26 coming from the temperature of the water because during
27 the summer when the fish start coming in, they're okay,
28 but when they're coming back out in the falltime is
29 when we start getting these sick fish.

30

31 I have a big concern, especially when
32 it comes through my subsistence way of life as I see it
33 now because it's changed drastically since we started
34 seeing drums coming down the Colville River. The
35 Umiat, Chandler. Chandler is a new place. I still
36 haven't seen that place yet, but I know Umiat is a big
37 concern because Nuiqsut is downriver from Umiat and
38 from Chandler.

39

40 As for the caribou, my concern is that
41 there is a lot of activity going on since Senate Bill
42 21 passed through the Legislature and we have a lot of
43 newcomers coming into play to go and find oil around
44 the area. There's been a lot of activity this winter
45 pretty much all around Nuiqsut and the caribou, from my
46 understanding, were coming this way, but have left the
47 area because of the seismic activity that's been going
48 on on the southwest side of Nuiqsut.

49

50 You know, there's a big concern on my

1 part during the summer because there was a
2 misconception going at Subsistence Advisory Panel
3 meeting in Anchorage about roads. When development
4 occurs, no matter what, even if there's roads that are
5 built, structures, coming to place, it distracts the
6 caribou away from this area. Reading some of these
7 reports from the contractors that are doing the
8 studies, you know, I do have a big concern on what
9 they're saying because they say that it's global
10 warming that's driving the caribou away from this area
11 and not saying nothing about the roads and the pipeline
12 that are in place.

13

14 That's a big concern especially when
15 the permittees read these reports and they see these
16 reports that say, hey, you know, Nuiqsut is not being
17 affected by these roads. You know, that's wrong in my
18 book. I think somebody needs to do something about the
19 contractors that are being contracted out from the oil
20 companies misguiding these agencies.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you,
23 Sam. That's insightful. I appreciate your
24 communications. Do we have any other Council members
25 that have joined by phone?

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Hearing
30 none. Bob.

31

32 MR. SHEARS: Madame Chair, I have no
33 comments.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: For myself,
36 it's been a very interesting year. Falltime we had a
37 lot of concern around caribou. Caribous were out by
38 Atqasuk and Wainwright. Springtime they're definitely
39 coming. They're not quite here yet, but they are still
40 hunters traveling out to Atqasuk and Wainwright to do
41 caribou hunting. My son was out to Wainwright this
42 weekend.

43

44 The furbearers have been out quite a
45 bit. I've had a number of hunters talk about
46 wolverines and wolves, especially around Nuiqsut.
47 There was a big herd that a number of hunters have been
48 trying to access, but the complexity of the lands
49 around Nuiqsut is something that's becoming an issue in
50 trying to travel after some of the furbearer packs.

1 We had a number of people that got out
2 and did fishing and Gordon's concerns around that was
3 amplified with many of our extended family members that
4 do fishing for us. Really difficult to get out to
5 areas where we put our nets out trying to do under-ice
6 fishing with the changes in the ice formation and the
7 movement of the ice and the change in the consistency
8 of the water with increased slushiness is affecting
9 harvesting of our fish. There were a number of people
10 who also expressed concern around some of the fish.
11 Not to the extent around Nuiqsut, but there were a
12 couple people that talked to me around concerns of the
13 health of the fish noticing some changes, whether it be
14 the mold or other factors, but there were a few that
15 mentioned concerns around that.

16

17 We have had a number of people who have
18 been out doing other things and the comparison with the
19 activities on the nearshore environment with the
20 changes on what's happening on the ground is very
21 obvious. The conflicts, when we're having a lot of
22 flight activity near Barrow, there's a lot more people
23 concerned about hunting and gathering activities and
24 there wasn't as much conflict this year with the
25 activities.

26

27 There are a number of people who have
28 concerns around the long-term monitoring activities
29 that are occurring and there have been some conflicts
30 around that. There's definitely desires to have
31 increased communications on a timely manner of where
32 activities are going to be occurring on these area wide
33 research and monitoring activities and a lot of
34 communications came out of the North Slope Science
35 Initiative meeting that we had here around concerns of
36 flight activity and trying to improve the way that
37 research and monitoring and other activities are
38 utilizing flights and trying to combine activities to
39 decrease their overall number of flights that are
40 occurring.

41

42 This has been a very extensive problem
43 in the region. Failure to gather the support within
44 the agencies, within the companies and within the
45 regulatory process has not reduced any of the
46 mitigating measures to try to restrict flights. There
47 are discussions with ICAS on a resolution to put in
48 minimal height recommendations as well as some other
49 communications around that and that should be followed
50 up with to see about ways to try to help protect

1 subsistence with these concerns.

2

3 I really appreciate everyone's effort
4 to share concerns. Over the years we've heard a lot of
5 concerns around these kinds of activities. This year
6 the concerns are with the decrease in the herd size and
7 the effort to change our harvesting patterns. There
8 are concerns from various people about other activities
9 that are not being restricted when we're telling our
10 hunters that we need to consider changing the way that
11 we harvest our caribou and that's something that has
12 come up extensively with some of the communications
13 I've had.

14

15 I've heard some of our hunters say that
16 it's been so hard for them to harvest that if they do
17 see animals, hunger knows no law, and it's a concern on
18 how we have to move forward with the process before us.
19 So thank you, everyone.

20

21 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon.

24

25 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair. I just
26 wanted to supplement what I said earlier and just to be
27 a little bit more clearer about my troubles with
28 fishing. I target whitefish spawning. My family has
29 been doing that for over 100 years, how my father
30 passed it on to us and how he learned how to do that.
31 The timing of spawning is always the same. It's just
32 the weather conditions.

33

34 I think there is a legitimate trend of
35 about three weeks of -- about a three-week difference
36 when it starts to freeze. I could remember in the
37 1980s our nets were under the ice by about September
38 20th up in the Ikpikpuk/Chipp River area and being able
39 to fish effectively like that. I'm not able to all the
40 way up till about October 5 I'm still struggling for
41 this ice to stop moving and settle and it be safe to
42 fish off. I fell in maybe two times before I said I'm
43 going to get killed. I gotta do something different
44 and I have to quit early.

45

46 So these are some of the issues that
47 are -- you know. And the fish run, the one I know
48 anyway, is over fairly quickly. You've got to do it.
49 They're not going to hang around. The spawning time is
50 about a total of three weeks for whitefish and then

1 they suddenly drop off like they came off of a cliff or
2 something, from a lot to maybe, you know, five a day
3 and then you've got to quit because the run is over.

4
5 So those are just some of the concerns
6 there. I know Nuiqsut has a little bit different
7 window because they're after mostly Arctic cisco. I do
8 get Arctic cisco, but it's usually in November, around
9 there. But, still, you can't even go to those spots
10 anymore because you're afraid of the strength of the
11 ice to support your snowmachine, so you've really got
12 to watch what you're doing nowadays and being careful.

13
14 Anyway, I thought it would be best to
15 clarify a little bit of the timing of my fishing and
16 it's usually targeted around September 20 to about
17 October 7.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you,
20 Gordon. Lee also wanted to add a few comments.

21
22 MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning. Thank you,
23 Madame Chair. Yeah, I'd like to reiterate back to the
24 Council reports. It just came up to me too fast here.
25 The Village of Kaktovik during the springtime was --
26 the ice and conditions had come too fast and we're
27 getting difficult times hunting geese now. So it melts
28 really fast. We usually wait for the brants, but other
29 than that we just can't get out there right away
30 because the ice is already melting too fast.

31
32 The caribou, when we get the Porcupine
33 Caribou Herd, again their drive to these calving
34 grounds, we were lucky to get a few, but the mosquitos
35 are driving them around, just can't stay one place,
36 which is really hard on these caribou. We find it very
37 difficult because we can't just go up and just go hunt
38 without spending a few hours or something in order to
39 wait for these caribou to come down. Again, it's not
40 easy waiting. You could wait for a long time or either
41 some caribou or no caribou in the area.

42
43 In the summer, people were doing pretty
44 good fishing, catching Arctic cisco and Arctic char and
45 rod and reeling when the ice clears and waiting for the
46 water to clear up. That's when it's good fishing.
47 Again, looking towards the falltime. We get the
48 bowheads in the area. They're feeding in Kaktovik now
49 and we were successful to get three bowheads again.

50

1 The storms surges we have now are
2 unbelievable. You know, it's more scarier. We had a
3 storm just recently. The worst storm we had in 2005,
4 but again we had a couple small belugas that were
5 washed up on the beach that were young and due to the
6 storm surge had washed up a couple belugas. Very
7 dangerous conditions at times when people are out
8 camping. They can't camp on the beach. They'd have to
9 find a good reasonable camping area to stay sheltered
10 and get away from the sea because once the sea storms
11 come around, the waves just blow over all the sand
12 places that we have a camp. It's not safe anymore.

13
14 In the falltime, we've got a lot of
15 geese in the area. They do migrate north and watch
16 them migrate south. We have a lot of snow geese, like
17 thousands of snow geese that are just overpopulated,
18 but that's what we see now. When they have
19 salmonberries, all the snow geese are feeding on these
20 areas where we think there's salmonberries, but we
21 can't just get up there like that, but we know that the
22 snow geese in these areas where we can see the snow
23 geese, must be salmonberries there, but again it's all
24 picked by all the geese that we have.

25
26 Shipping traffic is not so hard, but
27 again, you know, we see shipping traffic in the
28 falltime. We do see some barges passing through in
29 each direction at different times.

30
31 Tourism and air traffic is pretty high
32 in the falltime because of all the polar bears we get
33 in our area. We try to control these tourist people
34 that do come around. At least we try to have some of
35 these people to talk to the tourism that are
36 encountering polar bears. It's a good thing we have
37 some students from the school that are ambassador
38 students that do go out to these couple hotels every
39 day to try and give a brief update on information of
40 how to interact with the polar bear. So that's a
41 really good thing that Harold Kaveolook School is
42 working with the Fish and Wildlife to try to be safe
43 for these people that never been on the Slope before
44 that now think they could just go wander around. It's
45 good to know people are in the area that, you know,
46 just be aware.

47
48 That's all I have for Kaktovik at this
49 time.
50

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: All right.
4 Thank you, everyone, for your participation. Do we
5 have a report for the Chair's report?

6

7 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
8 When Harry Brower is able to join us back, we'll have a
9 full update from Harry both on his subsistence reports
10 for his community and the Chair's report.

11

12 As the Vice-Chair and as the Co-Chair
13 for the Tribal Consultation Working Group, Rosemary
14 also participated in the Federal Subsistence Board
15 meeting. If you wanted to update the Council on that.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: It's
18 probably three to four years we pulled together a
19 working group. The process was to work on the tribal
20 consultation policy as well as ANCSA consultation
21 policy. Over the years we worked on having meetings in
22 which we engaged the corporations and the tribes on
23 communicating with us on concerns around this
24 consultation policy.

25

26 We submitted a draft to the Board and
27 out to the corporations and the tribes and had
28 additional meetings to receive their feedback. We
29 worked with our Interagency Working Group as well as
30 Staff to incorporate these recommendations into the
31 process and we submitted it to the Federal Subsistence
32 Advisory Board process, which did approve it earlier
33 this year in January, so that information is in your
34 packet.

35

36 It was a very insightful process. The
37 requirements are important for us to encourage a
38 process in which tribes are able to engage effectively
39 on proposals that are going to affect their harvesting
40 in their lands and waters and the importance of
41 tradition and culture. That process required us
42 working with the ANCSA corporations because of the
43 rider that gives them the ability to be consulted with
44 as tribes. Again, with the communications that
45 occurred with that, we were able to draft up a proposal
46 and get that passed.

47

48 So the information is available in your
49 packets. It was a very insightful process for me to be
50 engaged in, working with many different people that

1 really took a strong look at this process and tried to
2 make sure it was transparent and direct to engage and
3 solicit the information that's necessary to help
4 address concerns that come before us.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 Do you have any questions or comments.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: All right.
13 Hearing none. Next on the agenda is the public and
14 tribal comments on non-agenda items. So if we have
15 anyone in the audience that would like to engage this
16 is your opportunity to address this.

17
18 MR. KUNAKNANA: Good morning. Sam
19 here. Can I say something?

20
21 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Go ahead,
22 Sam.

23
24 MR. KUNAKNANA: Okay. I'd like to talk
25 about the development that's going on along our area
26 when they do environmental impact studies and
27 supplemental environmental impact studies, you know,
28 they talk about little sections of development going
29 around Nuiqsut. My concern is that when it comes to
30 these studies, you know, they just talk about one
31 little section that they're doing, but they forget to
32 look at the big picture that's going on around Nuiqsut.
33 Development is all around Nuiqsut. Pretty much all
34 around right now.

35
36 I just wanted to stress that out to you
37 guys and let everybody know that it's alarming to see
38 how fast development is going around our region,
39 especially when it comes to our food security. I guess
40 I have a concern that a lot of things are being
41 overlooked when it comes to getting the permit for
42 development. It's not just the caribou. There's
43 hardly any caribou around this area. The studies show
44 that when structures go in place, the caribou move away
45 from their traditional place that they go to every year
46 and it's in black and white.

47
48 You know, contractors that are doing
49 the studies are misguiding a lot of people and I just
50 wanted to point that out. There's so much things going

1 on right now that it's just overwhelming to me as a
2 hunter. I have seen the changes with my own eyes as a
3 hunter around this area.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Sam, that
8 is a very important consideration in the process. I
9 agree that we have a lot of concerns with the way that
10 some of these processes are being done and trying to
11 get to the right place to make sure that our concerns
12 are being heard and to be able to engage in the process
13 to even try to have hopes that some of our efforts to
14 get -- research needs are being addressed. I
15 understand your concern and your difficulty in trying
16 to address them.

17

18 Do we have anyone who would like to
19 provide some response?

20

21 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon.

24

25 MR. G. BROWER: It's not actually a
26 response. It's probably more of a corroboration in
27 terms of -- you know, I've been working in land
28 management over 20 years now for the Borough and been
29 involved with -- the North Slope Borough is the largest
30 action in terms of development. It's called the re-
31 zone. Re-zoning lands from conservation to resource
32 development and it takes the act of the Assembly to
33 change the land status within the Borough's own system.

34

35

36 We do put a lot of stipulations and
37 conditions to study various things, but I think Sam is
38 kind of hitting the nail on the head when the
39 cumulative effect of all these developments, put them
40 all in a big pile, and the cumulative effect of the
41 development. I know we've talked about it in planning,
42 we've talked about it with the Wildlife Department of
43 the North Slope Borough.

44

45 It seems to me that particular section
46 is -- it's just waning out there for somebody to pick
47 this up. I know -- was it the National Science
48 Foundation did a cumulative effects on the North Slope
49 oil and gas. I think it was 2003 or something like
50 that, but that's a long time ago now and the pace of

1 development on the North Slope, even though with the
2 cost, the per barrel cost has dwindled down, there's
3 still high anticipation that these prices will rebound
4 and still development marches forward.

5
6 I just wanted to say a little bit about
7 the Central Arctic Herd. I don't know if there's any
8 biologists that deal with caribou. I know Geoff
9 Carroll, Lincoln Tritt. Is it Lincoln? Oh, Lincoln
10 Parrett. Are the foremost biologists, I think, on
11 caribou issues. If you look at the North Slope
12 Borough's -- it's called the Coastal Resource Atlas.
13 It was developed, I think, in the early '80s and
14 adopted, I think, into the 1988 Coastal Management
15 Program, which was incorporated by reference into
16 municipal code for the North Slope Borough. So we use
17 that document as a reference point. This is the state
18 of things as we know it before large impacts could be
19 really seen and what was going on.

20
21 The court having areas for the Central
22 Arctic Herd are depicted in the Melony Point area, in
23 these coastal areas as their prime habitat. In the
24 current studies, like radio collar studies and a shift
25 in core calving for the Central Arctic Herd, is about
26 25 miles. If you look at the coastal resource atlas
27 from that period of time to where the radio-collared
28 studies are indicating during the peak calving period,
29 what's occurring is -- you know, there is a real shift
30 and then split between the Trans-Alaska Pipeline on
31 either side but you can see the shift.

32
33 As development moved west, you know,
34 biologists, land managers need to be very cognizant and
35 learn the lessons of Prudhoe Bay in mitigating, doing
36 something different in terms of protecting the
37 resources. We're subsistence folks. What is it, OSM,
38 Office of Subsistence Management. Man, you should have
39 a flag on your back and walking around, you know, like
40 we caught a whale or something, you know. Important
41 folks to know about these types of impacts and be part
42 of the process. Don't say, well, the only thing I
43 control is you can get four caribou versus two, you
44 know.

45
46 I mean there needs to be a level of
47 subsistence management that looks out for the habitat
48 and these resources. Folks like me that are land
49 managers are charged with getting these projects
50 through with -- you know, I'm glad I'm in the position

1 I am because I use my own traditional knowledge to the
2 best of my abilities to try to mitigate some of these
3 concerns and it's a very difficult task to do these
4 things from the norm, what the industry expects that
5 we're going to develop, like what we did with Prudhoe
6 Bay. Very hard to change.

7
8 We need to be designing more with
9 nature, you know, and as development encounters more
10 populated sections on the North Slope, going west
11 you're -- you know, Prudhoe Bay was way far in the
12 past. Prudhoe Bay is around Nuiqsut, you know, to the
13 west, to the north, to the east. These are the issues
14 that we need to be cognizant of. Anyway, some of the
15 issues that Sam talks about are things I'm very well
16 aware of and they really should be looked after, these
17 issues and concerns. If it's not these groups here, I
18 mean should be advising somebody.

19
20 I can go on and on for these kind of
21 issues. I probably live and breathe the development
22 scene.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you,
25 Gordon. That's insightful. I appreciate your
26 longevity in the process. It's really important to
27 bring that out. We've communicated over decades on
28 ways to try to have hopes of protecting subsistence.
29 Some things we've done well, some things we need more
30 work on, but I really appreciate your persistence in
31 the process in helping us trying to communicate ways to
32 try to give us hope subsistence is going to continue
33 into the future.

34
35 Do we have any further comments or
36 discussion around this area?

37
38 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair. I'd just
39 like to, you know, if there are folks that want to say
40 something, this is a good opportune time. It's public
41 or tribal comments. It's a good way of getting some of
42 the issues that the general public may have to folks
43 that may have an interest in that field could respond
44 to these things. I'd just like to reiterate.....

45
46 MR. KUNAKNANA: Madame Chair.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: On the
49 phone.

50

1 MR. KUNAKNANA: This is Sam here.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Go ahead,
4 Sam.

5

6 MR. KUNAKNANA: Okay. You know when it
7 comes to stipulations through the North Slope Borough
8 Planning Commission, I know that as a Federally
9 recognized tribe some of these stipulations can be made
10 mandatory through the tribe through the Federal
11 government. What I'd like to see the Planning
12 Commission take consideration into talking with the
13 tribes before they set out any stipulations for
14 development.

15

16 Like Gordon said, development we can't
17 stop it, but we can try and maximize the benefits for
18 the stakeholders that are at hand in impacts.
19 Cumulative impacts are something that is really
20 overwhelming in our region because we have these
21 structures that are now being in place. Not just
22 structures but roads. Roads that deter the caribou
23 away with scientific facts. Alaska Department of Fish
24 and Game on the road over there by the coal mine.

25

26 I'd like to see if we can change some
27 stipulations to mandatory instead of making the
28 stipulation because it is hard over here. It's hard on
29 a lot of hunters. A lot of hunters that go out hunting
30 over here, you know, they talk about choppers. There's
31 a lot of chopper activity in the summer over here, from
32 450 choppers per season last year, they jumped up to
33 1,250 flights per season and it's going to keep getting
34 higher and higher as development moves westward toward
35 Barrow, Teshekpuk.

36

37 That is a big concern on the caribou
38 that have declined more than 50 percent. Scientific
39 fact say that the bigger the herd, the healthier the
40 herd, but when you start dispersing these caribous into
41 clumps, clumps of three to five hundred, there is no
42 insect relief for the herd. We see herds running for
43 miles and miles around our region because the herd is
44 too small.

45

46 Those are just some of the things that
47 I think that we need to work on with the oil companies
48 and with the North Slope Borough because there is
49 scientific facts that are in black and white.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Sam, some
4 of these communications need to go through the North
5 Slope Borough process and their meetings. We can make
6 recommendations as far as subsistence proposals within
7 our process in guiding that we harvest, but we need to
8 bring these kind of communications into the right venue
9 to make sure that the concerns are being heard and
10 brought to the people that can affect it. When you're
11 talking about assembly meetings, it's a different
12 process. We can put information from our process out
13 there, but it's not a process where we can put strong
14 recommendations for. You do have Gordon Brower here
15 who works with the planning department who is hearing
16 some of your concerns, but making sure they get into
17 the assembly meetings or the planning meetings are
18 really important.

19

20 So I thank you for sharing them with us
21 here and recognizing that we have a lot of concerns
22 when it comes to making proposal and the process we'll
23 be discussing it further in the meeting. But we have
24 to think of ways to put in recommendations to guide the
25 way that we're harvesting in our process to continue to
26 have subsistence occurring.

27

28 We're still in the public and tribal
29 comments on non-agenda items if we have any others in
30 the public or on the phone that would like to comment
31 on non-agenda items. That's the section we're at.
32 Gordon.

33

34 MR. G. BROWER: I'm a tribal member and
35 also just a public member too, part of the public, and
36 I hate to cheat and take my hat off and do that, but
37 there's been something that's been bothering me for
38 quite some time. You know, as a tribal member, as a
39 Council member, I think we're all equally -- we can say
40 we're from Wainwright, we can say from Barrow and we
41 can say from Kaktovik, but we're all in it together.
42 We represent everybody, I think. You put it into that
43 context in terms of hunting proposals and things like
44 that and looking at -- I'm just afraid I'm not going to
45 be here tomorrow to be able to say my piece.

46

47 Having heard either some biologist tell
48 you if you mess with something in terms of an existing
49 proposal, like a controlled use area, you open a
50 Pandora's Box and you want to think you can make some

1 adjustments to that. Guess what? You open it, we will
2 close it. I think that's a very unfair statement to
3 hear from biologists, from the State or from anybody
4 else that closes your mind to different things and
5 different concerns. Just because there's a controlled
6 use area and to think of a better way to do something
7 and say, oh, you talk about it and you open the door
8 and, hey, somebody is going to close that door for you
9 I think is inappropriate.

10

11 You know, that's a standing -- you
12 know, when something has already been established, to
13 say something in a different proposal under the same
14 kind of preface it shouldn't jeopardize the minimal
15 effort that's been taken to allow for subsistence
16 needs. In the same way that we have worked with the
17 Federal government in a co-management regime born for
18 the bowhead whale between AWC, Alaska Whaling
19 Commission, and is it NOAA, I think. The co-management
20 in allowing for policies that are created to have
21 consultation to allow for development in the ocean to
22 halt, turn off your engines, stack up your stuff until
23 the harvest of the bowhead whale has been completed.
24 That exists today. That's the importance of that
25 resource to the communities to protect subsistence to
26 that level.

27

28 Looking at Nunamiut issues, they're
29 highly dependent upon the caribou resources. Don't you
30 think if there could be an implementation of that kind
31 of protection so that the nutritional needs are met for
32 a community. I've heard that sometimes they're
33 catching caribou that are in rut and that's what's left
34 over. It's not a good feeling or not even good to hear
35 those kind of comments.

36

37 I think, you know, in terms of caribou
38 there's a multitude of concerns with the population
39 trend, what's declined from what's norm and the
40 impending regulations that are going to be upon folks
41 that subsist from the ADF&G combining the amount
42 necessary for subsistence, which I heard that they did
43 this just recently, like 2012 or something like that,
44 to keep the amount necessary for subsistence high
45 enough to allow for that amount of caribou for each
46 community to harvest the take.

47

48 The reality of the situation, I don't
49 hardly hunt from the Western Arctic Herd. None of the
50 folks in Barrow, what, three, four thousand folks,

1 what, maybe 50 percent are hunting caribou for
2 resources and I don't think they're hunting the Western
3 Arctic Herd. They're going maybe 50, 60 miles, but I
4 think they're hunting Teshekpuk Herd animals.

5
6 The rate of decline because of the
7 amount necessary for subsistence has been combined into
8 one, Teshekpuk and Western Arctic Herd being viewed as
9 one herd, and I think it's a detrimental decision made
10 to combine them. And it allows for the Teshekpuk Herd
11 to be rapidly harvested. The management scheme is
12 starting to erase the Teshekpuk Herd. I think that's
13 part of it and I would hope that these things are
14 revisited and adjusted properly.

15
16 The other concern I've had is just what
17 I was talking about. The model of how bowhead whales
18 are managed for the communities a model should be
19 developed without fear of being told -- and you open
20 this door, it's going to be shut on you and this stuff
21 will go away and it's a free-for-all for everything. I
22 mean basically being told that puts the fear of God in
23 somebody that's trying to make something better.
24 You're going to open the door and make it super worse
25 for the community.

26
27 When there are deflections, when there
28 are competing uses in an area where a village primary
29 resource for subsistence food is at stake, just like
30 Barrow for bowhead whales or Wainwright for bowhead
31 whales, when there is a nutritional need tied to a
32 resources and I think ADF&G, the North Slope Borough
33 biologist, all have documented this to a T, the need,
34 including providing resources for Wainwright to hunt an
35 extra amount of caribou and fly them to the community
36 of Anaktuvuk Pass. That's occurred because of the
37 issues.

38
39 Now, to me, it seems to me when there
40 are competing uses and not allowing for a community to
41 have the harvest met, these resources are below the
42 necessary need because the nutritional needs are not
43 being met. There should be a new window created for
44 allowing these caribou movements to be unassaulted,
45 unimpeded and not to get in front of them and doing our
46 best to even do a pilot project to see what happens if
47 there's unobstructed movements until it gets to the
48 village.

49
50 You know, no hunting for a period of

1 time maybe like for other users, non-residents, guides
2 in these areas that the entire village is waiting on
3 the resource to get to them. When an entire village is
4 waiting on the resource to get to them. To allow that
5 passage to occur, define a real buffer to allow that.
6 The subsistence use maybe from July 1st till maybe
7 October 15 and closed to all other users except for
8 subsistence to try and allow these animals to move.

9
10 I think those types of proposals, in
11 trying to create the existing controlled use area was
12 envisioned, was envisioned to allow that to happen, but
13 having airplanes going in and out for bears, for other
14 resources in these areas and to tap personal use -- you
15 know, personal use, subsistence use are different. I
16 think there was some laws in Anchorage are being
17 created about moose in some Park in talking about
18 personal take and subsistence use.

19
20 But, anyway, I think that dialogue
21 needs to happen and look out for the people, you know.
22 We fought over, what, one moose for Kaktovik for years
23 and years and being told by a biologist here secretly
24 and saying, you know, the moose in this area are
25 transient. They come from the other side and they move
26 and mill around and they come over here. You kill them
27 all and five more will come the next year, you know,
28 because they're transient in nature. They move.

29
30 Allowing for folks to harvest them, you
31 know, that's a hard nut to crack. If a biologist is
32 going to say this is a population of only 15, we
33 shouldn't deplete those 15 and they all go away and
34 they come back again. But being told these are
35 transient animals that come from another place and like
36 to goof off in the Arctic in this area for a while, you
37 know, those kind of dialogues are -- you know, it's
38 heart-wrenching when you hear that especially when
39 you're going to be limited for a community harvest
40 limited to one or two for the entire year.

41
42 Anyway, I'm going to stop it there. I
43 could go on and say a lot of things, but some of the
44 most important things that I wouldn't have a chance to
45 say because I got other meetings to attend and you've
46 just got to forgive me for not being here tomorrow and
47 the rest of the period of time.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you,
50 Gordon. That's really important. We have quite a bit

1 on the agenda around caribou and I really appreciate
2 that you took time to communicate about these concerns.
3 As we go forward in our process, this is going to be a
4 topic that repeatedly comes forward. Finding ways to
5 look at ways to protect traditional and culture in our
6 harvest is upon our task to move forward in creating
7 ways that we put in proposals to help protect us.

8

9 Let's see. Do we have any other public
10 comments? Tribal comments?

11

12 MS. ITTA: Yes, good morning.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: On the
15 phone.

16

17 MS. ITTA: Good morning, Chair. This
18 is Martha Itta, tribal administrator, resident, all
19 year round subsistence hunter of Nuiqsut. I would like
20 to -- I have a few comments and concerns in regards to
21 the subsistence in our area.

22

23 First of all, the way I see it, there's
24 a lot of complaints of, you know, trespassing, getting
25 input from the community members and I think it all
26 comes down to the regulations that are out there for
27 the industries and companies that are doing what it is
28 they're doing out there for the purposes of the
29 projects. I think enforcement is a big issue and the
30 process.

31

32 I think there needs to be more
33 enforcement because I know there's violations that are
34 happening and, you know, there's -- I do not get no
35 reports on like the incident with the fire on the
36 drilling rig from Repsol. You know, I don't get
37 reports from them. All it is are updates and nothing
38 on enforcement or if there's any violations being
39 broken and I think that's a problem. That's big problem
40 when there is development going on. There is not
41 enough enforcement that are holding these agencies and
42 industries responsible for incidents like the fire, you
43 know. I mean who's responsible and what is the
44 community, you know, getting from the damages that are
45 being done?

46

47 About the trespassing, there are a lot
48 of Native allotments out there and I know they have the
49 map down and they say that they're avoiding them, but
50 from hearing from our community members, landowners,

1 that they're trespassing on their land and nothing is
2 being done, they've filed complaints about it and
3 nothing still is being done. So that's something that
4 needs to be addressed also

5
6 With the studies, they've been doing
7 studies for years and years and years and yet, you
8 know, with the big development that has major, major
9 impacts that is irreparable or you can't even mitigate
10 the loss of life, animals and land, food security. The
11 studies that they've been doing for so many years we
12 should have answers by now. We shouldn't be doing any
13 more studies because they've been doing -- they should
14 have that when Alpine started.

15
16 And that's another concern that I have
17 in regards to giving out permits before these things
18 are even done and our concerns are even answered.
19 They're approving permits left and right without the
20 input of the community, without engaging in the
21 community and letting them understand what they're
22 doing, how the process works. I'm sure there would be
23 a lot more comments if somebody reached out to the
24 community and taught them how to do comments, how to --
25 what the process is, who do they contact if they don't
26 want to -- because I know a lot of community members
27 are shy, afraid of speaking up and that's why they
28 depend on the community leaders. I hear a lot of it
29 and that's another concern on the Planning Commission,
30 on BLM and the State who are giving out these permits.
31 There's a lack of communication, lack of understanding,
32 but a lot of concerns that are related to those
33 particular permits.

34
35 The thing about the corporation thing,
36 the agency thing, oh, it's on private land, you know,
37 that Kuukpik Corporation, that's ASRC, but we are the
38 stakeholders for those corporations and they should be
39 notifying us, they should be getting our concerns and
40 our input and that's where a lot of the concerns and
41 the problems are coming from is the lack of
42 communication and behind-the-door meetings, agencies
43 not coming over to hold community meetings, that's a
44 big, big issue, big problem right there.

45
46 And now, you know, with the caribou,
47 there's now a proposal where they're trying to get us
48 to be able to hunt caribou over only four months out of
49 the year. You know, that's a big, drastic change in a
50 short period of time. So giving out permits left and

1 right without getting the input of the stakeholders,
2 you know, that says a lot in itself, you know.

3

4 So, thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you
7 for sharing your concerns. Some of these concerns also
8 need to go into the North Slope Borough process making
9 sure that you are engaging in the planning and assembly
10 meetings. They are really important to share these
11 concerns. With our process, it's about protecting our
12 way of life and putting in proposals about how we're
13 harvesting and timelines and those kinds of things.

14

15 It is important to get these concerns
16 here and express the difficulties of trying to have
17 traditional cultural way of life in lands and waters
18 that are being impacted by permits and changes to our
19 lands and waters. So I really appreciate your insight
20 and concerns to these issues and making sure to
21 encourage you to continue to bring them up into the
22 various venues where we can try to have them addressed.

23

24 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon.

27

28 MR. G. BROWER: I'd like to agree with
29 you that some of these are -- and I'm glad I'm here
30 today to listen to some of that. I just want to -- I
31 think there's State, Federal agencies that do different
32 -- you know, we all practically permit on the same
33 issues and I just want to reassure the tribal office in
34 Nuiqsut, you know, it may be far and in between when
35 we're at the community, but for large-scale development
36 there will come a time that we need to go to the
37 village in public hearings and things like that.

38

39 So I want to reassure her that the
40 community will have a chance to hear these things in a
41 public forum, in a public hearing venue. Some of the
42 things that look large in terms of drilling,
43 unfortunately they're temporary in nature and drafted
44 out for comment and permits are issued as an expiration
45 program within some of -- maybe all of the systems are
46 seen as very temporary in nature.

47

48 I just wanted to add one more thing.
49 The issue about caribou corridors around Anaktuvuk
50 Pass. Even though in times of plenty when there is a

1 lot of animals, the community can still be determined
2 to need the help because these resources can be
3 effectively deflected or not allowed for their normal
4 migration. That is also depletion of the resource
5 according to our own interpretation of the North Slope
6 Borough. Even in times of plenty these resources,
7 because of the dependent nature of communities like
8 Anaktuvuk Pass, that breaking that connection is a
9 depletion of the resource because the availability is
10 now unreasonable for the community to harvest.

11

12 I just wanted to finish off with that.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you,
15 Gordon. Bart.

16

17 MR. AHSOGEAK: Between the people that
18 went on the boat plus a share for the town, it's just
19 that during those days we had dog teams. Like we'd
20 catch about 40 walrus all at once and put them on the
21 big boat. That's how we lived. There was no
22 regulations then. For the fall season, caribou hunting
23 the same way. We go up the rivers, get 60 caribous,
24 divide them up, leave a share for the village. The
25 main reason for the share for the village is for the
26 widows and the people that doesn't have no hunters.

27

28 With all these regulations coming in,
29 that's gone. It's not like it used to be. Now it's
30 all individual. You've got to be with your family,
31 follow the regulations and that's it, but we still
32 share with the widows and the sick people. That's our
33 tradition. In the case for Anaktuvuk Pass and Point
34 Hope, there was a couple years they didn't have no
35 caribou. Wainwright sent some meat to AKP and Point
36 Hope got theirs from Selawik. Some of these
37 regulations doesn't fit at times, but we still hunt.

38

39 I'd like to give you a little history
40 about being a member of NPR-A Subsistence Advisory
41 Panel. Back in 1978 I was involved with the Planning
42 Department. That was the year when NPR-A was being
43 marked up. My task was to record place names, more of
44 land use, mark up the land how it's being used. After
45 we got done with Barrow, Wainwright, Nuiqsut, Atqasuk
46 and Wainwright and we couldn't do anything with the
47 other villages because they were not on NPR-A because
48 this was an NPR-A grant, but we convinced them to use
49 Point Lay because it's just right by the border, so
50 they did.

1 Then after we got done with that we
2 showed it to the mayor, the first mayor, Mayor Eben
3 Hopson, Sr. He liked what we were doing. We were
4 recording how the land was being used, where the cabins
5 are, where they do their fishing, archeological sites,
6 grave sites, and that's all recorded. We interviewed
7 most of the elders in each village and then we have
8 more of a city council meeting to update the place
9 names and get the consensus of the elders, is this
10 place across the river or the other side, and then they
11 give consensus. We have studied how the people use the
12 land.

13

14 I feel sorry for AKP, it's just in
15 between too many agencies, Gates of the Arctic, and
16 there's too many other agencies telling them, no, you
17 cannot make a trail through here. No, you cannot do
18 this and that. There's too many agencies that try to
19 tell them what not to do. In their own mind, we need
20 the food.

21

22 In other words, what I'm trying to say
23 is that the other agencies don't talk to each other
24 like the Inupiat people talk. We talk to Kaktovik, we
25 talk to Point Hope, we exchange words. Even right now
26 they call us up. There's a plane that's skydiving at
27 the caribou. It's an automatic thing. We have to
28 investigate which plane it is, try to get the ID
29 number, tail number, then we have to report back to the
30 tribe who it is.

31

32 I've been going out hunting most of my
33 life. My first year was back in '63 when my father
34 took me and my brother up to Nuiqsut. Going back to
35 traditional land use inventory, we wrote down most of
36 the place names how the land was used. I'd like to say
37 that what my father always said, just take care of your
38 family, just feed them good. In those days we had to
39 carry only shells and powder on our side because we had
40 only two shells to refill.

41

42 That's about it, I guess.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you,
47 Bart. Appreciate that. How are you guys feeling?
48 We've been at it now for a couple hours. Do you guys
49 want to take a break? Have a 15-minute break?

50

1 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: All right.
4 We'll break for about 15 minutes and we'll be coming
5 back into old business.
6
7 (Off record)
8
9 (On record)
10
11 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: All right.
12 We'll be getting started. Eva is coming back into the
13 room here, so we'll be ready to get started. Sam, are
14 you back online?
15
16 (No response)
17
18 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Sam
19 Kunaknana, are you back online?
20
21 (No response)
22
23 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Hopefully
24 he'll be back here shortly. We'll be calling the
25 meeting back to order and we're onto new business. Oh,
26 he wants to do public comments? Great. We are still
27 on public and tribal comments. We have a participant
28 here in Barrow, Joe Sage. Joe, would you like to come
29 up and address us, please.
30
31 Turn the mic on, please.
32
33 MR. SAGE: Good morning. Thank you
34 guys for allowing me to speak. One thing that really
35 concerns me about rules and regulations that are
36 imposed on our hunters throughout the Slope and it's
37 not only through Federal it's also State of Alaska.
38 The rules and regulations are imposed on us as hunters
39 when things are starting to change; the population, the
40 environment, the amount of traffic and projects
41 throughout the whole North Slope, research projects,
42 seismic research. Basically everything has been going
43 on throughout the Slope.
44
45 When things started to change, both
46 Federal and State of Alaska have a tendency to impose
47 more regulations on us hunters, taking the brunt out on
48 us and that's something that really needs to be
49 addressed both at the Federal level and also at the
50 State level. The reason why I say that is, perfect

1 example was State of Alaska seeing the caribou herd
2 decline and when we seen the history of the population,
3 the herd wasn't strong to begin with. The herd was a
4 little over 200,000, then it jumped double in my
5 lifetime and now it's back to a little over 200-300,000
6 level. But when they seen that decline, they imposed
7 regulations on us and also asking us hunters to utilize
8 our traditional ways and that really got me because we
9 always have been hunting our ways.

10

11 There are some people nowadays,
12 especially in the Barrow area, that really don't have a
13 real idea of what the traditional ways are, but that
14 only takes educational outreach. It doesn't take much.
15 You can go to schools, you can do public presentations
16 and we can easily educate our people in Barrow,
17 especially in the Barrow area, in a short period of
18 time as an eye-opener. But yet they put the brunt on
19 us saying, you know, only take what you need, you're
20 only allowed five per day, this and that.

21

22 I put in my two cents and I said, well,
23 technically, if I took five a day, that population
24 wouldn't even be close to where it's at right now. I
25 wouldn't even dare take five a day. That's just way
26 too much. Now, because of our traditional ways, we
27 only take what we need. There are certain times of the
28 year where we only take certain animals. Like in the
29 falltime, we try to catch all the bulls, all the fat
30 caribou as much as we can before rutting and before the
31 winter because those animals are more utilized than any
32 other animals throughout the rest of the year. Yet
33 these rules and regulations are imposed on us hunters.
34 I asked him, I was like, well, if you're going to
35 impose more regulations on us, you should impose more
36 regulations on the sport hunters that you allow to hunt
37 in our areas, especially throughout the state of
38 Alaska.

39

40 It's frustrating because we don't hear
41 of any updates on where these people hunted, how many
42 they hunted, what they're allowed to hunt. Because as
43 of right now, to my knowledge, sport hunters are -- you
44 know, you see them on TV all the time. All they want
45 is that big rack hanging up on their wall. To us, you
46 know, those big racks only mean that those are the
47 leaders, leaders of the packs, leaders of the herds.

48

49 When they hunt them, they don't realize
50 they're hunting them -- they might not realize they

1 hunt them during their migration up north and then they
2 shoot the leaders and then the rest of the herd have no
3 idea which way to go from there. So when that happens
4 all the herds go throughout the whole North Slope. But
5 these animals are very smart. They know where to go
6 and the grazing areas. They have cycles that they go
7 through because if they over-graze an area, they might
8 deplete their grazing area for years to come. So they
9 have a cycle where they go every single year.

10

11 Stuff like that, that really needs to
12 be in the process of decision-making. It's very vital,
13 especially nowadays, now that we got so many more
14 different oil companies and research companies coming
15 up to do research, Arctic research and also
16 transportation. Those are very huge in our coming
17 years that we have to deal with, especially
18 transportation. So I just wanted to point out that,
19 you know, we need to put the brunt on sport hunters and
20 put the brunt on the way the decision processes is
21 being done when rules and regulations are imposed on
22 our people.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you,
27 Joe. That was very insightful. I appreciate you
28 giving comments in these areas. You did bring up some
29 things that hadn't been brought up yet and I know many
30 of us have been thinking along those areas also and
31 have brought some of these communications forward also.
32 So thank you very much.

33

34 Do we have any other public or tribal
35 comments.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MS. PATTON: Rosemary, if I may, just
40 to let folks who have joined us online and also for
41 people that are here today and wanting to share and
42 provide input on the Federal subsistence proposals.
43 The way our agenda is lined out we'll have an
44 opportunity to overview the Federal subsistence
45 proposal process this afternoon. Tomorrow we will have
46 a couple staff coming back from the Board of Game
47 meetings who will be able to report back on the actions
48 that were taken there and share with you the caribou
49 herds and a full discussion with the Council on any
50 Federal subsistence proposals. So we encourage you to

1 also participate this afternoon and tomorrow as well.
2 There will be more discussion on caribou.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you,
7 Eva.

8

9 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
10 If I may also check in online. We have Orville Lind as
11 the new Native liaison. He was a little bit further
12 down on the agenda. He had offered if the Council was
13 interested while we have quorum and tribal
14 participation here he can provide an introduction both
15 to himself and also the new developments and ongoing
16 efforts with the Federal subsistence program and tribal
17 consultation as the Council wishes, if he's online with
18 us this morning.

19

20 MR. LIND: Good morning, Madame Chair.
21 Council members. Can you copy?

22

23 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Yes. Go
24 ahead, Orville.

25

26 MR. LIND: Yes. I would just like to
27 let you folks know that I am the new Native liaison.
28 I've talked to you some personally. I've been on the
29 job since December 16th and having a lot of fun so far.
30 I was born and raised in the village of Chignik, which
31 is on the Alaska Peninsula and a village of about 120
32 people. My parents are Fred and Annie Lind. My
33 grandparents are Dora and Fred Lind, III. I have a
34 wife of 35 years and two boys and three grandchildren
35 and two on the way.

36

37 I'd like to update you a little bit on
38 the implementation guidelines for the Federal
39 Subsistence Board, their tribal and ANCSA consultation
40 policies. As you know, Madame Chair, this was back
41 January 23rd when the Federal Subsistence Board
42 finalized tribal consultation policies and guidelines
43 for the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, ANCSA
44 corporation consultation policies also. These are
45 guidelines that are intended to provide additional
46 guidance to the Federal staff on how to put into
47 operation the Board's government-to-government tribal
48 consultation policy.

49

50 It also provides guidance on

1 consultation meeting protocols and how to carry out the
2 consultation due to regulatory cycle and for special
3 actions and on regulatory issues. This document can be
4 changed as needed and the policy itself is reviewed on
5 an annual basis for effectiveness. You know, we can
6 document it just exactly what we need.
7

8 Additionally, the Board discussed
9 conducting closed government-to-government
10 consultations and information sharing with the Regional
11 Councils. It is determined that the Board could engage
12 in closed-door sessions with tribes and corporations
13 and still be in compliance with the Administrative
14 Procedures Act as long as records of discussions were
15 kept and those records were made available for public
16 review. These records would also be used to share
17 information on what was discussed to the Regional
18 Advisory Councils.
19

20 I look forward to someday meeting the
21 Council and working with you folks and I will let it go
22 at that.
23

24 Thank you for the opportunity and have
25 a great day.
26

27 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you,
28 Orville, for participating with us and sharing that
29 update. Do I have any questions or comments.
30

31 (No comments)
32

33 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Hearing
34 none. Eva, next on the agenda we have old business.
35 Do we have any old business? The rural determination
36 process is next.
37

38 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
39 We have Jeff Brooks here and he'll provide an overview
40 of the proposed rule to the Secretary. I do have
41 copies of a PowerPoint handout if it's handy to follow
42 along. Again, we will have a public meeting this
43 evening for more of the public to provide input and the
44 Council is invited and encouraged to attend that as
45 well. But it is an action item for the Council and
46 certainly discussion here and if Harry has also some
47 comments when he returns. I'll get your handouts if
48 you wanted to follow along.
49

50 MR. BROOKS: Eva, I'm not going to

1 cover the PowerPoint right now, so that handout is not
2 necessary. Madame Chair, members of the Council, those
3 on the telephone. Again, my name, for the record, is
4 Jeff Brooks. I work for the Office of Subsistence
5 Management in Anchorage. I'm going to provide you an
6 update and a briefing on the rural determination
7 process. There is a proposed rule before the public
8 right now published in the Federal Register on
9 Wednesday, January 28, 2015. The purpose of this
10 meeting cycle for us at OSM and the Federal Subsistence
11 Management Program is to make sure that we get public
12 comment both at the Regional Advisory Council meetings
13 and at these evening meetings that have been usually
14 the first night of the RAC meeting from 7:00 to 9:00.

15
16 So Eva's note there in the agenda on
17 the top of Page 2 of the revised agenda is important to
18 pay attention to. She briefed you a bit on this, but
19 this evening we will have one of those in this room
20 from 7:00 to 9:00 for the public. I, as well,
21 encourage anyone from the Regional Advisory Council and
22 those of you in the room today to attend the meeting
23 because it will be a slightly different presentation
24 focused on getting input from members of the public on
25 the proposed rule.

26
27 The proposed rule is in the Federal
28 Register notice; however, that document is in small
29 print, it's long, it's detailed, it's complex, it's a
30 bureaucratic document. I'm going to try to both today
31 and tonight summarize that to the best of my ability
32 through a series of talking points and then tonight
33 there will be a PowerPoint presentation covering the
34 basics.

35
36 I do have some handouts. I'll provide
37 those at the end of this short presentation and then
38 they'll be available tonight for the public. I'm going
39 to start with an overview and this is just a summary
40 from the Federal Register notice.

41
42 On October 23, 2009, the Secretaries of
43 the Interior and Agriculture announced the start of a
44 review of the Federal Subsistence Management Program in
45 Alaska. The review focused on how the program is
46 meeting the subsistence purpose of Title VIII of the
47 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act and how
48 it is meeting the needs of rural residents as
49 envisioned when it began in the early 1990s.

50

1 On August 31st, 2010, the Secretaries
2 announced the findings of the review, which included
3 several proposed reviews, revisions or changes to how
4 the program is run and regulated. The objective is to
5 improve and strengthen the Program and make it more
6 responsive to the needs of rural residents. One
7 proposal called for a review with input from the
8 Regional Advisory Councils of the rural determination
9 process. If needed, recommendations for regulatory
10 changes.

11
12 At their fall 2013 meetings, the
13 Councils provided a public forum to hear from residents
14 of their regions to discuss the rural determination
15 process and provide recommendations for changes to the
16 Federal Subsistence Board. Comments from members of
17 the public were also recorded during separate public
18 meetings. The Federal Subsistence Board held public
19 meetings in Barrow, Ketchikan, Sitka, Kodiak, Bethel,
20 Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kotzebue, Nome and Dillingham.

21
22 Again, we're doing that this round with
23 this proposed rule, but this was a separate series of
24 meetings in the past in the fall cycle of 2013 to
25 gather input from the public on how the Federal
26 Subsistence Board currently, what process they
27 currently use, what criteria, what characteristics that
28 they currently use.

29
30 Based on that input, which we received
31 475 comments from various sources, including individual
32 citizens, members of Regional Advisory Councils and
33 other entities such as borough and city governments.
34 This also included government-to-government
35 consultations on the rural determination process that
36 were held between members of the Federal Subsistence
37 Board and tribes and Alaska regional corporations.

38
39 Based on those comments and that
40 effort, the Federal Subsistence Board made a
41 recommendation for the Secretaries that would, if
42 adopted, simplify the regulations for the process of
43 making rural/nonrural determinations. The Board
44 submitted this recommendation to the Secretaries on
45 August 15th of 2014.

46
47 On November 24th of 2014, the
48 Secretaries asked the Board to begin a rulemaking
49 process for its recommended changes to the regulations
50 for the rural determination process. This includes

1 public input and that is where we are now in the
2 process. The deadline for providing comments on this
3 proposed rule is April 1, 2015.

4
5 The proposed rule was published in the
6 Federal Register on January 28, 2015. If adopted
7 through this process, the current regulations would be
8 revised to remove specific guidelines, such as
9 population data, the grouping of communities and the
10 10-year review of the rural determinations process.

11
12 I have here the proposed language
13 changes. The actual regulation would read under rural
14 determination process, the Board determines which areas
15 or communities in Alaska are nonrural. Current
16 determinations are listed at this section. Part B, all
17 other communities, are therefore rural. So the Federal
18 Subsistence Board would make nonrural determinations
19 and that's different from what they do now. Right now
20 the Federal Subsistence Board makes rural or nonrural
21 determinations and it uses several criteria and
22 characteristics to do so. One of them being population
23 thresholds.

24
25 Under this proposed change, the Federal
26 Subsistence Board would only make nonrural
27 determinations. So they would be saying, okay, we have
28 a community like Anchorage that has been determined to
29 be nonrural. They're not going to look at a community
30 like Selawik or Anaktuvuk Pass and say that community
31 needs to be determined as rural or nonrural. It will
32 automatically be rural just like they are now because
33 the Board is only considering nonrural determinations.
34 That's what they're making now under this proposed rule
35 change.

36
37 Now in the Federal Register there is
38 some details about their preliminary plan on how they
39 would make these nonrural determinations. It's not
40 spelled out in clear criteria, but this is what it says
41 in a nutshell. The Federal Subsistence Board would
42 make nonrural determinations using a broad approach
43 that may use population size and/or density, economic
44 indicators, the presence of military installations,
45 industrial facilities, the use of fish and wildlife,
46 degree of remoteness and isolation and other relevant
47 material and information provided by the public.

48
49 When making these nonrural
50 determinations, the Federal Subsistence Board would

1 rely heavily on recommendations of the Regional
2 Advisory Councils. The public will be given
3 opportunities to provide input at public meetings for
4 each future determination. The proposed process would
5 enable the Board to be more flexible in making
6 decisions about who gets the Federal subsistence
7 priority. The new process would account for regional
8 differences across Alaska.

9
10 What are the next steps. Very briefly,
11 and again, the Federal Subsistence Board is currently
12 asking for public comments on the proposed rule. The
13 current deadline is April 1, 2015. The Federal
14 Subsistence Board has asked tribes and Alaska Native
15 regional corporations to formally consult with it on
16 this proposed rule and I believe those took place on
17 March 23rd and 24th. Orville Lind could update us on
18 that, but that was when they were scheduled for it. I
19 was away at a meeting during that time.

20
21 The Board will meet next on this issue
22 in the summer of 2015 to make recommendations to the
23 Secretaries on the proposed rule. So basically, come
24 April 1st, when we have our comments in, first of all
25 we'll make a determination whether or not we need to
26 extend the comment period. If so, that would be
27 extended, but more than likely a comment period
28 deadline of April 1st will hold and then the Staff at
29 the Office of Subsistence Management will start to
30 analyze and synthesize the comments, put them into a
31 package that the public, the Regional Advisory
32 Councils, the Federal Subsistence Board and leadership
33 can understand and then they're going to meet in the
34 summer of 2015, the Federal Subsistence Board, to make
35 a recommendation to the Secretaries about the rule.

36
37 That ends my presentation, Madame
38 Chair. At this time I'd be happy to try to answer any
39 of your questions or questions from Council members or
40 others and I may rely on some of my backup in the room
41 to do so. We also have -- briefly, I could provide if
42 you desire, Madame Chair, some information on what
43 other Councils have done to date on this.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon.

50

1 MR. G. BROWER: I think it would be
2 important to -- you said you had some information as to
3 other Regional Advisory Council members and what their
4 concerns are. Also, what are your concerns with the
5 proposed change to this area in a rural determination,
6 that it's just going to be an exercise and determined a
7 nonrural area?

8
9 MR. BROOKS: Through the Chair. Thank
10 you, Mr. Brower, for your question, your comment. The
11 way that I would respond right now is, one, I would
12 like to be able to see all the public comments and do
13 the analysis of those and summarize them before I could
14 know if I have concerns. I can share with you a little
15 bit about what other Councils have said.

16
17 Myself, I feel that a simplification of
18 this process, this rural determination process, is a
19 good thing. I feel that the public spoke last time
20 very clearly that they were opposed to the 10-year
21 review because they felt like every 10 years they were
22 having to re-define their rural status. I feel that
23 for many rural Alaskans who have a subsistence way of
24 life the label rural for your communities has been very
25 substantially tied to your cultural identity and to
26 your way of life. So any time the regulatory agencies
27 talk about potential changes to this process, people
28 are naturally hesitant and fearful because right now
29 what we're saying is that people, in order to be
30 eligible -- and this is what the law says, in order to
31 be eligible to participate in the Federal program, you
32 must be a resident of a rural community. So it's a
33 very important issue and it hits close to home for many
34 people.

35
36 The way that I see it right now, again
37 without reviewing the public comments thoroughly or
38 even seeing them all, what I've told the other two
39 Regional Advisory Councils that I've spoken at, is that
40 this shifts the burden of proof from the rural
41 community to prove that they're rural and, therefore,
42 that they have a priority to hunt for subsistence
43 purposes on Federal lands and waters under Federal
44 regulations. It shifts the burden of proof from them
45 to whomever may in the future put a proposal in or
46 through some other avenue or route make a claim or a
47 suggestion or a proposal that a community is not rural.

48
49
50 So whoever is suggesting that, for

1 example, Wainwright is no longer rural would have to
2 make a pretty good case and bring that up before the
3 Federal Subsistence Board. Again, this new rule also
4 says in the Federal Register that the Federal
5 Subsistence Board will rely heavily on input not only
6 from the public but from the Regional Advisory
7 Councils.

8
9 Now it doesn't say that they will defer
10 to their recommendations and that was one of the -- I
11 don't know if it was a concern, but I believe it was
12 the Southcentral Council, they made a motion recently
13 to support the proposed rule with a modification and
14 their modifying language would read that in addition to
15 what I told you already about the Board making nonrural
16 determinations and all other communities are therefore
17 rural, they are suggesting under, I believe, Section A
18 that the next sentence read that the Federal
19 Subsistence Board will also defer to the Regional
20 Advisory Councils on the rural determination process on
21 making those determinations. So that is what
22 Southcentral said.

23
24 The Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory
25 Council made a motion to support the proposed rule and
26 so did the Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council.
27 The Kodiak/Aleutians did not make a motion. I think
28 they wanted more information or more discussion. I
29 wasn't at that meeting and I don't have everything in
30 front of me. If the Chair desires, I can read you some
31 of the questions that we heard from Kodiak. Mr.
32 Brower, would you like to hear those?

33
34 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair, I think
35 it's important just to hear what other regions are
36 saying about this because I think it affects Alaska in
37 itself. We're pretty much rural over here and it
38 sounds like we don't really have to fight for it if
39 this is going forward. It just puts us on our feet
40 when somebody else is going to say, hey, these guys are
41 nonrural and that's when more dialogue ensues, I guess.
42 To me, it seems supportive, but I'd like to still hear
43 what other folks are saying and also maybe a comment
44 about the reoccurring nature of the determination
45 itself.

46
47 Is it naive to think that we're going
48 to be rural once we're categorized as rural
49 indefinitely and then every 10 years reconfirm the
50 ruralness?

1 MR. BROOKS: Madame Chair, through the
2 Chair. If I understand your question or your comment,
3 Mr. Brower, right now in current regulation every 10
4 years there's a review of the process, of the community
5 status. So right now they are looking at it every 10
6 years and reassessing. Under the proposed rule, the
7 way I understand it, that 10-year review would be
8 eliminated and there would be no reassessment unless
9 there was a proposal submitted to do so or if there was
10 some extreme event that occurred. I'm not sure.

11
12 The folks in Nome were concerned if
13 they got a deep water port and a large population
14 around that what would happen to their status. This
15 comes up quite a bit and we hear your concerns. One
16 thing that we did hear from the public last time is
17 that the 10-year review is an unnecessary burden and
18 that it's one of the reasons I'm sure the Federal Board
19 made a recommendation to the Secretaries to eliminate
20 that in this proposed rule.

21
22 I can say that Bristol Bay Regional
23 Advisory Council did not pass a motion either. They
24 had more discussion on it and I think they did say that
25 they would share their concerns and comments with the
26 other Councils as an action item. I wasn't at that
27 meeting either. Maybe Eva can help me with the
28 Interior Councils. Do you know what they did?

29
30 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
31 The Western Interior and Eastern Interior Regional
32 Advisory Councils held a joint meeting just a week and
33 a half ago primarily to address the Yukon salmon
34 issues, but they also heard and then took up rural
35 individually. The Western Interior Council, if I
36 recall correctly, had supported this recommendation of
37 the Board.

38
39 The Eastern Interior Council -- and
40 there was quite a bit of public testimony too. There
41 was a fairly-well attended rural hearing. There were
42 community representatives from many villages from the
43 Eastern Interior and Western Interior regions. Overall
44 public comments were they felt that this process would
45 support the communities and the Council have a larger
46 say in what is determined rural and providing their
47 justification for why. The Eastern Interior Council
48 had concerns that if there were no guiding criteria for
49 the Board's decision-making process, how then would the
50 Board make a defensible decision.

1 So there was a split on the Council in
2 terms of, on the one hand, feeling there was more say
3 from the community and, on the other hand, concern that
4 without the criteria being a part of the process to
5 guide the Board's decision-making, those decisions then
6 would be hard to defend or justify. So the vote failed
7 to support the proposal.

8

9 I believe Tom has more to say here.

10

11 MR. KRON: Madame Chair. Real quickly
12 on the Kodiak/Aleutians, another meeting that I was at.
13 They were generally supportive of the proposed rule.
14 They liked the idea that we went from a page of very
15 complicated regulations to something that was more
16 simple.

17

18 They did have concerns though. Again,
19 the idea was that somebody could submit a proposal to
20 change the status of a community, to make a rural
21 community nonrural for example, and they were concerned
22 about how often that could happen. Currently, it's
23 every 10 years it's reviewed and they were concerned
24 that potentially there would be somebody submitting a
25 proposal year after year after year, so they'd be doing
26 this every year rather than every 10 years. They were
27 also concerned about where it would come from. They
28 wanted to basically say the proposal had to come from
29 their region. It couldn't come from Fairbanks or
30 someplace else.

31

32 So those were the kind of things they
33 were concerned about. They were generally supportive,
34 as I said, but they had some concerns about exactly how
35 this was going to play out. Similar to Southcentral,
36 they were concerned about the Council having lots of
37 input and review and they wanted to see the Board defer
38 to the Council if at all possible, but supported, but
39 they had those kinds of concerns.

40

41 Thank you, Madame Chair.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.
44 Do we have any other comments or concern from the
45 Council.

46

47 MR. BROOKS: Through the Chair, please.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Go ahead.

50

1 MR. BROOKS: Rosemary, I didn't mention
2 that the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory
3 Council made a motion to support the proposed rule.
4 Your Council, North Slope, and Southeast are going on
5 now, so we don't have an update for you on those two,
6 but other than those two I think we covered it all and
7 we'd be happy to entertain anymore questions or
8 concerns or comments at this time.

9
10 One thing that I should mention is that
11 the Federal Subsistence Board -- if this proposed rule
12 was adopted, they would have to, as a matter of policy,
13 figure out and determine how they were going to make
14 these nonrural determinations. I have a strong feeling
15 or hunch since they've recommended not to do a 10-year
16 review, that they would not have a policy that stated a
17 proposal can be submitted to change a community's
18 status on an annual basis. That would defeat the
19 purpose of getting rid of the 10-year review and would
20 probably make it more burdensome. That's just my hunch
21 if that makes sense.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: In previous
26 meetings that we've had, this topic has come up and
27 we've provided discussion in it. It's important to make
28 sure that those comments are incorporated into this
29 process. It is something that is very concerning
30 because of some of the criteria that they will be using
31 that could affect some of our villages and their
32 designation. It is something that we have to stay
33 engaged upon and provide our input. It is something
34 that is a reality of the changes to our lands and
35 waters and making sure that we're engaged as
36 effectively as possible to keep the importance of our
37 traditional and cultural lives is very important as we
38 go forward in this process.

39
40 I know we talked a lot about it around
41 Prudhoe Bay and Nuiqsut and their concerns. We also
42 have a lot of concerns around what's coming up with the
43 activities on creating more development in the
44 nearshore/offshore around Wainwright. So these are
45 real serious issues. I appreciate that the work has
46 been done to try to make sure that we have a strong
47 seat at the table in the process going forward and I
48 look forward to hearing more communications from our
49 community as we listen to the public process tonight.

50

1 Do we have any other comments.

2

3 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon.

6

7 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, it would seem to
8 me that the Federal Board of Game would work with the
9 Regional Advisory Councils in terms of developing a
10 policy on how they would create the criteria for
11 nonrural so that we have a stab at seeing what's going
12 to develop out of that. It seems to me I would be
13 generally supportive of this. It seems like it's
14 simplified.

15

16 One last question is once something
17 gets enacted, say it's vetted through and the process
18 is done, does that mean the new law would get
19 implemented and a new cycle of determining nonrural
20 starts going on or do you accept the existing nonrural
21 status of all the communities that are nonrural or do
22 you start the page over to determine who is all
23 nonrural?

24

25 MR. BROOKS: Mr. Brower, thank you.
26 Through the Chair. Again, this is Jeff Brooks for the
27 record. On your first comment, the proposed rule does
28 state that the Board would rely heavily on input from
29 the public and the Regional Advisory Councils when
30 making determinations. Now your comment was that while
31 the Federal Subsistence Board -- if this proposed rule
32 is adopted and they sit down to determine how they're
33 going to make nonrural determinations, they're going to
34 have to come up with some way to do that. What I heard
35 you say is that you think the Regional Advisory
36 Councils should be involved with that as well. I
37 agree. We should be able to talk with Staff at OSM and
38 others on how that would best be approached in the
39 future. That's all I can say on that comment.

40

41 On your other one, one of our
42 subsistence coordinators at Fish and Wildlife Service
43 has prepared a timeline for you, which I will hand out
44 as well. What happens sort of next, and I hope I don't
45 have this confused with the information that we're
46 talking about with customary and traditional use, but
47 when adopted the Board is going to have to at some
48 point go through the process to make the nonrural
49 determinations. After that is done everything else
50 will be rural. So it's not going to change overnight.

1 I mean if this is adopted, nothing is really going to
2 happen to your communities on the North Slope. They're
3 going to remain rural.

4

5 I do have one important date that I
6 should mention and it's on the timeline that I will
7 hand out. If a new process is not adopted and nonrural
8 determinations are not made by spring of 2017, I've
9 seen a March date and a May date, I think it's May, if
10 something is not done by then, the Federal Subsistence
11 Program will go back to the 2007 regulation, which is
12 on the books, and that's the one that is controversial
13 down in Saxman, for example.

14

15 Did that answer your question?

16

17 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Madame Chair, I
18 think it does. There's still going to be get it
19 enacted and it's probably a record of decision or
20 something like that and then you've got to go through
21 the process of determining nonrural.

22

23 MR. BROOKS: Through the Chair. Mr.
24 Brower, exactly. A final rule would be put forth and
25 then the Federal Subsistence Board would have to go
26 through the process of making the nonrural
27 determinations.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do we have
30 any further questions or comments.

31

32 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair. I would
33 just like to recognize that it's 12:00 noon.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: That's my
38 alarm clock reminding me about buses. I agree, it's
39 come to that time where we need to consider a break for
40 lunch. Hearing no further discussion on the rural
41 determination, I'll entertain that. It's 12:07. Come
42 back at 1:15, 1:30.

43

44 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, 1:15.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: 1:15.
47 Okay, we'll reconvene at 1:15. Thank you everyone who
48 stayed with us on the phone. We'll be coming back
49 online at 1:15.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 (Off record)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Concerning
8 the rural determination process review, the
9 presentation from Staff and discussion from
10 participants in the Council, Gordon had a question on
11 this area.

12

13 Gordon.

14

15 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Madame Chair. I
16 would like to ask the presenter if he's looking for
17 support from the Council in terms of a motion. I know
18 there's a public meeting on it later on tonight. Maybe
19 you could advise us as to when the appropriate time
20 would be to discuss it further in terms of whether we
21 support it or not.

22

23 MR. BROOKS: Madame Chair.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Yes.

26

27 MR. BROOKS: Thank you. Mr. Brower, I
28 understand your question. This is an action item and
29 it would be nice at some point if the Council desires
30 to make a motion one way or the other or with
31 modification, for example. Eva's note here presents an
32 important thing to consider, particularly if any
33 members of the Council will be in attendance tonight at
34 the public meeting from 7:00 to 9:00 to hear what
35 members of the public may have to say about it.

36

37 You'll get another presentation on it,
38 a different one. Similar information, but a different
39 style of presentation. We're going to ask for comments
40 from the public. If you are here in the room for that,
41 you would have more insight on what your motion might
42 be, which you could do tomorrow I'm assuming if there's
43 a quorum.

44

45 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
46 Gordon, for your benefit, since we won't have you here
47 tomorrow, any of these action items that you would like
48 to weigh in on. We should have quorum tomorrow as
49 well. We'll have Sam online with us tomorrow and all
50 of the Council here and Harry will be joining us.

1 He'll be back in Barrow tonight. We do want to make
2 sure we get your input as well, Gordon, and that you
3 have an opportunity to provide any feedback or
4 discussion prior to your having to go.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Yes.

11
12 MR. G. BROWER: Just listening to that
13 and the train of thought. I will try to be here
14 tonight. I leave tomorrow morning, I think. Maybe
15 come here and listen to any other dialogue the public
16 may express, just to hear that.

17
18 As just an information, I think I
19 support this. I'm supportive of this just from
20 listening to what it's doing, simplifying the process
21 in that it's not a periodic review anymore, except that
22 it's a complaint, more of a complaint to change the
23 status. But I would support it with maybe some caveats
24 added that maybe a review of the proposed policies to
25 develop the criteria to include Regional RACs in some
26 way and that a proposal to change from nonrural to
27 rural expressed to the RAC the issues.

28
29 (Teleconference disconnection)

30
31 (Off record)

32
33 (On record)

34
35 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: All right.
36 We're back on. We got disconnected. The discussion
37 was around the rural determination. Council Member
38 Brower was asking a question about the process going
39 forward. We had some feedback from Staff as to how we
40 could move forward. There's a public meeting tonight
41 from 7:00 to 9:00 which is important for the Council to
42 hear, any feedback that comes from that process, and
43 that's where we were at.

44
45 MR. G. BROWER: For those of you
46 online, this is Gordon Brower, is that where you guys
47 kind of got cut off?

48
49 WAYNE: Hi, Gordon. This is Wayne. We
50 got cut off right at the point where Eva mentioned

1 muting your phone and press *6.

2

3 MR. G. BROWER: Oh, all right. Hey,
4 Wayne. Well, anyway, I guess we could start over. The
5 question I raised earlier was whether or not the
6 presenter, Jeff Brooks from OSM, was looking for --
7 whether this was an action item of the Council to
8 support either way the rural determination change. He
9 nodded yes. The other concern was there's a public
10 hearing tonight on the subject and for us to be
11 cognizant that other folks are going to weigh in on
12 this.

13

14 And just keeping in mind that I may not
15 be able to provide or be part of some sort of a motion
16 to support this either way, I might be stuck in other
17 meetings tomorrow, that I wanted to just point out that
18 I'm, as an individual member of the RAC, after hearing
19 some of the other concerns from other RACs within
20 Alaska on the issue and hearing the presenters on what
21 it is, I find it to be, I think, supportable, a
22 simplified kind of like short form maybe of doing
23 nonrural determinations.

24

25 For me, I think this is supportable and
26 I equally have concerns about criteria. Whenever a
27 person or somebody has an issue with nonrural status of
28 a community, that some level of correspondence and
29 working with the RAC exist so that region has an
30 opportunity to respond to such a request to review the
31 rural status that is being asked. That's where I would
32 leave it. I just want to let the RAC know that I think
33 I'm pretty much comfortable with this after hearing
34 those concerns.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you,
37 Gordon. Do we have any other comments from the
38 Council.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Hearing
43 none. There will be a public hearing tonight from 7:00
44 to 9:00 here in the Heritage Center. There will be a
45 presentation from Staff on the rural determination and
46 the Secretarial proposed rule. The public is
47 encouraged to participate in that process and provide
48 feedback to us so that we can help guide the decision-
49 making process forward. I appreciate the comments that
50 are provided by the members present in this discussion

1 and also recognize the importance of the historical
2 discussions around this and making sure that Staff
3 should have the appropriate summary of the important
4 issues that have come from throughout the regions as
5 well as our region.

6

7 If we have no further discussion, we
8 can move on to the next item, which is the National
9 Park Service briefing on subsistence collections and
10 uses.

11

12 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Madame Chair,
13 Council.

14

15 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, if I may, if
16 we could just check in on teleconference to make sure
17 we have folks with us still.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: If you
20 could please give a sound off on the phone for those
21 that are present by teleconference today.

22

23 DR. YOKEL: Dave is here.

24

25 MS. PATTON: Good afternoon. Sam, do
26 we still have you on teleconference?

27

28 MR. KUNAKNANA: Good afternoon. I'm
29 still on.

30

31 MR. CRAWFORD: Good afternoon. Drew
32 Crawford in Anchorage.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do we have
35 anyone else?

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Okay. We
40 have Marcy Okada at the table ready for the
41 presentation.

42

43 MS. OKADA: Good afternoon, Madame
44 Chair. Council members. My name is Marcy Okada. I'm
45 the subsistence coordinator for Gates of the Arctic
46 National Park and Preserve. What I'll be showing with
47 you this afternoon applies to the entire region of
48 Alaska on Park Service lands. So if you could please
49 turn to Page 70 in your meeting booklet.

50

1 So I'll be covering regulations to
2 allow subsistence collections and uses of shed or
3 discarded animal parts and plants from National Park
4 System areas in Alaska. The reason this came about was
5 currently on Park Service lands nationwide you are not
6 allowed to collect any antlers or horns or any plant
7 material that you may find while you're traveling or
8 hiking through Park Service lands. So, because Alaska
9 is different, we are proposing a regulation that would
10 allow for this type of activity to occur for rural
11 subsistence users.

12
13 I'm trying to jog your memories here
14 because I believe I've shared this information maybe
15 about four or five years ago and it's only now that we
16 are asking for input on proposed regulation language.
17 So I'll just briefly go over some background
18 information. The Park Service ended up selecting a
19 modified Alternative D to implement its April 2014
20 decision regarding the environmental assessment on
21 Subsistence Collections and Uses of Shed or Discarded
22 Animal Parts and Plants from Park Areas in Alaska.
23 That's affectionately what we call the horns and antler
24 EA. The selected alternative will allow subsistence
25 collections and uses of shed or discarded animal parts
26 and plants to make into handicrafts for personal or
27 family purposes, to barter, or to sell as customary
28 trade.

29
30 National Park Service qualified
31 subsistence users are residents of communities and
32 areas with federally recognized customary and
33 traditional use determinations for each species in each
34 game management unit within the affected park areas.
35 Subsistence users who have C&T eligibility for animal
36 species will also be allowed to collect plant materials
37 from those areas to make and use or sell handicrafts.

38
39 The decision clears the way for the
40 National Park Service to promulgate regulations to
41 authorize such subsistence collections and resource
42 uses on park areas in Alaska. The National Park
43 Service has attempted to address concerns expressed by
44 several Subsistence Resource Commissions and also
45 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils.

46
47 So now, at this time, the Park Service
48 has indicated in a press release it would begin the
49 process of drafting new regulations within a year of
50 the decision. That process is currently underway and

1 we have a preliminary draft rule for your review during
2 the winter/spring 2015 SRC and RAC meetings. Once
3 proposed regulations are published in the Federal
4 Register, they are available for a 60-day public
5 comment period. The final rule would be published
6 after consideration of the public comments.

7
8 So Alternative D, that was the Park
9 Service selected alternative, specifies that a Park
10 Service qualified subsistence user will have written
11 authorization from the area Superintendent. Such
12 authorization can take many forms. For example,
13 individual permits could be issued to qualified
14 subsistence users or written authorizations could be
15 provided for
16 specific resident zone communities or for areas with
17 customary and traditional use findings for various
18 resources. For instance, for Gates of the Arctic,
19 Nuiqsut and Anaktuvuk Pass are resident zone
20 communities for Gates of the Arctic.

21
22 At this time, we are asking the RACs
23 which type of written authorization would be best for
24 your area and why would you recommend a certain type of
25 authorization. So would you prefer just blanket
26 coverage for a resident zone community or is the
27 preference for individual permits to be authorized.

28
29 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon.

32
33 MR. G. BROWER: Maybe I want to
34 understand this a little bit better. When I'm out
35 hunting and doing things, sometimes I might come across
36 maybe a bison antler or something that's prehistoric or
37 something like that. It's an animal and it's dead,
38 just laying around, but there is a customary use
39 associated with these things for making ulus, trinkets
40 and whatnot, using these things from the land. You
41 don't always find them and it's very limited because
42 it's only when erosion or something like that makes
43 these things exposed in some cases. Are we talking
44 about the same thing here?

45
46 MS. OKADA: So currently if a rural
47 user were to come across that type of bison horn, in
48 the past they would just have to leave it there. This
49 proposed regulation would allow for them to take it
50 home and use it for a handicraft. So we're trying to

1 recognize the possibility of a rural user wanting to do
2 that type of activity. Whether it was already
3 occurring we're now making it legal to do so.

4

5 MR. G. BROWER: Another question.
6 Making it legal to do so. Some of these things there's
7 actually people that would take advantage of something
8 like this, come in with an airplane and doing these
9 things and creating a museum out of these things for
10 themselves. It seems to me that the traditional use of
11 these materials should be highly encouraged the way
12 they were always there for the residents from when
13 there was no snowmachines, when there was no phones.
14 They were made into tools, implements, hunting tools
15 and equipment, buttons. You could see old clothes with
16 ivory shaped into little whales as buttons on a shirt
17 or something like that.

18

19 I've seen in the newspaper once or
20 twice the taking of resources like this by individuals
21 that were caught by enforcement agents in collecting
22 material like this. Is that part of that area, going
23 to make that legal as well, or do you need a customary
24 and traditional use determination to these resources
25 where they were used from time immemorial and keep it
26 that way.

27

28 MS. OKADA: So I'm going to try and
29 answer that. I think I saw three questions and I'm
30 going to try and answer all three of them. It was
31 brought to our attention by two different Subsistence
32 Resource Commissions that this type of activity was
33 already occurring. After looking at the regs, Park
34 Service realized that this type of activity is already
35 occurring but it's not legal. So we want to allow for
36 customary and traditional activity to continue to occur
37 legally.

38

39 Also we could see this type of activity
40 getting out of control. I think a few years ago this
41 particular RAC a member had shared that there was a
42 concern that folks would go in and start collecting
43 antlers and selling them off to foreign entities
44 because I guess antlers could be used grounded up for
45 various purposes. So with a written authorization from
46 a Superintendent this would allow just rural residents
47 of resident zone communities for various Park Service
48 lands blanket coverage just to continue to do an
49 activity that has always occurred, like you had
50 mentioned, what people find they would use.

1 I'm trying to remember the third
2 question. Oh, customary and traditional use. It's
3 already customary and traditional use determinations
4 that have already been written for various communities,
5 so they already have customary and traditional use of
6 certain animals, so that would just overlap.

7
8 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair. I think
9 there was one other piece to this and that was in those
10 instances where a fly-in operator comes in and is doing
11 guided activities and their clients are finding these
12 things and making sure that this proposal is not making
13 a gold rush out of this stuff, an activity like that.
14 For myself, I know it's a traditional activity and I
15 used to be really sad as a North Slope Borough
16 enforcement agent to even view our own BLM in taking
17 all of these resources away from us and harvest --
18 getting them with helicopters and housing them in tents
19 and then flying them out with Hercs.

20
21 I've seen that. Even though I was told
22 not to get in the tents and take a look, I said I'm an
23 official of the North Slope Borough and my job is land
24 management enforcement and I have a right of entry and
25 I'm taking a look at what your activities are because
26 of your refusal to tell me what's going on. Our own
27 government doing that and harvesting all of these
28 resources. Maybe hundreds and hundreds of tusks, bones
29 and things like that when these resources were always
30 known to be there for traditional use. I would hope
31 this law brings those back and distributes them evenly
32 to the communities.

33
34 Anyway, those are just some of the
35 things I've seen in the past and I'm grateful that
36 you're working on something like this and not making it
37 a hide-and-seek activity that occurs when it's been
38 traditional for thousands of years.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do we have
43 any additional comments from the Council.

44
45 MR. KAYOTUK: Madame Chair. Yeah, I
46 could see going into a not so good of a situation, you
47 know. People are out there and you're going to get a
48 lot of people like tourism and other people that do
49 come in these areas and all of a sudden you find
50 artifacts and things like that. So they're all of a

1 sudden we move it in different areas and all of a
2 sudden it goes to the National Park or these people,
3 you know. So what are they going to do, bring it back
4 to their state and hold it there until they decide what
5 to do, which I don't see it going in a positive
6 direction. In that case, it's going to follow along
7 with a lot of mishaps. That's how I see it.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do we have
12 any additional comments or concerns on this from the
13 Council.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Sam, did
18 you want to make any additional comments?

19

20 MR. KUNAKNANA: No, that's okay. Thank
21 you.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: James, were
24 you able to get on yet?

25

26 (No response)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: For me,
29 this is something that is important to consider, but I
30 also see the pros and cons. We don't want our Park
31 Service to become an area that is seen as an area that
32 can go in and harvest things that have been left by
33 those that have been here before us. Our traditional
34 ways have shown how to take care of our lands and
35 waters. We also have stories of others that have come
36 in efforts to monitor or assess our lands and waters
37 that have collected these types of things. A number of
38 tusks up the Colville River were collected by previous
39 efforts to change lands and waters.

40

41 I worry about it in relation to the
42 dinosaur digs that are up the Colville River. It was
43 really a hard process to allow those bones to be taken
44 out of our state into another university setting where
45 it's not available for our own students to become
46 educated upon in our local traditional and culture and
47 what's available in our own lands and waters.

48

49 I also don't want to see some of the
50 conflicts that are occurring in other areas where Park

1 Service lands are being utilized by others to come in
2 and cause destruction to important areas of lands and
3 waters. So this process needs to have further
4 communications in our region and the importance of the
5 protections of this as well as the importance of our
6 tradition and cultural uses in these areas. It is a
7 constant education process that has to occur.

8

9 There's many people that change over
10 time, but those of us that live in these lands and
11 waters know the traditional and culture and how it's
12 used. It's others that are coming here with efforts to
13 change rules and regulations that come into conflict
14 with what can or cannot be done in our lands and
15 waters. So I'm really torn in this process. I want to
16 be able to be a traditional and cultural person as our
17 elders have done, but I also don't want things to be
18 done in ways that cause devastation to lands and waters
19 that take generations to recover.

20

21 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon.

24

25 MR. G. BROWER: Maybe a question to
26 Marcy. Is this limited to something like that gets
27 exposed by the river and is easy to pick up or the
28 caribou just recently dropped their antler and it's
29 very easy to just pick it up without destroying the
30 tundra or having to dig anything up like a partially
31 buried mammoth tusk. In order to get it out, you would
32 have to start an excavation and really I think that
33 would need an excavation permit to do something like
34 that, but to find something that's just what the river
35 spewed out and it's easy to pick these types of things
36 up for use. Those are just some of the other types of
37 questions I can think of.

38

39 MS. OKADA: So what we were
40 anticipating is when caribou drop their antlers or any
41 bones that might have gone through several seasons,
42 several years of being out on the land. As
43 backpackers come across them, they wouldn't be allowed
44 and they have never been allowed to take those types of
45 things as they come across them. This regulation would
46 just allow rural users that have come across these same
47 type of things to go ahead and take them home and use
48 them for handicrafts.

49

50 That kind of leads to our next two

1 questions, which are which areas and resources should
2 be opened or not opened to subsistence collections and
3 why, and then what should be included in a public
4 education program.

5
6 Rosemary, you had alluded to more
7 prehistoric types of animal tusks and whether those
8 would be allowed for the taking. I could easily write
9 that down as a resource that should just be left alone.
10 So, yeah, that was a good point.

11
12 DR. YOKEL: Madame Chair.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Go ahead.
15 Identify.

16
17 DR. YOKEL: This is Dave Yokel with the
18 BLM.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Hi, Dave.
21 Go ahead.

22
23 DR. YOKEL: Thanks. I'm not sure
24 exactly where the Park Service is going with this, but
25 there is another law that I'm sure Marcy is aware of,
26 the National Historic Preservation Act or maybe
27 Antiquities Act, I don't know. The paleontological
28 resources you can't even pick up and take on NPR-A, the
29 BLM lands. So something like an extinct bison's horn
30 or certainly a dinosaur bone, these are paleontological
31 resources and it's not legal for anybody to take those
32 unless they get a permit and they would only get a
33 permit if they are people who would properly archive
34 them in a museum somewhere.

35
36 I just wanted to make sure you weren't
37 getting confused between caribou antlers that are a few
38 to a dozen years old with something that's tens of
39 thousands to millions of years old.

40
41 That's all.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you,
44 Dave.

45
46 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon.

49
50 MR. G. BROWER: And that's how come I

1 was, you know, alluding to that question, are we
2 talking about the same thing here if this is an example
3 of what goes on. You know, I'm not going to confess to
4 Dave of anything about these things, but I think, you
5 know, you see some of these things in art shows and
6 stuff and you know they're mammoth tusks and they've
7 made beautiful trinkets out of them and it's just to be
8 able to do their traditional activities. If that
9 proposal that you're talking about provides that avenue
10 to do that as well.

11
12 MS. OKADA: I think the preliminary
13 draft of this regulation hasn't even touched upon that.
14 I think when we're thinking of resources we're just
15 looking at more modern era caribou antler drop being
16 dropped on the tundra and then used for handicrafts as
17 they're picked up.

18
19 The second part to this presentation is
20 a preliminary draft of the regulation as it stands
21 right now, but it is open for input. I think it's on
22 the next page in your meeting material. It just goes
23 through definitions of the type of handicraft -- the
24 definition of what a handicraft article is, wild,
25 renewable byproducts of wildlife that can be used and
26 then also the definition of various subsistence uses
27 and what customary trade is. So this document is a
28 work in progress right now.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: The other
31 area that comes into mind is that we have important
32 plants that are really important for medicinal uses and
33 those types of things. If things were to change, as
34 other areas have other plants that are of high value
35 and others wanting to come in and do that type of
36 activity, the risks of overharvesting are there. Would
37 this give us some hopes of giving those kinds of
38 protections?

39
40 MS. OKADA: So as it stands right now,
41 within -- for Gates of the Arctic National Park there's
42 the Park proper and then there's two Preserve Units,
43 Itkillik Preserve and what we call the Southern
44 Preserve Unit, which is the Kobuk -- it's shaped like
45 a boot, so we call it the Kobuk Boot Preserve. The
46 Park proper is only resident zone community. Residents
47 of resident zone communities are allowed to go within
48 the Park and hunt fish and gather, so they're allowed
49 to gather plants, edible plants, for medicinal
50 purposes. So that's already covered.

1 This new regulation is just allowing
2 plants to be used for handicraft purposes. For
3 instance, Upper Kobuk communities, Ambler, Shungnak,
4 Kobuk, they're already allowed to collect birch bark to
5 make baskets out of. So I don't foresee that affecting
6 the use of medicinal plants.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Eva, do we
9 need to do further action, make a recommendation?

10
11 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, I'll let
12 Marcy speak to the state of the process that they're at
13 here and what they're seeking from the Council.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: All right.
16 Thanks, Marcy.

17
18 MS. OKADA: So I guess that just goes
19 back to the three questions on Page 71, which type of
20 written authorization would be best for your area and
21 why? Which areas and resources should be opened or not
22 opened to subsistence collections and why? What should
23 be included in a public education program? And then
24 also for the RAC to look at the preliminary draft of
25 this regulation, which will probably go through several
26 iterations and then also it would present it again at
27 the next RAC meeting. Then there's also that 60-day
28 comment period that opens up once the regulation is
29 already drafted.

30
31 So I guess at this time if the RAC
32 members have any comments that they would like to see
33 included regarding this draft regulation, we can go
34 ahead and write that down.

35
36 MR. SHEARS: Madame Chair.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Bob.

39
40 MR. SHEARS: I'm finally speaking
41 today. It's unlike me. I've had personal and direct
42 contact with this Regulation 36 CFR 2.1. In Anaktuvuk
43 Pass, an associate of mine, a friend, a Federally
44 qualified subsistence user and a resident of Anaktuvuk
45 Pass, in his travails of conducting subsistence,
46 possibly even on property associated with Gates of the
47 Arctic National Park, found a skull of a sheep, Dall
48 sheep. This ram's head was the biggest thing I've ever
49 seen in the world and if it's not a world's record,
50 it's certainly Boone & Crockett. It's almost 1.5 on

1 one side, 1-3/8ths, perfect 1.5 curl, huge base. Both
2 sides still attached to the skull. Years old. Some
3 rodents had gnawed on it. It's very aged. The skull
4 is very brown, heavy, almost half fossilized, but it is
5 certainly not a fossil artifact.

6
7 He showed this to me. He keeps it in a
8 box outside of his house in a plywood box. He knows
9 full well that it's illegal for him to have possession
10 of that and to have picked it up and brought it home,
11 but it's the most awesome thing you've ever seen in the
12 world if you respect nature. This thing, if it was to
13 go on eBay, would sell for tens of thousands of
14 dollars. It has true monetary value and he doesn't
15 want that. He just wants to possess and own it so that
16 his children and his grandchildren can see it. He
17 wants to put it in his house. He would perhaps like to
18 gift it to somebody, a member of his family. He can't.
19 This is a hidden artifact that the world will never
20 see.

21
22 Certainly if this rule continues to
23 stay unchanged, he will have to destroy it or hide it
24 forever and I think that would be a shame. I would
25 make a recommendation for a blanket authorization for
26 residents in Federally qualified subsistence use areas
27 to be able to pick up and possess the artifacts that
28 they find. Certainly I don't want to create a monetary
29 market for it. Just like we don't allow the sale of
30 polar bear skins or walrus tusks, certainly we
31 shouldn't allow the sales for financial gain of animal
32 parts picked up off the tundra and on our National
33 Parks and Refuges. But people that reside there should
34 be allowed to pick them up and use them at their will.

35
36

37 That's my thoughts on the subject.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon.

40

41 MR. G. BROWER: I was thinking along
42 the same lines about having a blanket authorization and
43 making it not a cumbersome process and that folks that
44 live there -- you know, it's like can I enter my back
45 yard, yes or no, and that mentality. I just think it's
46 disrespectful of an entire community sometimes. I
47 would support and the type of written authorization
48 that would be best that it would be a blanket
49 authorization so you're not trying to weed people out
50 of these things.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. KAYOTUK: Madame Chair.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Lee.

6

7 MR. KAYOTUK: A good thing I would
8 think too is, you know, if there's a museum of
9 something like this they do pick up things like this,
10 you know, it's already picked up. If they can't put it
11 back, you know, a good way to do it is put it in that
12 museum and let the people see. If that could happen
13 that way, that would be a good way to go too, you know,
14 but other than, you know, picking it up and moving it
15 already off its site and exposed to nature, I would see
16 it going in that direction.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: I agree
21 that our local residents shouldn't have to go through
22 an additional process to be traditional and cultural,
23 making them go out and seek a permit for carrying on a
24 way of life that has carried on through the generations
25 does not seem appropriate for me. At this time, I
26 don't think that there is an excessive concern to
27 overutilization of resources in the Parks and that we
28 can be more broad in the effort of trying to recognize
29 what this proposal is trying to do. So that would be my
30 recommendation also.

31

32 But for areas and resources, things
33 that should be excluded are definitely things of an
34 archival nature or utilizing historical significance
35 are very important to retain in the region and that
36 should not be allowed. Fresh shedded horns and those
37 such are traditional that we would collect them and
38 utilize them and that would have a more open
39 utilization.

40

41 For our traditional plants, our people
42 definitely have a way about them of collecting and
43 harvesting plants, but others that do not know our
44 plants may not protect the renewal of them, such as if
45 you go out and pick the whole stem of the
46 salmonberries, you can prevent their regrowth. That
47 would be something to include in the public education
48 program of making sure that people are protective of
49 our lands and waters and not degrade them in an effort
50 to go out and collect resources of importance.

1 I think that it's really important to
2 utilize local community members in providing
3 educational opportunities when there's increased
4 activities of others coming into our Parks, such as at
5 Anaktuvuk Pass, making sure taking advantage of the
6 Simon Paneak Memorial Museum and encouraging Park
7 support for that program to be able to do the outreach
8 that's necessary to help educate people that are
9 utilizing these are really important to continue.

10
11 I think that there are ways of
12 incorporating activities here in Barrow at the Heritage
13 Center and making sure that we're improving
14 participation with the Park Service and working with
15 the Heritage Center in providing educational
16 opportunities supporting education of the generations
17 through school activities and the college activities is
18 also important to continue to support and do as well as
19 considering ways of coordinating staff interactions
20 throughout our villages to make sure that our
21 communities are educated to these important issues are
22 also very important to do. Working with our North
23 Slope Borough Wildlife Department or our tribal
24 communities, tribal councils, city offices, those kinds
25 of things are very important to continue to do so.

26
27 Do we have any additional comments from
28 the phone?

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do we have
33 any additional comments from people in the public here?

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Final
38 comments from our Council.

39
40 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair. This is
41 going to be off topic. Some time ago we had a
42 roundtable discussion Anaktuvuk Pass surrounding access
43 for community members that had Native allotments that
44 they could not find a way to access to enjoy during
45 brief summer months and things like that. I'm not
46 exactly sure if you recall the meeting. I think you
47 were present at the meeting. There was a willingness
48 on your part to investigate a means of how to address
49 access to these areas for the locals of Anaktuvuk Pass
50 that, quite frankly, I think, had not enjoyed their

1 little piece of Indian country for years in the way
2 that they wanted to.

3

4 So is that something you can elaborate
5 on a little bit if there's any efforts on your part to
6 assist in that community with that kind of issue?

7

8 MS. OKADA: I do remember attending
9 that roundtable meeting and we have been in
10 correspondence with that particular individual that
11 wants access to her Native allotment on the John River.
12 There's a willingness on our end to -- you know, of
13 course, with a Federal agency there's paperwork that
14 needs to be filled out and there's a willingness on our
15 end to work with this particular individual on how to
16 go ahead and fill out that paperwork. But there has
17 been correspondence as far as when she would like to
18 access her Native allotment. I know for at least last
19 summer that was postponed for various reasons on her
20 end, but that may not address the larger picture for
21 other folks in Anaktuvuk Pass that want access to their
22 Native allotment and various parts of the Park.

23

24 I guess we do have to allow access as
25 written in ANILCA to Native allotments within the Park
26 Unit and it's just kind of a Catch-22 as far as how we
27 go about allowing a particular type of access, which is
28 specifically in this situation Argo access. Wintertime
29 it's not a problem. With adequate snow cover, they can
30 go anywhere with their snowmachines, but this
31 particular individual wants access via Argo and that's
32 going to be a work in progress.

33

34 Right now it's kind of on hold because
35 there just wasn't any interest on her end last summer
36 on traveling out there, but I mean it's still on our
37 plate as far as how do we go about doing that. That's
38 truly not really at my level of things, but it has been
39 brought to the attention of the Park Superintendent and
40 upper management. So that's a work in progress, but,
41 no, it's still something that we're keeping in mind.

42

43 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair, just one
44 follow up to that. I'm sorry I took the liberty of
45 going off topic here, but I thought it was important to
46 ask. The follow up is that in the past it had been
47 relationships built with a major landowner in that
48 area, the SRC in particular, to broker some level of
49 creating an easement of some sort to do some of these.
50 Is that something that can be revisited to do something

1 like that or is that an act of Congress to do something
2 like that?

3

4 MS. OKADA: So there was a brokerage of
5 trading of land, so that was the 1996 Anaktuvuk Pass
6 Land Exchange. So when you look at a map of the land
7 around Anaktuvuk Pass, there's ASRC land, there's
8 corporation land and Park Service land. We had worked
9 with the community back then to see which areas they
10 access the most. So there was a trading of land and
11 that became ASRC land, so they are allowed to use their
12 Argos to go to those various places and that did take
13 an act of Congress for that land exchange to occur. It
14 would take another act of Congress to also do that type
15 of land trading again.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you
18 for all your input. Do we have any additional comments
19 or questions on this issue.

20

21 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair. I think
22 back on topic. Were you looking for some level of
23 support by motion or just by types of authorizations
24 and just feedback on that type of thing? I think the
25 most impacted representative that would have been here
26 would be James.....

27

28 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Exactly.

29

30 MR. G. BROWER:and he would have
31 provided a little bit more insight. He'd probably jump
32 in the air with joy he could do some of this stuff I
33 would think if I was living from there. Hey, I can do
34 this and move these antlers around and re-poke them in
35 the ground and make a trapline anchor to use all winter
36 long or something, you know. Something to that effect.

37

38 MS. OKADA: So we weren't expecting any
39 formal vote. The input you've provided already I've
40 jotted down. So that's good. I'll be coming back up
41 to this table to talk about Dall sheep a little bit
42 later, so hopefully James is able to join us then. So
43 thank you, Madame Chair and Council members.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.
46 Next on the agenda we have new business, call for
47 Federal hunting and trapping regulation proposals.

48

49 Tom.

50

1 MR. EVANS: Good afternoon, Madame
2 Chair. Members of the Council. As you know, one of
3 the purposes of this meeting is to think about wildlife
4 proposals that we might want to submit for the next
5 regulatory session. So I'm going to give you a brief
6 background of how to submit a wildlife regulatory
7 proposal. There's been talk about sheep, caribou, so
8 no doubt you guys might want to submit some proposals.
9 So I'm just going to do a brief overview of how to
10 submit a proposal and then those proposals will come up
11 later.

12
13 My name is Tom Evans. I work as a
14 wildlife biologist for the Office of Subsistence
15 Management for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
16 Every two years proposals are accepted to make changes
17 to the management regulations for the harvest of
18 wildlife on Federal public lands. These proposals can
19 include changes such as season dates, harvest limits,
20 harvest restrictions such as age, sex of animals
21 harvested, methods and means of harvest and customary
22 and traditional use determinations.

23
24 A brief summary of how to submit a
25 wildlife regulatory proposal can be found on Page 73 of
26 your Council book. The Federal Subsistence Board is
27 accepting proposals through March 25th to change the
28 Federal regulations for the subsistence harvest of
29 wildlife on Federal public lands and this will be good
30 for the 2016-2018 regulatory years. No proposals will
31 be accepted after March 25th, 2015.

32
33 The Board will consider proposals to
34 change the Federal hunting and trapping seasons,
35 harvest limits, methods of harvest and customary and
36 traditional use determinations on Federal public lands.
37 These Federal public lands include National Wildlife
38 Refuges, National Parks and Monuments and Preserves,
39 National Forests, National Wild and Scenic Rivers and
40 the Bureau of Land Management areas that are not part
41 of the National Conservation System.

42
43 Federal regulations do not apply to
44 State of Alaska lands, private lands, military lands,
45 Native allotments or selected Federal lands by the
46 State or Native corporations. The Councils may choose
47 to work with OSM Staff to help develop a proposal. If
48 the Council would like to submit a proposal, then an
49 action has to be taken at this meeting and the motion
50 accepted. Proposals addressing these actions may also

1 be submitted by other individuals and organizations as
2 well.

3
4 Some basic information to be included
5 in the proposal is your contact information, the
6 regulation you wish to change, including the management
7 unit number and the species you're concerned about. If
8 you know the current regulation, quote that. The
9 regulation as you would like to see it written and then
10 an explanation as to why the regulatory change should
11 be made. In addition, a description of the impact that
12 this regulation change might have on wildlife
13 populations, subsistence uses or any other uses such as
14 sport or recreational or commercial uses.

15
16 Proposals can be submitted by mail or
17 hand-delivery to OSM. They can be submitted at this
18 Regional Advisory Council meeting and also at the
19 Federal eRulemaking Portal, which, if you look at your
20 handout, there's an address you can get on that site.
21 That's pretty much it.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do we have
24 Geoff?

25
26 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
27 Geoff Carroll will be arriving tomorrow afternoon and
28 is currently at the Board of Game. We'll have the
29 Board's final action on Proposal 202 for caribou for
30 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. So tomorrow we've
31 organized for that lengthy discussion and will provide
32 an overview of both Western Arctic and Teshekpuuk
33 Caribou Herds.

34
35 We wanted to make sure -- we have
36 Gordon with us today. We were hoping to have James on
37 this afternoon. Again, the full discussion on caribou
38 will take place tomorrow when we have both Geoff and
39 then we have Dave Yokel online as well for caribou
40 management on Federal lands. While we have Gordon here
41 and if there's an opportunity for James to join us, if
42 there's anything that you want to make sure is brought
43 before the Council or you have ideas or suggestions for
44 either proposals or details of Federal subsistence
45 proposal that you'd like to discuss with the Council
46 today.

47
48 Again we'll have a full discussion
49 tomorrow. If you're able to join us at any point on
50 teleconference, you can participate that way as well,

1 but we wanted to make sure both you and James had an
2 opportunity to weigh in on any Federal proposals from
3 the Council.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon.

10

11 MR. G. BROWER: I know it's important
12 and I think it's important for James. I mean those are
13 the caribou people of the North Slope. I'm a caribou
14 person too. The feelings I expressed earlier in the
15 day was kind of like -- it was some sort of a tactic to
16 put the fear of God in making some sort of proposal.

17

18 When there's an existing controlled use
19 area that's been established for a long period of time
20 but had really no effectiveness measure, like the trend
21 in the controlled use area, if you were to pan it out
22 over time and look at the effectiveness of the
23 controlled use area, it's much like looking at a
24 problem and you figure it out. The trend is measured
25 over time to weigh the effectiveness of these things.

26

27 Looking at that and the concerns raised
28 if you open the door, there's no limiting the dialogue
29 to end in closing that controlled use area and closing
30 that window of opportunity. That puts the fear and
31 saying I better let things lie and just hide under our
32 rugs and hope nobody fiddles with this. That's a wrong
33 attitude to send and send that kind of message.

34

35 I think we heard in the last meeting
36 and then on the email response you kind of reiterated
37 that and there was concerns. It really just put a
38 heavy weight on your thought on how could you help
39 communities. But, you know what, the climate is right.
40 The climate is opportunistic because there is a real
41 trend. There is a declining trend. It's real
42 measurable. Regulations are being floated around to
43 optimize here and there, playing with the amount
44 necessary for subsistence, another game being played.
45 The regulators are doing these things.

46

47 I didn't even know the ANS was adjusted
48 and changed in combining the Teshekpuk and the Western
49 Arctic Herd to make an ANS that was higher. If you
50 actually separated the two herds and got the real ANS,

1 the amount necessary for subsistence, and calculated
2 correctly, yeah, there would be maybe a need to reduce
3 immediately the harvest bag level for Teshekpuk Herd.
4 I think that's a foregone conclusion in that kind of
5 decline for that one.

6
7 Looking at that and the other side
8 effect of that was, and talking to the area biologist,
9 the ANS being high because having a higher amount
10 necessary for subsistence also fed to the nonresident
11 take because the ANS was high. If the ANS was properly
12 calculated, the nonresident use and the guide operators
13 out of Squirrel River in the Northwest Arctic and all
14 those things would go away. The amount of competition
15 for these animals would suddenly go probably to a Tier
16 II on the State side of things because it was becoming
17 an intensive management program.

18
19 So you've got to look at all these
20 things and how they're put together. Some things may
21 be behind closed doors if ANS is -- I didn't discuss
22 the ANS in previous years, but learned that it
23 happened, that they combined the two herds and put the
24 ANS up in the sky. These are some of the things that
25 when you put all these things together, keeping the ANS
26 high, don't even talk about controlled use area because
27 we're going to close the door on you and don't even try
28 anything. These are like you're just being told.

29
30 But we hear the cries of the community,
31 we hear about Anaktuvuk Pass and the community's
32 dependency on these resources, which should be the most
33 paramount top priority of Office of Subsistence
34 Management, to impact the Board of Game, have a loud
35 voice from the Federal Board of Game to say to the
36 State Board of Game, hey, you know, this is an
37 important issue and we need to address these things
38 properly and not play games.

39
40 If we don't be careful, we're going to
41 manage these herds and say, well, we've managed them
42 pretty good and we're down to 50,000 animals.
43 Anaktuvuk can take 40, Barrow can take 60 and
44 nonresident can take two still. I think these are
45 issues and they should be dealt with. I think how we
46 prepare a proposal and how we could as an Advisory
47 Council affect the Board of Game because they've got
48 their own system and we've made some effort to align
49 some alignment in areas. The Federal regs should align
50 with the State regs. I think I'm starting to think we

1 made a mistake in thinking that way.

2

3 I think the State is out of control in
4 their management and fiddling with the lives of
5 subsistence users. The State doesn't have a real
6 subsistence priority. That went out the door back in
7 the 1990s. What was it, 1994 was the deadline or
8 something like that where Federal management was taking
9 the lead and it's been that way. But we've been
10 incrementally being influenced by the State,
11 incrementally, a little at a time, to where we're
12 saying now, hey, all of our regs should align, you
13 know. Little tiny words like that that have big
14 consequences.

15

16 So I want to see and gain support in
17 the same way that we look on bowhead whaling. There's
18 a lot of them out there. There's a lot of whales.
19 There's a Federal management program for us to harvest
20 these whales and harvest in a way that we can restrict
21 offshore drilling activities, seismic operations for a
22 period of time. Because if you don't do that, you
23 deplete those resources from our take. You're not
24 depleting them from the world, but you're depleting
25 them from our take. You're putting them out of our
26 reach to bring that nutritional need to our
27 communities.

28

29 In the same way that's going on with
30 the caribou, we need to think like that even in times
31 of plenty. Let's say there's 400,000 Western Arctic
32 Caribou Herd but a group of cowboy mentality guides out
33 of Umiat and those guys, and I know these guys and
34 they're a real cowboy mentality. They hate regulators
35 like our inspectors and stuff coming around and say,
36 hey, we've got to check your catch and all that kind of
37 stuff. They don't really like us at all, but we know
38 they exist. They are also competing users of the same
39 path of these animals that need to come in reasonable
40 reach, reasonable harvest opportunities for our
41 communities to meet their nutritional needs. If we
42 don't do that, you're effectively depleting these
43 resources in an area where they're normally found.

44

45 So some creative writer that can do
46 what we did with the bowhead whales and have a
47 management program, say July 1 till October 15 this
48 area of migration from here to here is off limits to
49 hunting except for the subsistence use by the community
50 that's most impacted and has that nutritional

1 dependency on these animals and that's fully
2 documented.

3
4 I mean Anaktuvuk Pass is not dependent
5 on bowhead whales like Barrow is dependent on bowhead
6 whales. They're dependent on those caribou. They
7 don't want them when they're disturbed and been held
8 back by other competing non-resident users or Fairbanks
9 rich people with all kinds of airplanes that go land
10 all around the Killik and the Colville River area and
11 disturb the migration route.

12
13 You need to think about how we can make
14 that kind of thing and fix it just for a window of
15 opportunity. That doesn't sound like much, July 1 to
16 October 15, but it's the world to the guides, I'll tell
17 you that much. It's like we're asking for the whole
18 world when you look at that in their view, when we're
19 just trying to say these folks need to put food on the
20 table and these animals should be allowed to migrate
21 normally, uninterrupted.

22
23 After a certain amount of time, then
24 all hell break loose, you know, all the guides and
25 everybody, but making sure we put good regulations.
26 Like October 15, no more bulls, they're rutting, you
27 know. By December they're in survival stage, I'll tell
28 you that much. A big bull that's gone out and had a
29 harem and stuff like that and had to drop their antlers
30 to relieve themselves, I'll tell you that animal is
31 trying to recuperate from December, January. By the
32 time it's July his antlers are coming back and he's
33 going to do it all over again. That's the only time
34 they should have some bull activity.

35
36 So there's all kinds of different ways
37 to do conservation, but I think there is a nutritional
38 need even in times of plenty, issues for villages that
39 depend on the movement of caribou. I'll probably talk
40 on forever and forever. I'd like to express these in a
41 way that we shouldn't have fear expressing these types
42 of needs and being told you've already got a controlled
43 use area, which, by the way, I think it's not
44 effective.

45
46 All kinds of different airplanes and
47 different activities occur in the migration path. The
48 only interference that migration should have is by
49 nature, wolves and bears trying to hunt off of that
50 massive herd. If you think we're trying to do predator

1 control during a migration period, you're going to just
2 impact the movement of caribou, I think.

3

4 I'll stop there. I think it's a
5 mouthful and a lot said.

6

7 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. If I could
8 respond to some of Gordon's questions. This Council
9 did, as you recall, draft a proposal to the Board of
10 Game to address the Anaktuvuk Pass controlled use area.
11 It spent quite a bit of time to mirror that proposal on
12 the Noatak controlled use area to increase the time of
13 closure and also the access for hunting of other
14 animals that might potentially disturb the caribou
15 during that time. We did work closely with James
16 Nageak and James was, in turn, working closely with the
17 community of Anaktuvuk Pass and it was through some of
18 the discussion with North Slope Borough biologists who
19 had been a part of the process to establish that
20 original controlled use area and worked to get that
21 passed by the State Board of Game.

22

23 James did go back to his community and
24 checked with them and they had decided at that time
25 they wished for the Federal Subsistence Council, the
26 North Slope Council to not submit that proposal to the
27 Board of Game at that time out of concern, as you said,
28 that it might, given the current makeup of the Board,
29 open up the process and they were concerned about
30 losing the protections that they had in place.

31

32 It is still an option for this Council
33 to work on that proposal again back with the community
34 of Anaktuvuk Pass if the Council wishes. Right now the
35 current Proposal 202, which has been taken up by the
36 Board this week, we anticipate to have Geoff Carroll
37 come tomorrow. Again, apologies for the timing, that
38 we're going to miss some of you, and we'll get the
39 feedback for the action that the Board took. We also
40 have the comments from all of the State ACs that
41 weighed in on those proposals. So some of the
42 recommendations for conservation were similar to what
43 you've discussed here in terms of protecting bulls or
44 protecting calving grounds. Unfortunately, we won't
45 get that feedback until tomorrow.

46

47 This meeting, because of the current
48 timeline for the Federal subsistence wildlife proposals
49 with the opening until March 25th, this Council has
50 direct connection to the Federal Subsistence Board and

1 a direct connection to making Federal subsistence
2 wildlife proposals and the Board listens closely to
3 those. So now is the time for this Council, if you
4 wanted to develop or work on the Federal subsistence
5 proposals. Again, that just addresses the Federal
6 subsistence rules for rural residents. This would be
7 the opportunity to do that.

8

9 I don't know if Dave Yokel is online of
10 where that overlap of you addressed the concern of the
11 combined management of Teshekpuk and Western Arctic
12 Caribou Herds if there's opportunities through the
13 Federal subsistence proposal process to address how
14 that's managed. On Page 122 of your regulatory books
15 are the current regulations that are in place for
16 caribou in Unit 26 and they're combined for a take of
17 10 caribou per day in 26A from July 1st to June 30th
18 for rural subsistence residents of the region.

19

20 So I wanted to make sure if you had
21 recommendations for the Federal subsistence proposal
22 process, now is the time to do that. I know there was
23 some discussion of wanting to know what action was
24 taken place with the State Board of Game, if there were
25 any recommendations that might play off of those
26 actions.

27

28 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon.

31

32 MR. G. BROWER: I recall all the
33 dialogue and stuff with Anaktuvuk and I think the
34 community itself, you know, recommending that the RAC
35 not address the issues that they were having because of
36 exactly the same thing I'm telling you, because they've
37 been told at the community level you play around with
38 the controlled use area, we'll take it away. That's
39 the frame of mind that these folks -- let me collect my
40 thoughts.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: The
43 controlled use area of Anaktuvuk Pass.

44

45 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. I mean if you --
46 it's real easy to put frosting over a lot of the
47 dialogue in the communities when they've already been
48 impacted and when they've already been conditioned to
49 be afraid of any new changes and things like that. To
50 me, that's just alarming, very alarming to me. And I

1 don't want to do anything detrimental to that
2 community.

3
4 I know what they're going through
5 because I go to various different meetings in that
6 community, caribou and migratory patterns and these
7 things. Catching rutted caribou is the only ones
8 around left. Those kind of dialogue when they are
9 going on it just -- you know, how can we fix the
10 climate that they're in. How can the regulatory
11 climate be benefitting the community, not being
12 detrimental to it.

13
14 And as far as addressing qualified
15 Federal subsistence users on Federal public lands, I
16 would really like to hear from the biologists
17 themselves on the trend issues and their expected
18 decline. I've already heard that the Teshekpuk Herd,
19 which this community depends on. This community
20 depends on Teshekpuk Herd. If you go far enough,
21 you're going to get the outer periphery of the Western
22 Arctic Herd. I know that for a fact. The dependency
23 on Teshekpuk Herd animals around here is -- and I've
24 heard issues and concerns about the rate of decline,
25 especially on the Teshekpuk Herd and yet we still have
26 these liberal bag limits and things like this.

27
28 I wouldn't want to reduce my bag limit,
29 but I don't often ever harvest 10 a day. A lot of
30 times it's three or four a day because my son will get
31 three or four a day or my nephew will get three or four
32 a day and combined together we're 15 a day, you know.
33 So I think if everybody was going to the bag limit of
34 10 a day, me and my two sons we could get 30 a day. My
35 rack would be filled up and I'd need to call for
36 assistance to haul this meat back to town immediately
37 before it rots or some bugs get on it or something.

38
39 But those are the types of concerns I
40 would really like to learn more about from the
41 biologist just because there is issues that the State
42 has developed. They're the ones that do the population
43 counts and look at the trend over time and predation
44 and things like that. I would hope the Federal
45 agencies were doing as much as the State to monitor
46 these herds so that we can use our own land managers to
47 have effective feedback.

48
49 With that, you know, trying to have a
50 proposal in hand. My proposal would probably be

1 because of the Teshekpuk Herd. Looking at all of that
2 kind of issues in the primary use area over here, would
3 be nonresident use eliminated, you know, there's
4 nonresident use, and qualified rural subsistence users
5 with the bag limits. If you're a resident from
6 Fairbanks or from Anchorage or Kenai coming to use the
7 regulatory requirement of the Federal in these areas in
8 the way that they've been conditioned to by the State,
9 some educational process in place, hey, you can't be
10 doing these kind of things and you must live here and
11 prove that you live here in a rural community to
12 effectively reach your bag limit here.

13

14 If we're 10 a day, I think five a day
15 is good. I would think hunting females, viable
16 females, there's a lot of them walking around out there
17 that are very pregnant from maybe March 1 to August 30,
18 stay away from females. They're the ones that are
19 making the population increase by being available to
20 nurture the fawns. No hunting of fawns and female and
21 calf prohibited or something to that extent. From maybe
22 October 10 till at least December 1, maybe even until
23 January or February, the bulls shouldn't be hunted
24 because they're mating or maybe just till about
25 December 5. I think from October 10 to about December
26 5, around that area, they're dropping their antlers and
27 they're returning back to edibility anyway in my view.

28

29

30 You can actually get a fat bull and his
31 meat has come back to normal and you're not going to
32 die of gasation. It's a good time to hunt some of those
33 bulls at that time. They still are bull-looking, but
34 they just got no more antlers. And those kind of
35 things that we can do as conservation measures on our
36 part just for the Teshekpuk Herd. To my understanding,
37 we're going down to 30,000 now, you know, maybe 29,000.
38 If we have the serious bag limits we have today, we're
39 at a serious rate of decline for this thing on top of
40 the predators and other things that are taking their
41 toll on the herd.

42

43 So those would be some of my conveyance
44 to the rest of the board as, hey, we should do
45 something, you know. I kind of read 202 or something
46 from the State Board of Game discussing that maybe. Is
47 that Proposal 202 or something? And some comments from
48 other areas and not everybody agreeing on timeframes.
49 Obviously they've got their own timeframe to harvest a
50 few things, but up here I can tell you it's

1 predictable, you know. It's predictable.

2

3 I'll automatically quit and tell my son
4 don't shoot any of the bulls. If you shoot it, I'm
5 going to let you skin it and he'd probably pass out
6 anyway trying to skin that thing. Because my dad did
7 that to me once. I got a big bull and he said, hey,
8 you shouldn't catch those kind right now. It was
9 really big and it was bothering me while I was fishing.
10 I think it was trying to get close to me or something,
11 so I had to shoot it. He told me what did you do.
12 Well, I smelled its snout. He used to tell me (in
13 Inupiaq), they got a fruity smell now and you can tell
14 when you go to their snout and do that. And then he
15 said, all right, I don't know, maybe it's good, why
16 don't you go skin it and then you'll tell me when you
17 come back and bring it here. I skinned it, man, oh,
18 man, this is not normal.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MR. G. BROWER: I brought it back
23 underneath the bluff and I said, yeah, I got it, I
24 skinned it, it's down there. Okay, I'll go see it. He
25 went down there, he smelled it, he started laughing, he
26 said ahh ahh, you know, that's an awful smell.

27

28 But, anyway, aside from storytelling,
29 you know, these are traditional things. You stop
30 hunting bulls. The sport people, that's their primary
31 goal, when they're the biggest and strongest and
32 baddest and they're ramming and doing all of this
33 stuff. Boy, I got this thing and it was tearing up a
34 bigger one too, you know, and the story behind it.
35 Those are the things that differ from subsistence and
36 the ability to put it on the wall and mount it and have
37 a story behind it. Big difference between subsistence
38 and those kind of things.

39

40 So whatever we say in terms of
41 subsistence use comes from general logic of knowing
42 what's going on with the animal the certain time of the
43 year. If we're going to implement rules and create
44 them, by golly, we better educate the public very well,
45 from the middle schools to the high schools to
46 community forums, the planning commissions, the
47 assemblies, radio land, to these types of things
48 because we don't want to go back to, when, was it 1975
49 or '76 when, hey, you've got to quit hunting caribou
50 and we're going to give you beef in place of that.

1 By golly, if it goes back to that
2 level, you guys better be prepared to do some of that
3 stuff because the amount of food resource these
4 caribous provide for communities across the North Slope
5 is substantial. Just to take it away and not replace
6 it, that's a major hardship in itself. Hard enough to
7 go out hunting and getting these things. We may have
8 to consider looking to you guys to just lay down our
9 weapons and become herders again like in the '20s and
10 '30s. You know, reindeer is a proven track record of a
11 stable food source if they don't run away from you.

12
13 Anyway, I'll quiet down and get off my
14 -- put on my steam cover so I won't steam out my ears
15 anymore.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do you have
18 any response back, Eva?

19
20 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
21 I don't want to interrupt the discussion, but one thing
22 that might be an option so that we have all of Gordon's
23 recommendations here today and have opportunity for the
24 Council to hear the caribou updates and for Harry to
25 join us tomorrow, I could draft up the recommendations
26 you've spoken of today and email that to you so you
27 have it tomorrow morning. If you have an opportunity
28 to participate via email or even come on teleconference
29 for a bit, we could bring that proposal then before the
30 Council and the Council will be able to have more
31 deliberation on it if you would like for some of those
32 recommendations to be incorporated into a proposal to
33 the Federal Subsistence Board.

34
35 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Madame Chair.
36 The reason I'm expressing these is it's going to be a
37 hit or miss if I try to call. Somebody would need to
38 actually maybe text me or something, hey, we're on
39 this, dadadadada. I think it would be your time to
40 just call in because I'm going to be stuck in some
41 other important meetings.

42
43 I think this is serious enough concerns
44 to hear what Geoff Carroll is going to say about the
45 caribou, what the Board of Game is doing or proposing
46 from other areas and what's good for us and what's
47 common sense for us up here. Using common sense
48 tactics up here from our end can do a lot to conserve.
49 It's just a matter of education and telling folks this
50 is what we have to deal with. That's the intent for me

1 to just spew out as much as I could. Perhaps, you
2 know, Bob or Lee or Rosemary hears these concerns and
3 be able to express them if I'm not here, but that's
4 their prerogative if it came to some recommendation.

5
6 Those would be my recommendations for
7 Teshekpuk Herd. I think they might be a little
8 slightly different for Western Arctic Herd, but not
9 every one of those caribous is going to have a sign on
10 their head saying I'm over here, I'm Western Arctic
11 Herd, kill 40 of me. No, I'm over here and I'm
12 Teshekpuk Herd, you can only kill three of me.

13
14 You know, those kinds of things.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you,
17 Gordon. I think that was very helpful and gave broad
18 areas of considerations and ways that we can make
19 recommendations to help with the recovery of these
20 herds. Do we have any additional comments or
21 discussion.

22
23 MR. KUNAKNANA: Madame Chair.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Sam, go
26 ahead.

27
28 MR. KUNAKNANA: Yes, you know, after
29 listening to Gordon talk about the caribou, Teshekpuk,
30 I'd like to talk about the Teshekpuk Herd and the
31 Central Arctic Herd. Since we're talking about
32 recommendations and trying to get the population back
33 up, I think one thing we need to take into
34 consideration that plays a factor in impacting the
35 caribou herds that come around this area, is that we
36 really need to look into the flights, the choppers that
37 fly around our region that impact and disperse the
38 herds out into clumps here and there.

39
40 My thinking on what I've seen and what
41 the kids have seen around our region when it comes to
42 hunting caribou around the Colville River or the
43 Miluveach Channel, the kids have noticed that there's a
44 lot of chopper flights that deter the caribou and
45 disperse them into small clumps. Before development
46 started around this area, we used to see 10,000 strong
47 herds come by. Nowadays it's only three to five
48 hundred at a time.

49
50 My recommendation would be to have

1 State and Federal look into the flights that fly around
2 this area doing the studies and try and minimize most
3 of the flights so that they don't impact the caribous.
4 That would be one of my recommendations to look into.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do we have
9 further comments.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: I agree,
14 Eva, that it's really important to capture the
15 discussion that's being put forward. I also agree that
16 we need to create a process in which there is an
17 interaction in various decision-making processes that
18 affect decisions around important times of caribou.
19 One of my big concerns was that we were telling our
20 hunters to be concerned about our caribou population,
21 there's a decline and consider hunting less, but yet
22 there was nothing done to affect other land use
23 decisions that were causing impacts to important
24 caribou reproduce times, such as three seismic
25 activities that were allowed to occur this year.

26

27 One of the participants even stated
28 that there was too much activity out here and had
29 considered restricting their own actions because of
30 difficulties of trying to perform their wants and
31 desires of why they were up here. We have many
32 processes that are out there that are looking at the
33 various layers of decision-making within our state and
34 region that is greatly affecting whether or not we can
35 effectively put forward recommendations that are
36 protective of our traditional way of life.

37

38 We have our traditional way of life
39 that we can put in communications to our families and
40 our hunters and our communities about the way that we
41 hunt and harvest that doesn't necessarily mean that the
42 State and Federal government are going to support these
43 recommendations, but we are already doing these kinds
44 of activities. I've been talking with my sons about
45 their hunting activities and the animals to get and the
46 importance of allowing the reproduction to occur and
47 keeping those animals healthy. That's something we've
48 been doing in other villages. It's part of our way of
49 life.

50

1 The recommendations that we're putting
2 into this process are recommendations that are going to
3 be enforceable by others that are coming in here with
4 land use regulatory enforcement processes that are here
5 and that's very concerning because our traditional way
6 of life is at risk with laws and enforcement that are
7 making our way of life illegal.

8
9 Traditional way of life did not create
10 some of these concerns, but our traditional way of life
11 is at risk with the decisions that are before us. We
12 do not have enough animals for us to continue to hunt
13 at the levels that we have been hunting them at as well
14 as others coming to our lands and waters to hunt and
15 harvest them. That is the important process before us.

16
17 We heard recommendations from Mr.
18 Brower on ways that we could consider putting in
19 regulations to affect this. We can have stronger
20 regulations than what the State or Federal government
21 put in as proposals if we choose to do so. My thoughts
22 are that we need to be as protective as we can of this
23 population, but also be as protective as we can of our
24 traditional way of life and the importance of our
25 families and our villages feeding our families from our
26 lands and waters.

27
28 That's where we're at, at a crossroad
29 right here with this discussion. We have to make
30 changes and the discussion is what are those changes
31 going to be. We want to make sure that our families do
32 have food for their tables because I know many of our
33 employment opportunities do not allow us to have year-
34 round incomes that give us the hopes of being able to
35 replace the loss of harvest from these lands and waters
36 from the stores that we have in our villages or not.
37 That's what we could try to consider to purchase with
38 other means, such as food stamps, does not meet our
39 nutritional needs and that's the reality of it.

40
41 Some of our villages do not have stores
42 that our people can go and try to purchase foods.
43 Trying to get food from other places sent up add on
44 extreme cost with freight and shipping as well as the
45 quality of those foods when they come through these
46 services of postal trucking and delays does not always
47 make the food that gets in palatable as our traditional
48 foods are. It's a real concern that we have to discuss
49 as we go forward.

50

1 It's not just numbers of how many can
2 we get. It's the reality of the nutritional needs of
3 our people are at risk and whether or not we're going
4 to be able to meet our village needs with efforts to
5 change these regulatory enforcements as well as some of
6 our people may have legal repercussions because of
7 these actions.

8
9 I know that we have further
10 presentations and discussions that are going to come
11 out of this process. If we have no further comments
12 coming from our Council, Eva, what is the
13 recommendation on where we should move forward?

14
15 MR. G. BROWER: I have one last
16 comment.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Go ahead,
19 Gordon.

20
21 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I know it's good
22 to make sure we're clear in what we're saying because
23 the biologists and traditional folks really know what
24 the issues are and the physicality of animals up here.
25 I'm, for one, one of those that -- I'm also a regulator
26 in permitting activities through the North Slope
27 Borough system in much the same way as BLM or State DNR
28 in promoting activities to minimize activities.

29
30 We're very cognizant of having to
31 balance things. Then we have to be able to use
32 traditional knowledge where it's applicable. You know,
33 when the rut starts, we know that, it starts in October
34 and ends in December. We know when winter construction
35 season for activities to occur is when the opening of
36 Tundra Travel occurs. Nowadays it's, you know, January
37 1st or something like that.

38
39 We've got to be careful as to how we
40 portray temporary development activities versus real
41 infrastructure being placed and construction periods
42 because everybody knows what's going on with most of
43 the changes in reproductive activities of our animals.

44
45 And one more thing to say about
46 traditional knowledge. Everything I said to somebody
47 else that doesn't have traditional knowledge is very
48 serious conservation measures and it's not reducing
49 what I should be harvesting. It's reducing and
50 conveying to others go by traditional knowledge and

1 make traditional knowledge into law is all I'm saying.

2

3

4 I don't hunt the caribou big bulls in
5 this time of the period. They're terrible to eat. I
6 don't like to hunt the females because they're really
7 round and pregnant and they've got -- you know, I've
8 caught one like that before. It's not a good feeling
9 when you're butchering a caribou and its got a little
10 fetus in there, you know, to the point where I actually
11 cried when I harvested one like that and had to flesh
12 it out and all that.

13

14 There's only one time I've heard, but
15 this was eons ago, you know, that there used to be a
16 period of time to get yearlings. One year old calves
17 in July to make clothing. They had the nice fur and it
18 wasn't as thick as big bulls or anything like that. It
19 was just very nice fur, but nobody ever does that
20 anymore. But there was a period of time where there
21 was a time to get some of these yearling calves for
22 clothing, but that time has past. I've always wanted
23 to harvest some to make traditional garments for
24 blanket toss, you know, to get the nice-looking
25 traditional garments and maybe that should be one of
26 the only exceptions is you can get a yearling for
27 traditional festival garments because of the quality of
28 the fur.

29

30 Everything I've said in terms of these
31 conservation measures are rooted in traditional
32 activities, what we've seen as a ways to hunt. I'm
33 sure there's a few more out there, means and methods,
34 but I thought it's worth and I think it goes a long
35 ways into conveying rule-makers. Hey, look at these
36 guys, they don't want to hunt any bulls from this time
37 and they're telling us. By golly, they don't want to
38 hunt the big bulls with the big horns from this period
39 to this period. It seems like we're giving up a lot
40 when actually we don't even do it. We're just
41 conveying to the rest of the world.

42

43 Anyway, those are just a little bit
44 more clarification I wanted to add to that.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you,

49 Gordon. Eva.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
2 I want to support fully the discussions of the Council
3 here and the concerns you've brought up, Gordon, and
4 encourage the Council to be as creative as possible in
5 putting forth the proposals that you envision that you
6 feel would respond to your and your communities' local
7 and traditional knowledge, will provide conservation
8 measures and also are sensitive to the understanding of
9 the needs of the community as well. By all means,
10 don't second guess your recommendations. Please do put
11 forth what you envision and the Council too in
12 discussion tomorrow further.

13
14 MR. G. BROWER: Just one more along the
15 line of exactly what you're talking about and just to
16 convey a little bit. Just like when we've been told
17 you open up a can of worms, like the controlled use
18 area, we're going to take it away from you. Same
19 mentality I'm going to have. If we don't try to do
20 this kind of conservation measures that use traditional
21 knowledge, they're going to impose different kind of
22 regulations on us that are going to be more harsh and
23 when the food is right to eat too.

24
25 If we do the conservation measures
26 using traditional knowledge when the food is terrible
27 or it's not as -- and we know there's consequences in
28 harvesting pregnant females and lactating cow with a
29 calf and things like that, I think we're well ahead of
30 the game with these conservation measures, otherwise
31 Geoff Carroll or Lincoln or some other wildlife
32 biologist say, hey, this has declined so much we need
33 to do this. It may differ from traditional knowledge
34 use, but I think we offer a very good way of doing
35 things.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you,
38 Gordon.

39
40 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
41 So, again, we'll take up wildlife proposals tomorrow
42 and we'll hear full reports from both Geoff and we'll
43 have Dave Yokel online as well for the caribou. We had
44 moved the agenda a bit. We had hoped to have James
45 Nageak on with us this afternoon. I think he's
46 attending to his community. Just to check in. James,
47 have you joined us online?

48
49 (No response)
50

1 MS. PATTON: So maybe what we'll do if
2 James might have an opportunity to join us later, Marcy
3 was going to provide updates on sheep and the community
4 harvest for Anaktuvuk Pass. Maybe we'll delay that
5 until tomorrow or the next day if James is able to join
6 us later in the meeting. We can move on to other
7 action items, some we may want to revisit with Harry as
8 well tomorrow.

9
10 While we have Gordon here, we have
11 Brendan Scanlon who is on the agenda under new
12 business. We have the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
13 Program and then the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
14 project updates. I don't know if any of you have seen
15 the calendar. Gordon is an avid subsistence fisher.
16 We have a handful of these calendars from the North
17 Slope Science Initiative. Denny Lassuy had an
18 opportunity to work with some folks specifically and
19 Gordon shared his fishing picture.

20
21 This would be an opportunity also if
22 Brendan wanted to share some of his updates on the
23 Fisheries Resource Monitoring projects that he's been
24 engaged with, to have that dialogue on fisheries this
25 afternoon as the Council wishes.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: What's the
28 wish of the Council.

29
30 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair. I think
31 we should listen to it.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: I agree.
34 All right. Brendan, thank you.

35
36 MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
37 Members of the Council. Once again, my name is Brendan
38 Scanlon. I'm an area management biologist for
39 Department of Fish and Game. I'm a fish biologist.
40 The area I work in is Northwest and North Slope, so I
41 spend a lot of time in Nome and Unalakleet, Kotzebue in
42 the summer. I don't get up here as much as I'd like
43 to.

44
45 Recently we've been doing some work on
46 Dolly Varden and we've submitted three proposals to OSM
47 for funding to do work up here. While Mr. Brower is
48 here I just thought I'd mention them and maybe make a
49 comment on the whitefish that he spoke about earlier.

50

1 The three projects that we are going to
2 talk about tomorrow in the slide show, one has to do
3 with looking at lake trout over by Anaktuvuk Pass.
4 We're going to try to get estimate of abundance and
5 we're using radiotelemetry to look at movement in and
6 out of the lakes and see if we can locate important
7 spawning areas. Lake trout spawn in large aggregations
8 close to shore at night, so we'd like to be able to
9 identify those areas.

10

11 Another one has to do with grayling on
12 the Colville between Umiat and Nuiqsut. This was not
13 on the priority information needs list, but Karen Hyer,
14 the fish biologist with OSM, suggested this to me, that
15 there was some concern with people in Nuiqsut about
16 grayling. So we're again going to use radio tags to
17 look for the summer movements, spawning and
18 overwintering areas and if there's a period of time
19 where the fish are pretty stationary maybe we can
20 develop a study area to get a measure of abundance.

21

22 The third one has got to do with Dolly
23 Varden and this one is strictly aerial surveys. It's
24 one we try to do when we can. It's using a helicopter
25 to count Dolly Varden right before freeze-up in the
26 fall in the Anaktuvuk, Canning, Ivishak, Hulahula and
27 Kongakut Rivers. We like to do this four years in a
28 row. These are just counts right before freeze-up and
29 it will give us a magnitude of the abundance to see if
30 there's a lot or if there's a few fish. We think
31 that's kind of important. We haven't done any of these
32 in about 10 years.

33

34 The reason we did not submit a proposal
35 to do any whitefish research was -- talking with Todd
36 Sformo, who is the Borough biologist for Department of
37 Wildlife, he was going to submit one, I believe, to
38 look at some of the causes of the fungus on broad
39 whitefish specifically. I was hoping he'd be here
40 today. I'd talk to him a little bit more. I didn't
41 want to compete with him for that project and it was
42 his idea, so I wanted him to run with that.

43

44 Maybe just a quick word on this fungus
45 that people are seeing more and more of. It's probably
46 what's called Saprolegnia. It's a water mold and it's
47 pretty ubiquitous. It's in the water at all times and
48 it spends most of its life eating dead vegetation, but
49 it can attack fish. It's what's called a secondary
50 infection on fish. So typically healthy fish will swim

1 around and never get it, but if the fish is stressed
2 nutritionally or its immune system has been compromised
3 or if it has a wound, like a seal bite, that gives a
4 pathway for the mold to attack the fish. Temperature
5 stress is also probably another big reason.

6
7 I suspect that's what's going on, but
8 just an observation at this point. Todd should get
9 more information I imagine. There's nothing you can do
10 about it. It will eventually kill the fish depending
11 on how healthy it is. It may live a while, but they
12 can't shake it and eventually it will kill the fish.

13
14 We saw something similar last summer.
15 We had a very big die-off on the Kobuk River. I don't
16 know if anybody is familiar with it. The water was
17 very low and warm last August and there was a huge
18 algae bloom that occurred almost drainage wide and it
19 also happened in some of the tributaries and we had
20 thousands of dead chum salmon that had not spawned that
21 were found floating downriver and they had had presence
22 of the same mold on them.

23
24 There wasn't much we could do about it.
25 We did do some aerial surveys later and did see lots of
26 chum salmon still alive in the spawning areas that we
27 would like to see them at. It was probably the biggest
28 chum run in seven years. There was probably over a
29 million fish. There's probably not a population level
30 effect. We really didn't have a coordinator response
31 and I think we caught a little bit of bad PR,
32 rightfully so, for not jumping on it sooner. We've got
33 a more coordinated response plan now with the biologist
34 at Selawik Refuge and Department of Fish and Game if
35 this ever happens again.

36
37 We do have a pathology lab in Anchorage
38 that can examine fish if people have fish with some
39 mystery sore or a deformity and they would like a
40 pathologist to look at it. Perhaps I could speak to
41 Geoff tomorrow maybe about coordinating getting that to
42 Anchorage. Generally we like to get these fish not
43 frozen, but packed on ice in a cooler and if you send
44 your cooler, I'll buy you a new one or send that one
45 back to you somehow. It is, of course, no cost and it
46 will go through a comprehensive pathology report and
47 we'll find out exactly what's wrong with the fish.

48
49 I guess that's all I have for now. I
50 can take any questions while Mr. Brower is here or we

1 could just wait until the slide show tomorrow.

2

3 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon.

6

7 MR. G. BROWER: Well, I know I'm going
8 to leave tomorrow, but it's getting kind of old, like
9 I'm real special or something. While Mr. Brower is
10 here, while Mr. Brower is here.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 MR. G. BROWER: Well, anyway, it would
15 be interesting what your proposal of a fish study would
16 have been in terms of what Todd's -- and I've emailed
17 to Todd and Craig about fish and fish proposal
18 deadlines and stuff, sending to the villages. Hey,
19 guys, there's some funding out there to do some
20 investigative work. There's some concerns out of
21 Wainwright on smelt while the communities outcry on the
22 health and reproductive issues around smelt in the
23 inlet right there while active gravel mining is going
24 on before they do any more potential harm to see the
25 health and why the smelt come there all the time. If
26 gravel mining from the Topkok Bar and just this area
27 where proposed mining is going on has become an issue
28 over there.

29

30 If that's in the radar of any of you
31 guys, then the other is just what we've been talking
32 about and it comes up in community meetings in Nuiqsut.
33 Every time there's a meeting, whether it's the RAB
34 meeting or some other meeting, the issue of fish mold
35 and that it's in the environment. I mean can you go to
36 the Ikpikpuk River and take a sample of the river and
37 you're going to find that same piece of mold milling
38 around in the river and is it in a dormant stage or is
39 it in an active stage and those kind of things,
40 including maybe even looking at what the environment is
41 over there in terms of thaw bulbs.

42

43 There's incredible thaw bulbs along
44 these rivers that exist and industry likes to call them
45 thaw stable sections where you can put pipelines in.
46 The Trans-Alaska Pipeline is in about 30 miles of this
47 thaw stable regime in these river channels. The Trans-
48 Alaska Pipeline has been producing oil in that kind of
49 environment for 40 years now, but I think it's
50 susceptible to or should be reviewed for susceptibility

1 of increased temperature that could cause an algae
2 bloom or fungus and compare that with other deltas that
3 have no development and no infrastructure. Maybe
4 that's one way to figure some of these things out.

5
6 I don't really have any answers for
7 these. I just know that we try to brainstorm with some
8 of our scientists.

9
10 Other than that that's all I wanted to
11 add.

12
13 MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Mr. Brower.
14 You mentioned Wainwright and any fish research going on
15 over there. We don't always do a great job of
16 communicating what we're doing to people and this might
17 be one case. The Habitat Division of Fish and Game
18 recently finished a pretty large fish project over
19 there in the Kuk and Kungok Rivers I believe it is
20 dealing mostly with two different species of whitefish,
21 grayling and burbot, mostly with radiotelemetry, but
22 they also did a bunch of water quality sampling. I
23 imagine they caught some smelt and they have some
24 insight into what's going on over there with smelt.
25 That's about all I know about that project, but if
26 there is a report out, I can get that to the Council
27 once I get back to Fairbanks.

28
29 So your concern about temperature data
30 is a good one and it's something we don't do a great
31 job of right now. The National Weather Service has a
32 few gauging stations on some rivers in the North Slope
33 and I believe they take temperature data there as well.
34 Climate change is happening and it's happening quicker
35 up here than anywhere else.

36
37 I probably need to figure out how to
38 buy a bunch of temperature gauges and deploy them and
39 who would be in charge of them. It's something the
40 Fish and Wildlife Service and I have talked about in
41 the past, trying to start some long-term datasets on
42 water temperature. So I don't have a better answer
43 than that, but it's a legitimate concern and it's
44 something we take seriously and it's something we'll
45 follow up on. Thanks.

46
47 MR. SHEARS: Madame Chair.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Bob.
50

1 MR. SHEARS: Thanks for that briefing,
2 Brendan. Just give you a little more information on
3 Wainwright. The study in Wainwright where they
4 actually did the telemetry, the tagging and the
5 population studies with the netting was further
6 upriver. The smelt fishery that Gordon is referring to
7 is in the saltwater/freshwater mixing zone right at the
8 mouth of the river and the ocean. I don't know what
9 the USF&W fisheries -- what fish is in your region of
10 concern and study? Would you concern yourself, for
11 instance, with halibut or are you looking more at the
12 freshwater tributaries and the freshwater fish, the
13 andromedas fish? I'm trying to understand your realm
14 of study. Where is the delineation between USF&W and,
15 say, for instance, NOAA?

16
17 MR. SCANLON: Sure, thanks. Halibut is
18 managed Federally. There's a specific Halibut
19 Commission. I don't believe -- at least my division
20 does any halibut research. We do harvest monitoring.
21 Yeah, I'm not involved with strictly marine species
22 very much. Basically anything people eat is what my
23 division is concerned with, so we don't do a lot of
24 black fish or stickleback research. Not to say they're
25 not important.

26
27 So I work for Sport Fish Division, so
28 usually I deal with stuff that people actually like to
29 go fish for. When funding comes up such as this
30 through OSM, we have the expertise to do some of these
31 projects on things such as whitefish or species that
32 aren't popular sport fish. There's not a lot of sport
33 fishing that goes on on the North Slope anyway.

34
35 So Federal fisheries biologists
36 generally work on Federal lands or fish that swim
37 through Federal lands, like king salmon. You know,
38 they come in the Yukon and go through three or four
39 different parcels of Federal land before they end up in
40 Canada, so they can do research on species like that.
41 When we can, at least in the Fairbanks offices, Fish
42 and Wildlife, Fish and Game have a good relationship
43 and work together on a lot of things, particularly
44 right now sheefish in the Northwest on Selawik and
45 Kobuk Rivers. We have a cooperative project there.

46
47 The projects that we're proposing to do
48 are all on Federal land and so we will invite the
49 Federal agencies to be cooperator, at least come visit
50 the projects. We also have for these projects budgeted

1 money for students with the Alaska Native Science and
2 Engineering Program to come out and work as
3 technicians. If we can't get one of those, because
4 some of these projects run into the fall during the
5 school year, we'll use that money for local hires.

6

7 Thanks.

8

9 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon.

12

13 MR. G. BROWER: Just to follow on the
14 same dialogue here. In particular with the smelt fish,
15 it is a fish that people like to fish and you mentioned
16 that. It's very -- I think it's a heavily traded fish,
17 traditional trade activities. I've traded for smelt
18 fish from community of Wainwright and traded my own
19 whitefish for some over that way. So it fits to part
20 of your category, the responsibility to make sure there
21 is a healthy stock and being able to know what would
22 impact a healthy stock is going on in Wainwright.

23

24 The community, through the planning
25 commission, has expressed, hey, quit mining this gravel
26 in an area next to heavy smelt fishing activities and
27 getting into the water level mining until you can
28 figure out what you're doing to the smelt. We know
29 Wainwright for smelt. It's what we know Wainwright is
30 about; caribou and smelt. You know, it's a big
31 activity in that community.

32

33 The need for community development,
34 subdivisions and the need for gravel resources is
35 needing to figure out what's the life cycle of the
36 smelt and what are they doing when they're so available
37 over there. Are they spawning, are they just milling
38 around and hanging out and are we going to impact them
39 if we want to put a subdivision in and mine the gravel
40 from this area. So is that something that can easily
41 compete for monitoring and studies program with a
42 fisheries proposal? You know, it's on land inward a
43 little bit in the water exchange area.

44

45 So those are the questions I have.
46 There's an expectation I think of the community for the
47 Wildlife Department to look at this or somebody to look
48 at this and say, hey, don't mine here, you're going to
49 disrupt the smelt fishing and it may never come back
50 for this community if you continue this process of

1 mining these areas for community development needs and
2 have to find a more suitable location to mine for these
3 types of activities. I'd like to hear your thoughts on
4 those things.

5
6 MR. SHEARS: What Council Member Brower
7 has mentioned maybe some of you in the audience aren't
8 so close to this mining operation he's talking about as
9 we are. What he's not telling you is the Corps of
10 Engineers permitted the village corporation there to go
11 in and mine the river bottom. This is not a mine
12 that's up on the side of the hill or away from the
13 river. This is a mine that's in the river, in the fish
14 environment, in the fish habitat.

15
16 The material coming out -- for those of
17 you that are unfamiliar with the geology and geography
18 around Wainwright, upriver there's a number of coal
19 mines that have been exploited by the Federal
20 government since the turn of the century, coal mines
21 one through six. These coal mines provided the fuel
22 for the revenue cutters until the 1920s and '30s.
23 These coal mines now are just simply used for
24 subsistence, but these are huge, exposed seams of coal
25 that has naturally been eroded by the river system and
26 the bedding of the river is made of compositions of
27 silt and coal, layered in coal.

28
29 So this material -- the mining
30 operation is to go out onto the ice in the winter, cut
31 the ice with the heavy excavators and pull the material
32 up off the bottom of the river and pile it on the ice
33 and then it's frozen all the way to the bottom. The
34 river is three to four feet deep. When it's frozen,
35 it's dry material underneath. They're not working in
36 water when they're mining. They pull it up in the
37 wintertime, they haul it with dump trucks up into the
38 higher ground, they stockpile it, they dry it, they ice
39 road it into town and they use it for construction
40 material.

41
42 The material lately that's coming out
43 is so full of coal dust and so full of coals that it
44 doesn't meet engineering specifications for compaction
45 and the Borough is not even buying it from them or
46 other clients. They want to continue mining this. The
47 Corps of Engineers, of course, has permitted them to do
48 it, but the locals are now starting to realize that the
49 fishery is being impacted. This area that's
50 surrounding this area near the mouth of the river that

1 is a winter fishery for smelt and it has been for a
2 century.

3

4 When the guys brought the caribou up,
5 drove the caribous up from Teller to relieve the
6 stranded whalers in Barrow back at the turn of the
7 century, they remarked in their journals in their entry
8 that when they came through Wainwright everybody was
9 down at the lagoon catching fish so crazy that they
10 didn't have time, they didn't even want any of the
11 caribou, the skinny caribou that these guys were
12 driving. They were catching fish like crazy and they
13 didn't even have time to help them.

14

15 Well, anyway, to get onto it, the fish
16 -- the locations, the hotspots where the fish are,
17 these fish are dense as sardines. They school in tens
18 of thousands. If you're in a school of smelts, you
19 can't put a hook in the water fast enough and you're
20 pulling them up and shaking them off, but when the
21 school moves on, you've got nothing and you will get
22 nothing until the school comes back.

23

24 Trying to follow where it's at you've
25 got to be attentive to the weather. The wind, the
26 temperature, the condition of the moon, the state of
27 the tide all play a part in where the schools are.
28 They move back and forth from right at the very mouth
29 of the river, right at the transition with the ocean,
30 to five miles inland up by the dew line up the river is
31 the range of where they can be at any given hour. But
32 that area that's just a half mile in from the ocean is
33 a comfortable transition zone where you can get them
34 coming and going and that is right where they're
35 mining.

36

37 Now the community you have to go either
38 out closer to the ocean and they're getting less or
39 you've got to go way up to the end by the dew line and
40 they're getting less. The hot spot is gone and the
41 community is feeling impacted and they're wondering why
42 this fishery was never studied in the first place.
43 Perhaps it wasn't even on the radar of the fishery
44 biologist that didn't even realize that that was a
45 subsistence resource, a very important subsistence
46 resource.

47

48 So I'll leave you with that with more
49 information to expand on what Gordon was trying to
50 explain to you.

1 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do you have
2 a response?

3
4 MR. SCANLON: Wow. I just learned a
5 lot. I did not know the extent of the importance of
6 smelt in Wainwright. Like you said, it hasn't been on
7 my radar, I'm afraid. Not to say that it's not
8 important.

9
10 So I don't know what other proposals
11 have been submitted for funding. There might have been
12 a smelt one from a contractor or the Borough Wildlife
13 Department. We did not submit one for smelt. I'm not
14 aware of any Fish and Game smelt projects around the
15 state. Not to say they haven't been done, but I don't
16 know of any.

17
18 I know this mine probably had to get a
19 bunch of permits from Habitat Division, especially if
20 they're working in the river itself, so it must be on
21 their radar. I'm sorry. The best I could probably do
22 is speak to Habitat biologist who permitted this
23 project and express your concerns to them and see if
24 they're aware of it, if there's some kind of response
25 they can do.

26
27 The call for proposals is closed now.
28 It ended last week, so it's too late for us to change
29 anything, but it's not to say you couldn't in the next
30 round address smelt research and probably want to do it
31 in conjunction with the Borough's Wildlife Department.
32 They have a lot more experience with smelt than Fish
33 and Game does, I guess.

34
35 In any case, that's all I have to offer
36 right now.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do we have
39 any other comments or discussion. Eva.

40
41 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. If I may
42 respond to questions and concerns for the subsistence
43 fishery in-river at Wainwright. Brendan has responded
44 to some of the questions, so the project proposals are
45 under the Federal Subsistence Resource Monitoring
46 Program and the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.
47 There are guidelines for what research it will cover
48 and there is limitation that we do -- once we're out
49 beyond the nearshore zone, that gets out into National
50 Marine Fishery Service territory.

1 As you know, myself and Karen Hyer have
2 been working with the Council to get this sort of
3 feedback so that we can either incorporate this
4 specific information into the call for proposals. If
5 it's not something that can be specifically covered
6 through this particular research grant to help network
7 and reach out to others, I'm assuming there's probably
8 many others who are not familiar with what you've just
9 shared today in this detail also.

10

11 I don't know if Karen Hyer is still
12 online. She'll be on just to give some brief updates
13 on the FRMP process, but we can certainly take this
14 information back and also network to see if not the
15 FRMP, then what other grants and agencies would be able
16 to address this. Clearly it's subsistence fisheries
17 and migratory resources are something that is covered
18 under the FRMP.

19

20 There won't be another call until next
21 year, but there's a lot of folks doing initiatives and
22 we have staff here from the Arctic Council who also
23 work with the Council of Arctic Flora and Fauna. So
24 there's different mechanisms to get this information
25 out to make sure that those subsistence needs are made
26 aware of. If not the FRMP, then another process to get
27 the research done.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.
32 Where do we need to go next. Oh, do we have any
33 further discussion on the phone around the fishery
34 discussion that's been occurring?

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: All right.
39 Thank you. We'll take a 15-minute break. Ten-minute
40 break.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 (Off record)

45

46 (On record)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Come on up
49 for your presentation. If you could introduce yourself
50 and what you're presenting.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. GLASPELL: Good afternoon, Madame
4 Chair and members of the Council. My name is Brian
5 Glaspell. I'm the Refuge Manager at Arctic National
6 Wildlife Refuge. I'm here this afternoon to talk to
7 you about a proposed package of regulatory changes that
8 would apply to all the National Wildlife Refuges in
9 Alaska, Arctic as well as the 15 other Refuges.

10

11 Also on the phone I believe is Heather
12 Thomason. She's in Anchorage in our regional office
13 and she's been leading the effort to put this package
14 together and so she'll be available to answer questions
15 when we get to that point. I have just about 10 slides
16 here and I'll move through them fairly quickly and then
17 we can dive into the questions if you have any.

18

19 So the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
20 is considering updating regulations that govern how we
21 manage -- well, let me back up a moment here. This is
22 an effort that's been going on for some time. What I'm
23 doing here today is updating you on something that we
24 initiated more than six months ago, so I want to
25 emphasize that this is not the first time that anybody
26 should be hearing about this. We started last fall.
27 We began by mailing letters to tribal organizations
28 across the state, we made presentations to RACs and a
29 bunch of other groups in October and we received a lot
30 of feedback and made changes as a result. So what you
31 see here is the latest iteration of an ongoing effort.
32 This effort is ultimately to address and clarify the
33 mandates that we operate under for managing fish and
34 wildlife in their natural diversity on National
35 Wildlife Refuges.

36

37 So we're required to conserve species
38 and habitats on Refuges for the long term, benefitting
39 not just Alaskans, but all Americans, present and
40 future generations. In Alaska, this includes ensuring
41 the opportunity for continued subsistence uses of fish,
42 wildlife and plants.

43

44 ANILCA, which you're all very familiar
45 with, requires that we manage wildlife consistent with
46 the conservation of healthy populations. That's
47 actually defined for us in the legislative history of
48 ANILCA. That phrase means maintenance of fish and
49 wildlife resources in their habitats in a condition
50 which assures stable and continuing natural populations

1 and species mix of plants and animals.

2

3 So what we're proposing to do is update
4 regulations that specifically govern the sport or
5 general hunting on National Wildlife Refuges as well as
6 related regulations that address our temporary and
7 permanent closure procedures and I'll go through that
8 in a little more detail here.

9

10 The first part that I mentioned
11 pertains to really clarifying our existing mandates for
12 the conservation of natural diversity, biological
13 diversity, biological integrity and environmental
14 health on Refuges in Alaska specifically in relation to
15 predator harvest. This part would amend current
16 Federal regulations governing non-subsistence hunting
17 and trapping of wildlife. These are regulations that
18 are found in Chapter 50, Part 36 of the Code of Federal
19 Regulations.

20

21 You can see here on this slide, the
22 slide says predator reduction activities with the
23 intent or potential to alter or manipulate the natural
24 diversity of species populations or habitats, such as
25 artificially increasing or decreasing wildlife
26 populations to provide for more harvest opportunity,
27 would be prohibited on Refuges in Alaska.

28

29 Now, of course, under certain
30 circumstances we do engage in predator management or
31 predator control on National Wildlife Refuges. Those
32 are typically in cases where there's a real
33 conservation concern, a threatened or endangered
34 species and we're trying to recover that or where
35 there's an introduced predator, like foxes on islands
36 in the Aleutians that just make it impossible to
37 recover sea bird species.

38

39 In this general category of clarifying
40 our mandates on Refuges, the proposed changes in our
41 regulations would prohibit specific methods and means
42 for predator harvest. There are five specific
43 prohibitions here. This first one, take of bear cubs
44 or sows with cubs, there are exceptions that apply in
45 areas where this is a traditional practice. It
46 specifically will continue to be allowed in the
47 proposed rule.

48

49 Take of brown bears over bait. This
50 has something that's long been prohibited under State

1 regulation and only newly has been authorized in some
2 areas. This also would be prohibited on Refuges. Take
3 of bears using traps or snares. Take of wolves and
4 coyotes during the denning season. Same day airborne
5 take of bears. I should note that same day airborne
6 take of wolves and wolverines is already prohibited on
7 Refuges. This change would add bears to that existing
8 prohibition.

9

10 Originally we had a much longer list of
11 proposed prohibitions for various methods and means,
12 but as a result of the feedback that we received
13 starting back in October we cut that list down from
14 about 16 to the five that you see here. If you've been
15 following this process from the beginning, you may
16 remember that we also had included a section in an
17 earlier draft that would have authorized collection of
18 some natural resource materials on Refuges. We decided
19 to remove that from this proposed set of regulations to
20 keep it simple and to avoid confusing the issue. This
21 is really, once again, about clarifying our mandates
22 with respect to natural diversity.

23

24 We received a lot of questions early in
25 the process regarding why we're doing this and why now.
26 Also everybody saying that without a doubt hunting is a
27 priority public use on National Wildlife Refuges.
28 Again, not just in Alaska but across the nation. We
29 have and will continue to strongly support hunting and
30 the sustainable harvest of fish and wildlife on Refuges
31 including the harvest of predators. Most State of
32 Alaska hunting and trapping regulations, including bag
33 limits, will continue to be adopted and applied on
34 Refuges in Alaska.

35

36 What's really underlying this current
37 effort to amend existing regulations is that the Fish
38 and Wildlife Service must administer hunting on Refuges
39 in a manner that's compatible with our establishment
40 purposes. We just have to follow the law. That's what
41 it comes down to.

42

43 We're also responding in part to some
44 recent regulations and proposals that have come before
45 the Board of Game, some of which have been adopted and
46 also to intensive management control areas in various
47 parts of the state. I should note that 13 of the 16
48 National Wildlife Refuges fall within some portion of
49 intensive management areas that have been identified by
50 the State. Some of these proposals would allow

1 particular practices for the harvest of predators, such
2 as take of wolves and coyotes during the denning
3 season, take of brown bears over bait and some of the
4 other activities that we're proposing to prohibit.

5
6 The Fish and Wildlife Service believes
7 that these recently adopted or considered methods and
8 means for the take of predators conflict with our legal
9 mandates. They're intended to or they have the
10 potential to depress and manage predator populations on
11 Alaska Refuges at levels that are inconsistent with
12 conserving all fish and wildlife in their natural
13 diversity. We acknowledge that in some cases the State
14 just has different goals and mandates than what we have
15 on National Wildlife Refuges.

16
17 The second portion of this proposed
18 set of regulations, as I mentioned, it focuses on
19 public participation and closure procedures. There's a
20 series of bullets here, I'll just zip through them,
21 that identify each of the changes or updates. Really,
22 the effort here is to make our public participation and
23 closure procedures consistent with our other practices.

24
25
26 These changes focus only on the
27 regulations that govern recreational or general public
28 use of Refuges. They don't address public
29 participation or closure procedures as they relate to
30 subsistence uses. In some cases here, for example the
31 increase of an emergency closure from 30 to 60 days,
32 that's a specific attempt on our part to match this set
33 of regulations to the existing regulations that affect
34 subsistence uses. It's really just a clarification for
35 the public.

36
37 One item on here I should note that's
38 received some attention is the temporary closure
39 duration, only as long as reasonably necessary and not
40 to exceed five years. We received some feedback about
41 that duration, gee, five years doesn't sound like a
42 temporary closure to me. Of course, we would not jump
43 to five years. It's a maximum of five years. The idea
44 being that if there was a condition or a change on a
45 Refuge that warranted a permitting closure, that
46 requires a lengthy process. Often that requires an
47 environmental assessment or even an environmental
48 impact statement and that takes time. In some cases it
49 takes years. Of course it takes so long because
50 there's a lot of public engagement that occurs all

1 through that process. So these aren't closures that
2 happen in a vacuum. They involve public involvement
3 and public feedback at every step of the way.

4
5 I should also note that these closures
6 could address the take of fish and wildlife, but they
7 also include a host of other general public access and
8 uses. So good examples of places where an emergency or
9 temporary closure might occur are where you have a
10 safety concern. There was a mass wasting event, an
11 avalanche or a debris slide, there was a flood,
12 something of that sort where we just need to
13 temporarily close an area and keep the public out. In
14 some cases, those events cause a more permanent change
15 that requires a more permanent kind of a closure.

16
17 I should also mention too that you
18 should have in your booklets, Eva, correct me if I'm
19 wrong, a summary, two-page that looks like this. It's
20 got some brown bears on the front and it lays out on
21 the front side everything that I'm telling you here and
22 then on the back side there's a table with the
23 specifics of the changes that would appear in the Code
24 of Federal Regulations.

25
26 MS. PATTON: That's on Page 64 in your
27 meeting books.

28
29 MR. GLASPELL: So a very important
30 slide here. Who do these proposed regulations apply
31 to. These changes apply only to State regulated
32 general hunting and trapping and intensive management
33 activities on Alaska National Wildlife Refuges. They
34 do not apply to Federally qualified subsistence users
35 hunting or trapping under Federal subsistence
36 regulations. So there's nothing in this proposal that
37 affects the regulations under 50 CFR 100. Those are
38 the regs that govern subsistence uses. No changes
39 whatsoever. These apply only to the general hunting
40 regulations and only on National Wildlife Refuges, not
41 on State lands or other private lands or Native lands.

42
43
44 Again, as I just said, they apply only
45 on National Wildlife Refuges as they're depicted here
46 in that kind of bluish-purple color and the dark
47 patches that you see within the Refuges are private or
48 Native corporation lands.

49
50 So the timeline, we're still in kind of

1 the initial scoping and consultation phases. I
2 mentioned we started that back in October. To date,
3 there has not been a formal draft published, but that's
4 coming soon. We're aiming for an April publication of
5 the proposed rule. Sometimes that language is
6 confusing to people, but this is a standard procedure
7 for making or amending regulations on Refuges. We
8 publish a draft, there's a formal 60-day public comment
9 period. We take those comments, make appropriate
10 revisions and the goal is to publish a final next year
11 by January.

12

13 I think that's all I've got for you. I
14 have lots more information to share if you have
15 specific questions.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Lee.

18

19 MR. KAYOTUK: Madame Chair. You said
20 the closure of denning. Is that after the wolf or
21 wolverine hunting period closure, after the regulatory
22 year closing period?

23

24 MR. GLASPELL: Yes, that's correct.
25 That's a good question. I should have noted earlier
26 that for the North Slope in Unit 26 there would be no
27 effective change. The season would remain the same.
28 In some other portions of the state the State has
29 extended the season into the summer and our proposed
30 regulations would constitute a change across Unit 26
31 there would be no change.

32

33 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you. But anyway,
34 you know, what really irks me is, you know, when the
35 State -- you know, last week they were on news, you
36 know, with this -- how do they notice when there's
37 overpopulated of wolves and last week they shot 17 to
38 18 wolves that went on news last year. I wonder how
39 that affects a lot of people that watches that.

40

41 Do you take that into consideration?

42

43 MR. GLASPELL: I'm not certain that I
44 understand your question, but I'll tell you that's
45 exactly the kind of thing that we're talking about
46 here. Essentially what this set of regulations would
47 do is affirm our clear mandate to manage all wildlife
48 in their natural diversity and not to conduct that
49 specific kind of activity on National Wildlife Refuges.

50

1 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay. Thank you. Yeah,
2 just make it clear that you just notice that it won't
3 affect until after the closure of the season.

4
5 MR. GLASPELL: Yeah. Somewhere in my
6 pile of paperwork here I have the specific season
7 listed, but we've done a pretty thorough analysis
8 statewide in trying to look at every aspect of existing
9 State regulations and what we're proposing and identify
10 where there would be any actual change on the ground
11 and with respect to the wolf season on the North Slope
12 there would be no change.

13
14 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you.

15
16 MR. SHEARS: I have a question, Brian.
17 Regarding the proposed rule change, it talks about
18 extending the capability of the Refuge management to
19 extend emergency closures from 30 days to 60 days.
20 Explain more what an emergency closure is and who it
21 affects.

22
23 MR. GLASPELL: Yeah, good question. So
24 who it affects is the general public. Again, we have
25 -- there's a set of rules in the Code of Federal
26 Regulations that governs subsistence activities on
27 Refuges and there's a separate set that governs general
28 public use and sport or general hunting. So I'm only
29 talking here about the latter one, not the general
30 public access. Right now an emergency temporary
31 closure under the subsistence rules could extend to 60
32 days. This change would mirror that for the general
33 public.

34
35 A typical emergency closure, as I
36 mentioned earlier, would be something that perhaps
37 affected public safety, so we have a flood event or a
38 change in landscape that makes it just dangerous for
39 people to go somewhere. It could also involve the
40 discovery of a cultural resource or artifact or
41 sensitive area that we want to keep the public out of
42 temporarily. In some cases, it could involve the take
43 of fish and wildlife.

44
45 So, for example, there was a case that
46 got a lot of attention in the media on Kenai Refuge.
47 They got through a portion of the way through the bear
48 season and said, whoa, a whole heck of a lot of bears
49 got taken here and we have a real conservation concern,
50 we need to put the brakes on until we get a handle on

1 what's going on here. So that kind of thing is also a
2 possibility for an emergency closure.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Any other
5 questions, comments.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Any
10 questions or comments for this presentation on the
11 phone.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: All right.
16 Thank you for sharing this information with us. It is
17 very important. We have one village that's near the
18 Refuge that it would be a definite impact. I'm glad
19 Lee has been here to provide that insight.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MR. GLASPELL: Yes, thank you. And we
24 did make a visit to Kaktovik just to present on this
25 topic and shared with the village council there about a
26 month ago.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Okay.
29 Where do we need to go next, Eva?

30

31 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
32 If we can just check in online and see if James may
33 have joined us this afternoon. James Nageak, are you
34 with us this afternoon on teleconference?

35

36 (No response)

37

38 MS. PATTON: So I think we'll wait, if
39 it still works for Marcy, we'll wait for the sheep
40 discussion until tomorrow or Thursday when James may be
41 able to join us. We have just a couple action items on
42 the agenda that we can discuss to some degree today
43 while we have Gordon and then Chair Harry Brower would
44 probably like to weigh in as well.

45

46 One is the review and approval of the
47 fiscal year 2014 annual report. So in your meeting
48 books on Page 82 you'll see the draft annual report
49 that the Council developed at the last meeting. If
50 you've had an opportunity to review it and see if

1 there's any further details that you would like to add.
2 There was quite a bit of discussion at the last meeting
3 and then follow up in working with the Council in
4 drafting this.

5
6 The key points that were brought
7 forward at the fall meeting for the Council to bring to
8 the attention of the Federal Subsistence Board and/or
9 seek action from the Federal Subsistence Board to other
10 land management agencies and other extended agencies as
11 well.

12
13 As you recall from the report back from
14 the Secretary of Interior, the Board can address issues
15 outside of its own jurisdiction and raise them to the
16 Secretary of the Interior. For example, a concern
17 about the migration of the caribou herd and disturbance
18 that may be caused through development issues. That
19 was a letter that was sent from the Federal Subsistence
20 Board to the Secretary of the Interior to raise that
21 awareness.

22
23 So the primary issues that were
24 discussed by the Council at the fall meeting and
25 throughout this past year were a need for a public
26 workshop on ANILCA and specifically ANILCA Section .804
27 determinations and how customary and traditional use is
28 applied in the Federal Management Program. At the end
29 of the meeting Geoff Brooks will provide an overview of
30 the C&T process and it has a little bit of a
31 comparison, but this is a point that the Council has
32 been asking for more comprehensive workshops.

33
34 Item number two, concern about Wildlife
35 Special Action Closures. Request for ongoing research
36 and earlier communications on declining animal
37 populations. This past fall there were a couple
38 special action closures, some of which the
39 circumstances came about such that it was fairly short
40 public notice and fairly short public hearing
41 opportunities. Marcy may be able to speak more when we
42 cover the sheep updates on the nature of the monitoring
43 of the sheep herds.

44
45 Teddy Frankson had provided quite a bit
46 of feedback on this particular issue for the Point Hope
47 area. Joe Sage -- we conducted tribal consultation as
48 well and Joe Sage had provided a lot of feedback from
49 the Native Village of Barrow of reaching out to
50 communities, ongoing communications. So we tried to

1 incorporate that into the annual report as well. If
2 there's further details you'd like to see there.

3
4 The third item addressed by the Council
5 was food security. The Council has discussed this at
6 length both with -- the Inuit Circumpolar Council has
7 also been working in the communities on food security
8 project. So identifying the concerns of declining
9 subsistence resources and the interaction of management
10 to allow flexibility either for the sharing of
11 resources to other communities, shifting of harvest to
12 another resource when one is low, the challenge within
13 the Federal Subsistence Program of only being able to
14 address fish and wildlife when there's an interaction
15 between marine mammals and migratory birds. So these
16 were some of the issues addressed here. Again, if you
17 have more detail you'd like to add, please let me know.

18
19 Fourth was the importance of holding
20 Council meetings in villages. We were very pleased to
21 be able to meet in Nuiqsut this last year. As our
22 Regional Director Gene Peltola, Jr. had expressed at
23 that meeting, the hope was to be able to, at a minimum,
24 every other meeting to meet outside of a regional hub
25 and in a rural community. The Council has asked on
26 numerous occasions to meet in Kaktovik and we're hoping
27 to do so this fall. The Council wanted to bring this
28 forth to the Federal Subsistence Board again to impress
29 upon them the importance of being in the communities
30 and the role of the Regional Advisory Council.

31
32 Number five was the importance of
33 education and outreach for the subsistence program,
34 including youth involvement. I know Harry Brower has
35 had a lot of input on this as well and may want to
36 speak more to it tomorrow.

37
38 Establishment of safety cabins for
39 subsistence activities in remote access areas on
40 Federal lands. This was in the annual report
41 previously and Council felt the response from the Board
42 didn't adequately address the concerns and
43 opportunities that may be out there. This is brought
44 before the Board again.

45
46 Seven, the importance of a holistic
47 approach to research, funding of comprehensive,
48 ethnographic research and effective means for
49 addressing subsistence information, management and
50 community concerns. Council had a lot of discussion

1 about how best to try to make a connection across the
2 various resource management agencies and subsistence
3 laws to better encompass and address the holistic
4 subsistence concerns.

5
6 That was it for this annual report. If
7 there's more topics or issues that should be raised to
8 the Board or more detail, we'd like to see. We can
9 revisit this tomorrow too when Harry is here if you'd
10 like a chance to look over it some more or more
11 feedback. An opportunity for you certainly, Gordon.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: I'd like to
14 thank the Staff for working on this process. I know
15 that we are very communicative in our meetings and to
16 come up with a summary it pretty much incorporates our
17 concerns and you've put it in a good format that's real
18 clear and concise, so I thank you for doing that.

19
20 Do we have additional comments or
21 concerns.

22
23 MR. KAYOTUK: Madame Chair, Council.
24 Yeah, it's very good to have something like this. In
25 the village of Kaktovik, people come up with issues
26 every month or every other week that I hear and to pass
27 on information like this is good word of mouth. The
28 only way to do that is to maybe write a letter to the
29 Regional Advisory Council and get the information and
30 issues like this with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and
31 have our opportunities to speak and listen to what the
32 people and the public have to say. To pass these on to
33 get advice or an answer to questions like this is
34 important to the village.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you,
39 Lee. Sam, do you have any comments or questions you
40 want to add to the annual report?

41
42 MR. KUNAKNANA: No, not at this moment.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon.

49
50 MR. G. BROWER: I'm going to need to

1 skip out here. I've got to be signing a bunch of
2 documents before the end of the work day, I was kindly
3 reminded. I think it's important as we send an annual
4 report of various concerns about population trends and
5 -- I kind of lost my train of thought here, but that
6 was -- I'm going to have to hold off until I gather my
7 thoughts, I think. I got trumped with the thought of
8 having to attend to some work. I had something on my
9 mind, but you know how fast things kind of sink on you
10 sometimes.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: The thing
13 that triggered for me when you were talking was the
14 concern around the assessment process. We have some
15 efforts to do modeling and looking at what are the
16 reactions in areas. Modeling can be very impactful to
17 looking at changes that are occurring, but it also can
18 be something that can be greatly manipulated to allow
19 our report to go through to meet the objectives of a
20 report.

21
22 So it's really concerning for me with
23 some of the efforts up here to look at the offshore
24 process in a modeling process. We really need to be in
25 tune as to what they're assessing and how they're
26 creating these reports as they're looking at these
27 modeling efforts because they can be very impactful and
28 yet they really are used to guide decisions in our
29 area. It's much more concerning to us when we have
30 changes that are impacting our way of life.

31
32 MR. G. BROWER: Kind of like rebooted
33 me for a second. You know, the concern about we wanted
34 to get together and discuss things and we weren't able
35 to find time and talk about various ways to make
36 recommendations on another management regime. There
37 should be some dialogue about our concerns related to
38 -- as we express them. I think we're recorded and
39 where we are not actually acting or can't act because
40 we have a lack of a quorum or something like that. I
41 often sometimes feel we've expressed a concern and
42 there's some general persuasion going on that somebody
43 needs to be able to read between the lines. I would
44 have thought by now we had a recommendation of some
45 sort to the Board of Game, maybe on some of the
46 language and some other issues.

47
48 I'm not exactly sure if I'm phrasing
49 this correctly or saying it correctly, but I just don't
50 like to be falling on deaf ears a lot of times and

1 we've got grave concerns that have been raised. I mean
2 we had issues related to sheep dialogue, moose dialogue
3 and they go away. We quit talking about them it seems
4 to me.

5
6 I'll just leave it at that and I really
7 need to be excused, Madame Chair, before close of
8 business for the Borough.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you
11 for giving us your concerns on these issues. I
12 understand the need to wear multiple hats.

13
14 MR. G. BROWER: I appreciate everybody
15 being here.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.
18 Do we have any other comments or concerns on the phone.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: What do we
23 need to cover next, Eva?

24
25 MS. PATTON: That clock says a quarter
26 to 12:00. It's almost lunchtime.

27
28 (Laughter)

29
30 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: We've got
31 to go pretty quick here to 5:00 o'clock. I know that
32 much.

33
34 MS. PATTON: What time do you have on
35 the little clock in front of you?

36
37 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: 4:45.

38
39 MS. PATTON: 4:45, okay. Madame Chair
40 and Council. As the Council wishes, we have charter
41 revisions which we can discuss or we can leave that for
42 tomorrow morning when Harry would be here -- thank you,
43 Gordon. Take care. When Harry will be here and have
44 an opportunity to quickly review the annual report with
45 Harry's presence as well. Those were the last of the
46 action items for today. We have for tomorrow both some
47 of the agency reports, a full fisheries presentation
48 and then discussion of the caribou updates in full from
49 both Geoff Carroll and again Dave Yokel will be online.
50

1 We're doing pretty good on time. We do
2 have a public meeting, which begins at 7:00 p.m.
3 tonight and again that was to hear comments on the
4 rural determination proposal. That's here in the same
5 room. So if the Council has the energy and is willing
6 to come. So we're doing good on time if people need to
7 have dinner in between.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: We're at a
10 good breaking point for the day, so we'll go ahead and
11 call the meeting to an end for today and be ready for
12 tomorrow. We'll have a public hearing tonight at 7:00.
13 How about those online, are they going to be able to
14 participate in the public hearing?

15
16 MS. PATTON: Yes, Madame Chair. For
17 everyone online the public hearing will be
18 teleconferenced. It's the same teleconference number
19 as this meeting. That will begin at 7:00. We'll
20 provide an overview and then have an opportunity for
21 public questions.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you
24 very much. Appreciate that.

25
26 Do we have any other questions or
27 comments before we end the day.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Hearing
32 none. I want to thank everyone for coming and
33 participating with us and sharing your concerns and
34 presenting to us and helping us make decisions as we go
35 forward.

36
37 Thank you all.

38
39 (Off record)

40
41 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 113 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 17th day of March in Barrow, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 1st day of April 2015.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18