

1 NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL

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ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

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PUBLIC MEETING

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VOLUME I

8

9

Nuqsut Kisik Community Center

10

Nuqsut, Alaska

11

August 19, 2014

12

8:30 a.m.

13

14

15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16

17 Harry Brower, Chair

18 Rosemary Ahtuanguak

19 Gordon Brower

20 Theodore Frankson

21 Lee Kayotuk - Telephonic

22 James Nageak

23 Robert Shears

24

25

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27

28 Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S  
2  
3 (Nuiqsut, Alaska - 8/19/2014)  
4  
5 (On record)  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning,  
8 everyone. Thank you for being here with us this  
9 morning. I'd like to call the meeting of the North  
10 Slope Regional Advisory Council to order at this time.  
11 Can we have roll call to establish a quorum on the  
12 record.  
13  
14 Who's our secretary? Eva.  
15  
16 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, good morning.  
17 Lee Kayotuk is the Council secretary. He is going to  
18 be calling in via teleconference this morning. If we  
19 would like to have an alternate for secretary.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, you can go ahead  
22 and conduct the roll call this morning. It will be  
23 just as quick.  
24  
25 MS. PATTON: You bet. Good morning,  
26 everyone. Gordon Brower.  
27  
28 MR. G. BROWER: Good morning. I'm  
29 here.  
30  
31 MS. PATTON: Robert Shears.  
32  
33 MR. SHEARS: Good morning. Here.  
34  
35 MS. PATTON: Harry K. Brower, Jr.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here.  
38  
39 MS. PATTON: James Nageak.  
40  
41 MR. NAGEAK: I am here.  
42  
43 MS. PATTON: Teddy Frankson, Jr.  
44  
45 MR. FRANKSON: Over here.  
46  
47 MS. PATTON: Lee Kayotuk is excused,  
48 absent. He's on work travel. Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak.  
49  
50 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Here.

1  
2 MS. PATTON: We have six of our current  
3 seven members of the Council. We have a quorum. Lee  
4 should be joining us via teleconference this morning as  
5 well.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. At  
8 this time I'd like to ask James to open us with an  
9 invocation. If we could all stand, please.  
10  
11 (Invocation)  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, James.  
14 Welcome and introductions. We'll start with Eva.  
15  
16 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Council, and  
17 welcome everyone. Eva Patton, Council Coordinator for  
18 the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.  
19 Welcome.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Teddy.  
22  
23 MR. FRANKSON: My name is Ted Frankson,  
24 Jr. I'm from Point Hope. I'm glad to be here. It's  
25 good to meet you all.  
26  
27 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'm Rosemary  
28 Ahtuanguaruak. I spent a long time out here in Nuiqsut.  
29 It's good to be back. I've been in Barrow now for five  
30 years.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning. I'm  
33 Harry Brower. I'm a Council member from Barrow. Good  
34 morning.  
35  
36 MR. NAGEAK: My name is James Nageak  
37 and I'm from Anaktuvuk Pass. I'm always thankful for  
38 this RAC to be able to work with the National Park  
39 Service because of my participation at this commission  
40 that I have that opportunity, so thank you.  
41  
42 MR. G. BROWER: Good morning. Gordon  
43 Brower from Barrow. The same as everybody I'm glad to  
44 be here and I hope we get some local residents from  
45 Nuiqsut attending today. I always advocate that we do  
46 some of our meetings in our villages to solicit for  
47 representatives. It would be good to note if we've got  
48 vacancies and let the folks know.  
49  
50 Thank you.

1  
2 MR. SHEARS: Good morning, everybody.  
3 I'm listed as Robert Shears from Wainwright. Please  
4 refer me to as Bob though in casualness. Originally  
5 appointed as a member from Wainwright, I'm now a full-  
6 time resident of Barrow to be clear for the record.  
7 I'm very glad to see us here in a village community  
8 where the concerns can be dramatically different than  
9 what we may have here in the large central hub community of  
10 Barrow where we commonly meet. So I'm very happy to be  
11 out here in Nuiqsut today.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Robert.  
14 Next we're going to do our participants here.  
15  
16 Dr. Yokel.  
17  
18 DR. YOKEL: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,  
19 Council. I'm Dave Yokel with the Bureau of Land  
20 Management Arctic Field Office in Fairbanks.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Vince.  
23  
24 MR. MATHEWS: I'm Vince Mathews, refuge  
25 subsistence specialist for Arctic, Kanuti and Yukon  
26 Flats out of Fairbanks.  
27  
28 MS. PETRIVELLI: Good morning. I'm Pat  
29 Petrivelli, the Bureau of Indian Affairs subsistence  
30 anthropologist and I work out of Anchorage.  
31  
32 MR. EVANS: Good morning. I'm Tom  
33 Evans. I work as a wildlife biologist with OSM and I  
34 have the North Slope Region as one of my regions.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom.  
37  
38 MS. HYER: Good morning. I'm Karen  
39 Hyer with OSM. I'm part of the Fisheries Division.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Karen.  
42  
43 MS. OKADA: Good morning. I'm Marcy  
44 Okada. I'm with the National Park Service out of  
45 Fairbanks for Gates of the Arctic National Park and  
46 Preserve.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.  
49  
50 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, if I may take

1 a couple minutes of your time. My name is Gene  
2 Peltola. I'm the Assistant Regional Director for the  
3 Office of Subsistence Management. I'm a Tlingit  
4 Indian/Yup'ik Eskimo born and raised in Bethel. I'm a  
5 30-year Fish and Wildlife employee. I've spent about a  
6 third of my career out in Kotzebue. I went up to  
7 Kotzebue the winter of '90-'91 for three months and  
8 stayed 9.5 years. Went back for another 2.5. Fell in  
9 love with northwest. It kind of reminded me of Bethel  
10 when I was a kid growing up.

11  
12 A little bit about my professional  
13 career. I attended Humboldt State University,  
14 University of Alaska Fairbanks and Harvard. I've held  
15 various positions throughout the Fish and Wildlife  
16 Service. I started off as a bio tech at Yukon Delta  
17 and Bethel, my home town and went from there. Went to  
18 Kotzebue as a biologist. I was a biologist pilot in  
19 Kotzebue. Eventually a Refuge manager in Kotzebue at  
20 Selawik Refuge. I was assistant manager at Yukon Flats  
21 Refuge out of Fairbanks. I worked in our law  
22 enforcement office for about five years. Carried a  
23 Federal and State Commission for about eight, nine  
24 years. I was Yukon Delta Refuge manager up until  
25 August of last fall when I transferred into Anchorage  
26 to take this position. I feel very honored.

27  
28 Subsistence is something I'm very  
29 passionate about. I've been a lifelong subsistence  
30 user. One thing that really hit me hard when I had a  
31 first Federal Subsistence Board meeting in Anchorage  
32 last fall is that morning I realized I was no longer a  
33 Federally qualified user and I was an urban user.

34  
35 Anyway, I just wanted to tell you a  
36 little bit about myself and it's a pleasure to be here  
37 and nice to meet you all.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gene.  
40 Dave and then Eva and.....

41  
42 DR. JENKINS: Good morning, Council  
43 members. My name is David Jenkins. I'm the policy  
44 coordinator for the Office of Subsistence Management  
45 and I'm an anthropologist. I started coming up here  
46 after Helen retired. We are looking to hire a new  
47 anthropologist. We're going to have some new folks  
48 coming to support the Regional Advisory Council.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, David.

1 Eli.  
2  
3 MR. E. NUKAPIGAK: Good morning. I'm  
4 Eli Nukapigak, vice president of the Native Village of  
5 Nuiqsut, North Slope Borough planning and North Slope  
6 Borough wildlife.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Eli.  
9 Thank you.  
10  
11 MR. TAALAK: Good morning. I'm James  
12 Taalak, the city of Nuiqsut cultural coordinator.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, James.  
15 I'm looking at Tina.  
16  
17 REPORTER: My name is Tina and I'm the  
18 recorder.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tina.  
21 Thank you everyone for the introductions and, again,  
22 welcome you all to Nuiqsut for the North Slope Regional  
23 Advisory Council meeting here at the Nuiqsut Kisik  
24 Community Center. We have review and adopt the agenda  
25 before you in your packets.  
26  
27 What's the wish of the Council.  
28  
29 MR. NAGEAK: I move for the adoption of  
30 the agenda.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor.  
33  
34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Second.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Second. Further  
37 discussion. Eva, any notes for changes to the agenda  
38 as we review the agenda?  
39  
40 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We  
41 don't have any changes at this time unless -- Vince had  
42 indicated you might need to leave early, so if you  
43 could let us know when you would need to present, that  
44 would be helpful.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Vince.  
47  
48 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we have a moose hunt  
49 starting on August 25th, so I need to get to a couple  
50 of villages to help with the permits, so I'll be on

1 tomorrow morning's flight. There's really no update  
2 from the Refuge, so basically I'll be here to listen.  
3 If you have questions that you want to know for Arctic  
4 Refuge, then I'm available. I appreciate you allowing  
5 me to flex here, but the calendar dictated I have to  
6 get up to Allakaket and Alatna.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Vincent.  
11 Any further discussion on the agenda.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Call for question.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been  
18 called to adopt the agenda as presented. All in favor  
19 of approving the agenda signify by saying aye.

20

21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed say nay.

24

25 (No opposing votes)

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank  
28 you. I'm not sure what's happening with the  
29 teleconference. Do we have other participants on the  
30 teleconference, Eva? We wish to have them introduce  
31 themselves as well.

32

33 MS. PATTON: Welcome to those on  
34 teleconference. If you could please introduce  
35 yourselves to the Council, your name and if you're  
36 representing an organization or a tribe.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MR. RICE: Hello, this is Bud Rice,  
41 National Park Service in Anchorage.

42

43 MR. SHARP: Good morning. This is Dan  
44 Sharp with Bureau of Land Management in Anchorage.

45

46 MR. CRAWFORD: Good morning. This is  
47 Drew Crawford, Alaska Department of Fish and Game in  
48 Anchorage.

48

49 MR. BROOKS: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
50 My name is Jeff Brooks. I'm with the Office of

1 Subsistence Management in Anchorage, Alaska.

2

3 MR. ADKISSON: Good morning. This is  
4 Ken Adkisson with the National Park Service in Nome,  
5 Alaska.

6

7 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning. This is  
8 George Pappas, Office of Subsistence Management, State  
9 subsistence liaison.

10

11 MR. LIND: Good morning, this is  
12 Orville Lind, acting Native liaison, Office of  
13 Subsistence Management in Anchorage.

14

15 MS. PATTON: Good morning, everyone.  
16 Do we have anyone else on teleconference joining us  
17 from the public? If you're on teleconference, if you  
18 push \*6 that will mute your phones to keep quiet in the  
19 background, but if you would like to speak, just push  
20 \*6 again and that will open up the lines. Since the  
21 Council can't see you raise your hand, please do speak  
22 up if you would like to address the Council.

23

24 Anyone else joining us this morning?

25

26 (No response)

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you all for  
29 introducing yourselves through the teleconference. If  
30 there's no others to introduce themselves, we'll  
31 continue with our review and approval of previous  
32 meeting minutes on Page 4.

33

34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Motion to approve  
35 the minutes from February 19-20 meeting.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor  
38 to approve the February 19-20 meeting minutes.

39

40 MR. NAGEAK: Second for discussion.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by James.  
43 Discussion. James.

44

45 MR. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair. On Page 3 -- I  
46 just wanted to prove that I read the minutes. There's  
47 a word under Gordon Brown and on the second paragraph  
48 described his fishing activities. On the second line  
49 it says difficult to catch a preserve. How do you  
50 catch a preserve? So I think that should be catch and



1 preserve, right? Catch and preserve the fish. A  
2 technicality.  
3  
4 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Bob.  
7  
8 MR. SHEARS: I'd like to address a  
9 correction on Page 4, first paragraph under a statement  
10 by myself, Robert Shears. Second to the last sentence.  
11 Fall fishing was very good on the Utukok River, U-T-U-  
12 K-O-K.  
13  
14 MR. NAGEAK: Which river?  
15  
16 MR. SHEARS: Utukok.  
17  
18 MR. NAGEAK: Utukok?  
19  
20 MR. SHEARS: Uh-huh.  
21  
22 MR. NAGEAK: The correct pronunciation  
23 of that river is U-T-U-Q-Q-A-Q, Utuqqaq, something that  
24 is old. Mr. Chair.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: James.  
27  
28 MR. NAGEAK: On Page 8 I underlined  
29 Native organizations comment by Doreen Lampe about the  
30 Yellow-billed loons. It says they have been seeking  
31 additional funding to create GIS maps of those  
32 sensitive areas. ICAS has joined a lawsuit on the  
33 listing of Yellow-billed loons and requested tribal  
34 consultation over this matter. The loon are not eaten,  
35 however -- I've eaten loons, Yellow-billed loons. When  
36 I see a statement like that, the younger generation has  
37 not experienced the time when you have to eat  
38 something, you know. They've never had the experience  
39 of not being able to go to McDonald's and KFC, you  
40 know. They could be eaten. They're pretty good. So  
41 that statement I wanted to dispute, I think.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for sharing  
44 that, James.  
45  
46 MR. FRANKSON: James, on that Doreen  
47 Lampe, we do have to eat when you've got nothing to  
48 eat. I notice some of the old people back then when I  
49 was at home told me that you got to -- you could eat  
50 squirrels and eat ducks you don't usually eat when

1 there's nothing to eat. So I would dispute this one  
2 and say that we can eat those too.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Teddy.  
5 He's referring to the same section you are James on  
6 Page 8. Thank you for sharing that as well. We'll  
7 communicate with Doreen when we return to Barrow. I  
8 think there are some communications with her on that  
9 before as well, but she has her opinion that she shares  
10 with others. We'll get that straightened out.

11

12 Any other comments, concerns on the  
13 approval of the minutes.

14

15 MR. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, James.

18

19 MR. NAGEAK: We grew up in a time when  
20 things were kind of scarce, you know, especially when  
21 we had to travel by dog team between Kaktovik and  
22 Barrow and along the way, you know, you have to find  
23 some ways to -- you know, you have dog teams. You have  
24 dogs to feed, people to feed and sometimes the dogs get  
25 the priority of having to eat the good stuff and then  
26 us children and adults in the caravan have to eat off  
27 the land. We've eaten a lot of animals along the way.  
28 One of them I remember was an owl, you know. They're  
29 just like.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Chicken.

32

33 MR. NAGEAK: .....chicken. They've got  
34 white meat and they're really delicious. I never ate  
35 the head though. But there are others like squirrels  
36 and, you know, we grew up with squirrels. One time my  
37 great aunt of Kaktovik we took her out on Jago River.  
38 We were out camping and we were hunting ptarmigans and  
39 squirrels, you know, trapping squirrels with the traps  
40 and my ana said, James, I want to eat a jaeger. I'm  
41 hungry for one, you know, so I had to go out and get a  
42 -- what the Inupiaq word for that?

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq).

45

46 MR. NAGEAK: (In Inupiaq), yeah,  
47 jaeger, and she said that in the springtime before they  
48 start eating too much lemmings they're good to eat. So  
49 I went out and got a jaeger and she plucked it and  
50 cooked it and it was delicious. It's one of those

1 things that we, ewww. Young people always say ewww.  
2 They eat lemmings, you know. But these are animals  
3 that in the hard times they are the things that made us  
4 survive, especially the ptarmigan. They're around  
5 pretty much all winter. They are the lifesavers of a  
6 lot of people in around North Slope.

7

8 I just wanted to make the point that  
9 the animals -- no wonder they tell us if you kill it,  
10 you have to eat it. You know, you just don't go out  
11 just for fun and kill something. If you kill  
12 something, then you have to eat it. I had to kill a  
13 lot of these other animals and I ate them, you know,  
14 because of that dictum.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thanks for sharing  
19 that, James. Any other comments regarding the minutes.

20

21 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: It's been a good  
22 year for us. My son has been getting out and doing  
23 some hunting this year. It was slow for them to get  
24 around to the caribou, but much better than last year.  
25 Last year there was a lot of activities and there was a  
26 lot of conflict on the ground, but this year there was  
27 decreasing activities and they've been enjoying it.  
28 They've been able to get out and get caribou and fish  
29 this summer.

30

31 Here in this village they are just  
32 starting to get caribou here, so my son was really  
33 happy to get out and get a caribou. One of the nephews  
34 was able to get a moose here and we're waiting to see  
35 how the hunts go this weekend.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

38

39 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

42

43 MR. G. BROWER: Minutes (in Inupiaq).

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're in discussion.

46

47 MR. G. BROWER: Oh, okay.

48

49 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Oh, I thought we got  
50 out of that part.

1  
2 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're still under the  
3 discussion of the minutes. We have a motion and it's  
4 been seconded. We're under the discussion, review of  
5 the minutes from February 19 and 20, 2014. Any other  
6 comments.  
7  
8 (No comments)  
9  
10 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.  
13  
14 MR. G. BROWER: If there are no other  
15 comments, I would call for the question with the  
16 corrections and add it.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.  
19 The question has been called on the motion with the  
20 suggested changes to the minutes. All in favor of the  
21 motion signify by saying aye.  
22  
23 IN UNISON: Aye.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed say nay.  
26  
27 (No opposing notes)  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank  
30 you.  
31  
32 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. Did I hear Lee  
33 Kayotuk online?  
34  
35 MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning. This is  
36 Lee from Kaktovik. Good morning, everyone. I just  
37 realized it was starting at 8:30. I thought it was  
38 starting at 9:00. Good morning to everyone here from  
39 the village of Kaktovik.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Lee.  
42 Thank you for calling in.  
43  
44 MR. SHEARS: Good morning, Lee.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're just getting  
47 into the next agenda item, Lee. For your information  
48 we just did the review and approval of the previous  
49 meeting minutes. We're now down to reports.  
50

1 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Council member  
4 reports. I could start. Around Barrow it's been a  
5 slow summer, nice and cool, lowering the mosquito  
6 count. That's been a good sign over the course of  
7 summer. Recently just had a nice day. Good hunting  
8 for marine mammals. Walrus were taken. Ice seals were  
9 harvested. Duck hunting is happening now. Caribou  
10 hunting is happening for some hunters. They're going  
11 to go different means of -- we've seen the boats and  
12 then snowmachines going to harvest caribou. There's  
13 been quite a bit of fishing going on as well. We're  
14 making dry fish and preparing -- gathering food for the  
15 oncoming winter. Berry picking we're just getting  
16 started. So that's been happening around Barrow and  
17 other areas as well.

18

19 Any other Council members wishing to  
20 provide a report within their areas.

21

22 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Robert.

25

26 MR. SHEARS: Good morning, everybody.

27 Reports from

28 Wainwright this spring since our  
29 meeting back in February, mid-February, late winter fur  
30 catches on wolverine. It's probably notable to comment  
31 in the Wainwright region, Atqasuk, Point Lay, very high  
32 quantity -- unusually high quantity of wolverine taken,  
33 but it's also notable that they were very small, very  
34 immature. Not the typically big, real large older  
35 ones, but these were young ones. Many of them  
36 scavenging in places unusual to get them, even on the  
37 coast feeding on walrus carcasses on the beach as well  
38 as in the Brooks Range up in the mountains.

39

40 Wolf harvest tapered off. There wasn't  
41 a lot of wolves harvested in the late winter. Snow  
42 conditions were pretty rough, pretty hard on the  
43 undercarriage of snow machines to get out there and run  
44 trap lines.

45

46 The new snowmachines that are out on  
47 the market nowadays, the new four strokes and the gas-  
48 conserving models that different suppliers are putting  
49 out are proving to work very well, requiring less  
50 maintenance than the machines of past, you know, 10

1 years ago. So a lot more miles are being covered.

2

3 I'd say although Wainwright has a  
4 limited number of winter hunters, as it always has,  
5 those people that are participating in winter hunting  
6 and trapping activities are covering more miles than  
7 ever before.

8

9 In the springtime, of course whaling  
10 went very well, but outside of the marine mammal,  
11 outside of the ocean environment, the duck hunting and  
12 the goose hunting was very well. Incredibly good  
13 success with waterfowl. No problems to report there.

14

15 Then the summer pretty typical. Oh,  
16 also one thing to mention again is, as in previous  
17 years I've reported, a large population of caribou  
18 overwintering and succeeding quite well in the  
19 Wainwright and the Kuk River drainage area.

20

21 That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for sharing  
24 that, Bob. Any other questions or comments.

25

26 MR. G. BROWER: Sorry, I got distracted  
27 from my boss for a little bit. We're doing Council  
28 report?

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

31

32 MR. G. BROWER: I just want to kind of  
33 -- I'm still kind of stuck from last year. Last year  
34 and the previous year we've been having a hard time  
35 with caribou around Chipp, Ikpikpuk area. Very  
36 different than what I've seen because I've seen the  
37 movements in caribou in those areas since I was a  
38 little boy and they follow their trails and I'm going  
39 to keep harping on that kind of stuff. I hate to  
40 repeat myself and it kind of resonates with what I've  
41 heard from Anaktuvuk about guides and being in the path  
42 of major movement of caribou. I've heard this from  
43 several elders too about when caribou move and  
44 establish a new trail, they're going to start following  
45 that new trail. It might be years before they come  
46 back to the old trail if at all if they come back.

47

48 The conxes and all of these bright  
49 disturbing to traditional knowledge anyway, the colors  
50 and stuff associated with the interns and signs around

1 Alaktak and Chipp River been alarming to many camps  
2 along that river, saying that the caribou have been  
3 rerouted and I kind of believe that's going on. I  
4 grew up around the Chipp and Ikpikpuk and harvested for  
5 many years with my folks, myself, with my boys. When I  
6 couldn't -- I'm going to have to just tell her goodbye.  
7 I'm in the middle of saying something. We should turn  
8 our phones off at these points even if it's my boss.

9

10 MS. PATTON: Council, if I may make a  
11 recommendation, I know you all have bosses and you're  
12 very busy and you're always in demand. If we could for  
13 the day put your phones on mute and let folks know  
14 you'll call them back later.

15

16 Thank you very much.

17

18 MR. NAGEAK: Airplane mode.

19

20 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, and you know my  
21 job is always dealing with oil and gas and it's always  
22 either caribou or oil. But I want to make sure I get  
23 that message across and we have the hardest time  
24 convincing the Federal government of the concerns and  
25 being able to find ways to work together. We find it  
26 easier with the oil and gas industry to work on  
27 mitigation and working with the people, but I find it  
28 very difficult, almost impossible to get across USGS or  
29 other folks conducting studies in the field.

30

31 It seems to me these proposals for  
32 doing studies from the outset, when they're born,  
33 should be written and ingrained in their proposal to  
34 work with the communities and that's the way I think  
35 you're going to have a better relationship.

36

37 You know, I was always skeptical for  
38 some time the relationship of guides and their impacts  
39 to a community. I'm not a skeptic anymore. I think  
40 when you're dealing with moving 20 or 30,000 animals at  
41 a time and they're going to follow their trail, it's a  
42 very important situation to realize. We heard it time  
43 and time again from folks that have passed on. There's  
44 very few folks that need to be able to push these  
45 concerns. The elders are dwindling. Even in Barrow  
46 our elders are dwindling. We're now stepping into  
47 those same shoes, but we need to be able to work  
48 together.

49

50 I thought that was worth emphasizing

1 because I'm impacted. I'm usually harvested by the  
2 time it's October and I'm done fishing. I should have  
3 30 caribou. Thirty caribou that I'm going to haul back  
4 to Barrow to feed my crew members, my extended family  
5 and during Nalukataq, to have the blessed sharing event  
6 for Nalukataq. We just don't serve the whale, we serve  
7 geese soup, caribou. It's a festival and you have to  
8 be able to supply these foods and that's what the  
9 captains and others have done for thousands of years.

10

11 What do you do when you're pitted up  
12 against regulatory processes? Take away your right to  
13 hunt something across the board without -- do it under  
14 the name of emergency order and taking the food away  
15 from the table when you can do it more effectively by  
16 reducing the number of different users.

17

18 Anyway, those are some of the big  
19 concerns I have. I really think these things need to  
20 be expressed and they need to be heard.

21

22 My fishing was really good. The fish  
23 were there in large numbers, the spawning. The only  
24 problem I have is my freeze-ups are drastically  
25 different. I'm doing everything I can to be able to  
26 put nets -- fishing is good right now. I'm just telling  
27 you for the last few years and the trend is -- it's  
28 certainly creating a trend. If you were studying it  
29 and I could write these things down and do the same  
30 thing as scientists because you can solely note the  
31 trend and trend is what Western science goes on in  
32 determining what's going on to some level. But the  
33 trend is certainly there that the freeze-up are  
34 affecting. There will be slush, there will be moving  
35 ice for such a long period of time.

36

37 Two years ago -- last year I did pretty  
38 good, but two years ago I only made, I think, five  
39 sacks of fish two years ago. The most difficult time  
40 I've ever had. Prior to that maybe I had 60 sacks.  
41 Last year I had about maybe 45 sacks. But the prior  
42 year and last year, not mentioning the one I couldn't  
43 fish in, I had to do extraordinary things to actually  
44 fish.

45

46 I had to ice harden myself. When it  
47 got cool in the dead of night and the sun is down and  
48 it's dark and the stars come out, in the night I go to  
49 where I want to put my fish net and it's got a little  
50 bit of ice. In the middle of the night I'm working on



1 it, putting water on top because it's cold in the  
2 night, and hardening it so I can stand up and put my  
3 nets out there. Maybe the climate stuff are very, very  
4 alarming.

5  
6 When I put my fish to store in  
7 gunnysacks and I'm done for the season and I'm going to  
8 wait for it to freeze harder for a later time in  
9 November to haul my fish back to Barrow, I noticed all  
10 my sacks were all tilted over and I have to use a pick  
11 to break them apart. They all -- when I left, I think  
12 it must have warmed up substantially and long enough  
13 for the fish to thaw and then create one super sack of  
14 thousands of fish. That was hard. That was very hard  
15 work.

16  
17 So I've got to find different ways to  
18 keep them frozen and I'm going to have to work very  
19 hard because people -- they really like the eggs to be  
20 fresh. When they're bright yellow, it's like an ice  
21 cream. It's Eskimo caviar. You put seal oil dip and  
22 it's fantastic. But when they're bloody and they turn  
23 orange on you, the elders like it. It's almost like  
24 (in Inupiaq) and it gets icy inside the meat. It's  
25 really good still. It's good yet. I like stinky fish  
26 too, but I didn't want my whole catch to turn that way.

27  
28 So these are some of the things I see  
29 that we're struggling with, especially when you fish  
30 for the community. When you're doing it for the larger  
31 population. Starting this year I'm going to get off of  
32 my complacent side. I was waiting for caribou this  
33 year and I went to Atqasuk for a day and talked with  
34 hunters while we're having a picnic with the kids and  
35 painting bird houses and talked to a few hunters. Some  
36 caribou come around and they were also waiting for  
37 caribou.

38  
39 You hear all kinds of different  
40 concerns. One of the things that I heard more than  
41 once, including from folks in other areas in that bowl.  
42 There's a bowl of a lot of hunters in a certain area  
43 from the Mead River to Chipp to Alaktak to down there  
44 by Inaru. The constant concerns about flying aircraft  
45 and who are they and what are they doing. Some of them  
46 report that they're flying too low. Some of them  
47 report they felt they're being -- purposely diverting  
48 their catch. I think that's wrong, you know, if we're  
49 hearing these kind of things.

50

1                   I just want to mention I felt exactly  
2 like that before. I've been waiting around for caribou  
3 at Chipp 4 and I look to the west everyday and suddenly  
4 we got a lot of caribou coming. Me and my boys are  
5 excited and out of the blue this gray Skyways-looking  
6 aircraft starts dive-bombing, circling caribou. There  
7 must have been 500 getting close to where we could  
8 harvest them. I tried to take pictures of it, what it  
9 was doing, coming down, getting low, making big  
10 circles.

11  
12                   I had a satellite phone and I called it  
13 in to Bart Ahsogeak. I said call FAA and talk to --  
14 what's going on, if there's a -- whose aircraft is  
15 around here. By the time that dummy was done those  
16 caribous were moved at least four miles from the edge  
17 of the river. My opportunity to harvest with my son,  
18 not to mention looking at my sons, saying I can't  
19 believe what we're going through. So when I hear it  
20 from other hunters, I don't take this with a grain of  
21 salt anymore. We need to -- there needs to be a better  
22 coordinated effort to look at these things.

23  
24                   I heard from my nephew that he thinks  
25 -- he heard from the grapevine, which is the VHF, that  
26 caribou are moving in our area. I really hope that's  
27 happening because after the last four or five years  
28 having to go all the way to December and January to try  
29 to catch caribou and think the rut is over and I've  
30 really got to select at that point very hard which to  
31 shoot down. To me, in December and January, that's  
32 fermented caribou season, at least for me. My primary  
33 hunt is mid-September to the first week of October and  
34 then we quit hunting them because of the rut.

35  
36                   I probably can go on and on forever  
37 because I'm just passionate about the concerns that we  
38 hear and being able to make some sort of difference.  
39 We had this meeting with Pat Pourchot and the State  
40 director in Anchorage. I really hope somewhere at that  
41 level that decisions are made. Hey, get your act  
42 together, let's work together. I know you're the land  
43 managers, but you've got people, you've got residents.  
44 I hope some more attention is born.

45  
46                   Anyway, I'm hoping that fishing will be  
47 good. The weather has been really cool. I went up the  
48 Chipp River all the way to Isaluminek (ph), the first  
49 big hill just past Chipp 10 and went up there last week  
50 looking for caribou and we didn't find any. You don't

1 always find them, but there are certain periods of the  
2 time there's an expectation that these animals are to  
3 be there. They always found them.

4  
5 You know, I asked the question to the  
6 guys at the conex because we went there upon complaints  
7 from people, residents, saying there's a little  
8 airplane coming down over here, a little helicopter  
9 with pontoons and there's a conex with about 15 dome  
10 bright red little tents and alarming concerns about  
11 caribou. We went there, took a look at them. Permits  
12 -- there's a movie that says that. Permits? What  
13 permits? We don't need no stinking permits. That, to  
14 me, was a red flag. Cowboys. The cowboys are here and  
15 they've got spurs.

16  
17 Anyway, we ended up talking with them  
18 and I notice in their yard by the conex they had  
19 stacked up caribou antlers. I looked at them. Those  
20 are not fresh. Some of these got moss growing on them,  
21 they're old. I said what are you guys doing pulling  
22 all these antlers up for. Don't you know the  
23 trapliners put them up and.....

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Use them for markers.

26  
27 MR. G. BROWER: ....use them for  
28 markers and.....

29  
30 MR. SHEARS: Anchors.

31  
32 MR. G. BROWER: .....anchors for traps.  
33 Don't be pulling up these antlers. You don't know what  
34 you're doing. Then I saw some really old drums and  
35 they were -- I asked where did you get your drums from.  
36 Oh, it was on that hill way over there. You know,  
37 that's the first marker I look at when I'm going  
38 through Tusekpachiak (ph) on a straight run through the  
39 flatlands before GPS times. You know, you've got GPS  
40 and that's fantastic. It's an elder in a box.

41  
42 (Laughter)

43  
44 MR. G. BROWER: You carry it around.  
45 It's like you're carrying your dad around, you know.  
46 But those are markers. I look at that drum and I re-  
47 orient myself, get my position immediately and I keep  
48 right on trucking, you know. They're useful. It's not  
49 like the -- yeah, you can take the drums off that were  
50 left by the Navy by the hundreds and hundreds, but

1 there are some that were traditional markers and they  
2 were put there for some reasons.

3  
4 Those are just some of the things that  
5 we would have advised. You know, don't take the  
6 antlers off. I've heard of others saying the Federal  
7 government is looting the Federal public lands taking  
8 all the mastodon dust they could and piling them up and  
9 taking them out. Those are resources, subsistence  
10 resources. Make ulu handles, arts and crafts. Those  
11 are -- we have laws to leave those be. It's alarming  
12 to see what the Federal government can do to take  
13 everything off the land and claim it in the name of  
14 U.S. government property.

15  
16 I need to stop because that's going to  
17 -- you know. I work as a land manger for the North  
18 Slope Borough too. I don't know if you hear the same  
19 concerns I do because we're local. We hear it.  
20 Sometimes it's irate, upset, people upset, and we take  
21 the brunt and say we'll make some calls and see what we  
22 can figure out and try to fix this. To me, that's --  
23 maybe that's my way of venting is telling and saying we  
24 need to have a better system. We need to work  
25 together. We need to hold hands. We need to do that.

26  
27 With that, I'll stop. I'm hoping for a  
28 good year. I'm always hoping for a good year. I love  
29 to fish for my community and I love to hunt and I  
30 expect those animals to be there. If they're not there  
31 this year, somebody's got to go burn that conex down,  
32 move it or something. It's got to -- because when I  
33 look at it from the helicopter and raise up high, I see  
34 the big trail. Right stab in the middle of a big trail  
35 where they would come. I could go lay down in the  
36 middle of the trail and binocular five miles below and  
37 say let's go to the trail and go have some tea and lay  
38 down. They're going to come. It's different.

39  
40 With that, that would be my report.  
41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for sharing  
44 that, Gordon. That includes what's happening up north.  
45 If you need a volunteer to burn some of that stuff  
46 down, let me know. I'll help you. I'm in the same  
47 area as you are. We hunt in the cabins and see all  
48 this aircraft movement. People that we don't know are  
49 coming around in those areas and causing us a  
50 disturbance to our hunting activities. I have the same

1 feelings that you're feeling.

2

3 Anybody else.

4

5 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

8

9 MR. G. BROWER: I'm sorry, but there  
10 was one other thing. In our meeting with Pat Pourchot,  
11 the State director, USGS and others, I don't know if  
12 Mr. Yokel was there, but it was at I think at a pretty  
13 much high level. We talked about do you really need to  
14 study right there, right where the heart of large  
15 subsistence use, especially during peak use period.  
16 Couldn't you move and designate an area and gather the  
17 same information instead of being an impact. I don't  
18 know if that would work, but those were some of the  
19 questions we raised. Do you really need to do that  
20 exact study right where a lot of people expect animals  
21 to be. In the same way that UIC created the Barrow  
22 Environmental Observatory to create a science district  
23 where it's non-intrusive to the traditional users.  
24 Maybe that's what BLM and others need to think about.  
25 Make a science area that's acceptable to a lot of  
26 people.

27

28 MR. SHEARS: Like Toolik Lake.

29

30 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Either that or  
31 you need to work with the -- you want to do a fish  
32 study? Well, come to me, come to Harry, come to those  
33 that are fishing and their troubles and work with  
34 people. Don't be one of those imieaurags out there  
35 where you're hiding and don't want to communicate.  
36 Don't set yourself apart like that. Be part of the  
37 community is what I think.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.  
42 James.

43

44 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
45 sat here making notes, how do I counter a statement  
46 like that, you know.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 MR. NAGEAK: I'm fortunate that I am

1 James Nageak. I was born here in Barrow, but then  
2 again I grew up in Kaktovik until I was 16 years old  
3 and that's when we came back to Barrow and my mother  
4 had some medical attention all the time, so the  
5 hospital was here and that's when we moved in 1956.  
6 Then I found out there was other parts of the state of  
7 Alaska, territory of Alaska that I didn't know about  
8 and one day I went to Anaktuvuk Pass and I was having  
9 lunch with my Uncle Homer Mekiana. They used tents in  
10 the summertime and I was having lunch and I looked  
11 toward the flap of the tent. Holy moly, I scratched my  
12 head and there was a young lady sitting there by the  
13 side of the tent flap. I went to Anaktuvuk to teach  
14 vacation church, you know, when I used to work here at  
15 the Presbyterian Church during the summertime after  
16 high school. I found out she was going to be my  
17 helper. Whoo! January 7 will be our 50th anniversary,  
18 so it's been a good life with Anna.

19  
20 So I'm fortunate that I have these  
21 opportunities to be a part of the North Slope, here,  
22 Kaktovik and inland. I start hearing stories about the  
23 Nunamiut. They're nomadic, you know. They travel when  
24 the caribou are moving to Alachulak (ph) over there,  
25 Nag River and Noatak River. They follow them and they  
26 become a part of the environment around the caribou.  
27 There is a story about a big person named Aiyagomahala.

28  
29 You know, I've heard because I went  
30 through the western educational system and I have my  
31 degree in sociology from UAF, class of '73, and I  
32 minored in anthropology, so I know a little bit about  
33 anthropology. And then I went into metaphysical  
34 education, becoming a seminarian and becoming a  
35 Presbyterian minister, so I knew how the spirits work  
36 in this world and I'm happy to be a part in that  
37 educational system where I read that they had a  
38 creation story, you know, how Adam's ribs were taken  
39 out and a woman was made and all of that.

40  
41 Nunamiut people have a creation story.  
42 Aiyagomahala was lonesome, so he went out and made the  
43 Nunamiut and became companions to this giant of a man.  
44 They called him Aiyagomahala because he used to wander  
45 from here to there and from here to here and from here  
46 to there. Finally one day he decided, hey, my people  
47 don't know anything about blubber. How can I have my  
48 people not eat blubber. They're out in the middle of  
49 the land up there. So he went and camped, started  
50 walking north.

1  
2                   There's a place over here, pingo, that  
3 has a flat top. That's where Aiyagomahala camped that  
4 night. He built a snow house, then he had a backpack.  
5 He set it on top of his snow house and it flattened it.  
6 It was so heavy, I guess. So to this day there's a  
7 landmark close to Nuiqsut here that has a flat top  
8 (Puviksuk). I haven't been there, but that's what the  
9 story tells.

10  
11                   Then from here he went to Barrow. The  
12 men were enjoying teaching the young men how to do all  
13 kinds of survival skills and they heard this guy  
14 walking around outside and they sent a couple guys out.  
15 Who are you? Aiyagomahala. I come here to be able to  
16 introduce my people, the ones that I created to be able  
17 to have blubber with their caribou meat, with their  
18 sheep meat, their fish that they catch. So the story  
19 goes that he did come here and the people offered him  
20 muktuk and a big pile of blubber and muktuk and all of  
21 this and he put them in his backpack and went back. So  
22 the story goes. But they were nomadic.

23  
24                   The Western educational system of the  
25 United States became a hindrance to the nomadic  
26 lifestyle of the Nunamiut. Oh, you guys need a post  
27 office. So Sig Wien and those guys said you guys need  
28 to build this and my Uncle Homer Mekiana became a  
29 postmaster with a tent as his post building where he'd  
30 keep the money orders. A person could get a knife and  
31 slit the tent with a knife and go into the tent to get  
32 all of the money orders and sign them off, but back in  
33 those days we never had the problem of robbery. We  
34 didn't know what the word was because in our lifestyle  
35 and the way that we grew up we always respected the  
36 other person's property.

37  
38                   There are instances where a person got  
39 a lot of caribou, put them underground, nunatak,  
40 because they knew in the middle of the winter sometimes  
41 when they are traveling in all of the expanse of land  
42 out there that they know where their nunatak, a supply  
43 of caribou meat that they put underground so that if  
44 they need them, they know where they are. But one day  
45 this person, without knowing, without telling them,  
46 takes some of that caribou off and used them. They  
47 almost starved because this other person didn't respect  
48 the property of another family. So we grew up with  
49 these things. So my uncle and those guys gave us the  
50 value systems that we need to survive in the harsh

1 environment of the arctic.

2

3                   So that's my introduction. I'm happy  
4 to be a part of the Nunamiut. Sometimes they give me a  
5 hard time because I'm from Utukamiut, you know. You  
6 know how it is when you're going to different villages  
7 and you're from different -- my father-in-law Ben he  
8 gave me one good one one time. He didn't have to say  
9 anything. He just looked at me and I -- well, anyway,  
10 we are -- even though I'm a Utukamiut, you know, from  
11 -- my ancestors came from Utukok area and Andrew, my  
12 grandfather, his brother Fenton and all of those and  
13 Ahlak, who married Tom Gordon who did the 1910 census  
14 on the North Slope by dog team from here all the way  
15 east. No, from Barrow all the way east and he did the  
16 1910 census. I found that out when I was at university  
17 and I was backtracking to see where my grandfather was  
18 in 1910. He was living with grandmother Ahlak at age  
19 18. Holy smokes, age 18 in 1910, so I went back and  
20 figured out what year he was born.

21

22                   So here I am. We are always happy the  
23 Teshekpuk Herd of caribou come to our village and stay  
24 around in the wintertime. They provide us with fresh  
25 meat, that Teshekpuk Herd that comes. We know it's  
26 Teshekpuk Herd because of the collars or the satellite  
27 things that they put on those female caribou. We are  
28 always thankful that we have the opportunity to harvest  
29 that Teshekpuk Herd. Now, during this time of the year  
30 the Western Herd comes around and gives us an  
31 opportunity to have fresh meat in the summertime. Not  
32 very many this year to tell you the truth because I  
33 heard that the Western Herd Caribou went from  
34 400,000-plus to only 265,000. That's quite a drop in a  
35 couple years, three or four years, you know. So we're  
36 kind of concerned about the opportunity to harvest the  
37 caribou that come to the Nunamiut.

38

39                   Stationary Nunamiut because of the post  
40 office and the church and all the school and all of  
41 this. They can't be nomadic anymore, so they just stay  
42 in one place called Naqsraq, Naqsraqmiut, people of the  
43 summit. We're on the Continental Divide of the Brooks  
44 Range, the Endicott Mountains and we are able to look  
45 on either side. When we look north, it's 26C. When we  
46 look south, it's -- what's it 24A?

47

48                   MS. OKADA: 24A.

49

50                   MR. NAGEAK: 24A. Mr. Chair has talked



1 about the Contact Creek coming through the village with  
2 a brand new bridge now. Holy smoke, we could have two  
3 vehicles going through that bridge. Before we had to  
4 wait until the other vehicle came. Now we have a  
5 bridge that's wide enough so that our Nissan Cube and a  
6 North Slope Borough truck would be able to cross the  
7 Contact Creek without having to stop. So that goes  
8 south. It goes into Koyukuk River and we get really  
9 nice supply of grayling. We don't get very much other  
10 fish other than grayling except for these suckers. You  
11 know those little fish with the little mouth? You can't  
12 hook them. Milugiaq I think they call them.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You got to sucker  
15 them in.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. NAGEAK: Sucker them in, yeah.  
20 Milugiaq. Anyway, that's towards the south. You know  
21 that Koyukon River goes into the Yukon and into the  
22 Bering Strait. So that's going south. Coming north,  
23 looking north from Naqsraq, Anaktuvuk Pass, which is  
24 the summit, we have the Anaktuvuk River going into  
25 Colville and there's another river right by our  
26 cemetery that flows north. So it's just right there in  
27 the village. That's where the Eleanor Lake flows into  
28 the Anaktuvuk River and the Anaktuvuk River goes into  
29 the Colville.

30

31 The things that happen here, especially  
32 with the fish migration, affects the lives of the  
33 Anaktuvuk people. So we're not only related by family,  
34 we're related through the animals that we use as  
35 resource. Because of all of these abilities to  
36 participate in the life, we are -- and we have -- you  
37 know, all my life I had an opportunity to tell these  
38 people whenever you're having a really fresh meat you  
39 holler it out to the community and say (in Inupiaq).  
40 Do you remember that? Remember that song. People  
41 would be in the tents in the summertime in Anaktuvuk  
42 Pass and whenever somebody comes home with a fresh  
43 caribou meat people they holler we are gonna eat, come  
44 on over. My cousin Justice Mekiana, who was a  
45 storyteller, told about Aiyagomahala. He's the one who  
46 taught me how to say that particular word. A giant of  
47 a man, a wandering man, Aiyagomahala. It took four  
48 trips for the two young men to announce that name to  
49 the people that were inside the karigi because by the  
50 time they were going in they forget. What was his name

1 again? It took four times for those two Barrow people  
2 to remember the name Aiyagomahala. My cousin always  
3 have fun with that because those Barrow people they  
4 can't understand Inupiaq. He's telling me because I'm  
5 from Barrow, so we have fun with that.

6  
7                   Anyway, we are always happy to share.  
8 I grew up at Kaktovik where my grandfather told his  
9 children Berta, Milton, Isaac, Perry, Roy, Thomas,  
10 Daniel, George Washington (indiscernible). He was born  
11 February 22nd, 1935 and my grandfather knew that the  
12 president of the United States back in the early days  
13 was George Washington, so he named him George  
14 Washington (indiscernible) and he was small because he  
15 had to carry all those names around. We would eat  
16 together. My grandfather would tell his children cook  
17 something for supper tonight and bring it over here and  
18 we'll eat as a family. Holy moly, they had nine  
19 children. But it was a joyful time because that's what  
20 made us grow up to be who we are, you know, with a  
21 value system. With the jokes and George Washington  
22 always was a good man with words in Inupiaq. Anyway,  
23 that's part of the history.

24  
25                   Because of the change in the weather I  
26 reported last year and I read it in the minutes that I  
27 was concerned about the change of the weather and how  
28 the caribou are starting to stay north of us, north of  
29 Anaktuvuk Pass valley too long for them to start  
30 rutting when they come through. That's a concern we  
31 have. I was just thinking when he was talking about  
32 the flying planes going zooming down, we ought to hire  
33 an airplane to herd the caribou right into the valley  
34 where they used to come. Maybe we could counter them  
35 when things happen like that.

36  
37                   Caribou is the life from way back all  
38 over, but the Nunamiut -- I envy the people here  
39 because they have an opportunity for transportation  
40 from here to Itkillikpa. Some people even try to go to  
41 Umiat from here on a boat and they could go across  
42 island and hunt whales from here. Sometimes it's kind  
43 of, hey, why didn't I marry somebody from Nuiqsut, you  
44 know. I married somebody from inland and the Contact  
45 Creek is just about that deep this time of the year and  
46 Eleanor Lake is really small so we can't go boating.  
47 And caribou -- we finally decided with the help of the  
48 wildlife department of the North Slope Borough that we  
49 are going to create a United Caribou Association of  
50 Nunamiut with the subtitle TUTTU. UCAN stands for

1 United Caribou Association of Nunamiut and under it is  
2 TUTTU, Totally Understanding The Tuttu Utilization.  
3 That's what TUTTU acronym is. How we use the caribou.  
4 We have a really good reputation of utilizing the whole  
5 caribou.

6

7 It's amazing when I first went to  
8 Anaktuvuk Pass and my father-in-law John Hugo and my  
9 wife and I went caribou hunting. A bunch of them, you  
10 know, back in those days. They went through the valley  
11 before they start running and we were catching a lot of  
12 bulls. We were off to the side and my father-in-law  
13 was skinning caribou over here, we were over here. He  
14 came to us and said (in Inupiaq). My wife and I  
15 looked, what? You know the part of the caribou that  
16 they used to dry, they'd take the stomach out and all  
17 of the meat around, right up to the neck. They take  
18 that out so that it could dry (in Inupiaq). I learned  
19 and I had to learn really good at that.

20

21 So we are trying to deal with the  
22 situation of having no caribou sometimes coming through  
23 when they are healthy before they start rutting and so  
24 we started trilateral meetings with the village. The  
25 trilateral meeting that the city, the tribal council  
26 and the corporation are coming together as a leadership  
27 group and Gordon has been there for our meeting and we  
28 have a really good discussion on how to counter some of  
29 the things that are happening outside of the Anaktuvuk  
30 Pass. The scare that they got going to make a road to  
31 Umiat. That was a really big issue that we really  
32 encountered as Nunamiut people because the migratory  
33 route of the caribou is going to be deflected by the  
34 road system. Not only the road but the guides too.

35

36 We had a meeting last week for our  
37 trilateral meeting and we decided that this was going  
38 to be a closed meeting and this was the only time that  
39 Rick Guthrie, the guide man of the north, came to the  
40 meeting and we told him I'm sorry, you've got to leave.  
41 It was nice to be able to tell the guide to get out of  
42 here, you know, because we don't want you to hear what  
43 conversations we're going to have as a trilateral  
44 meeting. But we are going to have a public trilateral  
45 meeting which Rick Guthrie is going to be invited and  
46 he can be a part of that.

47

48 One of the scares that we have, of  
49 course, is that you know we have the controlled use  
50 area north of Anaktuvuk Pass that we use and because

1 there was a sunset clause to the controlled use area in  
2 2009 I think it was. The sunset clause was going to  
3 end in 2009 and we had to be able to go to the Board of  
4 Game of the state of Alaska and convince them that the  
5 controlled use area is very useful for the residents of  
6 Anaktuvuk Pass between like say August 15th to  
7 September 30 or something like that where the migration  
8 of the caribou normally happen that the control of the  
9 air around that area would be a useful idea for the  
10 Nunamiut to incorporate.

11

12 So a bunch of us went to Bethel where  
13 Mr. Gene back there is from originally I understand and  
14 we talked to the Board of Game and convinced them that  
15 the controlled use area that we have was too small and  
16 we said, okay, here's how we want that controlled use  
17 area to look like. Lo and behold the Board of Game  
18 unanimously enacted an ordinance that the controlled  
19 use area of Anaktuvuk Pass will not have a sunset  
20 clause. It's there for generations I hope.

21

22 The reason I said there's a scare about  
23 that is that the Nunamiut corporation is starting to  
24 generate a communication to us as the city that they  
25 want to increase the size of the controlled use area.  
26 We wanted to do that last year I think and we talked to  
27 the people from the wildlife department and the North  
28 Slope Borough and they advised us don't even mention  
29 that to the Board of Game because if you do open it up  
30 again, the configuration of the Board of Game for the  
31 state of Alaska is such that they would just do away  
32 with the controlled use area. If you bring up the  
33 subject to that Board of Game, they would be able to  
34 say no more. There's no control anymore north of you.  
35 So we kept it at that. We didn't want to bring it.

36

37 The corporation is asking the city to  
38 co-sponsor and the tribal council to co-sponsor a  
39 communication to the Board of Game that we need to  
40 increase the controlled use area north of Anaktuvuk  
41 Pass. This is a political year and whoever the  
42 governor will appoint the Board of Game, you know, we  
43 figured maybe there is a change in administration in  
44 the State of Alaska, maybe we might be able to increase  
45 the size of the controlled use area north of Anaktuvuk  
46 Pass if the administration changes. This  
47 administration, of course, has that Board of Game now  
48 that we don't want to flutter their feathers. What's  
49 that word, you know.....

50

1 MR. G. BROWER: Ruffle their feathers.

2

3 MR. NAGEAK: Ruffle. Not flutter, but  
4 ruffle their feathers so that we would have that  
5 controlled use area.

6

7 One last thing that I don't like to  
8 hear. There are some few words in the life of the  
9 Nunamiut or the Inupiat people or Native Americans in  
10 this United States is the word mitigate. I looked it  
11 up in the dictionary and in the dictionary it says -- I  
12 have a Merriam Dictionary and under that I would go M-  
13 I-T-I-G-A-T-E and it would give me the definition of  
14 the word mitigate. To make something less severe, to  
15 make something less harmful, to make something less  
16 painful. So when I hear a mitigation committee or a  
17 formal mitigation, that is used because something has  
18 already happened and it's harmful for the Inupiat  
19 people, it's painful, it's severe.

20

21 So I'm going to get ruffled, that's a  
22 new word for me today, because of the word mitigation.  
23 When you hear the term mitigation, you know that  
24 there's something that is very harmful happening to you  
25 and those are something like the low flying airplanes,  
26 low flying helicopters, helicopters being used to count  
27 the number of sheep that are in the mountains in the  
28 Gates of the Arctic, which we understand is very low  
29 this year and there's a proposal to stop hunting of  
30 sheep except for us in general. We are happy that we  
31 are within the Gates of the Arctic National Park.

32

33 But these are some of the things that  
34 are happening in our community. UCAN is going to be  
35 helpful, something that we are creating to be like the  
36 Eskimo Whaling Commission. These guys are helping us  
37 because they have an association that has to deal with  
38 whales and if -- these guys are my two nephews here,  
39 this one especially. His grandma and my grandfather  
40 were brother and sister, you know, and these guys are  
41 always providing us fish and the caribou because Arnold  
42 Brower really loved my wife Anna. They adopted her,  
43 you know.

44

45 Anyway, we want to be able to live in  
46 this land without having to hear the word mitigation,  
47 but it's inevitable I think that there needs to be a  
48 mitigation committee and which I understand the people  
49 in Nuiqsut have that opportunity to talk with the oil  
50 companies as a mitigation committee. I've heard of

1 that one.

2

3 So that's about -- I'm learning how to  
4 be a long-winded person because I'm sitting next to  
5 Gordon Brower here and I took notes matter of fact. So  
6 thank you.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for sharing  
11 that James. That's very helpful in terms of how we  
12 represent our community constituents and share their  
13 feelings as well. So thank you.

14

15 Any other comments or concerns or  
16 reports to be presented.

17

18 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I think this brings  
19 up a very important

20 discussion that we have to be very  
21 proactive in the changes that are coming. On our way  
22 here there was a planeload of hunters going up to  
23 Prudhoe Bay to go hunting. We do have an increase in  
24 conflict with other users coming into traditional and  
25 cultural use areas as well as using Native allotments  
26 and there are some people who say it's okay for them to  
27 go in and do that.

28

29 Our Native allotment is along the  
30 Dalton Highway. When we went out there last week,  
31 there were five campers and trucks with trailers and  
32 four-wheelers all parked on our Native allotment.  
33 While we were there we had three additional vehicles  
34 come in wanting to take four-wheelers onto our land.  
35 We have put posting up there for no trespass, but they  
36 keep taking it down, so we still have a real big issue.

37

38 But this increased competition for our  
39 areas is occurring throughout our state and it is  
40 something that we have to get ahead of and try to find  
41 creative ways to try to restrict some of the  
42 interactions that are occurring that are preventing our  
43 traditional and cultural harvesting activities. There  
44 are a lot of things that we can try to discuss with  
45 restrictions to consider. We see the tundra damage  
46 occurring with these big souped-up machines that are  
47 coming in with four-wheelers and with bigger  
48 snowmachines. They cause a lot more tundra damage.

49

50 We need to start considering putting in

1 some restrictions to decrease the amount of damage that  
2 are going on in these areas. We've got to find ways to  
3 get some education occurring into where these people  
4 are going in to get their hunting licenses to improve  
5 the communication because we did have three of the  
6 people that were on our Native allotments say that they  
7 knew that it was Native land but it was okay to go out  
8 there and hunt.

9

10 In our last meeting I asked about it  
11 and I was told in this meeting that we can't hunt in  
12 that area, but there were five hunters out there while  
13 we were berry picking. It's not things that we want to  
14 occur in these areas, but there's nobody helping us to  
15 address them.

16

17 There are concerns that have come  
18 through Nuiqsut and Anaktuvuk Pass along these concerns  
19 with all of these types of conflict and now Barrow is  
20 also having increased conflict with activities that are  
21 coming into these areas. I remember a decade ago with  
22 the previous mayor who said we don't want to end up  
23 like Nuiqsut, but yet this meeting is showing that  
24 there are many villages that are ending up like this,  
25 with increased conflict to traditional and cultural use  
26 areas by others coming to change our lands and waters  
27 or others that have already decimated their own ability  
28 to hunt in their lands and waters that want to come to  
29 our area to continue to hunt. These conflicts are  
30 increasing and we need to do something about it. We've  
31 got to be proactive.

32

33 At the Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
34 Working Group meeting there were discussions to bring  
35 in Federal aviation to help discuss ways that we can  
36 put in restrictions around flight activities to try to  
37 have us have hopes that we're going to have migrations  
38 into our villages. These are some of the things we  
39 have to decide that we need to consider at this point.  
40 The amount of activities that are going on are causing  
41 many of our residents hunting conflicts and it's  
42 important that we try to find ways to reduce these  
43 conflicts because we are having hunters that are  
44 standing up with rifles pointed at helicopters and  
45 things like that and planes because they're so  
46 frustrated with the lack of effective responsiveness to  
47 address these concerns.

48

49 Sooner or later we're going to have one  
50 of the bad events because people aren't listening. So

1 I'm trying to be proactive in this and opening the  
2 communication and the considerations to try to find  
3 ways to reduce some of these conflicts. We have some  
4 areas in our state that have put in limited  
5 restrictions. We were able to get that sheep hunt  
6 restriction for that one mile  
7 corridor near Kaktovik. We've worked  
8 decades to try to get some no-fly areas around  
9 Anaktuvuk Pass with multiple villages recognizing the  
10 importance of this. These are the type of things that  
11 we need to get the support to try to address.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.  
16 We're still under Council member reports. Any other  
17 comments, questions.

18

19 MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning. It's Lee  
20 in Kaktovik. I've got a short report. It's not too  
21 long. Anyway, springtime here in Kaktovik was not so  
22 good and it's been windy and foggy and we were like one  
23 week off of boating this summer. And then ice  
24 conditions were around for a bit, but we realized the  
25 ice conditions are kind of to the west around Camden  
26 Bay area. We had a really bad summer so far. It's  
27 been really windy and stuff like that and foggy and not  
28 so good for part of the summer.

29

30 Fishing was really good for rod and  
31 reel. People right now are still getting fish in their  
32 fishnets like arctic char and cisco and some tomcod.  
33 We got the sculpins and other than that a few people  
34 are catching a few fish to start up for part of the  
35 fall.

36

37 We did check around for some caribou,  
38 but we do have some caribou now in the area, but it's  
39 about a mile or two up in the west and the east side.  
40 I believe it's the Western Herd and Porcupine Herd has  
41 moved farther and farther south of Kaktovik, so it's  
42 been really difficult to get the caribou. Other than  
43 that there was a few people in my area that got caribou  
44 a few days ago, which was a good day on Sunday. At  
45 least five or six boats got at least one or two each,  
46 but that was along the coast and that was only good day  
47 for caribou. Other than that they're scattered quite a  
48 few miles out there. You can see one or two here and  
49 there, but other than that they had one good day and  
50 the mosquitos just drove not a whole lot to the coast,



1 but just enough for people in order to get in their  
2 boats and get a few caribou in the area on the coast.

3  
4                   There's polar bears in our area now in  
5 the Barrier Islands. There's at least five or six  
6 polar bears that are in our area that showed up less  
7 than a week ago now and it's starting to increase. Ice  
8 conditions here, we don't have any ice right now other  
9 than west of Kaktovik and the wind has been pushing all  
10 the ice out easterly for over one week steady. We had  
11 a good 30 miles an hour for over a week, which was not  
12 so good for us. Everybody waited and waited and  
13 finally had one good day to at least get out and try to  
14 get some caribou, but they were successful to get a few  
15 anyway.

16  
17                   No moose in the area. We know the  
18 moose is closed for a hunt for moose. I just seen in  
19 the subsistence book that they're taking this five mile  
20 and I do thank the Board and everything to put in this  
21 proposal for our moose limit to go up. Hopefully we  
22 can meet our quota this winter. Other than that we did  
23 a moose count and did not see any moose this spring.  
24 We saw one muskox south of Kaktovik, about 35 miles up  
25 and that was only one muskox that we seen.

26  
27                   Sheep is also closed due to low counts  
28 in our area, but other than that we can't tell if  
29 people are hunting sheep during the fall time, which is  
30 up in the mountains that we can't get to, but people  
31 that are hunters or sport hunters. But other than  
32 that, if we go by the law, that's what should bring  
33 these populations back up. It's hard to see or notice  
34 if they're even hunting in these areas, but that is  
35 considered in 26B and 26C.

36  
37                   Wolf population was -- there was a few  
38 wolves this winter, a few wolverines, but again we had  
39 a harsh spring and foggy and cold.

40  
41                   Geese, brants and snow geese for the  
42 spring was not too bad. Again we had some severe  
43 easterly winds this spring. The geese, the brants were  
44 late this year. Other than that, people got a few  
45 geese, just enough to get through the summer.

46  
47                   We do have a few whales in our area,  
48 bowhead whales and belugas. Belugas are trying to come  
49 into our area every other day, but no successful beluga  
50 has been landed yet, but they're out there. We just

1 need to get out there. We've been trying to get one,  
2 but other than that there are a few belugas in our area  
3 that are showing up.

4  
5                   Seals, we've got a lot of seals.  
6 Bearded seals, every once in a while we see bearded  
7 seals. Again, a polar bear was shot last week in  
8 Hulahula from a hiker that was being threatened, which  
9 had several encounters with a polar bear. The polar  
10 bear had to be put down because he was putting his tent  
11 away and realized there was a bear looking in his tent,  
12 so the hiker had to put this bear down in order to  
13 continue trying to get over to Kaktovik, but other than  
14 that he was very threatened by this bear. He camped on  
15 the island and it was like 2:30 in the morning we got a  
16 call that there's a bear trying to get this guy, but  
17 other than that it was really windy and we couldn't get  
18 out to get him. There was a Fish and Wildlife plane  
19 headed over there, but by the time he got there he had  
20 put the bear down just before the plane got there. The  
21 bear was killed and I'm sure there's a continued  
22 investigation on what really happened and why was this  
23 bear put down, but other than that he was very  
24 threatened. The bear came at him several different  
25 times, but it was put down.

26  
27                   Other than that, you know, I would  
28 consider if hikers or hunters are up that river that  
29 raft down or come down the Hulahula or any of our  
30 rivers, other than that I believe they should look into  
31 permits. If it's possible to be aware of these hikers  
32 that come down the rivers. It should show at least  
33 they're coming into polar bear country in August, which  
34 is the high priority for hikers and rafters that come  
35 down the rivers, which is meeting and getting picked up  
36 at the coast, they're getting themselves in danger with  
37 the polar bears, which is bears in the area that are  
38 hungry and just waiting for whaling season. Other than  
39 that there should be a way to consider these people  
40 that are getting on these lands that should just be  
41 aware that you're getting into a hot area of polar  
42 bears in the area after getting out of the river and  
43 coming down the coast. People that are camping or has  
44 camped is going to be encountered with polar bears.

45  
46                   Other than that we've got the grizzly  
47 bears too that are wandering around in these areas,  
48 which is a high traffic of danger, but that's how we  
49 see it. We're just trying to get these people informed  
50 that they're getting into the dangerous areas of the

1 coast during August. Other than that, you know, the  
2 bears and stuff are hungry and would like to get  
3 anything rather than being no ice and stuff like that  
4 for them to catch some seals.

5  
6 Other than that there's traffic planes.  
7 Some planes came in a couple days ago, private planes  
8 that landed here. It might have been the three planes  
9 that we had a couple years ago that landed on the  
10 Barrier Islands, which they were trespassing and that  
11 was taken care of. But we are getting a few planes in  
12 the area.

13  
14 We've got some barges that are going by  
15 at different times. There was one barge that went west  
16 from -- came from east, but we don't know who that  
17 barge is. It looked like a landing craft anyway.  
18 Other than that we've seen a few sailboats in the area  
19 off the coast of Barter Island. We still kind of watch  
20 out for them, you know. They're in bowhead country and  
21 August 25th is a blackout date, you know. Other than  
22 that, you know, we just have to watch out for these  
23 whalers that are going to be whaling in Kaktovik, which  
24 the open day for hunting the bowhead will be August  
25 30th and that's when the bowhead hunt is during that  
26 time.

27  
28 Last week or so we put out some  
29 drifters out by Camden Bay by the North Slope Borough.  
30 There was 27 current drifters that were deployed to  
31 watch what the currents do. If there was an oil spill  
32 of any kind, we could at least identify what the  
33 currents and conditions are, if the oil and stuff like  
34 that would be going in different directions. So if we  
35 do ever have an oils spill, we could kind of know which  
36 way the oil is going, which is pretty good. We set out  
37 16 miles out of the ocean and they're deployed and you  
38 can see them on the computer now which way they're  
39 heading out to.

40  
41 Other than that that's all I have for  
42 Kaktovik. It's a foggy season, a dark season, bears  
43 are showing up every other day, like one or two would  
44 be showing up, but it's an effective bear season now.  
45 People just need to be aware of bears that's in the  
46 village and the surrounding areas. That's all I have  
47 for Kaktovik at this time.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Lee, for  
50 your report for Kaktovik. That's very helpful in

1 sharing the information and finally caribou arriving  
2 near the community and some being harvested, although  
3 you've lost your opportunity for taking moose. I think  
4 you mentioned sheep as well in terms of the closures  
5 for sheep harvesting. So we'll see how we can help in  
6 regard to providing additional resources and what's  
7 available I guess is what we need to learn in terms of  
8 other resources when some are being closed down for the  
9 taking. I know the muskox haven't numerated in a long  
10 time and I haven't heard of any other report on muskox  
11 near Kaktovik or Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and  
12 that's been some time.

13

14 Teddy, did you have a comment?

15

16 MR. FRANKSON: Yeah.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you again, Lee.

19

20 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you.

21

22 MR. FRANKSON: Hi. My name is Teddy  
23 Frankson. I'm from Point Hope. We had a good whaling  
24 season this year, enough to get enough to eat and send  
25 some people some food, but I didn't bring any this  
26 time. It was a long way around and I didn't want to  
27 spoil the meat.

28

29 Everybody's getting fish right now.  
30 Just a couple days ago I was on the beach. We got 15  
31 trout and a couple kings. We let one go. The other  
32 one was on the other side of the net and it took off on  
33 its own. Fishing is good all over town. Everybody is  
34 getting fish.

35

36 The only problem we have is with  
37 caribou as usual. Every year since I was a kid and  
38 able to hunt we always get -- big game hunters always  
39 chasing them caribou back towards Kotzebue and this has  
40 not changed to this day.

41

42 This winter one of the boys had to go  
43 to Kivalina to get a caribou and he only got two of  
44 them or three of them and he gave one away and kept  
45 some for his family. This summer there was some  
46 sighted past Chariot site and we were trying to teach  
47 our young hunters not to go too soon, but they're  
48 hungry and not too many caribous were able to be taken  
49 at that time. Being hungry and young, he took off. As  
50 one of the lessons taught by our elders is not to go

1 get the first group. You let the first group come by  
2 and the rest will follow. But the trouble we have with  
3 the big game hunters every year chasing our caribou  
4 away, I don't know, maybe they like to eat antlers. I  
5 don't know.

6  
7 Another problem I have that I don't  
8 like to see is rut hunting. Nobody I know that is  
9 Inupiat will eat rutted meat. It's spoiled. You can't  
10 eat it. I don't know how you can eat it. That's just  
11 a waste of meat. The big game hunters that are going  
12 after the rut with the big antlers, they're picking out  
13 the best caribou, the best breeders, they're picking  
14 out the best genes and what's left is not as good  
15 caribou that should be passed down through the  
16 generations. That's probably why we're starting to  
17 lose some animals because they are easy to get sick.  
18 Bad weather will make them cold and their meat is not  
19 as good. They have a problem with marrow. They have  
20 stunted antlers, stunted feet somewhere sometimes.

21  
22 What we need to do is stop that rut  
23 hunt so that our caribou will have a chance to grow and  
24 be a more healthy herd than what they're doing right  
25 now. So I'd like to see us stop the rut hunt because I  
26 know I don't -- I know of no Inupiat that I know to go  
27 after rut. You can't eat it. I've been taught that  
28 way. I sure would like that lesson taught to the big  
29 game hunters so they learn. You can get so much, but  
30 you're getting too much right now. That's why we're  
31 losing too many caribou. As far as Point Hope is  
32 concerned, we have this problem every year since the  
33 first hunters come around. It's a yearly occurrence.

34  
35 I tried to get some cameras, but I  
36 don't have any money for that to provide proof that  
37 they are doing what we're saying, but nothing is being  
38 done with the State or anybody or the government. Even  
39 the State Fish and Game is not doing anything to stop  
40 this in our area, which is a big problem every year.  
41 Other than that we still get some. We got enough this  
42 year to get by, but not enough, you know. Two or three  
43 caribou for the year is just not going to last that  
44 long. We have to supplement with sheep and now they're  
45 closing down the sheep over there. We're going to have  
46 to become robbers and bad men. I'm going to have to be  
47 an outlaw to go eat. I hate to do that, but, you know,  
48 you've got to eat. I can't go to the store because I  
49 don't make enough money and I don't really like that  
50 kind of food because I wasn't raised up on that.

1  
2 Other than that we had a pretty good  
3 season fairly. We got enough to get by for the rest of  
4 the season, but I'd sure like some help on that caribou  
5 thing. I've made some threats over the years. Not  
6 officially, but I'm ready to go shoot some planes down.  
7 I'm hungry. My people are hungry. It's not lawful and  
8 I don't want to do that ever, not even think about it  
9 ever, but you have to consider other people than  
10 yourself. I hope we can get some things done and we'll  
11 have a better year so we don't have to depend on money.  
12 We're used to depending on our resources here in  
13 Alaska.

14  
15 With that said, I hope we have a better  
16 year and we can get something done to help some people  
17 in our state that depend on these resources. Everybody  
18 that's Inupiat or Indian knows that. Across the state,  
19 across the whole state, you will go to any Native  
20 village, you ask them how you hunt and they'll tell you  
21 you only get what you need to eat, that's it. You  
22 don't spoil the meat if you get too much. If you don't  
23 have room to get more than you usually get, then you'll  
24 spoil that meat and it's just a waste. Nobody I know  
25 hunts rutting animals during rutting season. That's  
26 really kind of hard to deal with when we need a better  
27 herd population that can get better genes to survive  
28 the winter, be more resistant to diseases that are  
29 coming up today. So hopefully we can get some things  
30 done.

31  
32 Before I say too much I think I'll hang  
33 up for the day. That's my testimony for the day.

34  
35 Thank you.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Teddy for  
38 sharing that. Again it's important to provide these  
39 kinds of information so we can help try and steer each  
40 of our communities and our constituents in the right  
41 direction. Just as you stated, we don't want them to  
42 become troublemakers or something that they're trying  
43 to survive.

44  
45 Anyway, my elders are asking for a 10-  
46 minute recess. I'd like to honor that request. We'll  
47 take a 10-minute recess at this time. Thank you.

48  
49 (Off record)  
50

1 (On record)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning,  
4 everyone. If we could take our seats, we'll get  
5 started. We've had some community members come in  
6 while we've been sitting here and providing our reports  
7 as Council members, but I'd like to give them an  
8 opportunity and have them introduce themselves. Sam.

9

10 MR. KUNAKNANA: Good morning. My name  
11 is Sam Kunaknana. I'm with the Native Village of  
12 Nuiqsut. I've been a lifelong hunter around this area  
13 and I've seen the changes over years since development  
14 started and the changes are real drastic over here.  
15 Hopefully with people talking over here and talking and  
16 trying to meet in the middle with the oil companies I  
17 think we'll go somewhere over here.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Sam. Joe.  
20 Introductions. I just want to make sure you all get on  
21 record for us, please.

22

23 MR. AKPIK: Good morning. Quyana, Mr.  
24 Brower, Mr. Chairman for subsistence panel here. (In  
25 Inupiaq) and all you members here. Rosemary, it's good  
26 to see you. Welcome to Nuiqsut, Eva Patton and the  
27 staff here from Wainwright. Anyway, it's a very unique  
28 area here that we have here, Colville River delta.  
29 It's one of the most unique watershed that you could  
30 ever find in the state wide and it is one of the most  
31 pristine watershed and flood plains. Some of us don't  
32 know that the alpine is sitting in flood plains, but  
33 all in all it would affect all our wildlife here. I  
34 wanted to emphasize a bit more on the protection of our  
35 Colville River delta. Whatever it is, I hope that  
36 everybody will come to an agreement with our people  
37 here and the Federal government and the State of  
38 Alaska.

39

40 Quyanaq. Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Joe. Eli.

43

44 MR. KAIGELAK: My name is Clayton  
45 Kaigelak. I've been living around Nuiqsut all my life  
46 and I've seen development. I haven't been here that  
47 long, but I've seen how development is around my area  
48 and how it is. The third largest river in North  
49 America, not just the United States, but North America,  
50 the Colville River. A lot happens to it every year.

1 It becomes different every year and I'd like to see  
2 that protected because that's one of the best places I  
3 see on the North Slope whenever I go upriver. There's  
4 always tuttu around here too all the time, all year  
5 round.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Clayton.

8

9 MR. KAIGELAK: Yeah.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're still going  
12 through the introductions. Did I miss anybody here?

13

14 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Patrick.

15

16 MR. EASTERDAY: Good morning.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.

19

20 MR. EASTERDAY: My name is Patrick  
21 Easterday. I'm a Nuiqsut resident for the last 17  
22 years. I've done a lot of hunting here. I'm also a  
23 subsistence rep for some of the big companies. I've  
24 seen a lot of change on the Dalton Highway. I see a  
25 lot of headhunters. I see a lot of carcasses left  
26 behind on the road and I didn't think that was a fair  
27 deal on a lot of our part. I don't know who's doing  
28 it, but I've seen a lot of stuff going on that Dalton  
29 Highway stuff that just kind of upsets me.

30

31 Otherwise that's it. Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for your  
34 introduction, Patrick. Anyone. If not, thank you all  
35 for -- come on down and introduce yourself.

36

37 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Jeff.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Jeff (in Inupiaq).

40

41 MR. LONG: (Shakes head negatively)

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank  
44 you. Jeff Long. Eli, I see you submitted your name to  
45 provide some information to the Council. I'll give you  
46 the opportunity at this time. Thank you, Eli. Good  
47 morning.

48

49 MR. E. NUKAPIGAK: Good morning. My  
50 name is Eli Nukapigak from the Native Village of



1 Nuiqsut. In 1980, the Colville River was established  
2 as a wild and scenic river under the ANILCA Act. It's  
3 been a natural source for the village. It's very  
4 unique, but changes are coming down.

5  
6 Last year we have a mold issue with our  
7 whitefish, which was unusual, but I believe that is  
8 continuing to the other species. We see now catching,  
9 creating that same system, mold. What caused the mold?  
10 Last year they say we have a high volume of warm water  
11 in our river, but this year we have cool summer and  
12 cool winter.

13  
14 The changes we are seeing is that every  
15 turn you go in our river you see a drum coming down  
16 from somewhere. It's now a dump site that is flowing  
17 down from Umiat and now the exploration in 48 villages  
18 that have been done and just buried are now eroding to  
19 our river that is devastating our fish and our  
20 livelihood. How do we solve this kind of problem on a  
21 Federal level?

22  
23 This is just a start of a wake-up for  
24 our people. We like to eat. Like Gordon said, we like  
25 to eat two bucks, but last year there were none. All  
26 the whitefish that they caught in the net were all bad.  
27 Are the changes going on will be going on for a long  
28 term duration or is this the start of a new fish crises  
29 that will be happening.

30  
31 We like to protect all the fish-bearing  
32 lakes from this happening. That's the only natural  
33 resource for our people. If there were no more, where  
34 can we go? All the fish-bearing lakes need to be  
35 protected from extracting. The start is the  
36 destruction of our caribou movement. We started seeing  
37 that this coming summer after the bypassing set up.  
38 The caribou movement from the west are now being  
39 diverted, but we have now changed with adaptation of  
40 going further or away from the oil and gas zone.

41  
42 The first time this summer we have  
43 three oil and gas activities that were in here working  
44 together and flying around with a chopper. That did  
45 help some in the heart of the markation of the main  
46 caribou herd that come through here. It helped us a  
47 lot to harvest some of the caribou because of  
48 coordination that's been going on. It is now better.  
49 Communication with industry is getting a little bit  
50 better every year, but it won't go away. It will still

1 be with us as long as oil and gas activity is on the  
2 increase.

3  
4 We know the impact from the villages is  
5 very hard for us in some years. We know that now with  
6 the fish that we depend on for our natural resource.  
7 If that thing is happening, what are we going to do  
8 next? Our lakes and our rivers are our last resource  
9 for our fish, to have fish for the winter.

10  
11 Whatever happened to the  
12 (indiscernible) that they had part of before in the  
13 earlier years when they find PCB and DDT in burbot  
14 liver? Where did they get those PCB and DDT in the  
15 liver? It's eating other contaminated fish that have  
16 been dying out from our river. Contamination will be  
17 continuing until they clean up everything up in the  
18 past exploration site of Umiat, Chandler and all other  
19 places. Unless they clean up all those sites we're  
20 still going to have the same problem every year. It  
21 might get worse, but we don't know until the crises  
22 that we started facing stay with us for a long duration  
23 of time.

24  
25 We're subsistence hunters in Nuiqsut.  
26 That is part of being Inupiat and we will continue to  
27 be subsistence hunters no matter what kind of situation  
28 that we have to go through. We need more protection on  
29 our way of life. Mitigation does not help much, but it  
30 does help a little bit in a short period of time when  
31 the hardship during the summer to gather. It's very  
32 small, just a little peanut that they give us only be  
33 useful for a short period of time and that's it. But  
34 it's helped a lot for the hunters that don't have no  
35 job. It's helped us to go further away further way  
36 from the village to harvest if we have to go further  
37 away from the village.

38  
39 There were numerous geese that were  
40 caught this summer, spring. There was one unusual  
41 geese that was caught that was albino. It was all  
42 white and black. These kind of geese we started  
43 catching too. Last year I caught blue geese that is  
44 unusual. These kind of waterfowl started showing up  
45 here also.

46  
47 Land otters started showing up way  
48 upriver. They're coming down. Once in a while a  
49 porcupine coming from the mountain here in our area.  
50 The markations are changing very fast and also our

1 weather changing. We used to predict the weather this  
2 time of year. Now we can't predict because of climate  
3 change. With climate change and oil and gas activity  
4 coincide in the Colville delta in our area how do we  
5 better understand the system of our way of life? Will  
6 it do more hardship? Our hardship will not go away  
7 unless we work something out that we can change. The  
8 only way we could change is to change the law that will  
9 protect our way of life for the betterment of our  
10 people. The only way we could work with oil and gas is  
11 that they start to listen to our traditional knowledge  
12 of our elders.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eli.....

17

18 MR. SHEARS: Thank you, Eli.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....for your  
21 comments and sharing your knowledge of the resources  
22 here with the Council. Eva, was there any other  
23 request for comments in regard to other participants  
24 that you may have received this morning.

25

26 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. We didn't get  
27 any other testimony cards. To let folks know that are  
28 here, we often have a public and tribal comment  
29 opportunity in the morning. If there's anything you'd  
30 like to address the Council about, now is a good  
31 opportunity, or questions of the Council or request to  
32 cover topics throughout the meeting. We may also have  
33 some folks joining us online, if we could check in and  
34 see. Some of the tribes are going to be calling in by  
35 teleconference as well.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Maybe before  
38 we do that I'd like to just recognize we have our elder  
39 here Archie Ahkiviana. He's a long resident,  
40 longstanding resident of Nuiqsut and he's looking  
41 backwards behind himself. Good morning, Archie, and  
42 thank you for being here with us.

43

44 MR. AHKIVIANA: Yeah. Good morning.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, good morning.

47

48 MR. AHKIVIANA: I probably know  
49 everybody here.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. At this  
2 time I'd like to check and find out from the folks  
3 participating on the teleconference if anybody would  
4 like to provide comments or concerns this morning.

5  
6 (No comments)

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did they all get cut  
9 off or something? Nobody is speaking on the  
10 teleconference. If not, I'll recognize Joe at this  
11 time.

12  
13 MR. AKPIK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
14 Joseph Akpik, for the record. I've been here in the  
15 Nuiqsut area for a long time too and I've seen what's  
16 happening and the changes on the erosion of our  
17 Colville River delta and elsewhere. The erosion has a  
18 lot to do with it, but the question that I'm here is  
19 how well are we doing on our Federal Colville River  
20 Corridor raptor along the Colville River delta. Is  
21 there any way we can expand some of these boundaries,  
22 our subsistence boundaries along this river? These are  
23 some of the questions I'd like to see if we could  
24 approach. Our boundaries, recognizing our boundaries  
25 because they're very important when it comes to the  
26 Federal level because we are being bound by the State  
27 government and there's a lot of -- overrun by the State  
28 now at the moment because of environmental and all  
29 these permits being gone on.

30  
31 So the corridor, I do believe that we  
32 can expand all along and it would cover some of the  
33 areas here. Nigliq Channel is one of the main channels  
34 where we caught (in Inupiaq) coastal line and see if we  
35 can expand to the coastal line of the migration of the  
36 caribou. These are some of the things that we should  
37 consider is the boundaries of our resource, natural  
38 resources. So the boundaries are very important and  
39 I'd like to emphasize that very much. If we can  
40 recognize that somewhere along the line, we can  
41 probably stop some of these things the oil companies  
42 are overriding us in our surface estates and surface  
43 rights and our hunting rights and whichever.

44  
45 So I wanted to thank you very much.  
46 Quyanag.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for your  
49 comments, Joe. I'm not sure. Dr. Yokel, are you able  
50 to form a response in regards to his question of the

1 areas along the Colville? What was that thing called?  
2 Raptor.

3

4 DR. YOKEL: Dave Yokel with the Bureau  
5 of Land Management. I was a little confused. I heard  
6 about a raptor corridor and a subsistence boundary and  
7 the Nigliq Channel and I couldn't put the three  
8 together in my mind. The Colville River is used  
9 heavily for nesting by raptors up to or downriver as  
10 far as Ocean Point. We don't have a raptor corridor  
11 per se. There is, as a result of our land use  
12 planning, an area along the Colville River, I think  
13 it's two miles from the bluffs, where permanent  
14 facilities cannot be built to protect raptor nesting  
15 habitat with the exception of linear transportation  
16 corridors across. For instance if a pipeline or a road  
17 had to cross that two-mile-wide buffer somewhere, it  
18 could do so. That two-mile-wide buffer was to protect  
19 raptor habitat. It wasn't related to subsistence use,  
20 but it does have some perhaps indirect benefit to  
21 subsistence users along the lower Colville River.

22

23 The Nigliq Channel itself is not within  
24 Federal lands at all. It's within Kuukpik lands, so  
25 the BLM cannot address that.

26

27 MR. SHEARS: A question for Dave, Mr.  
28 Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Robert.

31

32 MR. SHEARS: A two-mile-buffer is in  
33 regards to one mile on both sides of the river or is it  
34 two miles on each side of the river?

35

36 DR. YOKEL: No to both.

37

38 MR. SHEARS: Oh, okay.

39

40 DR. YOKEL: My memory fails me as I get  
41 older and go through so many planning efforts. The BLM  
42 has no lands on the east side of the Colville River.  
43 Those are either ASRC or State lands. BLM is on the  
44 west side of the river and only above the highest high  
45 water mark at the west side of the river. So certainly  
46 that includes the bluffs, but I think originally we had  
47 a one-mile buffer on the left bank to protect raptor  
48 habitat and I believe, if I remember correctly, in a  
49 later planning effort we increased that to a two-mile-  
50 wide buffer.

1  
2 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dr. Yokel,  
3 for your response. Let me just ask again. I keep  
4 forgetting about our teleconference participants. If  
5 there's any participants on the teleconference that  
6 would like to comment or speak, just speak up please  
7 and state your name.  
8  
9 (No comments)  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.  
12  
13 MR. NAGEAK: If you're going to speak,  
14 blink your eyes.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, James. Go  
17 ahead, Sam.  
18  
19 MR. KUNAKNANA: For the record, my name  
20 is Sam. I have concerns over here after listening to  
21 some of these guys over here speak on the jurisdictions  
22 over here. The Federal and State needs to understand  
23 that there's jurisdictions over here and when it comes  
24 to development, you know, there's -- the State of  
25 Alaska is pretty much a conflict over here when it  
26 comes to oil and gas. My concerns here is that on the  
27 Federal level I'd like to know what the Federal side  
28 can do to help the tribes over here because of a  
29 development going west over here.  
30  
31 Another concern I have is that on the  
32 environmental impact studies that they do over here  
33 around this area, you know, with all the drums that are  
34 coming down from Chandler, going through Kuukpik  
35 because some hunters that went up by Omiruk (ph) this  
36 year found a lot of drums on the side of the kuuk that  
37 washed out from upriver and some of the hunters said  
38 that they found -- they said that there was about 40  
39 gallons of diesel in some of these drums that washed  
40 down the river.  
41  
42 I'd like to know how that EIS and all  
43 this stuff over here is going to be integrated when it  
44 comes to the contaminants that are already there. You  
45 know, tittaaliq over here in the past during the winter  
46 when there was no caribous around, we'd go fish over  
47 there for tittaaliq and the tittaaliq was one of the  
48 best eating foods that we would be eating over here  
49 during the winter. I'm talking about February, March  
50 and April over here when the caribous are lean. We

1 look towards the tittaalig because of the tifuk, the  
2 liver.

3

4 Our food security over here needs to be  
5 strengthening to the point where people don't point  
6 fingers at each other over here. They need to find out  
7 who put those there. They need to be accountable for  
8 what they did.

9

10 I'm concerned about the Colville River  
11 because I used to fish there a lot, all my life. I  
12 feel a little hesitant to eat the fish that I grew up  
13 with over here. I wonder how is it going to work  
14 because there's already contaminants out there. How  
15 are they going to get like exact numbers on the  
16 environmental impact statements over here? It doesn't  
17 make sense to me at all that they're doing this when  
18 they already know that there's contaminants out there  
19 that threatens our food security. A lot of people used  
20 to go out fishing at Taharak (ph). Nowadays you don't  
21 see that many people fishing over there.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Sam.

26

27 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

30

31 MR. G. BROWER: I have a question on  
32 the concerns about the fish because I fish too. I fish  
33 quite a bit and the concerns that are raised to me,  
34 they would be alarming to see the debris coming down.  
35 I think we have some folks here that could initiate  
36 or create proposals and I'd like to ask  
37 any of the biologists here, especially in terms of fish  
38 studies, research that sounds like just from listening  
39 that proposals to look at this can be theorized real  
40 simply. If we're going to talk about them and hear the  
41 concerns, it takes an action of folks that put the  
42 proposals together and working with the community on  
43 the issues.

44

45 If it's on the Colville River, is it a  
46 Federal proposal or a State proposal to research and  
47 look at the issues that are surfacing. I do know a  
48 little bit about the Umiat. I was listening on the EIS  
49 for a road to Umiat several years ago and the intent  
50 behind that was to clean Umiat up that had buried

1 military machinery, drums, debris, trash and their  
2 potential to become exposed to the river. I've heard  
3 numbers as high as \$400 million to clean that up. That  
4 size of a mess exists that they would put a price tag  
5 of \$400 million to clean it up in the most economical  
6 way to clean it that they conjured up was to build a  
7 road and truck all that debris out, including the road  
8 was \$400 million to clean it. To clean it up and get  
9 aircraft involved was \$800-\$900 million. Those were  
10 some of the numbers that were being floated around by  
11 the State Corps of Engineers to do a large-scale clean-  
12 up activity in that area. Now we're talking about and  
13 continuing to hear about debris coming down the  
14 Colville River and probably the source being in the  
15 Umiat area. I'm just speculating at this point.

16

17 I would want to ask the questions to  
18 those that I was listening to, overhearing at dinner  
19 about creating a research, putting together concerns  
20 about the fish that Ray Koonuk brought up in Point Hope  
21 about grayling when he was alive. He was part of this  
22 group. And yet we have not seen the proposals for the  
23 study and research and Ray is gone now, yet these  
24 concerns were raised.

25

26 Whose task is it? Is it a Federal  
27 government task? Is it a State government task? The  
28 State Board of Game? The Federal Board of Game? I  
29 like the question about jurisdiction. We should be  
30 clearly understanding where we can make a proposed  
31 regulation changes on fish and wildlife for subsistence  
32 or other things like that as a recommendation to the  
33 Federal Board of Game. We can even make a  
34 recommendation from this Regional Advisory Council to  
35 the State Advisory Council and try to get it to the  
36 State to support issues and concerns. I think it's  
37 broad enough and I think we've done that in the past  
38 when the issues are concerning.

39

40 Maybe there's somebody that needs to  
41 come up from the biologist side to hear a little bit  
42 about these things. I'd hate to be talking about it  
43 again next year and say now the same concern came up.  
44 Who did the study or where is the funding coming from.  
45 Or are we going to spin our wheels and (in Inupiaq) all  
46 the way through. Spinning wheels. We've got to stop  
47 spinning the wheel. We've got to gain traction.

48

49 Thank you.

50



1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.  
2  
3 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.  
6  
7 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: This is very  
8 concerning. I spoke with one of my cousins, May Akpik.  
9 The only way that we got the actual contaminated  
10 sampling was because she was engaged in the process as  
11 a tribal person working with the research. The lakes  
12 that they had identified were lakes that our tribal  
13 people were not concerned about. When they finished  
14 with the sampling that they were doing, she asked a lot  
15 of questions about why they were doing this sampling.  
16 Her father had worked at Umiat. She asked them to go  
17 and get a sample from a lake where she knew there were  
18 drums that were in the water.  
19  
20 It was a very contentious process.  
21 There was threats for arrest because they were  
22 concerned that they were sending contaminated poisonous  
23 sampling through the mail system, which was how they  
24 were supposed to do it. There were threats to the  
25 biologist saying that they had intentionally poisoned a  
26 sample. The only reason we got the sampling from the  
27 contaminated lake was because we had a tribal person  
28 there who knew where the contaminants were and demanded  
29 to get sampling there. If we had let the State process  
30 go through, we wouldn't have had the knowledge of the  
31 contaminants that led to the fish study for Nuiqsut and  
32 Umiat in the lingcod. These are very concerning  
33 issues.  
34  
35 We have to have our tribal people  
36 engaged in the process of identifying where the  
37 sampling is and unfortunately many of our elders have  
38 passed on. The biggest concern she has now is that all  
39 of the men that worked with her father died with  
40 cancer. Her father died of cancer. These are very  
41 concerns. The children that were there, she was a  
42 child at the time that they were working, they followed  
43 her father out while he was working. How many other  
44 family members also followed and also have concerns to  
45 exposure. Not only the current generation, but the  
46 future generations. The contaminants stay in our  
47 system, in our bodies. It goes into our eggs and into  
48 the future generation of our people. It doesn't just  
49 affect those that are fishing now. It affects all of  
50 our future generations and that's what is so important

1 about this process.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

6 I was trying to look through our agenda while I was  
7 hearing these comments to see when would be the  
8 appropriate time to bring these items out. We have  
9 public and tribal comments on non-agenda items. Is  
10 this something that could be identified as such, the  
11 concerns that are being voiced by your community  
12 members in regards to the debris that you're finding,  
13 the concerns of contaminants in the river that they  
14 subsist off of is the Colville River and the concerns  
15 regarding contaminants being found in the species that  
16 they utilize for food. So these are things I'm trying  
17 to figure out in my own mind, but I'm going to need  
18 some help with continuing the communications as to how  
19 we could address it along with our agency staff members  
20 to help steer us in the right direction. I guess  
21 that's what I'm trying to identify at this time. Like  
22 Gordon said, not to continue the spinning of wheels.  
23 At least get some traction going on how we can better  
24 address this concern.

25

26 Eva.

27

28 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council and  
29 our community and tribal representatives here, there's  
30 a couple opportunities both in this meeting here. What  
31 you have shared with the Council is on our record. The  
32 Council works to help bring these concerns forward. We  
33 have our regional director for the Federal Subsistence  
34 Management Program. Some of you may have not met Gene  
35 Peltola, Jr. He is the director of the Federal  
36 Subsistence Management Program. He is here listening  
37 and hearing these concerns as well.

38

39 We have a process. The Council  
40 addresses the Federal Subsistence Board directly as  
41 well and generates an annual report to the Board,  
42 asking questions, making requests or recommendations to  
43 the Board and also bringing forth these types of  
44 concerns and observations of the community about  
45 subsistence. The Council is actually going to be  
46 addressing their report from last year and the Board  
47 responds to that. These types of concerns are part of  
48 bringing awareness to the Board and what the Federal  
49 Subsistence Management Program can do.

50

1                   We have a couple things today that  
2 we're working on. One is a priority information needs  
3 for subsistence fisheries research. The Council has  
4 helped to generate some ideas, but the information that  
5 we heard from many of you this morning is also very  
6 important. What are the priorities that you're seeing  
7 in your community for research that needs to be  
8 addressed about subsistence concerns. That's actually  
9 coming up next on the agenda here soon. We have our  
10 fisheries biologist. Those are recommendations that go  
11 to the Federal Subsistence Management Program. There's  
12 funding and Karen can speak more to it to address those  
13 research needs.

14  
15                   It's a bit of a long process, but it is  
16 research that is set up to be specific to community-  
17 based collaborative research, both local and  
18 traditional knowledge, monitoring. This is the first  
19 step in identifying what you see that needs to be  
20 addressed. So that's coming up on our agenda and it's  
21 an opportunity to have that conversation with the  
22 Council and those would go forward.

23  
24                   The Council can also write letters to  
25 the various land management agencies. They can write  
26 letters to the Board, formal letters that address  
27 concerns and that's a way to elevate some of your  
28 concerns here and get a response from those land  
29 management agencies.

30  
31                   Council members are also appointed by  
32 the Secretary of the Interior and some of these  
33 concerns do get raised to the Secretary of the Interior  
34 and we have some responses from last year. Awareness  
35 of the NPR-A region and roads and development issues.  
36 Raising that awareness of the importance of  
37 subsistence.

38  
39                   So this is an avenue to raise those  
40 concerns and there's multiple avenues to get that  
41 information and requests to the Federal Subsistence  
42 Program, to the Federal Subsistence Board, to the  
43 Federal land management agencies. So this is part of  
44 the process and we encourage this sharing of  
45 information and your observations are very important.  
46 That's part of what was in the Council's report to the  
47 Board last year.

48  
49                   So we will have a discussion on the  
50 FRMP. We do have many of the land management agency

1 staff and biologists will be providing information and  
2 updates to the Council and to the community on  
3 subsistence resources. That's an opportunity to share  
4 what you see and know, ask questions, raise concerns.  
5 Much of those reports will take place tomorrow in the  
6 agenda. You're encouraged to participate then as well  
7 for that sharing of information.

8

9 MR. G. BROWER: Harry.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.  
12 Gordon, you have a question of Eva.

13

14 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Go ahead.

17

18 MR. G. BROWER: You said all these  
19 folks here are appointed by the Secretary of Interior.  
20 Do we have any vacancies? I'd like to mention because  
21 it's important to have a diverse group practically  
22 representing all the villages and any time we have  
23 potential folks that want to join this group and become  
24 a nominee, maybe you can explain that because we  
25 conduct business while we're having vacancies as well.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
30 That's one of our updates that we'll be having a little  
31 later today as well about the process, about the  
32 Council application process, and I do have information  
33 for how to apply. We do currently have vacancies on  
34 the Council. The North Slope Subsistence Regional  
35 Advisory Council serves eight communities in the North  
36 Slope region and we do have an applicant from Nuiqsut  
37 here. We're encouraging more applications to serve on  
38 the Council.

39

40 Very important to the Council, it's  
41 been expressed frequently, because of the uniqueness of  
42 each community and the different subsistence activities  
43 and animals, to make sure that there is representation  
44 from each community directly to share that information  
45 with the Council. The Council represents the region.  
46 So we don't currently have a membership from Nuiqsut,  
47 but we have an applicant. The process takes a little  
48 bit of time, so the next appointments from the  
49 Secretary will occur in December or January then  
50 another round of applications will start. Next meeting

1 that we have we'll be seeking more applicants. I can  
2 provide you with some information if you're interested  
3 in serving on the Council. Very good listeners and  
4 sharing information.

5  
6 The Council has a lot of power in the  
7 Federal Subsistence Management Program. The Board  
8 provides -- listens to the Councils and defers to the  
9 Council's recommendations. They have to consider  
10 conservation concerns, other impacts to subsistence,  
11 but if the Council is making a recommendation for  
12 subsistence that doesn't impact those other things, the  
13 Board defers to the recommendations of the Council.

14  
15 It's an important role and we encourage  
16 more applicants. We're very pleased to have Sam here  
17 participating with us. We can provide more information  
18 and handouts too if you'd like to bring that with you  
19 to consider.

20  
21 Thank you.

22  
23 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I want to thank you  
24 all that have provided some comments in regards to the  
25 issues that we're facing. I would encourage you that  
26 have discussed issues around fisheries to continue to  
27 participate as we work through the process for the  
28 fishery regulations proposals. We want to make sure  
29 that we've got what you said as well as any clarifying  
30 points as we work with the process to create a  
31 proposal. So please continue to participate and share  
32 information on this issue.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.  
35 James.

36  
37 MR. NAGEAK: Yes, I want to go back to  
38 the containments that are floating down the river in  
39 the Colville. One of the things that are -- because  
40 we're in the middle of the Gates of the

41 Arctic National Park, we don't have any  
42 way of transportation through the river systems, but  
43 the people at Umiat does. Whatever comes down the  
44 Colville River also affects the fish that we catch in  
45 the Chandler River, Chandler Lake and also in the  
46 Anaktuvuk River that comes up from this area.

47  
48 The other problem that we have is the  
49 contamination of the food that the caribou eat, you  
50 know. Back in the early '60s, 1961 or so, a guy named

1 Wayne Hanson did some studies on the radiation level of  
2 the lichen and we've been trying to say to the nation  
3 that we need to do more research on the effect of the  
4 Japan earthquake that released a lot of radiation from  
5 the plants and how that affects the things that our  
6 caribou eat and how we eat the caribou and how are we  
7 affected by that type of contamination from the air,  
8 you know. Not just from the water itself, but from the  
9 air that comes down through the arctic maze or whatever  
10 they call that. It's a concern.

11  
12 So I'd like to put it in the record  
13 that there needs to be some type of proposal from  
14 somebody who is responsible to see what the caribou  
15 eat. So we need to do some proposals for that type of  
16 contamination.

17  
18 Thank you.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, James.  
21 Robert, you were wanting to comment earlier?

22  
23 MR. SHEARS: No, I'm good.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Thank you,  
26 Council members, for your comments. Again, just trying  
27 to look back in terms of where we could cover the  
28 concern and following up on that and elevate concerns  
29 and follow up on that in regards to what is it going to  
30 take to get the traction as Gordon was mentioning  
31 earlier to address these issues. It's something that's  
32 been probably long overdue and there's been some  
33 segments of it addressed, but it continues to have a  
34 persistence in being found in the river or these issues  
35 being found, debris being found, contents of these  
36 drums unknown which are seeping into the river system  
37 and causing more concern. These things need to be  
38 elevated in the sense that the responsible parties are  
39 able to fairly address these concerns that are being  
40 voiced.

41  
42 I was just trying to follow through in  
43 regard to our agenda. I think we've been in the Council  
44 members' reports and I was trying to figure out if this  
45 .805(c) report that covers some of these -- may be  
46 covered under this as well into the Federal subsistence  
47 annual report reply. But these are the previous  
48 concerns that we were voicing a year ago that are just  
49 being addressed by the Board in their responses. So I  
50 guess that maybe we'll look to you, Eva, and maybe have

1 you steer in the right direction here.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Sure. Mr Chair and  
4 Council. We have a couple letters that were recently  
5 signed by the Federal Subsistence Board in reply to the  
6 Council. Those letters are in your blue folder on the  
7 left-hand side and we do have extra copies for the  
8 public here.

9

10 For the public, this is part of the  
11 process, the Council's interaction with the Federal  
12 Subsistence Board. So the Council makes  
13 recommendations on fish and wildlife regulations on  
14 Federal lands and also recommendations on both C&T, if  
15 there's conservation concerns, subsistence priority in  
16 times of conservation concerns. The Board held its  
17 wildlife cycle meeting, so every other year it takes up  
18 fisheries regulations every other year, it takes up  
19 wildlife regulations and it's also open to special  
20 action requests and other issues of concern to  
21 subsistence for the Councils.

22

23 So the Council had made recommendations  
24 to the Federal Subsistence Board at its April 15th  
25 meeting primarily on wildlife regulations.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, if I could  
28 interrupt for a second.

29

30 MS. PATTON: You bet.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Can I give Archie the  
33 -- to provide comments before we get into this?

34

35 MS. PATTON: You bet.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Archie.

38

39 MR. AHKIVIANA: Yeah, my name is Archie  
40 Ahkiviana. I'm an elder here. They call me the elder  
41 here.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MR. AHKIVIANA: The concern about the  
46 drums that had been buried, they mostly concern about  
47 the Colville, but there's some buried drums on Chandler  
48 I have seen and I've seen some float in those areas.  
49 They should check on those too, rivers too. Not only  
50 on Colville. I seen more. It's coming down from those

1 since it's been eroding, you know, because I helped in  
2 periods of -- close to the mouth of the Chandler. What  
3 year was that. I forgot. But I've seen it. It's not  
4 only Colville that's having a debris problem. It's  
5 also those two rivers or some creeks that have to be  
6 checked on the east side of the Chandler -- I mean east  
7 side of Colville because I helped them build some drums  
8 and burn some trash above Chandler too where -- what's  
9 his name, (indiscernible).

10

11 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah.

12

13 MR. AHKIVIANA: Yeah, in that area too.  
14 So at the mouth of Chandler. So I think -- I don't  
15 think they should just blame Colville for all that  
16 debris that's been coming down, so I just want to say  
17 that to let you know.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Quyanag. James.

20

21 MR. NAGEAK: I want to say that right  
22 now there are some  
23 people over there that are collecting  
24 those drums that have been accumulated by researchers  
25 or people that did all kinds of things back in the days  
26 when they didn't have environmental impact statements  
27 to follow.

28

29 MR. AHKIVIANA: Yeah, that's right.

30

31 MR. NAGEAK: So today they found some  
32 funding for the tribal government to be able to go  
33 there, have some people to collect or put together so  
34 they could be transported out of the area.

35

36 MR. AHKIVIANA: Yeah, there's a couple  
37 places.

38

39 MR. NAGEAK: That type of thing is  
40 happening right now and we're happy to have that  
41 happening.

42

43 MR. AHKIVIANA: Yeah. I don't think  
44 they should just blame Colville for all the debris  
45 that's coming in. There's also two other rivers that  
46 flood in the springtime, so they bring in drums too,  
47 you know. So I just wanted to say that.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Quyanag again,  
50 Archie.



1  
2 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: James (in Inupiaq).  
5  
6 MR. NAGEAK: (In Inupiaq). Not only  
7 are the drums in the Chandler area. I heard that one  
8 time when the Nunamiut used to travel by dog team and  
9 they were out there at Chandler Lake area  
10 and all of a sudden the whole dog team  
11 for this guy died. There was some poison that Fish and  
12 Game probably, to control the wolf population, set out  
13 these poisons around the lake so that the wolf would  
14 die off or something, but in this case the whole dog  
15 team died all of a sudden because they were poisoned.  
16  
17 So I'm glad that you brought up that  
18 it's not just the Colville River that has contaminants,  
19 but there are also occasions in which people -- they  
20 don't record them. We always have that oral tradition,  
21 you know. We hear and we talk about them. We don't  
22 necessarily write them down. What we hear and what we  
23 know about some things that happen in our area are  
24 through the oral history, oral language, you know, just  
25 by listening, and I'm glad that you brought it up.  
26  
27 I remember now the -- not just the oil  
28 drums, but something to keep the wolf population down.  
29 They just inadvertently dropped some poison here and  
30 there and the dogs eat those things. It's a problem  
31 that we have. They think that the area is so far away  
32 from population. You know, why did they call the  
33 wilderness area ANWR when there was some people in  
34 there already. They say it's a wilderness, you know.  
35  
36 I looked up the terminology for  
37 wilderness and it surprises me that people with some  
38 closed minds or something that they think that the  
39 Inupiaq don't necessarily live here because they don't  
40 have artifacts thrown all over. You never know where  
41 Inupiaq people have lived before because they're so  
42 environmentally competent that they don't leave  
43 archeological artifacts. There are some, you know.  
44 They collect rocks to build -- to roast some caribou  
45 meat on open flame, you know. That's about all you see  
46 sometime unless there's a permanent residence, like  
47 having sod houses where there's some mounds now.  
48  
49 I'm glad, Archie, that you brought some  
50 things up that is really a concern of ours too. There

1 has been some weird things happening on the North Slope  
2 that people talk about but they're not written down.  
3 The researchers don't understand the Inupiaq language  
4 and some of us do. When they start talking about these  
5 problems in Inupiaq, the researchers don't get the  
6 whole facts together.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MS. PATTON: Council and public, Mr.  
11 Chair. ANILCA governs the Federal Subsistence  
12 Management Program, ANILCA Title VIII, and the response  
13 to the Council from the Board -- so the Board drafts a  
14 letter to let the Council know what actions were taken  
15 at the Board meeting and the Chair participates and  
16 makes the recommendations on behalf of the Council  
17 based on feedback and working with the communities.

18

19 This letter identifies the actions that  
20 the Board adopted and supported by recommendation of  
21 the Council. Again, the Board most often defers to the  
22 Council's recommendations except for in issues where  
23 there's a conservation concern or other subsistence  
24 users would be affected or management of fish and  
25 wildlife would be affected adversely.

26

27 The Board did support most of the  
28 Council's recommendations. There was a request to  
29 increase harvest on moose in some areas where the  
30 biology indicated that it wouldn't be sustainable. So  
31 this letter comes back both to the Council and for the  
32 community to understand the actions that were taken.  
33 Those that are supported then go into regulation for  
34 this year.

35

36 In addition to the .805(c) report from  
37 the Board, the Board responds to the Council's annual  
38 report. So in this meeting the Council is listening to  
39 the concerns of the community, also sharing amongst  
40 themselves subsistence issues, concerns, questions or  
41 awareness that they would like to raise with the Board.  
42 We'll be identifying those topics through this meeting  
43 and drafting a letter to the Board.

44

45 This letter is a reply from the Board.  
46 Many of the issues the Council had addressed the Board  
47 on were dealing with budgets, the impacts of budgets to  
48 the functioning of the program. The Council also had  
49 requested greater Staff support to the Council. The  
50 Office of Subsistence Management Program is Staff to

1 the Council. And they had requested an increase in the  
2 anthropology staff to support the social and cultural  
3 aspects of subsistence. We'll have more updates on  
4 that.

5  
6 The Council had drafted a letter to the  
7 Board to make those requests and the Board has  
8 responded. They are going to support more social and  
9 cultural positions. They are making efforts, even  
10 given the budget cuts, to meet in the rural  
11 communities, such as we are in Nuiqsut today.

12  
13 The Board also receives letters from  
14 the Council asking to bring awareness to issues. So  
15 one of the Council's topics was addressing many of the  
16 things many of you here today have asked for awareness  
17 on in Nuiqsut. The Federal Subsistence Management  
18 Program does not have jurisdiction over development or  
19 contaminants, but we do work with the Federal land  
20 managers. So when there's instances where Federal  
21 subsistence resources are impacted, try to work in a  
22 way that will help facilitate subsistence needs.

23  
24 So this reply from the Board, there's  
25 extra handouts on the table, but this is a mechanism to  
26 bring your concerns to the Council and the Council  
27 brings this to the Board and then they do respond. In  
28 the meeting books as well, you'll find additional  
29 letters from the Board responding to the Council on  
30 letters that they had written to address specific  
31 concerns throughout the year and also response from the  
32 Secretary of the Interior. When there's issues that  
33 are brought to the Board that the Board cannot address  
34 themselves or a multi-agency through the Department of  
35 Interior, they do raise those concerns directly to the  
36 Secretary of the Interior and they will reply in  
37 awareness. Those letters are in the back. So they  
38 hear, they listen and respond, but we need that  
39 feedback.

40  
41 Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's all for  
42 the annual report and reply. If the Council has any  
43 questions of Staff or ISC members.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions or  
46 comments.

47  
48 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

1  
2 MR. G. BROWER: We have a testifier  
3 here.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, I'm sorry.  
6  
7 MR. KAIGELAK: Clayton Kaigelak.  
8 There's one more river that you guys never talk about  
9 and it's a small one that nobody every really sees.  
10 It's Kogosukruk. It's on the west side of the Colville  
11 river. I just got through talking to Archie about this  
12 and I asked him if it was clear a long time ago when he  
13 was working and he said, yes, it was.  
14  
15 I was working over at Umiat maybe five  
16 years ago and on my way back home to get off my two  
17 weeks off I asked them to go through there because I'd  
18 never been through there in the summertime before, only  
19 with Ski-Doo in the wintertime. When I went through  
20 there, it was a real rusty color, the water. When you  
21 go to the bow where it goes into the Colville River,  
22 you go right there at the bod Kogosukruk that goes into  
23 the Colville River about 30 miles from here. It's real  
24 orange where it goes into the Colville River. You'll  
25 see the color difference from clear from the Colville  
26 River and then the color from that Kogosukruk River is  
27 really different. It's orange.  
28  
29 I don't know if any of you guys know  
30 about this, but in 2016 they're planning on a cruise  
31 ship going through the Arctic Ocean with more than  
32 20,000 passengers on board and they're planning to go  
33 through the Arctic Ocean from I think Seattle to New  
34 York. I don't know if that's going to be a good idea.  
35 They don't have much Coast Guard around here if  
36 anything happened to that ship.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Clayton,  
39 for your comments and sharing your concerns.  
40  
41 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.  
44  
45 MR. G. BROWER: On the report from Eva  
46 and looking at the ones that were rejected and adopted,  
47 we had requested changes for moose for Kaktovik and it  
48 looks like the regulation was changes from three moose  
49 to five moose and then practically a year-round  
50 opportunity to harvest those five moose. Is there an

1 impact with -- I kept hearing on KBRW for emergency  
2 closure. Now does it impact that law?

3

4 MS. PATTON: Yes.

5

6 MR. G. BROWER: I think that should be  
7 understood clearly because I heard first Unit 26C and  
8 then I heard only Unit 26. I don't know if I called  
9 you or sent you a message saying, hey, is all the moose  
10 closed all over the whole Unit 26 or is it just the  
11 Unit 26C where the count reflected that there should be  
12 emergency closure?

13

14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Eva, go ahead.

17

18 MS. PATTON: We will actually have an  
19 update on -- that was a temporary special action  
20 request that just occurred. The Board did concur at  
21 the April meeting with the Council's recommendation to  
22 both increase the harvest to year round and increase  
23 the harvest by two additional moose. So a community of  
24 Kaktovik is the only community based on ANILCA .804 to  
25 harvest moose in that region because of the  
26 conservation concern. Subsequent to the Board's action  
27 at the April 15th meeting, there were surveys that were  
28 conducted, aerial surveys to conduct a population  
29 survey. Lee Kayotuk mentioned this morning he was on  
30 those surveys. He participated in those surveys and  
31 they did not see moose.

32

33 We have Tom Evans here and I'll let him  
34 speak actually more to the update on that special  
35 action request. So, you're correct, the Council made  
36 the recommendation to the Board at the April 15th  
37 meeting. Subsequently the population surveys were so  
38 low that the Refuge initiated a temporary special  
39 action request. Both OSM and the Refuge worked closely  
40 with the Native Village of Kaktovik and the community  
41 of Kaktovik. A hearing was held in Kaktovik for the  
42 public to share the information and address these  
43 concerns. The Board subsequently took action to close  
44 the harvest because of those conservation concerns.  
45 Tom can speak more to the details.

46

47 We do have -- Geoff will be here also.  
48 He'll be able to speak to the moose population on the  
49 Chipp River. But you're correct, that closure was just  
50 for 26C and 26B remainder and the community of Kaktovik

1 is the only community that currently is able to  
2 harvest. There were some other conservation actions  
3 taking place elsewhere, but that was just for the  
4 community of Kaktovik. Tom can provide some more  
5 information on the background of the analysis.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did that help,  
8 Gordon?

9

10 MR. G. BROWER: Thank you. Yeah, I  
11 think it should always speak clear. When the  
12 Subsistence Board went with our recommendation to  
13 increase the moose and then do it seems like an  
14 automatic emergency closure, I mean that was like  
15 completely flip-flopped it and our efforts to assist  
16 Kaktovik to get more moose was effectively compromised.  
17 But I think you're going to have biologists doing those  
18 overflights and taking a look at that.

19

20 Our concern, and I always thought --  
21 and we had biologists that supported that this moose  
22 was transient. It came from somewhere else further  
23 south in coming to these areas and they would generate  
24 additional moose and it was generally supported. Maybe  
25 when they take their hats off and say, yeah, they come  
26 from over there and they hang out over here. So it was  
27 just an issue that -- you know, we don't go out there  
28 to deplete the resource to completely decimate the  
29 population.

30

31 With that, I did have some other issues  
32 and stuff that I'll bring up maybe at the correct time.

33

34 MR. EVANS: Do you want me to go over  
35 the 26 moose now since we're talking about it?

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we're going  
38 to take a lunch recess at this time. It's high noon  
39 and I'd like to call for a lunch recess at this time.  
40 We can continue with our agenda item when we come back.

41

42 Thank you, everyone.

43

44 All you participants on the  
45 teleconference, thank you.

46

47 We will reconvene at 1:00 o'clock.

48

49 (Off record)

50

1 (On record)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: At this time I'd like  
4 to call the North Slope Regional Advisory Council back  
5 to order and we'll continue with where we left off.  
6 The presentation on the reply from the Federal  
7 Subsistence Board regarding our annual report. Eva.  
8  
9 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We  
10 pretty much concluded the annual report unless there  
11 are questions that the Council has of the Staff we have  
12 present here or ISC members. Throughout the meeting  
13 both today and tomorrow to think of issues that you  
14 would like to draft for this year's annual report to  
15 bring before the Board. If you have any questions in  
16 regards to the Board's response, again we do have  
17 Staff. The Director of the Federal Subsistence  
18 Management Program, Gene Peltola, Jr., will be back.  
19 Also we have ISC members here, Pat Petrivelli.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: May I ask the Council  
22 members if you have any questions regarding the reply  
23 from the Federal Subsistence Board that we were  
24 discussing just before the lunch break or any other  
25 item that you wish to provide comments on.  
26  
27 (No comments)  
28  
29 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Eva.  
32  
33 MS. PATTON: That report is in your  
34 blue folder, so the two reports back to the Council  
35 from the Board are in your blue folder because those  
36 were just recently signed by the Board Chair Tim  
37 Towarak. Those are the replies that we discussed  
38 briefly yesterday too in preparation.  
39  
40 MR. SHEARS: The one dated August 6th?  
41  
42 MS. PATTON: Correct.  
43  
44 MR. SHEARS: Okay.  
45  
46 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council  
47 through the Chair. For the members of the public we do  
48 have meeting books that have many of the materials the  
49 Council is discussing today and extra handouts as well.  
50 In the back of the meeting book there's some of the

1 letters both from the Board and the Secretary of the  
2 Interior. Then we have some extra handouts of the  
3 recent ones as well in the back.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: At this time I'd like  
8 to ask the folks participating through teleconference  
9 to identify themselves at this time, please.

10

11 MR. ADKISSON: This is Ken Adkisson  
12 with the National Park Service in Nome.

13

14 MR. BROOKS: Good afternoon. This is  
15 Jeff Brooks in Anchorage with the Office of Subsistence  
16 Management.

17

18 MR. CRAWFORD: Good afternoon. This is  
19 Drew Crawford, Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
20 Federal Subsistence Liaison Team in Anchorage.

21

22 MR. JOHNSON: Good afternoon, Chair,  
23 members of the Council. This is Carl Johnson, Office  
24 of Subsistence Management in Anchorage.

25

26 MR. RICE: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair  
27 and the Council members. This is Bud Rice for the  
28 National Park Service in Anchorage.

29

30 MS. RATTENBURY: Good afternoon to the  
31 Chair and the entire board. This is Kumi Rattenbury.  
32 I work for the Park Service in Fairbanks, Alaska.

33

34 MS. PATTON: Can we please have you  
35 repeat your name.

36

37 MS. RATTENBURY: It's Kumi Rattenbury,  
38 K-U-M-I R-A-T-T-E-N-B-U-R-Y. I work with Marcy Okada.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any others.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Bob.

47

48 MR. SHEARS: In regards to the report  
49 or response from the Federal panel I think just being  
50 here today is response in itself. We are here meeting



1 in Nuiqsut per our request in numerous meetings to get  
2 out to the villages. There's our response. We have  
3 staffed anthropologist positions again. There's our  
4 response. And we're going to have an opportunity to  
5 address the Fisheries Resource Management team later in  
6 this meeting. There's our response. I'm very  
7 satisfied with this report.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Bob.  
10 James.

11

12 MR. NAGEAK: I would like to commend  
13 the people that are involved in putting this together  
14 and I really enjoy reading something like this because,  
15 you know, the Federal Subsistence Board really does  
16 listen to the testimony that comes from the villages  
17 and we're thankful for that and hopefully that we have  
18 representation from here that can be a part of this  
19 process. It's really encouraging to get a report like  
20 this that the Federal Subsistence Board is really  
21 listening to our concerns. The response with the  
22 anthropologist position and also the -- even though  
23 they say there's not enough money to put together a  
24 meeting in the villages, but because of our concerns  
25 that we listen to the constituents that we have on the  
26 North Slope that they allow us to be able to meet in  
27 communities.

28

29 Thank you for that.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, James.

32

33 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

36 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I just wanted to --  
37 the same thing as James and Bob. This time there's a  
38 lot of issues on subsistence out there right now.  
39 Caribou being one of the bigger ones. From 400,000  
40 Western Arctic Caribou and saying there's 100,000 of  
41 them missing or we ate 100,000 of them in one year.....

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MR. G. BROWER: .....is alarming.  
46 There's going to be a time if this trend continues  
47 where we're going to need to collect the folks who have  
48 a passion to make things right. I get very concerned  
49 about across the board emergency orders that cut you  
50 off, nonresidents and residents alike, and cut you off

1 from a resource without using a sustained yield  
2 principle as the law unless there is a very drastic  
3 situation. But a drastic situation to me could be one  
4 of two different things. It could be mismanagement of  
5 the resource.

6

7 When I saw the sheep emergency order to  
8 close that and say nonresidents, subsistence users,  
9 everybody's cut off, that tells me there's something  
10 wrong with that system. I think nonresidents should  
11 have been cut off four or five years ago and allowed  
12 only subsistence users to take of these resources. So  
13 we need people, we need strong understanding, because  
14 these jobs or what we do, we try to help. For example,  
15 Kaktovik stuck with three moose. Only three moose for  
16 a long, long time. Is that a way to manage the  
17 resource when people are hungry? And we fight and  
18 fight to create a little bit more opportunity, so we do  
19 these things for the benefit of the residents that live  
20 in these areas and the units.

21

22 So I think there's lots of opportunity.  
23 I like the report. I think they listen. We've been  
24 saying for a long time why don't we have a meeting in  
25 the village. It's always Barrow. Always meeting in  
26 Barrow. We're starting to see a decline in the  
27 interest from the communities to participate in the  
28 subsistence advisory and it's been strengthened. A few  
29 years ago this board was strengthened to give it more  
30 weight and allocation and proposals and working with  
31 the biologists to come up with common sense approach to  
32 resource management.

33

34 That's what I see so I encourage folks  
35 apply. There's vacancies, apply. Coming down the line  
36 I could see more issues on caribou and others and the  
37 biologists are saying some wild things about these  
38 caribou declining in large number. We should be  
39 heading them off at the pass. They want to give us an  
40 emergency order? Well we better do a proposal very  
41 soon so we're the conservators, but we conserve it in  
42 our way.

43

44 I think we can put together great  
45 proposals. We can say nonresident hunters of a unit  
46 are prohibited from hunting caribou as a conservation  
47 measure. You can do these things. You can do various  
48 different things. I just want to stop there. I'm glad  
49 we're in a village today.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.  
4 James.

5

6 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah, one of the things we  
7 are trying to relay to the decision-makers that we as  
8 Inupiaq people are conservation conscious. We don't  
9 allow our village people to take cows when they are at  
10 a certain age, certain time of the year when they are  
11 producing more caribou. So we try to relate to anybody  
12 that would listen to us that the Inupiaq people have  
13 conscience, that all our lives we have been  
14 conservationists. We are ecologically responsible for  
15 the habitat of our resources and it's good. Thank you  
16 for an opportunity to be able to communicate our  
17 concerns to the people that make these decisions for  
18 us.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, James.  
23 Rosemary.

24

25 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes. For me, I  
26 think there is definitely a response for them to listen  
27 to some of our concerns and it is a step in the right  
28 direction, but that we have many concerns that we don't  
29 have the depth of the process to allow us to  
30 effectively address them. We have Staff engaged in the  
31 process and we have multiple layers of participants  
32 that are engaged in the process, but we don't have our  
33 individual consultants that can help us with some of  
34 the technical-eze that would help us in broadening our  
35 ability to more effectively communicate proposals that  
36 get accepted in funding.

37

38 We need to have a broad participation  
39 to have the wording put in to help identify the areas  
40 and the ways that we want to have activities done as  
41 well as research and monitoring to assess what's  
42 happening with our important traditional foods. There  
43 are responses, but in light of the changes that we've  
44 already gone through and the number of position  
45 vacancies that were not filled and that are affecting  
46 our statewide ability for subsistence management. We  
47 have to share multiple positions and that's very  
48 concerning to me when we're having many meetings that  
49 are occurring one after another or at the same time and  
50 you have to pick or choose whether or not participants

1 get to participate at a level where decisions can be  
2 made instead of having representation at a meeting who  
3 can bring information back.

4  
5 We need to have the right people  
6 participating that can respond to our issues and  
7 concerns to allow us to effectively communicate. Not  
8 to put our words in and hope that they're going to get  
9 addressed and that's the biggest concern I have about  
10 this process. We have steps in the right direction,  
11 but we don't have the resources to effectively meet our  
12 needs, especially in light of the multiple species that  
13 we're having to address concerns on with changes to the  
14 way that we hunt.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.  
17 Lee, did you want to provide any comments in regard to  
18 our discussion?

19  
20 (No comments)

21  
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not, Lee, I'll  
23 stop our discussion on this annual report and then  
24 provide an opportunity for our constituency to provide  
25 testimony on some of our discussions and concerns. We  
26 have a request for Dora Leavitt to address the Council.  
27 Dora, do you want to come down.

28  
29 MS. LEAVITT: Oh. I was just (away  
30 from microphone). You guys are new to me. I thought  
31 you were the Staff.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Dora, we're here as a  
34 Council to meet in the community of Nuiqsut as  
35 requested for our Council, so we're here to provide an  
36 opportunity for community members.....

37  
38 MS. LEAVITT: The North Slope Borough  
39 subsistence or what are you?

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: North Slope Regional  
42 Advisory Council. It's with the Federal Subsistence  
43 Program.

44  
45 MS. LEAVITT: Okay. One of my concerns  
46 and I see it a lot with Anaktuvuk is the sports  
47 hunters. They need a boundary until we're done. They  
48 need to be on the other side of the North Slope Borough  
49 sign. There's a sign that says on the other side of  
50 Atigun it says welcome to the North Slope Borough. We

1 need to make that a boundary so that Anaktuvuk and the  
2 rest of these people can catch their harvest.  
3 Otherwise we're just -- you know, who is teaching these  
4 bow hunters to let the first herd go and pass. The  
5 migration change every time we get someone and they  
6 turn around. They'll go around and they'll never come  
7 back this way. I've seen that with some of these  
8 tuttus here. You know, with a lot of infrastructure  
9 going up, new patterns are created by the migration.

10

11 I know some of these caribous and stuff  
12 are wind driven, but I am concerned about the bow  
13 hunters and Mile 50 at the Dalton Highway where they  
14 dock a lot of their boats. Bow hunters. We see on the  
15 Haul Road some of these caribous with an arrow stick up  
16 its leg and, you know, nobody is enforcing that. I had  
17 fun one year pretending to be North Slope Borough  
18 enforcer. I went to Mile 50 and I asked them what they  
19 get and where they got them. They were illegal hunters  
20 some of them. I even took some of their (in Inupiaq)  
21 with lots of (in Inupiaq), say I didn't have this.  
22 They violated something, but that was worth it to do  
23 that and that kind of gave them a little message, you  
24 know.

25

26 But we need enforcement on this Haul  
27 Road. I know it's public roads. People have access to  
28 that. We can't stop that, but with the North Slope  
29 Borough we can set a boundary for our hunters until  
30 they get their whatever. They can start hunting when  
31 they start going back in October when the migration  
32 starts going south and pass Anaktuvuk and the other  
33 villages. That's what I was really concerned about, is  
34 the boundaries that I know we can enforce and set for  
35 these bow hunters.

36

37 A lot of these traffic that we deal  
38 with every day with the helicopters, I wish our KSAP  
39 subsistence advisory panel was a little more - I just  
40 feel like that's not a working tool right now for this  
41 community. It needs to be -- I would say there needs  
42 to be more -- they need to take our concerns more  
43 seriously when we say, hey, there's a chopper and it  
44 was chasing caribous out. There's nothing. It should  
45 be a subsistence advisory panel that is strong. When  
46 Thomas was there, it was strong. When he left, I mean  
47 it seems like industry kind of just put rules in place  
48 for them.

49

50 These young board that are getting to

1 the subsistence advisory panel, they need to be taught,  
2 you know, they can hunt, but they need to be taught,  
3 you know. Go do a lot of workshop and work with these  
4 subsistence advisory panels. I encourage you guys to  
5 do that. We have guidelines, a lot of it. Since we  
6 have to have license or whatever, you know, we go  
7 through these guidelines because you don't follow these  
8 guidelines now, you get punished and you get enforced.  
9 We don't even enforce these taniks that come and go get  
10 50-plus racks and we're given just a short window to  
11 hunt.

12

13 We live off subsistence. We live to  
14 feed our families and these guys come up from a  
15 different state and we don't enforce that. There's a  
16 lot of people that are just coming for the trophy and I  
17 think we need to start really enforcing that and  
18 looking at that because it's hurting our people.  
19 Anaktuvuk. I see it all the time on Facebook where's  
20 the caribou. So take that into consideration and also  
21 work with these other subsistence advisory panels in  
22 the villages. They all should have a subsistence  
23 advisory panel to protect and maybe to come to you guys  
24 or the SAP, however they work.

25

26 But thanks for coming. I got nothing  
27 else to say.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dora, for  
30 providing your comments and sharing them with us. It  
31 provides another aspect and perspective on observations  
32 by community members within your village. So thank you  
33 for providing your comments.

34

35 Gordon.

36

37 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. Gordon  
38 Brower for the record. I like the comments that we  
39 hear about the concerns on tuttu. Like I was  
40 mentioning, there's a drastic decline in the Western  
41 Arctic Herd to where biologists are noticing this. In  
42 the same way that you might see a sheep closure that  
43 affects non-resident and resident, that's going to come  
44 around for caribou.

45

46 We were in Anaktuvuk last week or two  
47 weeks ago sitting with James and their trilateral  
48 committee to put up a proposal to cut off nonresident  
49 hunters and as a conservation measure. The Inupiat of  
50 Anaktuvuk working on a draft proposal to submit to the

1 State Board of Game working as a community. There's a  
2 drastic decline and something is going to happen later  
3 on down the line with these biologists.

4  
5 Using sustained yield principle, which  
6 I think is the law, you need to look at these kind of  
7 things. Before you limit subsistence you have to limit  
8 all other uses first and follow those guidelines. So I  
9 think working together these kind of things can happen,  
10 especially when it's time for conservation measures.

11  
12 Thank you.

13  
14 MS. LEAVITT: Can I add one more?  
15 Sorry about that.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Come on up to the  
18 mic, Dora. You're welcome to do that.

19  
20 MS. LEAVITT: The other thing too was --  
21 man, it left me. I should have said it out there. I  
22 was going to say that there's a lot of studies that are  
23 going on. Ongoing studies that are just repeated by  
24 different companies. Caribou studies for one. There's  
25 so much activity. We're trying to hunt and there's  
26 Conoco, Shell, doing the same kind of studies when they  
27 can go to the North Slope Borough wildlife department  
28 and get that data. You guys have been tagging caribous  
29 for a long time. Let's share these data and let's  
30 eliminate some of these studies. They need to work  
31 with the North Slope Borough. We have a wildlife  
32 department that does these studies too. Maybe the  
33 North Slope Borough can enhance their studies so that  
34 we can share these studies with industry. Not only  
35 that but the traditional knowledge that can hold on to  
36 with these studies.

37  
38 When you do studies, there's -- we did  
39 qaaktaq studies and it was -- they selected 10  
40 subsistence fishers, elders and young people, and we  
41 worked with a third party to get those qaaktaq studies  
42 and we compared it with the scientific studies and we  
43 asked these lifetime fishermen if these scientists made  
44 sense and they finally come to terms and the science  
45 and the traditional knowledge, when it comes together,  
46 it can be a strong tool for both industry and our  
47 people because what we always talk about is we need to  
48 share our knowledge with these companies. I know at  
49 first they didn't even want to address that. They  
50 wanted the science, people that never ever lived here

1 to do these studies.

2

3 But I think that the North Slope  
4 Borough can be a big tool if they enhance their -- and  
5 get some studies with added traditional knowledge on  
6 there and share these data so that we won't have to see  
7 so much traffic. That needs to happen because we're  
8 getting bombarded from air traffic especially now that  
9 industry is moving to the west of us and probably  
10 pretty soon 25 miles to the southeast of us and a lot  
11 of these roads that are going to come up are probably  
12 public funds that are going to have access. The sports  
13 hunters.

14

15 For one, you know, Umiat is one of  
16 those and there's -- ICAS is not here to help protect  
17 us with our native allotments. I wish they were. The  
18 regional land -- the people that we entrusted to help  
19 us protect when there's trespassers nothing gets done.  
20 They're on their side. In the meantime we're dealing  
21 with our own, you know, trying not to get people to  
22 trespass on a lot of it. Like my mom's allotment is a  
23 historical site. There's graves and there's -- used to  
24 be itchaliks right there. I think we need to start  
25 giving or selling your data, North Slope Borough, the  
26 wildlife department.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dora.

29

30 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: James and then Bob.

33

34 MR. NAGEAK: Okay. Thank you, Dora.  
35 Thank you for speaking for us too. Anna said hello.  
36 (In Inupiaq) into that big company of relatives, you  
37 know.

38

39 One of the things that she brought out  
40 was the sharing our knowledge and reducing our traffic  
41 and also duplicating information coming to us that the  
42 traditional land use inventory had put together for  
43 years under the Inupiaq history, language and culture  
44 office of the North Slope Borough. We asked that same  
45 question. How come you guys don't go to the already  
46 available information about the things that you want to  
47 know and they said, well, you know, the research that  
48 we are doing says that the paperwork -- we need to go  
49 to the villages and to the residents on the North Slope  
50 to have a heart-to-heart talk with them before we can



1 go forward in our research.

2

3 I think that some of the regulations  
4 that says that you need to have a face-to-face  
5 relationship with a community where the community has  
6 given the same information for 50 years, you know, and  
7 they're all recorded in the archives of the North Slope  
8 Borough history, language and culture office. So I  
9 think that is one of the things that we really need to  
10 encourage, that there needs to be a phrase in that  
11 proposal that whoever funds that that they really don't  
12 need to go because the information is already there.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, James.  
17 State your name.

18

19 MS. ITTA: Martha Itta.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Martha.

22

23 MS. ITTA: Martha Itta, resident of  
24 Nuiqsut. I'd like to thank the board for coming to our  
25 village. I believe it's your guys' first time here  
26 meeting.

27

28 Thank you, guys.

29

30 I'd like to concur with Dora on the  
31 concerns that she's stated. We relate to all those  
32 concerns. Meeting after meeting we've voiced those  
33 concerns without getting very many answers. The one  
34 question I had regarding the decline in the caribou  
35 herds is how far are they counting the caribous and how  
36 are they being done. Are they going all the way to the  
37 Dalton and does that affect -- you know, the sports  
38 hunting, does that affect the herds coming to our  
39 village. That's the one question I had, is how far are  
40 they counting the caribou to determine it's declining  
41 or if the sports hunting is affecting the caribous from  
42 coming here to the villages.

43

44 Other concerns that I have is regarding  
45 the wells, the legacy wells. We were told by BLM that  
46 they are in the process of cleaning them up. I've been  
47 out all summer, this summer, and I've seen a lot of  
48 those legacy wells still there. I have pictures,  
49 videos, all the way up and down the river. A lot of  
50 gas going into the river, flowing into the rivers. So

1 I want to know what's -- because we have never gotten a  
2 full report on how far they are on those legacy wells,  
3 but I could see that they're still there. I know they  
4 received a lot of money to clean them up, but we don't  
5 see anything happening with those.

6

7 I agree with Dora that we do need to  
8 get control of the studies that are happening. It's  
9 happening way too much. A lot of people are losing  
10 their harvest because of the flights that are going on.  
11 My 12-year-old daughter went out over the summer and  
12 here cousin, they were just about to shoot a caribou,  
13 and here comes a helicopter scaring them. They were  
14 herding them toward Prudhoe Bay. They were herding the  
15 caribou so that really hurt them.

16

17 That's the concerns that I have. Thank  
18 you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Martha.

21 Bob.

22

23 MR. SHEARS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
24 Good comments from Dora and Martha. Just in quick  
25 response. Research is often kind of a -- it's a fuzzy  
26 puppy, benign, soft thing that doesn't hurt anybody and  
27 does nothing but helps us. It's not ever used in the  
28 same context with commerce or industry, but that's  
29 simply not the case. We all know that research is  
30 money. It's all about economics. It's big business on  
31 the North Slope. It is industry. There's a lot of  
32 money and there's a lot of people competing for it.  
33 Different universities, doctors, students, agencies of  
34 the government and corporations. Kuukpik, UIC, all  
35 village corporations of the North Slope make a  
36 significant amount of profit every year from research.  
37 Research that's being done right here in our back yard.

38

39 We've been aware of it. I've been  
40 hearing concerns about it for years. I want to make  
41 this announcement to the panel that as of April of this  
42 year I've been appointed by Secretary Jewell as a  
43 member of the Science Technical Advisory Panel for the  
44 North Slope Science Initiative. The NSSI is a  
45 clearinghouse, essential clearinghouse where research  
46 projects are vetted in preparation for funding to  
47 establish the scope of research, the regions who are  
48 aware they're going to be researched. It's also a  
49 central point for collecting the results of this  
50 research. A database storehouse for the wealth of

1 knowledge that is garnered from research. Bringing it  
2 together and keeping it at one central location for  
3 other researchers to explore and to compare their  
4 studies off of in the future.

5  
6                   You're right, some research projects  
7 are very sexy, like polar bears recently and global  
8 warming. There's a lot of money out there for people  
9 to compete for. So we've got USGS, U.S. Fish and  
10 Wildlife, the Nature Conservancy, Oceania, all out  
11 there studying with four different helicopters in the  
12 area flying the same stretch of beach on any given  
13 weekend and studying the same orange painted polar  
14 bear. It's driving these animals -- these animals are  
15 being studied to death and the same goes with the  
16 caribou.

17  
18                   We're just hearing recent comments  
19 about BLM is out there doing a caribou census north of  
20 Atqasuk right when the lead herd was -- the Teshekpuk  
21 Herd was migrating north of Atqasuk towards Peard Bay  
22 in the Wainwright area, successfully diverting that  
23 herd before it ever reached it. Wainwright will not  
24 get a Teshekpuk Caribou harvest this summer like they  
25 typically do because we've got to find out how many  
26 caribou we've got.

27  
28                   That's why we all have to be cognizant  
29 of what Dora and Martha is saying. This research is  
30 getting out of hand and we've got to become more  
31 involved in it. I'm trying to do my best as the rest  
32 of you do too. Get involved in research at the bottom  
33 floor. Participate in it. Provide your local  
34 knowledge to these researchers and by doing that you  
35 can get information back from these researchers what  
36 they're doing. You won't feel like stuff is happening  
37 behind your back. It's all about getting involved.

38  
39                   That's all I've got to say, Mr. Chair.

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for sharing  
42 that, Bob. Martha.

43  
44                   MS. ITTA: Thank you. I had one more  
45 concern about the permitting process. I have an issue  
46 on the permitting process because it seems like every  
47 agency for one project needs to go through a lot of  
48 permitting. I mean there's North Slope Borough,  
49 there's BLM, there's State of Alaska. I know it's all  
50 different agencies because they're there own and I know

1 the planning commission they always have meetings to  
2 pass project and I don't get them until after they're  
3 approved and sent to my office.

4  
5 I'm concerned because it's a board of  
6 seven or nine members on the planning commission, one  
7 from each village. I feel that that's not enough  
8 because I think the public really needs to be involved  
9 at the meetings. You guys have you guys' meetings in  
10 different villages, mostly in Barrow, and we need more  
11 involvement in those meetings in the permitting process  
12 with the North Slope Borough because I know for a fact  
13 that we don't get to -- I know there's a public  
14 commenting process, but by the time we get those, you  
15 know, we have so much time to respond.

16  
17 So that's one of my concerns, is the  
18 planning commission is passing these projects without  
19 very much input from the community and I think that  
20 needs to be addressed in some sort of way to make sure  
21 that the whole community is well aware and what it  
22 means and to understand more of what is going on  
23 because we don't really know. There's a lot of -- you  
24 know, people talk. They say -- you know, we're out  
25 there riding. They're asking what is that, you know.  
26 It's like didn't you guys know that was happening.  
27 They're like, no, what is it. So that's something that  
28 needs to be addressed.

29  
30 Thank you.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Martha.  
33 Any other comments from the Council. We also have our  
34 teleconference participants. I keep forgetting to see  
35 if there's any comments or concerns that they would  
36 like to voice as well.

37  
38 Teddy.

39  
40 MR. FRANKSON: This is Teddy Frankson.  
41 I was just wondering if we could make a proposal to --  
42 I don't know if it's within our place as a Council, but  
43 we could find some people to be enforcers on the Dalton  
44 Highway with the State, that the two of us could work  
45 and find some local natives to work for us with cameras  
46 and phones, cars, you know, to get around because  
47 you're on the highway. Maybe we could get something  
48 going so at least half of the problem might be stopped.  
49 Not all of it will for sure, but we can make a dent in  
50 it anyway if we make a proposal to do something of that

1 nature.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That Dalton Highway  
4 is managed by the State, so it's kind of out of our  
5 purview. We would have to consider working with the  
6 State folks, maybe Geoff, and working with him and see  
7 if there's any way we could generate a proposal to that  
8 effect. That's something we could communicate. Geoff  
9 is here. He's with our Unit 26 representing the State.  
10

11 MR. FRANKSON: I just want to put that  
12 in just in case we might be able to have something to  
13 do to help the people out where we can, if we can.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Teddy.  
16 Are you done?

17

18 MR. FRANKSON: Yes.

19

20 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

23

24 MR. G. BROWER: Some of the concerns  
25 that were raised around the Dalton Highway, there's  
26 different jurisdictional issues surrounding that parcel  
27 over that way. Some of it I think we're at the far end  
28 of it. I think BLM has some jurisdiction over some  
29 parts of it because we fought over jurisdiction a  
30 little bit about those guys that went under the  
31 pipeline, the Air Force guys at one time. BLM wanted  
32 to take care of that.

33

34 There's certain regulations in place  
35 around the Dalton Highway. I think it's five miles on  
36 either side of it or something like that where you  
37 can't use firearms or motorized vehicle, I think, to  
38 access the tundra and things like that. I think the  
39 State has to bear the brunt of responsibility. The  
40 troopers.

41

42 I would, for one, like to be able to --  
43 I work on the Borough side of things in being able to  
44 find out which are the guides. Those are the folks  
45 that require permitting. At the same time, listening  
46 to the concerns on caribou. We have to be very  
47 cognizant and remember there's different herds and they  
48 have different trends. Central Arctic Herd in the  
49 Dalton Highway is different than Teshekpuk Herd,  
50 different than Western Arctic Herd. Where some of the

1 issues are surfacing in Western Arctic Herd and  
2 Teshekpuk Herd may not impact Central Arctic Herd.  
3 That's a Western view of how these animal are  
4 segregated because of where they're from.

5  
6 From the Borough side of things we do  
7 try to make a patrol on the Haul Road. We can't do it  
8 every day. Our inspectors get busy, but they're not  
9 looking for the everyday bow hunter, which the law  
10 allows for that to happen. Unless those resources are  
11 drastically declined, then maybe some new laws would  
12 surface like what maybe Anaktuvuk is kind of working on  
13 because I was there listening and helping to draft  
14 language for Teshekpuk and Western Arctic Herd decline  
15 issued.

16  
17 I just wanted to point that out and I  
18 think somebody has some explanation to do about caribou  
19 decline and how the figures come out. I think that was  
20 one of Martha's questions, is how do you know that the  
21 caribou is declining that drastically. I think she was  
22 kind of looking for somebody to be able to say  
23 something more on that.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We do have biologists  
26 here, Martha. Maybe Geoff or Dave or which of you want  
27 to provide some comments. You can provide her some  
28 background information as to how you conduct your  
29 aerial surveys and caribou counts so she'll get some  
30 idea of how that develops into how -- answering her  
31 question.

32  
33 Come on up, Geoff. Martha, Geoff is  
34 our area biologist with the State of Alaska.

35  
36 MS. ITTA: Thank you.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: He works on North  
39 Slope issues. Geoff.

40  
41 MR. CARROLL: Geoff Carroll with the  
42 Alaska Department of Fish and Game from Barrow. To  
43 start with, I'm going to have a big long -- well,  
44 hopefully not too long, but a very inclusive discussion  
45 on this in my presentations. I don't know if Martha is  
46 going to be around. I think that will happen tomorrow.  
47 But I can kind of give you in a nutshell how we do our  
48 photo censuses.

49  
50 The way caribou get counted, especially

1 on the North Slope, we have a good situation where the  
2 BLM, the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife  
3 Management and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
4 all work together cooperatively. I know you complain  
5 about too much research going on, but we all work  
6 together so that we only need to count them once. I'm  
7 not quite sure where Bob's story came from because BLM  
8 does not go out and count caribou.

9

10 All right. So, anyway, the way we  
11 count caribou is there are four herds on the North  
12 Slope. There's the Western Arctic Herd, Teshekpuk  
13 Herd, the Central Arctic Herd and the Porcupine Herd.  
14 Each one of those herds, the way we define those herds,  
15 is they all have a distinctive calving area and the  
16 Western Arctic Herd is kind of the western side of the  
17 North Slope, kind of between the Brooks Range and the  
18 coast out there. It's fairly near the Point Lay area.  
19 Teshekpuk Herd, they calve around Teshekpuk Lake and  
20 more and more in recent years more to the west. Then  
21 Central Arctic Herd they calve on both sides of the  
22 Deadhorse/Prudhoe Bay Industrial Complex. The  
23 Porcupine Herd used to calve in the 10-02 area in ANWR  
24 but now they've spread more into Canada.

25

26 They also all have what we call a  
27 distinct insect relief area and that's where the whole  
28 herd gets together and during the worst, usually by  
29 around 4th of July, they aggregate into these big  
30 bunches for insect relief. The Teshekpuk Herd is north  
31 of Teshekpuk Lake. I'm sorry, when I talked about the  
32 Western Arctic Herd before, I was kind of describing  
33 the insect relief area for them is between the Brooks  
34 Range and the coast. Their calving area is the upper  
35 Utukok, upper Colville, that area.

36

37 Anyway, when the caribou get in these  
38 tight insect relief areas, we're able to go to those  
39 areas and we have a -- part of our process is to put  
40 radio collars on the caribou from the separate herds.  
41 So we have like 150 radio collars on the Western Arctic  
42 Herd, about 70 on the Teshekpuk Herd, so we know when  
43 those big herds all come together we can listen for our  
44 radio collars and hear that all those collared caribous  
45 are in the groups that we're going to count. So we're  
46 able to take photographs of those bunches and then it  
47 takes a lot of the rest of the year just to count the  
48 caribou in the pictures. So that's how caribou are  
49 counted.

50

1                   We feel that it's very thorough and  
2 very inclusive and that we get a pretty good count that  
3 way. We also have scientific statistical ways of  
4 looking at how many of those collars are in the bunches  
5 that we counted and we can figure out about how many  
6 caribou we might have missed in the photographs, so we  
7 can come up with pretty accurate counts of all these  
8 herds. As Gordon has said, the caribou, both the  
9 Western Arctic Herd and the Teshekpuk Herd, are  
10 declining now at a pretty dramatic rate.

11  
12                   It's kind of even worse than what he  
13 was saying. The Western Arctic Herd has gone from  
14 490,000 to 225,000, so they've had more than a 50  
15 percent decline. The Teshekpuk Herd the same thing,  
16 from about 70,000 to 32,000. So they are on a downward  
17 trend.

18  
19                   MS. ITTA: Is there an explanation of  
20 the decline? Like are they getting sick and dying?

21  
22                   MR. CARROLL: Well, there's several  
23 factors going on, one of which is that caribou are just  
24 cyclic. I mean they can't grow forever.

25  
26                   MS. ITTA: Yeah, yeah.

27  
28                   MR. CARROLL: You know, the herds get  
29 real big and then they drop down. That's just the way  
30 caribou are. So, for instance, the Western Arctic  
31 Herd, it was half a million caribou. I mean it  
32 couldn't climb forever, so it has to come down  
33 sometimes. The immediate major cause for the decline  
34 is these warm winters plus warm summers, but in the  
35 middle of the winter a lot of times it would get above  
36 freezing and even rain sometimes and that covers  
37 everything with a layer of ice. That can either  
38 completely block the caribou off from the access.  
39 Everything they eat they've got to dig craters, you  
40 know. Sometimes they can't get to it at all. If it  
41 just makes it twice as hard for them to dig through the  
42 snow, then they just -- it uses more energy than they  
43 have. They just run out of reserves before the winter  
44 ends. We lost almost 100,000 caribou in two bad  
45 winters in the Western Arctic Herd.

46  
47                   Then once you get those -- once the  
48 numbers drop down, you've still got just as many wolves  
49 and bears out there. So the percentage of predators to  
50 prey is all of a sudden much higher, so then they're



1 pushing the population down further. So it's things  
2 like that that have pushed the population down. It's  
3 not hunting. But now we're to the stage where the  
4 populations are getting so low that the percentage of  
5 caribou, if we keep our harvest rate at the same level,  
6 that's going to start pushing the herd down too.

7

8                   Anyway, we're at the stage where we've  
9 got to come up with some ways to reduce caribou harvest  
10 and that's what we're going to be working on for the  
11 next couple years so we don't have to have an emergency  
12 order closure like Gordon is talking about. We're  
13 trying to figure out ways we could reduce the harvest  
14 and give the herd a chance to start to grow again.

15

16                   MS. ITTA: Thank you.

17

18                   MR. CARROLL: Okay. Did that cover it?  
19 Anything else?

20

21                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Geoff, for  
22 that. I guess you're still in the hot seat, Geoff, so  
23 don't leave too quickly.

24

25                   MR. G. BROWER: I'm still not really  
26 convinced about 200,000 animals dying off. I remember  
27 my dad when he was alive he would talk about his  
28 reindeer and protecting them because a big herd of  
29 caribou coming and that his reindeer wanted to follow  
30 the caribou. So there's some traditional knowledge  
31 that sometimes a big chunk of a herd will follow  
32 another herd. Have you seen a corresponding increase  
33 in another herd somewhere else that would kind of  
34 reflect the loss of the Western Herd? I mean you're  
35 talking about 200,000 caribou missing.

36

37                   MR. CARROLL: Yeah, you know, it's over  
38 a time of -- I guess I don't know it. I'll be showing  
39 you the graphs and we can say exactly when they started  
40 to decline, but it's over a matter of probably 12, 15  
41 years that they've been declining, so it's not like  
42 they were just suddenly missing. It's been a gradual  
43 decline.

44

45                   MR. G. BROWER: I probably ate 1,000 of  
46 them.

47

48                   MR. CARROLL: Certainly we're looking  
49 for what you're talking about, but unfortunately the  
50 Western Arctic Herd is going down, Teshekpuk is going

1 down and then the Central Arctic Herd actually in the  
2 most recent count looks like it's starting down too.  
3 We've got the Porcupine over there and they're doing  
4 pretty well, but I think they're just having good  
5 calving and all that stuff. We've certainly looked at  
6 that and the herds further south, the Mulchatna herd,  
7 it's way down. It's like there's no big bunch of  
8 caribou that's showing up anywhere else.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So these die-offs, I  
11 mean the indications of the caribou declining has been  
12 over several years. It's not just in one season that  
13 200,000 of them just disappeared. It could have been  
14 50,000 three years ago when there was a bad winter, a  
15 freeze-up, a large die-off of caribou along the  
16 Koluktak Lakes and in that area.

17  
18 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So over the three  
21 years similar situations at different locations  
22 occurring, which you add up those three or four years  
23 of these incidents and the numbers reaching up to the  
24 200,000 range.

25  
26 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. I'll be showing  
27 you the graphs tomorrow and you can see. I mean we do  
28 counts every two years now and it's just a gradual  
29 decline. It's not like all of a sudden a big chunk of  
30 them are gone.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Again thank you,  
33 Geoff. Did that help, Gordon?

34  
35 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah.

36  
37 MR. SHEARS: One question, Mr. Chair.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Bob.

40  
41 MR. SHEARS: Tell us a little bit more  
42 about how the counts are taken. Is it with imagery,  
43 aerial imagery, or is it with physical counting or is  
44 it.....

45  
46 MR. CARROLL: Well, actually the  
47 technology isn't brand new. It's using these big,  
48 large format cameras and when they're in these tight  
49 aggregations during insect relief, we use a bright  
50 orange Beaver airplane and we do transects over them.

1 Do it quick and just click, click, click, click,  
2 photograph them all. Then some poor sucker has to sit  
3 there with a loop on a grid and count them. It's one  
4 of those things every time some computer whiz looks at  
5 that they say, oh, God, I'm sure I could figure out a  
6 way to have a computer count those, but nobody has ever  
7 successfully done it.

8

9 MR. SHEARS: Not yet.

10

11 MR. CARROLL: We're still doing it  
12 somewhat manually. So that's where we're at with that.

13

14 MR. SHEARS: I'm just aware that, you  
15 know, this is kind of an old way of doing it. It's the  
16 way they've been doing it for years. It's probably  
17 good to maintain the same method.....

18

19 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

20

21 MR. SHEARS: .....because you get --  
22 you can relate this year's count with last year's  
23 counts and the count 10 years ago. The difficulty that  
24 I'm aware of with getting imagery in recent years on  
25 the north slope is becoming more and more of a problem  
26 as you can see. Yesterday was one of the nicest days  
27 in Nuiqsut in weeks to achieve aerial imagery, you  
28 know, with the amount of steam and moisture in the air.  
29 We've been trying to get imagery of our communities in  
30 Deadhorse, Barrow, Wainwright, Atkasuk now for months.

31

32

33 In fact, last year, all last summer we  
34 tried to get aerial imagery of our communities and we  
35 couldn't succeed. The projects had to keep extending.  
36 We had to extend the contracts and bring them in again  
37 this year. Finally we did succeed on one beautiful  
38 given day. Everything fell into place and we captured  
39 the imagery we needed. I can't imagine the problem of  
40 capturing the imagery of the entire North Slope on one  
41 day before the caribou reshuffle again.

42

43 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

44

45 MR. SHEARS: We're getting feedback  
46 though from contractors who provide imagery under the  
47 auspices of national security. The satellite imagery --  
48 you know, the technology exists out there nowadays to  
49 identify enemy troops on the ground everywhere in  
50 Pakistan in two hours and they can do it through cloud

1 cover. This stuff has been top secret for decades, but  
2 it's gradually coming into commercial uses. It's  
3 becoming available and you'd think our government,  
4 because we pay for it in the first place, the U.S.  
5 Fish and Wildlife Service could employ it.

6

7 I think we're not reaching out far  
8 enough for what our capabilities in science are to  
9 perhaps mitigate some of the impact on our subsistence  
10 lifestyle up here instead of just continuing to employ  
11 low-flying aircraft, i.e. helicopters and aerial  
12 imagery gathering, fixed wing aircraft, all over the  
13 Slope every summer while we're scampering and trying to  
14 collect our food sources for the winter.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MR. CARROLL: Okay. Thanks.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Geoff.

21

22 MR. AKPIK: Mr. Chairman. I have a  
23 question for Geoff.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Joseph.

26

27 MR. AKPIK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
28 Geoff Carroll, does the State Department pretty much  
29 rely on satellite imaging counting at times? Because  
30 there's a good question by Gordon Brower here. Where's  
31 100,000 caribou. It might have been a satellite  
32 imaging error. I can imagine that would be the only  
33 mistake that I could see. If I'm mistaken, you can  
34 correct me on that because I imagine the State uses  
35 satellite picturing of the state and the pipeline  
36 structure and the system and the whole nine yards. You  
37 could enhance that satellite imagining.

38

39 MR. CARROLL: There probably is some  
40 state-of-the-art technology out there like that out  
41 there that possibly could be used and in all of our  
42 searches to come up with something like that there's  
43 never been anything that anyone's been willing to make  
44 available. We still use pretty old-fashioned  
45 technique. We go camp out for two weeks in the east  
46 end of the Brooks Range and we have our whole air force  
47 there ready to go and we wait for the perfect day. We  
48 want a sunny, calm, buggy day. We want that day that  
49 you can hardly stand to stick your head out of the  
50 tent. That's when the caribou really bunch up and

1 that's when we have the good visibility. You know, we  
2 just make the effort and take the time until we get it  
3 just right. We don't have any real satellite option.  
4 I mean we use weather and that sort of thing that they  
5 get from satellite imagery, but we don't use it during  
6 our photo census.

7  
8 MR. AKPIK: One more question, Geoff  
9 Carroll. Caribou have a strong sense of smell and a  
10 prevailing wind, north northeast wind, and all of the  
11 oilfield activity, do you suppose the smell of the  
12 oilfield turns the migration path the other way around?

13  
14 MR. CARROLL: Oh, yeah, I'm sorry, I  
15 just don't know.....

16  
17 MR. AKPIK: We have never discussed  
18 this. Tuttu, the caribou have a strong sense of smell.  
19 We all know that. (In Inupiaq). I'm looking at the  
20 strong sense of smell coming from the Prudhoe Bay area  
21 all the way with the prevailing wind and I can imagine  
22 it shifts the migration of the caribou by about now,  
23 especially with the high tower ridge too going up, with  
24 the lights going on and all this activity. It must be  
25 a turmoil for the caribou and we lost count of where  
26 all they went.

27  
28 MR. CARROLL: Well, it's a good  
29 thought, you know, and very well could be, but I just  
30 don't have any information one way or the other on  
31 that.

32  
33 MR. AKPIK: Yeah, their sense of smell.  
34 We never really discussed this, but we should consider  
35 it because it's hydrocarbon fallout. Got a strong  
36 sense of smell.

37  
38 Thank you very much.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Joe.  
41 Again, Geoff, thank you for providing your responses to  
42 the questions. Again, we'll have Geoff's presentation  
43 tomorrow and it's going to provide some more of the  
44 information that was just recently discussed and he's  
45 going to elaborate a little bit more in the other parts  
46 of the areas we probably missed. James.

47  
48 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. One  
49 of the things that we've observed at Anaktuvuk Pass  
50 that there is a place name called Anivik and it's a

1 place where something comes out, you know, you go out  
2 the door. There's a place not very far from Anaktuvuk  
3 Pass where we can actually see caribou coming out from  
4 this valley. A place called Anivik. Since the -- you  
5 know, I'm glad you said there are four different  
6 caribou herds, the Western, Teshekpuk, Central and  
7 Porcupine. The Porcupine Herd has always been a part  
8 of Nunamiut population. My mother-in-law was born  
9 within the middle of the Porcupine Herd back in the  
10 early 1920s. She was born in 1922 and she was born in  
11 Firth Creek where the Porcupine Herd. So therefore  
12 they know that the caribou that that comes out of  
13 Inuvik is the herd that goes from the east to the west  
14 and since the pipeline they say we have not seen any  
15 caribou come out of Anivik. It's an observation from  
16 those people that have lived in this area for a number  
17 of years.

18  
19 We had a 50th anniversary not long ago  
20 of Anaktuvuk Pass as a city. What happened? Why  
21 doesn't the caribou uni through the Inuvik, you know.  
22 So it's just a comment that I wanted to -- you know,  
23 that there are place names in our environment that  
24 reflect some kind of an activity and in this case it's  
25 the caribou coming out.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for sharing  
28 that James. Any other comments or questions regarding  
29 our current discussion.

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think I'll move on  
34 to the Chair's report. I don't have too much to report  
35 in regard to the Chair's report. You've heard as to  
36 what we've been following through with the wish of the  
37 Council, the concerns that we voiced from our last  
38 year's meetings and sharing that with the Federal  
39 Subsistence Board and having the reply come back to  
40 you. It's not just specific to me, it's to you all.  
41 I'm a Council member just as the rest of you. Being  
42 the Chairperson, they forward it to me, but it's all of  
43 your concerns that I tried to carry forward and get  
44 responses to.

45  
46 Let me see. I'm not sure if I did any  
47 other traveling besides going to the Federal  
48 Subsistence Board. I don't recall going to the Western  
49 Arctic Caribou Working Group because I had.....  
50

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I did that.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. I was going to  
4 say that Rosemary went to that meeting because I had  
5 prior commitments to other meetings that was happening  
6 at the same time. Did you want to provide some  
7 comments from that meeting, Rosemary?  
8  
9 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We did provide some  
10 comments at our  
11 February meeting because the meeting  
12 was in December, but it is an important process. It is  
13 difficult for us to engage effectively in the process  
14 because of the way they had the meeting set up. At the  
15 beginning of the meeting they said that only those that  
16 were on the committee could be engaged in the  
17 communication process. Then, when we got to the  
18 smaller committee, they said that we could participate,  
19 but you're torn at trying to participate.  
20  
21 It was very disappointing because we  
22 didn't have the depth of our region participating in  
23 the discussion. There was a lot of information that  
24 was provided that gave us some insight in the reality  
25 of the ability to communicate with the aviation  
26 restrictions was the biggest factor. There were so  
27 many concerns that came from our region about flight  
28 restrictions, to have that listening with their  
29 participation.  
30  
31 I did encourage that we get them  
32 engaged in our meeting and we've had some difficulty in  
33 getting that coordinated, but I think that with the  
34 level of communication that we're showing here and have  
35 shown in our meetings that it is an important part to  
36 bring in to the discussion. Within the Federal process  
37 they're willing to consider some communications, but  
38 within our other meeting processes they're not willing  
39 to consider putting on flight restrictions.  
40  
41 When we have multiple herds and multiple  
42 species that we're facing restrictions on, it is  
43 something that we need to get into the discussion. It  
44 has to occur and we need to be better engaged in the  
45 process of what's occurring in our lands and waters  
46 that are affecting our subsistence usage. So that was  
47 very important and is also brought into our process  
48 here.  
49  
50 There was a lot of discussion from the

1 other regions and that's why it brought a lot more  
2 concern for me into this process because as you watch  
3 the different regions of our state communicate about  
4 different changes that they're going through, it adds a  
5 lot more concern to us because we're having increased  
6 competition for usage in our lands and waters and all  
7 of these affect the way the animals live and come back  
8 to us with the cycle of change that we live through.

9

10 So those were many of the concerns that  
11 I wanted to bring from that process here.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for that,  
14 Rosemary. You all have seen the written comments that  
15 were provided to you through our coordinator Eva and  
16 she provided you the Federal Subsistence Board Chair's  
17 responses to our proposals, the ones we supported and  
18 some that got rejected in terms of the Board's  
19 information that was provided. Some they supported  
20 along with our comments included.

21

22 You can see the flow of record in terms  
23 of how

24 important our actions are being  
25 considered by the Federal Subsistence Board at this  
26 time. It's been very meaningful for us to be able to  
27 participate actively through the Federal Subsistence  
28 Program. I have to acknowledge that. It's been a long  
29 time getting some of these issues addressed, but we  
30 also have some of the more important ones getting one  
31 anthropologist working with us again and getting one  
32 identified for our region. It's going to be another  
33 time-consuming work that we're going to be dealing with  
34 again in regards to the new proposals that we generate.

35

36 I'm just trying to think about some of  
37 the other items that I should bring up, but this letter  
38 has pretty much covered our items that we've provided  
39 for as a Council and I just forwarded your message to  
40 the Board and the directions that you all wanted to go.

41

42 I have to also mention James' input  
43 regarding our Regional Subsistence Resource Commission  
44 to the Gates of the Arctic. He's been our  
45 representative to the commission for the usage of the  
46 lands around National Park Service or Gates of the  
47 Arctic. So he's been our representative to that  
48 organization, which is another leg of the Federal  
49 program and user groups having representation of the  
50 community of Anaktuvuk Pass. So that's been



1 meaningful. We've had good comments coming back and  
2 forth both ways from James and from the Gates of the  
3 Arctic on the information that's being provided.

4  
5 The comments I wanted to share with  
6 you. Again, we voiced them, but the things about what  
7 we need to watch out for is impacting our subsistence  
8 usage. The emergency closures, how is that being  
9 interpreted. Like how Gordon was feeling. When they  
10 say emergency closure for the take of moose, does that  
11 mean for all the users or is it specific to certain  
12 users, sport hunters in that sense, and subsistence is  
13 open to the communities in that closed area. I think  
14 that's what we were having difficulty in the  
15 communications, in trying to understand.

16  
17 Yes, James.

18  
19 MR. NAGEAK: I wanted to thank the  
20 Regional Advisory Council for being a part of me being  
21 a part of the Subsistence Resource Commission for the  
22 Gates of the Arctic and National Park Service where  
23 Marcy Okada is in the office in Fairbanks. Been  
24 working with us -- for as long as I've been there she's  
25 been there.

26  
27 One of the things that we really enjoy  
28 having is a guy named Jack Reakoff that is the vice  
29 chair of the Commission and he's good with  
30 communication. He's got all the vocabulary down how to  
31 confront the establishments. He also lives in.....

32  
33 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Wiseman.

34  
35 MR. NAGEAK: Wiseman? Yeah, he lives  
36 in Wiseman, which was right in the midst of where they  
37 were trying to stop the process of making that road  
38 from Valdez to Prudhoe Bay because Wiseman is right in  
39 the midst of that road. Jack Reakoff lives in there  
40 and he really has been a voice in making sure that we  
41 hear something that is ongoing within the Dalton  
42 Highway and also because he lives right in Wiseman.  
43 The boundaries for the preserve the Gates of the Arctic  
44 is right next to the road and he makes sure that --  
45 he's always concerned that there are people walking in  
46 the mountains and getting the sheep kind of  
47 underhanded. They're taking some sheep illegally  
48 because they're so close to the Dalton Highway.

49  
50 So he's one of those guys that we

1 listen to because he lives within that corridor. We're  
2 happy that we have that because of my participation in  
3 the SRC that I could report back some of the concerns  
4 that we have in the commission.

5  
6 Thank you.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, James.  
9 The other comment I wanted to share was in regards to  
10 the sheep closure. I just need to understand how  
11 that's going to impact the community harvest quotas  
12 that we've established for Anaktuvuk Pass and Kaktovik.  
13 I think they're the only two communities that --  
14 community harvest quotas for those two communities for  
15 sheep and how is that sheep closure going to impact  
16 that quota.

17  
18 Go ahead, Eva.

19  
20 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I  
21 did have a conversation with Marcy Okada when the  
22 closure for sheep in Unit 23 was working through that  
23 process. Marcy will actually be presenting to the  
24 Council tomorrow about Gates of the Arctic and that  
25 community harvest remains in place. It's not affected  
26 by this other closure. Tom Evans will be presenting a  
27 little bit on the special actions and he can provide a  
28 little more background about the process of this recent  
29 sheep closure. Marcy was reassuring that the community  
30 harvest for Anaktuvuk Pass and Kaktovik also has C&T  
31 for is in place and remains and there will be ongoing  
32 active communication with the communities on that. So  
33 that's not affected by this other closure.

34  
35 Thank you.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for  
38 elaborating on that, Eva. I just need some  
39 clarification as to how it's going to affect the  
40 communities that we're always concerned about and been  
41 very thankful for caribou coming into Kaktovik because  
42 of the hardship they've been placed with, the shortage  
43 of resources around Kaktovik. First was the muskox,  
44 then the moose, then the caribou were few and far  
45 between, but this summer they're having a presence near  
46 Kaktovik, which puts a little sigh of relief into the  
47 availability of other resources as well. Sheep has  
48 been an important subsistence resource for Kaktovik  
49 right in the midst of that hardship of availability of  
50 other resources.

1  
2                   So I'll stop here in regards to the  
3 Chair's report and see if there's any questions or  
4 comments to the Chair's report.  
5  
6                   MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.  
7  
8                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.  
9  
10                  MR. G. BROWER: Since the Chair was  
11 talking to Eva and wanting to ask her a little bit more  
12 about that sheep closure, but in the context of maybe  
13 wordsmithing and how you say things in terms of  
14 emergency order, closing sheep to nonresidents and  
15 residents alike. I don't know if it impacts Point Hope  
16 and how they have a C&T for the sheep as well and if  
17 there's a customary and traditional use determination,  
18 then Point Hope should be able to continue their  
19 harvest.  
20  
21                  I want these kinds of things to be  
22 understood because if you're using sustained yield  
23 principals in determining closure, I would have thought  
24 there would have been an effort maybe five or six years  
25 ago to say nonrural folks and nonresidents get chopped  
26 off first and maybe rural residents in the unit as a  
27 conservation measure. I don't know where in a  
28 sustained yield principal you get to go across the  
29 board, all the way across the board everybody is cut  
30 off because nobody was minding the store. You had too  
31 many people out, residents, nonresidents, rural,  
32 nonrural.  
33  
34                  There seems to be a problem in my mind  
35 to make a full scale determination of its shutoff  
36 without using sustained yield principals where you  
37 should be looking out for that resource and its  
38 decline. I think it's going to be the same for  
39 caribou. What population of rural residents need to  
40 have access to that caribou right now? What is the  
41 estimated level of sustained yield from the Western  
42 Arctic and Teshekpuk Herd and making that determination  
43 five years in advance in a declining trend so you don't  
44 get to across the board.  
45  
46                  By the way, if you're going to take  
47 away that much food from the table, you should replace  
48 it with something else. You just don't take it away  
49 and say you can't hunt it. The government, I think,  
50 has a responsibility to do something different. In the

1 '70s or the '60s, I think they said you can't hunt  
2 caribou, we're going to give you beef. I think it was  
3 a bad policy, but they did it. They attempted to do a  
4 good service.

5  
6 So those are my questions. When it's  
7 time to think about conservation measures, don't start  
8 saying in about two years and there's no effort to  
9 reduce nonresident hunt and then there's another big  
10 decline and then it's going to be so in decline that it  
11 will be only to rural residents or something to that  
12 effect of one caribou. We would like to maintain a  
13 good, healthy harvest for the folks in the unit and not  
14 wordsmith when you say for residents. Nonresidents are  
15 cut off, but residents, but be all inclusive of  
16 Anchorage and Fairbanks. There should be rural  
17 resident when it comes time conservation and define it  
18 to those levels because resident means a lot and rural  
19 makes it more defined, community.

20  
21 Thank you.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.  
24 Do you want to provide a response or comment, Eva?

25  
26 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
27 Thank you, Gordon, for your questions. I may be able  
28 to answer, provide some background information on some  
29 of it. Tom Evans may be able to provide more  
30 information on the recent harvest surveys that took  
31 place for sheep in the analysis. That sheep special  
32 action was at the request of the Noatak Park Service  
33 area. There was also a State action for State lands to  
34 respond to low numbers of sheep in the recent survey  
35 that had just taken place.

36  
37 You're correct in that Point Hope has  
38 C&T for sheep in that region, as do all of the  
39 communities in the North Slope have C&T for sheep in  
40 that region. It's a long ways to travel. Not everyone  
41 hunts in that area, but that's why the communications  
42 and the outreach to all of the communities who do have  
43 C&T that they have an opportunity to be aware of the  
44 action happening and an opportunity to comment.

45  
46 There was a public hearing that was  
47 held in Kotzebue. The turnaround time was very short  
48 because of the nature of when those surveys were  
49 conducted and dramatically lower numbers than the  
50 previous survey count. So it was a pretty short

1 timeframe to be able to do outreach to the public  
2 because of the conservation concerns to take action on  
3 short notice.

4

5 Part of how the Federal Subsistence  
6 Management Program works and ANILCA, that's why the  
7 Office of Subsistence Management gets involved when  
8 there's a request for a special action, a temporary  
9 closure due to conservation concerns, is to evaluate  
10 both the biology but also the subsistence and make sure  
11 that the communities are included in the communications  
12 and outreach process.

13

14 That was a very, very short turnaround  
15 time to be able to do that outreach and we want to make  
16 sure that the communications are clear so that in this  
17 case, as the Council has asked, there isn't confusion  
18 about which areas are closed or which resources are  
19 closed to which communities. So the community harvest  
20 in Anaktuvuk Pass is still in place. There are some  
21 areas in the State lands and then those that hunt in  
22 and around the Noatak National Park.

23

24 Tom may be able to respond to some more  
25 background about how this closure came about to be  
26 requested. The biological information in the recent  
27 surveys.

28

29 Similarly for Kaktovik for that special  
30 action request those surveys took place shortly after  
31 the Board met and again, as you noted, the Board did  
32 support the Council's request to extend the season and  
33 increase the harvest quota from 3 to 5 moose. Again,  
34 the management of that herd is governed by ANILCA.  
35 Section .804 is the process by which if there's a  
36 conservation concern to ensure that there is both  
37 subsistence priority for rural residents and we use a  
38 C&T process of understanding which communities have a  
39 relationship to that resource to ensure they're  
40 included in that process.

41

42 With Kaktovik, that community was the  
43 only community affected by the closure because through  
44 .804, since that herd is so small, it was deemed that  
45 only that community would have a Federal subsistence  
46 harvest. So that public hearing was held in Kaktovik.  
47 Part of the challenge comes in the news releases or the  
48 news announcements over the radio, which are very  
49 helpful to help get that information out to the public,  
50 but what had happened there was some confusion about

1 how that closure went. In that case, confusion for  
2 Barrow residents, whether it included Barrow.

3

4 So we'll continue to work on that  
5 communications and outreach so that people don't think  
6 they're adversely affected when they're not and that  
7 there is ample opportunity for the public to be a full  
8 part of the process.

9

10 Tom may be able to provide a little  
11 more background. Did you want to share a little more.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon, did that help  
14 with your comments and the questions you raised?

15

16 MR. G. BROWER: Absolutely. I also  
17 just wanted to make sure there's clarity for folks. I  
18 thought maybe I heard Teddy Frankson from Point Hope  
19 say that he would be impacted when, in fact, when  
20 you've got a C&T, you're at the last level to be  
21 impacted unless there was a superior conservation  
22 measure needing to override that.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So he's still able to  
25 conduct his sheep hunt in Unit 23 in regards to that  
26 closure. The closure was pointed directly towards  
27 other users.

28

29 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. To  
30 clarify in this case the Park Service was requesting a  
31 complete closure of that hunt.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: A complete closure.

34

35 MS. PATTON: Yes. So affecting both  
36 subsistence as well due to the conservation concerns.  
37 Gordon, you're correct in noting that there wasn't an  
38 earlier closure to nonrural residents or to non-  
39 Federally qualified users. Tom might be able to speak  
40 a little bit more. There was a dramatic decline in the  
41 herd from the previous surveys to these most recent  
42 surveys and it's because of that dramatic decline that  
43 severe conservation concern in this case that even a  
44 limited harvest would have detrimental impact on the  
45 overall herd.

46

47 So that was my understanding that the  
48 previous surveys didn't indicate a severe problem.  
49 These most recent surveys it was of great concern that  
50 any harvest would impact that population, so there was

1 a closure requested for all hunters in that region.  
2  
3 Tom, do you need to provide more?  
4  
5 DR. JENKINS: We'll do that in  
6 sequence. Let's stay on the agenda.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm sorry, I didn't  
9 hear, Mr. Jenkins. If you can come up to the mic,  
10 please. Some of us are a little hard of hearing these  
11 days.  
12  
13 (Laughter)  
14  
15 DR. JENKINS: Yes, Mr. Chair. David  
16 Jenkins. I'm suggesting that we move on with the  
17 agenda and Tom will come and talk about the sheep  
18 closure in sequence and not to get too far off track  
19 right now. I think Eva clarified Gordon's question for  
20 him. And then we'll come back to this issue in the  
21 agenda.  
22  
23 Thank you.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for your  
26 suggestion, Mr. Jenkins.  
27  
28 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
29 Next on the agenda is actually the customary and  
30 traditional use determination and some of that  
31 background might actually be helpful in these  
32 discussions here.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva, for  
35 that. I'm going to have to override everybody. My  
36 elders are asking for a request for a 10-minute recess.  
37 Then we'll come on with that customary and traditional  
38 use determination. I think we're pretty much done with  
39 the Chair's report at this time. So we're at a  
40 10-minute recess.  
41  
42 (Off record)  
43  
44 (On record)  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'd like to call this  
47 north slope  
48 regional advisory council meeting back  
49 to order after a short  
50 break. At this time I'd like to pass

1 the floor over to Eva to provide a presentation on  
2 service awards.

3

4 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, Council and  
5 members of the public. We discussed this morning the  
6 service of the Subsistence Regional Advisory Council of  
7 serving the concerns of the community and the region.  
8 We have some very long time serving members. Just last  
9 year we awarded Harry K. Brower, Jr. with a 20-year  
10 service award. He's been working on this Council since  
11 the beginning of the Federal Subsistence Management  
12 Program. We'd also like to recognize our Council  
13 members in their five years of service, 10 years of  
14 service and 15 years of service.

15

16 Today Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak has been on  
17 the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
18 for five years of very good, dedicated service and a  
19 real voice for the community. So please join me in  
20 thanking Rosemary for five years of service.

21

22 (Applause)

23

24 MR. NAGEAK: Speech.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Speech.

27

28 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I just want to say  
29 thanks everyone. I'm always engaged in talking, so I  
30 don't need to add to the discussion.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, help me with our  
33 next agenda item. I see the arrows pointing upward,  
34 but I can't read the segment of where the arrow was  
35 coming from.

36

37 MS. PATTON: Okay. Mr. Chair and  
38 Council. Next we have David Jenkins. He's giving an  
39 update on C&T. This has come before the Council the  
40 past couple meetings as well and then on the rural  
41 determination process.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: David.

44

45 DR. JENKINS: Mr. Chair, Council  
46 members. Good afternoon. David Jenkins with the Office  
47 of Subsistence Management. This is listed as old  
48 business, but it's really not old business, it's  
49 ongoing business. I want to talk very briefly about  
50 customary and traditional use.



1  
2                   We talked, if you remember last time at  
3 your Council meeting, at length about this issue. What  
4 I reminded you then was that to have the Federal  
5 priority for subsistence you need to cross two  
6 thresholds. First you need to have a rural priority,  
7 you need to be a rural resident, and that is a  
8 statutory threshold from ANILCA. The second threshold  
9 is a customary and traditional use determination. That  
10 is not in ANILCA. That is in regulation. So the  
11 question is what is a customary and traditional use  
12 determination, where did it come from, why is it in  
13 Federal regulation and why are we continuing to talk  
14 about it.

15  
16                   So I want to briefly just touch on  
17 those because we talked about it before. If you  
18 remember when the Federal Subsistence Program started  
19 in the early '90s, it adopted from the State eight  
20 criteria of customary and traditional use. The Federal  
21 program renamed them factors and said, well, you don't  
22 need to have a checklist, instead you need to have each  
23 of these factors to have customary and traditional use.  
24 You just need to generally exhibit these eight factors.  
25 If you look on Page 15 in your book, the eight factors  
26 are listed there.

27  
28                   So where did these eight factors come  
29 from from the State. Well, they came at a Board of  
30 Fisheries meeting when the Board of Fisheries asked the  
31 Division of Subsistence what does customary and  
32 traditional use mean because this is a phrase in ANILCA  
33 and it refers to customary and traditional take of  
34 animals, it refers to barter and sharing and customary  
35 trade and using resources for transportation and  
36 clothing and so on.

37  
38                   So at the Board of Fisheries in 1980  
39 they asked the Division of Subsistence what does  
40 customary and traditional use mean. The then director  
41 of the Division of Subsistence for the State over  
42 lunch, on the back of a napkin, wrote out 10 criteria  
43 of customary and traditional use. The Board of  
44 Fisheries then adopted those 10 criteria, later reduced  
45 them to eight criteria and when the Federal program  
46 took over in the early '90s they adopted those from  
47 State regulation. So that's how we got them  
48 administratively.

49  
50                   It's kind of a funny story. It's one

1 I've told the Federal Subsistence Board several times  
2 and there's a randomness to it. The eight factors have  
3 never themselves been looked at anthropologically and  
4 asked the simple question are these stable factors,  
5 what do they mean and how are they used.

6  
7 The last time we met I also told you  
8 that, and as you know, the Secretary of the Interior  
9 asked the Federal Subsistence Board to look at these  
10 eight factors and to gather RAC input on them. So over  
11 the last couple of years that's what we've been doing.  
12 We've been going to the RACs, we've been asking for  
13 your opinion and along the way the Southeast Council  
14 has said, listen, these are eight factors we got from  
15 the State. We don't want to maintain them. We think  
16 we should use ANILCA. If there's a limitation of  
17 resources, then what we fall back on is Section .804 of  
18 Chapter VIII of ANILCA.

19  
20 You can see on Page 15 what .804 does.  
21 It has three criteria for deciding who is eligible for  
22 resources when there's an insufficient number for  
23 everybody. So first you cut out sport, first you cut  
24 out commercial activities and then, if there's still  
25 not enough resources for subsistence users, Section  
26 .804 then limits that pool of subsistence users to an  
27 even smaller pool so that they would then have access  
28 to those resources.

29  
30 So this is what we've been talking  
31 about over these last couple of years. At your last  
32 meeting what you asked my office to do is to produce a  
33 workshop for you to start talking about the differences  
34 between customary and traditional use determinations  
35 and .804 criteria and what that would mean as a  
36 practical matter in this region for specific resources.  
37 We have not had the time yet, short-staffed as we've  
38 been, to put together a workshop for this Council. If  
39 you're still interested in that, then we can continue  
40 to discuss putting together a more substantial workshop  
41 to talk further about this issue.

42  
43 But it is an issue that the Secretary  
44 of the Interior wanted the Board to look at with RAC  
45 help and we've started the discussion. The Southeast  
46 Council, as you know, would like to eliminate customary  
47 and traditional use determinations. Some of the other  
48 Councils last year actually took action and some of  
49 them voted that in their opinion we should also get rid  
50 of customary and traditional use determinations and go

1 back to an ANILCA .804 process.

2

3 So right now we're in this discussion  
4 phase and we're still trying to figure out what each  
5 Regional Council would like to do. So that's my brief  
6 update on C&T. Can I answer a question.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for  
9 David from the Council. My first reaction is, yes,  
10 we'd still like a workshop.

11

12 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I mean that's just my  
15 personal observation and that's something I've been  
16 wanting to get the Council to get familiar with in  
17 these processes that we have within our charge as a  
18 Regional Advisory Council to learn a bit more and be  
19 able to apply either .804 or the customary and  
20 traditional use criteria that's been identified. I  
21 think we've used both, but it's been over time and we  
22 have new members that probably need to be educated on  
23 the differing factors that are applied concerning  
24 proposals to the Federal Subsistence Board. So I would  
25 tend to lean towards the continued request for the  
26 workshop.

27

28 I was wanting to ask in regards to why  
29 are you understaffed. Is it because of the funding,  
30 because of the Federal shutdown or is it some other  
31 factors I'm not aware of?

32

33 DR. JENKINS: I'll let Gene Peltola,  
34 Jr. respond to why we're understaffed. He's going to  
35 talk about budget and other things I think tomorrow,  
36 Mr. Brower, but we are staffing up by the way. So we  
37 are in the midst of hiring people and getting waivers  
38 to hire people, so Gene has managed to get a number of  
39 people in the works and we will be much better staffed  
40 in the very near future.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions  
43 or comments from the Council.

44

45 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I agree that we need  
46 to have some additional information on it. I'd like to  
47 make sure that we get some information as to what  
48 happens to the people who are trying to continue our  
49 traditional and cultural uses between the two  
50 regulatory determinations. Are there more conflict

1 between one with our traditional and cultural uses  
2 versus the other and have some additional information  
3 as to that. As well as what is the different -- the  
4 two different analyses mean for enforcement abilities.  
5 Is there terminology in one that has better enforcement  
6 ability versus the other and how does that play out in  
7 some of this assessment process.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 DR. JENKINS: Thank you, Rosemary.  
12 Those are two very good questions. Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions.  
15 Bob.

16

17 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. I don't really  
18 have my comments, my thoughts well composed to word it,  
19 so I apologize, David, if I come across broken and  
20 disjointed in this comment and trying to understand.  
21 Customary and traditional use applies to a group of  
22 people, right, and not to a region? Are we talking  
23 about -- or could customary and traditional use mean  
24 both? Would a region, for instance -- could Prudhoe  
25 Bay be considered a customary and traditional use  
26 region for the rural C&T community of Kaktovik?

27

28 DR. JENKINS: Two issues there and let  
29 me answer the last one first. Prudhoe Bay as a  
30 nonrural area could not have C&T. So if it only  
31 applies to rural areas and it depends -- the customary  
32 and traditional use determination can cross regions.  
33 So people in different regions can have a customary and  
34 traditional use determination for the same resource,  
35 sheep for example, and be in different regions. If  
36 their communities or their ancestors or people that  
37 they're associated with had used that resource and  
38 there's a demonstration of that use, then they could  
39 all have a customary and traditional use determination  
40 for it.

41

42 The Board, I should point out, does not  
43 make customary and traditional use determinations to  
44 allocate resources. It makes those determinations  
45 simply to recognize the groups of people who have  
46 traditionally and customarily accessed those resources.  
47 So it's not an allocation issue.

48

49 MR. SHEARS: Okay. So that helps me  
50 refine my concern. What I'm leading up to is the North

1 Slope Borough, in developing the comprehensive use  
2 plans for the community, addresses a lot of things. It  
3 addresses the demographics and the subsistence uses of  
4 those communities and the region that the community  
5 subsists on for different activities, different types  
6 of animals, different types of the environment, and  
7 this is defined as the village area of influence.

8

9 For instance, Barrow's village area of  
10 influence extends dozens of miles to the east of  
11 Nuiqsut as well as 50 miles south of Point Lay. It is  
12 the region, the large landscape, the eco-region that  
13 directly or indirectly affects the subsistence users  
14 who reside in a rural community of Barrow, who exist  
15 here under a C&T determination.

16

17 I don't want to tie -- C&T, we're  
18 talking about a group of people, defining the limits of  
19 who can participate and who doesn't participate, but  
20 I'm also wondering if perhaps we could tie a region to  
21 the definition so that -- perhaps it's detracting from  
22 the intent, but I think it also reinforces the intent  
23 in other arguments. Things that have -- for instance  
24 Prudhoe Bay, as you indicated, is an industrial,  
25 nonrural area, but what happens there affects the  
26 customary and traditional uses of the people in  
27 Kaktovik and the people in Nuiqsut.

28

29 So does that confuse? Does using and  
30 incorporating the village area of influence into the  
31 C&T determination confuse the issue or does it enhance  
32 it?

33

34 DR. JENKINS: I actually don't know. I  
35 haven't looked at it very carefully. They could well  
36 be very separate issues because, again, the customary  
37 and traditional use is a way of looking at historical  
38 access to and use of resources. If you look at these  
39 eight criteria, you know, handling the preparation,  
40 passing down stories and so on are all associated with  
41 this customary and traditional use and the factors that  
42 the Board has used to make those determinations.

43

44 So whether the village area of  
45 influence is coterminous with or in opposition to, I  
46 really don't know, but they might be very separate  
47 questions. I don't have an answer.

48

49 MR. SHEARS: And I apologize for not  
50 having my question or my concern well phrased out or

1 well thought out, tying two a anomalous, non-related  
2 subjects together because they are kind of related. A  
3 customary and traditional use determination for a  
4 region like Happy Valley on the highway and because it  
5 affects the communities of Nuiqsut, Anaktuvuk Pass and  
6 Kaktovik could perhaps give the Office of Subsistence  
7 Management more authority at the table of the Alaska  
8 Board of Game to discuss how sport hunting is conducted  
9 from there.

10

11 I'm trying to tie one anomalous subject  
12 to another and I'm not getting my argument across well.  
13 I'm just putting it out there that perhaps, you know,  
14 instead of defining customary and traditional use by  
15 ANILCA .804 or by the Code of Federal Regulations as a  
16 group of people meeting these six criteria, but also  
17 ties them to a region of influence. A village area of  
18 concern as defined by the North Slope Borough  
19 Comprehensive Plan.

20

21 DR. JENKINS: Let me try to answer a  
22 bit of your question this way. Some of the Councils,  
23 like the Western Interior Council, likes to use the  
24 customary and traditional use because it does define  
25 its area of influence. It can say this group of people  
26 has customary and traditional use and the rest of  
27 Alaska rural residents do not and they cannot come as a  
28 consequence into this region and hunt moose or caribou  
29 or sheep or whatever the customary and traditional use  
30 is in the Western Interior Region. So Western Interior  
31 likes the C&T process for that reason.

32

33 Southeast, to the contrary, says, well,  
34 people typically don't go great distances to get  
35 resources. They don't come from Sitka up to Coldfoot  
36 to hunt whatever. So, as a practical matter, we don't  
37 need to have those customary and traditional use  
38 determinations as a way of excluding people because  
39 they self exclude. It's just too far away. So people  
40 in Southeast are saying let's just use the rural  
41 determination. Not the .804 determination, but the  
42 rural determination so that all rural residents have  
43 equal access to all rural resources. If there are not  
44 enough resources to go around, then you use that .804  
45 criteria after sport and after commercial activities  
46 are closed.

47

48 So there is that mechanism to then  
49 exclude people from Sitka from coming up here to hunt  
50 the Porcupine Caribou Herd or something like that.

1 Those are the two arguments.

2

3 MR. SHEARS: Gotcha. I apologize to  
4 everybody for the abstraction of my discussion with  
5 David, but I'm getting a better handle on this. I'll  
6 be ready to discuss it more in the future.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: James.

9

10 MR. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair. I'm reading  
11 the comparison to .804 and C&T. I had a question mark  
12 on the legal language part on .804. Except as  
13 otherwise provided in this Act and other Federal laws,  
14 the taking on public lands of fish and wildlife for  
15 nonwasteful subsistence uses shall be accorded priority  
16 over the taking on such lands of fish and wildlife for  
17 other purposes. That's a question that I had, for  
18 other purposes. I couldn't understand what that means,  
19 for other purposes.

20

21 DR. JENKINS: For example a purpose of  
22 a sport hunter wanting to have a large trophy and  
23 didn't care about the meat. That would be another  
24 purpose. So that would be a wasteful purpose according  
25 to this Act. So that's what's anticipated here, Mr.  
26 Nageak.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did that answer your  
29 question, James.

30

31 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary and then  
34 Gordon.

35

36 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: It is very important  
37 that we have a clear

38 understanding of the two different  
39 analyses. The way that the changes are occurring to  
40 our lands and waters, these clear analyses are going to  
41 be very important with the increased competition of  
42 uses of our lands and waters and we have to really  
43 thoroughly understand this, so I hope that we are going  
44 to get into further communication, we're able to get  
45 additional information that will help us in looking at  
46 which one will be the best one for us.

47

48 Right now we have areas where we have a  
49 lot of concern. In other parts of our region we don't  
50 have as much concern, but we need to be proactive in

1 this assessment and come up with an analysis that  
2 allows us to look at the best protections for our  
3 cultural and traditional uses into the future.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.  
6 Gordon.

7  
8 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I agree with  
9 everybody here that we need to make an informed  
10 decision in these types of questions that are being  
11 raised in the workshop, .804 vs. C&T. It almost seems  
12 to me there's a broad way of doing things and there's a  
13 very specific targeted way of doing things and I'd sure  
14 hate to be categorized as excluding interruptions  
15 beyond the control of community areas. If you don't  
16 have a long, consistent pattern, you took a long break  
17 and your pattern was a little bit broken, I would  
18 still have the right to subsist on these lands  
19 without having to justify myself.  
20 There should be a workshop to clearly define what we're  
21 talking about here and what some of this other language  
22 could mean if we're not careful.

23  
24 That's where I see some of the issues  
25 here. I'm already thinking that Western Arctic Caribou  
26 and Teshekpuk Herd is already needing to fall under one  
27 of these things in the way that the biologists are  
28 talking and I hope it comes from the community level.  
29 Yeah, I think there needs to be better understanding.

30  
31 At one point, if I could recall when  
32 the Federal takeover of subsistence, I think it was  
33 1994 or something like that, there was a question of  
34 rural versus Native at that point too because the  
35 original law had Native on there, a Native preference  
36 on these resources, and that's kind of been swallowed  
37 up in the argument with the State on rural.

38  
39 Anyway, it's times like these that  
40 questions like this be more clarified. I think we all  
41 are concerned about the resources and making sure that  
42 we continue to have priority over these resources so  
43 that managers that manage these resources and the  
44 populations don't go into a crash dive and know when to  
45 cut off the nonresident uses and well in advance to  
46 limit the landing on how you manage these resources and  
47 cutting everybody off at the pass I think could even  
48 break the law unless you're not following the rules.

49  
50 Thank you.



1  
2 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.  
3 Any other comments. Teddy.  
4  
5 MR. FRANKSON: I really don't like that  
6 .804 analysis  
7 because it's too broad and the State  
8 could use this one to turn it around if we should go to  
9 court with them. This C&T use determination is more  
10 specific and should be used with the Natives because it  
11 -- like Gordon said, the Native preference that was  
12 taken off was taken off just so the sports hunters  
13 could come in and do what they want because money talks  
14 down there.  
15  
16 So I wouldn't agree with the .804. I'd  
17 rather use the C&T for Native preference for Natives  
18 because it explains pretty much what we've been taught,  
19 what we're teaching our children how to hunt and stuff  
20 like that. That would be my thinking on these two. I  
21 would take the C&T over the .804 because the State can  
22 use that .804 very broadly and just easily cut down  
23 anything we might have to say. When you get down to  
24 the court, words change so you can't depend on these  
25 too much because they'll change it around on you just  
26 like that. So the closest thing that we can use would  
27 be the C&T. That would be my thought on this one.  
28  
29 Thank you.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Teddy.  
32  
33 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Rosemary.  
36  
37 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: The important  
38 discussion around C&T was an example that was shared  
39 with us through the Yukon River and the Kuskokwim  
40 changes that have occurred with the decimation of the  
41 salmon populations. Our intertribal sharing was  
42 already restricted with that and that's a big concern  
43 for us over additional species and the importance of  
44 our traditional and cultural sharing methods.  
45  
46 So that's why we have to have some  
47 additional communications. It is a tool that we could  
48 consider using, but we also have to be engaged in a way  
49 that it's going to be used in describing how it should  
50 be done.

1  
2                   As tribal people, we can always make  
3 our own tribal recommendations on hunting activities  
4 that our people are using in our lands and waters and  
5 we don't have to wait for the State and Federal  
6 government to react. We can decide within our own  
7 villages if we need to do some additional things. We  
8 do that already, but it's only because we get these  
9 other meetings that go on that we do the additional  
10 communications to help with some of these analyses that  
11 are occurring.

12  
13                   It's really important that we get a  
14 good communication about this and we fully understand  
15 and decide how we want to move forward because we've  
16 listened today to tremendous amount of concerns and we  
17 have more that we are going to continue to deal with.  
18 The reality is there are hunters all over the world  
19 that like to come to Alaska and our competition is  
20 going to continue into the future and we have to have a  
21 very good handle on how we're going to try to enforce  
22 some of these changes that are coming.

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

25  
26                   MR. NAGEAK: One of the things that I  
27 had underlined here on the C&T determination analysis  
28 is number 5. A means of handling, preparing,  
29 preserving and storing fish or wildlife which has been  
30 traditionally used by past generations -- now this is  
31 where I have a problem -- including consideration of  
32 alteration of past practices due to recent  
33 technological advances where appropriate.

34  
35                   One of the reasons why that caught me  
36 is that I've heard comments from environmentalists or  
37 conservationists that we need to go back to bows and  
38 arrows for hunting and gathering, you know, the past  
39 ways that we do it. I grew up with technological  
40 advances, you know. I didn't have to use bow and arrow  
41 where my auntie or my great aunt was using bows and  
42 arrows to hunt the caribou and the resources around  
43 them.

44  
45                   What does that mean, including  
46 consideration of alteration of past practices due to  
47 recent technological advances?

48  
49                   DR. JENKINS: Right. It simply says  
50 that if you want to freeze your fish in a freezer

1 powered by electricity rather than in an -- in an.....

2

3 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Ice cellar.

4

5 DR. JENKINS: .....ice cellar, then you  
6 can do that. That's simply what it says. Whatever new  
7 technology is available, if you want to make it  
8 available to yourselves, there's no issue.

9

10 MR. NAGEAK: So I can't.....

11

12 DR. JENKINS: It can still be a  
13 traditional and customary practice to continue to put  
14 your fish in a freezer rather than an ice cellar.

15

16 MR. NAGEAK: So if an environmentalist  
17 come to me and say go back to where -- you know, we  
18 were in Fairbanks one time and this guy came up to me  
19 and said if you want to have this opportunity to be a  
20 Native person and hunt your traditional customary and  
21 traditional way, then why don't you go back to bows and  
22 arrows. Luckily there was some university professors  
23 there or university students that came back to that guy  
24 and said, well, we're not going to take you down to  
25 your hotel in a car because in your time you were  
26 walking and it was 50 below out there, you know. So  
27 understanding I think is -- the other guy trying to  
28 understand the way that we traditionally hunt, the  
29 customary and traditional way of hunting is an  
30 expression that the other guy needs to understand.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Joseph, did you want  
35 to make a comment.

36

37 MR. AKPIK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
38 have a question for the gentleman here. If we could  
39 elaborate a bit more on some of these mitigation things  
40 that we're doing. Indigenous people. I think the term  
41 should be revised instead of using Native. You mention  
42 Natives, oh, here we go again. Now if we insert  
43 indigenous, the original people of that area. Now  
44 that's a good interpretation. The interpretation I do  
45 believe it's got to reach out a bit more than the  
46 Federal stipulations that we are drawing up. So if we  
47 may be addressed as the indigenous people, then they  
48 would think, oh, different ethnic people from there,  
49 they've been living here in Alaska and they consider  
50 themselves as Alaskan, but are they indigenous people.

1 Are they the original people. These are some of the  
2 interpretations we should try to iron out in drafting  
3 some of these stipulations if we can because the terms  
4 really make a lot of difference to me.

5  
6 You mentioned Southeastern. In  
7 Southeastern they don't have no land. Up here we've  
8 got lots of land. That's a different geographic  
9 difference between the Southeastern. They can say  
10 anything they want to because they don't have no land  
11 to regulate. They've just got fishery, timber and some  
12 of these things, but up here we've got a variety, a  
13 different environment. So when I'm saying that Eskimos,  
14 Inupiaq, indigenous people from the North Slope and the  
15 guy from California might say, oh, I'm an indigenous,  
16 I'm from Alaska too, but am I original from Alaska.  
17 See there's an interpretation that they will  
18 understand. That will cover everybody.

19  
20 Thank you very much.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Joseph.  
23 So I'm still in support of holding a workshop in terms  
24 of all the language that's been generated for better  
25 understanding and clarification in terms of comparison  
26 of .804 and the customary and traditional use  
27 determinations. I think that workshop would help steer  
28 in forming definitions and clarifying some of the  
29 language that's currently used in terms of what's been  
30 asked of us. I think that should be the Council's  
31 request to continue holding that to move forward in  
32 developing a workshop to do what we're being asked to  
33 do in this segment.

34  
35 DR. JENKINS: And I'll bring that  
36 request back and you can twist Gene's arm about this  
37 issue. I think we can effect that.

38  
39 Thank you.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

42  
43 MR. AKPIK: Thank you, Mr. Brower.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any other  
46 questions to David. Did you have any other information  
47 that you needed from us?

48  
49 DR. JENKINS: Well, I don't, but I have  
50 a briefing on the rural issue. You have in front of

1 you a letter that the Federal Subsistence Board  
2 finalized and sent to the Secretary of the Interior and  
3 Agriculture on its recommendation for simplifying the  
4 rural determination process. Last time we met we had a  
5 long briefing on the rural issue. The Secretaries asked  
6 the Board to look at the rural issue with RAC and  
7 public input. We've been doing that over the last  
8 year.

9

10 The Board, at its last public meeting,  
11 elected to simplify the process in this way. The Board  
12 said let's determine which areas of Alaska are nonrural  
13 and everything else is rural. So that's what the Board  
14 said we would like the Secretaries to consider doing  
15 and that's where we are. The letter in front of you  
16 asks the Secretaries to put that into place because  
17 it's the Secretaries that have the power to put that in  
18 regulation, the Board doesn't. The Board follows the  
19 Secretaries' process for rural determination. So the  
20 Board is recommending to the Secretaries they change  
21 that process.

22

23 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon, go ahead.

26

27 MR. G. BROWER: That leads to some  
28 other kinds of questions about determining -- you know,  
29 it's easy to say Anchorage, easy to say maybe Juneau  
30 and Fairbanks, but how easy is it going to be to say  
31 Barrow. For those communities that are teetering, you  
32 know, we need to think about that process anyway. I  
33 would start to worry a little bit when there's a  
34 sweeping change on the process. I'm not too sure the  
35 old process was easier, but it seems like maybe you  
36 could enlighten us on that a little. Maybe you've got  
37 more information than that.

38

39 DR. JENKINS: Well, if you remember the  
40 Board went through a year-long process of gathering  
41 Regional Advisory Council comments, gathering public  
42 comment, the Board held eight or ten public meetings to  
43 gather public comment, it held tribal consultations, it  
44 held consultations with ANCSA corporations and it spent  
45 a lot of time gathering information on how to improve  
46 the process of making rural determinations. After that  
47 long review, the Board then decided this is the  
48 simplification that it would like to pass on to the  
49 Secretary.

50

1                   Part of your questions remains  
2 unanswered because we don't know yet the criteria the  
3 Board would use to say, for example, okay, Prudhoe Bay  
4 is an industrial center and it's nonrural for these  
5 reasons, Anchorage is a big urban center and it's  
6 nonrural for these reasons and here are the boundaries  
7 or Juneau is urban for these reasons and here are its  
8 boundaries. The Board hasn't done that yet, so we just  
9 don't know.

10  
11                   All the Board has done at this point is  
12 recommended to the Secretaries to simplify the process  
13 to get rid of population thresholds. Remember we  
14 talked about that at some length. Get rid of  
15 population threshold, get rid of aggregating  
16 communities together to make a large population. To  
17 get rid of all of the criteria we've used to date for  
18 making rural determinations and then turn the thing  
19 around and say, okay, we'll decide what's nonrural and  
20 then everything else is rural. Presumably then it's  
21 rural until there's a major change. Instead of having  
22 a review every 10 years, there would be no review.  
23 Barrow would be rural until there was some sort of  
24 major change and then there would have to be an  
25 analysis to justify changing it from a rural community  
26 to a nonrural community.

27  
28                   That would be the process.

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: So in regards to that  
31 process, has there been any communications whether a  
32 tabletop exercise would be  
33                   considered to see how that would weigh  
34 in some of the determinations that are being  
35 considered?

36  
37                   DR. JENKINS: Mr. Brower, this letter  
38 went to the Secretaries Friday.

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

41  
42                   DR. JENKINS: So what we will do is  
43 wait for the Secretaries to respond and if they say,  
44 yes, this is what we'd like to do, then we would begin  
45 an analysis of how to go about doing that. But the  
46 Secretaries, we don't know what they're going to do.  
47 They could say, no, we like the process as it is. We  
48 simply don't know. This is the Board's recommendation  
49 however.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. James.  
2  
3 MR. NAGEAK: If the change is going to  
4 be from a rural to a nonrural determination, then  
5 what's the definition of a nonrural? I don't see it  
6 here.  
7  
8 DR. JENKINS: We don't know yet. And  
9 there might not be one definition. It might be that  
10 Prudhoe Bay is nonrural because it's an industrial  
11 center for example.  
12  
13 MR. NAGEAK: Red dog?  
14  
15 DR. JENKINS: Well, exactly. I mean  
16 the Board would have to make those determinations to  
17 decide which areas are nonrural for which reasons, but  
18 we don't know what those are yet. The Board has not  
19 made an analysis to decide what those will be.  
20  
21 MR. NAGEAK: So in the future maybe  
22 there would be a determination that Ambler is nonrural  
23 because they have production going on.  
24  
25 DR. JENKINS: Any of that is possible,  
26 yes.  
27  
28 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you.  
29  
30 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Rosemary.  
33  
34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: This is also a very  
35 important issue that we're going to be facing for our  
36 region. There are a couple of our villages that could  
37 be facing changes to their determination because of  
38 other changes around their villages that could affect  
39 their listing. It's very important that we try to  
40 continue to be engaged as effectively as we can on this  
41 matter because it really is going to affect our  
42 villages and their determinations.  
43  
44 MR. G. BROWER: This is just  
45 informational at this point, right?  
46  
47 DR. JENKINS: At this point it is  
48 because this letter just went to the Secretaries a few  
49 days ago.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Again thank you, Mr.  
2 Jenkins.  
3  
4 DR. JENKINS: You're welcome.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, do we have any  
7 other items that we moved up in regards to the agenda  
8 this morning? I just didn't write them all down.  
9  
10 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
11 Tom Evans was going to give a really brief -- we've  
12 also talked about it extensively on the special  
13 actions. He has really brief information on the  
14 biological surveys that were done. We do want to get  
15 to priority information needs. Karen Hyer is here and  
16 we'll follow up with the discussion that the Council  
17 has had from the previous meeting and yesterday. We  
18 have several other things on the agenda we're hoping to  
19 get to today. The statewide fisheries proposal we have  
20 George Pappas online and Carl Johnson was going to  
21 provide an update on the Council nominations process.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.  
24  
25 MR. EVANS: Eva promised I had more  
26 information. I have nothing. I'm done.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You're excused.  
29  
30 (Laughter)  
31  
32 MR. EVANS: Just to add a little bit.  
33 Eva did a really good job of kind of explaining the  
34 moose special action at Kaktovik. The points I'd like  
35 to reiterate, it's just Kaktovik. Kaktovik averaged  
36 one moose per year for the last 10 years, so that's  
37 kind of what their harvest history has been.  
38  
39 There's two populations that are in  
40 Unit 26C. There's one along the coastal plain that I  
41 call the North Slope population. It's basically from  
42 the Brooks Range towards the coast. That population  
43 basically maintained a level of about 52 for the last  
44 10 years, from 2003 to 2011, '12. The population, when  
45 they did their count in 2014, dropped down 50 percent.  
46 So due to that 50 percent reduction, that was the  
47 conservation reason for doing the special action and  
48 closing it despite the liberalization that we had done  
49 before at the last meeting.  
50



1 I think that's all the additional  
2 information I'm going to provide on that one. It's  
3 done for a conservation reason. Any questions?

4  
5 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair, can I ask  
6 something.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

9  
10 MR. G. BROWER: I know you do your  
11 population and count what's there. What kind of  
12 studies have been undertaken to watch these animals,  
13 like the caribou, with radio collars and see where they  
14 move and if they just stay there year round? Is there  
15 any information regarding that type of information?

16  
17 MR. EVANS: So for the caribou, Geoff  
18 explained that kind of earlier, so I won't go over that  
19 or you can ask questions of him on the caribou. For  
20 the moose populations -- and he can add to this if he  
21 would like to. But basically the moose in that  
22 population that's kind of what I'm calling the North  
23 Slope populations in a very open tundra area, they do  
24 basically these transects that go back and forth that  
25 go from basically the mountains to the coast. They  
26 often combine those with muskox counts at the same time  
27 and then they focus on the drainages because that's  
28 really the only place that the moose are going to be  
29 typically when they do the surveys. They do the  
30 surveys the same time roughly every survey period.  
31 Like any survey, you're not covering the whole area  
32 because that's just the way surveys work and then you  
33 just basically count the moose you see.

34  
35 If you look at the moose distribution  
36 in that area from the last 10 years, it's kind of  
37 interesting that you'll see different years the moose  
38 will be sometimes in different drainages. They won't  
39 always be in the same area during each year. This last  
40 year when they got the count of the 26 or so, most of  
41 them were in the Firth drainage.

42  
43 So in a sense they haven't -- I don't  
44 think they put collars on these moose because you  
45 basically can see most of them when you can do the  
46 surveys.

47  
48 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

1  
2 MR. G. BROWER: I love the explanation  
3 and all that, but what comes with science and  
4 technology and being able to see -- let's say you put  
5 five collars on this remaining 26 moose in this area,  
6 now you're able to watch them 24/7 365 days a year and  
7 where are they going, are they staying right there, is  
8 that grizzly bear carrying around a collar after he ate  
9 it or what's going on. I just wanted to see if there  
10 have been efforts to look at these moose and where they  
11 come from or if, like you say, that is the population,  
12 that's where they live and that's where they die and  
13 whether or not these are transient moose that get  
14 repopulated from a larger herd down south.

15  
16 MR. EVANS: Well, definitely, if you  
17 put collars on the population you learn more  
18 information about where they go, the distributions and  
19 the movements and potentially the source of mortality  
20 of the moose. I think, you know, when biologists are  
21 making decisions or managers are making decisions, some  
22 of it comes down to we have a limited amount of funding  
23 and where do we put our resources to get the biggest  
24 bang for the buck.

25  
26 So, for a small population like this,  
27 it may have been decided they think they have a pretty  
28 good handle where the moose are and stuff. Granted you  
29 would get more information if you put collars on them  
30 and you could see where they moved.

31  
32 Now that other population in Unit 26C  
33 that occurs in the Old Crow Flats that basically calve  
34 in the Old Crow Flats and Yukon and then basically  
35 during the wintertime go up to the Firth, Mancha,  
36 Sheenjok and Colleen River drainages. That population  
37 definitely moves and they put collars on those. That's  
38 how they found out where they go during the wintertime.  
39 We know whether some of them go to a drainage and stay  
40 there. Some of them sometimes go to a drainage and  
41 then will move during the winter between drainages.

42  
43 So I think that's just a decision. As  
44 far as I know, there haven't been any collaring efforts  
45 done for this kind of the coastal portion of the moose.  
46 I can ask Geoff if he knows of any additional studies  
47 that have been done on that.

48  
49 MR. G. BROWER: Let me -- Geoff, you're  
50 welcome to come down, but I just wanted to -- I think

1 you may be actually getting the point here. If it's a  
2 transient population, we should know that. If we kill  
3 them off, all 26 moose next year, will 26 more come?  
4 If you're saying that it's so distinct that there's 26  
5 left and maybe it's a pool that's going to be instinct  
6 that ever grew up make a sanctuary for those 26 moose  
7 that's how I think you're operating, when in practical  
8 matters, it may be that they're coming down from a  
9 larger population. Even if we killed them off, all of  
10 them, 26 more will come down the same drainage and come  
11 there and enjoy the summer or something to that effect.  
12 It seems to me you should put collars on this to stop  
13 me from talking like that, you know.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Geoff.

18

19 MR. CARROLL: If I could pitch in a  
20 little bit here. Well, the initial question, we  
21 usually do keep a fair number of collars on the  
22 Colville moose. The 2014 count, moose all across the  
23 North Slope took a major nose dive. I mean Colville  
24 moose dropped 50 percent.

25

26 MR. SHEARS: They died?

27

28 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. And the collars  
29 told us a lot of the story that happened there. I'll  
30 just continue. The Kuparuk moose, the Itkillik moose,  
31 Canning River moose, all across the North Slope they  
32 declined about 50 percent at least. On the Itkillik,  
33 we usually count about 52 moose. We looked and looked  
34 and looked and found 17 moose on the Itkillik. Their  
35 count probably is an indication of what's happened.  
36 Something horrible happened the summer of 2013.

37

38 Remember that spring was at least two  
39 weeks late everywhere. I mean it went way on. I know  
40 that the Colville moose are -- you know, they're the  
41 farthest north moose in the world, so they have a very  
42 short growing season. So you take two weeks off that  
43 growing season, it's really rough on them. Then you  
44 knock the numbers down, then all of a sudden you've got  
45 a lot more wolves and bears per moose and pushes them  
46 down further.

47

48 Anyway, the collars, you know, we do a  
49 spring count, we do calving counts and then we do a  
50 fall survey and the fall of 2013 I went in to do a fall

1 survey and we usually do those the first week in  
2 November because most of the moose have moved down near  
3 the river bottoms by then, at least half of them  
4 anyway, so we're able to do composition counts and see  
5 how many bulls compared to how many cows.

6  
7 But the fall of 2013 there weren't even  
8 enough moose in the river bottoms to do good  
9 composition counts, but I did have a bunch of them  
10 radio-collared. Out of the radio-collared moose, half  
11 of them are dead and none of the rest had calves. All  
12 of those moose were alive and had calves in June. So  
13 something really bad happened that summer of 2013.

14  
15 Anyway, I'm just saying that the moose  
16 just took it really hard that summer of 2013. Moose  
17 counts were down all over in 2014. The same thing  
18 happened with the sheep. That's why they're having the  
19 sheep closures. The sheep counts are way down after  
20 that spring of 2013. Somehow that really late spring  
21 was just deadly for a lot of animal populations.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Does that help,  
24 Gordon?

25  
26 MR. G. BROWER: Quyanag, Geoff.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Geoff.  
29 James.

30  
31 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah, I was just wondering  
32 whether -- you know, the moose aren't very adapted to  
33 this kind of environment I don't think because when we  
34 were growing up there were no sign of moose and all of  
35 a sudden -- I don't know what happened down south, but  
36 they started coming around on the north side of the  
37 Brooks Range. Is it because of lack of nutrition that  
38 they overextended themselves in trying to stay alive  
39 with the nutrition they have on the North Slope? Is  
40 that one of the reasons why they went down so fast or  
41 because they're not custom -- customarily used -- it's  
42 not a customary and traditional area for the moose on  
43 the North Slope because when we were growing up there  
44 was no sign of that?

45  
46 So I'm wondering if they just  
47 overextended themselves. I know that they chew a lot  
48 of that willow bark up in the southern part of Gates,  
49 Unit 24. You know, when you go up in that area, that's  
50 one of the things that they have for nutrition.

1  
2 MR. CARROLL: Well, yeah, I think  
3 you're onto something there. Like I described, moose  
4 on the North Slope are just on the ragged edge of  
5 habitable moose range. They're just in a place where  
6 they can barely hang in.

7  
8 During the years in the '50s when  
9 conditions were really good and the moose populations  
10 were growing rapidly to the south, they didn't even  
11 have them on the Seward Peninsula until the '50s and  
12 they pushed on up here and they expanded their range  
13 quite a lot. They're a very successful species in that  
14 way. In the process of that, they push right out to  
15 the edge and this is the edge up here.

16  
17 But they do great for years. I mean  
18 between 1970 and 1991 they were very consistent. They  
19 went from like 1,200 moose to 1,600 moose and no dips  
20 and then all of a sudden in '91 they crashed to 300 and  
21 fought their way back up and now they're going through  
22 another crash. I don't know. Things could be real  
23 good for them up here. They do all right sometimes,  
24 but I think that -- I don't know, I probably shouldn't  
25 keep going on.

26  
27 Another really interesting thing we  
28 learned this year is that there's lots of competition  
29 going on out there and there's even competition between  
30 the animals and the plants. These willows, they can  
31 detect when they're being overgrazed and then they  
32 start producing -- it's kind of a toxin and it makes it  
33 hard to digest. It's called tannins and they produce  
34 lots of tannins and it makes it hard to digest for the  
35 moose, so all of a sudden what they're eating they can  
36 hardly digest.

37  
38 So what happened up here, I think, is  
39 that the willows got hit -- you know, they had kind of  
40 constant grazing by the moose and then all of a sudden  
41 the snowshoe hares moved in and they were gurgling  
42 willows and they were really hitting them hard too and  
43 all of a sudden it like doubled the browsing on the  
44 plants, so these plants produced tannins to make it  
45 harder to digest, so it's kind of funny to think about  
46 the plants fighting back. But there are plants like in  
47 farther south in Alaska and an individual plant will  
48 produce lots of tannins in the leaves just as high as a  
49 moose can reach and then the leaves up above that it  
50 doesn't produce tannins because they can't eat those

1 anyway. Those plants are smarter than they look.

2

3 I don't know. It's a complicated  
4 question and we don't know all the answers. We did  
5 have a -- we collected a whole bunch of willow samples  
6 and we had them analyzed and it turned out that the  
7 digestible protein in the plants up in the North Slope  
8 are lower than any place else in the state. A  
9 digestible protein, it doesn't matter how much protein  
10 there is versus how many tannins are in it because the  
11 tannins make it indigestible.

12

13 So anyway that's part of the problem.  
14 They're just not getting enough protein out of the  
15 leaves that they're eating. That's probably a lot more  
16 than you wanted to hear.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Geoff.

19

20 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

23

24 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: You gave some  
25 insight into one of the questions I had and that was in  
26 comparison to this decline to the previous decline that  
27 we went through in the '90s, so that was helpful. You  
28 also gave insight into some discussion around some of  
29 the additional changes that we're seeing with other  
30 animals coming into the area and how that affects the  
31 population.

32

33 The only question I didn't get was do  
34 we have enough assessment going on to look at how our  
35 inter-unit migratory factor of the moose population is  
36 occurring? We've had a tremendous amount of years  
37 where we've had a lot of fires on the Interior and then  
38 we didn't. Are we having some tremendous amount of  
39 good food growth for them there and that's helping the  
40 animals think about going down that way or those kind  
41 of things. Do we have a good assessment of whether or  
42 not the moose are moving between units and that affects  
43 population counts?

44

45 MR. CARROLL: Well, we've had varying  
46 numbers of radio collars on the moose. We had years  
47 with up to 50 collars on the moose on the Colville.  
48 Right now we've got about 20, but we've never seen a  
49 lot of moose. Moose seem to just get a small home  
50 range and stick with it. Most of them don't travel

1 much more than about 20 miles. They move down to the  
2 river bottom and then they move up into the hills.  
3 We've had very few moose just disappear, you know, as  
4 if they've gone over the mountains or something. I  
5 don't think with that population that there is a  
6 lot of movement in and movement out.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Geoff.

9  
10 MR. FRANKSON: Mr. Chair.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Teddy.

13  
14 MR. FRANKSON: We've got a small  
15 population of moose that comes up every year now for  
16 the past 20 years. Sometimes it's up to seven,  
17 sometimes it's only up to four, but this year we seen  
18 only one. I'm just wondering if any of your collared  
19 moose ever come down toward Point Hope way or if you've  
20 made any observations.

21  
22 MR. CARROLL: I think the ones you get  
23 in Point Hope probably come over from the Noatak or  
24 some of those drainages, Fish River. I'm not sure what  
25 drainages there are just to the south of you. We do  
26 have ones in the Colville just take off across the  
27 tundra, but they usually show up at Atqasuk or  
28 Wainwright or Point Lay. In fact, we just had a guy  
29 harvest one in Point Lay a week and a half ago. We had  
30 one show up right by Barrow a couple years ago. But I  
31 think the ones that show up at Point Hope are probably  
32 more from those drainages just to the south of you or  
33 southeast.

34  
35 MR. FRANKSON: Did anybody do any  
36 collaring over there at Noatak, do you know?

37  
38 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. Jim Dau put some  
39 collars on them. He has talked about some of his  
40 collared moose moving over to the top of the Brooks  
41 Range.

42  
43 MR. FRANKSON: I'll probably ask him  
44 that question at the meeting then. Thanks.

45  
46 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: For the third time,  
49 thank you, Geoff.

50

1 (Laughter)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tom, thank you as  
4 well.  
5  
6 MR. CARROLL: Thank you.  
7  
8 MR. NAGEAK: Geoff with a G.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're going to the  
11 next agenda item, the priority information needs for  
12 the FRMP by Karen. I'm good with acronyms, FRMP.  
13  
14 MS. HYER: Good afternoon. For the  
15 record, my name is Karen Hyer and I'm a fisheries  
16 biologist with OSM. I'll refer you to this draft  
17 Northern Alaska Regional Priority Information Needs. I  
18 had put that during lunch on your desks.  
19  
20 So this shouldn't be new to you. This  
21 is a list that we've looked at a couple times. Does  
22 everybody have it? Good. Again, the FRMP is the  
23 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and through that  
24 program we fund research projects to assist in Federal  
25 subsistence management and we call those projects  
26 together the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan and  
27 it's a biannual funding process.  
28  
29 In the fall of 2014 we are going to put  
30 out a notice of funding for funding of projects in  
31 2016. Since we last talked I have organized the list  
32 so you can see North Slope's information needs at the  
33 top and then I put Northwest and Seward Peninsula. So  
34 you have the other ones for your information, but the  
35 ones that we've been kind of having an ongoing  
36 discussion about at our other Regional Council meetings  
37 are at the top.  
38  
39 I don't know if it would be easiest if  
40 we just worked down the list and then I have some  
41 things that aren't on the list that we still need to  
42 clarify and I have some questions about this list too.  
43 I'll just start at the top. The first one is the  
44 concern at Anaktuvuk about the lake trout and it's  
45 document longevity, age of maturity and abundance of  
46 fish of a given size, range or maturity status for lake  
47 trout in the upper Anaktuvuk River.  
48  
49 Please stop me as we go down if you  
50 have any questions or any comments. I see one there.



1 I have some comments too as we go down and I'll bring  
2 them up. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes. Thank you,  
5 Karen. I was just trying to maybe get the Council  
6 members an idea of what all this means in terms of how  
7 the fish are going to be handled. You'd have to catch  
8 the fish and then they'd be probably put in the holding  
9 pen and check this first one, longevity and age of  
10 maturity. How do you get that through this type of  
11 research?

12

13 MS. HYER: Age could be acquired  
14 through scales. Abundance, you can do a mark/recapture  
15 with, which would involve catching the fish and tagging  
16 them and releasing them and re-catching them. Range  
17 would involve tagging the fish, maybe radio-tagging of  
18 the fish. Age of maturity would involve, again,  
19 catching the fish and establishing their age of  
20 maturity by their age and physical makeup for spawning.  
21 I know they've done that with whitefish.

22

23 If you're going to document any sort of  
24 longevity, again that would be a process of evaluating  
25 the fish probably through age, through taking a scale  
26 and doing some sort of capture and then release.

27

28 Again, an investigator might submit an  
29 investigation plan for part of this, which is saying  
30 this is the information we're interested in or all of  
31 it or it's entirely possible even if we list it we  
32 don't get an investigation plan submitted for it. It's  
33 very hard to get at these variables without actually  
34 handling the fish.

35

36 Anything else on that one?

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 Okay. The next one is arctic cisco  
41 population assessment including distribution, migration  
42 and age structure in northern Alaska. We've talked  
43 about this one before. The emphasis was sort of on  
44 coastal areas from what I remember of my discussion.  
45 I'm wondering if we want to put something more specific  
46 in here or if this meets the idea you were trying to  
47 convey.

48

49 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.  
2  
3 MR. G. BROWER: Arctic cisco population  
4 assessment. It seems to me that may be a Colville  
5 River issue that somebody brought up in the past.  
6  
7 MR. SHEARS: In the Kuk river too.  
8  
9 MR. G. BROWER: Is it in the Kuk River  
10 too? I know we've got cisco in the Chipp and Ikpikpuk  
11 in the brackish, but I've never seen any problem with  
12 those fish.  
13  
14 MS. HYER: Okay.  
15  
16 MR. G. BROWER: I don't even know if  
17 it's the same cisco. Somebody said one time there's  
18 Bering cisco and arctic cisco, but there is cisco in  
19 these different drainages. We do go after them  
20 opportunistically, but one of the biggest concerns I've  
21 heard about is the population assessment for the  
22 Colville River in particular in relationship to  
23 industrializing a major subsistence fisheries resource  
24 area in and around this community itself. I don't know  
25 if that holds true to this day, but that is the primary  
26 concern on arctic cisco, but I think Wainwright had  
27 expressed concern as well.  
28  
29 MR. SHEARS: Also the health, last  
30 year, last winter I think, Richard Tukle from Nuiqsut  
31 had posted pictures of arctic cisco taken from were  
32 shaped like a boomerang. A couple of them were taken.  
33 They had indicated it was causing the deformities of  
34 our fish in the Colville. So in bringing arctic cisco,  
35 highlighting our last subsistence Council meeting back  
36 in February, that was the energy behind that. Also  
37 indicating that it is a priority subsistence fish in  
38 Wainwright. It's netted by a couple dozen families in  
39 the fall time.  
40  
41 The whole impetus about bringing you  
42 before us today stemmed from a meeting that we had a  
43 year ago where we questioned how priorities were being  
44 established for studying fish. When we were seeing  
45 grant funds being distributed throughout the state and  
46 one study for the North Slope that was tagging arctic  
47 char in the Kaktovik region to understand the migration  
48 patterns and that's when we were like going, hey, hey,  
49 we've got some real concerns on the North Slope.  
50

1                         Sorry, Lee, I don't mean to belittle  
2 your arctic char. I love Kaktovik fish. But we were  
3 saying, you know, how come we're not studying the broad  
4 whitefish that is shared, that North Slope sharing  
5 studies have indicated is such a high energy food that  
6 is primarily harvested from this region here in the  
7 Chipp River and distributed across the North Slope and  
8 also off the Slope in fact. That's almost a commercial  
9 fish in terms of sharing and traditional bartering and  
10 distribution.

11  
12                         That's also where the idea behind the  
13 cisco was brought up and then it was further developed.  
14 The concerns with the mold, the bacteria that was  
15 growing on the surface of the fish. That's when we  
16 were questioning how are priorities being established  
17 and maybe you should consult with us and we can give  
18 you an idea of what's truly important for us or  
19 prioritized for us.

20  
21                         Studying a fish like the char in  
22 Kaktovik that is residing and populating the rivers of  
23 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a protected region  
24 that is not affected by impending development, when we  
25 ought to be getting baseline information from Nuiqsut  
26 where we've got a huge amount of industrial development  
27 hinging around exploration and new oilfield sites here.  
28 The possibility of Shell Oil bringing a pipeline ashore  
29 and crossing a number of tributaries to tie it in to  
30 the Alyeska Pipeline from Wainwright or even beyond  
31 Wainwright, towards Point Lay.

32  
33                         There's a lot of unexplored regions, a  
34 lot of gaps in our knowledge, in our scientific  
35 research knowledge about fish. And instead of -- maybe  
36 we're focusing money on arctic char in Kaktovik  
37 prematurely and we should be redirecting our grant fund  
38 priorities to communities that are on the cusp of  
39 change.

40  
41                         That's my comment on that and maybe  
42 that will help clarify why we've asked you to be here  
43 today, to brief it.

44  
45                         CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Karen.

46  
47                         MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
48 members. I appreciate that comment because that is  
49 indeed why we've been working to try to articulate  
50 exactly what your wishes are, so I do appreciate that

1 comment.

2

3 Just to follow up. This is a very  
4 general comment because it says northern Alaska and one  
5 of the things we've struggled with is being too  
6 general. So when we say northern Alaska, that's a wide  
7 range and they may choose to study something that  
8 really is not a priority to you.

9

10 So instead of saying northern Alaska  
11 should I be talking specifically about arctic cisco on  
12 the Colville River? Is that where the need is?

13

14 MR. SHEARS: We've got different levels  
15 of priority based on different river systems here.

16

17 MS. HYER: Yes. And as I said before,  
18 this is just to guide the research. If there is  
19 something we have missed and we get a proposal for that  
20 and the investigator justifies why it is a great  
21 priority and it's not on this list, then we have funded  
22 those in the past, but we do rely on your expertise to  
23 help us determine exactly where we should be looking  
24 for these priorities.

25

26 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

29

30 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: This species is one  
31 that has had multiple companies start assessment  
32 process with ConocoPhillips, having activities with  
33 Shell, having activities with other companies that are  
34 doing the nearshore or offshore activities. There are  
35 different assessments that are occurring.

36

37 The problem we have is that the funding  
38 sources are looking at this assessment for a project  
39 development. It's not looking at this assessment for a  
40 species management and that's the biggest concern that  
41 we've had in this process. It's been very

42 fragmented and not locally controlled  
43 in this process. So we've had multiple studies on the  
44 arctic cisco. However, we haven't had effective  
45 studies to help us effectively manage this harvesting  
46 in species and the dependance upon our communities for  
47 this.

48

49 So I'm not sure with all of the  
50 different entities that have been doing assessment do

1 we have what we need, do we need to get some additional  
2 information, do we need to be more specific to help us  
3 come up with some criteria that allows us to get  
4 forward with some land use management issues that are  
5 affecting subsistence and that's the biggest concern we  
6 have on these issues is that we're fragmented in  
7 everything that's being done. We don't have any  
8 control over much of what's going on and we're not  
9 getting enough information to give us a knowledgeable  
10 sense of information to allow us to manage the resource  
11 and the land use changes that are occurring around our  
12 subsistence harvest.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.  
15 Any other comments. Joe.

16

17 MR. J. NUKAPIGAK: In regards to this  
18 arctic cisco, it's a migratory fish that comes back and  
19 forth to McKenzie River, which is on the Canadian side  
20 of the border. Right now arctic cisco is summering at  
21 Mackenzie River delta. In the fall time, that's when  
22 they come over to the Colville River every year, year  
23 round. Arctic cisco is highly -- because we love that  
24 fish. It's oily fish and we used to feed that to our  
25 relatives inland and whatnot. Not only that but do  
26 some research on that too, fishing study year in year  
27 out on the Colville River in the fall time.

28

29 Now we see more and more of all kinds  
30 of fish coming in. Humpies, for example, are coming in  
31 every other year and they do their spawning in  
32 Itkillik. Not only that, now we have silvers, arctic  
33 char, now there's some jack salmons coming in. These  
34 are the fish that needs to be monitored and studied  
35 because you know with the climate change that we see  
36 nowadays and with all those -- possibly 20 years down  
37 the road, who knows, we might have a commercial fishery  
38 in our ocean because of the warming of the climate.

39

40 Yes, there is a need for continual  
41 monitoring on arctic cisco. Not only that, but any  
42 fish that comes into the river system of the North  
43 Slope, Colville River being the longest, 20-some miles  
44 of river system. Sometimes we come up short in funding  
45 trying to understand what is it. We cannot continue to  
46 rely on oil industry to fund all these caribou  
47 monitoring, fishing study on arctic cisco. Here I can  
48 see that there could be some conflict in what is  
49 required. That industry wants to extract some oil.  
50 Yeah, they put up some money, but to their own liking.

1 To their own liking. They don't like whatever report  
2 that comes out, I'll find a better contractor that will  
3 do this. I've seen that happen.

4  
5 And Federal government, they're going  
6 to do some funding on some of this monitoring. Some of  
7 our migratory fish that comes from the ocean to our  
8 river system. I believe that there is a need for that  
9 to continue monitoring. Not only just for one year,  
10 but continuously if that would help better understand,  
11 you know, what fish are coming in and what fish are  
12 going where.

13  
14 Quyanaq.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Joe. Joe  
17 Nukapigak is a resident of Nuiqsut. Yes.

18  
19 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, RAC members.  
20 Gene Peltola, Jr., ARD of OSM. I want to make one  
21 comment. What I heard from Bob, what I heard from  
22 Rosemary is not unique just to the North Slope RAC.  
23 We've heard similar comments throughout the state.  
24 When I came in as ARD of OSM last year, a lot of those  
25 comments are provided to me coming in. We'd already  
26 gone through the process regarding the FRMP for those  
27 projects for the last couple years and we funded those  
28 this summer.

29  
30 The way the program has been designed  
31 and implemented to date is that we go out and ask the  
32 RACs where do you think we should concentrate on  
33 putting our money. We go to other RACs and try to  
34 balance that out. We have a slight balance on how much  
35 we try to spend in each region. What it comes down to  
36 is if one region is underspent with regard to it's  
37 recommendation, some areas over spend.

38  
39 You know, I've heard some concerns like  
40 Bob said, why are we studying A over B or C over F  
41 because we think you should be putting your effort on  
42 D. So because of that -- we have been short-staffed  
43 and I'll address that tomorrow when we get to the OSM  
44 report. We have a new supervisory fisheries biologist  
45 coming on board in September.

46  
47 One thing that I've looked at and some  
48 of the discussions that I've been exposed to coming in  
49 is that the process is not transparent. We get a  
50 proposal and if you look at what was funded this

1 summer, anything that the Technical Review Committee  
2 recommended not to be funded didn't get funded.  
3 Anything that was recommended for funding had the  
4 probability to be funded. So because of a concern like  
5 that, one thing we're considering doing at OSM is  
6 reviewing the program and see if there's a way that we  
7 can make it more efficient and see if there's a way we  
8 can do the best we can to assure that the projects we  
9 fund are giving us the most bang for the buck for  
10 subsistence resources management.

11  
12 Does that mean that everybody's  
13 particular favorite project will be funded in the  
14 future? Absolutely not. Far probably from it because  
15 we all have our personal preferences. But we're going  
16 to take a look at it. Hopefully we can come up with a  
17 system that is, one, more transparent; two, people  
18 understand; three, gets us to where priorities should  
19 be; and, four, something we can all live with.

20  
21 One of the biggest complaints I've  
22 heard is that we always fund the agencies before  
23 anybody else. With this last round we just completed,  
24 we're kind of at a third/third/third split with regard  
25 to money we divvy up. That's between the State, the  
26 Federal and the non-governmental agencies. It was far  
27 from that a few years back and they're kind of  
28 balancing out.

29  
30 Because of, say, the Partners Program  
31 and try to get capacity building within the different  
32 entities throughout the state, they're bringing more  
33 skilled employees into their reigns. I'm not saying  
34 the people that were there were not skilled at all, but  
35 we're bringing a lot more recognition into those areas  
36 and they're being able to compete for a lot more money,  
37 so they're becoming more of a -- it's more equitable  
38 across how we have been funded here in the last few  
39 years compared to five or six years ago or so. I just  
40 wanted to mention that.

41  
42 MR. SHEARS: Good to know.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for sharing  
45 that, Gene. So in regards to some of the information  
46 that we've heard and the amount of data collection  
47 that's been already ongoing for the cisco, how do we  
48 complement what we're requesting for in terms of  
49 population assessments and including distribution,  
50 migration needs, structure in northern Alaska? Like

1 Joe mentioned, it's already been industry addressing  
2 probably those very same questions. Are we looking to  
3 request information that they've collected to learn  
4 from this to see what could be missing in that dataset  
5 might be one question.

6

7 I'm not sure if it was more focused and  
8 directed to doing what's written there in your paper,  
9 Karen. I'm just trying to develop more communications  
10 of what's known and what's being asked.

11

12 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
13 members. I have a couple things. I heard a couple  
14 things. One of the things that happens through the  
15 review process is these are reviewed by the Technical  
16 Review Committee, which are made up of knowledgeable  
17 fisheries experts from State and Federal agencies.  
18 Good investigators will go and look and see what has  
19 been done and build on that, so they use that as a  
20 building block to move on.

21

22 And I heard Rosemary talk about kind of  
23 a holistic approach to the arctic cisco in the Colville  
24 and what we know and where we go and how it applies to  
25 subsistence. Subsistence now and subsistence in the  
26 future and kind of the change.

27

28 So I think this bullet is not complete.  
29 I think I need to do a little bit more from what I've  
30 heard here. We'll take it back and we'll work on it  
31 and send it back out, email it back out to make sure we  
32 hit it. But I heard you give me a little bit more  
33 information than what I had written down, so that's  
34 where I'm going to head with it.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anybody else have any  
37 questions. James.

38

39 MR. NAGEAK: You know, you say in  
40 northern Alaska and I don't know -- you know, northern  
41 Alaska is from Kaktovik to Point Hope and one of the  
42 questions, of course, is where is the focal point in  
43 the assessment. I don't want to mix up that the arctic  
44 cisco is different than the Mexican Cisco, you know.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 MR. NAGEAK: So I'm wondering because I  
49 think there's some monetary things that will happen if  
50 a place is chosen, you know. Where in northern Alaska



1 is the assessment? Is it going to be the whole  
2 northern part of Alaska?

3

4 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
5 members. I think from what I heard here the focus is  
6 the stocks that go into the Colville River and I also  
7 heard that they probably -- and this is one thing we've  
8 discussed before. They probably migrate out into the  
9 ocean and they go other places and they're just now  
10 developing the technology to track fish in a marine  
11 environment and the Dolly Varden project isn't tracking  
12 Dolly Varden in the marine environment because we know  
13 a lot about them in the freshwater. So there's  
14 probably some technology out there that could lead to  
15 very interesting study we would hope. I know that  
16 they've applied those tags. They're quite large and I  
17 know they've applied them successfully to Dolly Varden.  
18 I don't know about cisco. I don't know if we're there  
19 yet.

20

21 But if we get the research need down  
22 and we revisit it again, if we don't get it this time --  
23 if it still is a research need, we'll leave it on the  
24 list and we can revisit it. Technology for fisheries  
25 are just changing very quickly. So maybe if one person  
26 doesn't have the right idea, another person will, so  
27 it's worth keeping it in front of our investigators.

28

29 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair, can I ask a  
30 question?

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

33

34 MR. G. BROWER: In 2004, we had many  
35 public hearings here in the community over alpine  
36 satellite. One of the things that came out of concerns  
37 on developing the lands here and changing it into oil  
38 and gas development area was what are you going to do  
39 about the impacts of caribou and fish, naming the  
40 arctic cisco. Several things were born out of that.  
41 Caribou studies and arctic ciscos studies, including a  
42 good neighbor policy in case something, a catastrophic  
43 event, happened to the fisheries and to be able to make  
44 a determination on what's going on with the fish.

45

46 I recently asked a question to  
47 ConocoPhillips. What's the state of the good neighbor  
48 policy and they forgot all about it for many years and  
49 I said do you know you're on the hook if this mold is  
50 impacting the fish and it's the cause of the industry

1 and what is the state of your good neighbor policy. So  
2 they recently put it into place and working to  
3 implement it. What it is is a \$5 million bond for the  
4 community, just like the \$20 million bond for Northstar  
5 for the whaling captains and the whaling community  
6 should whaling have to stop.

7

8 But who's going to make the  
9 determination on the health of the fish so that we can  
10 say, hey, there should be a third party determination  
11 on these types of issues because I think Joe has some  
12 good points on they're going to make a study and if  
13 they don't like it, they can tear it up and get another  
14 one to make another study because they're on the hook  
15 for a lot of different things.

16

17 I think these are important things to  
18 note. Being able to know the health and the population  
19 assessments and their impacts and where they're coming  
20 from is a big thing. I just wanted to point that out.  
21 It might be this mechanism to be able to effectively  
22 monitor these resources with the government's eye on  
23 it.

24

25 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Rosemary.

28

29 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: There's two points  
30 that are not included in this bullet and it's the  
31 health of the fish, making sure that the fish are still  
32 healthy when they get to us, but also our regional  
33 dependance upon the species when other species are  
34 impacted. We're having concerns around caribou, we're  
35 having concerns around moose, we're having concerns  
36 around sheep. Our villages are going to turn to  
37 increased reliance upon the fish and do we have enough  
38 to cover the needs for an extended period of time if  
39 our species continued to decline and our dependance  
40 increased upon these species.

41

42 So that's an important point we need to  
43 look at and be prepared to assess because the reality  
44 is we've got a lot of concerns and we've got multiple  
45 species that we're talking about and our families are  
46 going to turn to other species. We need to make sure  
47 we're looking out for the longevity.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. If no  
50 other comments, you can continue, Karen.

1  
2 MS. HYER: The next one is description  
3 and analysis of sharing networks and customary trade of  
4 salmon in villages in northern Alaska and this was  
5 brought up because there's a lot of trade that happens  
6 between villages farther south from here in northern  
7 Alaskan villages.

8  
9 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. This one  
10 came up with discussions because we were already facing  
11 intervillage concerns around sharing of various species  
12 with the changes that were happening on the Yukon River  
13 and the Kuskokwim and interfamilial dependence upon  
14 trading traditional resources between the areas was  
15 very important to us. This is something that's really  
16 important with previous discussion around the customary  
17 and traditional use assessment and the .804 analysis.

18  
19 These things are really important that  
20 we have a good understanding because there are  
21 increased competition for our lands and waters and they  
22 are foods that we rely on and it's going to continue to  
23 change and we really have to have a good understanding  
24 of this because we have many restrictions that are  
25 already occurring throughout our state.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.  
28 Any other comments.

29  
30 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

33  
34 MR. G. BROWER: I'm wondering if this  
35 one here maybe requires some level of update. I  
36 remember the concerns were raised about the Yukon River  
37 salmon and their decline or something to that effect  
38 and when they were limiting the catch in that region we  
39 were feeling the impact because of the trade and I  
40 don't know if those things have continued and be  
41 persistent to where the level of our concerns to study  
42 the trade in our use could be real easily said. I use  
43 the Yukon River because I trade for muktuk and other  
44 stuff to get smoked salmon from that region. It would  
45 be good to see if that priority level is still there in  
46 terms of are they still severely restricted from that  
47 type of fishing in that Yukon.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Vincent, come on  
50 down. The Price Is Right and I'm not Vanna White.

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(Laughter)

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, they just went through a second year of not being allowed to harvest any chinook salmon on the Yukon River. The latest border passage in Eagle did go beyond the escapement range of 42,500 to 55,000. This morning I looked at it at 6:00 a.m., so I might have the data a little off, but I think it was 64,000 passed. You also have to realize the return rate per salmon for chinook, the latest data I saw was at 1 or below 1. So there is still grave concern for the chinook salmon on the Yukon River. The managers and everyone has been working on getting subsistence fishermen to re-focus their harvest on summer chum and fall chum. So that is what's going on right now. So, yes, there is still a concern on chinook salmon. We're not out of the woods.

Some leaders across the drainage are asking for a full moratorium on chinook salmon. Some are saying one life cycle, others are saying longer. It is still a grave concern. I hope that helps on the customary trade if you're looking at chinook salmon.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

MR. G. BROWER: My concern in terms of spending these dollars, and like we were talking about prioritizing on something that we have major concern that maybe we need to study it. I know we do sharing and customary trade, but is that -- studying that, is that a mechanism that will help the salmon? The ties that we create there, most people I would think, you know, create them when they want to create them, but I don't know what the study will accomplish further than we continue to hold ties with folks over there.

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. I think Rosemary has covered that several times that you do have declining resources on the North Slope and that's I believe what Karen and the process is asking for, is to prioritize what topics or issues you would like to look at. So it is difficult. I truly understand the importance of trade. You're just going to have to balance that out with your other concerns. And then part of that is someone has to be interested in doing that research, so please don't forget that part.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for sharing

1 what you did, Vincent.

2

3 MR. G. BROWER: I just wanted to add  
4 more just on that part. If it were up to me, I would  
5 say use that money to find out the offshore intercepts  
6 by the international fisheries on this chinook salmon.  
7 I don't think we have all the people in the state  
8 fishing in the Yukon to deplete a resource to that  
9 level other than offshore intercepts.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.

12

13 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Robert.

16

17 MR. SHEARS: Separate subject. I'm  
18 changing the subject now, the tone. Got a lot of  
19 concerns up here on the North Slope, you know, in the  
20 communities with small groups of people, dealing with  
21 micro-environments that are -- Office of Subsistence  
22 Management, the Fisheries Resource Management Program  
23 deals with entire species of entire regions and their  
24 impacts on a large population of customary and  
25 traditional users.

26

27 But what about the small groups of  
28 people. You know, we're getting comments, concerns  
29 from people that live in the community of Anaktuvuk  
30 Pass that have watched the gradual deterioration of the  
31 grayling fishery right there in Contact Creek, the  
32 little creek that flows in their town. Someplace where  
33 the kids and the old people go down there and toss a  
34 line on a Sunday and catch a mess of grayling for  
35 dinner. Their very existence doesn't depend on this  
36 fishery, but it's culturally important to them and it  
37 has been for decades and decades and now they're seeing  
38 a demise of it.

39

40 Another example. A half a dozen people  
41 in Wainwright make annual pilgrimages at great cost 100  
42 miles inland to fish the clear waters and the gravel  
43 tributaries of the Utukok River, a very rural and wild  
44 river. Very remote, very distant from any community,  
45 but still people go in there to collect sacks and  
46 sacks. You know, to harvest about 1,000 grayling total  
47 out of this huge river system to take home and eat  
48 because that fish tastes special, it tastes a little  
49 different. It's not a fish that resides in the slow-  
50 moving and muddy waters of the Meade, Ikpikpuk and

1 Kokolik River. It's a fast-moving mountain-fed  
2 tributary. The fish taste unique and people like it  
3 for its creamy texture, but it's a micro-subsistence  
4 environment.

5  
6 And then I hear Clayton mentioning that  
7 the Kogosukruk River 30 miles upriver from here is  
8 flowing with lots of -- the water quality of that river  
9 has changed recently and they're observing it's flowing  
10 with a lot of color to it. That's got to get  
11 everybody's anxiety up, you know, who fishes and  
12 certainly there must exist some past research on what  
13 was there. Shouldn't we be going out there and taking  
14 a look at it?

15  
16 All these types of fish studies that  
17 I'm talking about to you really fall beneath your  
18 concern. You're more concerned about these huge,  
19 traditional fishery food stocks that support large  
20 populations and deal with entire species. Yukon River  
21 king salmon. With a problem like that, who cares about  
22 the grayling in Contact Creek that flows through the  
23 middle of Anaktuvuk Pass, right?

24  
25 So is there a way that the FRMP can  
26 reach out with its resources and share its knowledge or  
27 it's technical staff, its skill, its money, with  
28 smaller groups like the North Slope Borough Wildlife to  
29 deal with these smaller issues that are kind of beneath  
30 your radar?

31  
32 MS. HYER: Anybody can apply for this  
33 funding. This funding is open to all. Often what  
34 makes a very successful project is when people take our  
35 money and some of our information needs and combine it  
36 with other money and other needs and address something  
37 that's a broader scope than what is actually in the  
38 priority information needs. But anybody can apply for  
39 it and then we will come back with the projects to you  
40 and ask you again what your priorities are.

41  
42 In the case where things are  
43 competitive and we have more projects, more good  
44 technically-sound project and we have money, that's  
45 when we're going to rely on the RAC to tell us what's  
46 most important. I would imagine at some point it would  
47 be your decision to decide whether a huge subsistence  
48 fishery is more important than a micro-fishery.

49  
50 MR. SHEARS: Thank you for that.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: David.

DR. JENKINS: Yes, thank you. I'd like to jump in briefly and try to answer. I think part of what Bob was getting at, the sorts of studies that we get at the micro-environments and the micro-fisheries are not the sorts that we see here except for possibly the very last bullet. What I think I hear you saying is that you would rather see a comprehensive subsistence study which includes the whole range of fisheries within a community or within a cluster of communities and everything that they do with those fish, how they get them, how they prepare them, where they go, who they trade with, who they barter with. And this is a kind of study, an ethnographic study that we could, in fact, fund, but we have not in this program. We've really focused on really sort of limited kinds of research projects.

If this Regional Advisory Council is interested in that kind of broader subsistence study where we would, for example, fund a PhD anthropologist who would come and live in a community for a year or 18 months or 24 months to try to really understand the more comprehensive subsistence fishery practices, then that's something you could suggest if that's what you're interested in. But that's sort of what I hear you saying here, Bob.

MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. Exactly. I don't know how big I can think. Yes, that's how big I want to think, but I don't know if you have the capacity to allow us as a panel to ask you to consider that scale of research.

DR. JENKINS: Ask away.

MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I agree with that, that we need a better holistic assessment and that is really, really what we're trying to get at. We've got various pieces to this process, but we really need a holistic approach.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.  
Any other comments.

(No comments)

1  
2 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not, continue,  
3 Karen.  
4  
5 MS. HYER: Okay. Another issue we've  
6 talked about is the overwintering areas of Dolly  
7 Varden. I have in the Hulahula River and to identify  
8 the demographic quality of overwinter fishing and  
9 estimate overwinter fish fidelity. But I'm wondering  
10 -- I can't remember. Was it just the Hulahula that you  
11 were interested in or was there some other stock you  
12 were interested in also?  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Lee, are you still  
15 on?  
16  
17 (No comments)  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Lee Kayotuk.  
20  
21 (No comments)  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think this came  
24 from our constituent in Kaktovik and that was one of  
25 the fish they were concerned about, was the Dolly  
26 Varden in the Hulahula River.  
27  
28 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
29 members. I can follow up with him individually later  
30 if he's the one to provide me with that information.  
31  
32 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.  
35  
36 MR. G. BROWER: Also check with Fenton.  
37 I recall Fenton was on this board a while ago and he  
38 had brought up this Dolly Varden assessment stuff.  
39 Fenton Rexford. He's a former member, but probably Lee  
40 can help you get in contact. I didn't know the  
41 specifics of all the concerns that were raised, but I  
42 recall Fenton was raising the issue.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I don't recall  
45 either. It's been several years since we heard  
46 anything about the Dolly Varden research and how the  
47 community has responded to that research that was  
48 happening there or whether they met the objectives of  
49 the community or just the researchers themselves. I  
50 need some help on that communications with either Lee



1 or Fenton.

2

3

James, did you have a comment.

4

5

MR. NAGEAK: Yeah. You know, we have  
6 Dolly Varden in our river system in Anaktuvuk River.  
7 In the middle of the winter we go to this what they  
8 call pakuluk (ph) area and there's Dolly Vardens there  
9 in the middle of the winter. So if you want to get  
10 away from Hulahula River, it's not two rivers just  
11 because it's Hulahula, it's only one river.

12

13

(Laughter)

14

15

MR. NAGEAK: There are some Dolly  
16 Varden that go up the Anaktuvuk River. Where they go  
17 in the summertime, they start coming right upriver like  
18 in July and then they're wintering over on the start of  
19 the Anaktuvuk River. Thank you.

20

21

CHAIRMAN BROWER: You can continue,

22 Karen.

23

24

MS. HYER: Okay. We have description  
25 of temporal changes in subsistence harvest patterns and  
26 resource availability of broad whitefish, arctic cisco  
27 and burbot in the Nigliq River.

28

29

MS. AHTUANGARUAK: It's the Nigliq  
30 Channel, yeah. It's just a portion of it that's right  
31 in front of this village.

32

33

MS. HYER: Right. So should I put  
34 Colville River and then it's Nigliq Channel, it's not  
35 Nigliq River?

36

37

MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Right.

38

39

MR. G. BROWER: Nigliq Channel.

40

41

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Again that was  
42 something that was requested from this community and  
43 that's one that will continue on, I think.

44

45

MS. HYER: I just want to ask Rosemary  
46 specifically did I get the species of interest right?

47

48

MS. AHTUANGARUAK: For?

49

50

MS. HYER: I have broad whitefish,

1 arctic cisco and burbot.  
2  
3 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Those are the three  
4 main ones, but we get more in the main Colville.  
5  
6 MS. HYER: Okay.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, they are.  
9  
10 MS. HYER: Are we ready to move on?  
11  
12 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Uh-huh.  
13  
14 MS. HYER: Okay. Describe changes in  
15 harvest and relative abundance of broad and round  
16 whitefish observed by subsistence fishes in the context  
17 of climate change in the Meade River.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: This is something we  
20 had brought up by one of our previous members from  
21 Atqasuk and still voices the concern as to when is that  
22 going to get accomplished. So I think it's still an  
23 important one that we want to pursue in terms of trying  
24 to address the concern from the village of Atqasuk on  
25 the Meade River.  
26  
27 Gordon.  
28  
29 MR. G. BROWER: I was just going to say  
30 that. You might want to follow up with Paul Bodfish,  
31 Sr. He's another former member and he had expressed  
32 concern about his broad whitefish texture, the meat  
33 texture that they were experiencing, but this is  
34 already probably four years ago now. Maybe it's  
35 subsided, I don't know, but you would have to talk to  
36 residents of that community. It's in NPR-A.  
37  
38 MS. HYER: Okay. I can follow up.  
39  
40 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chairman.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Robert.  
43  
44 MR. SHEARS: I'd like to add to the  
45 scope of that. The Meade River almost shares the  
46 nearest mouth, the first 10, 15 miles of it. It's  
47 sharing the same waterway with the Inaru River, which  
48 is another broad whitefish habitat and it's been fairly  
49 successful over the years. I've heard similar comments  
50 from William Hofstadt that the fish that they're

1 getting used to be fat. They're not producing eggs in  
2 that river anymore and he's not even bothering to fish  
3 it. That's the only testimony I have on it. There's a  
4 lot of other people that probably could provide more  
5 testimony, but from my understanding it's not just the  
6 Meade River, it's the Inaru River, which is co-located  
7 with the Meade River.

8

9 MS. HYER: Thank you. Would you mind  
10 providing me with the spelling of that river.

11

12 MR. SHEARS: I-N-A-R-U.

13

14 MS. HYER: Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: James.

17

18 MR. NAGEAK: You were just mentioning  
19 that -- does fish have many possible stages?

20

21 MS. HYER: As far as what?

22

23 MR. NAGEAK: On eggs.

24

25 MS. HYER: Oh, yeah, yeah.

26

27 MR. NAGEAK: Is there a certain age in  
28 which the fish don't produce any eggs? That's what I  
29 meant by many possible stages.

30

31 MS. HYER: Yes. Different species have  
32 different reproductive cycles. For example, we've done  
33 a lot of work with sheefish up on the Noatak and the  
34 Kobuk and they don't spawn every year, so they'll be  
35 different ages with different stages, absolutely.

36

37 MR. NAGEAK: What stage of their age do  
38 they start producing eggs?

39

40 MS. HYER: I think that's species  
41 specific. If we're talking about whitefish, I'm not  
42 exactly sure. I'm sure it's documented and we could  
43 figure it out.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have some  
46 information from our Teshekpuk Lake research on the  
47 broad whitefish and the maturity of the fish, so we can  
48 probably talk to George from the North Slope Borough  
49 Wildlife and then Larry Moulton would probably be  
50 another resource for getting the answers to the

1 questions.  
2  
3 Continue, Karen, if there's no further  
4 discussion.  
5  
6 MS. HYER: Okay. So the final bullet  
7 is the description of the environmental conditions  
8 leading to the increased expression of the Saprolegnia  
9 fungus that we saw on the board whitefish in the  
10 Colville drainage.  
11  
12 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: With the discussion  
13 that we got during this meeting of the concern from Eli  
14 about having the grayling also involved, that's  
15 something that we have to add to this assessment.  
16  
17 MS. HYER: Okay. So we can put broad  
18 whitefish and grayling.  
19  
20 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: (Nods  
21 affirmatively).  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So is that the name  
24 of the fungus that was identified?  
25  
26 MS. HYER: That is what they identified  
27 in the lab in  
28 Anchorage.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.  
31  
32 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, if there's no  
33 other comments on these bullets, I have a couple other  
34 issues I'd like to bring before you.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, continue.  
37  
38 MS. HYER: I still have two more things  
39 that we have not nailed down, but we have in the past  
40 talked about arctic grayling at Point Hope and  
41 Wainwright and I just wanted to revisit that and see if  
42 that has risen to the level of priority information  
43 need and then we can work on articulating what we want  
44 to ask for.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So, yes, that was  
47 again one of our previous members who has now passed  
48 on, Ray Koonuk, had voiced concern about wanting to get  
49 the grayling studies done in the rivers right outside  
50 of Point Hope for grayling. Teddy, we weren't sure if

1 that's something that your community wishes to  
2 continue this program to pursue or if  
3 it's something that probably time has lapsed and it's  
4 not a concern anymore. I'm looking to you to help  
5 maybe elaborate some of the comments on grayling. Is  
6 there a Kukpowruk near?  
7  
8 MR. FRANKSON: No, just Kukpuk.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Kukpuk. Yeah, I  
11 couldn't quite remember what the name -- I think it was  
12 Kukpuk that he was referring to at the time and he was  
13 voicing concern about grayling numbers dwindling. He  
14 couldn't figure out why or what was causing the fish  
15 having a presence in the river.  
16  
17 MR. FRANKSON: It might have been  
18 cyclical. Right now we  
19 still have grayling and it's pretty  
20 much healthy right now and we have quite a bit, so that  
21 must have been an occurrence that happens every few  
22 years. I wasn't aware of it because he was in before I  
23 was.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.  
26  
27 MR. FRANKSON: So I came in after him  
28 and I wasn't sure what  
29 he was talking about.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's probably well  
32 over eight, nine years since he brought up that concern  
33 in regards to fisheries proposals, but it wouldn't go  
34 anywhere, but he was persistent in bringing it back up  
35 and trying to get the research done on it, but it never  
36 panned out.  
37  
38 MR. FRANKSON: I could look into it and  
39 give you a call and see if we can get that one going if  
40 we need to get that one started up. If not, then --  
41 because right now the numbers are fair.  
42  
43 MS. HYER: That would be great and you  
44 could send that communication through Eva because Eva  
45 has all your contact information. That would be super  
46 if you hear something you could bring back from when  
47 you go home.  
48  
49 MR. FRANKSON: We've had pretty good  
50 numbers this past two or three years now and the

1 conditions are good. We didn't get any sick fish  
2 there. It might have been something that happens every  
3 five, seven years or something like that.

4  
5 MS. HYER: And certainly if it's not an  
6 issue right now it doesn't mean it won't be an issue in  
7 the future.

8  
9 MR. FRANKSON: No, no. I think it's an  
10 occurrence every five, seven years, something like  
11 that, maybe 10 years. So when it happens again at  
12 least we'll be prepared to make a study and see what's  
13 going on over there, but right now there isn't an  
14 issue. I will get back with you on that one.

15  
16 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

19  
20 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: On this species, as  
21 long as we include it as a part of the holistic view, I  
22 would be really reluctant to give a lot of specificity  
23 into this assessment, but I would like to make sure  
24 that it's included into a holistic view of the species  
25 or importance when we're looking at priorities. That's  
26 how I would look at this one.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Continue, Karen.

29  
30 MS. HYER: Okay. I have one more item  
31 and then I think we've covered everything I have notes  
32 for. I have a note about  
33 smelt in the Wainwright area.

34  
35 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Bob.

38  
39 MR. SHEARS: I believe I might have  
40 brought this as well as Wainwright grayling as topics  
41 of consideration as an important  
42 subsistence fish in the region of  
43 Wainwright and Point Lay. I also co-mentioned it with  
44 smelt. The rainbow smelt is a very important fish for  
45 the community of Wainwright, both in biomass and for  
46 the nutritional source for a very large segment of the  
47 population.

48  
49 I mentioned Utukok grayling being a  
50 micro-subsistence fishery for Wainwright being fished

1 by about six people for the enjoyment of maybe less  
2 than 100, but rainbow smelt, when we speak of smelt, it  
3 is an entirely different subject and level of  
4 importance where rainbow smelt feed 90 percent of the  
5 community of Wainwright two to four months of the year  
6 in the winter, but it's also an important sharing and  
7 bartering fish that's distributed widely across the  
8 North Slope and off the Slope.

9  
10 The fish comes in -- typically they  
11 start catching it in early December. It's really  
12 prized and the worst part of the year to catch it in  
13 the darkest, windiest months of January and February.  
14 It gets very sweet, very fat, lots of eggs in it and  
15 then it becomes more bitter in March. Although you can  
16 go there today and catch them in the same densities in  
17 the middle of summer as you can in the middle of  
18 winter, it's almost worthless to eat. It tastes bad,  
19 it has no energy, it has no fat, but it exists there  
20 all the time.

21  
22 Wainwright is undergoing a lot of  
23 development in regards to preparation for development  
24 offshore with the Chukchi leases. Shell oil,  
25 ConocoPhillips, the local village corporation and a lot  
26 of science industries are actively involved there, as  
27 well as the North Slope Borough in developing and  
28 upgrading capital improvement infrastructure of the  
29 community.

30  
31 Gravel is an important base for all  
32 development. Everything starts with a gravel bed,  
33 whether it's a road or a building structure and the  
34 only gravel that is available comes off of the banks or  
35 from the bottom of the marine environment where the  
36 smelts are. They have been going out there in the  
37 winter and excavating to depths 30 feet below sea level  
38 in that environment where the smelt exist now for five  
39 years with Corps of Engineers' blessing and permits  
40 without a lot of -- you know, oil industry is not doing  
41 this.

42  
43 This is the North Slope Borough, this  
44 is regional corporations, other minor developers that  
45 are doing this development work in the fishery area.  
46 You can't really point your finger at anybody and say  
47 Shell Oil you're the ones who should be studying this  
48 fishery before you're developing. They're not the ones  
49 digging the gravel. They're not the ones impacting  
50 this smelt environment. It's government itself. It's

1 Corps of Engineers. It's North Slope Borough. It's  
2 the State of Alaska.

3  
4 I'm bringing it up here because it's an  
5 overlooked fishery. It's a small fish eight to ten  
6 inches long at the most, but it is very, very important  
7 and I just think it's missing the radar as a  
8 subsistence resource.

9  
10 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
11 members. Is this the Kuk River or what river are these  
12 in because right now I just have Wainwright area?

13  
14 MR. SHEARS: It's the inlet region, the  
15 lagoon at Wainwright. It's the only one there.

16  
17 MS. HYER: But then do they go up the  
18 river?

19  
20 MR. SHEARS: That lagoon is fed by the  
21 Kuk tributaries of five rivers. I guess Kuk River is  
22 the primary collection header so to speak. It's a  
23 lesser lagoon. It's difficult to say. Kuuk in Inupiaq  
24 means river, so it's very hard for me to say. It's the  
25 Kuk.

26  
27 MS. HYER: It's the K-U-K, right? Okay.  
28 The only reason I ask this is because this actually was  
29 a priority information need some time ago and we did  
30 get a proposal because we've done a little bit of work  
31 on rainbow smelt and there were some issues with the  
32 proposal and we had asked the investigator to come back  
33 again. So there is some interest out there. I just  
34 want to make sure I get it right. I think David wants  
35 to add something also, so I will let him have a  
36 comment.

37  
38 MR. NAGEAK: Before you get too far  
39 into the subject, here is a map. It's not of  
40 Wainwright, but the Inupiaq name is (in Inupiaq) and on  
41 this map you could see the outline of a person that has  
42 fallen back.

43  
44 MS. HYER: Yeah, I see it.

45  
46 MR. NAGEAK: That's (in Inupiaq). It's  
47 a place where a person falls back. There's an  
48 inscription right there. That's where the smelts are,  
49 on the head part.

50



1 MS. HYER: Okay. All right. Thank  
2 you.  
3  
4 MR. SHEARS: And they're called  
5 ijhuabniq.  
6  
7 MR. NAGEAK: Back in the old days they  
8 didn't have satellites or helicopters to look down and  
9 say, oh, it looks like a person that just fell back,  
10 but that's where the head part is where they go  
11 fishing. It's a little historical.  
12  
13 MR. SHEARS: That's interesting, James.  
14  
15  
16 MS. HYER: Thank you for the input.  
17  
18 DR. JENKINS: The Secretary of the  
19 Interior, Salazar, when he asked for the review of the  
20 subsistence program, one of the things that he asked is  
21 that the Federal Subsistence Board tell the Secretaries  
22 when what he called non-departmental rulemaking  
23 entities do things that affect subsistence. So this  
24 gravel issue that you just raised, especially with the  
25 Army Corps of Engineers permits, may be one of these  
26 instances when this Council should tell the Board this  
27 is something that's going on outside of the normal  
28 purview of the subsistence world, but it affects  
29 subsistence users and the Secretary should know about  
30 it. So this is one way to get that information  
31 disseminated and I would urge you to take that route as  
32 a Council.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did that help, Bob?  
35  
36 MR. SHEARS: Noted and I'll talk about  
37 it later.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Rosemary.  
40  
41 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: All of these have  
42 really big importance for the increased demand upon  
43 each of our species with the activities that we're  
44 going through and future assessment as we look at  
45 working further with this making sure that we look at  
46 that.  
47  
48 MS. HYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and  
49 Council members. I do not have anything else on the  
50 priority information needs. You've answered all my

1 questions. So if you don't have any other questions, I  
2 have a bullet that's not on the agenda, but I gave you  
3 the handout for the Partners Program and we need to  
4 talk about that too. I need your input for that. Are  
5 we ready to move on.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's 5:10. Yes,  
8 we're ready to move on.

9  
10 (Laughter)

11  
12 MS. HYER: All right. Yesterday I  
13 handed each of you one of these. It should be in your  
14 packet somewhere.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What was the title  
17 again?

18  
19 MS. HYER: It was a draft vision  
20 document for the Partners Program dated August 7, 2014.  
21 I'll just start as Eva passes those out giving you kind  
22 of the overview. We've talked in the past about our  
23 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program and it is a  
24 competitive program where we fund partners and they're  
25 usually rural or Native organizations and we provide  
26 funding to them and they actually hire within their  
27 organizations fisheries biologists. They've had  
28 educators, they've had anthropologists.

29  
30 These individuals work within this  
31 organization and they help promote what we call  
32 capacity building and they work with the organizations  
33 to help them become more involved in Federal  
34 subsistence management and they do it through a whole  
35 host of different opportunities. Some run projects.  
36 One successful one is the Native Village of Eyak where  
37 they actually run fishwheels and produce a chinook  
38 assessment on that river. There was never a chinook  
39 assessment on that river before that project came to  
40 fruition.

41  
42 Some of the educators have worked for  
43 outreach in villages. Some of the other biologists  
44 have worked on several different projects, not just  
45 one. Over time we have tied our partners positions to  
46 Fisheries Resource Monitoring projects, so we've  
47 required that they be involved in the monitoring  
48 program and we were just talking about priority  
49 information needs for that program.

50

1                   Now that we have had this program for a  
2 while we're revisiting it and we're soliciting ideas  
3 about where we should go and we're trying to write a  
4 vision document for it. So we've had some successes,  
5 but we also would like your input because we want to  
6 evaluate it and possibly change it. We've talked a lot  
7 about capacity building and we've talked a lot about  
8 partnerships. When we met in Barrow the last meeting  
9 we went to the school and we talked to them a bit about  
10 partnerships and there's a lot of interest in this  
11 area. This area has never had a partner before, but we  
12 will be having a call for proposals for this program in  
13 2015.

14  
15                   Before the call comes out we want to  
16 create a document that will kind of define how we're  
17 going to move forward. I would just like some input  
18 from you about partnerships and what kind of  
19 partnerships you'd like to see. A lot of the questions  
20 in here were listed specifically for people who have  
21 had partners and know a lot about the ins and outs of  
22 the program. You haven't had the benefit of having a  
23 partner up here, but I'd be very interested in any  
24 ideas you have around what you consider capacity  
25 building to be, what kind of partnerships you'd like to  
26 see in this region and we'll take those ideas back and  
27 include them in our development of this vision  
28 document.

29  
30                   So, with that, I'll just open up the  
31 floor because we've shared a lot in the past about  
32 this, so this is just your chance to get everything on  
33 the record.

34  
35                   MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Gordon.

38  
39                   MR. G. BROWER: It seems to me there's  
40 opportunities for tribal affiliates around here. When  
41 you're talking about wanting to study Hulahula River,  
42 it seems to me the Native Village of Kaktovik should be  
43 a partner and you never know that you might get tribal  
44 membership involved in being a biologist and advancing  
45 someone's career in these types of things. I think  
46 those are important connections to be making with  
47 tribal entities that have always advocated for  
48 sustainable healthy communities, healthy resources for  
49 the tribes and things like that. Often we hear first  
50 from the tribes in terms of impacts.

1  
2 I would think that would be one good  
3 avenue to look at is your Federal government and  
4 Fisheries Resource Monitoring. The tribes use fish and  
5 they would be interested I would think in being able to  
6 monitor the health of their fisheries and being able to  
7 be a conduit to the community.  
8  
9 Thank you.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for saying  
12 that, Gordon.  
13  
14 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.  
17  
18 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: It is very important  
19 for our villages to increase their ability to partner  
20 within this process. The Native Village of Nuiqsut I  
21 know was very engaged in the process related to the EIS  
22 development and activities have changed in the lands  
23 and waters near here. When you don't have control of  
24 the process because you're not a partner, you don't get  
25 your village needs met and this is really important.  
26 We've had millions of meetings in this village, but  
27 when you don't have control of it, by becoming a  
28 partner you're more effectively engaged in the  
29 negotiation of the study and the process around it and  
30 it's a much better process.  
31  
32 We also need to have a better process  
33 in which we're able to engage with technical support  
34 for some of these issues. We need to have access to  
35 biologists, but also sometimes we need access to  
36 hydrologists and other things that can affect important  
37 ecosystems, important for our species. So sometimes we  
38 have to get information around water temperature  
39 control issues and those kinds of things.  
40  
41 These kinds of increased reaction to  
42 our traditional and cultural use, subsistence needs,  
43 are going to continue and whatever way we can increase  
44 local control of the process will improve meeting the  
45 community needs and not just doing a project to get a  
46 project approved and that's really really important as  
47 we're looking forward with the reality as much as we've  
48 got to continue to deal with that we have a better  
49 process.  
50

1 I know that this partnership process  
2 can help us in many ways and I hope that we do  
3 everything we can to increase the number of  
4 partnerships that we have on the North Slope around our  
5 subsistence research.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

8  
9 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Bob.

12  
13 MR. SHEARS: Real quick. I should have  
14 just kept my comments to myself earlier. This seems  
15 like an ideal strategy for addressing, you know,  
16 through letters of agreement through tribal communities  
17 or Native communities, Native organizations within  
18 communities. Those micro-environment research  
19 opportunities that I was discussing earlier, like the  
20 Kogosukruk River water quality or the Utukok River  
21 grayling populations, the Contact Creek habitat  
22 rehabilitation. Those micro-environment programs are  
23 kind of beneath the OSM Fisheries Resource Management  
24 Program, but these are priorities for local  
25 communities.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for sharing  
28 that. If you turn the page to the second page and  
29 you're looking down at the bottom, you can see the  
30 Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program. Usage  
31 of that approach in the local college students getting  
32 into these different fields I think that's a good start  
33 in sharing with our communities and getting our  
34 adolescents into thinking more of what kind of science  
35 they would be interested in pursuing and getting the  
36 younger generation in regards to when they're still in  
37 grade school might be even a more specified approach to  
38 get younger students' interest piqued up as they get  
39 into the higher education programs.

40  
41 So I'd like to see them move forward as  
42 well, you know, getting the grade school students in  
43 hands-on learning from what happens when you're getting  
44 involved in fisheries programs and how to handle fish  
45 or this is the type of tools that you use and just the  
46 introduction of the tools that are used to conduct  
47 fisheries monitoring in that sense and taking them out  
48 in the field just to show the students that are  
49 interested in fisheries. Take them out into the field  
50 to pique their -- you know, elevate their interest even

1 more.

2

3 Thank you. Joseph.

4

5 MR. J. NUKAPIGAK: For the record, Joe  
6 Nukapigak. I like this approach here because of what  
7 you were talking about. For the village corporation of  
8 Kuukpik by working with the oil industry, we have set  
9 up this career quest program for our young kids through  
10 the school system. During the summertime our young  
11 students in high school age we -- for summer study  
12 programs biologists, we have young people go with a  
13 biologist or hydrologist or have them study wildlife  
14 within our region.

15

16 I think that's appropriate to say that  
17 something of that nature needs to be improved. Not  
18 only from the point of view of the village, but I mean  
19 sometimes you have to rely on oil industry to do some  
20 funding and that's what we did so that our young people  
21 could be -- if they are interested in participating in  
22 wanting to become a biologist and what have you, that's  
23 a good starting point from my point of view.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for sharing  
28 your observations, Joe. James.

29

30 MR. NAGEAK: I'd like to peruse or read  
31 carefully the paper before I make any more comments  
32 because it was just handed to us and I'd like to table  
33 it until tomorrow to see whether.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: James, you didn't do  
36 your homework?

37

38 MS. HYER: I heard you were at the  
39 wedding instead of doing your homework.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MR. NAGEAK: Hey, you'd be surprised  
44 how diligent I am.

45

46 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
47 members. I'd be perfectly willing to take comments  
48 tomorrow also, but this vision document is going to be  
49 created later this fall, so if ideas come to you after  
50 this meeting, we'd be happy to hear. We're interested

1 in hearing all ideas. But we could revisit it  
2 tomorrow.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Karen, for  
5 that. Any other questions or comments to Karen, need  
6 more information.

7

8 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Priorities for  
9 considerations of these partnerships should be  
10 assessments that have engagement with education and our  
11 youth as well as our college-bound students, as well as  
12 our adults, as well as within our elders and that's  
13 how, when we're assessing some of these partnership  
14 plans that are coming out, they should be prioritizing  
15 inclusive of all the different age groups to be a  
16 really effective study that we can engage in and take  
17 ownership for the longevity of our families.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.  
20 If there are no further comments, thank you, Karen.

21

22 MS. HYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and  
23 Council members.

24

25 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, if we  
26 could.....

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Eva.

29

30 MS. PATTON: .....just check in online.  
31 If there's folks who are on teleconference who had any  
32 comments or recommendations for the Council.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If there are no other  
37 comments from the teleconference.....

38

39 MR. KAYOTUK: Yes, Lee from Kaktovik.  
40 I highly recommend the tribal administration or Native  
41 Village of Kaktovik to be involved in such activities  
42 like this which we have a pretty strong board at this  
43 time and we are pretty successful in getting our Native  
44 village back up and running again. Going forward as  
45 you guys are saying is very important to these  
46 different activities and monitorings and studies, which  
47 through our different meetings is high priority and I  
48 recommend it.

49

50 Thank you from Lee in Kaktovik.

1  
2 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Are you asking for a  
3 reply at this time, Lee.  
4  
5 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: He's supporting.  
6  
7 MR. KAYOTUK: Just that the Native  
8 Village of Kaktovik will be interested in any kind of  
9 activities, willing and able to share information  
10 which would be really good going forward with these  
11 different activities that are happening on the Slope  
12 anyway.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, there's  
15 definitely going to be more communications to that  
16 affect. We weren't sure if you were on the  
17 teleconference earlier. We were communicating about  
18 our previous representative from Kaktovik, Fenton, had  
19 a large role in determining which fisheries research to  
20 be conducted in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.  
21 So we will continue the communications through you,  
22 Lee, and using your help and efforts to communicate  
23 with the Native village on where this partnership  
24 program could excel into your community.  
25  
26 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay. Thank you.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Again, thank you,  
29 Karen. If there's no other items to be covered, Eva.  
30  
31 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
32 Just to check in for the agenda tomorrow, one of the  
33 action items on the Council's agenda is to address --  
34 there's just a single statewide fisheries proposal for  
35 the Council to make recommendations on. It's a pretty  
36 simple housekeeping proposal. George Pappas was online  
37 today. He'll be able to join us at time certain at  
38 10:00 a.m. tomorrow if that works for the Council.  
39 He's good at answering questions in the broad  
40 perspective. You have an individual copy of that  
41 analysis. We did do tribal consultation prior to this  
42 and did get some questions and feedback from the tribes  
43 and I can provide that for you tomorrow. If that works  
44 for the Council, I could let George know this evening.  
45  
46 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Sure.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That will work.  
49  
50 MS. PATTON: Okay, good. And then just



1 in terms of timing tomorrow, we have Vince leaving. I  
2 think he has until 10:30 himself in the morning. So if  
3 we're able to attend to -- there's a couple other  
4 action items, changes to the nominations appointment  
5 process. Carl Johnson had joined us earlier in the  
6 day. I can check and see if he's available or I'd be  
7 providing that feedback. That's an action item for  
8 recommendations from the Council. That's on Page 81 in  
9 your books.

10

11                   There's some recommendations that were  
12 made earlier by this Council and others that have been  
13 compiled. If you have an opportunity to take a look at  
14 that and either in support of what's in there already  
15 or other recommendations of how to best change the  
16 process so it works better for the Councils.

17

18                   I think that's it in terms of the  
19 timeline and then we'll have the rest of the agency  
20 reports as well.

21

22                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. So  
23 we'll be at recess until 8:30 tomorrow morning.

24

25                   (Off record)

26

27                   (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 9/16/18