

1 NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL
2
3 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
4
5 PUBLIC MEETING
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9 VOLUME II
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11
12 Barrow Inupiat Heritage Center
13 Barrow, Alaska
14 March 18, 2015
15 9:00 a.m.
16

17
18 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
19
20 Harry Brower, Chair
21 Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak
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 - 3/18/2015)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: My name's Harry Brower. I'm the Chair of the North Slope Regional Advisory Council, and I reside here Barrow. So just for a brief introduction. I've been Chair for the Council for the past four or five years I think.

Anyway, I had an overlap with other meetings that I needed to be at, and got back into Barrow last night, so I was just down at the Alaska Board of Game meetings dealing with Proposal 202 regarding caribou, Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

Anyway I'm here this morning. Just a brief overview on where we are I guess in terms of my participation this morning. I guess I can follow up on the Agenda Item No. 8.

Bob, did you have any comments you wanted to share this morning.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Or Lee.

MR. KAYOTUK: No, not at this time.

CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. Anyway, thank you for giving me the opportunity to report on some of the activities I've been involved in as Chair for the North Slope Regional Advisory Council.

I've attended the Federal Subsistence Board meeting, which was -- was it in December?

MR. BROOKS: January.

CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: January. Thank you. It was held down in Anchorage, and discussing several issues there with the Federal Subsistence Board.

We had a Council Chairs meeting I think afterward just to debrief a little bit on some of the

1 topics that we were discussing during the Federal
2 Subsistence Board meeting, and trying to come up with
3 some suggestions as to how we could better coordinate
4 our meetings as Regional Councils. So that was one of
5 the follow up that we had from the post meeting that I
6 could recall right off the bat, in terms of trying to
7 meet with neighboring regions with similar concerns was
8 something I could recall, and it was voiced several
9 times from specific regions. But I think we as Unit 26
10 wished to communicate with the Northwest Arctic Borough
11 -- or Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council on a
12 couple of proposals that we are -- that we deal with in
13 regard to caribou. And there's some other issues that
14 follow up with that as Regional Advisory Councils that
15 have similar concerns with other users within
16 respective regions that we keep hearing about from our
17 constituencies.

18

19 Eva, maybe you could help me recall
20 some of what the Federal Subsistence Board meeting was
21 oriented for?

22

23 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
24 For the North Slope region, the fisheries proposals
25 that were taken up for the North Slope Region was a
26 statewide proposal to define hook for the use of
27 subsistence. And essentially it was a proposal that
28 would make sure that you could use barbed or barbless
29 hook as desired by the region. And at the fall North
30 Slope RAC meeting in Nuiqsut, there was extensive
31 discussion and testimony by the Council, and also
32 community and tribal members from Nuiqsut about the
33 different types of hooks that are used, and
34 specifically to make sure that the term manufacture
35 that was in the regulations would incorporate the full
36 range of traditional types of hooks that are created
37 and made and used, and to insure that flexibility was
38 there for people to fish in the manner that they wanted
39 to for subsistence. So there was quite a bit of input
40 that helped really define that regulation, and to
41 insure that there wouldn't be any challenges with any
42 type of subsistence uses, traditional hooks or
43 otherwise need. And so that proposal did pass. It was
44 supported unanimously by all of the Regional Advisory
45 Councils throughout the State. And that was the only
46 Federal subsistence fishery proposal affecting the
47 North Slope region.

48

49 And the Board did take up the tribal
50 consultation guidelines, and Rosemary helped report on

1 that. Rosemary is the co-chair to the tribal
2 consultation work group for the Federal Subsistence
3 Board. And the Board did adopt those guidelines to
4 help assist the Federal Subsistence Management Program
5 and how we conduct and reach out to tribes, and their
6 opportunity for making recommendations directly to the
7 Board and participating in the Council process.

8

9 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
10 that, Eva.

11

12 Again I need a little help to help my
13 memory to get back in line with some of the discussions
14 there. I've been at so many other meetings I'm kind of
15 overwhelmed with all the information that I have to go
16 through. So thank you for bearing with me on that.

17

18 And, Rosemary, I'd like to than you for
19 having taking the part of the co-chairing and
20 leadership on that consultation process for the Federal
21 Subsistence Board to consider. And that's something
22 that we continue to work on. We had some -- I mean, I
23 voiced some concerns in terms of some of the approaches
24 to be considered. And I think that's where we need to
25 follow up at one of the meetings that we host. I think
26 that's -- just to give it a prominent table topic,
27 besides as to how it's going to function for us, and
28 getting the Council members to be able to voice issues
29 regarding consultation with the Federal Subsistence
30 Board on matters of concern that the Council may bring
31 up. So I think that's something that I'd like to see
32 at some point in one of our meetings, bring that as an
33 agenda item to follow through with that process. I
34 think -- you know, I can't say I learned everything all
35 just from sitting in that one meeting, but I think it
36 takes at least one or two meetings to get the idea of
37 how it's going to function for us in a sense in a
38 meaningful way. So I think that's something that we
39 continue to work on, and work with our Council members
40 to look forward in terms of how the Federal management
41 program is steering our -- and how it could better move
42 forward with these new approaches being considered or
43 applied into the Federal management program.

44

45 And I think that the Western Arctic
46 Caribou Working Group, I think, Bob, you're the -- you
47 had gone to the Western Arctic Caribou Working Group
48 last.....

49

50 MR. SHEARS: No.

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Was it your or was
2 it Rosemary? I wasn't sure if it was Bob or you
3 had.....

4

5 MR. SHEARS: A couple years ago.

6

7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Had interest in
8 going a couple years ago. Man, time just flies by,
9 doesn't it.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Anyway, Rosemary,
14 again thank you for taking that opportunity to go to
15 Western Arctic Caribou Working Group. You know, my
16 time is -- there's been overlaps with other meetings
17 because of my different responsibilities with my work
18 and other hats I'm wearing within our communities. So
19 at times I just can't be in two places at the same
20 time. And I have to thank Rosemary again for sitting
21 in for me at the Western Arctic Caribou Working Group
22 meeting.

23

24 Any comments, Rosemary?

25

26 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah, I got back on,
27 sorry. (Indiscernible - breaking up) recommendation,
28 and I pushed the wrong button. But it's been a really
29 good process and I appreciate very much definitely any
30 recommendations that (indiscernible - breaking up).

31

32 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. Thank you.

33

34 Any questions from Council members.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: If not, I think
39 that pretty much covers what I dealt with in terms of
40 our Regional Advisory Council. I had visited Eva a
41 couple of times to try and figure out about hosting
42 teleconferences on a couple of issues. Again my time
43 constraints, I couldn't be at the dates that were
44 identified. I had again meetings overlapping and
45 travel, and I just didn't meet up with the
46 recommendations.

47

48 Did the Council host a teleconference,
49 Eva?

50

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
2 No, we had tried numerous times to find a date where we
3 could gather a quorum in order to hold a formal
4 Regional Advisory Council meeting with quorum so that
5 the Council would be able to take action and make
6 recommendations on Proposal 202 prior to the Board of
7 Game meeting. And as you note, many of you wear many,
8 many hats, and have full-time work, and many
9 obligations to the community, and other councils and
10 committees, and so we had difficulty getting a quorum
11 for that teleconference meeting.

12
13 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
14 that, Eva. I mean, we try to make ends meet, but
15 again, we've got too many constraints on ourselves and
16 trying to deal with issues as they arise.

17
18 Like I said, I just came from the Board
19 of Game meeting, it's the other hat from my job with
20 the Department of Wildlife Management, being the deputy
21 director, and dealing with our North Slope Borough Fish
22 and Game Management Committee who are the advisory
23 committee for the State Board of Game from the North
24 Slope, and having to deal with that proposal that was
25 generated. It was kind of a negative proposal in the
26 sense for our communities on the North Slope, you know.
27 It put a lot of restrictions in trying -- it seemed to
28 be that we would be illegal hunters again if that
29 proposal just went flat out and got passed. So we had
30 to -- working with our director, Taqulik Hepa and the
31 North Slope Assembly and the mayor, Charlotte Brower,
32 recommendations were to travel to the villages and get
33 input from our community, our constituency on that very
34 proposal. And I didn't find -- hear their suggestions
35 to improve that proposal in the sense to make
36 amendments. So that's what we worked on since received
37 a copy of the proposal and had a head's up from the
38 State biologist, Geoff Carroll, about what they're
39 proposing to do. And we also included Lincoln Parrett
40 and Geoff Carroll to these meetings, village meetings.
41 I think there were -- Point Hope, I'm trying to recall
42 which other community. Point Hope was one community
43 that we didn't get to, because of situations in the
44 community itself. And we had set up meeting dates, but
45 we couldn't meet those dates, because of issues, that I
46 there was a couple of deaths in the community that
47 curtailed from the time that were trying to set up
48 those meetings in the villages. But we did have
49 meetings from Anaktuvuk, Atqasuk, Nuiqsut, Barrow.
50

1 Lee, did we end up in Kaktovik as well?
2 I think we did, in terms of the range of the Western
3 Arctic Caribou, but we wanted some input on -- from all
4 our communities as what was recommended by the North
5 Slope Borough Mayor, Charlotte Brower, and indicating
6 that we communicated with our constituency as a whole
7 in seeking their input and advice and suggestions to
8 how we can move forward and meet the needs of our
9 constituency.

10
11 Nutritional needs was the big factor
12 for us, that that proposal as it stood was not going to
13 meet our nutritional needs in any of our villages. So
14 that's something that we had to really focus on.

15
16 The situations that we brought onto and
17 shared with the Board in regarding to that Proposal
18 202, that they needed to come to the North Slope and
19 visit our outlying villages outside of Barrow. You
20 know, the constraints that we deal with within the
21 system that we have within our own borough, it's -- the
22 Postal Service is a very poor situation. You know, by-
23 pass mail doesn't cut it any more. It's been basically
24 shut down in the sense that we have to wait pretty much
25 90 days before we could get any mail that's even just
26 from Anchorage, you know, because of the situation that
27 we're dealing with with the Postal Service.

28
29 And a lot of our village stores were
30 really dependent on that by-pass mail, because they
31 were dealing with freight that was coming from the
32 orders that they bring up was going through by-pass
33 mail and into the villages. And that had a big impact.
34 Now we don't have any community stores, like Atqasuk.
35 I have to use Atqasuk as an example, that, you know, it
36 used to have a little community store. Because of that
37 by-pass mail shutting down, now that store is not in
38 operation. It's basically shut down and people from
39 Atqasuk have to come to Barrow to do their grocery
40 shopping at times. Or if they have extended family,
41 they ask us to do shopping for them and send them back.
42 So that kind of a situation is very disheartening in a
43 sense, you know.

44
45 And this Proposal 202 is going to make
46 the taking of caribou more stringent in a sense, which
47 it's a mainstay of the community, you know, in the
48 villages, taking caribou throughout the season. And
49 the regulations as they were printed, you know, taking
50 five caribou per day, that's something that we had to

1 clarify in a sense as to how the language was
2 developed, you know. People don't take five caribou a
3 day. They take maybe five caribou one day, and then
4 that lasts -- you know, we have to dress them out, get
5 them ready, and use them, prepare them for food, and
6 hauling them back to our community takes a lot of
7 effort. And trying to take more than five caribou in
8 several days, if you use that as an example, take five
9 today, five tomorrow, and five the next day, we'd have
10 an overstock of caribou. And that's what we don't want
11 to get into doing. And we try and take the caribou
12 when they're available throughout the season.

13

14 But these kind of explanations we had
15 to go through with the Board of Game, and there was
16 some really hesitancy to change from the Proposal 202,
17 and we had to continue meeting with our area biologist
18 down at the Board of Game meeting. You'll hear a lot
19 of this from Geoff as well as we talk more about this,
20 but anyway that was something that we had to work on
21 regarding this, my travels to Anchorage and being at
22 that Board of Game meeting.

23

24 And that was a proposal that was
25 submitted out of sequence of the Board of Game.
26 They're supposed to be dealing with Southeast, Central
27 issues, and this situation with the caribou on the
28 North Slope and regarding specifically the Western
29 Arctic Caribou was something that was brought on by the
30 State biologists themselves.

31

32 Maybe I'll stop here to see if there's
33 any questions from Council or any of the members here.
34 The Staff folks.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: If not, thank you.
39 I'll continue.

40

41 Eva, you might want to help me and
42 steer me in the right direction. I know you've covered
43 some of the agenda items, and we've moved into the
44 next. Time is just moving right by again, and I'd like
45 to make sure we follow through what we were suggesting
46 earlier, trying to take some actions while we have the
47 quorum.

48

49 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
50 we can, to do a roll call vote, and establish that we

1 do have quorum. Again we have a couple Council members
2 on teleconference, and maybe we can also introduce
3 others that are on teleconference with us this morning.
4 And it looks like we do have some tribal
5 representatives that have joined us here.

6
7 If we can check in with the Council and
8 those that have joined us, and then today we do have a
9 couple action items that we began discussion of
10 yesterday while we were able to get input from Gordon.
11 We have the rural determination which we can provide an
12 overview again today so that you have that update, and
13 then take action from the Council on the
14 recommendations to the Board for the rural
15 determination process.

16
17 We did discuss our annual report, and
18 Gordon had some recommendations of a topic to add, but
19 wanted to make sure you have an opportunity to review
20 and make any recommendations to the Council's annual
21 report to the Board.

22
23 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Sure.

24
25 MS. PATTON: And then charter
26 revisions, there's a couple recommendations that many
27 of the Councils had made last year for amendments to
28 the Council that would better support some of the
29 challenges that the Council's faced with: late
30 appointments from Secretary's office. So we can review
31 that charter, to confirm that the Council does indeed
32 want to make those changes.

33
34 So those are the action items this
35 morning. Then we'll have fisheries updates on the FRMP
36 and the research projects that have been taking place
37 in Kaktovik, and we have Brendan Scanlon here for that.

38
39
40 And then importantly this afternoon
41 Geoff Carroll will be arriving back from the Board of
42 Game, and we will have Dave Yokel on line as well for
43 discussion of the State proposal for caribou, all of
44 your input, and the AC's input in that process and the
45 communities' input, and then opportunity for the
46 Council to make any recommendations for Federal
47 subsistence proposal this afternoon. So that's another
48 important action item that we're wanting to ensure we
49 have quorum this afternoon.

50

1 Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. With that,
4 Eva, thank you.
5
6 So I'll take on the first one, is the
7 roll call, and ask Lee to give us the roll call,
8 please.
9
10 MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning. Thank you,
11 Chair. Council members. Seat 1 here, 2011 to 2017,
12 seat 1, Gordon R. Brower. I think Gordon asked to be
13 excused.
14
15 MS. PATTON: Correct. We have a couple
16 excused absences today. Gordon had other meetings that
17 he had to attend to. He was hoping, if we could check
18 in with him this afternoon when we're discussing
19 caribou, he was really hoping to be able to participate
20 with it.
21
22 We do have James Nageak is out
23 attending to a funeral. He was hoping to call in by
24 teleconference if he can.
25
26 Teddy Frankson is in the hospital, and
27 we're wishing him well. He's doing better. They hope
28 to go home later this week.
29
30 And then I'll let Lee continue there
31 with the roll call.
32
33 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you. Seat 2, 2011-
34 2016, Robert V. Shears, Barrow.
35
36 MR. SHEARS: Present.
37
38 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 3, 2016, is vacant.
39 Seat 4, 2016, vacant.
40
41 Seat 5, 1993 to 2016, Harry K. Brower,
42 Jr., Barrow.
43
44 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Here.
45
46 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 6, 2014 to 2017, Sam
47 Kunaknana of Nuiqsut.
48
49 MR. KUNAKNANA: Here.
50

1 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 7, 2008-2017, James
2 M. Nageak, Anaktuvuk Pass, is out.
3
4 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Excused.
5
6 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 8, 2012-2016,
7 Theodore A. Frankson, Jr., Point Hope.
8
9 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Excused.
10
11 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 9, 2006-2015, Lee
12 Kayotuk, Kaktovik. Here.
13
14 Seat 10, 2009-2015, Rosemary
15 Ahtuanguaruak, from Barrow.
16
17 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Here.
18
19 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
20 have five members of the Council present, and we have
21 quorum.
22
23 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. Thank
24 you, Lee.
25
26 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
27
28 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And then our next
29 agenda item that we wanted to cover is the annual
30 report discussion.
31
32 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. If we could,
33 to check in on teleconference to see if we have other
34 Staff joining us this morning to contribute.
35
36 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Sure. Okay. Can
37 we have folks identify themselves there on the
38 teleconference this morning.
39
40 MS. HYER: Yeah. Good morning Mr.
41 Chair and Council members. This is Karen Hyer with the
42 Office of Subsistence Management.
43
44 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Aaron?
45
46 MS. PATTON: Karen Hyer.
47
48 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Karen. Thank you,
49 Karen.
50

1 MR. CRAWFORD: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
2 This is Drew Crawford with the Alaska Department of
3 Fish and Game, Federal subsistence liaison team in
4 Anchorage.

5
6 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Drew.
7
8 Anyone else.

9
10 MR. CARY: Hi. This is Wayne Cary.
11 I'm an assistant borough attorney.

12
13 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Wayne.
14
15 Do we have anyone else on the
16 teleconference.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: If not, thank you.
21
22 So we can continue with our next agenda
23 item. Eva.

24
25 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
26 First order of business would be to take up the rural
27 determination which was initiated yesterday, to provide
28 an overview to the Council. We did hold a public
29 meeting last night. We didn't have anyone from the
30 public attending. We had several Regional Advisory
31 Council members. It was open to the public both via
32 teleconference and in person. And we understand
33 there's an important basketball game going on down in
34 Anchorage at the time.

35
36 But this is an opportunity, Jeff Brooks
37 can provide an overview, for yourself and the Council
38 to further consider recommendations for the rural
39 determination recommendation that the Board has made to
40 the Secretary of the Interior, and take action today.

41
42 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I'm just think
43 maybe in terms of what -- was there any real specific
44 recommendation coming from the Council members?

45
46 MS. PATTON: The Council did have some
47 discussion yesterday. We solicited feedback
48 specifically from Gordon knowing that he would be out
49 today, so he had provided recommendation And there was
50 some general discussion from the Council.

1 I can let you know Gordon's feedback,
2 and if the Council members participating would like to
3 share their thoughts with you, so that the Council can
4 have that full deliberation today and then make a
5 recommendation with everyone that's here for quorum.

6
7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes.

8
9 MS. PATTON: We can also provide for
10 you the overview of the rural determination
11 recommendation so you have that opportunity, too, to
12 hear the details.

13
14 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: You mentioned that
15 the Council members, if they'd like to have any
16 specific comments they'd like to add on just while
17 we're under this agenda item.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And this is an
22 action item that we need to consider sometime today?

23
24 MS. PATTON: Yes, this would be the
25 opportunity if the Council would like to make a
26 recommendation to the Board on whether you support the
27 recommendation or whether you support it with any
28 modifications, or whether, you know, the Council
29 doesn't support the recommendation.

30
31 And again Jeff can provide an overview
32 so that we can frame what that recommendation was for
33 you, and you'd have the background yourself to
34 consider, and for the Council to.

35
36 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah. Eva, I'm
37 just trying to learn what Gordon's input was, the
38 specific recommendation that he wanted to incorporate
39 into the memoranda of this discussion in the action
40 item. If there's a specific issue that he identified
41 or not. Go ahead.

42
43 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
44 Gordon had indicated yesterday that generally he was
45 supportive of the recommendation. And the
46 recommendation of the Board being to essentially
47 eliminate the criteria, and Jeff can speak to the
48 details of eliminating the criteria, and determining
49 which communities are nonrural as opposed to rural.

50

1 And if it's helpful, Jeff can provide
2 that brief overview. I can provide the input that we
3 had from Gordon, and then it would be an opportunity
4 for the Council then to speak to that proposal.

5
6 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Shear, are we now at
7 the action item for rural determination process review
8 then? Is that what I'm understanding?

9
10 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I'd like to try to
11 get some more action items taken care of while we can,
12 while we have a quorum. And if that's something that
13 we could consider this morning, I think that's a step
14 forward on our part while we have the quorum.

15
16 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. Bob Shears.

17
18 And I've been reserving comment on
19 this, just trying to gather the information. And I
20 understand the presentation. I attended the public
21 hearing last night and saw the PowerPoint presentation.
22 And we've been discussing this subject now for a couple
23 years. We've given it a lot thought, and we've
24 considered it from a bunch of different angles, but we
25 really don't see -- in summary, my impression is our
26 communities on the North Slope are not threatened by
27 the changes that suggested, so I'm ready to move
28 forward into deliberation on the subject. And I think
29 I heard this from Gordon yesterday, too, he seems to be
30 aligned with how I feel on it, is that we're prepared
31 to support a motion -- or prepared to introduce a
32 motion supporting the resolution.

33
34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. Thank you
35 for that, Bob.

36
37 Rosemary, any comments. Or Sam.

38
39 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I definitely have
40 concerns because the villages here, industrial centers
41 may be impacted by this, and plus the efforts to
42 changes things (indiscernible - breaking up) in
43 Anchorage, activity here Nuiqsut, that is definitely a
44 concern that we have to be engaged in going forward.
45 It seems that proposal definitely gives us a better
46 seat at the table, and give us the opportunity to
47 engage in a better than (indiscernible - breaking up)
48 proposal. So.....

49
50 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Rosemary, I want

1 to interrupt your comments here, you're really coming
2 in broken. Your sentences are not coming out clear at
3 all.

4
5 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Okay. Let me try
6 calling on the other phone and see if that works.

7
8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you.

9
10 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: All right.

11
12 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chairman. While she's
13 calling in.

14
15 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Please. Yeah, go
16 ahead.

17
18 MR. SHEARS: Exactly. What Rosemary's
19 indicated, we all share, is that there's the
20 opportunity in the future for changing conditions in
21 our industrial-conflicted communities, such as
22 Wainwright, Barrow, Nuiqsut, and this revised process
23 for rural determination allows -- it kind of delegates
24 the Federal Subsistence Board to be able to take
25 action, any necessary action that may arise in those
26 communities on any given year.

27
28 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Sam, do you have
29 any comments in regard to our discussion this morning.

30
31 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Hi. This is
32 Rosemary, can you hear me better?

33
34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: There you are,
35 Rosemary. Yes.

36
37 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: All right.
38 Definitely I am concerned because of a couple of our
39 villages may be near the industrial centers, and that
40 criteria could put our villages at risk for future
41 changes. The way this proposal has been amended to
42 give us a better seat in the process is better than
43 what we had before, and I approve of the changes that
44 were discussed, but I think that we have to strongly
45 engaged in the process as the Board considers those
46 villages that may have changes to their designations.

47
48 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So the last
49 portion of your comments are starting to fade away.
50 I'm not sure if it's your voice or if you're moving

1 away from your speaker part of the phone. You're
2 starting to fade away there, Rosemary.

3
4 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: All right. I pushed
5 the volume up a little bit. Is that better?

6
7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes. Much better
8 when you're closer to the mic.

9
10 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Okay. I feel that
11 we need to stay engaged in the process as the Board
12 moves forward with this decision on designating
13 villages that have changes to their determination. The
14 proposal is improved, and it gives us a better seat at
15 the process.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: All right. Thank
20 you for that, Rosemary.

21
22 Bob.

23
24 MR. SHEARS: With that being said, Mr.
25 Chair.

26
27 And, Rosemary, while you were just off
28 line, I briefly reiterated the same thing that you just
29 said, is that, you know, delegating this authority to
30 the Federal Subsistence Board serves us well if the
31 Federal Subsistence Board maintains its current
32 structure and doesn't change in the future, is unknown.
33 We have our chairman as a member, and so we have a good
34 seat at the -- we're going to have a good seat at the
35 table today, but who's to say, you know, what voice
36 we'll have on the Federal Subsistence Board 10 years
37 from now. So we need to stay active, stay proactive in
38 being involved in that in the future.

39
40 That being said, I do support this
41 rule, and I would propose a motion to support the
42 proposed rule.

43
44 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: We have a motion
45 on the floor to support the proposed -- recommendation
46 on the proposed rule?

47
48 MR. SHEARS: Uh-huh. Yeah.

49
50 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: A motion on the

1 floor.

2

3 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I second it.

4

5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Seconded by
6 Rosemary. Further discussion on the motion.

7

8 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'd like to
9 encourage that we be informed of that Board's actions
10 on this issue as it go forward so that we can stay
11 engaged in communication.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Right. Thank you,
16 Rosemary. Robert.

17

18 We're still under discussion of the
19 motion. Jeff. We're taking action as a Council, but
20 go ahead.

21

22 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 Good morning, Council members.

24

25 During the discussion of this, I just
26 wanted to reiterate or update you on Mr. Gordon
27 Brower's recommendation yesterday. I concur with what
28 I've heard today from all of you and Eva that in
29 general he was supportive, and he understands that
30 during the actual -- if this were adopted, during the
31 actual nonrural determination process, that the
32 Regional Advisory Councils would have substantial
33 input.

34

35 However, he also noted that he thinks
36 that while this -- if this is adopted, and the Federal
37 Subsistence Board determines its policies and
38 procedures for making nonrural determinations, Mr.
39 Gordon Brower felt that the Regional Advisory Council
40 should also be involved and be able to weigh in on the
41 deliberations that the Federal Subsistence Board has
42 when they develop their policies on how to actually do
43 it. For your information.

44

45 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
46 that, Jeff. I think that we'll have that reflected in
47 our records to identify with Gordon's comments and
48 concerns regarding the rural determination process.

49

50 Eva.

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

2

3 Thank you, Jeff, for that, and to add
4 just a little bit more detail from Gordon's comments
5 yesterday, so he was supportive of the simplified short
6 form in terms of the Board determining which
7 communities are nonrural, not having the 10-year review
8 process. It would entail, you know, a community or
9 someone putting a proposal forward to make a
10 recommendation to determine a community nonrural. So
11 he was supportive of the simplified form, but he had
12 concerns about the criteria, that if the Board was to
13 develop policy or criteria that would help guide them,
14 which is not currently in the proposed regulations,
15 that the region that that community is in, and the
16 Regional Advisory Councils have -- I'm looking for his
17 exact words here. He was wanting to ensure that the
18 Board relied heavily on the Council's input, and that
19 the Regional Advisory Councils had extensive
20 involvement in that determination process.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. And thank
25 you, Eva, for sharing that. And, you know, I share the
26 concerns as well. These are things that are -- we need
27 to be apprised of, and as constituents on the North
28 Slope and the increase of other infrastructure,
29 development that might be occurring, that still in the
30 future works yet. So I'm in agreement with the
31 concerns that were voiced.

32

33 We're still under the discussion on
34 supporting the motion on the rural determination
35 process.

36

37 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Lee.

40

41 MR. KAYOTUK: Yeah. I find it pretty
42 interesting for rural and nonrural, especially in the
43 Village of Kaktovik. And again I go back to the
44 village, you know, to any concerns, and how this will
45 be brought forward, and any recommendations or any kind
46 of public comment will go forward, and I would like to
47 bring back forward to the Council and Chair, to
48 Regional Advisory Council from the Village of Kaktovik
49 to address on these very important issues.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
4 sharing that, Lee.

5

6 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Robert.

9

10 MR. SHEARS: And so with these, you
11 know, being aware, I agree that we desire the Federal
12 Subsistence Board to take the advisement of the
13 Regional Advisory Councils to heart in developing their
14 policies and procedures. Does that need to be stated
15 at an amendment to the motion, or can -- because we're
16 cognizant that the Federal Subsistence Board operates
17 under charter, through advice, you know, and under
18 charter it seeks the advisement of the Regional
19 Advisory Councils in its deliberations, is it an
20 unnecessary step to restate it in this motion.

21

22 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Eva.

23

24 MS. PATTON: Pat.

25

26 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Or, Pat, come on
27 down to the mic, please.

28

29 MS. PETRIVELLI: Hi. This is Pat
30 Petrivelli.

31

32 The Southcentral Council specifically
33 added in their recommendation that the proposed rule be
34 amended to include that the Board would defer to the
35 RAC recommendations. But I'm not sure if that was just
36 to make the determinations, and I don't know if -- but
37 they just that they would include that the Board would
38 defer to RAC recommendations.

39

40 In the Secretarial review, they did
41 point out that -- they asked -- one of the conditions
42 was to look at how the Board defers to the Councils on
43 rural recommendations and C&T determinations, because
44 the policy was just to defer to RACs on proposals, you
45 know, the fish and wildlife proposals, and they haven't
46 -- they don't have it in regulation to defer to the
47 RACs on rural recommend -- rural determinations.

48

49 So if you would like the Board to do
50 it, and if you would like to say it in the regulations

1 -- what the regulations propose as it is now currently,
2 it does not say that the Board would defer to the
3 Regional Councils, but if you would like it in writing,
4 then you would probably want to say it, because the new
5 proposed rule would just say the Board determines which
6 areas or communities in Alaska are nonrural, and that's
7 it. So if you would like the Board to defer to you
8 either on the criteria or making the determinations,
9 but it could be just the criteria, then I would suggest
10 that you state that, and that the regulation would say
11 that, because then the Board would -- it would be clear
12 in regulation that that's what you think they should
13 do.

14

15 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So just having
16 this discussion as part of the motion, would that
17 suffice, the issue that Bob's identifying.

18

19 MS. PETRIVELLI: Well, maybe since
20 Southcentral Council already recommended that the Board
21 defers to the Councils, I don't know if you would want
22 to support their recommendation that the Board defer to
23 the Council, but, you know, it's -- or they could take
24 it that you didn't think it was that important, you
25 know. But you could either state that they should or
26 not to.

27

28 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Pat.

29

30 Bob, maybe amending motion to that
31 effect would help steer us into that direction.

32

33 MR. SHEARS: All right. Let me, excuse
34 me, say this carefully. Eva, you follow me, you know,
35 might need some of your interpretation in this, and
36 feedback.

37

38 Mr. Chair With that being said, and
39 cognizant of what Council Member Brower was talking
40 about yesterday, and our concerns as we were discussing
41 this morning, yes, I would like to amend this motion so
42 that it furthermore states that in supporting the
43 proposed rule, we would request that the Federal
44 Subsistence Board consult with the Regional Advisory
45 Councils in the development of the rules and policies
46 for establishing criteria of nonrural communities.

47

48 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: WE have an
49 amending motion.

50

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I would encourage
2 you to consider having the word be defer to the Council
3 instead of consult. They could choose to consult with
4 us and not take our recommendation, instead go with
5 their choice. If we put it as to defer to the Council,
6 to the RAC, then we would have a stronger voice in that
7 process.

8

9 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Comments on that,
10 Bob.

11

12 MR. SHEARS: I thought of that and I
13 chose my words carefully, and I meant to say consult,
14 because I believe that I'm requesting -- when I ask
15 them to, you know, through a motion to defer to use,
16 I'm asking for more authority than they'll be willing
17 to subrogate to us. I feel it's an unreasonable
18 request to ask for them to defer, but value your
19 opinion on that. Rosemary, please continue this
20 discussion with me.

21

22 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We've been engaged
23 in the process for many, many years, and it is
24 important to think about what are we putting forward,
25 and we do have a process of consultation, but when the
26 decisionmaking process is not at our priorities, their
27 efforts may go along with their priorities, which would
28 greatly impact us as we have seen in various regulatory
29 enforcement processes that are impacting us currently.
30 So my recommendation would be to go with a stronger
31 wording and defer with the Council recommendations for
32 rural determination within the region.

33

34 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. Could I ask
35 for some advice from our supporting staff.

36

37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes. Yes, Robert.

38

39 MR. BROOKS: Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Jeff.

42

43 MR. BROOKS: Thank you. Jeff Brooks
44 for the record.

45

46 Yes, Mr. Shears, I would be glad to
47 offer some advice. It's not really advice, but it's a
48 point of clarification so that we understand exactly
49 what we're talking about.

50

1 There are two things. Your original
2 amendment to the motion, Mr. Shears, fits almost to a T
3 what Mr. Gordon Brower was suggesting yesterday. And
4 as I stated yesterday and Ms. Petrivelli stated today,
5 the Southcentral Council did request an amendment to
6 the proposed language in regulation to specifically say
7 that while the Federal Subsistence Board makes the
8 nonrural determinations, that it should defer to the
9 Regional Advisory Councils. That is what the
10 Southcentral Council recommended, and I believe that's
11 what Vice Chair Rosemary has recommended. However,
12 that is for when the Federal Subsistence Board actually
13 does the determinations of nonrural communities.

14
15 What Mr. Brower and I think Mr. Shears
16 is suggesting is that we also have either a strong
17 recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board or
18 perhaps some language in -- I don't believe it would be
19 appropriate to put it in the language of the rule --
20 or, excuse me, the regulations, but before those
21 determinations are made by the Board, the Federal
22 Subsistence Board will have to develop policies,
23 procedures, rules as you said, some criteria or
24 characteristics to consider on how to do that. And
25 right now in the proposed rule it states some
26 preliminary things that may be used, and it also states
27 that the Federal Subsistence Board would rely heavily
28 on input from the public and the Regional Advisory
29 Councils. That's in the proposed rule. The Federal
30 Subsistence Board will consider that while coming up
31 with their policies. It's not in the proposed
32 language.

33
34 So there are two things. One is while
35 the Board actually makes the determinations and then
36 how they do that. And those are the policies that Mr.
37 Shears was referring to.

38
39 So you could choose to do one or the
40 other or both of those amendments. And I'm not
41 positive how you would -- I mean, you could do what the
42 Southcentral Council did, and you could also suggest or
43 recommend what Mr. Shears said.

44
45 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
46 that, Jeff.

47
48 I think we're still developing the
49 motion I guess. We haven't really seconded the motion,
50 so we're still under discussion of selecting the

1 language for the motion in a sense. So I'm looking our
2 Council members to help steer us in the right direction
3 here, because, you know, that these recommendations are
4 going to be forwarded to the Federal Subsistence Board.
5 It's up to them to decide how -- what they select or
6 what not to take as advisement from our Council. And
7 that remains to be seen into the future. So I'm being
8 hopeful that we're able to progress into developing the
9 appropriate motion to cover the concerns that have been
10 voiced.

11

12 Pat, come up. Pat Petrivelli.

13

14 MS. PETRIVELLI: Mr. Chair. In the
15 customary and traditional use determination process and
16 the current regulations, it says the Board shall take
17 into consideration the reports and recommendations of
18 any appropriate Regional Advisory Council regarding
19 customary and traditional uses of subsistence
20 resources, so that clearly defines the RAC, the
21 Council's roles in the C&T process.

22

23 Maybe you'd want to add, you know,
24 regulatory language that would say that the councils
25 would have a role in the rural determination process.
26 And then that way it would cover, well, the process and
27 determinations, so you could say, the Board shall take
28 into consideration the recommendations of any
29 appropriate Regional Council regarding rural
30 determinations. And then that way it would cover the
31 whole thing, not only how they're made, but what
32 recommendations are made. And then the Southcentral
33 recommendation would cover the deference to the Council
34 recommendations, but this would allow the Councils to
35 -- your concern to be involved in establishing the
36 criteria. And that's kind of what the proposed rule
37 states, that the Board would -- it says it in the
38 narrative, but it doesn't have it in regulation, and
39 this is where it does say in regulations the Board will
40 take into consideration.

41

42 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I'm just trying to
43 look around in the -- on the table there if you would
44 (indiscernible - mic not on) see a copy of that.

45

46 MS. PETRIVELLI: It's in the Regional
47 Advisory operations manual.

48

49 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Operations manual?

50

1 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yeah. On Page 84.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you.

4

5 MS. PETRIVELLI: And I don't know

6 if.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Pat, could you
9 come up to the microphone.

10

11 MS. PETRIVELLI: And maybe you can say
12 the intent, the intent of your recommendation is to
13 develop regulatory language that would allow the Board
14 to take into consideration, but it's on Page 84 of the
15 Regional Councils' operational manual. But it's in
16 sub-part 100.16(c) in the regulations where it calls
17 for the involvement of the RACs in the customary and
18 traditional use process.

19

20 And actually it might even be in the
21 rural determination process.

22

23 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
24 identifying that. I just want to make sure we're
25 covered, and identify the language that's being
26 considered here.

27

28 I apologize to the folks on the
29 teleconference. I'm not sure if you have any of this
30 material, Rosemary or Sam, within your grasp. But
31 these are -- we're referring to the Regional Advisory
32 Councils' operations manual. And it's Page 84 that was
33 being identified for us by Pat Petrivelli.

34

35 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I don't have that
36 specific document, but I have looked on line for that
37 document, so I know where it's at.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: All right. Thank
42 you, Rosemary.

43

44 Any other thoughts on that, Bob, as to
45 how -- what Rosemary's suggesting, or what Pat has
46 identified for us in terms of some of the language
47 colored under the determining priorities for
48 subsistence uses. I think that's what -- the area she
49 was -- regulation adopted process.

50

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Bob, I'm open to
2 making sure that we put in both recommendations,
3 because you are talking about having engagement in the
4 consultation process. That recommendation gives it a
5 direct line into the regulatory process, which is very
6 important to clarify, and that would include allowing
7 us to add in the additional recommendation to request
8 deferring to the local RAC.

9
10 MR. SHEARS: Okay. You know, I guess
11 we've got to be quick on our feet here, and I'll try to
12 be. Yeah. You know, we've been thinking about this
13 for several years. And so I should be able to, you
14 know, form a quick opinion.

15
16 What I'm -- the proposed motion that
17 I'm drafting with my voice is -- the proposed amendment
18 to the motion I'm drafting, is considering we're
19 talking about involving -- asking the Federal
20 Subsistence Board to involve the Regional Advisory
21 Councils in the development of the criteria for what --
22 how they will consider a -- or how they will define a
23 nonrural community. And I believe we're already
24 involved implicitly by our relationship with them, but
25 now -- but we just want a little stronger voice at the
26 table under this motion, under this proposed resolution
27 where we actually want them to draft their proposed
28 criteria and send it back to us for a second resolution
29 of support. And that is the implied term defer to the
30 Regional Advisory Councils.

31
32 That's strong language. That's very
33 strong language, and that's a whole other -- you know,
34 and it's similar, but completely different from what
35 Southcentral's asking. I'm not even interested in
36 going where Southcentral went with their resolution.
37 I'm talking just about asking the Federal Subsistence
38 Board to involve us in establishing criteria for
39 defining what is nonrural and how they will act on it.

40
41 If that term is, you know, defer to us,
42 you know, fine, but it's an empty -- it's a paper lion.
43 It has no strength to it, because the Federal
44 Subsistence Board can act on establishing their
45 criteria whether or not we support it through
46 resolution. because of Appendix C.

47
48 So, yeah, I know what you're saying.
49 We should always try to push to gain more authority, a
50 larger voice at the table. You know, we should fight

1 for our independence and argue for our authority, but I
2 don't want to create an unnecessary bureaucratic step
3 in this process such as has been ongoing for so many
4 years.

5
6 So my motion as it stands, my amended
7 motion, asking the -- you know, that we will -- to this
8 proposed rule is that we ask the Federal Subsistence
9 Board to consult with the Regional Advisory Councils
10 stands. If nobody will second that, then fine, I'll
11 withdraw it.

12
13 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So that's the main
14 motion that you started out with.

15
16 MR. SHEARS: The main amended motion
17 that I started out with.

18
19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. The
20 amending motion.

21
22 MR. SHEARS: I'm not changing my
23 amended motion.

24
25 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Uh-huh. We have
26 an amending motion on the floor.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Bob.

31
32 MR. SHEARS: Then, Mr. Chair, I
33 withdraw my amended motion.

34
35 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Withdrawing the
36 amending motion. We're back to the main motion. If
37 there's no second to the amending motion, that amending
38 motion fails. And the main motion was to.....

39
40 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: So where.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Rosemary.

43
44 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you. I've got
45 a question, but get me back to where are we at right
46 now? What's the main motion.

47
48 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Was to support the
49 customary and traditional.....

50

1 MR. BROOKS: The proposed rule.
2
3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Proposed rule.
4
5 MR. BROOKS: Mr. Chair.
6
7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Jeff. Sorry.
8
9 MR. BROOKS: The example that Ms.
10 Petrivelli used was from the customary and traditional
11 use determination regulations. What you're talking
12 about now is the proposed rule for the rural
13 determination process. I just don't want you to be
14 confused between those two.
15
16 And your main motion was to support the
17 proposed rule.
18
19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes. Did you copy
20 that, Rosemary.
21
22 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes. I don't have
23 the wording for Ms. Petrivelli's recommendation, but I
24 guess definitely we want to make sure that we include
25 that recommendation in our support to make sure that we
26 have that consultation process in the regulatory
27 process. And then I was wanting to make sure that we
28 put in the recommendation that (indiscernible -
29 breaking up) that we do.....
30
31 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Rosemary, you're
32 coming out broken again.
33
34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Sorry.
35
36 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I'm sorry, you're
37 fading away while you're communicating. I'm not sure
38 if you're moving from the mic or if your voice is
39 getting faint in the sense that we're not following
40 your comments.
41
42 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'm sorry, I'm not
43 sure why we're having technical difficulties, but I'm
44 not moving. I'm sitting here. Definitely not walking
45 around today.
46
47 We need to -- I want to make sure that
48 we get the recommendation in from Ms. Petrivelli to
49 include the wording to allow us to that consultation in
50 the regulatory process, of having that wording in.....

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Rosemary, I'm
2 sorry, I'm going to cut you off. You're fading again,
3 and it's really broken. I hate to do this, but
4 whenever you're talking, it's just coming out in blurbs
5 that we don't understand.

6
7 I'm not sure how we're going to move
8 forward on this one when we're having these kind of
9 difficulties.

10
11 Eva.

12
13 DR. YOKEL: Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Can you identify
16 yourself, please.

17
18 DR. YOKEL: Good morning. This is Dave
19 Yokel. I can hear Rosemary fine, but I hear feedback
20 from some other speaker in the background. Maybe
21 that's the problem.

22
23 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah, I have no
24 idea. I can't see where the technical difficulty could
25 be here, but thank you for that, Dr. Yokel.

26
27 Eva.

28
29 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
30 And, Rosemary, I'm wondering if there's any way we'd be
31 able to support you. I don't know if a cell phone that
32 we have here, if it could be delivered to your house,
33 if that might be a better connection, or if there's any
34 way we could assist you with providing transport over
35 to the meeting with your broken toe.

36
37 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I understand it's
38 just technical difficulty. Sometimes we have bad
39 connections. I called back in. Has this changed any,
40 or am I still very broken?

41
42 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: No, you're coming
43 in nice and clear now. I'm not sure if you changed
44 phones again, but it's coming in nice and clear at this
45 time.

46
47 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Well, I called on
48 the same phone. It just changes connection over time.
49 It's just part of our technical advances that are not
50 always so advanced.

1 But mainly it's I wanted to encourage
2 us to consider adding in the recommendations that Ms.
3 Petrivelli had put in to allow us to have the wording
4 in the regulatory document for our engagement, our
5 consultation, and as strong as we can be engaged in the
6 process.

7
8 MR. SHEARS: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I
9 understand that the wording is already there. No?
10 Okay. All right.

11
12 MR. BROOKS: No, that's -- excuse me,
13 Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes.

16
17 MR. BROOKS: That wording is in the
18 customary and traditional use determination
19 regulations.

20
21 MR. SHEARS: Okay. Not in the proposed
22 rule. Okay.

23
24 MS. PETRIVELLI: (Indiscernible - away
25 from microphones) in the proposed rule.

26
27 MS. PATTON: Pat, why don't you come
28 up. And you can.....

29
30 MR. SHEARS: Yeah. Mr. Chair. Yeah.
31 I kind of -- Pat kind of lost me. I wasn't sure what
32 subject she was discussing, and let's ask her to
33 reiterate.

34
35 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Pat, if you could
36 come up to the table again to help with the discussion.

37
38 We're -- I have to just remind us we're
39 back on the main motion. The amending motion failed,
40 so we're back to the main motion supporting the rural
41 determination process that's been identified. And
42 we're under discussion.

43
44 MS. PETRIVELLI: Okay. I guess were we
45 are, because the main motion is to accept the proposed
46 rule. The way the regulations would read with the new
47 proposed rule, all it says is the Board determines
48 which areas or communities in Alaska are nonrural, and
49 current determinations are listed at blah-blah-blah.
50 And all other communities and areas are therefore

1 rural.

2

3

4 So the concern that I've heard
5 expressed is that your Council would like to insert RAC
6 recommendations somehow. And then there is language in
7 the customary and traditional determination process
8 where it says the Board shall take into consideration
9 the reports and recommendations of any appropriate
10 Regional Council. And then we could add, regarding the
11 rural determination process. So it would be in
12 regulations.

12

13

14 So there is the idea of taking into
15 consideration, that would be, I would think be read
16 like Bob Shears mentioned, consult.

16

17

18 The idea of deference is in ANILCA and
19 deference -- it says the Board will defer to the
20 Councils except for, and then they say the reason that
21 the Board won't take the recommendations, and there's
22 three reasons. And so those are in ANILCA. And then
23 the Board has to explain why they didn't take the
24 recommendations of the Council. When you get your
25 .805(c)(3) letter, then that tells -- the Board tells
26 the Council, we did accept your recommendation, or we
27 did not accept your recommendation. So that's where
28 the deference comes in.

28

29

30 But in this regulation, it doesn't say
31 defer, it just says, take into consideration. So that
32 would be the difference. So it would be the consulting
33 or the deference.

33

34

35 And I think Southcentral wanted the
36 Board to defer to the appropriate Regional Council when
37 they make the rural determinations. But what this
38 would be, would be just take into consideration the
39 reports and recommendations, or however you would like
40 to word it. But there is a way to have regulatory
41 language where the Board would consult with the
42 Councils on the process.

42

43

44 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Did that help,
45 Bob.

45

46

47 Lee, did you have a comment.

47

48

49 MR. KAYOTUK: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I'm in
50 support of Mr. Bob Shears about this amended, in
51 support of taking this action towards Regional Advisory

1 Council board.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: We're still under
6 the main motion that was to support the rural
7 determination process. We have some modification to
8 add to it regarding the language that's been provided.
9 I'm trying to identify, do we just identifying this as
10 under the discussion of the motion or do we need to
11 make an amending motion in supporting the language that
12 was just identified.

13

14

Eva.

15

16

17 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
18 The Council can -- and, you know part of the process of
19 making a motion is to provide the supporting
20 justification. If the Council wishes the specific
21 language to be considered in regulation, then the
22 Council should put that language in the motion, how you
23 would like that regulation to read, and what the formal
24 request to the Board is. So if you want the language
25 of the amendment to be formally in the recommendation
26 itself, and to be made part of the regulation
27 policy.....

27

28

CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Policies.

29

30

31 MS. PATTON:that should be in the
32 motion and in the amendment.

32

33

34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So under the
35 discussion, does that -- our records will suffice that
36 do we want this actual communications developed in to
37 our motion.

37

38

39 MS. PATTON: The Council should state
40 the motion as you would like that language to be. So
41 if that language includes the discussion that Bob has
42 had here with his second, and Rosemary had also
43 discussed it, but asking for a different terminology,
44 if the Council would like to make sure that the Board
45 takes into formal consideration that recommendation to
46 -- let me find the language here. For the Federal
47 Subsistence Board to consult with the Regional Advisory
48 Councils in developing the criteria or determining
49 which communities are nonrural. So it would add to the
50 language that the Board currently has, which is the
51 Board determines which areas or communities in Alaska

1 are nonrural. Current determinations are listed. All
2 other communities are therefore rural. So if you would
3 like for the Board to consider formally your request to
4 come back to consult with the Councils, or have the
5 Councils' formal consideration in development of the
6 criteria, that should be in the motion.

7

8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. Thank you.

9

10 Bob.

11

12 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. I have no
13 desire to change the proposed rule as it reads. It's
14 fine.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Further discussion
19 on the motion. We're back to the main motion.

20

21 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: So my question is
22 the recommendation that was put forward to put in the
23 regulatory process, that has not been supported, or has
24 that been supported?

25

26 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: That's not what
27 we're deliberating at this time, Rosemary. We're
28 talking about the proposed rule. We're in support of
29 the proposed rule. Under the main motion.

30

31 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: That we are
32 definitely in support of the main rule, and I was just
33 following Bob's comment that we're not supportive of
34 adding additional language to make it stronger.

35

36 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Is that right,
37 Bob?

38

39 MR. SHEARS: Yeah.

40

41 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: She keeps breaking
42 up just when we get to end of the conversation.

43

44 MR. SHEARS: Exactly. Exactly. She's
45 exactly right.

46

47 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. So I just
48 want to make sure you understood, Rosemary, that you're
49 right on that, your last comment.

50

1 Any further discussion on the main
2 motion.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 MR. SHEARS: Question.
7
8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: The question's
9 been called on the main motion to support the proposed
10 rule rural determination process. All in favor of the
11 motion signify by saying aye.
12
13 IN UNISON: Aye.
14
15 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Opposed say nay.
16
17 (No opposing votes)
18
19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: None noted. Thank
20 you. Four aye -- five ayes. Five. Thank you.
21
22 Can we take a 10-minute break at this
23 time.
24
25 (Off record)
26
27 (On record)
28
29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I'd like to call
30 the meeting of the North Slope Regional Advisory
31 Council back to order after a brief recess.
32
33 Do we still have Rosemary and Sam on
34 this morning. Rosemary, are you on.
35
36 (No comments)
37
38 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: If not, how about
39 Sam.
40
41 MR. KUNAKNANA: Yes, I'm on.
42
43 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Sam.
44
45 Rosemary, are you on yet.
46
47 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
48 was talking with Rosemary. She was on line over the
49 break. We were talking. Maybe she just had a chance
50 now to take a break. So hopefully she'll be able to get

1 back with her foot, and join us on line here shortly.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you.

4

5 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'm on, Eva. I just
6 missed the mute button.

7

8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: All right. Thank
9 you, Rosemary. I just want to make sure the Council
10 members were back on as we come back from our brief
11 recess.

12

13 Bob.

14

15 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes.

18

19 MR. SHEARS: I'm glad, you know, we got
20 through that last exercise, and we got a motion out
21 supporting the proposed rule. But the discussion that
22 we had is still very valid, even though we're not
23 including it in that motion. Requesting that the
24 Federal Subsistence Board continue to involve us in the
25 development of the criteria and the rules and reg --
26 the development of how they will define a nonrural
27 community, should imply that they consult deeply with
28 us, the Regional Advisory Councils, especially in
29 subject matter that pertains to our specific rural
30 characteristics and personality.

31

32 In that regard, a motion -- a further
33 motion to follow up the discussion, take the
34 information that we conveyed during that discussion
35 through our clerk, through the Chair in the form of a
36 letter to the Federal Subsistence Board to consult with
37 affected Regional Advisory Councils on the development
38 of the criteria, rules and regulations and policies for
39 establishing criteria for what is nonrural. This could
40 furthermore -- this letter furthermore should be
41 indicated in our next annual report I would believe.
42 And I'm kind of putting this forward as a suggestion in
43 the form of a second motion.

44

45 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. We have a
46 motion on the floor to draft a letter to the Federal
47 Subsistence Board.

48

49 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I second that.
50 Rosemary.

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Seconded by
2 Rosemary.
3
4 Further discussion on the motion.
5
6 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'd just encourage
7 that to go over it with the Council members that aren't
8 able to participate today, and if they add any further
9 discussion, make sure we include that.
10
11 Thank you.
12
13 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you,
14 Rosemary, for that. We'll definitely provide them the
15 opportunity to communicate on that as well, Gordon and
16 Teddy and James. So we'll definitely have some
17 communications with them and elaborate a bit more on
18 that as well.
19
20 Any further discussion on the motion to
21 draft a letter to the Federal Subsistence Board
22 regarding our discussion on the rural determination
23 process.
24
25 (No comments)
26
27 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Call for question on
28 the motion.
29
30 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: The question's
31 been called on the motion. All in favor of the motion
32 signify by saying aye.
33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.
35
36 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you.
37 Opposed say nay.
38
39 (No opposing votes)
40
41 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: None noted. Thank
42 you.
43
44 Thank you for that Bob.
45
46 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Our next agenda
47 item to cover is the annual report.
48
49 Eva.
50

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
2 did review and discuss the annual report yesterday with
3 the Council members that we had present, and Gordon
4 Brower had provided some input since he would be out
5 today. I want to go back for a brief review so you
6 have an opportunity to provide any edits or additions
7 or recommendations to the report.

8
9 The annual report is on Page 82 of your
10 meeting book. And the Council had identified a number
11 of items at the fall meeting, and extensive discussion
12 on many of these items, the first of which was the need
13 for a public workshop on ANILCA and .804
14 determinations, and also how customary and traditional
15 use is applied in the Federal Subsistence Management
16 Program.

17
18 Extensive discussion on wildlife
19 special action closures. We had a lot of input both
20 from tribes and community, and Council Member Teddy
21 Frankson of Point Hope on short public notice and the
22 encourage of on-going community involvement throughout
23 the year on the status of wildlife and any special
24 actions.

25
26 Food security was addressed again by
27 the Council as a concern to continue to seek ways both
28 through the Regional Advisory Council and networking
29 across the region and the Federal Subsistence Board to
30 address food security issues in the region.

31
32 The importance of holding Council
33 meetings in villages, and the Council stressed again
34 the importance of having that direct connection and
35 involvement of rural communities outside of regional
36 hubs like Barrow. Budgets have prevented the Council
37 from doing so for many years. The Council wanted to
38 reiterate that role and mandate of the Councils to meet
39 in the rural communities and represent rural
40 communities across the region.

41
42 Number 5 was the importance of
43 education and outreach for the subsistence program,
44 including youth involvement, and the Council's
45 recommendation for a youth mentorship program or seat
46 on the Council.

47
48 Council had wanted to revisit the
49 establishment of safety cabins for subsistence
50 activities on Federal lands. They were not satisfied

1 with the reply of the Board in previous annual report,
2 and wanted to seek more information and opportunities
3 there.

4

5 And, number 7, the importance of a
6 holistic approach to research funding, comprehensive
7 ethnographic research, and affective means for
8 addressing subsistence information and management and
9 community concerns. Again the Council had expressed
10 the challenges of only being able to address narrow
11 portions of subsistence with Federal subsistence
12 management being fish and wildlife, marine mammals
13 being another division, and migratory birds another.
14 How to work across those agencies with the Federal
15 Subsistence Board to better address community needs.

16

17 And so if there's additional items that
18 you would like to include for the annual report or any
19 additions or amendments to the input that the Council's
20 had in this one.

21

22 And Gordon had responded yesterday
23 himself that he wanted to include in the annual report
24 the challenges and concerns of the Council. As you
25 noted this morning, the Council had tried to convene a
26 meeting by teleconference in order to be able to take
27 action and make recommendations on the Board of Game
28 proposal, and Gordon wanted to bring forward to the
29 Board just how challenging it is with how busy the
30 Councils are, many, many responsibilities, finding ways
31 to allow the Council to have greater participation and
32 more involvement outside of the two meetings a year
33 that are held for the Council.

34

35 So that was an additional item that
36 Gordon Brower had wanted to bring to the Board's
37 attention.

38

39 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. Thank
40 you for that, Eva.

41

42

43 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Robert.

46

47 MR. SHEARS: To advance this subject
48 matter on our agenda, and to continue the discussion at
49 the Council level, a motion to approve the annual
50 report.

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: We have a motion
2 on the floor to approve the annual report.

3
4 MR. KAYOTUK: I'll second it.

5
6 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Seconded by Lee.
7 Further discussion.

8
9 Just to comment on it before you start,
10 Bob. I think I'm in support of the annual report in
11 terms of its content, and it reflects pretty much what
12 we've identified over the past year, and something that
13 we wish to move forward on. I think that it reflects
14 the concerns that we've been voicing for the past year,
15 and hopefully we can move forward on it.

16
17 Bob.

18
19 MR. SHEARS: Yeah. In regard to
20 Gordon's concerns and comments yesterday, specifically,
21 and you had just indicated that, you know, the report
22 doesn't necessarily capture one of the concerns, the
23 inability to convene on special action issues. Gordon
24 is specifically referring to, you know, the need to get
25 in front of the Board of Game our concern with
26 methodology used to study the population of the
27 caribou, and how the State has conveniently segregated
28 the two herds, the Teshekpuk and the Western Arctic
29 Caribou Herd, and is using different methodologies to
30 equate, you know -- equate or distort the loss in the
31 Western Herd by not considering the population, the
32 lesser loss in the Teshekpuk herd, and not recognizing
33 the combining, the mixing effect of the two herds up
34 here in Unit 26.

35
36 So that concern, we're not aware if
37 that concern has been conveyed. We'll find out this
38 afternoon if the Board of Game has acted, become aware
39 of it.

40
41 And I don't -- you know, I'm not making
42 any motion to amend the annual report to reflect this,
43 but just wanted to have this discussion during this
44 part before we move forward with the annual report.

45
46 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And thank you for
47 that, Robert. I think it's -- you know, having a cabin
48 up that far in terms of where the two herds meet, you
49 know that's something I brought up at the Board of Game
50 as well. But, you know, I don't know how that

1 resonated into the Board or to our folks that were
2 present there at the meeting.

3
4 I see the movement of those herds and
5 aggregating in large groups and then moving. Some
6 Teshekpuk Herd go with the Western Arctic, and some
7 Western Arctic go with the Teshekpuk Herd, so there's
8 that separation, and we don't even get to reflect on
9 that a bit in terms of how that mixing occurs. And
10 every year it happens. And I've seen that over the
11 many years I've been duck hunting out at my cabin up
12 there in (In Inupiaq), the upper portion of the
13 Ikpikput River, and I see that into the foothills.
14 And, you know, I have -- kind of sad to say, my cabin
15 is beginning to be a popular spot during the fall
16 caribou hunt, and I have to deal with all the changes
17 that I've been dealing with over several years, but
18 that's something -- it's getting to be like a hot spot
19 there. People never used to go up that far. And it
20 used to take me, you know, several hours to get up in
21 effort, but now these last few years, it takes days,
22 you know, because of the changes in the timing of my
23 efforts, sometimes it gets hindered, and the access
24 issues.

25
26 Anyway, I think you for sharing that
27 and bringing that up in terms of the caribou herds and
28 the segregation of the herds. It's something that we
29 need to better understand, and how that's being used in
30 the sense that it might be -- whether it be a positive
31 or a negative issue. That remains to be seen.

32
33 Any further discussion.

34
35 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah, this is
36 Rosemary. And we also brought up some of those
37 communications during the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
38 Working Group meeting, that it is important that we're
39 engaged in the process that assessed how they're
40 affecting their data, and receive the data itself, that
41 is very important in our process.

42
43 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Rosemary, your
44 final comments along the end there just started
45 breaking up again. I'm not sure what it is, but I hope
46 somebody else can refer to what Rosemary just stated.

47
48 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Just supported what
49 you all were talking about. We also discussed it in
50 the Western Arctic. And thank you all.

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you,
2 Rosemary.
3
4 Eva.
5
6 MS. PATTON: We've just had a
7 recommendation, I forget, too, that it might be helpful
8 if when Rosemary is talking, if we take our mics off.
9 I don't know if that's case, but we'll give that a try.
10
11 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. Thank you.
12 So I'll give that a try here.
13
14 And we have a motion on the floor to
15 approve the, what is it, the 2015 annual report? 2014
16 annual report for the North Slope Regional Advisory
17 Council. Any further discussion on the motion.
18
19 MR. KUNAKNANA: Go.
20
21 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Sam, is that you
22 going to make a comment?
23
24 MR. KUNAKNANA: No. No. It's okay.
25
26 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah, we could
27 hear you fairly well.
28
29 MR. KUNAKNANA: Yeah, I'm sorry about
30 that. I'm just trying to understand my role over here.
31 I'm trying to find the literature that was sent to me
32 from Eva. And, no, I'm just trying to understand my
33 role here.
34
35 Thank you.
36
37 MR. SHEARS: Page 82.
38
39 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: It's in the packet
40 that was sent to you, Sam, North Slope Subsistence
41 Regional Advisory Council packet. What we're
42 discussing is on Page 82.
43
44 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Sam.
45
46 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Eva.
47
48 MS. PATTON: Sam, this was a letter
49 that was drafted by the North Slope Regional Advisory
50 Council, so each year the Council drafts an annual

1 report to the Federal Subsistence Board to bring forth
2 the Council's concerns, recommendations, to help bring
3 awareness to subsistence issues in the region. So as a
4 new Council member, much of this discussion had
5 happened at the meetings in the previous year. If you
6 had an opportunity to read it in your meeting book,
7 it's on Page 82, and so the Council revisits their
8 draft letter at this meeting, makes any recommendations
9 for changes or additions that they'd like to add to it,
10 and then concurs that the letter the Council has worked
11 on drafting, and that I helped draft with the Council,
12 is an accurate statement of their concerns and
13 recommendations. So the Council then votes on that,
14 and that's what we're doing at this point.

15

16 And we recognize that much of this
17 discussion happened, as this is your first meeting as
18 our new Regional Advisory Council, and this report is a
19 good reflection of the work of the Council in the last
20 year as well.

21

22 Thanks so much, Sam, for being on line
23 today.

24

25 MR. KUNAKNANA: Okay. You're welcome.
26 I'm just -- you know, I know this is new to me, and
27 it's something that I look forward to working with you
28 guys.

29

30 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Sam.

31

32 Any further discussion on the motion to
33 adopt the 2014 annual report.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Call for a question.

38

39 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Questions been
40 called on the motion. All in favor of the motion to
41 adopt the annual report 2014 signify by saying aye.

42

43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44

45 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. We
46 have our annual report, 2014 annual report adopted.

47

48 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Robert.

1 MR. SHEARS: Regretfully, I had pulled
2 you aside before the meeting. I have a personal issue,
3 family I need to attend to for a brief time. It will
4 probably take, you know, the rest of the morning. I
5 understand though we have a narrow quorum, but without
6 me, you would still have four considering the two
7 people on line. Would it be a possibility if I could
8 be excused at this point and return after lunch.

9
10 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Robert. I
11 think we can accommodate that.

12
13 MR. SHEARS: All right. Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah. Thank you.

16
17 Meanwhile I'll look to Eva as to where
18 we are in regards to our agenda. I did take some notes
19 on some of the topics you wanted to bring out for
20 discussion this morning. With this, we can definitely
21 move forward on another item.

22
23 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
24 Robert will be back at 1:00 o'clock when we reconvene.

25
26 We have -- the only other action item
27 for this morning was the charter revisions. We can
28 take that up when we reconvene at one. It's pretty
29 brief, just to reconfirm that the Council wants those
30 changes.

31
32 And then this afternoon will also be
33 the important action items, if the Council wishes to
34 develop a Federal subsistence wildlife proposal. And
35 Bob will be back for that, so we'll have quorum again
36 this afternoon.

37
38 Next on the agenda was the Fisheries
39 Resource Monitoring Program updates. Karen Hyer was
40 going to provide just a really brief update on the
41 status of those proposals, and also opportunity for
42 partners program, call for proposals also. And then we
43 have Brendan Scanlon was going to provide a PowerPoint
44 presentation, a report back to the Council on FRMP
45 project that he was working on in Kaktovik for Dolly
46 Varden and some other fisheries updates this morning.

47
48 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So we could start
49 with the Fisheries Monitoring Program. Karen.

50

1 MS. HYER: Yeah. Good morning, Mr.
2 Chairman and Council members.

3
4 I just wanted to give you a brief
5 update on where we are with the Fisheries Resource
6 Monitoring Program call for proposals. It closed last
7 week, and we are now in the process of kind of
8 categorizing those proposals and getting them in order
9 to send to our Technical Review Committee. And it
10 looks like we have around somewhere between 40 and 50
11 proposals that have come in statewide. So we don't
12 have a final count yet, because we're still going
13 through. They can submit them in several different
14 places, so we're still going through all the proposals
15 and assigning numbers and allocating them to regions.
16 So that is where we are with the FRMP.

17
18 One thing that I wanted to mention and
19 it's unfortunate that Bob had to go, because he was the
20 one that brought up the smelt issue. But we actually
21 had the smelt in the call, not this call, but two years
22 ago, and this is something that is a challenge to the
23 program. We'll put an information need into the call,
24 and then nobody will submit a proposal to do any work
25 on it. And so I don't think that statewide there's a
26 lot of people that have done a lot of work on smelt.
27 There was a project out of Togiak that was completed by
28 the Refuge I do believe. But anyway I did hear what
29 was presented yesterday, and that is something that we
30 do need to continue to visit so that if it hits our
31 call again, we have a high probability of getting
32 somebody interested in doing some work on it.

33
34 So that's all I had for the Fisheries
35 Monitoring Program.

36
37 And then I just wanted to let the
38 Council know, we had talked about the Partners Program
39 when I was up there at the last meeting, and we are now
40 in the process of putting together the announcement for
41 funding, and that should come out in the next couple
42 weeks. And actually we're doing that right now.

43
44 And so that's all I had. If you have
45 any questions, I can take them right now.

46
47 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I'm going to ask
48 the Council to see if any questions to Karen from the
49 Council members.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
2 I know we have a couple folks that are on
3 teleconference. Mr. Chair, pardon me. Rosemary was
4 chairing yesterday.

5
6 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes.

7
8 MS. PATTON: There is a Partners
9 program flyer that provides background on the program
10 itself. The Council discussed at length
11 recommendations to the Partners Program when Karen had
12 presented to the Council at the meeting in Nuiqsut,
13 recommendations for engagement with the communities.
14 So currently there isn't a Partners Program in the
15 North Slope region, but it is open. The call is going
16 out again. Currently there's several other regional
17 Native non-profits that do have a Partners Program
18 position. So it is open statewide. It is open to the
19 North Slope region, and to both tribal organizations,
20 Native non-profits. It can also be other non-profits,
21 educational non-profits. So if you have connections
22 with folks or ideas to help get the word out that this
23 call will be coming up soon.

24
25 And for those folks that are on line,
26 we can get you that information, too, via internet.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. Thank you
31 for that, Eva.

32
33 Any questions or comments from Council
34 members.

35
36 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.

37
38 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I don't know if you
39 can hear me, but.....

40
41 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Go ahead,
42 Rosemary.

43
44 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah, I just wanted
45 to see if we would be able to create a partnership with
46 the North Slope Borough. We were talking about some of
47 that communication around the smelt and that there
48 weren't a lot of responses to the need, but if we could
49 create something, that would be really important to try
50 to do so.

1 MS. HYER: Yes, Rosemary. This is
2 Karen.

3
4 Yes, I think that that's something, I
5 think that we should set our sights on the next call.
6 We should doing some work right away, maybe getting
7 some interest in creating some partnership so that then
8 when that money comes available again, we have somebody
9 that's interested in applying for it and could compete
10 successfully, because it would be nice if that -- that
11 has continued to be an area of concern for this
12 Council. And so it would be nice to make some progress
13 in that area.

14
15 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: So really.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

18
19 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yesterday we had
20 some communications around that, and we just need to
21 make sure we start this process and work towards
22 getting some of these information so to help us with
23 the changes that we're facing.

24
25 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. Thank you.
26 I'm just trying to think through how we could define
27 the North Slope Borough, because this Partners Program
28 was referring to a non-profit as one of the conditions.
29 Are there additional criteria that I missed?

30
31 MS. HYER: Harry, this is Karen.

32
33 There's the Partners Program, but
34 there's also the continued monitoring program for
35 research that people can apply for funding, and while
36 one cycles just closed, it is a bi-yearly cycle, and
37 it's not too early to start working on the next years,
38 contacting people, trying to get an idea of who might
39 be interested in this, and making sure that it hits the
40 priority information needs list, because that's
41 actually going to start again very soon, that dialogue,
42 so I think we need to keep it in the forefront.

43
44 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I'm just writing
45 as fast as you're speaking, so I'm a little bit behind.
46 But information, that's going to be happening here, to
47 be identified here shortly I guess in the near future,
48 and that communication's continuing.

49
50 Eva.

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

2

3 So there's two processes, and they're
4 often interconnected. The FRMP proposals are the
5 research and monitoring proposals, and we've just gone
6 through one cycle. The Council had provided fairly
7 extensive input and input from the communities on what
8 are the subsistence fisheries research and monitoring
9 priority information needs that should go out in that.
10 That call has just closed, so the applications have
11 come in, and it's closed, and the Council will hear
12 next fall about those proposals that were submitted.
13 That process is ongoing, but there will be another
14 call, so that comes up annually.

15

16 And then the Partners Program call
17 comes out once every four years. And this is what
18 hasn't been announced yet. That call will be coming
19 up, I believe Karen could correct me here, within the
20 next month. And that's an opportunity for tribes,
21 regional Native non-profits, or regional non-profits,
22 educational non-profits. And Karen has been developing
23 that call. That program does require it being housed
24 within a non-profit or a tribe. Educational non-
25 profits do count. But they can partner with the
26 borough or they can partner, you know, with a State or
27 Federal agency, so there's often strong partnerships.
28 And so those networks are a big part of it as well.

29

30 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So when you're
31 saying -- I just need some clarification here. When
32 you're saying that they can partner, you're referring
33 the IRA, Regional Advi -- not the Regional, but like
34 the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope can partner
35 with the North Slope Borough and apply for a
36 partnership program.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

39

40 So if ICAS was interested in the
41 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program, and the
42 program would actually need to be housed primarily and
43 applied for and organized within that Native non-
44 profit, but many of the non-profits have very strong
45 partnerships to both build the capacity to do the
46 research themselves, to, you know, increase the
47 networking and collaboration, opportunity for
48 internships for students. So, you know, if, for
49 example, ICAS was interested in applying or one of the
50 non-profit educational institutions here, I believe

1 Ilisagvik College is a tribal college, a non-profit
2 institution. If they were interested in applying, they
3 can network with the North Slope Borough Wildlife
4 Department and really, you know, build their capacity
5 for research, as long as it's housed in their program.

6
7 And Karen might have some more to add
8 as well.

9
10 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay.

11
12 MS. HYER: Yeah. No, everything Eva
13 said is correct. And so you can form the partnerships,
14 but oftentimes the Partners Program includes where some
15 of our partners do work on FRMP projects, but it also
16 includes, you know, if people deem they want to pursue
17 something in the educational component, or some other
18 kind of cultural outreach. So there's a wide array of
19 possibilities for that position.

20
21 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
22 that, Karen.

23
24 So I'd just ask the Council members,
25 any questions or comments regarding this agenda item.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: If not, thank you,
30 Karen.

31
32 MS. HYER: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
33 Chairman and Council members.

34
35 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Eva.

36
37
38 MS. PATTON: All right. Mr. Chair and
39 Council. We have next on the agenda is Brendan
40 Scanlon.

41
42 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Brendan.

43
44 MS. PATTON: And he'll be providing a
45 PowerPoint of the FRMP research this summer. I don't
46 know, maybe -- it looks like he's got some good
47 pictures. It might be worth moving over there. We can
48 move the screen so you can see.

49
50 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you.

1 Brendan, you have the floor.

2

3 MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
4 Once again my name is Brendan Scanlon. I'm the
5 Northwest and North Slope area biologist for Department
6 of Fish and Game, Division of Sportfish.

7

8 My area includes Nome, Unalakleet, and
9 Kotzebue, so I don't get to come up to the North Slope
10 as I'd like, but recently we've got some funding to do
11 some research up here, and we've submitted three
12 proposals to the FRMP program that I'd like to talk
13 about as well, and answer any questions and see if you
14 would in fact endorse these. So first I'll talk about
15 the project we have going on we started last year that
16 we will have another year of field work, and then the
17 three proposals. And please interrupt me at any time
18 if you have any questions.

19

20 So the first project I'll talk about
21 has got to do with marine movements of Dolly Varden.
22 We started this project last summer. We worked the
23 Ivishak River and also the near-shore waters of
24 Kaktovik to put out satellite tags. And the three
25 proposed projects that we've turned into OSM include
26 lake trout research in the Anaktuvuk area, aerial
27 surveys of Dolly Varden in North Slope drainages, and
28 the Colville River Arctic grayling seasonal movements.

29

30 So this is the first one. This is a
31 cooperative project between Fish and Game, University
32 of Alaska Fairbanks, and Fish and Wildlife Service.
33 This is funded through the FRMP program.

34

35 So we've known for a long time how
36 important Dolly Varden are to the people of the North
37 Slope. We don't have a lot of great harvest
38 information, but it appears about 10 to 20,000 fish are
39 harvested each year for subsistence, and most of it
40 comes from mixed stock aggregations. So, for example,
41 in marine waters, if you're using gillnets to catch
42 Dollies, they could be from a number of different
43 drainages, including a couple in Canada as well.

44

45 So just a quick background on their
46 life history. They spawn and rear in fresh water, and
47 when they turn three or four, they start to do annual
48 migrations to see in the summer to feed. And they must
49 return to freshwater to over-winter. they can't handle
50 below freezing temperatures that can happen in

1 saltwater. And they can travel long distances in
2 saltwater. And the largest over-wintering areas that
3 we know about include the Ivishak, Hulahula, and
4 Kongakut Rivers. There's also several more, but these
5 are the big ones.

6
7 And most of you probably know this
8 already, but these are the eight drainages that we know
9 of that have sizable over-wintering and spawning
10 populations of Dolly Varden, a couple more in there
11 that have smaller ones, and at least two, probably up
12 to four rivers in Canada have Dolly Varden that come
13 into Alaska marine waters in the summer.

14
15 So there's some things we think we
16 noticed. Approximately 50 to 100,000 anadromous
17 Dollies on the North Slope in the summertime. Most
18 spawn and over-winter in the same river, and this is
19 different than Dolly Varden say in Kotzebue Sound or in
20 Norton Sound where they move between drainages freely,
21 even to Russia and back.

22
23 We have had tagged Follies Firth of
24 Babbage rivers show up harvests in marine waters in
25 Alaska. And the streams between Barrow and Point Hope
26 are mostly devoid of Dolly Varden. It's a little bit
27 of a freshwater fish dessert. The streams are small
28 and a lot of them dry up in the summer, and they
29 generally don't have very much for Dolly Varden.

30
31 So there's a lot we don't know, but
32 these are just a few of them: Where exactly the summer
33 feeding areas are. What their summer migration
34 patterns are. If Alaska Dolly Varden move into
35 Canadian waters in the summer. And if the summer
36 feeding occurs in oil and gas lease areas offshore.

37
38 So this is just a slide of the oil and
39 gas lease areas. Obviously they go through the near-
40 shore lease areas, but what we'd like to do in this
41 project is learn if they go offshore into these other
42 areas to feed. Yeah.

43
44 Okay. Our hypothesis for this project
45 was that Dolly Varden that over-winter in North Slope
46 rivers will occupy the offshore Beaufort Sea in the
47 summer. Our objective was to describe the dispersal of
48 Dolly Varden during the summer feeding season.

49
50 So the way we're doing this is we are

1 using pop-up satellite archival tags, and I have one
2 here if anybody would like to look at it. It looks
3 like a great big obnoxious tag, but they did quite well
4 with it. So this tag will measure and archive
5 temperature and depth, and ambient light intensity for
6 every 10 minutes. And on a programmed date that we set
7 before we put it on the fish, the tag will release from
8 the fish and float to service fairly buoyant. The
9 antenna will come out of the water and transmit all
10 that data to passing satellites. It will transmit for
11 up to two weeks.

12
13 And whole it's transmitting, we'll get
14 a really good end location of where the fish was when
15 the tag popped off.
16 And it's fisheries independent, meaning we don't need
17 to rely on fishers catching these tags and giving them
18 back to us, or for use to go look for them.

19
20 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So a question,
21 Brendan. Where is the tag placed on the fish?

22
23 MR. SCANLON: I'm sorry, I didn't hear
24 that.

25
26 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Where is the tag
27 placement on the fish?

28
29 MR. SCANLON: It's on the back. It's
30 held on by a harness. And, in fact, I have some
31 pictures coming up to show you how we put the tag
32 attachment on.

33
34 So we did a similar project over on the
35 Wulik River and the Kivalina in 2012 and 2013, and the
36 star is where we put the tags out on the fish, and this
37 is where the fish ended up. We had a lot that went
38 immediately into freshwater to spawn, but we had about
39 eight fish that went over to Russian Chukchi Sea
40 waters. One actually popped up in a lagoon in a
41 Russian River. And this was the first documentation of
42 summer feeding in offshore waters in the Chukchi. We
43 also got some really detailed diving information as
44 well.

45
46 So we thought we'd try to do this on
47 the North Slope. These are the tags we used. They
48 cost about \$4300 each, so we couldn't buy a ton of
49 them. They're about a foot long and they weigh about
50 40 grams. And we scheduled the tag release dates, we

1 kind of staggered it, because we weren't sure what we
2 were going to find. We didn't want the fish to be in
3 fresh water when the tag release date was scheduled,
4 because the release mechanism requires a certain amount
5 of salinity for basically the battery in the
6 transmitter sends a charge up to the wire that holds
7 the fish, and through electrolysis it will corrode.
8 But it doesn't work if it's in fresh water. So for the
9 first year we started the pop-up dates to at least
10 insure that we would get some information, and then we
11 could fine-tune our pop-off dates for the next year
12 based on what we found.

13

14 So we put out our tags in a couple
15 locations. We were on Ivishak River just after ice-
16 out. We wanted to catch fish before they started to
17 move out to saltwater. And then we worked in Kaktovik
18 for about 10 days using large mesh gillnets that we
19 would just on, and as the fish would hit it, we'd go
20 pick it out. We brought beach seine and hook and line,
21 but we primarily just used the gillnets.

22

23 So the tag gets sewn into the dorsal
24 musculature. It has a silicone pad that adheres to the
25 fish, and we actually just sew this on with some
26 surgical wire. The muscle near the dorsal fin is
27 mostly white muscle; there's not a lot of blood. These
28 tags go on very quickly. And while it's in this
29 cradle, it's in water, so it's able to breathe. We
30 don't have to anesthetize these fish. And we also hold
31 them for an hour to make sure, after they have the tag,
32 that they're okay to go.

33

34 So what we want to examine is the pop-
35 up locations and the depth and temperature data that
36 the tag has recorded.

37

38 So here's where we put out our 13 tags.
39 We put out nine in the Ivishak, four off the marine
40 waters off Kaktovik near the airport.

41

42 And we didn't exactly get what we
43 wanted. We had hoped to tag fish that were not going
44 to spawn in 2014, but it looks like everything we did
45 tag spawned, so we had -- we only found eight of the 13
46 tags, excuse me, and they were all in freshwater. The
47 Ivishak fish all moved upstream from where we tagged
48 them to spawn. And the four we tagged near Kaktovik,
49 we found of three of them. Two went into Hulahula
50 right away, one went in the Kongakut. So these tags

1 don't release from a fish if they're in freshwater, but
2 I think what happened here wa they moved into shallow
3 spawning areas, and since the tag is buoyant, the
4 antenna came out of the water long enough for us to get
5 a location.

6
7 The remaining tags were probably fish
8 that remained in freshwater but were in deep enough
9 water to where the antenna did not come out, so we
10 didn't any information. So we were -- yeah.

11
12 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Brendan, just a
13 second. We're getting some kind of feedback from the
14 speakers here, and it's interfering with the
15 (indiscernible) where it is coming from, maybe, Eva.

16
17 MS. PATTON: I think, folks on line, it
18 sounds like we're getting somebody's music in the
19 background here. If everyone who's doing this online
20 could please push star-six on your phones so that we
21 don't get the feedback.

22
23 Maybe we could check in. Who's on line
24 with us currently. Somebody has music playing in the
25 background. Yeah. Whoever has their phone -- oh,
26 okay. I see what you're saying. All right.
27 Apparently someone has their phone on hold, so we're
28 getting their hold music. We'll try to get this
29 addressed as we can here. I don't know if there's a
30 way for us to. Is everyone able to hear when Brendan's
31 speaking here for the presentation.

32
33 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah, but it's
34 actually a little (indiscernible).

35
36 MS. HYER: Eva, this is Karen. Let me
37 see if I can reach the operator and ask her to mute it.

38
39 MS. PATTON: Sure. That would be great
40 if we're able to just -- I don't know if the operator's
41 able to tell who has their phone muted so that we can
42 still maintain our connection with those Council
43 members in particular and everyone else that's joined
44 us on teleconference.

45
46 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I have just a
47 question to Brendan. How much more did you have to
48 provide for this.

49
50 MR. SCANLON: I'm sorry, I've got a bit

1 more. I've got three other projects to speak of after
2 this one.

3

4 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Uh-huh. Eva.

5

6 MS. PATTON: We do have a
7 recommendation, this might work. If we're able to
8 disconnect.

9

10 MS. HYER: Eva, this is Karen.

11

12 MS. PATTON: Yes.

13

14 MS. HYER: She said you can mute
15 everybody by doing star-four. You're the leader,
16 right?

17

18 MS. PATTON: Can you say that again,
19 Karen?

20

21 MS. HYER: If you do star-four, you
22 should be able to mute us all while Brendan does his
23 presentation. And she was going to go look for the
24 music, but in the meantime you could do star-four.

25

26 MS. PATTON: Okay. So Lynn is going to
27 push star-four on our teleconference line here, and
28 we'll just all be listening to the presentation now.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So continue,
33 Brendan.

34

35 MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
36 So just to continue, we weren't able to learn anything
37 about summer marine movements and feeding, other than
38 just the fish that left the Kaktovik tagging area and
39 went into the rivers. We were unlucky in that we
40 tagged all spawning fish this year.

41

42 So we're going to switch things up a
43 little bit next year. Like I said, we were unable to
44 identify non-spawning fish. We didn't meet out sample
45 size either, because these tags are very large, and we
46 wanted to tag fish that were about 26 inches or bigger
47 so the antenna wouldn't touch the tail if the fish was
48 swimming really fast. But the smallest fish we tagged
49 was the one that swam the Kongakut, so we feel pretty
50 good that we could probably tag a little bit smaller

1 fish.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: If I could ask a
4 question, what kind of radio -- I mean, what kind of
5 life does that radio have in terms of its -- if you
6 placed a tag on a fish already, what duration will that
7 cover for the span of that radio.

8

9 MR. SCANLON: Sure. So once the
10 scheduled release date happens, it will start to
11 transmit to satellite for 10 days to 2 weeks depending
12 on how long the batter will live. After that it will
13 quit transmitting, but if the fish is caught, we can
14 get the information off the tag, it is recorded. So
15 there's also a pretty nice reward for anyone who
16 catches one of our tagged fish, because we can
17 refurbish these for only \$900.

18

19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you.

20

21 MR. SCANLON: So we feel pretty good
22 that the tagging's going to work. One fish swam 100
23 kilometers in about four days, and over in the Wulik
24 River we found that they swam up to 500 kilometers with
25 these tags.

26

27 So for 2015 what we probably would like
28 to do is maybe spend a little bit of time in Kaktovik
29 again and just have some really quick pop-off dates
30 pretty soon after we tag them, but then also go to some
31 of the spawning areas and tag large post-spawning fish.
32 And those fish will hold the tag over the winter and
33 then go out to sea in the spring. And so that way
34 we'll ensure that we're not going to tag fish that are
35 going to spawn again since they only spawn every other
36 year.

37

38 It sounds like a long time, but we've
39 done some literature search and found that Atlantic
40 Salmon and Arctic char in Norway have kept these same
41 tags for a year, and these were fish that were in
42 saltwater feeding and moving and running from
43 predators, so we think if we catch large fish that look
44 like they're in good condition that are just going to
45 stay parked in the river for the winter, that they
46 should be able to hold the tag okay.

47

48 And if anyone has any ideas of other
49 places to catch fish, I'd be glad to hear them. I
50 always learn something when I come here.

1 So that's all I have for this project.
2 If there's any questions.

3

4 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Lee.

5

6 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair. Council.
7 Yeah. This area on how the fish movement in the Dolly
8 Varden is quite interesting, because you see that
9 during the fall and summertime when they come out and
10 they travel long distances and they come back in the
11 falltime. And on the Hulahula we see it quite often,
12 and we notice that there is some fish there, but we
13 just can't see how much. But anyway, you know, that
14 you depend on studies like this.

15

16 But again, you know, we have otters
17 that are eliminating the fish on the Hulahula, that we
18 are seeing more otters that are eating up the fish hole
19 areas, and, you know, we try to get these otters, but
20 again it's very difficult. They're fast, and at
21 different times we could see them, but again, you know,
22 we try and get these otters, you know, in the river to
23 bring that fish population back up.

24

25 And then we've got interact with the
26 weather and the ice movement in the springtime when you
27 have large floods or dropping of the ice, of deep snow
28 conditions where the fish have been crushed in these
29 areas which, you know, we've seen before in the Dolly
30 Varden that, you know, we've seen sometime when we're
31 walking around on the rivers that we've seen, and
32 washed up or being crushed by the ice movement of
33 spring thaw.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
38 that, Lee.

39

40 Brendan.

41

42 MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Mr. Kayotuk.
43 I did not know that about otters.

44

45 And your comment about changing ice
46 conditions, we've seen similar things over on the
47 Kotzebue side. We would count trout from the air right
48 before freeze-up as part of a monitoring program we
49 have with the Red Dog Mine, and it seems that they're
50 coming in later and later, ice is coming on later and

1 later. We used to do these surveys September 15th, and
2 we did one last year October 7th, and there was still
3 no ice on the river. And the fish also delayed coming
4 in. So, yeah, things are definitely changing.

5
6 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I have a question
7 in regards -- it's not so much to the telemetry work,
8 but have you worked with stable isotopes before in
9 regards to when you take some of these fish.

10
11 MR. SCANLON: That's an excellent
12 question. No, I have not. I've been involved on
13 projects where we've taken fin clips for genetic
14 samples, and with those we're able to find stream of
15 origin. I think stable isotopes are -- I'm not too
16 familiar with it, but I think it helps defines the kind
17 of diet, because the food will leave its own signature.

18
19
20 You know, one thing we found over on
21 the -- with the Wulik River project is that these fish
22 went to that offshore Chukchi Sea area really quickly,
23 like one fish swam 70 kilometers a day to get to this
24 fishing hole, the feeding area. And then once it got
25 there, it dove continuously 22 hours a day. This
26 location is where two currents came together, a
27 Siberian coastal current and warm water came up through
28 the Bering Strait. It's also a very popular area for
29 bowhead whales. So we believe that they're probably
30 feeding a lot with the bowheads, they're feeding on
31 krill and plankton and arthropods, and that sort of
32 thing.

33
34 But, no, I haven't done any work with
35 stable isotopes.

36
37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah. I thought
38 I'd just throw out that question, because I'm learning
39 more about that with the marine mammal work that some
40 of our constituents work with, like I work for the
41 North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management,
42 and we have a lot of research projects that's
43 happening, and some of the marine mammal work is
44 focused on stable isotopes in terms of signatures as to
45 where these animals are feeding and where they're
46 hanging out basically in a sense.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 So I'm going to move on to -- I just have a few slides
2 on the three project proposals that we submitted to the
3 FRMP recently.

4

5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And before you get
6 into the that, I was just wanting to look back in terms
7 of your objectives. It went by fairly quick. An
8 objective to discover dispersal of Dolly Varden during
9 the summer feeding season. And are you meeting that
10 objective? Because what I just heard, you know, you're
11 having problems with the fish swimming upriver and
12 staying upriver, and the radio life is not that long,
13 10 days to 2 weeks. And are you able to meet your
14 objective with that kind of a radio life on the
15 telemetry?

16

17 MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 You're correct, we did not meet our objectives this
19 year. We were unlucky and we tagged all fish that were
20 going to spawn, so they simply just moved into upriver
21 or in freshwaters right away. So that's why we're
22 going to switch things up and to the spawning areas and
23 tag fish after they've spawned, large ones that appear
24 to be in good condition. And we'll schedule the
25 release dates for next summer so that the tag will not
26 transmit for nine months or so. You know, we know that
27 fish is going to want to go out and feed in the summer
28 since it had just spawned the fall before. So we think
29 that will solve that problem.

30

31 But the tag doesn't actually transmit
32 until a programmed date that we decide. So while it's
33 on the fish throughout the winter it won't transmit.
34 It will still collect temperature and depth data. That
35 doesn't use up very much battery. The transmitting to
36 satellites is where it gobbles up the battery, so it
37 will just hold that tag for nine months or so until the
38 summer and then hopefully that fish will want to eat
39 really badly, excuse me, and go offshore and we'll get
40 our data that way. So we feel pretty good that it's
41 going to work out this year.

42

43 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: All right. Thank
44 you. Yeah, I'm just trying to get an advisory up quick
45 and trying to -- I was trying to figure out if you were
46 meeting your objective or not when you were talking
47 about the telemetry work itself. It seemed to be just
48 up in the river at the time, but you're wanting to
49 identify with the fish movements away from the spawning
50 areas more so into whatever they're summering in the

1 summertime I think is what you're trying to get at as
2 part of that.

3

4 MR. SCANLON: Yeah, that's correct. We
5 struck out this summer, but we're going to make it work
6 next summer.

7

8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you.

9

10 MR. SCANLON: Okay. So this is the
11 first of the three proposed projects that we'd like to
12 do starting in 2016. So aerial monitoring of Dolly
13 Varden over-wintering abundance in the North Slope
14 rivers. This proposed study will partially address one
15 of the priority information needs of identifying over-
16 wintering areas for Dollies in the Hulahula. We have
17 some of that information already, but since the 1970s
18 we -- not me personally, but the Department has done
19 aerial surveys to look for over-wintering abundance of
20 dollies on the North Slope. There's lots of holes in
21 that data, but it goes back a long ways, and we haven't
22 done it in quite a while. And that's what this
23 project's about.

24

25 So as most of you know, Dolly Varden
26 come in to over-winter, and they have some very
27 specific areas where they spend the winter there. They
28 need certain water depth and some upwelling with some
29 oxygen in it, and usually near off-ice fields. We know
30 about larger over-wintering populations in the Ivishak,
31 Kongakut, and Hulahula, Canning, and Anaktuvuk. These
32 are probably the largest aggregations.

33

34 And like I said, we haven't done any
35 surveys in a while. We haven't done anything in the
36 Kongakut in 20 years. Because these fish are so
37 important, we'd like to keep this data set of long-term
38 over-wintering abundance going, and that's what this
39 project's about.

40

41 So when the conditions are good in the
42 fall right before freeze-up, and these really clear
43 rivers that are pretty shallow, you can do a pretty
44 good job of counting fish from the air.

45

46 This is a picture I took on the Wulik
47 River a few years ago, and that's about 4,000 Dolly
48 Varden. There's probably a little tiny pod of grey on
49 there near the shore, but on the North Slope there
50 shouldn't be any other large groups of fish that we

1 would confuse over-wintering Dolly Varden with.

2

3 So for this project, for four
4 consecutive years, we would to use a helicopter to do
5 index aerial surveys on these five rivers to get an
6 over-wintering abundance. And also we'd like to be
7 able to fine-tune where we know over-wintering areas
8 are on some of these rivers where we don't have a lot
9 of survey information, where we may have missed fish in
10 the past. So we're going to try to do a very
11 comprehensive count.

12

13 And after each fall, I will get the
14 numbers that we have counted and have them distributed
15 to the RAC.

16

17 So that's all I have for that one.

18

19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Any questions from
20 the Council members to Brendan.

21

22 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes.

25

26 MR. KAYOTUK: Yeah. I'd like to
27 iterate, you know, we get the grayling, too, that's
28 mixed in with the Dolly Varden, so that's a pretty
29 important fish, too, to coordinate with Dolly Varden.

30

31 And also, you know, when you say
32 current conditions in the ocean there, we could see,
33 you know, two different devise of currents that are met
34 with freshwater and saltwater. That's where we see a
35 lot of whales and et cetera, seals, and stuff like that
36 follow these currents in order to fish in these real
37 important areas that are in shallow water that -- where
38 two currents meet together.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Lee.

43

44 Again, just trying to -- following
45 along with the presentation, I'd just look to the
46 Council members to see if there's any question. Maybe
47 Rosemary or Sam may have any questions to Brendan.

48

49 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes.

2

3 MS. PATTON: We'll need to unmute our
4 end of the phone so we can get responses now from
5 folks. So if we hit the star-four again, we should be
6 able to hear folks who would like to speak to us on
7 line now.

8

9 To everyone on line, we had to mute our
10 line to cut out the background noise that was coming in
11 from the music. It seems to be okay now.

12

13 Do we have Rosemary and Sam on line
14 with us.

15

16 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes, I'm on. I
17 appreciate the information. It is really important to
18 get a better understanding of these important areas and
19 the efforts that are coming to change some of these
20 areas with efforts to create infrastructure. So I
21 really appreciate understanding this. I wish I could
22 be there to see the PowerPoint. If you could send
23 that, that would be great, and then probably go from
24 there, but really appreciate your information.

25

26 MR. SCANLON: Sure, I'd be happy to do
27 that.

28

29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Any other
30 questions or comments from Council members.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you,
35 Brendan.

36

37 We can move forward.

38

39 MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

40

41 The next proposed project I will speak
42 about has got to do with lake trout near Anaktuvuk
43 area. We'd like to estimate sustained yield, identify
44 spawning areas and try to get an estimate of abundance
45 for lake trout in the connected lakes around Chandler.
46 This study will partially address a priority
47 information need of documentation of longevity, age of
48 maturity, and abundance of lake trout of a given size
49 status in the upper Anaktuvuk.

50

1 So we don't have a lot of harvest
2 information from Anaktuvuk Pass. The most recent we
3 have was late 90s, and it suggested about 500 to 800
4 lake trout a year harvested for subsistence by fishers
5 at Anaktuvuk. That doesn't sound like a lot, but lake
6 trout aren't like whitefish or trout or grayling.
7 They're not usually found in high densities. They have
8 very specific habitat requirements for spawning and
9 rearing. They can't handle a lot of environmental
10 change, competition, or over-harvest.

11
12 The last work that was done on lake
13 trout in Chandler Lake was about 30 years ago. There
14 was a little bit of abundance information and interlake
15 movement collected. It was a pretty good project, and
16 it gave us something to build on. So we'd like to
17 update the information.

18
19 So the first thing we'd like to do is
20 use radio telemetry to identify spawning areas. Lake
21 trout spawn in large congregations, generally fairly
22 shallow water, and they always do it at night in the
23 fall time.

24
25 We'd also like to use these tagged fish
26 to see what degrees of movement we see between the
27 connected lakes. I'll show a map here in a second. At
28 the end of this project, we'd like to be able to have
29 estimated the abundance of mature lake trout, and we'll
30 like to update and estimate the year potential in terms
31 of number of lake trout in the connected lakes.

32
33 So with estimating sustained yield of
34 lake trout, what the State does, we have a lake trout
35 management plan, and we use a surplus production model
36 developed by Canadian researchers who have a large data
37 set of lakes where they have harvest, abundance,
38 production, and mortality data. they developed a model
39 that you can use lake surface area to predict what you
40 can sustainably harvest out of a lake. But the model
41 gives you pounds -- or, I'm sorry, kilograms per
42 hectare a year, which is only partially useful. I
43 mean, you know, we don't measure harvest by kilograms
44 per hectare, we measure it by numbers of fish. So we
45 need to translate that into numbers of fish, and that's
46 what we plan to do here.

47
48 So in the summer, July, 2017, we'd like
49 to go in and use tangle nets and hookless juglines, rod
50 and reel to catch our fish for radio tagging. And

1 we're going to put out 50 tags in Chandler and Little
2 Chandler Lakes, and we'll put tracking stations here at
3 these outlet streams to look for fish movement. We'll
4 get direction and timing of these movements.

5
6 So like I said, lake trout spawn in the
7 fall, and it's a rough time to be out on the lake, but
8 once you locate spawning areas, sometimes you can do
9 really well at catching them in a beach seine. It's a
10 real easy way to do it, and we do this other places in
11 the Interior. And we can sometimes catch several
12 hundred lake trout at a time. It's a good time to
13 sample fish.

14
15 So we're going to sample them. We'll
16 put small spaghetti tags on these spawning fish. We'll
17 collect weight and length information to update the
18 yield model estimates. So essentially we want to see
19 the size composition of what's in the lake, and that
20 will tell us what it can sustainably harvest.

21
22 So we'll go back in July of 2017 for a
23 recapture event, and we'll look for -- we'll catch as
24 many as we can, and we'll see how many fish we catch
25 were actually marked the year before, and that will
26 give us a marked/unmarked ratio, and from that we could
27 estimate abundance in the lake.

28
29 So that's what I have for Chandler Lake
30 trout.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you.

35
36 Questions from Council members.

37
38 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Lee.

41
42 MR. KAYOTUK: Brendan, likely the size
43 of, if you put it something like that, will it give the
44 size of each fish in the lake? Will that bring up
45 something like that, too?

46
47 MR. SCANLON: I'm sorry, you're talking
48 about the model we use to estimate sustained harvest?

49
50 MR. KAYOTUK: Yeah, like the model,

1 like if you're going to use a model, will it bring up
2 like the size of each fish that's in the area?

3

4 MR. SCANLON: Well, that's a good
5 question. Yeah, so the model gives it kilograms per
6 hectare per year, so that's only a limited use. So
7 say, for example, that just based on the surface area
8 of the lake you can harvest 600 kilograms a year. So
9 if the fish weigh one kilogram on average, or one
10 kilogram you can harvest 600. If they're 3 kilograms,
11 you can safely harvest 200 fish. So once you get an
12 idea of the size of the fish in a lake, you can turn
13 the kilograms per hectare into numbers of fish that you
14 think the lake can sustainably withstand harvest on.
15 But we'll collect all the size information as we're
16 sampling the fish we catch in the beach seine.

17

18 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Any other
21 questions or comments from Council members.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Brendan, I just --
26 during your introduction, I'm sorry, I just didn't
27 hear. Who do you work for?

28

29 MR. SCANLON: Mr. Chairman. I work for
30 Department of Fish and Game. I'm the area management
31 biologist for Sportfish Division for the Northwest and
32 North Slope.

33

34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah. I just
35 didn't hear you. You may have stated it, but I just
36 didn't catch it. And thank you for that.

37

38 MR. SCANLON: You're welcome. I'm a
39 little bit of a low talker.

40

41 I wanted to mention that on the
42 priority information needs for lake trout in the
43 Anaktuvuk area, they wanted to know age of maturity and
44 maximum age. And we try not to do too much aging work
45 on lake trout, because we have to kill them to do it,
46 and we'd have to kill a lot to get some of idea of the
47 age composition. I'm guessing that in these high
48 Arctic lakes that these fish probably don't spawn until
49 they're about 10, and there's probably a 50-year old
50 fish swimming around. Lake trout can live a long time

1 on the North Slope.

2

3 Thanks.

4

5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah. I agree.
6 Like I said, I've work for the Department of Wildlife
7 Management for many years, and we did a fish study and
8 we harvested a couple of lake trouts, and the person
9 that was doing the fisheries research on some of the
10 otoliths that they were collecting, you know, the one
11 fish that we brought in was he said 47, that this was a
12 pretty good-sized lake trout. Forty-seven years old.
13 And I was only 35 at the time.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah, I mean,
18 these are things I learned about from going through
19 this research, and the was relearning in the 90s when
20 we were doing some of that work up in the Teshekpuk
21 Lake. And then I started feeling guilty, man, I took a
22 fish that was much older than me.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Anyway they told
27 me, don't let that bother you, Harry. You're not
28 supposed to know this stuff; you just happened to be
29 here at the time we're learning about these things.

30

31 Anyway, I just wanted to share that
32 with you. You know, the otolith, it's pretty amazing
33 how you can be able to age a fish just from a bone.
34 Yeah, I mean, that science has taken a lot to identify
35 with what's happening a fish.

36

37 Anyway, I just wanted to thank you for
38 that, Brendan. I'm just trying to identify with what's
39 happening, and you identified that this work regarding
40 this lake trout's going to be undergo if the proposal
41 goes through in 2017. Hopefully we'll have some more
42 of our Council members apprised of the information, and
43 then maybe some more questions or comments in terms of
44 how this activity is going to be proposed to b
45 conducted in the sense.

46

47 I wa just wanting to identify with
48 maybe when you're dealing with your fisheries research
49 in the like Kaktovik area, do you hire any of the local
50 folks to help with you on any of these projects or is

1 it basically just Alaska Department of Fish and Game
2 doing all the hiring?

3

4 MR. SCANLON: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman.
5 So for -- in Kaktovik we had some volunteers fishing
6 with us for a few days, and we bought some four-wheeler
7 gas. We didn't have any formal hiring, we weren't
8 there for very long.

9

10 But for all three of the projects that
11 we put in proposals for, we have budgeted for ANSEP
12 students, the Alaska Native Science and Engineering
13 Program. And then some of these projects will run into
14 the falltime when they'll be back in school, so we can
15 -- if we can't get an ANSEP student, we can use that
16 money to do local hires.

17

18 Ideally these projects that we have, a
19 lot of them are consecutive, so we can hire one or two
20 ANSEP students, and they can jump around onto several
21 projects instead of being just stuck at one place, and
22 they can get a variety of experiences. But like I
23 said, some of these falltime projects, like the lake
24 trout and the aerial surveys, I imagine ANSEP students
25 will be in school, so we can use that to either hire
26 local or do some kind of contract, pay somebody like to
27 rent a boat, or to run us around, or that kind of
28 thing. But we understand that outreach is very
29 important.

30

31 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes. Thank you
32 for that, Brendan. That's why I'm questioning, because
33 I don't know all the background and I'm just learning
34 from these and trying to gain more information with
35 some of our constituency not being here, and needing to
36 move forward on some of these issues. And just having
37 these communications ahead of time would help alleviate
38 some of the comments on some of the activities.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 I have a phone call, it must be near
43 lunch hour, and somebody's looking for me.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 MR. SCANLON: Mr. Chairman. Thank
48 you. I'm sorry. I just have three more slides to show
49 for one last proposed project if there's time.

50

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I think we could
2 come back after lunch if that's not a problem.
3
4 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
5
6 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes.
7
8 MS. PATTON: That should work fine.
9 And then we would again have quorum after lunch if we
10 still have Sam and Rosemary on. And then Robert Shears
11 will be back as well. And so we should have time to
12 take that up briefly and cover our last action item on
13 the charter, and then move on to caribou and Geoff will
14 be here at one as well.
15
16 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. Is that
17 okay with you Brendan?
18
19 MR. SCANLON: Yes, Mr. Chair. That's
20 fine.
21
22 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. I'd
23 like to call a brief recess for lunch at this time, and
24 come back at one. Thank you.
25
26 We'll go on a brief recess until 1:00
27 p.m.
28
29 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: All right. Thank
30 you.
31
32 (Off record)
33
34 (On record)
35
36 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Recall the North
37 Slope Regional Advisory Council meeting back to order
38 after lunch recess.
39
40 We've been talking about the fisheries
41 FRMP projects, Kaktovik Dolly Varden, char satellite
42 tagging. We also have the proposals for the lake trout
43 study which we heard about as well. And then the
44 Arctic grayling in the lower Colville River.
45
46 So, Brendan, I'll give the floor back
47 to you after our lunch recess. We're getting to your
48 final discussion points.
49
50 MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 I've just got about three slides left.

2

3 Excuse me. This last proposed project
4 I want to speak about is looking at seasonal habitats
5 and migrations of Arctic grayling in the lower Colville
6 River between Nuiqsut and Umiat. This was not listed
7 as one of the priority information needs, but Karen
8 Hyer, the fishery biologist with OSM mentioned this to
9 me that she had heard concerns from people in Nuiqsut
10 about some non-whitefish species that are important to
11 subsistence. And we do a lot of grayling research, so
12 it's something we know how to do, so I went ahead and
13 submitted this as well.

14

15 So we don't have great information on
16 subsistence harvest, but what we do have is a little
17 bit older, but it looks like between 5 to 7,000 fish
18 are harvested between Anaktuvuk Pass and Nuiqsut every
19 year for grayling. And that surprised me it was that
20 much. The Colville's a really big river. It's
21 probably not that big a deal, but it's more than I
22 anticipated.

23

24 Grayling are a little like lake trout,
25 they mature at older ages and can live a long time. I
26 could find almost nothing on grayling in the Colville,
27 just some little presence/absence stuff from pre-
28 pipeline days.

29

30 And what we'd like to do here is look
31 at the seasonal movements, maybe estimate abundance and
32 find where the spawning and over-wintering and summer
33 feeding habitats are. So again we'd like to use radio
34 telemetry to describe the seasonal movements, and we'd
35 like to find specifically the spawning and feeding and
36 over-wintering areas of Arctic grayling in the Lower
37 Colville.

38

39 So grayling, they spawn right after
40 ice-out in the spring, and then they spread out to
41 their summer feeding areas, and they kind of partition
42 themselves by size, so the big fish get the best areas.
43 And a lot of times in the summer they're fairly
44 stationary. They pick a nice spot where there's a lot
45 of drift, and they stay there. And if we can find when
46 and where that occurs, we might be able to develop some
47 sort of index area to get some abundance experiment
48 done in the future.

49

50 So we have 150 tags for this project,

1 tagged between Nuiqsut and Umiat in August. I'd also
2 -- I don't know much about Nuiqsut, I'd like to find
3 when the subsistence fishery is down there and when
4 they catch grayling, and maybe go there at that time
5 and put some of those tags out with the fishers.

6
7 So we'll do all the tracking from
8 aircraft. We'll do it several times throughout the
9 summer for two years. These tags will last for maybe
10 three years, and so we hope to find, like I said, the
11 spawning and feeding and over-wintering areas. And in
12 the future we might be able to design a stock
13 assessment project to get abundance based on these
14 results.

15
16 And that's all I have. Thanks.

17
18 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Just to get back
19 into the methods on the access, I see the tracking part
20 in regard to the using of aircraft. What about
21 conducting an actual fisheries research. Are you
22 basically going to be boating up the river or how are
23 you getting into your site locations for your research.

24
25 MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
26 Fish and Game has a small camp in Umiat, so we were
27 going to start there and work our way downriver in
28 boats to put tags out between there and Umiat -- I'm
29 sorry, between there and Nuiqsut. And we'd like to
30 save some tags and put them out in Nuiqsut during the
31 time that subsistence fishing is going on.

32
33 And the aircraft I believe is just for
34 tracking radio-tagged fish.

35
36 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah. That's what
37 I noticed on this methods. Anyway, the subsistence
38 fisheries, we do have a representative from Nuiqsut on
39 line, and he could probably speak to the subsistence
40 practices there for the fisheries throughout the
41 summer, and I know they do make dryfish using the broad
42 whitefish, and they do take burbot this time of the
43 year. Grayling is probably during the summer and into
44 the fall, as the river access is accessible in the
45 sense that they conduct their fishing for grayling at
46 different times of the season.

47
48 So, Sam, are you on?

49
50 MR. KUNAKNANA: Yes, I am.

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So you could
2 probably speak to the comment Brendan made in regard to
3 what part of the year you conduct your subsistence
4 fisheries along the Colville and where, maybe give him
5 some locations as to where some of these fisheries up
6 near Umiat or up south of Nuiqsut.

7
8 MR. KUNAKNANA: Okay. Yes. You know,
9 for broad whitefish, the season starts middle of June
10 up until late September, October, November for broad
11 whites. And we fish all along the middle channel and
12 all up towards Kogosukruk area for broad white during
13 the summer. And the best times for this study to start
14 to me would be I think maybe in July, that's when we
15 start getting more and more fish upstream from the
16 lower part of the delta.

17
18 And for the grayling, I'm glad that you
19 guys are going to be doing studies on the grayling,
20 because there are some concerns, big concerns over here
21 where we do our falltime grayling fishing under the
22 ice, is that we noticed that from back in the 30s, 40s
23 and 50s there is a lot of debris, a lot of drums, empty
24 drums right by the tributary, one of the tributaries of
25 the Colville River where we do our ice fishing, and I
26 think that would be a good place for, you know, you
27 guys to start tagging fish where all that debris went
28 into the Colville River. That would be Kogosukruk
29 area. And, you know, I just think that something needs
30 to be looked into when it comes to the fish along that
31 area, in Kogosukruk area.

32
33 And if you need any more assistance,
34 you can (indiscernible) concern with where
35 (indiscernible) some assistance.

36
37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: All right. Thank
38 you, Sam.

39
40 Brendan, do you have any questions
41 directly to Sam. Sam's from Nuiqsut. And Rosemary
42 could probably speak to the -- to make comments as well
43 if she wishes to. She's lived in Nuiqsut for many
44 years as well. Brendan.

45
46 MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
47 In the event that this project is funded, I would
48 definitely be contacting Sam for some information on
49 where and when, and maybe some people we could hire to
50 take us fishing to put some of these tags out near

1 Nuiqsut.

2

3 MR. SHEARS: I've got a question.

4

5 MR. KUNAKNANA: Yes, that would be
6 good. That would be good.

7

8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Bob.

9

10 MR. SHEARS: So the period of the
11 project is spanning 16 months, and you go in -- so as
12 to try to identify -- it's almost a behavior and
13 critical habitat study. And in the course of 16
14 months, you know, you have your first year, you go in,
15 you're tagging them, and then you're tracking them, and
16 then you're -- so you're looking for trends where
17 they're reusing year after year similar spots on the
18 river that are yet to be identified. Then that
19 information could then perhaps be extrapolated to
20 associate their behavior and how they might -- how they
21 live in other rivers as well; is that correct?

22

23 MR. SCANLON: Thank you. I don't know
24 how much we can extrapolate what we find here to other
25 rivers on the North Slope, even though most of them run
26 pretty similar, so you probably could make some
27 inferences based on that.

28

29 So we look for these habitats. In
30 other rivers where we do grayling research -- excuse
31 me, I just ate -- when we try to get some abundance
32 information, we look for these areas where they're
33 fairly stationary during the summer where we can do
34 these mark/recapture experiments. And then since we
35 can't do the entire Colville River obviously, if we can
36 find a 20, 25-mile stretch of river where we can get a
37 decent precision on an abundance estimate, you know,
38 then we could say approximately how many fish per mile
39 we see here. And then from there we can say, well, if
40 we see 70 grayling, 300 millimeters and larger per mile
41 in this section of river, maybe upriver has a similar
42 density, and therefore the grayling population is
43 somewhere in the magnitude of, you know, the size of
44 the river based on the density that we find them in
45 this study area.

46

47 The 16-month thing was -- you know, it
48 costs a lot of money to do work up there and we don't
49 want to price ourselves out. If we ask for a million
50 dollars, it won't get funded I'm sure. But we're going

1 to try to learn as much as we can in this period of
2 time.

3

4 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Robert.

5

6 MR. SHEARS: Yeah. Really useful. I
7 think it's a very useful study, and even as limited as
8 it is right now currently, I see a lot of benefit for
9 this type of study, you know, to continued funding to
10 continue to develop on it, both to help us understand
11 the mysterious behavior of grayling in our North Slope
12 rivers, but also because of industrial impacts in the
13 community, like Sam was referring to in the past and in
14 the future, being able to ascertain where the critical
15 habitats are in the river, especially in the
16 wintertime, would be very beneficial. And if the study
17 as a side note could start making recommendations for
18 future studies to help us, you know, that would be a
19 good objective.

20

21 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. Any
22 other comments from Council members.

23

24 Rosemary, were you.....

25

26 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you all. I
27 think it's.....

28

29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Go ahead.

30

31 MS. AHTUANGARUAK:really
32 important to gather this information and to get the
33 information back to us. So I'm wondering if there's an
34 effort to make sure that as you're putting your reports
35 together, are you going to be reporting back to the
36 communities that are near where these activities are
37 occurring.

38

39 And then is there a process in which we
40 can engage in helping to provide education within the
41 region. We really need to have some engagement with
42 the school, and making sure that our children are
43 engaged in understanding the research that's occurring,
44 and making sure that we take ownership of this
45 information not just through the State and others that
46 are collecting information to change our lands and
47 waters.

48

49 And then we've done lots of usage of
50 many of the tributaries along the Colville. We would

1 go up to Kogosukruk and Kikiakrorak as areas where we
2 get some of our grayling fishing, but also on the
3 Nigalik Channel when we put our fishnets out. Usually
4 it's around July and August, but there's a real early
5 fishing for the grayling with the first ice-up. My
6 (indiscernible - children in background) talk about
7 thin ice walker, when the ice is thick enough where you
8 can get across fishing those areas around (In Inupiaq)
9 was always a real hot spot, and we would do that in
10 September, but it's so different now in our time of how
11 to get out into those areas, so now we've had open
12 water. We've gone out with boats instead of ice
13 fishing to do some of those activities.

14
15 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
16 sharing that, Rosemary. I think that gives us some
17 background on some of the changes that we're definitely
18 going through.

19
20 I'll just ask the Council if there's
21 any further comments or questions.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Brendan, did you
26 have any other items you wanted to bring up.

27
28 MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

29
30 I just want to quickly address
31 Rosemary's concerns. So when we put together the
32 budgets for these projects, we generally put travel
33 money to come to community meetings, such as RAC
34 meeting. And for this one, we can make a special trip
35 to Nuiqsut to let them know how the project's going and
36 what we're learning. And we also do annual reports
37 that are required by OSM for these projects, so after
38 every field season we'll have a short two or three-page
39 report of how things went and what we want to do
40 differently that I can certainly make available as
41 well.

42
43 And just one last thing. I mentioned
44 this yesterday, but one of the priority information
45 needs was to look at broad whitefish and some of the
46 fungus problems that they're having up here. And we
47 did not submit a proposal to do that kind of research,
48 because it was my understanding that Tadd Sformo with
49 the Borough Wildlife Department was going to do that,
50 and I didn't want to compete with him for that kind of

1 work. And if that gets funded for him, we'd be glad to
2 help out as well.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Any other comments
7 to Brendan from the Council members or others here
8 present.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah, Brendan, I
13 do appreciate you providing your presentations, and
14 then just some of the follow-up would be as things do
15 progress and if you do get the funding to conduct this
16 fisheries research is bringing that information back,
17 and maybe either at one of these settings with the
18 Regional Advisory Council or just working with the
19 schools to try and promote science, you know, in terms
20 of teaching other younger children. That may peak
21 interest once you provide this information elsewhere,
22 doing outreach so to speak. I'm looking forward to
23 that kind of activity and hearing more about that.

24

25 Again thank you.

26

27 Rosemary.

28

29 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: And if we could have
30 our meeting that they come to present in the villages
31 where they're having the studies occur, that would also
32 be very beneficial. And if we could also consider as
33 part of the RAC engaging in the school prior to our
34 meeting, that would be very helpful, explaining to the
35 students our role in the Federal subsistence process,
36 and why we're having a meeting in their area.

37

38 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
39 that, Rosemary. I think that's definitely working out
40 with the outreach, and with the schools to seek younger
41 students and getting them in biology or just science in
42 general would be very beneficial to all our
43 constituents. So we'll continue working on that I
44 think.

45

46 If there's no further questions to
47 Brendan from the Council.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for your
2 presentation.

3
4 MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
5 and members of the Council, for your time and
6 encouragement.

7
8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes.

9
10 MR. SCANLON: I beg your pardon. Thank
11 you, Eva.

12
13 So to maybe help our chances of getting
14 these funded, I would ask if it's not too much trouble
15 if the Council would be willing to sign a letter of
16 support for these projects to give to the TRC.

17
18 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, I think that
19 would be encouraging.

20
21 MR. SHEARS: Yes.

22
23 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I think this is
24 something that we've been wanting to get done for
25 several years, and here we are at the table and
26 discussing the fisheries research. I think that's
27 something that we definitely can do. Did you have a
28 letter in hand already?

29
30 MR. SCANLON: I do not, but give me 10
31 minutes. No.

32
33 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: We'll just sign
34 that thing and then put all our signatures and
35 thumbprints on there so you could take it right back.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 MR. SCANLON: Thank you. Jeffrey
40 Brooks said he'd help me put a letter together and get
41 that to you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. And we
44 can definitely as a Council have one generated from
45 within ourselves as well working with Eva and getting
46 that letter to you for your support.

47
48 Rosemary.

49
50 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: If we could provide

1 any insight as to some of the difficulties in getting
2 proposals out there with our difficulty we've had in
3 our region trying to get support to get some of this
4 research done, that would be helpful.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you,
9 Rosemary.

10
11 Again thank you, Brendan.

12
13 I keep looking for my agenda, and I
14 have written down charter revisions. Is that something
15 that we want to take up now, Eva.

16
17 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
18 Yes, that is one of our last actions items from earlier
19 in the meeting is to review and approve the charter
20 while we have quorum.

21
22 On Page 88 in your meeting books you'll
23 find the Council's charter. And just to review, Sam
24 Kunaknana is our new Council member. And the charter
25 is what provides official guidance for the Regional
26 Advisory Council. So as you're aware, your
27 appointments come from the Secretary of the Interior,
28 and the Council is chartered under FACA, which is an
29 advisory council act.

30
31 And it provides guidance to the
32 authority of the Council and your abilities to make
33 recommendations both to the Board on Federal
34 subsistence regulations on Federal lands, and also to
35 provide guidance and input on other issues that may
36 affect subsistence.

37
38 So the charter, Sam, just lines out the
39 basic authorities and duties of the Council. How many
40 Council members and the terms.

41
42 And last year there were some
43 difficulties in the timing of the appointments from the
44 Secretary's Office out of Washington, D.C. They may
45 have had some staffing challenges. there were some
46 folks that were out with medical emergencies. Whatever
47 the issue, it delayed the appointments to the Councils.
48 We had a lot of support from the Special Assistant to
49 the Secretary of the Interior. Pat Pourchot was a very
50 strong advocate of impressing upon the Secretary's

1 Office the importance of the role of the Council, and
2 that the Councils be fully appointed in order to
3 conduct their meetings in the winter.

4

5 So last far there were some
6 recommendations that most of the Regional Advisory
7 Councils had made to help support the continuity of the
8 Councils' membership, and to avoid any lapse in
9 membership so that -- normally the appointments come in
10 December 3rd, and then the Councils have their winter
11 meeting in February and March. And in some cases those
12 appointments didn't come in until after the Council
13 meeting period.

14

15 So on Page 90 you'll find there's a
16 highlighted yellow section. These are recommendations
17 that this Council and others had supported last fall to
18 change in the charter.

19

20 So members will be appointed for four-
21 year terms. Currently the terms are three years, and
22 it was thought that longer-term appointments, since
23 many Council members serve for long periods of time,
24 you don't have to reapply as frequently. And the other
25 points of concern was that if no successor is appointed
26 on or prior to the expiration of a member's term, then
27 the incumbent who's currently in the seat may continue
28 to serve until the new appointment is made, or 120 days
29 past the expiration term, which would allow, if there
30 was a delay from the Secretary's Office for those
31 members whose membership was up, to continue to serve
32 in order to attend the Council meeting in the winter
33 session.

34

35 And lastly, a big concern was to have
36 alternates available. And as you know on this Council,
37 we currently have two vacant seats and have been
38 reaching out to communities that are not currently
39 represented. We're very pleased to have Sam Kunaknana
40 join the Council from Nuiqsut, and have formal
41 representation from Nuiqsut. We're still reaching out
42 to Atqasuk and to Point Lay, and also to get additional
43 membership from Wainwright. But the alternate allows,
44 you know, in the case that we have a full membership,
45 but other Council members who also are strong
46 candidates be appointed as an alternate so they can be
47 brought on in the case of an absence.

48

49 So these are the only changes that were
50 recommended by the Council last time to the charter.

1 And just a process of the Council confirming that you
2 would like these changes to be made officially to your
3 charter.

4

5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
6 that, Eva. Just a question I guess and maybe some
7 clarification on my part. And we did make a comment in
8 regard to within our annual report.....

9

10 (Music on teleconference)

11

12 MS. PATTON: Okay. Just to let folks
13 on teleconference know, somebody's got us on hold, so
14 we've got the music in the background. We're going to
15 have to mute the phones for the time being so we can
16 have discussion. We'll try to come back on so we can
17 get our Council members vote after we finish our
18 discussion here.

19

20 Thank you. Apologies.

21

22 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. Thank you,
23 Eva, for that refresher on our charter. And I was
24 trying to find the agenda item, what it was stating.

25

26 MS. PATTON: Page 90.

27

28 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Page 90 in the
29 Council packet, there's a change that was highlighted
30 for membership appointments, a change from three years
31 to four years.

32

33 And we for several years have been
34 trying to identify Council members from each of our
35 communities. The two remaining are Atqasuk and Point
36 Lay, and additional member from Wainwright is one
37 comment that I heard. So those are the ones that we're
38 still seeking as a Regional Advisory Council to get
39 representation from.

40

41 The question I had, Eva, was in regard
42 to that letter, annual letter, there was a comment in
43 there in regards to the other subsistence resources
44 that we depend on for subsistence. Would that be
45 something to address through this charter, or is it
46 something that a decision has to be made higher up
47 maybe in the subsistence program before we can even
48 consider it under the charter. I just need the
49 clarification whether that needs to occur before we
50 take any kind of an action.

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
2 The specific authorities of this Council lined out in
3 the charter are to make recommendations to the Federal
4 Subsistence Board on fish and wildlife -- Federal
5 subsistence regulations on Federal lands and Federal
6 waters for fish and wildlife.

7
8 There is also an opportunity to -- for
9 the Council to comment, to bring awareness, and to make
10 recommendations on other regulations and aspects that
11 affect Federal subsistence wildlife. So, for example,
12 the Council can and does make recommendation on Board
13 of Game or Board of Fish actions. Many of the Councils
14 have been very engaged in making recommendations to the
15 North Pacific Fishery Management Council on
16 interactions of Bering Sea bycatch for salmon. The
17 Council can and does engage in bringing awareness to
18 and recommendations on potential impacts to Federal
19 subsistence activities or fish or wildlife in terms of
20 development.

21
22 The Board doesn't have direct authority
23 to act in those circumstances. The Council still can
24 make those recommendations as it's an important part of
25 the process to engage. They don't have the direct
26 connection like they do to the Federal Subsistence
27 Board when you're making recommendations. The Board
28 does defer to the Council requests and weighs heavily
29 on those recommendations.

30
31 Where the Board cannot take action
32 themselves, they have directed correspondence to the
33 Secretary of the Interior on behalf of the Councils to
34 bring to the Secretary's attention issues that are
35 outside of the Board's jurisdiction that need more
36 attention or need awareness. And there are a couple
37 letters that we have received back from the Secretary
38 in those cases. So, for example, the concerns that
39 this Council raised about the road to Umiat and other
40 development issues that may intercept the migration of
41 caribou and affect Federal subsistence opportunity for
42 caribou was raised by the Federal Subsistence Board to
43 the Secretary of the Interior. And she did respond.
44 We provided that letter at the fall meeting.

45
46 So it's not specifically addressed in
47 the charter. It is a role of the Council to be able to
48 make those recommendations to the Board, and where the
49 Board can't take its own authority to act, we'll bring
50 that awareness to the Secretary of the Interior.

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
2 that, Eva. I just wanted to make have some discussion
3 over it, because I've noted before, you know, in other
4 meetings that this title itself, the Federal
5 Subsistence Management Program, is kind of misleading
6 in the sense our subsistence activities are fragmented
7 in regards to other resources. Migratory birds is one.
8 Marine mammal issues are another. And we don't even
9 begin to mention some of that. Although we do report
10 harvest of these resources, you know, and you continue
11 to use them today, but we don't make any
12 recommendations to change regulations basically on
13 those species that we don't deal with, because of the
14 other regulatory processes that are in place.

15
16 So that's why I made a note on that up
17 front. Sometimes we're not trying to deal with the
18 Federal subsistence. I kind of think that it's kind of
19 misleading in a sense, but we have all these other
20 departments that manage these resources, and we don't
21 -- we hear on some parts and portions of them, and we
22 don't really take action on any of that. We may have
23 recommendations for change if there needs to be, but
24 that's something that we don't really identify with
25 under the Federal Subsistence Management Program. I
26 think that there needs to be some kind of language in
27 there to clarify that at some point int time, because
28 we do have new members coming on, and again like I
29 said, we do make mention of migratory birds use and
30 marine mammal use during our harvesting reports and
31 regional reports. And I don't know for a fact as to
32 these reports are helpful for the other agencies to
33 hear about, you know, like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
34 Service, they have some -- they deal with the migratory
35 birds issues, and whether they use that information or
36 not. I have no idea.

37
38 But then when we do hold meetings with
39 the agency in regards specifically to migratory birds,
40 we do make mention of our Regional Advisory Councils
41 and we do identify with numbers that we -- in terms of
42 our reports as personal usage in that sense.

43
44 Maybe I'll stop here and maybe ask the
45 Council members if they have any other comments to the
46 agenda item we're discussing now is the charter.

47
48 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

49
50 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Bob.

1 MR. SHEARS: I don't have an objection
2 to the proposed changes. I understand why it's in
3 place. I thought -- well, we acted on this at one
4 time, my memory recalls.

5
6 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

7
8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Eva, go
9 ahead.

10
11 MS. PATTON: This does come up
12 routinely for the Council to review and approve their
13 charter, so every other year this comes back before the
14 Council to re-approve the charter, and then any changes
15 as in this case. WE did develop those changes this
16 fall, and now to take action on it for the Council. So
17 you have done this before.

18
19 MR. SHEARS: Okay. All right. Thanks.
20 I was dreaming and deja vu. Yeah.

21
22 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: It's not deja vu,
23 it's a refresher course.

24
25 MR. SHEARS: Okay. This is the annual
26 maintenance of the charter and I support it. What
27 action, Mr. Chair, do you need, or Eva, from us to move
28 forward with this then, just a motion to support or a
29 letter of endorsement?

30
31 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Go ahead, Eva.

34
35 MS. PATTON: This is just a simple
36 motion to support the charter, and then highlight as
37 amended for these changes that are highlighted in
38 yellow if you wish to support these changes.

39
40 We'll reconnect with the folks on line,
41 so hopefully the music in the background has gone away,
42 and we should be able to hear back from both Sam and
43 Rosemary, if you have any comments or recommendations.

44
45 Greetings, do we have everyone back on
46 line with us. Sam and Rosemary, are you able to hear
47 our discussion here on the record.

48
49 Good afternoon, so we're connecting
50 here on the phone. It seems we got disconnected from

1 those of you on teleconference. We'd like to check
2 back in. Sam and Rosemary, were you able to hear
3 discussion on the Council charter?

4

5 MR. KUNAKNANA: Yes.

6

7 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah, I did. I also
8 agree, support with Harry on the fragmentation of the
9 process that we're having (indiscernible - breaking up)
10 here. Hello?

11

12 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah, Rosemary.
13 We're hearing you, and we keep getting some feedback
14 from some place, but again your last portion of your
15 comment was being broken up.

16

17 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Okay. I definitely
18 support the concern around the fragmentation of our
19 issues, and the need to be engaged in a better way.

20

21 And also I have concerns around the
22 budget. We really don't have the resources to leverage
23 to be able to reach in different parts like education
24 and go to a village. Those kinds of things are
25 important to do, but we're not getting the resources to
26 do those kinds of things.

27

28 Some of the communication type put in
29 there.

30

31 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
32 that, Rosemary.

33

34 I'm trying to write here as we're
35 communicating.

36

37 We're on the -- what I was reading
38 earlier was the charter revisions, and on that
39 discussion, and on Page 90 was the -- of the Council
40 packet, on Page 90 is the highlighted change that was
41 identified in regard to the terms, change it from a
42 three-year term to a four-year term. And there's
43 discussion about alternate representation. And Atqasuk
44 -- okay. The membership from Atqasuk and Point Lay
45 have not been filled, but the two vacant seats still
46 within our number of Council members that we have for
47 the North Slope. So those were some of the issues that
48 we've been dealing with over the years, trying to get
49 membership from each of our respective villages on the
50 North Slope, and trying to address maybe having an

1 alternate for some of the Council members. Those were
2 basically the earlier discussions.

3

4 But I wanted to come back to this
5 membership and designation, the paragraph on Page 90,
6 number 12. It reads, the 10 members who are
7 knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to
8 subsistence uses of fish and wildlife and who are
9 residents of the region represented by the Council.
10 To ensure each Council represents a diversity of
11 interests, the Federal Subsistence Board in their
12 nomination recommendations to the Secretary will strive
13 to ensure that seven of the members, 70 percent,
14 represent subsistence interests within the region, and
15 3 of the members, 30 percent, represent commercial and
16 sport interests within the region. The portion of the
17 membership representing commercial and sport interest
18 must include, if possible, at least one representative
19 from the sport community and one representative from
20 the commercial community.

21

22 I think that language we have a problem
23 with on the North Slope, because we may have some sport
24 hunters, and we don't really have any commercialized
25 activities here, although they do come to our region
26 from the other side of the Brooks Range. So maybe
27 that's something we could address. I mean, I think
28 I've made comments to that fact before in one of our
29 earlier meetings about the commercial and sport
30 interest, that we've not been able to fill and could
31 use these positions to be filled with local people that
32 are wanting -- may have an interest in being part of
33 this Regional Advisory Council.

34

35 Eva.

36

37 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
38 This specific portion of the charter about 70 percent
39 membership subsistence, and 30 percent sport/commercial
40 representation, this was a change to the Federal
41 Subsistence Management Program brought about by a
42 lawsuit to allow for representation of sport and
43 commercial interests in forming the Federal subsistence
44 management process. So the determination of the courts
45 was to allow this representation from the sport and
46 commercial users in the cases where there's applicants.
47 So currently the majority of the Councils have all of
48 the membership filled by subsistence representatives
49 from the region on the Council.

50

1 There are a couple Councils that do
2 have applicants and qualified applicants to fill the
3 sport/commercial representative seats. Eastern
4 Interior Council is one, for example, that does have
5 more sport and commercial activities within their
6 region.

7
8 So currently that 70/30 rule as its
9 call is part of the law. The court made that decision.

10
11 But again in cases where there aren't
12 applicants and the seats are filled by subsistence
13 representatives, there doesn't need to be -- it's not
14 required that there be a sport/commercial seat on the
15 Council.

16
17 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So can we have
18 that in writing? I see Tom's taking a seat there at
19 the table, so, Eva, are you done?

20
21 MS. PATTON: Yes.

22
23 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Tom.

24
25 MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. Just to
26 follow up, I think again Eva described the situation.
27 This has been in place for 10 years, so you have seen
28 it before and probably it has caught your attention
29 before.

30
31 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes.

32
33 MR. KRON: The applicants have to be
34 from the region, so that means they have to be from the
35 North Slope region to be considered for the North Slope
36 Council. In the event that there are no sport or
37 commercial applicants, the seats then could be filled
38 by others, and we've done that in a bunch of other
39 regions. But again, you know, that's the requirement,
40 and it's based on a lawsuit historically, so just to
41 follow up again, this is the way we've been operating
42 here for a while.

43
44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
47 that, Tom.

48
49 Yeah, I just bring it up, because I
50 wasn't sure if that was being a hindrance in part of

1 maybe filling the remaining seats on the North Slope.
2 If it's not, I'd like, you know, like I said, if we can
3 get it in black and white, the better it is then for us
4 to have that maybe as a clause or something that's in
5 there that could be identified.

6

7

Eva.

8

9

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
10 Again, the legal regulations require that there be the
11 70/30 allowance. The reality of the circumstances is
12 that if there are no applicants, again the applicants
13 all have to be from the region within the Council's --
14 so, you know, from a community within the Council's
15 region, so it can't be somebody applying from outside
16 the region.

17

18

In the case of North Slope and the
19 majority of the Regional Advisory Councils, there is,
20 you know, no interest or no role, or there haven't been
21 applicants to fill that three percent that's allowed.
22 So it hasn't been, I guess, an issue or concern.

23

24

Those seats that are open, the
25 applicants are subsistence seats. They're not held for
26 a commercial/sport representative. It's only if
27 someone applies, then there's, you know, a space for
28 them if they're qualified to serve in that role.

29

30

So currently the vacant seats that we
31 have on the Council are -- really as you're aware, the
32 reality of the challenge, there's eight communities
33 within the North Slope region, and many of those
34 communities are, you know, the people are tapped as you
35 all are to serve in many committees and many meetings
36 and leaders within their community, and providers for
37 their family. So moreover the challenge has been, you
38 know, finding people that, you know, also have the time
39 to commit to serve. So it hasn't been held out. Those
40 seats are not held out for sport/commercial positions.

41

42

CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. Any

43 further discussion on the revisions to the charter.

44

45

(No comments)

46

47

CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: If there's no

48 further discussion, maybe an action by the council.

49

50

MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Robert.

2

3 MR. SHEARS: Motion to accept the
4 proposed changes to the charter whereas we're
5 increasing the appointment term to four years,
6 recommending -- recommend that the appointment term be
7 increased to four years; that we have an overlap period
8 allowing incumbents to continue to serve during new
9 appointment periods up to 120 days; and, finally,
10 allowing for the consideration of appoints of
11 alternates.

12

13 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: We have a motion
14 on the floor.

15

16 MR. KUNAKNANA: I second it.

17

18 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Second.

19

20 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: We have a motion
21 on the floor and it's been seconded. Further
22 discussion on the motion.

23

24 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I would
25 (indiscernible - breaking up) that to policies that
26 underlie some of that, we can get the concerns that we
27 shared around this which would also include as
28 (indiscernible) consideration by the Board.

29

30 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I see Eva busily
31 taking notes, so she's got that.

32

33 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

34

35 Rosemary, if you could please repeat
36 that. We just had a little bit of warble at the end
37 there, so I can catch your statements clearly.
38 Rosemary, if you could repeat your last statement so we
39 can capture that clearly for the record.

40

41 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I also think that we
42 should work with the Staff to get a letter out with the
43 additional discussion that we had around the charter,
44 the complexity of the issue, and the subsistence
45 management difficulties without direct engagement in
46 the areas, processes that affect subsistence, as well
47 as for making sure that we consider the appropriate
48 funding support and other issues.

49

50 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Rosemary.

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Any further
2 discussion on the motion.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: The motion was to
7 support the charter revisions noted on Page 90 as the
8 highlighted section. A member will be appointed for
9 four-year terms. That's a change from the three-year
10 term to a four-year term. If no successor is appointed
11 on or prior to the expiration of a member's term, that
12 the incumbent member may continue to serve until the
13 new appointment is made or 120 days past the expiration
14 of the term, whichever is sooner. A vacant on the
15 Council will be filled by an appointed alternate, if
16 available. So that's the language that's being
17 proposed in regard to the revisions.

18
19 We're still under the discussion of the
20 motion.

21
22 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: If there is no
23 further discussion, I call for the question.

24
25 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you,
26 Rosemary.

27
28 The questions been called on the
29 motion. All in favor of the motion signify by saying
30 aye.

31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33
34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. The
35 motion passes. We have our revisions for our charter
36 supported by the Council.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MR. KUNAKNANA: Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Sam.

43
44 MR. KUNAKNANA: Is it okay if I leave
45 this meeting; I have another meeting to attend to.

46
47 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Let me ask Eva.
48 Did we have another action item you had noted from
49 yesterday's meeting?

50

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
2 did speak with Sam over lunch break. BLM is conducting
3 a government-to-government meeting with the Community
4 of Nuiqsut on a development project in their region.
5 It was an important meeting. Sam is the tribal
6 president for Nuiqsut.

7
8 Sam, if you would be able to join us
9 later in the afternoon today, we'll be starting next on
10 the agenda with the caribou reports and discussion. If
11 you were able to join us later on in the day, if the
12 Council wants to make a recommendation on a Federal
13 subsistence proposal, we would need quorum in order to
14 do that. If you're able to join us later, you know,
15 between four to five.

16
17 If all else fails, the Council can
18 develop some recommendations and we could bring that
19 back tomorrow morning. Would you be able to join us if
20 not at the end of the day today, Sam?

21
22 MR. KUNAKNANA: I should be able to
23 join about four.

24
25 MS. PATTON: That would be fantastic.
26 I think that would be really helpful. The Council will
27 be hearing the reports from caribou both from State and
28 Federal managers, and beginning to discuss and develop
29 those, so we can help bring you up to speed on those
30 developments, and you would be able to participate in
31 recommendations for any proposals at 4:00 o'clock or
32 later today, that would be great.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MR. KUNAKNANA: Okay. All right.
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: You're excused,
40 Sam. Thank you.

41
42 MR. KUNAKNANA: Okay. Good-bye.

43
44 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Now that we're
45 done with the revision of the charter, we've done our
46 fisheries updates.

47
48 Maybe, Eva, you could help me steer us
49 in the right direction. We have the Western Arctic
50 Caribou item yet. And I see Mr. Carroll is here.

1 Bob, did you have a comment.
2
3 MR. SHEARS: No. I'm trying to figure
4 out where we're at on the agenda.
5
6 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
7
8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes.
9
10 MS. PATTON: We do have Geoff Carroll
11 has just arrived back also from the Board of Game
12 himself, and was prepared to present that action of the
13 Board, and overview for the caribou proposals. So we
14 have the rest of the afternoon dedicated to those
15 discussions on caribou and proposals that the Council
16 would like to develop for Federal subsistence
17 proposals.
18
19 And do we still have Dave Yokel on line
20 with us this afternoon.
21
22 DR. YOKEL: Yes. I'm hear. But I
23 think there's a slight misunderstanding. I'm not going
24 to be giving a report on caribou. Everything I do
25 with caribou I do in full cooperation with ADF&G and
26 the North Slope Borough, so Geoff can give all of that
27 report.
28
29 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
30 Correct, Dave. Your input, any guidance in terms of
31 management on the Federal lands or availability for
32 questions from the Council would be very helpful
33 though.
34
35 That would be appreciated.
36
37 Thank you.
38
39 DR. YOKEL: Well, I'm here.
40
41 MS. PATTON: Thank you.
42
43 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So, Geoff, are you
44 ready.
45
46 MR. CARROLL: Ready.
47
48 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. Eva, did we
49 need a couple minutes for your set up.
50

1 MS. PATTON: Yeah, maybe. We had to
2 switch out computers there between Brendan and
3 (indiscernible - away from microphones)
4
5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. Maybe while
6 Eva's switching out computers, we could take a five-
7 minute recess. All right.
8
9 Thank you.
10
11 We're at recess, five minutes.
12
13 (Off record)
14
15 (On record)
16
17 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER:Regional
18 Advisory Council back to order after a brief recess.
19
20 We're now down to a presentation from
21 Alaska Department of Fish and Game area biologist,
22 Geoff Carroll, regarding caribou, Western Arctic
23 Caribou update. So I'll pass on the mic to Geoff.
24
25 Whenever you're ready, Geoff.
26
27 MR. CARROLL: All right. Good
28 afternoon. Push that button. All right. Good
29 afternoon. And we have some people teleconferencing in
30 as well?
31
32 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Uh-huh.
33
34 MR. CARROLL: Okay. Who's
35 teleconferenced?
36
37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: We have Dr. Yokel.
38 We have Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak here in Barrow. And then
39 we have Sam Kunaknana from Nuiqsut.
40
41
42 And we also have other Staff folk from
43 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm not sure if
44 they're still on this afternoon, but let me just ask,
45 the folks on the teleconference, if you could please
46 identify yourself so Geoff could hear and learn who's
47 on the teleconference this afternoon.
48
49 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Rosemary's on.
50

1 MR. CRAWFORD: Drew Crawford, Fish and
2 Game, Anchorage,
3
4 DR. YOKEL: Dave Yokel, BLM, Fairbanks.
5
6 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Any others.
7
8 MR. CARY: Wayne Cary here.
9
10 LINCOLN: (Indiscernible)
11
12 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: There was two of
13 you.
14
15 LINCOLN: Can you hear me.
16
17 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Go ahead.
18
19 *LINCOLN: I was just saying that
20 Lincoln was here.
21
22 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you,
23 Lincoln.
24
25 MR. CARY: Also Wayne Cary.
26
27 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Wayne.
28
29 Anybody else.
30
31 (No comments)
32
33 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: If not, thank you.
34
35 So, continue, Geoff.
36
37 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. If I may just
38 interrupt for a minute. For those of you who have
39 joined on teleconference, specifically probably Staff
40 from the Fish and Wildlife office, others who are
41 joining on teleconference. If you pick up another call
42 when you're in teleconference, your music plays and it
43 interrupts our meeting. So for any of the Staff
44 joining us this afternoon on teleconference, if you get
45 another call coming in, please just disconnect from the
46 teleconference, so we don't get your hold music in the
47 background. And please don't put your phone on hold.
48 It interrupts the teleconference.
49
50 Thank you very much.

1 Hopefully we'll be able to resume
2 uninterrupted here for Geoff.

3
4 Thanks, Geoff.

5
6 MR. CARROLL: All right. Thank you.
7 Hello, everybody.

8
9 Yeah, I just came back from the Board
10 of Game meeting. We finished up last night with the
11 caribou proposals. And, you know, Harry was there for
12 a lot of that, too. And I think that it was just a
13 tremendous cooperative effort, you know. We had -- the
14 North Slope Borough had a very strong showing there.
15 They had several people there giving public testimony.
16
17 We had advisory committee members there from, you know,
18 all over northern and northwestern Alaska. And the way
19 we hammered out the final -- you know, with a lot of
20 people with a lot of people with a lot of different
21 ideas, and night we all met in a room and, you know,
22 found that there was quite a bit that people from
23 different areas had in common.

24
25 And so we were able to kind of -- you
26 know, it started out with the Fish and Game proposal
27 that went into Board of Game, which at least for the
28 Western Arctic Herd, Jim Dau referred to as the cream
29 puff proposal, because it did almost nothing, you know.
30 It didn't -- it stopped the harvest of calves and it
31 reduced the non-resident season considerably, but, you
32 know, it didn't have much to do with resident hunters,
33 and as he went around and gave his talks in different
34 villages, and we did the same thing on the North Slope,
35 we -- you know, it was a cooperative effort with the
36 North Slope Borough, Department of Wildlife Management,
37 we went around to all the villages and had meetings,
38 got the word out, you know, that the caribou were
39 having a tough time, and, you know, we really need to
40 start reducing harvest, especially for cows. You know,
41 we were able to take all that information and put it
42 together.

43
44 And as far as northwestern Alaska, I
45 could say the proposal for the Western Arctic Herd
46 didn't do much. And, you know, the people from the
47 villages and the Advisory Councils, committees
48 themselves said, you know, we've got to do more. We've
49 got to increase the amount of time during the year that
50 you can't harvest cows, and, you know, there's got to

1 be specific times you can't harvest bulls, and so they
2 kind of came up with closures for cows and bulls, but
3 you know, they weren't all exactly the same, so we all
4 kind of got together and came up with average dates for
5 these closures and things.

6
7 And, well, basically, you know, the
8 Board of Game, you know, they were all ears, and they
9 were really impressed with, you know, the amount of
10 testimony and the cooperation among everybody, and they
11 cooperated, too, and came up with regulations that
12 pretty much were right along in line with what the
13 North Slope Borough and others proposed. So it was a
14 very good session.

15
16 And, oh, you know, it's just such a
17 great thing having all these people in the room,
18 everybody's concerned with the welfare of the caribou
19 herds, and everybody's working, you know, trying to
20 come up with a plan that doesn't -- you know, that
21 helps caribou out, but doesn't impact the hunters more
22 than necessary. And I think it all worked out kind of
23 on the average.

24
25 I'm just going to quickly throw a few
26 slides up to remind you. You know, I think I've
27 presented this stuff before, but just why, what the
28 stage we're at with our populations, and why it's
29 really necessary to come up with some regulations that
30 are going to reduce harvest in both the Western Arctic
31 and the Teshekpuk Herd.

32
33 Okay. And Lincoln's on the air, so he
34 can chime in whenever he wants. And this is one of
35 Lincoln's slides we're going to start out with. This
36 is Teshekpuk Caribou Herd abundance estimates, and as
37 you can see, after many years of growth, you know, we
38 got up almost to 70,000 caribou in the Teshekpuk Herd,
39 it suddenly started declining in 2008, and they've
40 declined over 50 percent since then. Gone from 78,000
41 down to about 32,000. And that's just as of the last
42 count. They're probably, you know, substantially lower
43 than that by now.

44
45 And kind of the reasons for that is
46 we're having very high adult female mortality rate.
47 You can see it's been on the rise for many years, but
48 the last two years are really dramatic. We lost about
49 30 percent of the cows in each one of those years, and,
50 you know, that's a real hit on the herd. You know,

1 that's our productive part of the population.

2

3 At the same time we've been having
4 declining calf production, and you can see it's been on
5 a downhill slide. And last year the calf production,
6 you know, it was like the lowest it's ever been
7 recorded in the State for a caribou herd. It was down
8 around 30 percent of the cows even had calves. That's
9 a very low parturition rate.

10

11 And we're thinking part of that was a
12 result of, you know, 2013 we had a very late spring,
13 and it just seemed to decimate wildlife populations
14 across the North Slope. All the moose populations on
15 the Colville and right across the Slope declined by at
16 least 50 percent that year. Sheep population really
17 went downhill.

18

19 And so spring of 2013 the cows came in
20 in really poor condition, and they were still poor
21 condition that fall. And so when caribou are in poor
22 condition, not very many of -- you know, a smaller
23 percentage of them get bred, and it seems like that was
24 really an extreme example of that that year. And we're
25 sure hoping that it bounces back up this coming year,
26 but really we're even having -- losing a lot of adults
27 and not adding calves back at the rate we would like.

28

29 Western Arctic Herd, it's kind of the
30 same story, but not quite as dramatic as the Teshekpuk
31 Herd. They've also declined by 50 percent, but that
32 started about 2003, so it's kind of a longer stretch of
33 time that they're not declining as rapidly, but you can
34 see, you know, between the last two photo censuses,
35 it's pretty big drop. So Western Arctic Herd is
36 definitely on the decline as well. The same deal.
37 They're having higher cow mortality and reducing calf
38 survival.

39

40 Okay. I think that's kind of what I
41 wanted to get to you.

42

43 You know the reason the herds seem to
44 be on the way down is, we think, a combination of
45 weather conditions and most recently predation. We had
46 a -- well, we all know the weather's been kind of
47 changing. We had these winters where it gets warm in
48 the middle of the winter. Snow melts. It might even
49 rain. And we get this ice cover, and so lots of
50 animals just out and out starve and the ones that don't

1 starve come through the winter in real poor condition
2 in a situation like that. And then once the number of
3 cows -- or number of caribou started going downhill,
4 then your ratio of predators to prey goes way up, and
5 now the predators are really pushing the population
6 down. And at that Board of Game meeting you just heard
7 testimony after testimony of places where, you know,
8 wolf numbers are very high, and bear numbers are high.
9 And, you know, they're talking about packs of wolves of
10 30 and 40 animals, and wolves coming right into the
11 villages in a lot of places in Northwestern Alaska.
12 So, anyway, predation is definitely a real big factor.

13
14

15 And so, you know, it wasn't hunting
16 that pushed this population down. It was weather
17 conditions and predation and everything, but we're
18 getting to the point now that the populations are low
19 enough that hunting is going to be a major factor, you
20 know, and we have the potential of if we keep
21 harvesting just as many caribou as we always have, we
22 could really push these populations right into the
23 ground, and it's going to take a long time for them to
24 recover.

25
26

 On the other hand, you can look at the
27 Western Arctic Herd, and see back in the 70s, and they
28 declined very rapidly then, but then there was a major
29 turn around, and then they just started climbing, you
30 know, up into the 90s. And so it's -- you know,
31 there's potential of turning that population around and
32 getting pretty rapid growth, and getting the population
33 back on its feet. But, anyway, I think it's really
34 important at this state, and most of the people in the
35 villages that we met with over the winter feel like
36 it's important to reduce harvest and help turn that
37 population trend around and get them on the increase.

38
39

 Let me just bounce through here, and
40 see what other slides that might pertain to this.
41 Oops, going the wrong way.

42
43

 Oh, this is -- you know, natural
44 mortality, most caribou die from natural mortality.
45 Lots more than harvest. This shows of the ones that
46 die from natural mortality, that predation is the major
47 cause at this point.

48
49

 And, okay, I think I'll move on from
50 here to what the Board of Game came up with as far as

1 regulations that the State's going to be under for the
2 coming years. And, you know, at our meeting the other
3 night, and Harry made a good point, that we need to
4 regionalize this stuff, you know, one big regulation
5 change for the entire area. Just one size fits all
6 just isn't going to work, and we need to have different
7 regulations in different regions for different
8 situations. And, you know, that's the way things have
9 been written up.

10
11 The first one we'll talk about is the
12 area called Part D, and basically that's the area of
13 the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd. And as I said before, the
14 Teshekpuk Herd is having even a rougher time than the
15 Western Arctic Herd, and so we really need to start
16 cutting back on the harvest as much as we can,
17 particularly with the cows. So again, you know, we,
18 the North Slope Borough and the Department of Fish and
19 Game went around to all the villages on the North Slope
20 and we talked to people, kind of presented the numbers
21 of what was going on with the herds, and listened to
22 their ideas for what could be changed so that we can
23 reduce harvest, but not impact people that really need
24 caribou for food any more than necessary.

25
26 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Geoff.

27
28 MR. CARROLL: Yes.

29
30 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: If you could, just
31 for the listening audience over the teleconference, you
32 mentioned the Subpart D. Could you just give.....

33
34 MR. CARROLL: Okay. Yeah. I'm sorry.
35 I forgot about.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER:an
38 identification of what that area is?

39
40 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. That's a good
41 idea, Harry.

42
43 Okay. So I've got a map of northern
44 and northwestern Alaska. And Part D is basically the
45 northern part of Unit 26A. And it includes Wainwright,
46 Atkasuk, Barrow, and Nuiqsut. And, you know, over to
47 the Colville River. You know, from the Chukchi to the
48 Colville and up to the Arctic coast. And it's north of
49 the Colville River and the Utukok River. And that's
50 primarily, when people are harvesting caribou in that

1 area, they're mostly harvesting Teshekpuk. I mean, a
2 lot of villages, you get a bit of a combination. You
3 know, Barrow, it's almost all Teshekpuk. You know, you
4 get down to Wainwright, and, you know, there's more
5 Western Arctic Caribou that get in there, or, you know,
6 probably the people from Barrow that get down to their
7 hunting camps on the Chipp River or something, they
8 probably get some Western Arctic Herd in there, but
9 primarily it's Teshekpuk.

10

11 So this first set of -- well, they were
12 proposed regulations that the North Slope Advisory
13 Committee, which is the same as the North Slope Borough
14 Fish and Game Management Committee, they came up with
15 with help from the Borough Wildlife Department. And
16 kind of what they really wanted to push for was being
17 able to harvest caribou, you know, some kind of caribou
18 any time of the year. They didn't want to have periods
19 where you just couldn't harvest anything. So there are
20 periods where you can't harvest cows, and there are
21 periods where you can't harvest bulls, but -- and
22 there's some that you can harvest some of each, but,
23 you know, it's basically any time of the of the year
24 you can get caribou if you need them.

25

26 So we'll just kind of -- let me go down
27 here. Okay. So this is basically what the North Slope
28 Borough came up with, and this is what the Board of
29 Game -- that's what they went with. And, you know, if
30 you go on with your piece of paper, it's the one that's
31 titled Northern Unit 26A, Teshekpuk Herd.

32

33 So basically the way it's going to work
34 is starting at the beginning of the year, from January
35 1st to March 15th, you'll be able to take five caribou
36 per day like, you know, we always have been by State
37 regulations; however, only no more than three cows per
38 day. So we're trying to save some cows. And all of
39 these, calves cannot be taken. That's what most of the
40 people in the villages agree that we need to save the
41 calves, and not many people were very interested in
42 harvesting calves anyway.

43

44 Okay. So March 15th you can take bulls
45 or cows. Then starting March 16 -- you know, in the
46 original regulations -- I mean, the regulations we've
47 had for many years, you could basically take five
48 caribou a day all year, either sex, and except for a
49 short period about the calving season when you couldn't
50 take cows. Well, what was suggesting and what the

1 North Slope come up with was a longer period when you
2 couldn't take cows, you know, starting March 16th, so
3 people aren't out there running -- harvesting those
4 pregnant cows and running the caribou into bunches
5 when, you know, they're getting closer and closer to
6 birth. So from March 16 to July 15th, no harvest of
7 cows. And kind of they extended in both directions.
8 It pushed it on to July 15th so that people wouldn't be
9 shooting cows with young calves, because those calves
10 aren't going to survive if their mothers are shot.

11
12 Okay. Then starting -- okay. Then
13 July 16th to October -- there's one in the middle there
14 I meant to scratch that out, the one right in the
15 middle. We'll get rid of that, that one that says July
16 1st to July 15th. But.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: That's the one
19 that got stretched out?

20
21 MR. CARROLL: Oh, that one in the
22 middle there.

23
24 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah.

25
26 MR. CARROLL: That one that says five
27 bulls, July 1st to July 15th. I already said that you
28 couldn't take cows, you know, March 16th to July 15th.

29
30
31 Then starting July 16th, you can take
32 five caribou per day again; however, no more than three
33 cows per day. And also you can't take cows accompanied
34 by calves. And again calves may not be taken. So
35 that's kind of a new one for caribou. And that was,
36 you know, at the suggestion of the villages and the
37 North Slope Advisory Committee. And, you know, that's
38 kind of a tough one to enforce, did somebody take a cow
39 with a calf or not. But I think it's really important
40 for people to go out there with that idea in their head
41 that, you know, you're not supposed to take cows with
42 calves during this time, and I'm going to try not to
43 take cows with calves. You know, there's a chance that
44 there might be mistakes made, but, you know, if we're
45 all thinking that way, I know I've been out there in
46 there summer sometimes when there's a lot of caribou
47 around, and you see a fair number of orphaned calves,
48 and that's not a good situation, so anyway that's part
49 of the regulation as written at this point.

50

1 And then starting October 16th, and we
2 stop taking bulls. So October 16th to December 31st
3 it's three cows per day. And again calves can't be
4 taken. But no bulls during that time when they go
5 stink. Everybody agreed that that's a good time to
6 stop taking bulls.

7
8 MR. SHEARS: Three cows.

9
10 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, three cows. Yeah.
11 And, you know, the idea is we've got to start taking
12 fewer cows, and, you know, people took that to heart
13 and that was the recommendation.

14
15 Non-resident hunters were cut back
16 quite a bit. They were cut back from five bulls to one
17 -- or five caribou to one bull. And the season was
18 shortened to now it's July 15th to September 30th for
19 non-resident hunters.

20
21 So again that was basically what the
22 North Slope Borough Advisory Committee recommended, and
23 that's what the Board of Game accepted.

24
25 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: A question, Geoff.
26 In regard to the last, non-resident, one bull, July
27 15th to September 30. Is that across the whole three
28 regions or is this specific.....

29
30 MR. CARROLL: Well, they vary a little
31 bit, but they're pretty close to that. I'll tell you
32 just what they are in different regions.

33
34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. I wasn't
35 sure. I just need some clarification on that.

36
37 MR. CARROLL: Okay. Then the other
38 part of North -- well -- yeah, North Slope is --
39 regulations were changed in 26B as well. And that's
40 the area over along the haul road. And it seems like
41 more and more, particularly in recent years, the
42 Teshekpuk Herd has spent more time wintering kind of in
43 that southeastern region down there. So that there are
44 time periods that when people are going up the Haul
45 Road and they're shooting caribou, a lot of the ones
46 that they're shooting are Teshekpuk. So basically what
47 this regulation will do is it closes the hunt within
48 that area.

49
50 It's called -- okay. And people that

1 can't see the map here, it's the area that -- let's
2 see. It's south of 69 degrees, 30 minutes, and it's
3 west of the Dalton Highway. So it's that area in 26B,
4 you know, that's west of the Dalton Highway, kind of
5 down in that southern part where the Teshekpuk.....
6

7 And basically it closes the season
8 during the time that the Teshekpuk Caribou are in
9 there. They used to have pretty much a year round
10 season in there, and now the season will go from July
11 1st to October 10th, and then May 16th to July 30th.
12 So basically the season is closed during the time that
13 the Western -- or the Teshekpuk Caribou are in there.
14

15 On the other side of the Haul Road it's
16 still the same as what it's been in the past, which is
17 five caribou; however, cows cannot be taken from July
18 1st to May 15th, and it's year round. Yeah. As long
19 as long as they're hunting Central Arctic Herd, you
20 know, we didn't feel -- it wasn't our place to change
21 that over there, but the area where the Teshekpuk Herd
22 goes, then again that's -- the Board of Game passed
23 that proposal, and so there will be no hunt in there
24 during the time that the Teshekpuk Herd caribou are in
25 there usually in fairly large numbers.
26

27 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: A question, Geoff.
28 In regard tot hat, how are you going to be monitoring
29 where the caribou are, which caribou herd's being
30 harvested. I mean, you're talking about.....
31

32 MR. CARROLL: Well, you know,
33 there's.....
34

35 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER:Western's
36 still there.
37

38 MR. CARROLL:there's always a lot
39 of variability, you know, and we can't -- I mean, you
40 know, we can tell which herd is where generally by
41 which radio collars are in that area. And, you know, a
42 lot of times there's a mixture there. And what we're
43 trying to do is just during the time that there's a
44 significant number of Teshekpuk Caribou in that area,
45 try to -- you know, I mean, that's the idea, is to
46 close the hunt, and so that should reduce the number of
47 Teshekpuk Caribou that are taken in that hunt over
48 there in 26B from both people that fly in off the Haul
49 Road, some of those camps at the Haul Road, and also
50 the people that drive up the highway. I'm sure the

1 hunters up there will think that's really weird. They
2 can hunt on one side of the road, but they can't hunt
3 on the other, but that's just the way it's going to be.

4

5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Uh-huh. Questions
6 from the Council members for Geoff.

7

8 MR. SHEARS: Geoff, could you redefine
9 -- the boundary of that Part E section, or 26B, that
10 you said it was 69'50", but where is that exactly.
11 Help me associate where that intersection of that
12 east/west northern boundary on the highway corridor.
13 Where does that intersect the highway at? Looking at
14 the map, I'm guessing it's somewhere south of Pump
15 Station 2, but is it near Happy Valley, or where is
16 that intersection.

17

18 MR. CARROLL: Lincoln, can you answer
19 that question? As far as along the highway, you know,
20 where is that 69'30"? Do you know about which pump
21 station or whatever?

22

23 MR. PARRETT: Yeah. Yeah, I'm going to
24 work on that right now. It's just north of Pump
25 Station 2.

26

27 MR. SHEARS: Where?

28

29 MR. CARROLL: Just north of Pump
30 Station 2.

31

32 MR. PARRETT: Just north of Pump
33 Station 2.

34

35 MR. SHEARS: Okay. All right.

36

37 MR. CARROLL: Okay. So we're just kind
38 of trying to chip away at it. Try to -- you know,
39 local people have been willing to propose regulations
40 that kind of reduce their harvest. We're trying to
41 reduce the harvest over there in 26B.

42

43 Okay. So that's it for the Teshekpuk
44 regulations.

45

46 And I don't have a nice colorful map to
47 put up. I mean, this new area that's called the
48 northern Western Arctic Herd range, you know, I've got
49 it on the handout that I gave you. It's the kind of
50 one that looks a little more crude than the rest. It

1 kind of has a drawn in line on it.

2

3 But this just came up, you know, two
4 nights ago at that meeting. This whole area was
5 invented. And basically it includes Point Hope, Point
6 Lay, and Anaktuvuk Pass. So that's the other villages
7 that you're concerned with. And it's kind of all put
8 together, because by the State division, Point Lay is
9 actually in Unit 23. I mean Point Hope is actually in
10 Unit 23, and Anaktuvuk is actually in Unit 24. It's
11 right across the border line up there. So this area
12 includes kind of that northwestern part of Unit 23, and
13 that it includes this other part of Unit 26A, and then
14 it includes a chunk of 24.

15

16 And the idea there was that again one
17 size doesn't fit all, and a lot of times, like Point
18 Hope, for instance, you know, they just get caribou
19 kind of in midsummer. Sometimes that's the only time
20 they see them, and they want to be able to harvest
21 them, so they wanted to have that period where you
22 could not take cows reduced somewhat. I mean, they --
23 yeah, they want to have a longer period when they could
24 take cows.

25

26 And so basically the -- really, you
27 know, the cow closures and the bull closures for all of
28 Unit 23 -- well, I've got -- I think I've got -- came
29 out as the result of these meetings in Northwestern
30 Alaska, and so, you know, different places -- they all
31 felt like they should have a cow closure, but they had
32 a slightly different idea just when that closure should
33 be. And so basically we kind of compromised and came
34 up with, you know, kind of the average was April 10th
35 to the middle of August for cows.

36

37 And then -- oops. And then for bulls
38 it was start -- different people had different ideas,
39 but that was pretty solid when the bull closure should
40 start. It starts about when the bulls go into rut, you
41 know, which is around October 10th or October 15th in
42 that region. And then kind of the other end as to when
43 it should close, it was somewhat variable, you know,
44 whether it should be December or January or whatever.
45 And kind of the average on that, you know, was about
46 October 10th to January 27th.

47

48 And so the -- anyway, they compromised
49 those, and then they rounded off those dates to come up
50 with the regulation for all the village in Unit 23.

1 Back to our area, the people from Point
2 Hope thought that that was a bit too long of a period
3 for the cow closure, and so that's really about the
4 only difference between that and the rest of the -- we
5 consider that the Western Arctic Herd regulations.
6 They're not quite as restrictive as Teshekpuk, because
7 Western Arctic Herd isn't doing quite as poorly as the
8 Teshekpuk.

9
10 But basically the way that's going to
11 pan out in that northern Western Arctic Herd range is
12 it's basically no bull harvest from October 14th to
13 February 1. And then no cow harvest from April 30th to
14 July 15th.

15
16 And you can see down in the bottom for
17 non-resident hunters, that was changed. Before you
18 could take five caribou, and basically there was no
19 closed season. And now you can -- now non-residents
20 can only take one bull and the season runs from July
21 15th to September 30th.

22
23 So that's kind of -- that's really
24 about it, you know. That's the regulation changes, you
25 know, where this is kind of a new dawn. We basically
26 had almost unlimited caribou numbers for many years,
27 and we've had very liberal seasons, you know, five a
28 day, and even 10 a day by Federal regulations up here.
29 And, you know, with our reduced number of caribou,
30 we've got to start conserving caribou for the time
31 being. And if these populations continue to decline at
32 the rate that they have been, then we're going to --
33 you know, we'll be rethinking this again in coming
34 years. And, you know, we'll -- I think so far we've
35 all done a real good job of working together, and
36 including everybody's opinions, and so we might be
37 going around next year if things seem to -- you know,
38 if numbers continue to decline, what's going to be the
39 next step. Are we going to go into some kind of a
40 permit hunt or, you know, what is going to work for
41 people up here.

42
43 So, anyway, at this stage, you know,
44 this is going to be the State regulations for the sort
45 of next year. And then I guess it's kind of up to you
46 guys to decide if you agree with this and want to go
47 along with it and make proposals to the Federal Board,
48 and, you know, try to keep things in alignment between
49 State and Federal regulations. You know, it's sure a
50 lot easier on everybody if regulations don't take off

1 in two different directions, and you've got to figure
2 out, well, am I on Federal land or am I on State or am
3 I on corporation land, you know, what are the
4 regulations here.

5
6 So anyway, that's why I came rushing
7 back up here this morning to get the regulations to
8 you, and then you could consider this.

9
10 And, you know, Lee, I guess your
11 Porcupine and the Central Arctic Herd are doing just
12 fine at this point, and so there really aren't any
13 proposed regulations for your part of the world. This
14 is more over here where we've got the Teshekpuk Herd
15 and the Western Arctic Herd declining.

16
17 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes. Lee, go
20 ahead.

21
22 MR. KAYOTUK: Yeah. It's pretty great
23 that the Porcupine and caribou -- I mean, the Central
24 Herd is, you know, not on the map, even though it's
25 quite -- you know, we get the Porcupine herd from
26 Canada, and it's pretty rare that we don't see not too
27 often of -- but it's good to know if we could get a
28 population trend on both caribous since it's not in our
29 area on the map that is shown.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MR. CARROLL: Okay. So you're asking
34 for the Porcupine and Central Arctic Herd?

35
36 MR. KAYOTUK: Yes, so if we could have
37 that. It's been brought up in different times in our
38 village, you know, and we'd like to see the trends of
39 how these populations are, movement, especially when it
40 comes to the calving grounds. And it's good to know
41 what are caribou, yearly basis of -- or when they do
42 the counts in our area would be nice to have.

43
44 MR. CARROLL: Okay. Yeah, you know,
45 I've presented that in all our past meetings. I don't
46 think I have that easily accessible right now, but,
47 yeah, I can just tell you the Porcupine Herd, you
48 know, kind of surprised us. We thought they were kind
49 of on the -- you know, that was the herd that we were
50 worried about in the 90s partly because they were

1 really difficult to count, and they didn't get counted
2 for many years, and everybody kind of assumed that they
3 were probably declining, because that's what it looked
4 like the last time we counted them. Then they kind of
5 surprised everybody and -- oh, I don't remember the
6 numbers, that there were suddenly like, you know, 160,
7 180,000 of them. And I think at the last count they --
8 close to 200,000. And, in fact, if they continue to
9 climb at the rate they have been, and the Western
10 Arctic Herd continues to decline the way it has, that,
11 you know, it might in the not too distant future, the
12 Porcupine Herd is going to be the largest herd in the
13 State.

14

15 We're not quite sure about the Central
16 Arctic Herd. You know, it was one of the fastest
17 growing herds in the State. At the last photo census,
18 it looked like they might actually -- they were, you
19 know, kind of up in the 70 or 80,000 range as well, and
20 they seem to -- the count indicated that they'd
21 declined by maybe 20,000 caribou. So we're not quite
22 sure, you know, was that blip, or their productivity
23 wasn't as good the last couple times around. They were
24 having more mortality and poorer calf survival.

25

26 But, you know, again that spring of
27 2013 seemed to hit a lot of populations hard. And I
28 think the Central Arctic Herd might have been included
29 in that. And we'll see if that was a blip or if, you
30 know, the Central Arctic Herd is -- maybe it kind of
31 peaked out and it's on its way down, too, but at this
32 point the numbers are quite healthy, and so we'll just
33 have to see what happens with them, but as of now,
34 there doesn't seem cause for concern and no reason for
35 regulation changes at this point.

36

37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Did that help,
38 Lee?

39

40 MR. KAYOTUK: Yep. Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Any under comments
43 or questions to Geoff from Council members. Robert.

44

45 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

46

47 Thanks, Geoff. It's a grim day, but I
48 understand. And congratulations. I can imagine the
49 type of work, the negotiations, and the banter that
50 must have -- you must have witnessed. I observed --

1 you know, I had first-hand testimony to witness.

2

3 Three cows a day after October 15th,
4 about the time we can start using snow machines. Wow.
5 That's when a lot of the subsistence harvest takes
6 place for these communities in the northern unit.

7

8 I think it's good. I think the
9 indications of the herds' population -- you know, it
10 requires a strong reaction in regards to this. And I
11 think this could -- if anything, this could possibly
12 show a positive effect, you know. And I support it,
13 but it's -- you know, it's one thing. Is there any
14 talk in your Department about -- you know, it's one
15 thing to lay out these new requirements, you know, and
16 they're stringent requirements, but to monitor -- not
17 -- you know, to enforce, educate, and monitor the
18 continued harvest under these new proposed regulations,
19 is there talk about increasing the budget of your
20 Department in this era of cut-backs.

21

22 MR. CARROLL: Well, no, I haven't heard
23 of any talk of increasing the -- yeah, you know, this
24 day and age in the State, everything is being cut back.
25 But, I don't know, you know, at least the wildlife
26 conservation part of Fish and Game hasn't been cut back
27 too severely. You know, it was -- I think people
28 recognize that we've got some serious issues, and, you
29 know, we've never had much fat in our organization. I
30 mean, I don't know, all of Region 5, you know, I mean,
31 we get together for a meeting, and we can sit around a
32 small table. It's not like we've got a lot that we
33 could cut. But, you know, everybody's budgets are
34 being cut a bit.

35

36 No, I agree, and, you know, we need
37 education and outreach. And I think everything we've
38 done, that's probably the most important thing,
39 because, you know, it's -- you could have all the
40 regulations in the world on the North Slope, and you
41 know how inclined people are to follow regulations. If
42 they don't agree with them, if they don't recognize the
43 fact that we've got to do what we can to conserve
44 caribou, you know, if that's not just the mind set of
45 the average hunters, if we don't get buy-in, you know,
46 you could have all the enforcement agents in the State,
47 you know, and if people aren't willing to follow
48 regulations, there wouldn't be much you could do about
49 it.

50

1 So, yeah, education and outreach. And,
2 you know, that's where partly our partnership with the
3 North Slope Borough is really helpful. Up here, you
4 know, they're great at that kind of thing. They've got
5 a full-time outreach person, and, you know, that was
6 part of the deal at the meeting. They committed to,
7 you know, really step up the education and outreach,
8 and radio talk shows and that sort of thing, just, you
9 know, get the word out that we've got to conserve these
10 caribou.

11
12 Yeah, again it's -- I mean, that was
13 kind of the beauty of this thing was, you know, it's
14 kind of a big cooperative effort. We heard horror
15 stories of back in the 70s, you know, when the caribou
16 declined, and basically there was hardly any
17 communication. There was just kind of a draconian
18 reductions in, you know, the amount that people are
19 allowed to harvest, and I -- you know, I think that --
20 I doubt that many subsistence hunters paid too much
21 attention to the regulations, you know. It was just an
22 extremely contentious situation. I mean, this is just
23 kind of the opposite. I think everybody's working
24 together and recognizes there's a problem, and went --
25 and, you know, I think we're going to work our way
26 through this without, you know, causing big rifts
27 between managers and local people and things like that.

28
29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Did that help,
30 Robert?

31
32 MR. SHEARS: Uh-huh.

33
34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. Thank you.

35
36 MR. CARROLL: Well, just one more
37 thing, Robert. That was kind of stated several times
38 at this meeting that, you know, I don't know, yeah,
39 we're going to have to harvest fewer caribou. Anyway,
40 the idea is to kind of everybody feels the pain
41 equally. I mean, I know you guys would probably rather
42 harvest 5 a day or 10 a day than 3 a day, but, you
43 know, it's just kind of -- everybody's got to do their
44 part on this.

45
46 MR. SHEARS: Yeah, and just posting a
47 flyer, you know, is not -- is not enough. You know,
48 that wouldn't garner any respect. But the educational
49 outreach, you know, explaining the reason why.
50

1 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

2

3 MR. SHEARS: The strong science that's
4 gone behind this, and the pain that's gone into making
5 -- into coming up with decision, and the expectation of
6 how many years, you know. We have to at least
7 hypothesize what our expectation is over the next five
8 years based on implementing these new policies. Do we
9 intend to just stop the decline, or do we actually
10 intend to grow the population if people adheres to
11 these principles of harvest.

12

13 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. Right. I mean,
14 you know, sure, ideally we want to turn this thing
15 around and get the population growing again. Yeah,
16 that's the intent. And, I don't know, you know, like
17 the Western Arctic Herd for many years grew about 13
18 percent a year, which is just about the absolute
19 maximum a caribou population can grow, you know, and,
20 you know, it must have been pretty -- something really
21 changed, you know. And, you know, there's speculation,
22 maybe there was a big wolf die-off or something, you
23 know, but for a long time they grew at a remarkable
24 rate, you know, for an animal that only produces one
25 calf a year and everything, they did very well.

26

27 MR. SHEARS: (Indiscernible - mic not
28 on) any ranches (indiscernible).....

29

30 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

31

32 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So in regard to
33 some of the other discussion, you know, we've heard of
34 predation, but it didn't really get addressed in that
35 sense. Was there any further discussion by the Board
36 regarding predation or any efforts to knock down some
37 of the predators in terms of caribou concerns or
38 conservation?

39

40 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. You know, at this
41 point -- yeah, there was certainly a lot of discussion,
42 and, you know, when the population gets to a certain
43 point, then, you know, we're actually required by law
44 to consider intensive manager, which up here basically
45 means predator control. And, you know, we looked at
46 it, and it was part of both Jim and Lincoln's
47 presentations to the Board, is that, you know, it's
48 really -- you know, the Board, the Chairman of the
49 Board, Ted Spraker, he said several times that he'd
50 always much, much rather, rather than restrict people,

1 you know, increase numbers of the population if at all
2 possible, and that includes predator control.

3
4 It's kind of a big, complicated
5 situation, like on the North Slope, like Lincoln was
6 saying, that, you know, a lot of places, a lot of
7 predation happens in the calving grounds, but, you
8 know, I think that's one thing the Teshekpuk does, and
9 for years, you know, the Teshekpuk Herd is doing great.
10 And part of it is that they calve so far north that
11 there really isn't much -- you know, you hardly ever
12 see a wolf in the calving grounds. You know, we see an
13 old bear with blood all around its mouth and stuff
14 every once in a while in there, but not a lot of them.
15 And normally that would be a pretty good place to do
16 some predator control.

17
18 And then the other place that would
19 kind of make sense where Lincoln sees a lot of the
20 predation is in the Brooks Range. I mean, as he says,
21 you know, it's kind of a split, you know, a lot of the
22 Teshekpuk Herd -- I mean, it seems like in my earlier
23 years a bigger percentage of them spent the winter on
24 the coastal plain. And now it's kind of a split thing.
25 You know, there's a bunch that winter on the coastal
26 plain, there's a bunch that go into the Brooks Range.
27 And it's kind of a choice of stay out on the coastal
28 plain and starve to death, or go up into the Brooks
29 Range and get eaten by predators, you know.

30
31 And so that would be -- if we were
32 going to get after predators, that would probably be
33 the most likely place is up in the Brooks Range, but
34 it's all Federal park and stuff, and they do not allow
35 predator control. So there are lots of problems to
36 that, you know. I mean, I'm -- for years I've been
37 trying to encourage local hunters to harvest wolves as
38 much as possible.

39
40 But, you know, it's just -- you know,
41 you just can't really knock a population of wolves
42 back. And to do effective predator control, I mean,
43 you can't just be, you know, namby-pamby about it,
44 you've got to get in there and knock the population way
45 back, and you've got to keep it back, because, you
46 know, they have litters, and they can move in, and they
47 can reproduce quickly, and, you know, they're just
48 right back in there.

49
50 And, you know, on the northwestern

1 section, you know, it's the same problem. Boy, there's
2 big sections, you know, that are both Park Service and
3 Fish and Wildlife Service, and, you know, they're not
4 going to allow any wolf control. So, I don't know, you
5 know, you just do wolf control in areas that you can,
6 but there's still great big areas where you can't, and
7 so, you know, you kind of have a limited effect
8 and.....

9

10 MR. SHEARS: (Indiscernible - mic not
11 on)

12

13 REPORTER: Mic.

14

15 MR. CARROLL: No. No.

16

17 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: She said you have
18 to turn your microphone on.

19

20 So, yeah, Geoff, I think these are
21 things that we need to be cognizant about as well. You
22 know, the first step is to try and manage the people,
23 but there's also a percentage of the predators that are
24 probably outweighing the human factor of mortality
25 events, you know, in that sense. Like I have to look
26 at that in terms of how we perceive things, and the
27 importance of food for our constituents, our villages.
28 You know, they don't have the luxury of going to a
29 store compared to Barrow, residents of Barrow. When
30 you go to Atqasuk or go to Anaktuvuk, they don't have
31 the luxury as we do in these villages, and what they
32 depend on for food are the caribou. And when we start
33 putting more restrictive regulations in place and
34 they're not addressing the predator relationship,
35 that's kind of one sided. So I think there needs to be
36 some means of addressing a percentage of the
37 predator/prey relationship to knock down or put an
38 effort to knock down some of the -- to lessen the
39 percentage to somewhat smaller to what it is now,
40 right? If there's a 50 percent chance -- that it's 50
41 percent mortality, then by predators, there needs to be
42 a means of addressing that in the sense that it gets
43 addressed along with the human mortality event. You
44 know, these kind of things you have to put into play.
45 And it takes years of measures to consider to
46 reasonably manage a population that's in decline.

47

48 You know, I look at our bowhead
49 situation for comparison. You know, there's science
50 that went into play for many years, and look at our

1 population of bowhead whales today, because of some of
2 this research and science and learning about all the
3 bowhead research that you were probably involved in in
4 your earlier days. And now that we hear about that
5 it's doing very well these days, because of all the
6 changes that were occurring.

7
8 So in comparison to wolves and caribou
9 and other predators as well, you know, lynch,
10 wolverines, wolves, brown bear -- there's a number of
11 them that we could look at. It's just not just wolves,
12 there's a range of them that we need to consider that
13 also caribou. And these are the things that I have to
14 look at. And that number definitely goes up when you
15 put all these predators in line, and the number of
16 events that occur through reduction of predators that
17 could occur.

18
19 So I have to say that this is something
20 that needs to get addressed in the sense that even if
21 thee Federal agencies or State agencies are reluctant
22 in wanting to think about that, these are steps that
23 need to be considered as well. Human removals are not
24 the only one factor that -- or percentage that could
25 maybe elevate the numbers of caribou.

26
27 We have to look at what we did for the
28 muskoxen in the Kaktovik area. We did have a good
29 number growing for a few years, and were able to take a
30 few muskox from that population for several years, and
31 then the population went down and the subsistence take
32 of those muskox was taken out. But then there are
33 still the predator/prey relationship, that hunting
34 ended, and it dwindled, that number going downward,
35 because we didn't do very much for that predator/prey
36 relationship for that muskox in that area.

37
38 So these things I know about, and maybe
39 could address in the sense that would be meaningful to
40 see, and identify with in the sense that we're taking
41 all these different measures, not just human
42 regulations -- human removal regulations being imposed.
43 So there's other factors that need to be considered a
44 well.

45
46 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, and you're exactly
47 right. The number of caribou taken by predators is
48 much, much higher than the number taken by people. And
49 I don't want to make it -- you know, I don't want to
50 make it sound like I'm dismissing predator control, but

1 there actually are, you know, large areas like in the
2 calving area of the Western Arctic Herd, you know,
3 that's all kind of BLM land and State land. You know,
4 there are big chunks where, you know, there probably
5 could be some effective predator control.

6
7 But, you know, then the other thing,
8 too, you know, at the village meetings that I attended,
9 they almost always would bring that up, well, what do
10 you guys think about predator control. And it's a
11 little different on the North Slope and in Northwestern
12 Alaska. Almost all the North Slope villages rally
13 weren't very enthused about having people coming in in
14 airplanes and shooting wolves. And it kind of came up,
15 well, you should have a bounty, you know, encourage --
16 there's just, gas is so expensive, and fur prices are
17 so low, that, man, it's tough for a guy to go out and,
18 you know, get a bunch of wolves, and there should be
19 some kind of a bounty, you know. And, you know, the
20 State just can't legally do that. But, man, if we
21 could work with one of the corporations or maybe
22 several of the corporations, to provide a bounty, you
23 know, there's all kinds of -- you know, somebody comes
24 in and they've sealed this many wolves, and so they get
25 100 bucks a wolf, or, you know, something like that.
26 And, you know, we kind of keep saying that, but, I
27 don't know, I haven't seen anybody take a positive
28 step. And maybe that should be me to, you know, to go
29 approach the corporations and see about them doing
30 that. It might be better coming from the North Slope
31 Borough or something. But, you know, it sure seems
32 like it makes a world of sense, you know. And I'd much
33 rather see local people harvesting the fur-bearing
34 animals than have somebody come in from somewhere else.

35
36 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah, I'm in
37 agreement with you there as well, you know. I do a lot
38 of hunting myself, and in traveling back and forth,
39 it's very costly when you have a very limited supply of
40 gas. And when you think about bringing in folks from
41 the outside to go do the hunting to lower the predators
42 for you, it's something else. There's got to be some
43 conditions that you put on these folks that they at
44 least bring some of the fur back to the communities
45 that they're hunting in, in the region that they're
46 hunting in, you know, instead of taking it all out and
47 selling it to the folks that need that fur, that could
48 be using it for something else. I think these kind of
49 considerations need to take into -- put into play as
50 well in terms of if we're going to bring folks inside

1 from the outside, to fly in to go do predator control,
2 those furs have to come to the villages that are up on
3 the North Slope to be distributed accordingly. I think
4 that's a process that I would think about to -- if
5 we're going to be looking at, you know, aircraft, using
6 fly-in to lessen the number of predators in specific to
7 wolves or wolverine, that kind of thing. That's what
8 I'd like -- the kind of measures I'd like to see put
9 into place instead of the State just taking charge and
10 bringing in these aircraft to conduct reduction of
11 wolves, and then they take everything out of there with
12 them. I'd rather see different measures incorporated,
13 if that's going to be the process to identify with.

14
15 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, you know, there's
16 different ways to do aerial wolf control. I mean, one
17 -- some parts of the State they just make it legal for
18 people to do same-day-airborne wolf hunting, and things
19 like that. So that's -- you know, those guys, their
20 only motivation is being able to get the furs and sell
21 them. But, you know, another approach is, yeah, you
22 can just have State employees come in and do the
23 gunships or whatever, you know, and do the job and, you
24 know, I suppose in a job like that, furs would be more
25 likely to, you know -- I'm not sure how that all works,
26 but, you know, if it would be possible to get the furs
27 to the villages.

28
29 Anyway, I still like this idea of, you
30 know, corporations putting up some bounties for wolves
31 and work out a system like that to make it more
32 worthwhile for the local guys to get out there, but
33 again, you know, if you're really going to put a dent
34 in the wolf populations, it might require more than
35 that, particularly in places like, you know, where the
36 Western Arctic Caribou Herd calving ground is. Man,
37 that's a long way from anywhere, you know. It would be
38 tough for local guys to get up there and have much of
39 an effect on wolves. And that might be an area that
40 you would want to have people come in from other
41 places.

42
43 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I mean, if there
44 were different incentives, too, that would support the
45 hunters that are out there, that would probably be one
46 thing. You know, if you're going to be going out on
47 your own, that's kind of costly. I look at myself, I'm
48 going to have to pay \$7 a gallon to conduct predator
49 control activity. That's pretty spendy, you know.
50 Just paying 15 gallons of gas is over \$100, you know.

1 Fifteen gallons would probably get me 25 miles out of
2 town with the load I have to carry on my sled to try
3 and get up into the area that we're talking about. You
4 know, those kind of things are very serious. And if
5 there was some other incentives in play, that could
6 lessen that cost. It would probably go a long ways in
7 a sense in terms of predator control in a given area.
8 You know, I know of wolves, 15 to 20 packs in my area
9 that we have taken down, lessen the numbers at some
10 points in time, but when the cost of fuel gets so high,
11 it's not worth going out there any more, especially
12 when you want to take your family, two or three other
13 snowmachines with you. And the price of gas, at \$7 a
14 gallon, it's not a good price to be paying for fuel,
15 you know, when you have to pay 500, \$600 for a drum of
16 fuel to get to where you're going. It's almost as bad
17 as buying an airplane ticket and going to Anchorage,
18 you know. Those kind of things have to be compared,
19 comparatives on in terms of what's really cost-
20 effective for us.

21

22 So I try to think about these different
23 measures as well, and to be including, you know, not
24 just to address the human situation. I think mortality
25 of -- I think adding onto that to help conserve caribou
26 would also address the predator/ prey relationship of
27 the predators that are out there that could be taken
28 down in a sense in a meaningful way that would help
29 conserve caribou in the long run.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 I really liked the presentation, Geoff.
34 You know, it really helped me. I had some comments I
35 wanted to share, but, again, veering off to all these
36 other discussions, and I'm losing my train of thought
37 of what I wanted to say earlier.

38

39 And thank you.

40

41 Tom, I keep seeing your fingers flying
42 up in the air. Maybe I better give you an opportunity
43 to comment.

44

45 MR. EVANS: This is Tom Evans for the
46 record.

47

48 At the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
49 meeting they mentioned that the survival of caribou
50 calves was pretty dependent on how long they could stay

1 with their mother. And I notice in the Teshekpuk
2 changes in the regulations, that was sort of accounted
3 for by having the longer season and not allowing the
4 take of cows with calves.

5
6 I notice with the Western Arctic Herd,
7 did that come up and was it discussed there, to have a
8 longer cow/calf restriction for the Western Arctic
9 Herd.

10
11 MR. CARROLL: One second.

12
13 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Geoff is chasing
14 mic. He'll be right back.

15
16 (Laughter)

17
18 MR. CARROLL: That's what I was, you
19 know, kind of getting at with -- well, now are you
20 talking about just the ban on taking cows, or are you
21 talking about taking cows with calves?

22
23 MR. EVANS: Cows with calves.

24
25 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. Yeah, that's not
26 really addressed in the Western Arctic Herd regulation
27 at this point. You know, that was kind of something
28 that the North Slope Advisory Committee and the North
29 Slope Borough Wildlife Department came up with. And,
30 you know, it's -- I know there was discussion, and I
31 think it came up several times down in Northwestern
32 Alaska, but they -- you know, it's kind of one of these
33 back and forth things. You know, there's the argument
34 that it's really hard to enforce. It's kind of hard --
35 it's a lot harder to tell if a caribou cow has a calf
36 than like a moose cow has a calf, because, you know,
37 they're just a lot more mobile. It's kind of tough to
38 tell. And somebody brought up the idea that, you know,
39 geez, what if you shot a cow, there's no calf anywhere
40 near it, but she's lactating. You know, and does that
41 -- are you a criminal then? You know, it's a hard one
42 to enforce and everything. You know, kind of my
43 opinion is that, yeah, you know, people are going to
44 make mistakes, but, boy, I think it's great if they go
45 out there with the idea that, I don't want to shoot cow
46 with a calf, and, you know, it's not legal to shoot a
47 cow and a calf, and I'm going to just avoid that if I
48 possibly can.

49
50 Yeah, at this stage there's no mention

1 of that in the Western Arctic Herd regulations, but I
2 know that it was recommended by some of the advisory
3 committees. They just, I don't know, through their
4 discussions decided not to include that, whereas we did
5 here on the North Slope.

6

7 MR. EVANS: Well, thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Did that help,
10 Tom?

11

12 MR. EVANS: Yeah. Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. Thank you,
15 Geoff.

16

17 Any other comments.

18

19 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: This is Rosemary.
20 And I want to thank everyone for this important
21 discussion. I really appreciate the effort to increase
22 some of the communications around this, to give some
23 protections to the caribou. I know everyone was
24 worried about our process that in the previous efforts
25 that we had (indiscernible - breaking up). So this is
26 definitely a move in the right direction.

27

28 And I also want to inquire about is
29 there going to be resources so our villages could start
30 communicating with one another about ways to consider
31 community hunts and efforts and protections, of needing
32 to continue these protections, and maybe ramp up
33 activities of protections.

34

35 And then I also agree with the
36 communications around the issues of predator control
37 and tat there's ways that our communities could start
38 some of these communications and work on some local
39 resolutions before we work on other outside entities
40 coming in to support predator control issues and
41 methods to help us with our management issues.

42

43 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
44 that, Rosemary.

45

46 Any other questions or comments to
47 Geoff.

48

49 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Lee.

2

3 MR. KAYOTUK: Yeah. You know, it's a
4 good understanding of how caribou management work, and
5 their studies, and the population. Again, like the
6 moose and the closed season for us, and, you know, we
7 depend on the caribou, where the -- get to get moose on
8 a permit, but, you know, in the closed season is
9 closed, you know, we can't have moose, but, you know,
10 we depend on the caribou. And, you know, I see it as a
11 good handful of people that do hunt moose in the area,
12 but, you know, it's a closed season, and we all like to
13 depend on the caribou which, you know, things like this
14 would follow up and hopefully our moose population will
15 go back up again.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
20 sharing that, Lee.

21

22 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Robert.

25

26 MR. SHEARS: One more question to
27 Geoff. So here we are. We have a recommendation from
28 the Board of Game. But it's nothing more than that.
29 Even if, you know, the ADF&G adopts it and incorporates
30 it as a regulation, we still have the Federal
31 subsistence regulation that says those of us in 26A can
32 take 10 caribou a day. And 99 percent of us are
33 operating under that regulation. So to give the Board
34 of Game's recommendation teeth, are they proposing to
35 take -- are they going to the Federal Subsistence
36 Board, and are they going to seek the Regional Advisory
37 Council's recommendations? Or seek support from the
38 RACs.

39

40 MR. CARROLL: Well, yeah, they
41 definitely want support from the RACs. And, you know,
42 I don't know exactly what the best procedure. You
43 know, it's a lot better if State regulations and
44 Federal regulations are in alignment. It's just really
45 complicated if they're going off in different
46 directions. And, you know, I don't know if -- you guys
47 probably know more about this than me, but, you know,
48 if you guys could generate proposals for the Federal
49 Board that would pretty much put, you know, the Federal
50 regulations in alignment with the State regulations, if

1 you agree with what we came up with here.

2

3

Yeah.

4

5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Robert
6 and Geoff. I think that's something that we as a
7 Council need to consider as to what approach we would
8 like to move forward with in terms of the seriousness
9 of this situation on Western Arctic Caribou. And we
10 also hear about the Teshekpuk Herd. And that's kind of
11 something that's already fall into play with the
12 regulations that are being proposed as well, because of
13 the two herds continue going down on a downward trend
14 in terms of populations, and survivability I guess in
15 terms of the cow/calf ratios.

16

17

Geoff.

18

19

MR. CARROLL: Well, and as you know,
20 it's lots of Federal land up here, and, you know, so if
21 we don't have, you know, an agreement with you guys
22 that we need to work on caribou conserva -- you know,
23 regulations that are going to conserve caribou, then,
24 you know, there's a lot of -- it's going to be Federal
25 land, then -- anyway, again, it's just much better if
26 we can have things in alignment.

27

28

DR. YOKEL: Mr. Chair.

29

30

CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes. Can you
31 identify yourself, please.

32

33

DR. YOKEL: This is Dave Yokel with the
34 BLM.

35

36

CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Continue, Dave.

37

38

DR. YOKEL: I'd like to thank Geoff for
39 his presentation, and I'd like to thank Robert Shears
40 for his comment, too, because it's right on.

41

42

And if I may be allowed to express my
43 opinion, I think it's on your agenda for this meeting,
44 and Tom Evans spoke to it yesterday, about new Federal
45 hunting and trapping regulatory proposals. It's my
46 assumption that this State regulation will take effect
47 on June -- or July 1st of this year, but the Federal
48 process is a little slower unless they go into some
49 kind of special mode. And maybe Tom could talk about
50 that, and explain what you could do about this for the

1 Federal regs right now.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So, Dave, are you
4 looking to get Tom in the discussion as well.

5

6 DR. YOKEL: Well, I'd really like to
7 get your Council in a discussion about submitting a
8 proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board as soon as
9 possible.

10

11 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah. Thank you
12 for that.

13

14 DR. YOKEL: And I don't want to
15 influence your meeting, but if I were on the Board, I'd
16 be pushing for a proposal during this meeting.

17

18 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes. Thank you
19 for that, Dave.

20

21 Tom, I'll give you the opportunity to
22 communicate on that again. I know you did yesterday,
23 and I wasn't here. Maybe just a refresher might help
24 steer some more of the discussion. Page 73 in the
25 meeting booklet, Council meeting booklet. Tom.

26

27 MR. EVANS: So as I mentioned
28 yesterday, that we're in a call for wildlife proposals
29 right now. They don't take effect until next year, so
30 2016, so for this year, they wouldn't be in effect
31 unless there was some kind of a special action like
32 Dave Yokel mentioned.

33

34 But I would like to mention that
35 yesterday that Gordon Brower had mentioned this very
36 thing about coming up with some proposals at this RAC
37 meeting that sort of parallel some of the actions that
38 are being taken by the State. I know Gordon mentioned
39 sort of three things. He mentioned that hunting of
40 mature females might be off limits between March and
41 August 30th. Females with calves be prohibited --
42 females with calves not be allowed to be hunted from
43 October 10th to December 1st. And no bulls between
44 October 10th and December 5th was some of the
45 recommendations that Gordon had. So that's kind of in
46 parallel with what Robert's saying and what Dave's
47 saying from BLM.

48

49 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Just a question
50 then on my part I guess is then if we were to elevate

1 this to the Board as a special action to consider
2 moving the time frame more to the present than a year
3 down the road, what steps do we have to take to elevate
4 that in that sense.

5
6 MR. EVANS: So for a special action,
7 you can put in for a special action now and basically
8 then that has to be acted on. We can go for a
9 temporary or an emergency special action depending on
10 for how long of a time period that we're shooting for.
11 That would cover this next, depending on what the
12 timeframe of the special action is, that would take
13 place for this coming year until the proposed
14 regulations go into effect in 2016 if they get accepted
15 by the Board.

16
17 So there would be a two-step process.
18 We'd do a special action for the interim until 2016,
19 and in 2016 then the proposed regulations, if they're
20 accepted, would go into effect.

21
22 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
23 that. Just to have that clarification.

24
25 And to fall in line with what the Board
26 of Game action has come into play, just a question to
27 you, Geoff, is there something -- the Board action that
28 was regarding the caribou in 26A, that action that was
29 taken by the Board, when does it come into effect?

30
31 MR. CARROLL: July 1st.

32
33 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: July 1st of 2015?

34
35 MR. CARROLL: Yes.

36
37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. So I
38 just want to try and make the Council aware of some of
39 these things, that we could probably elevate it a
40 little bit in terms of submitting a proposal in for
41 consideration by the Federal Subsistence Board with our
42 concerns being voiced, and stating them in that sense,
43 and elevating the process a bit as to what Tom just
44 explained, making a special action on caribou until the
45 following cycle falls into play, which would be the
46 2016, the regulation would fall into become -- what am
47 I trying to say. Would be able to be presented in --
48 what is the -- I'm lost for words here. The
49 implementation of the regulation is that 2016 would
50 occur. But if we take a special action for it to be

1 considered in the earlier state, we need to make that
2 communications on this proposal at this time.

3

4 MR. EVANS: Correct. And I would
5 recommend you do the proposal as well at this time,
6 because this is your chance to do the proposals. After
7 March 25th, we won't be accepting wildlife proposals,
8 so I would do both events here.

9

10 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Generating the
11 proposal and the request for special action.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 Council members. Bob.

16

17 MR. SHEARS: So let me get it clear.
18 So this regulation expires June 30th, 2016. Our
19 proposals, if we can get our proposals in before June
20 25th, they could be considered for the new regulation
21 book going in effect July 1st, 2016?

22

23 MR. EVANS: For the proposals, they'd
24 have to be in before March 25th.

25

26 MR. SHEARS: Yeah.

27

28 MR. EVANS: So that's just in a week or
29 two.

30

31 MR. SHEARS: Yeah.

32

33 MR. EVANS: And for the special
34 actions, we would handle the special action as soon as
35 we get it and process it as soon as possible. So you'd
36 probably do a special action that would probably cover
37 between like the same time frame as this.

38

39 MR. SHEARS: This period.

40

41 MR. EVANS: And then the proposal that
42 you put in, if it gets accepted by the Federal
43 Subsistence Board, will go into effect basically.....

44

45 MR. SHEARS: In the next.....

46

47 MR. EVANS:on July 1st, 2016.

48

49 MR. SHEARS: All right. Okay. A
50 question for Geoff. The Board of Game, did they issue

1 a letter of record on this decision?

2

3 MR. CARROLL: Yes, they did.

4

5 MR. SHEARS: Could you produce a copy
6 for us?

7

8 MR. CARROLL: Lincoln, are you still on
9 there?

10

11 MR. PARRETT: Yeah, I am. I mean, what
12 they -- all those actions will be certified at the end
13 of the meeting. they go to the Department of Law, and
14 the Department of Law looks at them. So in terms of --
15 I forget the language Bob just used, but anyway it will
16 be certified later, but what you -- I could send to you
17 guys is Natalie put together the final action on
18 Proposal 202, which is essentially what will be carried
19 forward assuming the legal department agrees with it.

20

21 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And that language
22 is in Proposal 202 that was adopted is what Geoff
23 passed out to us this afternoon.

24

25 MR. EVANS: Excuse me?

26

27 MR. PARRETT: It should be. It
28 absolutely should be, yeah.

29

30 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Assuming. Okay.
31 I mean, I just want to -- I'm trying to make sure we
32 mirror what was being presented to us from -- as to
33 what we've learned from Geoff and Lincoln on what the
34 proposed regulations could state for our proposal as
35 the Regional Advisory Council to maybe basically mirror
36 what the State Board of Game has taken action on.

37

38 MR. SHEARS: I guess, Mr. Chair, what
39 I'm looking for is, you know, a letter with a date and
40 a signature. It would make it much easier than
41 restating this entire -- the contents of this entire
42 presentation verbatim into our record of motion;
43 whereas we could much more simply state, we, the
44 Regional Advisory Council of the North Slope, support
45 and endorse the recommendations of the Board of Game as
46 indicated in the letter dated March 18th, 2015, and
47 signed by so-and-so, and would request a mirroring of
48 regulations be adopted under emergency regulations into
49 the current subsistence register. It would be much
50 easier to state a motion if we had a formal document to

1 refer rather than the PowerPoint presentation with
2 multiple pages and maps.

3
4 MR. PARRETT: And can I (indiscernible
5 - simultaneous speech)

6
7 MR. CARROLL: I don't know, Lincoln,
8 can they just refer to this RC 76?

9
10 MR. PARRETT:effective. What you
11 could do is you could refer to record copy, you know,
12 76, that's the official copy that the Board of Game was
13 dealing with, and again it won't be like any certified
14 language for a while, but that is an official thing
15 that you could refer to, an official piece of paper
16 that the State of Alaska recognizes, Record Copy 76 as
17 amended.

18
19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Lincoln
20 and Geoff. And Record Copy 76 acted on by the Board of
21 Game.

22
23 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, and I've got a copy
24 of that here. I'll be glad to pass that on to you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Maybe if you could
27 hand that to Bob, we could start forming a motion and
28 we could get the Staff to.....

29
30 MR. SHEARS: We could get back to
31 (indiscernible - mic not on). Do we meet tomorrow?

32
33 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

34
35 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes. Eva.

36
37 MS. PATTON: Yes. Specifically we've
38 been trying to organize this discussion around having
39 quorum of the Council so the Council can take action on
40 a Federal subsistence proposal. We did lose Sam
41 Kunaknana for a couple hours this afternoon to attend
42 to his government-to-government consultation meeting on
43 behalf of the Tribe of Nuiqsut. He had hoped to be
44 back at 4:00 o'clock today.

45
46 And we had also -- as Tom had
47 mentioned, we tried to begin to develop some ideas for
48 the Council's proposal for caribou while Gordon was
49 here, and he had some input as well, and was interested
50 in the Council developing a proposal and being to see

1 it. He may be able to call in by teleconference
2 tomorrow morning also.

3

4 So we are meeting tomorrow, and we're
5 anticipating to have quorum with the participation of
6 folks by teleconference tomorrow. So there is an
7 opportunity for the Council to fully develop the
8 proposals, both proposals, and then ensure that we have
9 both Sam and Gordon may also be able to join in support
10 of voting on those recommendations if not at the end of
11 the day, then tomorrow morning.

12

13 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Bob, did you have
14 a.....

15

16 MR. SHEARS: Yeah. Okay. Mr. Chair.
17 If that's -- if the rest of my Council members are in
18 agreement, I'll work with the Staff to draft a motion
19 for consideration tomorrow.

20

21 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. Lee, any
22 comment?

23

24 MR. KAYOTUK: No comment as to.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Rosemary.
27 Rosemary, are you on?

28

29 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes. And, yeah, we
30 need to get a proposal drafted and put it in efforts
31 to help protect the population is needing to occur now,
32 so I appreciate all the discussion and look forward
33 to.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you,
36 Rosemary.

37

38 I think I'm in agreement with that.
39 And at least we could have that generated for
40 tomorrow's start point and discussion to have that
41 formulated and presented to our remaining Council
42 members, Sam Kunaknana and Gordon Brower as well, to
43 keep them apprised of what the contents of the language
44 will be in regard to the proposal, and probably the
45 emergency action for the Federal Subsistence Board to
46 that effect. I think we could start on that and leave
47 it at that until tomorrow.

48

49 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chairman.

50

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Eva.

2

3 MS. PATTON: If it's possible, as much
4 as the Council that is present here and on line today,
5 to develop that so that we're able to provide a draft
6 for Sam, Rosemary, and also Gordon if he's able to call
7 in tomorrow. That way we'd be able to present them
8 with something that they can also have in hand to
9 review if they're on line, and then vote on it. So if
10 the Council wishes to have more discussion to fully
11 develop that, or if we're able to get that in draft
12 form so that we can share it via email with the other
13 Council members, they would have it in hand for
14 tomorrow morning.

15

16 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So I think the
17 start of that would, just by my -- if I need to be
18 corrected, Bob or Lee, you just do so. The start of
19 the discussion would be identifying the Board of Game
20 action, Record Copy 76, acted on by the Board of Game,
21 and then that would be our starting point. And then to
22 add the modifications as to what -- if it's not already
23 written into the record copy of 76, that the concerns
24 that were voiced by Gordon or Sam could be incorporated
25 into the proposal. I think that would help cover the
26 proposal contents anyway.

27

28 I'm just trying to look maybe a little
29 bit further forward in terms of what the special action
30 would need to entail, as to get that into preparation
31 for tomorrow's discussion.

32

33 Tom.

34

35 MR. EVANS: The special action would
36 basically parallel the proposals that you're going to
37 develop so, so you could.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: The proposal needs
40 to come first.

41

42 MR. EVANS: Yeah. They could -- yeah,
43 the proposal's important, because you've got to have
44 that done before March 25th. The special action could
45 come a little bit later. But basically the two would
46 parallel each other.

47

48 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Before March 25th.
49 We've got -- I'm trying to look at the date here. 18.
50 Seven days and five hours.

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
4
5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Eva.
6
7 MS. PATTON: Just to reconfirm though,
8 for this Council to make those recommendations, this is
9 the Council's opportunity to do that while there's
10 quorum to be able to develop that on the record and
11 have the quorum to vote in support of both the regular
12 proposal, which the deadline is the 25th, and then the
13 special action. The special actions can come at any
14 time, but again this is the Council's opportunity to
15 submit that special action request.
16
17 And the proposal is a very, very
18 similar process, so as Tom had said, they can mirror
19 each other.
20
21 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So our quorum, we
22 need to constitute members of five? Five members or
23 four members.
24
25 MS. PATTON: Five members, correct.
26
27 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. Yeah,
28 I know we have four and Sam was excused.
29
30 So we'll wait until we have the quorum
31 established and further the discussion on this. In the
32 meantime, I think just getting that proposal generated
33 to where we could speak forward to it for tomorrow, and
34 consider the special action as well with the quorum
35 established. I think that way we could move forward on
36 that.
37
38 Robert.
39
40 MR. SHEARS: And if we could, and
41 furthermore, produce a draft copy of the unsigned
42 Record Copy Board of Game's memo for an exhibit. If
43 Staff could develop a copy of that for all of us today.
44
45 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, I can. I have a
46 copy here, and I can make more. I've got it on my
47 computer. Yeah.
48
49 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: You mean we're
50 going to have to get back to the old technology?

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: No, I'm just
4 trying to add on a little more humor here anyway.

5

6 Thank you, Geoff, for having that, and
7 I really appreciate you taking the time to be here with
8 us, and moving on, rushing yourself to get back to
9 Barrow to be a part of this meeting. So I hope you're
10 here with us here tomorrow. I'm not sure what you're
11 plans are, and maybe we'll have some of the discussion
12 early in the morning tomorrow to try and get that
13 proposal acted on as a Council.

14

15 Yeah.

16

17 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, I'll be here
18 tomorrow. I'll be glad to help out however I can.

19

20 Yeah, just one thing on this RC 76. I
21 mean, it's many pages, and like I was saying earlier,
22 it's kind of regionalized, so there are regulations
23 written up about, you know, reindeer areas on the
24 Seward Peninsula and all sorts of things, but I assume,
25 you know, you're -- what I presented to you was what I
26 figured you were interested in, are the areas on the
27 North Slope.

28

29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Point Hope, Point
30 Lay, Wainwright, Anaktuvuk, Atqasuk, Barrow. 23, 26,
31 24.

32

33 MR. CARROLL: Yep.

34

35 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Right.

36

37 MR. CARROLL: Yep.

38

39 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. Just to --
40 I didn't find the GMU Units. 23, 26A, and 24 are the
41 ones that we're concerned about within the range of the
42 Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

43

44 Again thank you, Geoff, for your
45 presentation. Thank you, Lincoln, and others that are
46 on the teleconference that we can't see. Thank you for
47 your participation in this discussion of the agenda.

48

49 Any other comments.

50

1 Maybe Eva or Tom.
2
3 MR. EVANS: Just one thing. You know,
4 if Robert or somebody wants help drafting these, we'd
5 be glad to help like tonight if you aren't doing
6 something.
7
8 MR. SHEARS: Oh, absolutely.
9
10 MR. EVANS: Okay.
11
12 (Laughter)
13
14 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: That means no
15 watching TV.
16
17 (Laughter)
18
19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Anyway, you can
20 check on the score for the basketball games, and that's
21 about it.
22
23 Anyway, the next agenda item, or do we
24 need a little break here at 3:49. A five-minute
25 recess. Okay. We'll take a five-minute recess at this
26 time.
27
28 Again thank you, Geoff.
29
30 (Off record)
31
32 (On record)
33
34 MR. SHEARS: And, I don't know, this is
35 a contentious idea, and it's not vetted. I know it's
36 certainly controversial. But, you know, before I ever
37 moved to the North Slope 18 years ago and started
38 participating in subsistence hunting, I've been a
39 sporthunter all my life.
40
41 Regulations in other states where I've
42 hunted often stipulate the caliber of weapons that are
43 used, but not in Alaska. The State defends its rights
44 to own and bear arms unconditionally in any
45 stipulation, except in schools and courtrooms. All
46 kinds of arms, including assault weapons. So, you
47 know, the -- and that definition is -- and that's a
48 controversial definition in itself.
49
50 But one of the things that I've

1 experienced over the years of hunting with .223
2 calibers is that the quality of commercial ammunition
3 that is available for .223, small caliber, .22 caliber,
4 center fire cartridges, is it seems to me like it's
5 degraded over the years. They were pushing high
6 energy, high velocity, velocities approaching 3,000
7 feet per second, and very high energy, 20 years ago.
8 Not so much any more. Although they're using the same
9 grain bullet, and the same weight of powder. The
10 powder's changed, technology has changed. Nowadays the
11 .223 caliber bullet is not penetrating kevlar like it
12 used to, you know, they've degraded.

13

14 The .223 caliber bullet, to take you
15 back, I served in the U.S. army from 1983 to 1990.
16 During -- and during that period, I became very
17 knowledgeable about how that caliber bullet produces
18 casualties in humans, and that's through the process of
19 hydrostatic shock. It uses sheer velocity rather than
20 mass to generate a tissue shock, a shock wave that even
21 though that's -- and the bullet also, because of its
22 high velocity and its high rate of spin, tumbles
23 readily as soon as it touches anything. A breath of
24 wind on it will send that bullet tumbling, which even
25 further enhances the tissue damage. It creates a
26 wound, it decapitates [sic] a human combatant so that
27 they cannot pull the trigger and shoot back at you.
28 That's the purpose of it. You know, it's not intended
29 to kill immediately. It's intended more to create a
30 casualty that ties up the enemy with additional assets
31 of, you know, dealing with the subject. It's almost
32 more meant to catastrophically wound than it is meant
33 to kill.

34

35 The .223 was never designed as a
36 hunting bullet, to put down an animal right down on its
37 first show. However, we use it, and we use it often up
38 here, and we use it often in Alaska. And it's a
39 principle of our Second Amendment right. But our
40 hunting regulations, and I'm seeing it more and more
41 that the .223 caliber and the various types of grades
42 of high capacity round weapons that it's built for, are
43 becoming more and more prevalent, and becoming used
44 more and more often up here. And I'm concerned,
45 because I've wounded quite a number of caribou using it
46 for hunting ungulates. It's not the ideal weapon.

47

48 But that education doesn't seem to be
49 getting out there. It's becoming more of a cool type
50 of gun to have and use. And we're not doing anything

1 about that. Should we consider doing something about
2 that? I'm just throwing it out there as a subject for
3 discussion. I'm not prepared to draft it as a proposal
4 on this day, but I just wanted to go on record as
5 having that discussion at this moment in this context.

6

7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
8 sharing that, Robert. I think it's -- again it could
9 be something on outreach that could stir some of the
10 conversation to that end. I think, you know, I agree
11 with you that the .223 wasn't specifically made for
12 hunting, but there's so much of a variety of type of
13 bullet you can get with that for that type of rifle.
14 The ammunition, there's so many different brands now,
15 and, you know, you could basically identify with a full
16 metal jacket cartridge to something that you compared
17 to that kevlar-penetrating bullet as well. So those
18 type -- so there's some difference and variances in
19 terms of the type of material that's used for that very
20 specific rifle, the .223. I know that, because I've
21 used it on small game and some caribou. And after
22 seeing what happens, I, you know, chose to use a .243
23 or taking caribou instead of .223.

24

25 So, yeah, I guess that hunter training
26 and communications specific to the ammunition, it's
27 something that probably should be discussed at some
28 point in time to help educate the hunters themselves.
29 You know, we have different calibers, but that you're
30 right, that .223 and rimfired cartridges are getting to
31 be -- well, the other thing about that, those rimfired
32 ammunition are becoming very hard to find. It kind of
33 slowed that process down some, but I think it's
34 starting to have a little bit more presence now than
35 what it did just the last couple years. I mean, it was
36 very hard to find .22 bullets or .22 magnum bullet, .22
37 hornet bullets. You couldn't find any of those. .223
38 was one of those ammunitions that you couldn't find on
39 the shelf for probably a couple years, and all of
40 sudden it's over-stocked. Everywhere. That must be
41 one of the most numbering ammunition I see on the store
42 shelves now of all the different variety of rifles that
43 I, you know, hunt with. And some of the ammunition
44 I've been looking for I still haven't found today, and
45 it's hard to find.

46

47 But I think that you're right, there
48 needs to be some kind of hunter education outreach just
49 on the types of rifles that are being used for caribou
50 might be something, because, again, comparison to

1 marine mammals, hunting for walrus, you know, we don't
2 want to use .223s. You want to use .270 caliber rifles
3 or larger. Yeah. I mean -- and knowing where to shoot
4 the animal is a very important subject as well. So, I
5 mean, that kind of communications I guess using
6 outreach might be a start. And if we continue to see
7 it's beginning to be a bigger problem, maybe then
8 submitting proposals to meet the end need would be
9 called for. But I think at this time, I think just
10 having -- establishing communications for consideration
11 of the type of ammunition that's being used to hunt
12 wild game, it needs to be taught by the fathers and the
13 uncles and the folks that teach the young ones to hunt.
14 I think that would be a great start.

15

16 You know, some years ago, as I was
17 growing up, we didn't have very many of those .223s,
18 because they were specific for military use. And the
19 only time we see them is when we into the national
20 guard armory. Yeah, that's the only place they would
21 be available. They weren't being sold in the stores
22 regularly for people just off the street to buy, you
23 know, these were military grade rifles, and they were
24 only issued to folks that were either in the national
25 guard or in the army reserve, and those folks.

26

27 But now its more of a choice of
28 firearms that you want to purchase. I mean, there's so
29 many of them now, it's hard to -- you can't even begin
30 to count. I see them all over as hunters go out, and
31 try to tell them, you can only shoot one at a time out
32 of that rifle compared to my rifle. I have to reload
33 while you're still trying to squeeze the trigger, you
34 know, and compared to those kind of things. So I try
35 to teach them what's fair, you know. And you can't
36 just start emptying your clip just because you see an
37 animal that you can't shoot with one eye closed and
38 still reload -- shoot multiple rounds before you
39 finally hit it. And I've seen those type of hunters as
40 well. So I try to teach them, if I only give you one
41 bullet, and you load it into that rifle, would you be
42 able to shoot that animal. You know, it gets them to
43 think a little bit. And you have to be very persistent
44 and a good -- know your rifle as to how you're going to
45 shoot at what distances as well. So that -- I mean, I
46 teach my nephews those and question them about the use
47 of those types of semi-automatic rifles. I don't like
48 taking them out, because it's just not my type of rifle
49 for me. I grew up with either a lever action or a bolt
50 action, a single shot. And that's what I continue to

1 use today. You know, Henry, my friend. Henry's
2 repeating firearms. Or Remington.

3

4 Anyway I didn't mean to carry on with
5 the conversation, Bob. I think that that's something
6 we definitely could generate communications on and
7 utilizing outreach as a starting point, and we continue
8 to see that it's a growing problem, I think then we
9 start thinking about generating regulations over that.

10

11 MR. SHEARS: Yeah.

12

13 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah. Thank you.

14

15 Eva, I look to you to see where we are.
16 You were maybe asking Dr. Yokel while we had him on the
17 phone.

18

19 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

20 You had asked about other Federal subsistence wildlife
21 proposals, so indeed if you're aware of other concerns
22 or recommendations from the community.

23

24 We had discussions both with Teddy from
25 Point Hope and James Nageak from Anaktuvuk Pass. Both
26 of them are very engaged in sheep hunting for their
27 communities, and Marcy Okada was prepared to provide an
28 update on the community harvest for Anaktuvuk Pass.
29 James isn't able to join us for the teleconference, but
30 if the Council was interested in hearing those reports
31 from Marcy, we can in turn share that information back
32 with James and with the community of Anaktuvuk Pass.

33

34 Those were -- sheep in particular was
35 brought forward by both James and Teddy, but I don't
36 know if the Councils had any feedback from other of
37 your community members or concerns about wanting to
38 submit any changes to the Federal subsistence wildlife
39 proposals. It's both for hunting and for trapping.

40

41 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I'm just trying to
42 think back, thank you for that, and in terms of how
43 the community bag harvest was working. And I think
44 it's still in effect today, that we've not made any
45 changes to that effort, and we still continue to hold
46 that community sheep hunt for Anaktuvuk and Point Hope,
47 I think were the two communities that we had placed a
48 community bag harvest, because of the shortage of
49 caribou at different times of the year, and that the
50 community harvest for sheep would suffice the need for

1 supplemental resource for the community.

2

3 So I think that's something that I'd
4 definitely like to hear about, and we can definitely
5 have it on record and share those minutes with our
6 constituents Teddy and James. When the time arises, we
7 an elaborate more on the discussion whether that's
8 continuing to hold to meet their needs, or if there
9 needs to be a change. I know there's been some
10 regulation changes by the State on sheep harvest in
11 different areas.

12

13 I'm trying to think, wasn't it Kaktovik
14 as well we had a community bag harvest, Lee, for sheep?
15 I think we did a well.

16

17 MR. KAYOTUK: Yeah.

18

19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I think those were
20 the three communities that were along the Brooks Range.
21 Point Hope, Anaktuvuk Pass, and Kaktovik were the ones
22 that we had established community bag limits for each
23 of those communities.

24

25 So, Marcy, I think we could provide you
26 the opportunity to provide some -- provide your
27 presentation at this time, if that's okay with the
28 Council.

29

30 Rosemary, are you still on?

31

32 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes, I am. Yeah,
33 I'm ready for that.

34

35 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. And
36 Sam. I'm not sure if Sam's come on or not.

37

38 I'm just checking to see if he is or
39 not.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay.

44

45 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair. Council
46 members. Kumi Rattenbury, our sheep ecologist wanted
47 to call in for this meeting, and I had thought we were
48 presenting tomorrow with the hopes that James Nageak
49 would be able to call in.

50

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Who was the other
2 person, the first person you said?
3
4 MS. OKADA: Kumi Rattenbury. She's our
5 sheep ecologist.
6
7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I have no idea if
8 she called. I didn't hear the name.
9
10 MS. OKADA: No, no. I had told her we
11 were presenting tomorrow. But I quickly just texted
12 her to see if she's able to call in.
13
14 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I guess if you're
15 going to wait until tomorrow, if that's been arranged,
16 maybe we should wait until tomorrow.
17
18 MS. OKADA: Yeah.
19
20 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And James may also
21 call in as well.
22
23 MS. OKADA: Yeah. Okay.
24
25 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: If that's okay.
26 Yeah, I think it's okay with the Council.
27
28 MS. OKADA: Because Kumi should be
29 available tomorrow.
30
31 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Did she have a
32 specific time as to when she was calling in, or when
33 you were making your presentation.
34
35 MS. OKADA: I guess tomorrow just would
36 work better, because she was listening in to the Board
37 of Game meeting for the sheep proposal that just
38 passed.
39
40 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah. Okay.
41
42 MS. OKADA: She should be available
43 tomorrow any time.
44
45 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I think we could
46 meet that need, accommodate the request. I think if
47 that's something that was already prearranged, I don't
48 want to override that, and let's follow through with
49 that request.
50

1 Maybe just asking the Council members
2 to see if they may have identified or heard comments
3 from our constituents in regard maybe to a proposal
4 change besides the caribou one that we have been
5 discussing. If there may have been another resources
6 that is needing a change in terms of its regulations.
7 Council members. Lee.

8

9 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair. No, I haven't
10 heard any. Thank you.

11

12 MR. SHEARS: Yeah, Mr. Chair.
13 Unfortunately I've been.....

14

15 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'm sorry, I didn't
16 hear that.

17

18 MR. SHEARS: I've been disconnected
19 from my constituents in regards to subsistence for some
20 time now. It's a shortcoming of mine right now, but
21 I'm able to overcome that. Right now I don't have any
22 comments, no.

23

24 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you.

25

26 Rosemary.

27

28 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We've got some --
29 there's been discussions here, and it's a really
30 important process. I am really glad that we're taking
31 a good look at the issues around the caribou. And I
32 know that we don't have some of our key participants
33 here for these discussions about whatever we can do to
34 move forward with our process is important. But I
35 encourage all of the presenters to reach out to the
36 specific communities about areas of activities or
37 research is occurring, and gather their input also.

38

39 Thanks, everybody.

40

41 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
42 that, Rosemary.

43

44 I'm just trying to think back, and I
45 look back to Lee again. Sorry for doing this, Lee, but
46 I'm just trying to understand how that the moose
47 regulation has been working for Kaktovik. You know,
48 the past three or four years, the Community of Kaktovik
49 was having a hardship on caribou as well, and not
50 knowing how that Porcupine Caribou population was

1 doing, and whether it have gone through its own
2 decline, and the movements of the caribou were kind of
3 off-season a couple years. And we had tried to provide
4 a supplemental resource of moose off-season of the
5 normal hunting timeframe for moose. I think it was
6 considered a winter moose hunt. So how's that been
7 working for Kaktovik, Lee.

8

9 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair. Council. The
10 moose population trend, you know, we did a moose count
11 and it was a low count, and as last year or so, we did
12 emergency hunt. And a couple years ago, and we have
13 been able to go out and do this emergency hunt, but we
14 weren't successful, because of weather trends was --
15 when we got it, it was too late in the season. And
16 again, you know, we tried to get out there, but again,
17 you know we had so many days and hours we had to try to
18 find a moose. But when the closed season showed up,
19 the moose showed up.

20

21 So it was very difficult, but, you
22 know, when the moose season is closed, you know, we've
23 got to depend on the caribou, but it doesn't really
24 happen. Quite often that way, when the caribou just
25 comes and goes, and due to high traffic of air traffic
26 in these areas, and it's not too easy to get out there,
27 to travel to at least over 100 miles to try to harvest
28 these resources in our area, but, you know, it's not
29 quite easy to just go up there for a day or so. You
30 have to bring all your camping gear and just spend a
31 couple days in order to find these caribou or moose if
32 its available.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Lee.

37

38 Yeah, I just recalled some of the
39 situations our communities have been going through and
40 what we've been trying to do in establishing flexible
41 regulations that would accommodate the community needs
42 in that sense. So that's why I'm just trying to recall
43 some of the situations that we deal with on the North
44 Slope in regards to some of our hunting regulations.

45

46 You know, I haven't heard too much
47 about in regard to the Barrow area. I think the
48 changes that we had made regarding the brown bear
49 situation, one a year, that's been very helpful in the
50 sense that no so many of our cabins are being broken in

1 any more. I think there's been a few bears taken down
2 since we liberalized the regulation for brown bears,
3 and it's been functional for us. I know a couple of my
4 nephews have taken brown bears, which we normally don't
5 take, but they've taken them in the past couple years.

6
7 And this last one was chasing my
8 youngest boy. We were out goose hunting in our spring
9 goose hunting place, and the brown bear must have come
10 out of its den hungry. And a good thing my son was
11 looking around and he thought he seen a wolverine from
12 a distance, and it was coming closer and closer towards
13 him, because he was downwind from -- it was smelling
14 him from a distance. He said, yeah, I thought it was
15 wolverine when I was first looking at it, it was a long
16 ways away. But as it was getting closer and closer, it
17 was getting bigger and bigger.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And then I started
22 getting scared, this is my son talking to me. And I
23 started getting scared, and so I started going towards
24 the cabin. Every time I looked back, that bear was
25 almost running, so I started running.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So I started
30 running, because I was getting scared of the bear, and
31 he was moving faster. And then my nephew happened to
32 see the brown bear running behind my son, and he
33 started up the snow machine and just drove right up to
34 him and then just shot the brown bear. So that as the
35 second one he got.

36
37 The first one was in the earliers when
38 we were out hunting earlier that same spring, but it
39 was like a month earlier.

40
41 So anyway that was one situation. So
42 my son, he's been telling me, the next time I see a
43 brown bear, I'm not going to run away, I'm going to go
44 shoot it. So he's been anxious to go, about taking a
45 bear again. But I kept telling him, we normally don't
46 take bears unless we're hungry and need some food that
47 we need to subsist off of. So don't try to think about
48 just going out to kill bears. You've got to have a
49 reason for taking the bears. I mean, that's how I
50 teach my boys about hunting and being respectful of

1 resources.

2

3

4 Another hunting that occurred last
5 fall, you know, my son, my oldest boy, he was out for
6 two weeks, and harvested one caribou between the five
7 of them last fall. But they got eight sacks of fish
8 that they brought back with them, so they were happy
9 with that. And I told him, you know, at least you guys
10 weren't being hungry. You had eight sacks of fish and
11 one caribou. You probably would have ate caribou and
12 one sack of fish. But that's what you got dealt. You
13 can't complain about it. You harvested one caribou and
14 you have eight sacks of fish. That means you were
15 successful. That's all the way you have to look at it.

15

16

17 So we've been very fortunate to have a
18 little bit of caribou over the winter and some fish
19 that we've been using for food all winter and sharing
20 that fish with his uncles. And they keep calling him
21 back, can we have some more of your good-tasting fish.
22 And then he asks them, can I have some of our good-
23 looking caribou. So, I mean, that's why we keep joking
24 about it in terms of our hunting.

24

25

26 And in my family, you know, I have to
27 share that. These are things that we -- I'm getting
28 older and my boys are getting older as well and
29 becoming young men at this time, and becoming to
30 wanting to hunt for themselves -- I mean, going out by
31 themselves without me. And I keep telling them, you
32 guys are going to be leaving me at home? I want to
33 follow, too.

33

34

(Laughter)

35

36

37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So anyways these
38 are the things I'm having to go with and learning
39 about. And I hear about their own experiences, you
40 know, some of the difficulties they go through, and
41 they keep thinking, man, we wouldn't be going through
42 this if Dad was here, maybe we shouldn't have left him.
43 But then I tell them -- and then I would tell them, you
44 guys first left me so you wanted to have your own
45 learning experience, so learn from your mistakes, and
46 you're going to try not to make those same mistakes.
47 And remember what you forgot on your next trip, because
48 one of them forgot their extra socks, left them in the
49 garage on the garage floor, his little plastic bag full
50 of extra socks. And he was out there camping, asking
his older brother, can I have a pair of socks? He

1 says, no, you've got to do something for your socks.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So that -- I mean,
6 these are the things that they grow up with and
7 learning about.

8

9 So anyway, that they had I could say a
10 successful season, even though they didn't harvest as
11 much as they wanted to. They were able to get out and
12 be out in the country for a couple weeks and do a
13 little bit of hunting.

14

15 We tried to make efforts to go out
16 inland; it's just that we have -- I haven't been able
17 to, and one of my nephews had a situation. He had left
18 Barrow without even talking to me. He went down to
19 Wainwright for his cousin, to bring a snowmachine back.
20 Bob, you may have heard about this young man, coming
21 back from Wainwright, and he got caught in a storm, and
22 he got lost between Wainwright and Barrow. He was out
23 for four days and the weather was at negative 30
24 outside within those four days, and he got his feet
25 frostbit. So he's struggling in Anchorage with having
26 part of his feet amputated because of the frostbites.
27 So I've been definitely reminding him every time I go
28 down there, so you can't leave Barrow without talking
29 to me any more, right? I'm not leaving, Uncle, I'm
30 going to talk to you first. Because I keep reminding
31 them, you know, you guys shouldn't be leaving without
32 talking to me first, because I'll help you, remind you
33 what you need to bring when you go out on these short
34 trips, even if it's just for five hours, you know.

35

36 We don't leave camp -- home without a
37 Coleman stove. We don't leave home without a sleeping
38 bag. These are the kind of things that -- these are
39 emergency situations when you get into these
40 situations, that you're able to survive a cold winter
41 night when you're broken down out there. These things
42 you have, you'll be able to survive at least for a few
43 days or until somebody finds you. Or identifies that
44 you're missing, for some reason that you haven't come
45 home for three days in that kind of sense. And that's
46 what happened to this young man. Three days passed by
47 and finally somebody raised concern about that he's
48 supposed to have been back in a few hours. But on the
49 third day they finally decided to put a rescue effort
50 out. And they were kind of slow in moving. So I went

1 over to the rescue place and kind of prodded them
2 along, you guys better get out there right now. He's
3 been gone for three days. You know, the situation's
4 becoming very serious.

5
6 So these kind of situations I had to
7 deal with over the course of winter, trying to be an
8 uncle and a dad, and trying to raise these young men in
9 a right manner to be mindful of what the elders are
10 telling you, and that you have to remember these things
11 before you go out. And sharing that. And, you know,
12 it goes with their learning curves. If they don't
13 learn, they have drastic failures as to what happened
14 to them, like this one young man. So he's stuck in
15 Anchorage and is suffering the loss of his toes on both
16 of his feet. And he's been calling me every other day,
17 I'm getting better, Uncle. Pretty soon I'm going to
18 running around. And I said, well, if you're still in a
19 wheelchair, don't come home with a wheelchair. Get
20 back on your feet. So he's been struggling to try and
21 get back on his feet, and he's dealing with that
22 problem.

23
24 Anyway, these are the things that we
25 have to deal with when we're up here in the Arctic, you
26 know. We take hunting kind of lightly when we're
27 talking about it, but there's very serious consequences
28 when you do make a mistake. And we have to be mindful
29 of that.

30
31 And trying to think back in terms of
32 these regulations, like how I was just questioning Lee
33 about the moose, you know, the distance you have to go,
34 because of the conditions or the regulations or the
35 availability of the resource are at these distances.
36 It's a very serious matter, you know, when your
37 community's in need of supplemental resource, when
38 you're doing without one resource and trying to provide
39 for another. These are meaningful situations that we
40 have to be cognizant about, and take them very
41 seriously. And the distances, when you have to go 150
42 miles to try and provide for the community, it's a long
43 distance. When you have to traverse going out there to
44 begin with with all your camping gear, all the fuel to
45 get out there and come back, it's a lot of weight. So
46 these are the kind of things we have to be mindful
47 about and try to remind folks that as regulatory
48 process goes through, that we are serious about these
49 situations, and we need to be mindful of our
50 constituents in terms of the distances that they're

1 having to travel to provide for their community.

2

3 So I bring these up in regards to my
4 concerns, you know. These are very serious matters.
5 And sometimes I hear the term, hunger knows no law.
6 Boy, I almost stated that to Geoff the other day when
7 we were in Anchorage, you know. Hunger knows no law,
8 because like I was communicating this morning about
9 Atkasuk, they don't have a community store like we have
10 right across the street here. They don't have that, so
11 they get by without a lot of the necessities that we
12 take for advantage in the community. And when we try
13 to take a conservation measure of cutting down the
14 number of caribou to be taken in a given season, it's a
15 very concerning matter, you know. We're trying to put
16 food on the table to begin with, and we create
17 additional restriction to do that, it makes it more
18 complicated. And sometimes people just don't listen to
19 the law at all, and I'm going to break the law to
20 provide for my family. That kind of a situation.

21

22 And I kept hearing, we don't want to
23 make our constituents a lawbreaking citizen. We've
24 been law-abiding citizens all these years, and we want
25 to continue that trend.

26

27 So to compromise, we made all these
28 efforts to try and meet the concerns of the communities
29 and doing village travels to communicate to the fact
30 that what is it that you really can do to provide for
31 the number of your family members into your --
32 throughout the season. How many caribou do you really
33 need. And those were the hard questions to raise. and
34 when you start getting into that factor, it makes you
35 think a little bit more, why are we even asking these
36 questions when there's other things, other measures
37 that we could take to elevate the conservation measure.

38

39 So I bring these up, you know, and
40 sharing them with you in terms how regulations and
41 proposed regulations could injure a community's way of
42 life in a sense in terms of subsistence practices. It
43 creates difficulties, and we sit here and try to
44 articulate regulatory language that would fit the
45 community, that would fit the community, to make it to
46 meet its needs for any given year. And so these are
47 the things I have to be mindful about in trying to work
48 the best way forward on some of these things.

49

50 Any questions or comments. Any new

1 thoughts on proposals.

2

3

4 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I really appreciate
5 having that level of communication when it is something
6 that we used to have to increase the (indiscernible) of
7 the changes that were impacting the village to harvest
8 and the villages reaction of increased effort with
9 increased distances and increased reactions. There's
10 also reaction, too, about that trying to travel these
11 great distances with these different types of
12 equipment, and reaction to some of our people with
13 injuries -- or injuries to their backs and things like
14 that. There's a great increase to the types of
15 reaction in the community with the difficulty of
16 getting their food like winters when we don't have a
17 full ice cellar to help us deal with our family needs.
18 All the really different social structures around that
19 are also impacted. and the stress and strain upon the
20 small communities that are facing multiple resources
21 are facing multiple reactions within those levels. We
22 also face the reactions to the principle, reaction to
23 not being able to have the foods, and it's also really
24 structural reaction amongst our families with the young
25 hunters bringing in those fresh foods. It's such an
26 important value system. And the difficulties of
27 conflicts that arise with the increased cost of trying
28 to harvest, and the reaction to equipment because we're
29 traveling greater distances. And the varieties of
30 equipment we using, it changes, but will have
31 (indiscernible - breaking up) very, very high, and the
32 constant effort to try and come up with means to
33 continue our way of life that's changed with many other
34 things happening.

34

35

36 I really appreciate the breadth of that
37 communication, these types of studies are hard to hear,
38 but they're very important in the decisionmaking area
39 that we have to put forward, because it is a lot that
40 we're asking of our communities, and our families have
41 also had this various hardship of great efforts of many
42 villages, trying to travel the distances that they've
43 taken in hopes of bringing food back to the family, and
44 the hardship of the families. Even from even the wolf
45 carcass, because they're eating other food during the
46 bad winter months to provide for the family. That's
47 the gravity of stories tat we have herd. Not many of
48 the families have had to live to these extent, but we
49 do have families that often have assistance with
50 efforts to go do a good thing on efforts to meet
51 feeding efforts and efforts to meet public assistance

1 of different type, that have meet their needs, because
2 we're not able to (indiscernible) harvest them in the
3 way that we used to. And it's really important for
4 these villages that don't have the resources that we
5 find ways to travel, make sure that they have the best
6 opportunities (indiscernible).

7
8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
9 that, Rosemary.

10
11 Again we're still under the discussion
12 of proposals for consideration in regard to any of our
13 resources that we discussed under the Federal
14 management program on harvest of wildlife for
15 subsistence.

16
17 I was just questioning Lee about this
18 muskox regulation, customary and traditional use
19 determinations on muskox. And I was just reading
20 through that, and I was thinking, man, did they open up
21 the hunt back in Kaktovik that I didn't know about.
22 And then I was reading through it, and I showed it to
23 Lee, and then he goes up to the top corner, no Federal
24 open season.

25
26 MR. SHEARS: Are there any muskox
27 remaining in ANWR?

28
29 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair. Council.
30 Last spring we counted only one muskox in the
31 Sadlerochit Flats. Was only one muskox in ANWR. But
32 most of them just passed right through -- just past the
33 border, that, you know, there's at least 10 or 15 that
34 winter in that area, so it's again across the border
35 just probably not even a mile from the border, but
36 that's where they winter, in that area.

37
38 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: They must have a
39 border control over there.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Anyway, Tom, I see
44 you up on the table. Did you have something you want
45 to add on.

46
47 MR. EVANS: I just had a quick
48 question. So when we're developing the regulations for
49 tomorrow's meeting on that, obviously we have Point
50 Hope in Unit 23, and we have Anaktuvuk Pass in Unit 24.

1 When we're developing these proposals, typically we
2 would develop them separately for each unit. So I just
3 wanted to know what the wishes of the Board would be in
4 terms of how we develop that tonight. Just whether we
5 need to develop three -- you know, decide on three
6 proposals, one for 24, one for 26, and one for 23, or
7 whether we just combine them all in one and we'll just
8 go with that for now.

9

10 But the way the regulations read,
11 they're by units by species. So that was just -- I
12 wanted to get some clarification from you guys on that.

13

14 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So I think it's
15 all inclusive of the latter, be inclusive of all three
16 units. I think that's something that -- that's the way
17 we addressed it for the North Slope.

18

19 Geoff, maybe did you want to comment on
20 that. I just want to make sure I'm not misspoken here
21 in terms of how we addressed 23 and 24 with regard to
22 this caribou proposal. And I have not really looked at
23 the contents of that RC 76, and how that was generated.
24 Geoff.

25

26 MR. CARROLL: Well, yeah. I didn't
27 hear the whole comment and question. But I just -- you
28 know, the way the State regulations are written, you
29 know, you've got -- they're done by game management
30 unit. So like I summarized everything for that
31 southern 26A and northwestern 23 and 24 kind of all
32 together, but it's like written three different times,
33 you know, in the SC [sic] 76. First it's called Unit
34 23, that portion north of and including the Singalouk
35 River drainage, which means the area up around Point
36 Hope, because Point Hope's actually in 23.

37

38 And then we get to.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Anaktuvuk Pass.

41

42 MR. CARROLL: You know, remainder of
43 24A and remainder of 24B, and, anyway, that includes
44 all that unit in 24, including Anaktuvuk Pass, and it's
45 got the same regulation.

46

47 And then once again you get up to Unit
48 26, and then it's the southern part of 26 which
49 includes Point Lay.

50

1 So, anyway, I'm not quite sure exactly
2 what the question was, but I'm just telling you now
3 it's written out in the State regulations, whereas I
4 just kind of clumped them all in one thing to make
5 things a little simpler.

6
7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. Thank you
8 for that, Geoff. I think that you're right on to what
9 we were discussing. And maybe once we get a copy of
10 that, what words identifying that, Record Copy 76,
11 that we could mirror basically that language.

12
13 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Bob.

16
17 MR. SHEARS: We as the North Slope RAC
18 have a lot to say about what happens in Unit 26A. And,
19 however, Units 23 and Unit 24B are not our sole
20 prerogative. We would need other Regional Advisory
21 Councils to also endorse or second our proposals. If
22 we were to group our recommendations all within one
23 proposal, I think we would be, you know, -- we'd be
24 watering down our influence over Unit 26A.

25
26 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: 26A.

27
28 MR. SHEARS: Yeah. I think it probably
29 would be diligent of us to submit, go through the extra
30 effort and consider three separate proposals.

31
32 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I'm getting a
33 little bit of different interpretations.

34
35 Tom.

36
37 MR. EVANS: Just something to add to
38 that. When we do the special actions for those three
39 areas, too, if they're going to be more than 60 days,
40 which most of them look like they're going to be, we'll
41 have to hold public hearings in each of those three
42 areas then as part of the special action process.

43
44 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I think you'll be
45 allowed to do that anyway, right, if it's more than 60
46 days. Yeah. So I think that we'll follow through.

47
48 This is something that we think about
49 in regards to Point Hope, that our constituent from
50 Point Hope, our representative to the North Slope Fish

1 and Game Management Committee, was very vocal about
2 that Unit 23 was not communicating very effectively
3 with the Community of Point Hope, because they're on
4 the northern fringe of Unit 23, and they seem to be
5 left out from all the communications that were being
6 generated on caribou. And he was being very vocal
7 about that. And he said, we don't want to be left out.
8 We don't want to be left out. We want to be part of
9 those discussions.

10

11 So our director, Renetta Hepa, was very
12 adamant about, we're going to support you in all these
13 efforts, and we're going to listen to what you have to
14 say in your community. Because that's one of the
15 communities that we didn't get to go to, because of the
16 different circumstances that kept coming up preventing
17 us from holding the community meetings. There were
18 several deaths in Point Hope right along the dates that
19 were identified to go to the community for these
20 community meetings, and which never occurred. Geoff
21 and Taqulik and others and Brian were anticipating to
22 go to Point Hope, but they did meet in other
23 communities, Point Lay, Wainwright, Barrow, Anaktuvuk
24 Pass. And Point Hope just happened to be one that we
25 didn't get to.

26

27 So in regard to Anaktuvuk in Unit 24,
28 that's something that again being very vocal. We've
29 had several meetings, and they developed their
30 community tri-lateral group, the city, the tribal, and
31 the corporation, to form -- to discuss this caribou
32 issue, and they were very vocal in providing
33 information, and what they wanted as part of the
34 regulations to be changed on caribou. They voiced
35 their concerns, and that's why the inclusion of Unit
36 24, because again Anaktuvuk is right in the boundary.
37 You know, you could walk one way, you could be on Unit
38 26, and take another half an hour and walk the other
39 way, and you could be in Unit 24. So that's the
40 situation that we have to deal with with the community.

41

42 I think if it makes sense and makes it
43 easier for you, Tom, then I think that -- and of that's
44 the advice you want to provide to the Regional Advisory
45 Council in working with Bob and getting those -- and
46 Eva to getting those proposals generated in that sense,
47 and that becomes favorable for us, I think that's the
48 way -- that's the process that we should take.

49

50 MR. EVANS: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Any other
2 comments.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Geoff.
7 Thank you, Tom.
8
9 I'm looking to Eva to see -- oh, go
10 ahead, Geoff.
11
12 MR. CARROLL: I just want to say one
13 thing. I guess in the process of this, I mean, I guess
14 especially for the Teshekpuk area specifically, it
15 says, you know, there's a five caribou limit here, and
16 actually even a three cow limit for part of the year.
17 So anyway I guess that will effectively get rid of that
18 10 caribou a day limit. Yeah. Okay.
19
20 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: We'll try to make
21 that functional, all in one.
22
23 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.
24
25 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So, Eva, I look to
26 you to see what other agenda item we need to address.
27 We did try to Gates of the Arctic one, but that's until
28 tomorrow.
29
30 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. Do
31 we have Sam Kunaknana back on line with us.
32
33 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I haven't heard
34 him come back on line, but, Sam, are you on.
35
36 (No comments)
37
38 MS. PATTON: It's up to the Council
39 what you would like to take up. We did have one -- in
40 terms of trying to shift things around and be most
41 effective for when we have Council members that would
42 like to hear updates, so if we do Gates of the Arctic
43 tomorrow, I'm sure Sam would be very interested in any
44 NPR-A updates.
45
46 Will you be on line with us tomorrow
47 morning, Dave Yokel.
48
49 (No comments)
50

1 MS. PATTON: Oh, maybe we lost Dave,
2 too. So if there's.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: It's that time of
5 the day.

6
7 MS. PATTON: Yeah, it is that time of
8 the day. So if there's an opportunity tomorrow to take
9 up any NPR-A updates when we have Sam back on line with
10 us. Gates of the Arctic.

11
12 If the Council did want to try to
13 address a little bit more business today, we did have
14 an OSM briefing on C&T. That's something we might have
15 the flexibility to do now and have more time tomorrow
16 to address other issues. It's at the wish of the
17 Council. It looks like it's about 10 to 5. If you
18 want to trek on, more business today, less tomorrow.

19
20 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Or break now and
21 do more tomorrow.

22
23 MS. PATTON: That's an option, too.
24 There's still some work for some of the Council
25 members, anyway, to work on the proposals this evening.

26
27 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. I
28 think we'll take the latter and break now, and do a
29 little bit more work tomorrow. We'll have more of our
30 Council members to give some directions on, make
31 motions to that effect, that we would be able to move
32 forward on the issues.

33
34 So I'd like to call a recess until
35 tomorrow morning.

36
37 Okay.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 Thank you everyone that provided
42 presentations and all the ones that participated over
43 the teleconference. Thank you for bearing with us
44 today.

45
46 We're at recess until 9:00 a.m.

47
48 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you, everyone.

49
50 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: We are at recess

1 until 9:00 a.m.

2

3

(Off record)

4

5

(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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)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 114 through 262 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the 18th 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 2nd day of April 2015.

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