

1 NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
3
4 PUBLIC MEETING
5
6 Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
7 Conference Room
8 Barrow Alaska
9 March 4, 2008
10
11 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
12
13 Harry K. Brower, Jr., Chairman
14 Paul S. Bodfish, Sr.
15 Gordon R. Brower, Sr.
16 David A. Gunderson
17 John D. Hopson, Jr. (Telephonic)
18
19
20 (Acting) Regional Council Coordinator, Helen Armstrong
21
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44 Recorded and transcribed by:
45
46 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
47 700 W. Second Avenue
48 Anchorage, AK 99501
49 (907) 243-0668
50 jpk@gci.net/sahile@gci.net

1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2
3 (Barrow, Alaska - 3/4/2008)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning
8 everyone. My name's Harry Brower. I'm Chairman for
9 the North Slope Regional Advisory Council. It's March
10 4, 2008. We're at the ASRC third floor conference
11 room. I'll call the meeting to order. It's 9:30.
12
13 Gordon, it says Gordon Brower, our
14 secretary, and how did that happen? I thought you were
15 our Vice Chair, Gordon. We need to find out who's our
16 secretary now.
17
18 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I
19 didn't know we had another vote. I thought that I was
20 the.....
21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Vice Chair.
23
24 MR. G. BROWER: I don't know.
25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. I think you
27 are still the Vice Chair, Gordon. I think that it's
28 just been a misprint on titles. I just see a list of
29 names. Okay. On Page 3 of your booklets there's a
30 listing of our members.
31
32 Maybe I'll just have Helen to give us a
33 roll call, if that's okay, to establish a quorum.
34 Helen.
35
36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.
37 Chair. Helen Armstrong, OSM.
38
39 Harry Brower, Jr.
40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here
42
43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Lee is excused. Lee
44 Kayotuk. He wasn't able to get the plane. He was out
45 on search and rescue.
46
47 And John Hopson, Jr. is excused. And
48 Lloyd Leavitt is excused.
49
50 David Gunderson.

1 MR. GUNDERSON: Is here.
2
3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Paul Bodfish, Sr.
4
5 MR. BODFISH: Here.
6
7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And Gordon Brower,
8 Sr.
9
10 MR. G. BROWER: Here.
11
12 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.
13 Chair. You have a quorum.
14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Helen.
16
17 So we'll continue on with our agenda.
18 It's on Page 1.
19
20 And at this time we're going to have a
21 moment of silence. We've had several deaths in our
22 community and a funeral yesterday. And in remembrance
23 of the families and the grieving that's been going on
24 in the community, and we need to help us through the --
25 to guide us through the day in conducting these
26 meetings. And so I'll ask for a moment of silence,
27 please.
28
29 (Moment of Silence)
30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Now
32 continuing on with our agenda, we have the welcome and
33 introductions.
34
35 Let me first welcome you all to Barrow,
36 and in your travels to Barrow and far away. Again my
37 name is Harry Brower, Jr. I'm the Chairman for the
38 North Slope Regional Advisory Council. And maybe I'll
39 start from the left and go around the table and we'll
40 do introductions. You have a microphone that needs to
41 be turned on.
42
43 MR. BODFISH: I forgot about that.
44 Good morning. I'm Paul Bodfish from Atqasuk.
45
46 MR. G. BROWER: Good morning. This is
47 Gordon Brower from Barrow area.
48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Dave.
50

1 MR. GUNDERSON: Good morning. Dave
2 Gunderson, Wainwright.
3
4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong,
5 Office of Subsistence Management, Anchorage.
6
7 MR. EASTLAND: Warren Eastland,
8 wildlife biologist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
9
10 MR. KRON: Tom Kron, OSM.
11
12 MR. YOKEL: Good morning. Dave Yokel,
13 Bureau of Land Management.
14
15 MR. NAGEAK: Ben Nageak, Bureau of Land
16 Management
17
18 MR. KRUPA: David Krupa, Gates of the
19 Arctic, National Park Service.
20
21 MS. WILLIAMS: Liz Williams,
22 anthropologist, OSM.
23
24 MR. CARROLL: Geoff Carroll, Alaska
25 Department of Fish and Game.
26
27 MR. F. REXFORD: Fenton Rexford, Native
28 Village of Kaktovik, tribal administrator.
29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we have our court
31 reporter, Tina.
32
33 REPORTER: Tina.
34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tina, thank you.
36 Thank you, everyone. Again I welcome you all to Barrow
37 and to our Regional Advisory Council meeting.
38
39 Next on our agenda we have the review
40 and adoption of the agenda. What's the wish of the
41 Council.
42
43 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman, I move
44 for the adoption of the agenda.
45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
47 the floor to adopt the agenda.
48
49 MR GUNDERSON: Second.
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by David.
2 Any further discussion.
3
4 Let me just ask Fenton. Fenton, are
5 you under a time constraint?
6
7 MR. REXFORD: I'm under a time
8 constraint. I see it's further down the agenda, Mr.
9 Chairman, but if you'll allow me just a few minutes,
10 I'd really appreciate that.
11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I'll move you
13 up right after the reading and adoption of the minutes,
14 and we'll put you on.
15
16 MR. REXFORD: Thank you very much, Mr.
17 Chair.
18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. (In
20 Inupiat) So if it's okay with the Regional Advisory
21 Council, I'd like to bring WP08-54 up under the review
22 of -- right below, or between 6 and 7. Insert it in
23 there.
24
25 Any further discussion.
26
27 (No comments)
28
29 MR. BODFISH: If there isn't any, I'll
30 call the question.
31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
33 called on the motion to adopt the agenda with a slight
34 modification. All in favor signify by saying aye.
35
36 IN UNISON: Aye.
37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed same sign.
39
40 (No opposing votes)
41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank
43 you. So then 6. Sorry, Helen.
44
45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: There's really
46 nowhere on the agenda for me to say it. I just wanted
47 to say it before I forgot. That ASRC very graciously
48 allowed us to use the room, because they're remodeling
49 and they're working on the tables. But they asked that
50 everybody be very careful not to touch these

1 microphones. And they won't be renting out this room
2 any more, so the next meeting we'll have somewhere
3 else. So they were very kind to allow us to do it
4 since it was last minute, but just don't touch the
5 mics. They're really worried about that.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Helen.

10

11 Let's see. David, did you have
12 something else there? No? Okay.

13

14 We'll continue with our agenda then.
15 Under item 6, review and adoption of minutes. It's
16 been noted on Page 4 of your booklet.

17

18 (Pause)

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was just thinking,
21 maybe we need to use a different font in reading the
22 minutes. It's hard to read the way it is. Just the
23 type of font that's being used.

24

25 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

28

29 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. It's kind of
30 hard to read. You have to kind of look at it real
31 good. Some of the words are just pressed together it
32 seems like with too much ink.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
35 Thank you, Helen, for passing out additional copies of
36 the minutes. This one looks much clearer than the ones
37 we have in the book. Maybe at this time we'll take a
38 couple of minutes to read the minutes from August 28th,
39 2007.

40

41 (Pause)

42

43 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

46

47 MR. G. BROWER: I'd like to move for
48 the adoption of the minutes.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: A motion on the floor

1 for the adoption of the minutes of August 28th, 2007.
2
3 MR. BODFISH: Second
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Paul.
6 Discussion.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 MR. GUNDERSON: Question.
11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
13 called on the motion. All in favor to adopt the
14 minutes of August 28th, 2007, signify by saying aye.
15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed same sign.
19
20 (No opposing votes)
21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None. Thank you.
23 Getting back to our agenda, we modified the agenda
24 slightly to accommodate Fenton in regard to WP08-54.
25 Maybe before we get into the discussion of the
26 proposal, Is Tom here?
27
28 MR. KRON: Yeah.
29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If you could review
31 the proposal before we get started on the discussions
32 of it. And state your name for the record.
33
34 MR. KRON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Tom
35 Kron from OSM. Proposal 54, the analysis starts on
36 Page 24, and I'll quickly go through some of the key
37 points.
38
39 Proposal 08-54 was submitted by Lee
40 Kayotuk of Kaktovik, and requests that the harvest
41 quota for Kaktovik change from three moose to five
42 moose, four bulls and one of either sex in Unit 26C
43 only, and that there not be an opportunity for
44 residents of Kaktovik to harvest moose in 26B
45 remainder. And that the closure of Federal public
46 lands in 26B remainder to moose hunting for all except
47 Kaktovik residents be removed.
48
49 Kaktovik residents currently have a
50 harvest quota of three moose, two bulls and one of

1 either sex in Unit 26C and in the Canning River
2 drainage of Unit 26B. Under current Federal
3 regulations, no more than two bulls may be harvested
4 from 26C and cows may not be harvested from 26C. Our
5 understanding is that the proponents intent was to
6 eliminate the Unit 26B remainder, Canning River
7 drainage portion of the regulation that is currently
8 included in the harvest quota for Kaktovik residents.

9

10 Currently Federal Subsistence
11 regulations for Unit 26B and 26C remain effective in
12 the 2004/2005 regulatory year -- became effective in
13 the 2004/2005 regulatory year. The combination of low
14 moose numbers and low recruitment were clear indicators
15 of continuing conservation concerns. The Board closed
16 Federal public lands to the taking of moose, except by
17 Kaktovik residents holding a Federal registration
18 permit.

19

20 Moose are at the northern limit of
21 their range in Alaska on the Arctic National Wildlife
22 Refuge. Habitat in this area limits the potential size
23 of the moose population. Moose surveys conducted in
24 spring 2003, 2005 and 2007 along the drainages in the
25 coastal plain and northern foothills of the Arctic
26 National Wildlife Refuge show low numbers of moose
27 using selected drainages with no significant population
28 increase. And I'd refer you to the table, Table 1, on
29 Page 29. You can see the numbers there for various
30 drainages.

31

32 In contrast to Unit 26C, moose
33 populations in 26B have now recovered to a level at or
34 above management objectives.

35

36 On Page 31 you'll see the Federal
37 subsistence registration permit harvest reported
38 information for regulatory years 04/05, 05/06, and
39 06/07.

40

41 In terms of the effects of the
42 proposal, if adopted, Kaktovik residents would be able
43 to harvest three additional moose than what is
44 currently in Unit 26C and would be able to harvest in a
45 closer proximity to their village than if they travel
46 Canning River drainage in Unit 26B. Such a harvest
47 could exceed sustainable levels of the moose population
48 in this area. The moose population in 26C at this time
49 is low and does not appear to be increasing. The
50 harvest quota limit of five moose could have negative

1 impacts on the recovery of a depressed moose
2 population. The impact would be especially heightened
3 if any cows were harvested. The harvest of any cow
4 moose is detrimental to efforts to rebuild the 26C
5 moose population. For conservation reasons, harvest of
6 cow moose cannot be allowed.

7
8 If adopted, residents of Kaktovik would
9 not have an opportunity to harvest moose in 26B
10 remainder. If adopted, the closure of Federal public
11 lands in 26B remainder to moose hunting for all except
12 Kaktovik residents would be removed.

13
14 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
15 oppose the proposal.

16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom. I'll
20 ask the Council if there's any questions to Tom on
21 this.

22
23 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

26
27 MR. G. BROWER: I don't have any
28 questions. It seems like this is something that we
29 talked about on a previous effort to try to review and
30 revisit how moose can be more harvested from Kaktovik
31 in light of what was going on in 26C and B. And I
32 don't know, maybe Fenton could enlighten us more on it.
33 And I'd also like to hear from area biologists
34 concerning moose movements and stuff like that.
35 Because it seems to me that makes a lot of sense if you
36 back up a request using observations especially from
37 biologists from the area of what the movement trends
38 are over time.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
41 Any other comments.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If there are no other
46 comments, we'll follow what Gordon agreed to, to hear
47 from Fenton. Fenton is here. Fenton is from Kaktovik.
48 Fenton.

49
50 MR. REXFORD: Thank you for the

1 opportunity. My name is Fenton Rexford. I work for
2 the Native Village of Kaktovik as tribal administrator.

3

4

5 The issue before the Regional Advisory
6 Council and that will come before the Federal
7 Subsistence Board is the opportunity for residents of
8 Kaktovik to harvest more moose closer to Kaktovik. In
9 previous years 26B and Federal lands was open. I'm not
10 sure how many moose were taken in that area.

11

12 The residents of Kaktovik have lived in
13 26C for many years and know they migrate back and from
14 the Canning River drainage, and when it's time for the
15 biologists to survey, some of the drainages, like on
16 Page -- well, there's a summary on Page 29, there's no
17 sightings in Jago River, no sightings in Okpilak.
18 These areas we know are within 26C. And we know that
19 in these places there are moose.

20

21 We have had -- we looked to the west of
22 us and to the south of us in Alaska and we're only
23 allowed two moose and no cow. I would ask the Staff to
24 see whether to close this and make this area endangered
25 species, moose, so that we won't have to visit this.
26 It's being treated like an endangered species. Our
27 hunters are being fined while trying to provide. You
28 know, a hunting regulation or license costs \$35, a
29 gallon of gas is \$3 and some cents a gallon. A fine is
30 worth \$250, but sharing it with the whole community and
31 elders is priceless. I was surprised that there was
32 fines. I think if that will be the case, we probably
33 will entertain a proposal to pay \$250 so that we can
34 catch moose. I'm not sure where that will lead us, but
35 we are facing this dilemma currently.

36

37 As you know, when Lee submitted this
38 proposal we just heard that lands in 26B was open in
39 Federal -- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal land,
40 I would like how many moose that were caught over there
41 when we were just trying to survive with only two moose
42 for Kaktovik.

43

44 Mr. Chairman I'm not sure what the
45 percentage is on the -- I know the State uses three
46 percent of the population in 26B and based on 2007
47 April count, on Page 29, if three percent, so that's
48 about one and a half or 1.2 moose that we can catch.
49 We know that there are more than 59 as of 2007.

50

1 Another issue is complete moose
2 consensus has not been conducted in 26C. The survey is
3 old. The population moose survey is old.

4
5 But, again, on the effects of the
6 proposal, we are in agreeable to we should maybe
7 achieve sustainable levels. But this area of the moose
8 that migrate back and forth from 26B make it look like
9 the moose are not there, but they are traverse back and
10 forth to 26C.

11
12 I support Mr. Kayotuk's proposal to
13 harvest four bulls and one cow. If that cannot be done
14 then we would ask for three bulls and no cows in 26C.

15
16 Traversing to 26B is quite a long ways
17 to get into Canning River from Kaktovik. Those rivers
18 from -- that are within 26C from Kongakut River over to
19 Sadlerochit River are prime hunting areas for residents
20 of Kaktovik.

21
22 I just wanted to express our concerns,
23 but if I can speak in Inupiat real quick and maybe you
24 can translate this.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's fine.

27
28 MR. REXFORD: (In Inupiat)

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Fenton.

31
32 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

35
36 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. I'd like to
37 thank Fenton.

38
39 (In Inupiat)

40
41 I've got to run to an assembly meeting
42 for an appeal hearing on something else, and I'd like
43 to be excused for about a couple hours. It won't take
44 more than a couple hours.

45
46 But I'd like to make sure we get that
47 26C, too, when I come back, because I'm very much
48 interested on hearing from the biologists, from the
49 land managers, and see how we can come to a better
50 agreement to make sure that there is sustained yield

1 principle, and making sure the people get to eat. I
2 mean, that is at the heart of some of these issues, and
3 we really need to work together and not oppose each
4 other. I see opposition going on where we can come
5 together.

6
7 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to
8 be excused.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon, I
11 understand where you're coming from. So we will excuse
12 you for know, and we'll continue with our agenda as how
13 we will proceed. Thank you, Gordon.

14
15 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Helen.

18
19 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm wondering if we
20 should maybe -- I don't know if Fenton has to leave,
21 but we need to have four people here in order to have a
22 vote.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

25
26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And we also are
27 trying to get Tara Wertz from the refuge on line so she
28 can present their comments. And I don't know what's
29 happening. She's not -- Liz is trying to call her.
30 She's not called in. We've called her and told her the
31 number. And so I don't know if we should take this
32 back up after Gordon returns, and then we could have it
33 -- if we had a time certain when we were going to take
34 it up, we could have Tara on the line then to
35 perhaps.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, I'm going to
38 take your recommendation in terms of we're not going to
39 hear any more on the proposal. I wanted to give Fenton
40 the opportunity to present his -- represent Kaktovik
41 and Kaktovik to give us some insight on his information
42 so we could at least hear the concern.

43
44 And Gordon having to step out of the --
45 asking to be excused has kind of put us in a hole so to
46 speak, so it's very accommodatable to where we can
47 continue with our agenda in terms of hearing concerns
48 and hearing the Chair's report and that sort of thing.
49 And take up this proposal when we get down to that
50 action items.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Should we have a

4 time like after lunch or something when we can tell

5 Tara to call in or do you just want to leave it open

6 and she can just call in and wait to see where we --

7 when we get to that?

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think maybe when we

10 get to that. When we can maybe tell Fenton what time

11 to be back or we'll go back to it.

12

13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think Gordon --

14 didn't Gordon say in his email he might be out from 10

15 until 12?

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Excuse me?

18

19 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Didn't Gordon say in

20 his email yesterday he might be out from 10 until 12?

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes. Yes, he is, and

23 that's what he had indicated to me, because of this

24 whole other issue that he's dealing with with the North

25 Slope Borough. So we'll probably -- I'll just indicate

26 that we'll stop the discussion on the Proposal WP08-54

27 at this time, unless you have any other comments you

28 wanted to provide, Fenton.

29

30 MR. REXFORD: No.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I just

33 wanted to make sure we were able to, with the time

34 constraints Fenton was facing, and Gordon, that we just

35 hear the portion which we needed to hear, and we can

36 plow through our agenda. And we'll definitely have

37 some time to take some action these this afternoon.

38 And so we'll hold off on any further discussions on

39 Proposal WP08-54 at this time and continue on our

40 agenda.

41

42 And we have village concerns at this

43 time. Do you want to start, Paul. We will go around

44 and get the village concerns at this time.

45

46 MR. BODFISH: I've got nothing much on

47 concerns, but harvesting of fish, caribou has been

48 pretty good. We're still trying to teach our young

49 ones to leave the first bunches of caribou coming

50 through, because they've been turning the herd, the

1 rest of the herd back behind them. We're still dealing
2 with that.

3

4 There was a couple bears that were
5 harvested, one was a female with cubs that was still in
6 the village and becoming a nuisance, having no fear of
7 man any more, you know, and getting hungry I guess, and
8 staying -- she was staying in our landfill and wouldn't
9 leave. We tried to chase it out, but it would come
10 right back. So that bear had to be harvested.

11

12 Another one that was an incidental
13 take, which was my son while he was hunting caribou,
14 and the bear came up on him and wouldn't go away, just
15 kept coming at him, and finally he had to shoot the
16 bear.

17

18 So a couple bears were harvested with
19 the cubs -- one was with the cubs. They were like
20 maybe a year and a half old cubs or Something like
21 that.

22

23 But other than that, hunting's been
24 good. I don't know -- I haven't heard of anybody
25 getting wolverine or wolf in our area.

26

27 That's all I have.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Paul. Any
30 questions or comments.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any biologist on the
35 concerns.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I had no questions.
40 Thank you, Paul.

41

42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Geoff.

43

44 MR. CARROLL: I have.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, I've got no eyes
47 behind me, so you've got to.....

48

49 MR. CARROLL: And interesting comment.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If you could come to
2 the table, please. This is being recording. You need
3 to speak into the.....

4
5 MR. CARROLL: Just an interesting
6 comment. One of the bears that was -- the one that was
7 shot by young Nimrod at Atqasuk, I don't know if -- it
8 was kind of a celebrity bear. I don't know if you
9 watched the -- last spring there was a U2 clip of a
10 grizzly bear eating -- killing three muskox calves over
11 at Deadhorse, in that area. It turned out that was the
12 same bear that had killed those muskox calves and he'd
13 walked all the way over to Atqasuk last summer and then
14 he'd approached Nimrod when he was trying to cut up his
15 caribou, and he'd gotten shot there. So, anyway, that
16 was kind of interesting that it was that same bear that
17 had pretty much wiped out the muskox calf production
18 for that one herd was the one that got shot over at
19 Atqasuk. So I just thought I'd pass that on.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Geoff.
22 And this is new technology being passed on in terms of
23 how things are being -- how the animals are being
24 monitored. They're under surveillance, too.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If there's no further
29 comments or questions, maybe I'll give the floor to
30 David.

31
32 MR. GUNDERSON: Hello. Good morning.
33 David Gunderson from Wainwright.

34
35 From what I've been hearing is people
36 has been noticing the ice is changing, and it's not
37 freezing like it used to. So the delaying in hunting
38 and taking of sea animals is prolonged to a different
39 date.

40
41 And other than that I haven't heard any
42 other concerns other than smelt fishing's good. People
43 have been catching a lot. I haven't heard any fur or
44 wolverine or wolf animals, just foxes that -- you know,
45 the polar bear was a caught in the village about three
46 days ago I believe. I think it was the second time it
47 went into town, and I think they shot it in fear of, I
48 don't know, people. My kids walk to school every day
49 and I was kind of, you know, scared for my kids, too,
50 because we live right at the ocean, like 50 feet, and

1 you can't see anything 50 feet in front of you when
2 it's white. So just think of a 9 or a 10-year-old
3 walking down the street, and something's walking behind
4 him, just -- but I just -- that's what I heard anyway,
5 a polar bear taken like three days ago by the Amohaks
6 (ph). They gave away the meet, harvested the skin.

7
8 A couple of stories I heard, too, about
9 oguruk. In the summer time it was -- it looked like,
10 he said, it was sick, and it was really skinny, you
11 know, like all bones, and it was just shivering out of
12 the ocean, on the shore, and he just drove by the
13 oguruk, and it didn't even try to go back into the
14 ocean or nothing. It was just sitting there shivering,
15 because, he said, the wind was blowing, and there was
16 no ice for it to go and, you know, wherever they go and
17 however those animals live on the ice and hunt around
18 the ice and use the ice, but being that the ice is
19 shifting and moving further and further away, the
20 animals are getting kind of confused I guess, not
21 knowing what to do.

22
23 A few walruses came ashore. A lot of
24 people are saying they were catching walruses on land
25 instead of in the ocean. So I guess the animals are
26 trying to adapt to a changing environment, I guess.

27
28 But people out have been out there
29 taking animals and doing good over there.

30
31 I haven't heard anything from John. I
32 haven't met up with him for -- I know he's a Council
33 member. Other than that. Wainwright's been good. I'm
34 sure if he was here, he would have more concerns than
35 me, him being a Native of Wainwright, more knowledge of
36 the land and animals and hunters in that area, but
37 other than that, that's all I have to say.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, David.
40 Any questions or comments. There's a hand behind you,
41 so, Dr. Yokel.

42
43 DR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Dave
44 Yokel with the BLM.

45
46 David, do you have any more information
47 about walrus haulouts on land, where they are, how many
48 animals and when?

49
50 MR. GUNDERSON: No, it's just what this

1 person said, that he shot like maybe four or three
2 walrus on land. And other than that, he had to
3 travel well over 50 miles out there in the ocean just
4 to find ice. And just from hearing from some -- a few
5 of the hunters that do take the walrus. He mentioned
6 that he shot like two or three, but he didn't speculate
7 where specifically he shot them. He just mentioned
8 that he shot them on the ground.

9

10 MR. YOKEL: Well, thanks. I was just
11 asking, because with the trend in sea ice, if land
12 haulouts for walrus become more and more important,
13 then that's something that BLM is going to have to take
14 in consideration with its management of the land, so
15 any information we can get from any of the villages on
16 new marine mammals haulouts would be appreciated.

17

18 Thanks.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have a comment
21 from Paul, David.

22

23 MR. BODFISH: Yeah, I got a comment. I
24 guess what he's saying about the haulouts on the land,
25 they were coming up from the north. They were hauling
26 out during their migration south. So that was
27 happening here also. But they were hauling along the
28 beach as they were traveling south. I guess that's how
29 they were harvesting them. But the ice was like, what,
30 250 miles out to the east, northeast.

31

32 MR. GUNDERSON: yeah.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not, I'll give my
39 shot on village concerns. Again, my name is Harry
40 Brower. I represent Barrow on the Regional Advisory
41 Council.

42

43 And I work with the North Slope Borough
44 Department of Wildlife Management, so I get a lot of
45 the issues that are being discussed in terms of
46 renewable resources on the North Slope. The North
47 Slope Borough having its Fish and Game Management
48 Committee which deals with all the resources, migratory
49 birds, marine mammals, land terrestrial mammals, and
50 fish. Being within the Department, so I get to hear a

1 lot of issues that come about throughout the season.

2

3 Last fall as the North Slope Borough,
4 Department of Wildlife Management, the director,
5 Taqulik Hepa, and myself and others from Anaktuvuk Pass
6 and community members from Barrow traveled to -- and I
7 should include the mayor, North Slope Borough mayor,
8 traveled down to Bethel to attend the Alaska Board of
9 Game meeting there to address the Board of Game on
10 closure of an area north of Anaktuvuk Pass, to get that
11 established and that -- it was a lengthy meeting, and
12 we did provide a lot of information with the
13 communities input, community members input, the City of
14 Anaktuvuk representatives, the Native Village of
15 Anaktuvuk Pass had representation there. And they
16 created the -- they identified an area north of
17 Anaktuvuk Pass, and -- I can't even remember the
18 distance that -- north of AKP, that basically the
19 closure -- closed off area into this -- that was
20 proposed to the State Board of Game, and they acted on
21 it and modified the proposed area and adopted it. So
22 there's a closed area north of AKP. I don't have all
23 the language right in front of me, but it's pretty --
24 it goes near the Colville River, up to and near the
25 Colville River, and heads back west up along -- I think
26 it's Anaktuvuk River, and comes back into the
27 mountains. And it's a fairly large area that's similar
28 to what was in the closed area, but it's been expanded
29 further up north to be identified as a closed area to
30 sports hunting at the time of caribou movement, hoping
31 that -- I mean this has been something that Anaktuvuk's
32 been voicing for many years. And with the North Slope
33 Borough, we've been trying to accommodate the need for
34 that closure area, but we have differing opinions
35 always coming from sport hunters and other interested
36 groups in terms of closed area to other users. So that
37 was created last fall with the Alaska Board of Game.

38

39 One of the other issues that came about
40 that was discussed at these meetings was the use of
41 brown bear hide for arts and crafts. And these bears
42 were harvested just within the -- just south of
43 Anaktuvuk Pass. I didn't hear of any of them being
44 north of Anaktuvuk Pass. But they were harvested
45 within the Gates of Arctic, and yet there was law
46 enforcement from the State traveling back and forth to
47 Anaktuvuk and looking at the arts and crafts sales,
48 which is part of their economics within the community.
49 You know, there's very few jobs available outside of
50 the Barrow area and in the villages besides the North

1 Slope Borough and there may be some State or Federal
2 programs, which are very minimal. And jobs are very
3 scarce in these communities. And they depend on their
4 handicrafts to meet the needs of the communities.

5
6 And there was some use of brown bear
7 hide for the trimming of masks. That is a very big
8 sales and crafts item for the community of Anaktuvuk
9 Pass, and they use other resources. Wolverine.
10 Caribou. You know, all these parts are used from --
11 the nonedible parts used from these different resources
12 are utilized for the arts and crafts that are developed
13 from the community members.

14
15 But there was an enforcement agent that
16 came into the community indicating to the crafters and
17 saying that they're not able to sell these items that
18 have the trimming of brown bear. So that created havoc
19 several of the community -- crafters in Anaktuvuk. And
20 they put a lot of effort into developing these arts and
21 crafts and the mask and putting the trimming on and
22 getting them perfected to where they'll be able to sell
23 them for a small amount of cash. And, you know,
24 depending on the size of their craft, the price is
25 different. So that's their only means of income
26 besides seasonal jobs. And then with the price of fuel
27 and the cost of groceries being transported into the
28 community, it gets very spendy real quick, and these
29 items that they depend on for sales and providing a
30 little bit of income for themselves gets tendered with
31 enforcement agents coming in.

32
33 And that was one of the issues that
34 came about, and that was some of the concerns -- one of
35 the concerns that was being voiced as to how we can
36 modify the regulations to meet the needs of the
37 communities. You know, it's one of the ways, a means
38 of earning cash in the community. And that's something
39 that needs to be voiced on and worked on between the
40 Federal and State regulators on how that need could be
41 addressed, and not make the crafts persons illegal,
42 taking part in illegal sales of handicrafts.

43
44 They don't want to be illegal sales
45 persons. They try to follow the law as best as they
46 can. And it's a practice that's been given to them,
47 and they continue to indicate that. So that needs to
48 be addressed between the Gates of the Arctic and the
49 State enforcement at some point in and get that
50 addressed, even through this Regional Advisory Council

1 providing advice to the regulators as to how we can
2 address that issue.

3
4 There's been a lot of our regulations
5 in terms of the harvest of bears and caribou, moose
6 have been pretty much accommodated for within our Unit
7 26. But again we have our differences in the resources
8 that are available to us in given specific regions.
9 Take Arctic Refuge, for example, and the dilemma
10 they've been faced with over the years. And they've
11 had, you know, since the reintroduction of muskox into
12 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, it started out to
13 be very plush and all, and as the years went on,
14 several factors take into play that the resources are
15 now not so readily available. And there's been a
16 drastic decline, integration of muskox. Now they
17 don't even have a hunt for muskox. So that's one
18 resources that's not so readily available for them to
19 take for subsistence foods.

20
21 And trying to accommodate the need for
22 another resource is somewhat overwhelming. You know,
23 there's limited resources in the area. And you see the
24 immigration and movement of the other resources coming
25 in and out. And that's been very -- observed over time
26 by the hunters, and they know of these resources coming
27 in and coming out, and yet we have a different --
28 another hunt that occurs, which is a sport hunt. And
29 that occurs out within the Gates of the Arctic
30 sponsored by a whole group of guided hunters and
31 rafters, and yet we don't even see the issues coming to
32 help the need of the community from those folks. And
33 we have to depend on our Regional Advisory Council to
34 address the need. When there's a need for a community
35 to be able to continue its subsistence, I think that
36 the sports issue needs to also be included into this
37 activity -- I mean, the discussions of these proposals,
38 such as what we heard this morning. And we're trying
39 to accommodate the need for subsistence, and yet under
40 the regulations there's opportunity for sports hunting
41 to occur at a different season, and just outside of the
42 -- south side of the Brooks Range, Regardless of the
43 distance, I think there needs to accommodation made to
44 lessen the numbers if that's going to take -- if that's
45 what it's going to take, lessen the numbers for sport
46 hunting and increase the hunt for subsistence. That
47 should be considered. You know, it shouldn't be that
48 we put more restrictive regulations into play that
49 they're not able to take these resources in the area
50 that they're able to take these resources.

1 I hear the cry and plea from Kaktovik,
2 because of the dilemma that they're faced with. So I'm
3 basically going to have to support just from my
4 personal observations and knowing what the community
5 goes through in the time of need and hardship. These
6 things -- these resources are to feed the community.
7 It's not to go out there just to harvest the resource
8 just for the antlers. These people are trying to
9 survive within the amount or resource they have
10 available to them. You know, I think that needs to
11 brought out and seen the bigger picture. If we're
12 going to be as Regional Advisory Council members and
13 trying to accommodate the need for subsistence, these
14 things have to be sought out very clearly and addressed
15 even by the resource managers in these given areas.
16 You know, it's totally unfair to shut them out in ways
17 that -- because of their differences in access. They
18 have very limited access to the resource even through
19 the summer months. Winter months, it's very harsh and
20 cold and they have to go through these different
21 extremities to get to the resource and bringing it
22 back. When you compare the sport hunt, people are
23 flown in with aircraft, and they're able to take a raft
24 wherever they can find a place to do their rafting, and
25 be picked up again after harvesting the resource. And
26 the amount of expenditure that they put into that hunt
27 just in the name of being able to harvest the resource.
28

29 So those things need to be thought out
30 clearly, and we need to be able to differentiate what
31 we -- how we define with different agencies,
32 accommodations or criteria that is used to set
33 limitations on hunts. So that's a concern I want to
34 voice in terms of what we heard on Kaktovik's request
35 for the number of animals that they would like to see
36 increased.
37

38 The other portion of this is the
39 enforcement. I mean, they've been given an opportunity
40 to take a resource, and it's very understandable that
41 when a person is not able to identify the differences,
42 it's somewhat of an oversight, but it's something that
43 they're trying to utilize as a subsistence resource,
44 and yet they get penalties for taking the resource.
45 Regardless of the penalty, the community is very happy,
46 and the resource was shared among the elders for fresh
47 meat to be shared out to the community and to the
48 elders, because they're not able to harvest these
49 resources like the younger, and they utilized them for
50 subsistence, you know, as long as they've been in the

1 community. And they shared that resource. Regardless
2 of the fine, they were happy to be able to take that
3 and utilize the resource.

4
5 So these things again has -- there's a
6 consequence for taking the resource in terms of how the
7 regulations are developed. So that needs to be
8 considered.

9
10 I was looking through these regulation
11 booklets to try and identify what other resource I've
12 heard concerns about. The muskox. I've heard concerns
13 about the muskox. You know, there's the different
14 hunts of muskox. The one in 26C is basically closed,
15 because there are no more muskox available to them.
16 I'm not sure what's happening in 26B after that big die
17 off of muskox near the Colville area. We haven't heard
18 back as to how that population is doing. But
19 opportunistic hunts for muskox in 26A is still
20 available to hunters but at a limited time.

21
22 I think we have not heard back from or
23 had a representative from Anaktuvuk or many years. And
24 the issue about the community harvest for sheep, and we
25 need to hear back how that hunt is occurring and
26 whether they continue to hold their community hunt for
27 Anaktuvuk Pass and in Kaktovik. Although these
28 resources are available, again, it's opportunistic
29 hunting. It takes a hunter that's knowledgeable of the
30 mountains and getting up to the hunting sites or where
31 the resources are to take these resources, and it's not
32 an easy task bringing that -- once you harvest the
33 resource, bringing it back to the community is a whole
34 new challenge afterward. You know, bringing the hunter
35 on his own and trying to get up the mountain to take a
36 resource is one thing, then once a resource has been
37 harvested, coming back off the mountain is a whole new
38 challenge. So those things you have to keep in mind as
39 managers of these different resources. And
40 availability is not -- they're not so readily
41 available in terms of getting into the mountains, and
42 having that access to get there.

43
44 I'm trying to think if there's another
45 concern there that's just being voiced on the
46 monitoring of the different resources. I'm not sure
47 how the wildlife -- the monitoring aspect of the
48 resources are being handled through the Federal
49 Management Program. I'm just trying to think of what
50 the issue was.

1 I think it was in Nuiqsut, that they're
2 indicating that although the caribou are right near the
3 community, the ones that are closest to the community
4 are very lean. Some -- there's been some report of
5 some just laying there, not moving, because of the
6 condition that they're in. They're in very poor
7 condition near the Nuiqsut area. So there have been
8 some animals that have been harvested and that, because
9 of the conditions they were in. So they have to travel
10 a little bit further to find the caribou that were in
11 better health conditions. So I think that was one of
12 the concerns I heard in terms of the condition caribou
13 around Nuiqsut.

14
15 In terms of the fishing, there's been
16 fairly pretty good fishing near the mouths of the
17 rivers around -- for the Barrow area, in the Ikpiukuk
18 River, the Topagoruk River, but further inland there's
19 been a change in the conditions over the past couple
20 years. We have -- it's been a very dry season. The
21 access up the rivers has been very limited. There's
22 been a few hunters that have -- they're not able to get
23 into their fish camps and be able to harvest some fish,
24 but they also indicate that fishing is changing because
25 of the climate change that we're facing. The freeze up
26 is not as early as it used to be. It's getting later
27 in the season and it's passing -- time is overlapping
28 with the preferred fishing areas before the spawning,
29 to get the fish with the eggs in them. And that freeze
30 up is coming a little bit later, and they're having to
31 fish in the river as the ice is forming. And that
32 makes it a little bit riskier for setting nets in these
33 areas. As the ice forms, it flows down the rivers.
34 It's not in the frozen state as how it's preferred.
35 And being the frozen -- the river as being already been
36 frozen where they're able to walk over the ice and set
37 nets under the ice. So those are the changes that
38 they're experiencing.

39
40 I think overall it's -- you know, the
41 brown bear, there's been several brown bears taken over
42 the course of the late fall and into the winter. You
43 know, my brother harvested a brown bear that came --
44 approached him as he was getting his caribou just 11,
45 12 miles out of here, west -- southeast of Barrow, not
46 west, southeast of Barrow, and he said it was a fairly
47 large brown bear that when they first was pursuing
48 caribou, and they started taking off for -- he didn't
49 know why they were spooked and they already had started
50 running away from him. By the time he finally got up

1 to figure out what distance that he was at to the
2 caribou, and he was trying to figure out why they had
3 already been spooked. He thought he was being very
4 careful in approaching the caribou, and when he learned
5 -- he moved on and sighted a couple other covers, so he
6 went and harvested one of them. As he was skinning
7 that one, a brown bear approached him from behind, and
8 he was kind of -- he was a bit startled, and just
9 turned -- grabbed his rifle and turned around and shot
10 the bear down. He didn't even know that the brown bear
11 was approaching him until it made a growling noise, and
12 he turned around and shot the bear. A good thing he
13 had his rifle nearby. He was so startled that he just
14 finished skinning the caribou and loaded it up and left
15 the bear. And later on my nephews when up there and
16 skinned it and took the hide off. I'm not sure what
17 all they took from the bear, but this is just the
18 information that they shared with me, that they went
19 and skinned the bear and brought the hide back.

20
21 The caribou around the Barrow area
22 haven't been near Barrow until more recently. Just
23 probably end of January. There's been some few
24 sightings just south of Barrow. But the caribou have
25 been very far and distant up near the -- above the
26 Teshekpuk area. I know I had to travel well over 100
27 miles to make my first sighting. This was in December,
28 just the day after Christmas. I took off and I was out
29 for 10 days, so I went all the way up to my cabin,
30 which is at least 100 miles south of Barrow, and then
31 east another 40 miles before I finally sighted the
32 caribou. And they were up in that Kagorouck and the
33 Tea Creek area. I was in that area during December and
34 harvested two caribou and hauled them all the way back
35 to my camp. Prepared them in there and then went back
36 home. There was quite a few other animals, furbearers
37 wandering around up in that area, but access in that
38 area is very limited, because of the snow conditions
39 and the cliffs having straight drop offs. They're not
40 built up with the snow ramps, or snow berms that
41 usually build up in those areas were not as built up as
42 they normally are this time of the year. So the access
43 was very limited. And you had to go through specific
44 ways to get down into that area and back out. And the
45 lakes still have -- the large lakes still have the
46 large drop offs in them, so that -- hunters need to be
47 careful as they're traveling in that area.

48
49 So the caribou have been very distant
50 for the Barrow hunters until recent time. They're

1 sighting from the observations, just south of Barrow.
2 Just probably three weeks ago is the earliest that they
3 started sighting these caribou, but -- and there's been
4 a few hunters that have gone out since they learned of
5 the animals being near Barrow.

6
7 There's several hunters that are out at
8 this time. I know my nephews, there's five of them
9 that have gone out to do their furbearer hunting, and
10 going up into Umiat and some not quit that distance,
11 and some just up into the Koluktak Lakes and Price
12 River area. So there's hunters that are out there
13 doing their furbearer hunting and trapping at this
14 time.

15
16 I think I'll stop there just to see if
17 anybody might have questions or comments on the village
18 concerns. If there's no questions or comment -- Paul.

19
20 MR. BODFISH: About the caribou, yeah.
21 They've been up around our area and to the west. I
22 think they're mostly hanging out around the south side
23 of Wainwright. And they finally started coming over
24 like you said in December. When the first ones decided
25 to move down toward Teshekpuk to the south side of
26 Atkasuk. They're starting -- they've gone up to Inaru,
27 as far as the little levy, so there's a lot of caribou
28 that way. They've hanging around on west side all
29 winter since, yeah, December. November/December. They
30 were hardly moving from the south side of Wainwright.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Paul.
33 David.

34
35 MR. GUNDERSON: Yeah, I'd just like to
36 add comment on harvesting of caribou has been really
37 well in the village. I've been hearing people been
38 chasing them, shooting them, taking them, and from what
39 I hear is they chase the caribou and then they shoot
40 them. Normally, you know, there's different ways to
41 hunt them. But just to make a comment like Paul said,
42 is some of the inexperienced hunters tend to scare the
43 main herd away and I guess it's diverting to new
44 grounds or safer more inhabited area. So that's what
45 I've got to say.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, David.

48
49 Any questions or comments.

50

1 MR. CARROLL: Yes. I couldn't hear
2 your.....
3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You need to come up
5 to the table, please.
6
7 MR. CARROLL: I couldn't quite hear
8 your comment on caribou that were harvested near
9 Nuiqsut. Did you say lots of those were in poor
10 condition near town, and, excuse me, as they moved away
11 from town they were able to find more healthy ones?
12 Was that.....
13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, that's the
15 information that was being given to me as -- when we
16 were holding Alaska Eskimo Whaling convention here just
17 recently and that -- just from the community members
18 that were here in Barrow were indicating -- that's what
19 they were indicating that some of the animals right
20 near the village were very lean and in poor condition.
21 And then as they went further south from the community,
22 then when they harvested animals there, those further
23 south were in better condition than the ones that they
24 were observing near the community.
25
26 MR. CARROLL: Okay. Yeah. Thanks.
27 You know, I mean, I'm sure you've seen the maps, too,
28 but where caribou weren't around -- excuse me. Where
29 caribou weren't around Barrow very much this year,
30 there were lots around Nuiqsut and I just got a report
31 the other day there's lots around Anaktuvuk still, so
32 there are quite a few, and they seem to be in pretty
33 good condition up around Anaktuvuk when people are
34 harvesting.
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So that's something,
37 that Anaktuvuk had been -- I mean, this migration was
38 somewhat late for Anaktuvuk. That's where we were
39 meeting in Anaktuvuk early in fall, when was it,
40 November? I think it was right after Thanksgiving, and
41 we went up into Anaktuvuk, and the caribou had not even
42 arrived there in their community yet. And they
43 continued to wait and wait, and I think it was early
44 December that finally a small group of animals came in
45 near the community, and they'd been up north. I knew
46 they were up north of the community when the hunters
47 were waiting for several more days, thinking that the
48 animals would come up closer into the mountains, and
49 they ended up stopping just up north of the community.
50 And that's basically where they've been throughout the

1 winter.

2

3 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. It seemed like
4 both the -- the Western Arctic Herd for some reason
5 stayed much further to the west this year. You know,
6 like you say, it was very late that even those were
7 over near Anaktuvuk. And then the Teshekpuk Herd kind
8 of moved south, so they got some of both herds, but,
9 you know, very late, you know. Much later than when
10 they like to harvest them.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. David.

13

14 MR. GUNDERSON: When they do do studies
15 on the caribou, do they study the caribou that hang
16 around Deadhorse or do they just monitor as is they
17 travel through? Because I'm sure there's caribou that
18 stay in that area, knowing that they ain't going to get
19 taken. And they, you know, they see that trend, and
20 some of them might migrate towards the village and, you
21 know -- I've seen caribou under some equipment over
22 there that was giving off toxic stuff. You can't even
23 breath this stuff, you'd die in a matter of seconds,
24 you know, and these animals are running around, sitting
25 around, hiding under the buildings, with no, you know,
26 hesitation to run away. And the ones over there, they
27 have all the rights and, you know, just they tell them
28 to leave them along. You can't even touch them, scare
29 them, honk your horn or nothing. So they get --
30 there's a trend that they -- some of them just, you
31 know, get this security from not being scared away.
32 That's just something that I've seen and heard.

33

34 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. Is that mostly
35 during summer, like for insect relief? It's, you know,
36 it's something.....

37

38 MR. GUNDERSON: Yeah. Pretty much.

39

40 MR. CARROLL: Do about anything to go
41 to a place where there are fewer bugs sometimes, but --
42 yeah, you know, they -- I don't know as far as doing
43 studies. Most of the caribou that they look at over
44 there, you know, they're up there in the summer for
45 insect relief. And then lots of those Central Arctic
46 caribou migrate south and over the mountains during the
47 winter. But, yeah, they'll go just about any place
48 that there aren't bugs in the summertime. Or fewer
49 bugs anyway.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Paul.
2
3 MR. BODFISH: Yeah. Just a comment
4 about the hanging around the villages. Those are the
5 weak ones that fine refuge around the villages. We
6 have that every year, got caribou that hang around the
7 village that are too weak to travel around with the
8 herd, or trying to stay put. All the caribou that hang
9 around the village are usually the real lean, skinny
10 ones.
11
12 MR. CARROLL: Hum.
13
14 MR. BODFISH: So we see that every
15 year.
16
17 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. So, you know, a
18 few years ago, about a third of the Teshekpuk herd went
19 over to ANWR, and a lot of those ended up right at
20 Kaktovik, and it's the same thing, you know. It seemed
21 like the ones that stayed up in the mountains were in
22 good shape, where a lot them were just -- over around
23 Kaktovik were so thin, they were just laying down and
24 dying, you know. So, I don't know, there's something
25 about hanging around the villages that -- it doesn't
26 seem like your best animals tend to do that for some
27 reason.
28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Paul.
30
31 MR. BODFISH: Yeah, they tend to weed
32 out the weak I guess.
33
34 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.
35
36 MR. BODFISH: And the strong go on.
37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments,
39 Geoff.
40
41 MR. CARROLL: No, that's all for me.
42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
44 you. Before we go onto our I'd like to Review our
45 number of vacant seats that we have on our Regional
46 Advisory Council for the North Slope. We have three
47 vacant seats. I'm not sure when the cycle of this is
48 going to come through and get these seats filled. You
49 know, we've been trying to keep each of our communities
50 represented into the Regional Advisory Council so we

1 could hear and have representation from each of the
2 communities on issues that need to be voiced through
3 them. So from this review of the table here, we have
4 Barrow, Kaktovik, Wainwright and Atqasuk. Nuiqsut,
5 Point Hope and Anaktuvuk Pass are not currently listed
6 in the thing for membership to the Council. And
7 hopefully we get some representation from each of these
8 communities so we can have a well-rounded
9 representation into our Regional Advisory Council.

10

11 If there's no further comments or
12 question, maybe we'll take a 10-minute break at this
13 time.

14

15 MR. BODFISH: Very good. Thank you.

16

17 MR. GUNDERSON: Second.

18

19 (Off record)

20

21 (On record)

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning,
24 everyone. We'd like to call the Regional Advisory
25 Council meeting back to order after a brief recess.
26 Let me find my agenda. We were under village concerns,
27 and, golly, I had a couple more thoughts I want to make
28 in terms of the village concerns, and I started talking
29 and lost my thoughts.

30

31 Anyway -- oh, okay. Now I remember
32 one. I mentioned the communities that weren't being
33 represented into the North Slope Regional Advisory
34 Council. And I guess I missed one of the communities,
35 which is Point Lay. So we have Point Lay, Anaktuvuk
36 Pass, Nuiqsut, and Point Hope that are not listed as
37 part of our communities that we have on the North
38 Slope, so there are four of them that aren't listed
39 then.

40

41 I guess when we originally started, we
42 did one out of pretty much each of the communities
43 represented in the earlier years, but now in more
44 recent times we're starting seeing communities having
45 double representation, so if that could be adjusted
46 some way it would be helpful for us to accommodate the
47 needs of our communities in terms of subsistence
48 management and regulations. You know, each of these --
49 we're far from each other. I think the closest
50 community being Atqasuk, which is well over in -- just

1 about 100 miles or 90 miles east, southeast of Barrow.
2 And it takes an aircraft to get there in mid summer,
3 and in winter time we have our access changes a little
4 bit and including snow machine, but it's still a risky
5 state traversing back and forth, unless you have
6 accompanying caribou hunting companions with you.

7

8 So if there's any way we could address
9 getting the rest of these communities representation
10 into the Regional Advisory Council, I'd greatly
11 appreciate it. It's something that I've been striving
12 for since I've been representing Barrow as part of the
13 Regional Advisory Council. And I continue to strife
14 for that, because we have a very diverse region in
15 terms of the resources that are available at different
16 times of the year, and what each of the communities
17 depend on.

18

19 You know, a perfect example is Kaktovik
20 and the issues that we're dealing with them is, you
21 know, one resource was introduced and made available to
22 the community, and they survived on the resource for
23 quite a few years, and now that the situation is
24 different, the resource is not so readily available.
25 It's immigrating. The regulations indicate that
26 they're not able to hunt that resource any more. Now
27 they're struggling to identify different resources.
28 And moose being one of them and within their area.
29 That's what they're trying to identify as -- I
30 shouldn't say substitute, but another available
31 resource form to take for subsistence foods.

32

33 Another one would be sheep. You know,
34 as coast -- I as a coastal dweller don't really depend
35 on sheep, but I depend on caribou and other marine
36 mammals. If we're going to the interior communities
37 like Anaktuvuk Pass, I mean, they're very dependent on
38 caribou. They don't have the marine resources like we
39 do, and, you know, fish and caribou and sheep and moose
40 are basically their resources. And we need to be
41 cognizant of what resources are available for them for
42 subsistence. And try to accommodate the need for each
43 of these communities.

44

45 So I'll stop here. Maybe the -- I
46 don't -- I just wanted to express that concern for
47 trying to get regional representation in each of the --
48 for our respective communities on the North Slope.

49

50 Continuing with our agenda, we're -- if

1 there's no other concerns or issues to be brought out
2 under village concerns, I'd like to move on to the
3 Chair's report.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And the item to be
8 discussed is Draft 2007 annual report which is found on
9 Page 12 of the booklet.

10

11 And so a one-page letter, I'll just go
12 ahead and read it. It's North Slope Subsistence
13 Regional Advisory Council's annual report to the Chair
14 of the Federal Subsistence, Michael Fleagle. If I said
15 that wrong, I need to be corrected. Fleagle.

16

17 This letter constitutes the 2007 Annual
18 Report of the North Slope Regional Advisory Council.
19 The Council has permissive authority to submit the
20 report under Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest
21 Lands Conservation Act, 16 USC 311. The items brought
22 forward are issues of concern.

23

24 26C moose. The Council believes that
25 new regulations, including hunting closures and
26 restrictions for moose, should accommodate the need to
27 harvest subsistence foods closer to home.

28

29 Unit 26 muskox. The Council requests
30 that you that they provided with the Unit 26 muskox
31 population. I'm trying to figure out what's being said
32 here. Is there a word included there wrongly or the
33 Council requests that you provide the Council with the
34 Unit 26 muskox population. I think that needs to be
35 reworded or something.

36

37 Okay. And then continuing, Council representation.
38 This is an informational item. The Council continues
39 to support the representation of each village on the
40 North Slope Regional Advisory Council. The Council
41 informs you that -- let me see, I need to look at the
42 number of villages represented on the first page of the
43 -- one, two, three, four -- four of eight villages are
44 currently represented.

45

46 Continuing, the North Slope Regional Advisory Council
47 appreciates the opportunity to provide the Board with
48 information and to express concerns regarding regional
49 subsistence issues.

50

1 Sincerely, Harry Brower, Chair of the
2 North Slope Regional Advisory Council.

3
4 I think we need to wait before we could
5 take action on this. Let me just ask Helen, maybe if
6 you could provide some insight into some of the
7 language here.

8
9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. This is
10 a draft of the letter. It's not -- obviously it's not
11 completed, because there's a blank in there. And this
12 will be responded to in the spring with answers to your
13 concerns. For example, you wanted information on the
14 26 muskox population, and that sentence needs to be
15 reworded, but if there are any concerns that you have
16 that you'd like to be addressed, or if you wanted to
17 talk to Barb about it later and add anything else that
18 you'd like a response on. I mean, I heard a few things
19 you were talking about in your village concern report,
20 things that you wanted to know about. So if there's
21 anything you'd like added to this draft letter, then
22 we'll get responses from various entities, you know,
23 different biologists or whatever to respond to the
24 Council, anything you want to know about.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, and on that,
27 just to elaborate a bit more in terms of the concerns.
28 I was indicating for Kaktovik, you know, it's a
29 community that's hurting for other resources, in need
30 of fresh meat. You know, store-bought food is very
31 spendy, and it doesn't accommodate the nutritional
32 values of subsistence resources. So in trying to be,
33 you know, fair of making other resources available and
34 that, I support their comments in terms of trying to
35 make more resources that are available for subsistence.
36 Despite the amount of the population counts, people
37 need to eat different foods.

38
39 And store-bought food is not always so
40 nutritional as subsistence resources. And some carry
41 the consequences of leading into diabetes and all, and
42 that's been proven by researchers saying, you know,
43 when you change your food diet from your subsistence to
44 non-traditional food, it leads to more ailments than
45 what the body can endure. So to keep them from getting
46 that situation, you know, I agree with them that they
47 continue utilizing subsistence foods than store-bought
48 food.

49
50 And as we know, some of the situations

1 that we hear from different part of the state, you
2 know, we had that outcry about what was happening with
3 the cow and the beef. What was that disease that they
4 were dealing with? Mad cow disease. You know, that's
5 not a good thing for people to be depending on when
6 that could be could be something that causes more
7 problems to the body. And it's -- I don't know how
8 it's being monitored nowadays, but just from the recent
9 report, we were out traveling in Canada and there was
10 some short blurb on the TV about that, and these
11 animals were being pushed into the slaughter houses
12 with forklifts because they couldn't stand on their
13 own. You know, that was very disturbing to see on the
14 news. And they were being provided for -- these
15 animals were going to be slaughtered and turned into
16 food items and it was going to be sold to the schools
17 for children to using as food. And that was very
18 discouraging. I mean, it -- I was kind of saddened
19 just from listening to that. And they had to go
20 through this big recall of all these meets that were
21 distributed from this one area.

22

23 So you know, having that type of
24 information and crying for the need to address
25 subsistence needs, I feel for both sides, and it's very
26 hard to be fair and all, but then we're faced with
27 constraints. And so I just make that note.

28

29 And again I think you're right,
30 communicating with Barb on some of those concerns that
31 are being voiced here, we'll definitely add on some of
32 these concerns to the regional report.

33

34 Any other comments.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If there are no other
39 comments, we'll take action on this on at a later time
40 when we have a full quorum. Gordon indicated he would
41 be back after lunch.

42

43 And then our next agenda item, I don't
44 -- we could probably hear a proposal or two and not
45 take any actions on them, or -- I'd like to hear from
46 -- or get some advice from our representatives here.
47 Helen.

48

49 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.
50 Chair. I think to be legal with FACA, we have to have

1 everybody who's voting to have heard the presentations
2 on the reports. So we could skip to the agency reports
3 and get those done, No. 9, because those are all non-
4 action items, and then do the proposals after we have a
5 quorum. If you'd like, if you want.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was trying to
8 identify what was wrong with our agenda here. We have
9 two number sevens.

10

11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, you'll have to
12 take that up with Barb.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was reading the
17 numbers as I was coming down, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8,
18 7. That didn't sound right. And I said that in my own
19 mind, and I was wondering for why do we have two number
20 sevens. And then two -- and again the other one is we
21 have another No. 8. We have two eights and two sevens
22 and then we go into nine. So I was trying to find No.
23 9, on the agenda. When you stated that, Helen, I was
24 trying to find No. 9. I thought it would be -- so I'm
25 having to flip pages now. And when we get into the
26 second page of the agenda we find the agency reports.

27

28 What's the wish of the Council. We
29 have half an hour before lunch. Do you want to get
30 into hearing the agency reports at this time?

31

32 MR. BODFISH: Yeah, since they're non-
33 action.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. David, is that
36 okay?

37

38 MR. GUNDERSON: Yes.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. So we'll
41 skip 7 or 8 -- excuse me. How do I number these now?
42 They're 7 and 7. 7 of 7. Let's skip on down to No. 9
43 as Helen mentioned, agency reports. Let's get started
44 with what's listed there. Office of Subsistence
45 Management, A.1., briefing on rural/nonrural request --
46 I don't know what -- you need to help me with the
47 acronyms here. Request for reconsideration.

48

49 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, perfect.
50 Request for reconsideration. The Federal process has a

1 way for people to request that things be reviewed
2 again, and it's the request for reconsideration
3 process.

4

5 The Federal Board had worked with the
6 Councils and based on public input reviewed the
7 rural/nonrural determinations and made decisions. But
8 there were a number of entities that challenged those
9 decisions, and they've done it through the request for
10 reconsideration process. So if you refer to Page 64,
11 it's a listing of the six RFRs, or requests for
12 reconsiderations.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'd like you to state
15 your name for the record, please.

16

17 MR. KRON: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. Tom
18 Kron with OSM.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom.

21

22 MR. KRON: But again they are listed on
23 Page 64. We have requests for reconsideration from
24 Fish and Game, the Alaska Outdoor Council, the Kenai
25 River Sportfish Association, Alaska Fly Fishers,
26 Ketchikan Indian Community and the Organized Village of
27 Saxman. So those requests for reconsiderations are
28 being reviewed. And we just wanted to update you on
29 that.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

32

33 MR. KRON: On Page 65 is another
34 briefing. The Federal Subsistence Management Program
35 had developed a draft policy on customary and
36 traditional use determinations. In fall 2007, a draft
37 policy was developed and presented to the Subsistence
38 Regional Advisory Councils for their review and
39 comment. The draft policy was developed in response to
40 a request from the Deputy Secretary of Interior.

41

42 The draft policy lays out the existing
43 Board policy for addressing customary and traditional
44 use determinations which has been utilized since the
45 inception of the program. Part of this process is to
46 consider the eight factors in a general holistic way
47 rather than in a rigid manner. The policy does not
48 represent a change from the way customary and
49 traditional use determinations have been made in the
50 past. It simply clarifies the approach taken by the

1 Federal Subsistence Board as requested by the Secretary
2 of Interior.

3

4 A three-month public comment period was
5 provided to allow for broad public review and input. A
6 total of 13 comments on the draft policy were received.
7 I think all of you have picked up the yellow copy that
8 was on the table. If not, I can grab some more, but
9 it's basically a compilation of the comments received
10 for your information.

11

12 Comments on the draft policy span a
13 broad range of perspectives ranging from supporting the
14 status quo to making minor modifications to requests
15 for imposition of rulemaking to accommodate clear
16 administrative procedures to suggestions that the Board
17 promulgate formal rulemaking to eliminate the need for
18 requirement of customary and traditional use
19 determinations. The Board will consider all comments
20 received and will attempt to prepare a draft for
21 Secretarial approval during spring 2008.

22

23 The next briefing again is just for
24 your information, on Page 66, Fishery Resources
25 Monitoring Program update. And again you can see the
26 projects that were approved for 2008 funding from the
27 Fishery Resources Monitoring Program.

28

29 The North Slope Dolly Varden aerial
30 monitoring and North Slope Dolly Varden genetic
31 baseline completion.

32

33 And that concludes the OSM part of the
34 agency Staff reports.

35

36 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom. Any
39 questions to Tom from Paul or David.

40

41 MR. GUNDERSON: No, not at this time.

42

43 MR. BODFISH: (Shakes head negatively)

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tom, I was just
46 trying to think of one of the thoughts I had earlier
47 were -- in terms of this fish resource monitoring
48 program update. And I'm not sure if you might be able
49 to answer the question. I know there were some
50 concerns voiced in terms of the amount of tagging that

1 was going on, and the fish returning to their sites. I
2 mean, they'd leave the site and go out and come back,
3 and what I recall in hearing from I think it was in
4 Anaktuvuk, some of the Dolly Varden that they were
5 catching were in a basically nonedible state in terms
6 of the meat. The muscle felt like jelly. I mean, I'm
7 not sure how far -- whether OSM or the biologists were
8 able to provide an answer to the concern. I know that
9 I also heard it from Kaktovik when we did some village
10 travels, that some of the fish again had that jelly
11 state muscle under the skin. And I don't recall
12 hearing what the cause of that was, you know, in terms
13 of fish and the muscle would be the normal state, and
14 what would cause that to occur. Is it a bacteria
15 that's being developed at the fish are being tagged, or
16 is it something that the fish are, after going out to
17 their cycle out into the ocean, back up the river, and
18 they pick up something? I know there's this -- I can't
19 even pronounce the work that they were using in terms
20 of what the salmon were catching. There's some kind
21 of.....

22

23 MR. GUNDERSON: Parasite.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER:parasite that
26 salmon were coming back with. But in terms of what the
27 fishing men from Kaktovik and some of the fish that
28 were being caught by Anaktuvuk residents were having
29 that problem. Like I said, I'm not sure if you're able
30 to answer the concern or not, or if there's been an
31 answer provided to that concern.

32

33 MR. KRON: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. I'm
34 sorry, but I cannot answer the question with any
35 clarity. I guess what I'd recommend is to get -- you
36 know, work with the communities and when they see fish
37 like this, to get, you know, get them sent in and have
38 a pathologist look at them. You know, we've done that
39 in various parts of the state with various diseased
40 fish. And I'm not sure, but on the Yukon River they
41 have problems with what's known as Ichthyophonus there.
42 Yeah, I was thinking that may have been what you were
43 thinking of. And it's brought on by warmer water
44 temperatures. So as the waters warm up in the years we
45 have had warmer water, they've had more problems there.
46 But again I'm not familiar in this particular case.
47 And if the fish haven't been sampled that have the
48 jelly meat that you're talking about, it would be good
49 to get that. I don't know if Geoff knows or if anyone
50 else here knows, but if not, the thing to do would be

1 to have a pathologist look at it and see if it can be
2 sorted out.

3

4 Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But in terms of, you
7 know -- what am I trying to state. In terms of the
8 condition of the fish, I don't think that would be
9 something that would be edible, or it cause a health
10 concern if it was utilized as food. I don't know, but
11 I think that was one of the -- that's a concern that I
12 heard about that was being asked. Is this something
13 that we need to be careful of if a fish was harvested
14 with that jelly -- in that jelly state, we couldn't
15 consider it as a food product or do we just discard it?
16 And I couldn't provide an answer, because I wasn't --
17 not the right person to be answering the question. So
18 to date I have not heard -- I know we did have some
19 fisheries biologist that discussed that disease that
20 you -- or the parasite you identified earlier, but I
21 don't recall whether it would cause a health concern if
22 it was being utilized as food -- as a food product.

23

24 MR. KRON: You know, Mr. Chairman, in
25 the case of the Ichthyophonus on the Yukon River, the
26 pathologist, you know, indicated that it was not a
27 health problem to each those fish, but in most cases
28 the subsistence users that were catching them and they
29 would see it, you know, they chose not to. So there
30 were a number of fish that were being discarded once
31 people saw this in the meat.

32

33 Relative to your situation, again I do
34 not know the answer to that question. It sounds like
35 it would be good to have a fish pathologist look at
36 those fish, and, you know, they should be able to
37 answer that for you.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
42 you. Any other comments or questions.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not, thank you,
47 Tom.

48

49 We'll continue with our list. What's
50 next. Next is 9.B., National Park Service.

1 MR. KRUPA: Mr. Chairman. Thank you.
2 For the record, my name is Dave Krupa. I'm with Gates
3 of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. I'm also the
4 subsistence coordinator for Yukon-Charley Preserve as
5 well.

6
7 I'm brand new to the position, so I
8 wanted to attend this meeting to introduce myself and
9 hear in person what some of the concerns are that come
10 up in this advisory body, particularly because I am
11 also the coordinator for the Subsistence Resource
12 Commission which as most of you probably know is
13 composed of ideally nine members. We also are
14 struggling with the issue of vacancies. But three of
15 those members are appointed by the Secretary of
16 Interior, three of them are appointed by the respective
17 Regional Advisory Councils, and then three are
18 appointed by the Governor.

19
20 And so one of the things that I wanted
21 to kind of put on the table is that the North Slope has
22 an appointment that is currently vacant, and I would
23 like to commit myself the next time this body meets to
24 maybe have some names for you to review and consider
25 for that appointment. One of the things that came up
26 at our SRC meeting, and this has been an issue for a
27 number of times now, is that Nuiqsut, for example, has
28 not been actively involved in this composition of the
29 SRC at this time. So we're trying to encourage a
30 broader representation.

31
32 One of the things that the -- the RAC
33 appointments have additional requirements, and that's
34 that the RAC appointment to the SRC has to be a
35 subsistence user of Gates of the Arctic, number 1, and
36 then they need to either be a member of this body or a
37 member of the local advisory fish and game commissions.
38 So that's out there, and I would be more than happy to
39 work together to try to encourage more involvement.

40
41 The other thing that I just wanted to
42 mention, and this is a multi-year effort, and it's
43 actually related to my previous job as -- in cultural
44 resources for Gates of the Arctic, and that is that
45 we've received funding for what we're calling a digital
46 repatriation effort. And that this project was
47 designed to do is do a better job of getting
48 information back to communities from which research has
49 been conducted. A complaint that we routinely hear
50 when we go to villages is that a lot of times many of

1 the report materials, grey literature, references,
2 scientific reports, oral history tapes, all kinds of
3 materials, have not made their way back to communities
4 where they're instantly accessible. And so with the
5 web technology we're working on a seed project that's
6 starting within Anaktuvuk Pass in coordination with
7 Simon Paneak Museum to start that process of being
8 responsive and trying to get the information back out
9 to communities. So that's something that will relate
10 to all of our resident zone communities.

11
12 And then the last thing that we're
13 really recognizing the need for is that we took a -- we
14 made an assessment of how recent harvest survey,
15 complete, comprehensive harvest survey information was
16 available for our resident zone communities. And many
17 of the communities have not had a complete summary of
18 current subsistence activity in as many as two decades.
19 And so that's something that we don't want to reinvent
20 the wheel by any means, but we want to be good
21 neighbors and cooperators with some of the other
22 agencies, including the State of Alaska, to come up
23 with a method to update that. And I'll just say that
24 one of the issues where the lack of information has
25 been a real problem, with Kanuti Refuge there are some
26 communities that their information was not easily
27 available, and so subsistence activity in their view
28 was under-represented. So that's another thing that
29 we'll be working on in the out years.

30
31 And for now, that's all I had. Thank
32 you.

33
34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions to
36 Dave.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seeing none, I have a
41 couple of comments or questions in terms of -- just
42 from what the presentation in term of the local
43 advisory committee for SRC, and you indicated NPS could
44 consider a representative from any local advisory
45 committee -- advisory or committee, and so the North
46 Slope Borough has a North Slope Borough Fish and Game
47 Management Committee. Would that fall under the
48 criteria of what you've just indicated?

49
50 MR. KRUPA: Mr. Chairman. I believe it

1 would.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. So maybe in
4 communications with our Fish and Game Management
5 Committee representative from Anaktuvuk, could see if
6 he would be -- to see if he would consider being part
7 of the SRC to report on subsistence activities in Gates
8 of the Arctic could help. I think that communications
9 would be needed to get stated. I know that we've been
10 trying to fill a position from here, and like I
11 indicated, I've been concerned over the many years that
12 we've had a vacant seat from Anaktuvuk Pass. And not
13 having that -- not able to meet that criteria or having
14 the seat vacant, it creates a dilemma for us and we're
15 not able to in trying to input the National Park
16 Subsistence Resource Commission. I know we identified
17 Paul some years ago. In the interim that we have a
18 representative come in from Anaktuvuk Pass to the
19 Regional Advisory Council, and volunteer to have some
20 use of the Gates of the Arctic at times, and I'm not
21 sure what -- if he still does today, or if he would be
22 able to be considered as one of the -- a member to the
23 Subsistence Resource Commission. Including a
24 representative from Nuiqsut. Again, we -- their seat's
25 vacant for that committee, that also creates that
26 problem.

27

28 So that's why I basically am asking the
29 question in terms of the other local advisory or
30 committees, suggest the North Slope Borough Fish and
31 Game Management Committee, to nominate their
32 representative for the committee to sit on the
33 Subsistence Resource Commission. You know, that
34 communication, if we could establish the communications
35 to address that, it would be helpful. We do have a
36 primary member and an alternate, and have been
37 identified through our North Slope Borough Fish and
38 Game Management Committee.

39

40 I mean that's one option that we could
41 take until that seat gets vacated and -- I mean, filled
42 for Anaktuvuk Pass or Nuiqsut.

43

44 The other -- with regard to these
45 harvest summaries, I know the North Slope -- again the
46 North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife management
47 has been doing the subsistence documentation, and
48 there's been -- the transitions over the years in
49 trying to keep people employed. You know, they have
50 different job opportunities through the years. Some

1 years there's no real job available, so that position
2 gets filled, and the work is -- the work gets
3 accomplished as far as this time, provided for a short
4 period of time, but then opportunity comes around and
5 that person finds another job and it gets vacated
6 again. So we see that. But we continue to collect
7 data in the meantime. Summary -- I mean, subsistence
8 harvest information through these household surveys.
9 And Anaktuvuk's been one of our communities that have
10 been real persistent in collecting that data. Atqasuk
11 and we've had -- you know, some years are very good,
12 some years are not so good. Again, going through the
13 transitions of job opportunities and people that are
14 employed, we go through these different transitions.

15

16 I think working with -- trying to work
17 with our department, the North Slope Borough Department
18 of Wildlife management would be a good avenue to
19 communicate to see where NPS could help in getting the
20 reports, or having some ideas that could elevate in
21 getting their harvest summary provided. And just
22 having that communications again would probably be
23 helpful in -- with our department director and our Fish
24 and Game Management Committee manager to address this
25 harvest summaries.

26

27 I know the State of Alaska used to
28 provide one some time ago, but that seems to have -- I
29 have not seen a summary in recent times, Geoff. I
30 could look to see is that being continued by the State
31 or where is it, the Alaska harvest summary and reported
32 harvest of resources?

33

34 MR. CARROLL: No, they
35 discontinued.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If you could come to
38 the microphone, please.

39

40 MR. CARROLL: Okay. The document that
41 they used to put out every year on the harvest, they
42 kind of discontinued doing that. You can still get the
43 same information by reading all the separate survey and
44 inventory reports from all the different populations
45 around the state, but we don't really have it compiled
46 in one table like they used to.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. Okay. Thank
49 you, Geoff.

50

1 Let me see, what other -- you know, in
2 terms of, again, not having a representative from
3 Anaktuvuk Pass, I've been trying to be cognizant of
4 that community harvest of sheep and how that's been
5 going with the community, and not having had any
6 reports -- or I haven't had any direct communications.
7 I know they occasionally take the sheep when the
8 opportunity's right for individual hunters. And in the
9 village travels that I do within the North Slope
10 Borough, I hear from communicating with some of the
11 community members, that -- occasionally how sheep is
12 being harvested, not in large numbers, but at maybe two
13 or three at a time by a group of hunters going out and
14 bringing back animals. They opportunistically take
15 them.

16
17 So I know that there was a community
18 quotas sort of thing for that through the harvest
19 regulations that have been provided for. Is that still
20 being followed today? I haven't heard back. Like I
21 said, I haven't heard any of that interaction for
22 several years, and I've kind of lost sight, because of
23 my involvement in other activities.

24
25 MR. KRUPA: Mr. Chairman. I can't
26 comment on that. I don't now currently what's
27 happening with that. I do know that at our most recent
28 SRC meeting Rachel Riley, our Anaktuvuk Pass
29 representative was commenting that this year was the
30 first year in several years that people were
31 comfortable with the accessibility of caribou so that
32 sheep were less of a concern at the moment. But, you
33 know, that's this year, this season.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

36
37 MR. KRUPA: I could be prepared for the
38 next RAC meeting to update you on that.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. That
41 would be helpful if we could renew that information as
42 to what's been occurring in the community. I know when
43 the caribous are not so readily available to the
44 Community of Anaktuvuk Pass, they start heavily
45 depending on sheep and moose in years that the
46 migration not occurring through Anaktuvuk Pass. And
47 it's been several years since we've had our
48 representative coming to our meetings for the North
49 Slope Regional Advisory Council from Anaktuvuk Pass to
50 provide us community harvest reports and such.

1 So I'll just stop there, and maybe we
2 could -- unless you have any other comments, Dave.
3
4 MR. KRUPA: That's all I had.
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: David.
7
8 MR. GUNDERSON: Break for lunch.
9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So a request to break
11 for lunch and we'll be back at 1:00 o'clock. So we'll
12 recess until 1:00 p.m. Thank you.
13
14 (Off record)
15
16 (On record)
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good afternoon,
19 everyone. It's 1:12 in the afternoon and we're calling
20 the meeting back to order after the lunch recess.
21
22 We're under agenda item 9, agency
23 report. We're down to -- we just got done with 9.B.
24 We're moving on to 9C, United States Fish and Wildlife
25 Service, Arctic Refuge.
26
27 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I need to call Tara
28 Wertz and see if she has something to add on that, but
29 hang on.
30
31 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: She didn't really.
32
33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: She didn't have
34 anything?
35
36 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: She didn't have
37 anything.
38
39 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. So we can
40 skip that one. And we'll call her when we get to the
41 Kaktovik moose proposal.
42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we're skipping P
44 -- I mean, C. A, B, C, D. Bureau of Land Management.
45 Dave Yokel.
46
47 DR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.
50

1 DR. YOKEL: I thought I was going to be
2 pretty brief today unless the questions are long. They
3 usually are, but Gordon's not here yet, so he won't be
4 grilling me.

5
6 I'll just briefly mention some of our
7 wildlife programs. As you know, I work with the
8 Borough and Fish and Game on Teshekpuk issues, but
9 Geoff will be here next, so I'll probably defer to him
10 on that.

11
12 Our fisheries program goes on in
13 northeast NPRA, working with the State's Division of
14 Habitat and the North Slope Borough. And one thing of
15 interest, they did put some radio tags on some chum
16 salmon in the Colville River, just upstream of Umiat,
17 and they found some spawning sites further up river
18 inside the NPRA. I think up river of the Kilik River
19 anyway. I thought that was kind of interesting.

20
21 And then also we do have a biologist
22 who specializes in bird issues and species listed under
23 the Endangered Species Act, which in Alaska are also
24 birds, the spectacled and stellers eiders. And she
25 does work on quite a few species, although none of them
26 -- or few of them are harvested by local people. She's
27 been doing some studies with gulls, ravens, and
28 raptors, and shorebirds, but then she also works with
29 spectacled and stellers eiders and the yellow-billed
30 loon. And the yellow-billed loon is used some for its
31 skin and feathers, at least. So I just wanted to
32 mention that.

33
34 And then a brief update on exploration
35 activities in the NPRA this winter. It's quite a bit
36 slower winter for us. We do have one drilling program
37 by ConocoPhillips Alaska that's just inside the NPRA,
38 about eight miles southwest of Nuiqsut. One well. And
39 another one about 15 miles west of Nuiqsut. And maybe
40 I think about 30 miles west of Nuiqsut if they get that
41 many done.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So that's three?

44
45 DR. YOKEL: Three site. But they
46 usually plan -- they usually plan more than they can
47 get done in a winter, so we'll have to see. It's a
48 little early to say at this point, but they're staying
49 pretty far to the east. There's nothing west of that.
50 As you know by now there's no pack trail or ice road

1 going across the NPRA this winter.

2

3 We have two seismic operations this
4 winter. One is in -- well, no, three now, I think.
5 They had a third one permitted. One is in the Umiat
6 vicinity. It was planned last year, but they weren't
7 able to -- it was covering State lands east of Umiat
8 plus some NPRA lands west of the river, and they
9 weren't able to get across the river last year, because
10 of ice conditions. But they hope to finish that one
11 this winter.

12

13 And then also there's a couple of
14 programs, one for ConocoPhillips and one in the FEX
15 area by Smith Bay. The ConocoPhillips one is in a
16 small area south of Nuiqsut, related to some of that
17 drilling they're doing there this winter.

18

19 In our planning efforts, that's where
20 the bigger news is now, although we're kind of in
21 between newsy items. As you know, last August we
22 finished the draft supplemental EIS for the northeast
23 NPRA. This is our third planning effort for the NPRA.
24 It has a potential to leasing the area north and east
25 of Teshekpuk Lake. This winter we completed the final
26 EIS. That is undergoing internal review now and will
27 be out, will be published sometime this spring. I
28 don't know a date at this point. There is a preferred
29 alternative in the final EIS. It's -- although that
30 preferred alternative has been discussed with the
31 Borough mayor and other groups, as an employee I'm not
32 free to discuss it in public yet.

33

34 So I think I'll just leave it at that
35 and see what questions you have.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Questions from the
40 Council. Paul. Yes, David.

41

42 MR. GUNDERSON: Not at this time.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was writing down
47 something about the chum salmon. Did you want to say
48 anything?

49

50 DR. YOKEL: Did you want to talk?

1 MR. NAGEAK: Why do you want me to
2 talk?
3
4 DR. YOKEL: I don't.
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 MR. NAGEAK: Well, did you mention the
9 prey (indiscernible, away from microphone).
10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe if you could
12 just briefly introduce yourself, please for the record.
13
14 MR. NAGEAK: Did he talk about the
15 predator on the Colville River? The predator thing?
16
17 DR. YOKEL: No.
18
19 MR. NAGEAK: No? Well, do you want to
20 talk about them or not?
21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ben.
23
24 MR. NAGEAK: I'm sorry, for the record,
25 my name is Ben Nageak. I'm the natural resources
26 program coordinator for the BLM here in Barrow,
27 Alaska. North Slope.
28
29 I just was asking him if he talked
30 about the Colville River perigrine falcon study.
31
32 DR. YOKEL: Well, I mentioned that our
33 other wildlife biologist does some work on raptors
34 along the Colville River. What that is is a
35 continuation of a long-term monitoring of population,
36 territory sites, and productivity. That monitoring
37 effort went to every three years a few years ago, and
38 so it was last done in 2005. And this summer it will
39 be conducted again. But nothing really newsy there.
40 It's just a long-term monitoring effort.
41
42 And I'm sorry if I interrupted you,
43 Harry. Did you have a question?
44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, I did. I was
46 just getting into asking what the chum salmon that were
47 tagged, and i got sidetracked in my thought. I was
48 thinking don't these fish go out and spawn and die
49 after spawning, but then why were they being tagged?
50

1 DR. YOKEL: They were being tagged to
2 find the spawning areas.
3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So you were capturing
5 them before they were spawning?
6
7 DR. YOKEL: Correct.
8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I didn't catch
10 that part.
11
12 DR. YOKEL: Yeah, they had some nets in
13 the river upriver of Umiat, and they caught them and
14 quickly tagged them and returned them to the river.
15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's what I was
17 going to say, because I found several chum salmon in
18 the -- up in the Topagorak River. We were at our cabin
19 site, and my boys were playing up and down the river,
20 and they found probably eight or nine chum salmon that
21 were already spawned out near one of them little creeks
22 that were meandering, coming out. They were all in
23 there, and they were asking me, are they edible? I
24 said, I wouldn't eat, they've been sitting there dead
25 for quite some time.
26
27 (Laughter)
28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So they were -- one
30 of them was already pretty much decayed away, and they
31 were all spawned out and we just left them. I think
32 they might have taken -- my oldest boy might have taken
33 some pictures of them. I don't remember seeing the
34 pictures, but I remember he took his camera and they
35 went back up and took some photos.
36
37 DR. YOKEL: Yeah. Their bodies
38 actually start to decay before they die.
39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
41
42 DR. YOKEL: And so they're -- the meats
43 not as good even in the later days or couple of weeks
44 of their life.
45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
47
48 MR. GUNDERSON: That's what starts
49 happening to me, decay.
50

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Excuse me, Mr.
4 Chair. John Hopson's going to be on. I'm calling him
5 right now, so.....
6
7 (Pause - placing call)
8
9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Hi, John, this is
10 Helen Armstrong. I'm acting coordinator for Barbara
11 Armstrong. We've got you on teleconference now joining
12 the Council meeting.
13
14 MR. HOPSON: Okay. Good afternoon,
15 everyone.
16
17 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Thank you.
18
19 MR. BODFISH: Good afternoon, John.
20
21 MR. GUNDERSON: Hello, John.
22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good afternoon, John.
24
25
26 MR. HOPSON: Good afternoon.
27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for coming
29 on. We were just talking about -- I'm not sure if you
30 have any of the material, but we were just listening to
31 agency reports, and we just heard a report from Dr.
32 Yokel with BLM on BLM's activities in the NPRA for this
33 winter season, 2007/2008 winter season activities.
34
35 And, Dr. Yokel, for John's purview, if
36 you could just restate some of the activities for him
37 to get an idea of where we are talking about.
38
39 DR. YOKEL: Okay. Well, very briefly,
40 exploration activities are only occurring in the very
41 eastern edge of the NPRA this winter, so nothing
42 anywheres near even Atqasuk, let alone Wainwright.
43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dr. Yokel.
45 Paul.
46
47 MR. BODFISH: Yeah, I had kind of a
48 question, since you were talking about the spawning
49 fish. About 19 miles south of Atqasuk, in the river, I
50 think there's methane gas that's coming out, welling

1 up, and it doesn't freeze over, only a thin crust which
2 I almost fell through that. Methane gas coming up
3 through the river. I want to know what impact it would
4 have on the fish, because we, too, have a lot of those
5 lakes that are putting out a lot of methane gas up
6 around our area.

7
8 DR. YOKEL: Well, I'd have to preface
9 this by saying I'm not a fisheries biologist, and my
10 response is really a guess. But I would imagine if a
11 fish were to swim through that water and stay in it and
12 breath it, it might get hypoxic, but I don't think a
13 fish would stay there, and I don't think any of those
14 gas bubbles, vent have -- I would guess that they have
15 no impact on fish. They're all over the NPRA, the
16 northern part at least, in the lakes and rivers. And I
17 think the fish worked things out a long time ago.

18
19 MR. BODFISH: Yeah. I know that 10
20 miles south on the lake, they call that a dead lake.
21 That was the reason for me asking the question.

22
23 DR. YOKEL: Well, of course, there are
24 a lot of lakes in the NPRA that are too shallow to hold
25 fish over winter, and so would not have fish on a
26 regular basis. Fish might get into them during spring
27 flood and then trapped in them and die the next winter
28 because there's not enough oxygen for them in shallow
29 lakes. But I have never heard of a lake that was dead
30 for fish because of any toxicity problem.

31
32 MR. BODFISH: Yeah, but if you look at
33 this lake, you know, it's very visible from a distance,
34 even from here to Geoff is about the size of the area
35 that's really bubbling out of the -- underneath the
36 lake from the ground. They say it's able to -- if you
37 could cap it, you could hit those cabins over there.
38 It's putting out like 260,000 something of that.

39
40 DR. YOKEL: Cubic feet.

41
42 MR. BODFISH: Cubic feet of methane gas
43 per day.

44
45 DR. YOKEL: Well, again just guessing,
46 but I suppose if there's a big enough vent like that in
47 a small enough lake, that, you know, enough of that
48 methane might dissolve in the water to make it unable
49 to support fish, but I don't really know.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is that it, Paul?
2
3 MR. BODFISH: (Nods affirmatively)
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So I wanted to
6 question a little bit more about that tagging on the
7 chum, and you said that they went up the river, and
8 were you able to identify what portion of the river
9 that they -- these chum salmon spawned in?
10
11 DR. YOKEL: They did. I don't have the
12 information with me right now. They flew the river
13 after that tagging operation with airplanes with radio
14 scanners looking for the tags and they did find one or
15 two spawning sites quite a ways up river. And if my
16 memory's correct, they were new to science knowledge.
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. Thank you.
19 Any other questions to Dr. Yokel.
20
21 (No comments)
22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have none. We'll
24 excuse you, Dave, unless you have any other information
25 that you'd like to present. Thank you again, Dave and
26 Ben.
27
28 DR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The Dave and Ben
31 show.
32
33 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you.
34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're down to agenda
36 item 9.E.
37
38 John, just for your information, let me
39 give you a little bit of background. We had to skip
40 the wildlife proposal under -- oh, yeah, how are we
41 going to correct this. Our agenda has a couple of
42 numbering errors in the agenda, so we have two number
43 7s and two number 8s, and trying to move on down to
44 number -- and we had to move down to number 9. So just
45 for your information, we had skipped off on village
46 concerns -- I mean, not the village concerns, the
47 wildlife proposals, because the actions that need to be
48 taken on the proposals themselves, and there was four
49 of us when we started this morning, but Gordon had to
50 be excused to attend the workshop for the assembly

1 that's happening -- that's been going on this morning
2 also. And he was asked to be excused to take part in
3 the assembly meeting workshop, the assembly workshop
4 this morning. And it's continuing this afternoon. And
5 we had decided to move along with our agenda and hear
6 agency reports. And that's where we are at this time.

7
8

9 We're down to 9.E. with Alaska
10 Department of Fish and Game. So we have not taken any
11 action on any of the action items since we approved the
12 adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes of
13 August -- let's see, August 28, 2007. Those were the
14 only -- pretty much the only two actions we've acted on
15 this morning.

16

17 So we'll move on with our agency report
18 from Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Geoff
19 Carroll.

20

21 MR. CARROLL: Hello. I'm Geoff
22 Carroll, the area biologist for the Alaska Department
23 of Fish and Game. And I'll, you know, primarily report
24 on what took place at the last Alaska Board of Game
25 meeting.

26

27 And Harry had mentioned one of the more
28 significant proposals they passed was kind of a
29 compromise proposal. Anaktuvuk Pass -- well, initially
30 there was a proposal to continue the controlled use
31 area north of Anaktuvuk, and as you know, it's been a
32 big issue for years up there in Anaktuvuk is that they
33 felt that the hunters flying in north of the village
34 were affecting the caribou migration and deflecting the
35 migration away from the village, so they'd get trails
36 established that went up through the Chandler Pass or
37 other passes rather than Anaktuvuk Pass because of the
38 disturbance up there. And so they had a proposal in to
39 continue a controlled use area that was north of the
40 village.

41

42 And I'll pass this around. Harry said
43 it was a little hard to describe what the area looks
44 like, but.....

45

46 So basically I thought the Board was
47 pretty accommodating. What the initial proposal was
48 was a much smaller area than what you see on the map.
49 And Anaktuvuk people showed up at the meeting and said
50 that they didn't think that that was large enough.

1 They wanted a much larger area. Kind of the issue was
2 that there are a couple of guide camps that are up
3 there north of Anaktuvuk, one on the Chandler River and
4 one on the Anaktuvuk, and basically if they would have
5 included those guide camps within the controlled use
6 area then it would have put those guides out of
7 business. And one guide in particular is -- the one on
8 the Chandler River has had a pretty good relationship
9 with the Village of Anaktuvuk. He actually had a young
10 guy from Anaktuvuk working with him last summer,
11 training him to be a guide. And they have a pretty
12 good relationship worked out for bringing excess meet
13 into the village and a lot of things that have been
14 kind of contentious in the past. And they really
15 didn't want to run that guy out.

16
17 So the shape of this ended up being a
18 little bit unusual looking, so that it didn't exclude
19 that guide's camp from there. So he's still going to
20 be able to operate in that area north.

21
22 But it will really reduce the
23 possibility of a lot of other traffic up in there. It
24 is a large area.

25
26 And basically within that area, you
27 can't use aircraft to hunt caribou from the middle of
28 August through the middle of October. And you also
29 can't use aircraft to hunt moose in that area either.

30
31 Two years ago the Board passed a
32 controlled use area, but they put a sunset clause on
33 it, and it was going to go away after this last
34 meeting. But the one they passed this time is -- well,
35 it's there until, you know, somebody might make another
36 proposal sometime in the future to do away with it, but
37 that's -- for the time being it's there for well into
38 the future. So that was kind of a big win. It was
39 something that ever since I started working in 1990
40 that's been a big issue with Anaktuvuk people, and it's
41 really kind of a relief to finally get that settled at
42 least for the time being.

43
44 The only other proposal that the Board
45 dealt with at this last Board of Game in November was
46 one that had to do with the moose season. And it
47 basically allowed -- well, the original proposal came
48 from the guides, and would have allowed, you know, a
49 pretty large non-resident hunt in the area. They'd
50 like to have a non-resident hunt so that they can sell

1 hunts to out of state residents. And so again kind of
2 the Department countered with a much smaller proposal.
3 What the Board finally came up with was that up to 20
4 percent of the permits that are issued in that area
5 under a drawing permit hunt, could go to non-residents.
6 So in the end, basically we'll probably give out four
7 or five non-resident permits for that area.

8

9 So basically we've kind of got a hunt
10 for everybody in the Unit 26A area now.

11

12 We have a summer hunt for the moose
13 that wander out either the coastal plain near Atkasuk
14 or Wainwright or Point Lay. So we have a summer moose
15 hunt for those.

16

17 We have a winter moose hunt that's
18 taking place right now for -- well, there are a bunch
19 of Barrow people that just left a few days ago to go
20 down and participate in the winter moose hunt down in
21 the Umiat area.

22

23 Then we have kind of an expanded fall
24 hunt that begins the 1st of August and goes through the
25 middle of September all along the Colville River
26 drainage and the Ikpikpuk and all through that area.
27 And that's a bulls only hunt.

28

29 And so then there's this drawing permit
30 hunt that allows a limited number of permits to be
31 given out to people using aircraft. So there are some
32 permits that go out to people that are going to be
33 flying in, too.

34

35 So that's kind of where the moose
36 seasons are at this point.

37

38 A lot of times at the Board of Game
39 meetings they'll pass regulations that make kind of a
40 major change that need to be -- you know, you kind of
41 need to look at the Federal regulations and kind of
42 keep things in line so we don't have regulations that
43 are a lot different under State regulations than under
44 Federal regulations. But I don't think there were any
45 real big changes at this last State Board of Game
46 meeting that would require any change in the Federal
47 regulations to coincide with.

48

49 So, I don't know, any questions on
50 these Board of Game and these regulations.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions to
2 Geoff from Council members.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MR. CARROLL: The only other thing I
7 have is I just -- you know, people are becoming
8 interested in what the -- where most of the caribou are
9 at this point. These are -- this is a map of -- with
10 satellite collared caribou that we have in northern
11 Alaska. And basically the ones in kind of the light
12 pink or the purple colors are all Teshekpuk caribou.
13 These were ones we've all collared when they were right
14 up around Teshekpuk Lake. And the darker blue ones are
15 Western Arctic Herd caribou. So you see through the --
16 there are quite a few actually of the Western Arctic
17 Herd caribou have stayed north of the mountains this
18 year. So probably the ones that they're -- there are a
19 lot of caribou around Anaktuvuk at this point. It's
20 probably kind of a combination of Western Arctic Herd
21 caribou and Teshekpuk caribou, but you can also see why
22 we haven't been seeing as many caribou around the
23 Barrow area or the Atkasuk area this winter, because a
24 great majority of that herd has been well to the east
25 over around Nuiqsut and kind of between Teshekpuk Lake
26 and up the Colville and on up to Anaktuvuk.

27
28 One thing that's been kind of
29 interesting is the area just north of Anaktuvuk there
30 where the fire occurred late last summer, you know, the
31 caribou seem to have been -- be using that area. They
32 seem to have been going in there to some degree. So
33 they weren't definitely avoiding that, you know,
34 they're not exclusively staying aware from there.

35
36 So, I don't know, I guess that's about
37 all I've got to report, unless there are questions.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Paul.

40
41 MR. BODFISH: Yeah. Is there any air
42 strips located north of Anaktuvuk where those guides
43 are using?

44
45 MR. CARROLL: Well, there's no real
46 airstrips up there. I mean, there are some old
47 airstrips along the Anaktuvuk River, but they're
48 basically almost completely grown in. Hardly anybody
49 lands there any more. There's willows all over them
50 and anything. They're not good places to land. The

1 guides that have camps up there, they have little Super
2 Cub strips. You know, you can land a small airplane,
3 and, of course anywhere -- a lot of that country you
4 can land Super Cubs on gravel bars or, you know, lots
5 of different places you can land up there. But there
6 are no maintain strips, you know, except for Umiat.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiat)

9

10 MR. BODFISH: Yeah.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Geoff, in terms of
13 the report on the moose and the sport hunt, and you
14 indicated that 20 percent of the number of animals to
15 be sport hunter -- what is the overall number that is
16 allocated for -- to be taken either by sport or
17 subsistence hunt.

18

19 MR. CARROLL: Well, there's certain --
20 obviously no limit on the number that can be taken by
21 subsistence hunters. And we've tried to expand that
22 season to where I think any subsistence hunter on the
23 North Slope can -- you know, has a real good chance of
24 getting a moose if they want to go after one with the
25 summer hunt, the winter hunt, and, you know, the
26 expanded fall hunt.

27

28 As far as -- in addition to that, too,
29 the Board of Game meeting before this one, the Board
30 passed what's called a drawing permit hunt where --
31 well, one way we really limit, you know, a lot of the
32 hunting to subsistence hunting is that there's no use
33 of aircraft in any of that area, so that it's mostly
34 limited to boat traffic, people coming up from Nuiqsut,
35 or people travel by snow machine in the winter, or, you
36 know, in the summer by boat or four wheeler or
37 something on the land.

38

39 But when they set up this drawing
40 permit hunt, there's a -- it's a drawing where people
41 can put in an application, and 20 people are drawn, and
42 they can use aircraft to harvest moose. There were,
43 let's see, 20 permits given out last year, and I think
44 a total of 7 moose were harvested with those permits.
45 A lot of people will apply for those permits and then
46 figure out how far it is to the North Slope and just
47 decide there's easier places to hunt moose.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, thank you,
50 Geoff. David.

1 MR. GUNDERSON: Yeah. You say they can
2 use aircrafts in that area. Isn't that like cheating.
3 They get to fly all over, look for the biggest moose,
4 and the biggest caribou, harvest them only and choose.
5 Out there we can't choose, we just have to take our
6 time and find what's right, you know. That's how we do
7 it.

8
9 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, yeah, that's the
10 difference between.....

11
12 MR. GUNDERSON: You've got it like
13 that, how come -- you know, that's just -- that's what
14 I -- it's just not right.

15
16 MR. CARROLL: No, that's a good point.
17 I mean, that's the difference between use -- and that's
18 why we have not allowed the use of aircraft in that
19 area for many years. You know, the Board of Game
20 passed a regulation two years ago that you could have a
21 very limited use of aircraft in that area. And the
22 population has recovered.

23
24 You know, a brief history of that North
25 Slope population is it was pretty high numbers in the
26 early 90s and then it crashed. It probably had a 75
27 percent decline in the 90s. Since that time it's
28 gradually increased again to where we have -- oh,
29 there's over 1,000 moose on the Colville River now, and
30 it seems to be kind of a steady increase, and so there
31 wasn't any really biological reason not to, you know,
32 allow them to harvest a few more moose.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Geoff, I have a
35 question in terms of the spike camps and the operators
36 there in the -- I guess I need to find out what time of
37 the year they're there and for what duration. They're
38 bringing in clients. Are they flying them from like
39 Anaktuvuk into the community -- or to their spike camps
40 or are they bringing them all the way from Fairbanks
41 and bringing them out to their spike camps?

42
43 MR. CARROLL: I think some of both.
44 But a fair number of people get flown in. They, you
45 know, they fly in commercial to Anaktuvuk, and then
46 they pick them up with their Super Cub and get on down
47 to their spike camp.

48
49 This guy that runs the on the Chandler,
50 his name is Fred Tuttle, and he basically says they fly

1 hunters into spike camp. Once they're there, that's
2 the end of the flying. From there on it's hunting on
3 foot. And so, I don't, that's kind of the picture of
4 the way they run the operation.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The reason I was
7 asking is, you know, we don't have any more of our
8 flying services to do this fish camp travel, or with
9 the use of aircraft since Cape Smythe pulled out of the
10 flying business. We have the Frontier, which is one of
11 the carriers along with Hageland, but they're basically
12 doing community travel, nothing in between to do fish
13 camp. So we kind of lost our access to get to some of
14 these sites where we were able to charter aircraft from
15 Barrow to either fish camp or even down to Umiat to do
16 this -- to take part in the moose hunt. So without
17 that accessibility to the resource, it makes it a
18 little bit difficult, and the resources are now more
19 available for sports hunters. Although we do have
20 these off season hunts, you know, it's -- it was the
21 preferred time, but it's our only opportunity to take
22 the resource given our access to over ground, traveling
23 over it during winter time, and the condition of the
24 animal has changed from the prime hunting season to
25 take the resource.

26

27 I guess that -- has there been any
28 thought by these operators, or the spike camp operators
29 to maybe provide a service to the outlying communities,
30 to see if there's any interest to take an animal from
31 the spike camps?

32

33 MR. CARROLL: No. Well, I know one
34 thing they have worked out with -- between Anaktuvuk
35 and Fred Tuttle's camp is that they'll -- they bring
36 people from Anaktuvuk up to the camp to, you know, to
37 use the meat that those hunters get. You know, I --
38 but, no, and that's a good thought. I don't know that
39 they've talked about, you know, flying -- well, okay.
40 What you're suggesting is taking people from the
41 village and then hunt out of the spike camp I guess.
42 So I don't know. Yeah, that's a good thought. I
43 don't.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You know, I think we
46 need to elaborate a bit more, and then not just with
47 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, but maybe with
48 our Federal regulators in terms of providing another
49 opportunity to take a resource.

50

1 (Phone dialing by itself)
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's not me.
4
5 (Laughter)
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It must be an
8 operator.
9
10 Anyway, what I was trying to get at is
11 maybe trying to give an opportunity to the people in
12 the villages to take a resource at a different time.
13 You know, we were talking about earlier about the issue
14 for Kaktovik to take moose from 26B, I think it was
15 26B, and portions -- or 26C and portion of 26B. 26C
16 and a portion of 26B, for them to take that animal in
17 the wintertime, but if it could be taken at a --
18 accommodated by a guide, maybe they will be able to
19 take a resource that's, you know, during the hunting
20 time season, prime hunting season I should say. You
21 know, because the condition of the animal, you know,
22 would be much preferable at that time. But I just
23 throw that out just for keeping it in the back of our
24 minds, you know, in the event that it's a means of
25 getting to the resource.
26
27 MR. CARROLL: yeah
28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We don't always have
30 that capability for the dissemination of information to
31 charter these spike camps is not provided to the
32 outlying villages. It's all from the south of the
33 North Slope, nothing from the north. Just maybe a
34 handful of people that know about these spike camps,
35 you know, the permitting entity from the North Slope
36 Borough, the Department of Wildlife Management Staff,
37 and maybe you with the Department of Fish and Game has
38 that limited knowledge, but there's nothing, no
39 advertisements whatsoever from these operators in to
40 the villages to be able to charter their aircraft to go
41 out to do maybe a hunt, you know, in that area.
42
43 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.
44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm just trying to
46 think of means to be able to better utilize these
47 resources, but there seems to be a reluctance of that
48 for advertisement into the villages.
49
50 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. I agree. Well,

1 usually it's pretty big money operations, too, you
2 know. And they're trying to probably run as many
3 hunters through there as possible, and make as much
4 money as possible during that time.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I understand
7 that, but, you know, it's just trying to provide
8 another means of getting access to the resource. And
9 when we have our limited access, and.....

10
11 MR. CARROLL: Yeah

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER:where fish -- I
14 am along from the coast, and I have to travel up, you
15 know, pretty much 60 miles one way before I can get to
16 get to the mouth of river, or over to the lagoons.
17 Once we get into the river, our access is limited if
18 it's been a dry season. We can only probably basically
19 go up the river for three or four miles and that's it.
20 So then we -- you now, we try to think of other means
21 of getting up the river, but our accesses are very
22 limited, so I'm trying to think of other means of
23 trying to gain access to the resources, and if it's
24 possible to communicate that information with the
25 operators, the guides, and those outfitters.

26
27 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was trying to think
30 of their other name. Outfitters.

31
32 MR. CARROLL: I mean, it is a -- I
33 know, it's a hard situation for me to understand why we
34 don't have any air carriers up here, you know, that can
35 fly you out to places. I mean, it seems like there's a
36 lot of people who'd like to get to their camps, and it
37 seems like it would be a fair number of business. It
38 seems like every other town in Alaska has a bush pilot
39 or two. You can fly into places. I know, it's been a
40 long time. I mean, it's really put a crimp on my work.
41 You know, I can't -- I basically have to bring a pilot
42 up from Fairbanks or, you know, Paxson or something
43 like that, you know, to do a lot of my work. It's --
44 you know, I have to plan it way in advance, you know.
45 The old days, you know, I could just go down to Cape
46 Smythe at an hour's notice and go out and look at
47 something. But, you know, it's really changed things
48 for me in that respect. And I just -- it's kind of
49 hard to understand why we can't seem to get anyone
50 interested in coming in here and providing some kind of

1 a bush pilot service. I don't know. Hugh Patkotak has
2 been calling lately. He's thinking about it, you know,
3 and he wanted to know how much work he could figure on
4 getting, but it just seems anybody in that position
5 could get a lot of business.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, I thank you,
8 Geoff, for providing us a presentation for the Alaska
9 Department of Fish and Game.

10

11 MR. CARROLL: Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is there any other
14 question from the Council members.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not.....

19

20 MR. GUNDERSON: Is John on the line
21 still?

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: John can you hear us
24 okay? We just have to check.

25

26 MR. HOPSON: Yeah, I can.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Thank you. I
29 just wanted to make sure you're able to hear us and
30 communicate with us, and making sure that we're not
31 leaving you out.

32

33 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman, sometimes it
34 breaks up, but I can hear what they're talking about.
35 The one question that I have is getting permits or
36 licenses for hunting in Wainwright area. We talked
37 about this at the last meeting I attended last year.
38 And how to solve that problem, but yet nothing has come
39 of it, so that, you know, Wainwright people or any
40 other villages I'm pretty sure, would like to get those
41 licenses and permits to, you know, be able to show if
42 they walk up on you and say, do you have one.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

45

46 MR. HOPSON: Having it accessible to
47 the communities and not just in the Barrow area.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Geoff is getting
50 ready to respond in regard to Alaska Department of Fish

1 and Game. Geoff.

2

3 MR. CARROLL: Hi, John, this is Geoff
4 Carroll with Alaska Department -- oops, sorry. Hello,
5 John, this is Geoff Carroll with Alaska Department of
6 Fish and Game.

7

8 And, you know, there's a couple of -- I
9 mean, that is an unfortunate situation on the North
10 Slope is it's often hard for people to get licenses in
11 the villages, and yet it's required for waterfowl
12 hunting or caribou hunting or anything else. So, I
13 agree.

14

15 My problem has always been that, you
16 know, over the years I've, you know, probably had three
17 or four different people in Wainwright, you know, light
18 up to be license vendors, and usually they last about a
19 year, and, you know, it's the sort of thing that the
20 State doesn't do very well. We don't pay vendors very
21 well, and usually they burn out on it after about a
22 year. They figure out it's -- you know, they're just
23 providing a service to the community and they're not
24 getting much out of it. And, you know, the villages
25 where I have been successful have been places like
26 Nuiqsut where I can, you know, get somebody that's kind
27 of there year after year and they've got another source
28 of income, like at the store. You know, I'll get
29 someone trained up at the store that's got a lot of
30 other things going anyway, and if somebody comes in and
31 gets a license, that's just one more thing. Or I've --
32 you know, get somebody in the city government or, you
33 know, the Native government in one of the villages to
34 do that.

35

36 But, you know, I guess what I'm getting
37 at is if -- you know, if you could line anybody up in
38 Wainwright like at the store, or someone that's working
39 as a North Slope Borough representative there, you
40 know, that would be willing to take that on, you know,
41 we could have a local person doing it, but I guess as
42 you say, we don't have anything worked out there right
43 now.

44

45 Another option is, you know, anybody
46 that, you know, is used to working with computers, you
47 can go on line and get one. And it's pretty easy. You
48 just go on www.wildlife.alaska.gov and, you know, it
49 will guide you through, and you can buy your -- buy
50 hunting licenses and stuff on line. Or anybody that

1 wants to call me at my office, you know, just call me
2 up and I'll make sure you get a license one way or the
3 other. We'll work it out, I'll get something to you in
4 the mail in pretty short order. And, you know, my
5 number that you can call to get -- at my office is 852-
6 3464. And, you know, give me a call and I can -- we'll
7 figure out a way to get a license to you within a
8 couple days. I don't know, several different options.
9 It would be best if we had a good, reliable vendor in
10 every village, but we don't have that going at this
11 point.

12
13 MR. HOPSON: Okay. As soon as I get
14 back home then, we'll try to work something out to see,
15 you know, maybe a store or something might be able to
16 carry it. Good. I won't forget your number. Your
17 last four digits are exactly the same as mine at home,
18 so.....

19
20 MR. CARROLL: Cool.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MR. CARROLL: Good. And I'll know how
25 to get ahold of you, too. Okay. Thanks a lot, John,
26

27 MR. HOPSON: Yeah. Thank you very
28 much. Mr. Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any other
31 questions or comments to Geoff.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not, we'll -- I
36 thank you, Geoff, for making your presentation.

37
38 And we have one more on our agenda,
39 it's 9.F., Bureau of Indian Affairs.

40
41 MR. GUNDERSON: BIA.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: BIA. We must be
44 going back to school.

45
46 MR. BODFISH: They went out of
47 business, BUIA.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No, don't say that.
50 We still depend on them. Paul was trying to redefine

1 the BIA.

2

3 MR. EASTLAND: We have no report.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No financial aid or
6 anything for the North Slope residents or anything like
7 that of any sort?

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Start up a new school
12 or start up the North Star and.....

13

14 MR. BODFISH: (Indiscernible, away from
15 microphone) new hospital.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was just going to
18 state your name and now I lost it as I was doing it.
19 If you could just state your name for the record,
20 please.

21

22 MR. EASTLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
23 My name is Warren Eastland. I'm the wildlife biologist
24 for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. And with all those
25 wonderful dreams that you just named, that's certainly
26 not my department. That's far outside wildlife. And
27 the only thing that I can say for the rest of it is
28 that we're like all agencies, undergoing massive budget
29 cuts, so I can say no more than I wouldn't get my hopes
30 up, sir.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MR. EASTLAND: Thank you very much.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr.
37 Eastland.

38

39 So with that we -- I'm trying to figure
40 out where Fenton and Gordon might be, but they're still
41 continuing their meeting at the North Slope Borough, so
42 maybe as long as we have John with us, there's the
43 thought about maybe taking on some of the proposals,
44 but wait to take any action on the one that Fenton was
45 showing interest on. And Gordon also was showing
46 interest in wanting to learn more of what other options
47 there may be in terms of trying to address the concern
48 on moose for the Kaktovik residents.

49

50 DR. YOKEL: Does John have a village

1 report.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: John, maybe before --
4 thank you for the question, Dave. Dr. Yokel was just
5 asking do you have a village report. We would provide
6 you with this opportunity to voice your village
7 concerns.

8

9 MR. HOPSON: You're asking me?

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, sir.

12

13 MR. HOPSON: Yeah. The village report.
14 Wainwright has been pretty successful in subsistence
15 hunt. Concerns about airplanes flying over and the
16 majority of those airplanes I believe were industry
17 activity. They were doing their fly-overs to watch
18 over animals I guess. We've seen quite a bit of that
19 there. I believe it was a Twin Otter that they were
20 using.

21

22 Caribou. Wainwright had gotten quite a
23 bit of caribou this year, but the Western Arctic Herd
24 didn't come in until real, real late. They usually
25 come in around August/September area. We were finally
26 getting them with snow machines after it froze up. The
27 herd from the north hung around, and they're still
28 hanging around us quite a bit over between Wainwright
29 and Kugururok. They were doing good there.

30

31 The black brandt issue. The season
32 being changed and whatnot, and wildlife enforcers are
33 planning on being in Wainwright. They did warn us
34 about it early on. That, you know, is becoming a pain
35 in the rear for our elders that, you know, get them
36 when they need to when they come in, because we only
37 have a two-week span of them in the springtime, in
38 June. So, you know, continuing to try to work with
39 them to figure out what would be best for everybody.
40 That is one of the biggest issues that everybody's
41 talking about at home is to, you know, abide by the
42 law, but get what you can, because everybody really
43 likes that.

44

45 Beluga. They got quite a few beluga.
46 It was pretty good.

47

48 It was a really good year for
49 Wainwright this year, except the fact that the Western
50 Arctic Herd didn't come in until real late, and we

1 don't understand why that happened. But there's still
2 a lot of caribou and they are getting pretty fat ones
3 even right now. And that was really surprising. So
4 the caribou are really healthy.

5
6 That's all I have. Mr. Chairman.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
9 you, John. Any questions.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We don't have any
14 questions or comments. I thank you, John, for voicing
15 your concerns.

16
17 We have -- going back to our agenda
18 items, 8, call for proposals to change 2009 to 2011,
19 April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2011, Federal subsistence
20 fisheries regulations. We also have the wildlife
21 proposals. Regional proposals under 7. Oh, we've got
22 to get these numbers right. We're good until we get up
23 to 8, and then we start back at 7, 8, 9. So let me
24 just get these numbering right.

25
26 MR. GUNDERSON: The second 7 would be
27 9.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: 9, 10, 11, 12, 13,
30 14. Okay.

31
32 Under agenda 9, we would have wildlife
33 proposal review and Regional Council's recommendations.
34 And we have other proposals that we could consider at
35 this time. I'd like input from Council members as to
36 do we wish to go forward on these other proposals, and
37 maybe hold off taking action on the moose proposal
38 regarding Kaktovik.

39
40 MR. BODFISH: (Nods affirmatively)

41
42 MR. GUNDERSON: (Nods affirmatively)

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Paul's nodding yes
45 and so is David. John, how do you feel about that?

46
47 MR. HOPSON: I agree. I believe that
48 if it affects his area, he should have a say in what
49 we're planning on doing. So, you know, if it affects
50 Kaktovik and he's not around, I think it should be held

1 up until he can be available to comment on the
2 proposal.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I need to --
5 maybe I didn't inform you correctly as to what we did
6 this morning. Fenton did come in this morning while we
7 were considering the agenda, to amend it for him to
8 provide his comments to the Council, and we gave him
9 that opportunity. But he also wanted to be here as we
10 took action on hearing the presentations from -- during
11 the proposal review and in terms of Council
12 recommendations. And so we did provide him that
13 opportunity, but he also wants to be here during the
14 discussion of the proposal with the Council, so that's
15 why I was trying to maybe hold off on taking action on
16 this specific proposal, and we could take on these
17 other two.

18
19 We have WP08-52/53. It's in regard to
20 brown bear handicraft. We have a statewide Proposal
21 WP08-01, request the closing dates for the wolf hunting
22 and trapping seasons statewide be extended to May 31,
23 that the harvest limit be increased to 10 wolves per
24 day for the dates of April 1 to May 31, and that any
25 restrictions to disturbing or destroying would dens be
26 removed from the regulations. We also have WP08-05,
27 request the removal of all unit specific regulations
28 related to the statewide sale of brown bear handicrafts
29 made from skin, hide, pelt or fur, and that sales of
30 brown bear handicrafts made of claws, bones, teeth,
31 sinew or skulls should occur only between Federally-
32 qualified subsistence users.

33
34 So those are -- that's 1, 2, 3, 4
35 proposals that we can consider while we continue to
36 wait for Fenton and Gordon.

37
38 So if there's no other discussions at
39 this time, maybe let's start up with wildlife proposals
40 review and Regional Council recommendations, starting
41 with the brown bear handicraft. We have Liz Williams.

42
43 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you. Mr. Chair.
44 Members of the Council. I'm Liz Williams at the Office
45 of Subsistence Management in Anchorage. Did you want
46 to start with 05 or 52/53. There's a couple of.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (Indiscernible, away
49 from microphone) 05.

50

1 MS. WILLIAMS: 05.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (Indiscernible, away
4 from microphone) we'll start from the top on 52/53.

5

6 MS. WILLIAMS: Yeah. Okay. This one
7 is on Page 18 in you book. And we put these two
8 together because they were similar and to use the
9 nonedible parts of bears for handicrafts is legal under
10 Section 803 of ANILCA.

11

12 And as you know, WP08-52 was submitted
13 by the Northwest Arctic Regional Council, and that's
14 for Unit 23. And then WP08-53 was submitted by this
15 Council, and as you discussed earlier this morning, it
16 includes Unit 26, but also Unit 24B, which is in
17 Western Interior.

18

19 And the OSM conclusion was to support
20 all of these bear claw handicraft proposals with the
21 understanding that if the Councils want them.

22

23 And what has happened so far is the
24 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission
25 decided to drop 24B, because of the Western Interior's
26 continued not wanting to do that. And so they voted to
27 defer the other one to the home region. And the
28 Western Interior RAC also decided that they wanted 24B
29 dropped for the same reason, that they've always not
30 wanted it, because it goes against the beliefs of the
31 majority of people in that area.

32

33 And when you were talking this morning,
34 I was curious to know what -- to hear more details. I
35 couldn't really find out what had happened with the
36 person who was told that the bear skin or fur
37 handicrafts that they had made were illegal, because
38 even though State and Federal regulations are
39 different, under State regulations, it's legal to use
40 bear fur, just not bear claws. And that can be black
41 or brown bear fur. So I didn't know if there was maybe
42 some sort of misunderstanding by the enforcement
43 person.

44

45 And then it also has to do with where
46 the bear was harvested. So, you know, right now because
47 it's not legal in 26 or 24B, if it was harvested on
48 Federal lands, I would suppose that might have been the
49 enforcement person's person, but if we could get more
50 information, we might be able to straighten something

1 out.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sorry about that. I
4 could elaborate a bit on that. I was the one that --
5 my name is Harry Brower again. And I again indicated I
6 work for the Department of Wildlife Management
7 currently as the deputy director. And we do interact
8 with our communities quite a bit in terms of renewable
9 resources and the sales of handicrafts and such.

10

11 And when we were doing our village
12 travels in preparation for this meeting that we
13 discussed earlier about the Board of Game meeting down
14 in Bethel, we needed to do a village travel to
15 Anaktuvuk to discuss the controlled use area and how we
16 could best address that.

17

18 And during that time we went up to --
19 during one of the breaks, we went up to visit the
20 museum that they have there at the Simon Paneak Museum.
21 They do sell the handicrafts that are developed from --
22 within the community through museum, because there's a
23 lot of tourists that interact with the museum during
24 the site visits.

25

26 So it was told to me that a law
27 enforcement agent during visits again, this agent doing
28 visits at communities, had flown into the community and
29 done the community visit, interacted with the
30 community, and as he went up into the museum, he
31 learned that there's some -- that caribou skin masks
32 that are made by the crafters there, and had the
33 trimming, the brown bear fur trimming on them. He
34 indicated to the person working in the museum that
35 they're not able to sell those items, and these items
36 need to be taken down from the sales area of items,
37 where they had all the items that they had provided for
38 sales by the community. And he pulled them out and
39 asked them to be returned to the owners, and indicated
40 to the person that these are illegally being crafted,
41 because there's no sales of brown bear fur, and it's
42 illegal for them. So the crafters were somewhat upset,
43 because they had one understanding that they could use
44 the brown bear fur, but the law enforcement coming in
45 and he said -- indicated to them they could cite these
46 people if they're going to continue to do -- to
47 practice the use of brown bear fur and making them into
48 handicrafts. So they didn't want to get into being
49 cited, so they abided by the request of the law
50 enforcement agent. They're law abiding citizens. They

1 don't want to become illegal people or breaking the law
2 so to speak.

3

4 And so they just brought them down.
5 They were upset and they were asking us to see how we
6 could help them as North Slope Borough employees to the
7 Department of Wildlife Management. So the director,
8 Taqulik Hepa, indicated that she would look into the
9 matter and see where that needs to be corrected.

10

11 So I think what you indicated is right.
12 There's misinterpretation by law enforcement and by the
13 State regulators, regulation. That needs to be
14 clarified in that field. It's not so much bestowed
15 onto the hunter himself. It's the interpretation of
16 the law.

17

18 So, Tom, I see your hand up.

19

20 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Tom Kron.

21

22 That particular State regulation
23 changed several years ago. Maybe Geoff knows, but it
24 seems like it was like four years ago when the State
25 Board of Fish did make it legal to sell items made from
26 brown bear fur. So it may have been something that
27 happened at some point in the past, you know, maybe
28 2000, 2001. But it is currently legal under State
29 regs. And I see Geoff coming up.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We just experienced
32 this last summer.

33

34 MR. KRON: Right.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And into the fall.
37 We were making our village travels back and forth. I
38 just need to state that we were in Anaktuvuk during the
39 fall season, 2007, and this is what we are told to us,
40 so I explained to them that I belonged to, you know,
41 North Slope Borough Fish and Game Management Committee.
42 I also sit on the North Slope Regional Advisory
43 Council. And I told them I would voice the concern and
44 see how we could best address this. And that's where
45 it leads, it needs to be properly interpreted and
46 disseminated to all parts of the law enforcement, the
47 communities that are utilizing the resource, and
48 others, you know. I think just public information
49 dissemination would be helpful to get this thing
50 straight, because there's been a lot of handicraft

1 being given up by crafters, and they're reluctant to
2 even put up for sale the brown bear fur, because of
3 what they've experienced just in recent time.

4
5 So I'll maybe stop here, if that helped
6 with your concern.

7
8 MS. WILLIAMS: I have a few more
9 questions.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Helen.

12
13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong,
14 OSM. I just had a thought, Harry, that maybe with a
15 copy of the regs that Liz has just passed out, that
16 maybe you can, you know, fax it down to people in
17 Anaktuvuk so they'll have that and they can pull it out
18 and show people that, no, this is legal now.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Yes, thank you
21 for your suggestion, Helen, and I will definitely
22 follow up with that. And I was thinking of doing that
23 in my mind, and so I'm glad you brought that up.

24
25 So continue, Liz.

26
27 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, and this is
28 becoming sort of an issue with the State and the Feds.
29 It shows the really, really critical differences
30 between the programs. What I passed out are State of
31 Alaska regulations that say you can sell an article of
32 handicraft made from the fur of a bear. And what they
33 mean is black or brown bear, because they don't manage
34 polar bear. So that's State of Alaska only.

35
36 So depending on where the person who's
37 the crafter or the hunter who provides the fur gets the
38 bear, it's legal under -- so if they harvest under
39 state lands or on private lands, then the bear fur
40 handicraft is legal.

41
42 Right now because it hasn't been
43 approved for your area yet, if it was in park lands, it
44 wouldn't be legal. And so I don't know if the
45 enforcement agent asked where the bear had been
46 harvested, but that's the critical point.

47
48 And I was curious to know, because
49 there's not a representative from Anaktuvuk here, if --
50 where people in Anaktuvuk harvest their bears. And I

1 know it's not just in one place, but north of Anaktuvuk
2 is mostly preserve, which is under State regs. And
3 then the south is 24B where the other groups of people
4 that live there don't want bears sold for handicrafts.
5 So I'm trying to figure out a way where maybe Anaktuvuk
6 people get their bear north of 24B.

7

8 MR. KRUPA: Dave Krupa, National Park
9 Service.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Dave.

12

13 MR. KRUPA: I just wanted to make a
14 point of clarification on that. If under State regs
15 hunting was allowed in the park, it may be illegal
16 under that. But under Federal regulations for
17 subsistence qualified hunters, that would be permitted.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. So to
20 answer your question, so they take bears on both sides
21 of the border.

22

23 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Because Anaktuvuk,
26 they're right on the border line. Or the boundary
27 line. I shouldn't say border, the boundary line, so
28 they take bears on both side. I know, because I've
29 traversed over it from my visits, and traveling both
30 sides of the community, whether it be on the
31 continental divide, or north of the continental divide.
32 So they go hunting where the resources are available to
33 them. And the timing is also of importance. You know,
34 they do their berry hunting -- or berry picking. Berry
35 hunting. Berry picking during the fall season and they
36 go up north, and that's when they interact with bears.
37 And bears coming into the community from the north and
38 south. They do interact with bear from both sides. So
39 I couldn't exactly answer the question to be very
40 specific as to which side. So they take them on both
41 sides of the continental divide.

42

43 And in terms of -- I was wanting to get
44 back -- I'll just wait for my questions, but said you
45 had other questions you wanted to ask.

46

47 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, that was mainly in
48 it. And I just wondered who -- if the enforcement
49 person was Federal or State. And maybe I was thinking
50 -- I don't know, the two Councils could talk or

1 something about the 24B, but are you saying that if
2 they harvest a bear in the park in 24B or in 26?
3
4 MR. KRUPA: Well, we were only talking
5 about 24B.
6
7 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. But that it would
8 be legal for them to use the fur?
9
10 MR. KRUPA: That's my understanding.
11
12 MS. WILLIAMS: Yeah. Yeah. Here's the
13 Park Service reg. It has a star by it. And for the
14 record, this is a Park Service reg, but it mimics
15 Section 803 of ANILCA and it addresses the sale of
16 handicrafts made from the byproducts of animals
17 harvested for food.
18
19 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Liz, why don't you
20 read it since John is on the phone.
21
22 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.
23
24 MS. WILLIAMS: Oh, I'm sorry, John.
25 I'll read it you would like.
26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just a minute, Liz.
28 John.
29
30 MR. HOPSON: I was just going to ask a
31 question. I heard that it wasn't -- I heard you say
32 that it wasn't approved in our area. That means if I
33 was to get a brown bear in Wainwright, it would be an
34 illegal taking?
35
36 MS. WILLIAMS: No. We're only saying
37 to sell handicrafts made out of the parts of it that
38 you didn't eat. But it's legal to take bears.
39
40 MR. HOPSON: Okay.
41
42 DR. YOKEL: It's also legal to sell
43 handicrafts under the State of Alaska.
44
45 MR. HOPSON: I cannot make handicrafts
46 out of the claws or the fur, but I can take it for
47 food?
48
49 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes. And you -- if
50 it's.....

1 MR. HOPSON: And how do.....
2
3 MS. WILLIAMS:harvested -- oh,
4 sorry.
5
6 MR. HOPSON: How do we make it fair so
7 that we all can do it, because we have different
8 artisans that do different things throughout the North
9 Slope. Not everybody does it the same way as to making
10 arts and crafts, and they're awesome looking artifacts
11 as you all know. Now do we make it air so that it
12 would be legal for us to do it throughout the Slope?
13
14 MS. WILLIAMS: I think approving this
15 proposal, and maybe just to separate out the 24B part
16 and -- do we need to do that, do you think? I mean,
17 this proposal is about making bears harvested on
18 Federal lands available to use for handicrafts. You
19 can already harvest them. It's just about the sale of
20 handicrafts that's the contentious issue.
21
22 DR. YOKEL: Using Federal lands with
23 Federal regulations.
24
25 MS. WILLIAMS: Who?
26
27 DR. YOKEL: You.
28
29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Get it on record.
30
31 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. To clarify
32 the.....
33
34 DR. YOKEL: You can hunt on the Federal
35 lands.
36
37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Liz.
38
39 MS. WILLIAMS: Right. We're saying
40 that you can hunt on Federal lands, we're just talking
41 about handicrafts made out of the nonedible parts.
42
43 DR. YOKEL: This is Dave Yokel. John,
44 you can hunt bears on the NPRA with a State license and
45 sell handicrafts using the fur under State regs.
46
47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: But not under
48 federal.
49
50 DR. YOKEL: But not under Federal

1 subsistence regs. So if you have a State license and I
2 don't know what the tag requirements are for bears
3 there for the State. But you can sell those
4 handicrafts under State regs.

5
6 MR. HOPSON: And I can use the claws
7 and the fur, because.....

8
9 DR. YOKEL: Not the claws.

10
11 MR. HOPSON:the issue I heard was
12 the claws, right?

13
14 MS. WILLIAMS: That's the difference,
15 John. The State law doesn't allow you to use the
16 claws. It only allows you to use the fur, whereas the
17 Federal reg allows you to use the claws and the fur.

18
19 MR. HOPSON: So I need to get two
20 licenses, one from the Federal government and one from
21 the State so I can be legal to do both.

22
23 MS. WILLIAMS: I think it just depends
24 on where you harvest it. I'm not aware of the
25 licensing requirements for the different areas.

26
27 DR. YOKEL: It's just a State license.

28
29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It's a State
30 license.

31
32 MS. WILLIAMS: Yeah.

33
34 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Just the State. He
35 only needs a State license.

36
37 MS. WILLIAMS: So you don't need two.
38 It just depends on where you're hunting, if you're on
39 Federal land versus State or private.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: One license.

42
43 MS. WILLIAMS: One license though. And
44 all we're talking about is the use of the fur and the
45 claws. The bear to be harvested for food is not the
46 issue at all here. That's already legal.

47
48 MR. HOPSON: Okay.

49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So, John, did that

1 help confuse you a little bit more?
2
3 (Laughter)
4
5 MR. HOPSON: Yeah, that -- you know, I
6 was going to say, spell it out to me in English you
7 know.
8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.
10
11 MS. WILLIAMS: It's very confusing, and
12 that's that.....
13
14 MR. HOPSON: Because we want to do
15 things -- I really know that a lot of people eat a
16 brown bear. And they're good when they're really fat.
17
18
19 But what I'm getting confused at is
20 what I can and can't do with the claw and the fur. And
21 where. I mean, killing it in the NPRA, would it be
22 legal for me in Wainwright to sell artifacts made out
23 of bear claws and fur. Because a lot of my hunting is
24 literally in the NPRA, right there that's the majority
25 of the land owner in Wainwright.
26
27 MS. WILLIAMS: If this proposal is
28 passed for Unit 26, if you're hunting on Federal land
29 for a bear, you would be able to use the claws and the
30 fur as handicrafts if you harvested it in a Federal
31 area.
32
33 MR. HOPSON: Okay. And also the land
34 owner near Wainwright is our village corporation. It's
35 corporate lands under ANILCA. Would I -- if I was to
36 get a bear in Wainwright, and I have seen them in
37 Wainwright, would it be legal to use it for arts and
38 crafts also?
39
40 MS. WILLIAMS: Just the fur, because
41 it's on private or State land. Unfortunately, private
42 lands, which include corporation lands, are under State
43 regulations.
44
45 MR. HOPSON: Okay. That helped clear
46 it up. Thank you.
47
48 MS. WILLIAMS: Sorry about the
49 confusion. We get confused, enforcement gets confused.
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sorry, I'm trying to
2 write and trying to make it understandable for myself,
3 but go ahead.
4
5 MR. HOPSON: One more question. You
6 said that it said bear only, it didn't specify what
7 kind of bear, is that true?
8
9 MS. WILLIAMS: These regulations refer
10 only to black and brown, because those are the only
11 species that are regulated by the Federal Subsistence
12 Board. Polar bears are National Marine Fisheries
13 Service, and I think it's legal to use their fur for
14 handicrafts no matter where you harvest them. I have
15 their sheet. I wish you were here, I could pass out
16 all these papers to you. I could make you a little
17 bear manual.
18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So, John, did that
20 help answer your question?
21
22 MR. HOPSON: Say that again, Harry.
23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was asking you to
25 see if that answered your -- if she answered your
26 answer.
27
28 MR. HOPSON: Yeah, it did. Thank you.
29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, John.
31 Helen.
32
33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.
34 Chair. I just wanted to make a comment that, you know,
35 this is two parts. It's 26 and 24B. And even though
36 the Western Interior Council didn't support having this
37 in 24B, that doesn't mean that your Council has to
38 agree with them. You can vote however you want. And
39 then what happens when two Councils oppose one another,
40 the Board then has to make the decision as to which one
41 they're going to go with. And we have this frequently,
42 so you don't need to feel like you have to do what they
43 did. I mean, you may, but I just wanted to make sure
44 you knew that.
45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes. Thank you for
47 making that clarification, Helen.
48
49 I wrote something down to that effect.
50 If we did decide to support the proposal, you know, how

1 it's going to impact the other uses of Unit 24. So I
2 just wanted to make sure we got -- we're clear on that.
3 Because we want to -- what I was trying to say, I like
4 to support the Community of Anaktuvuk Pass to continue
5 the practices that are before them. You know, it's
6 these regulations that come about that are not
7 accommodating to the practices of our people. So we
8 sit, slow down in the middle of things and make things
9 right for our people. And with sitting on one side of
10 the line and then crossing over to the other side, we
11 have to look at the regulations that are being
12 presented to us and make sure we interpret them right
13 to accommodate other practices of the region that we
14 represent.

15

16 And that was what I was indicating
17 earlier, they're right on the border line, and once
18 they cross over the line, they're on one side in 26 and
19 they just take two steps backwards, they're in 24. So
20 unfortunately they're right in their boundary line.

21

22 But they may be -- another portion of
23 that is they may be fortunate they're right on the
24 boundary, because they can hunt on both sides.

25

26 And I understand. I know the
27 difficulty that Anaktuvuk has been faced with. They
28 have been asking to see if we could move the boundary
29 line 24 miles south of AKP to accommodate their needs,
30 but that's something that has been an oversight, and
31 it's been long in trying to get that addressed, but it
32 still remains the same. I mean, that's been -- we've
33 had several of their community members that are
34 representatives to this Council, and they've made that
35 concern known to a lot of the regulators, and it's
36 still the same. And we continue to voice the same
37 issues.

38

39 Although, that being said, I'd like to
40 continue with Liz and to see what other information
41 that we need to hear in regard to this proposal.

42

43 MS. WILLIAMS: That's pretty much it.
44 I think what Helen said about maybe separating all the
45 different units out and voting on them separately might
46 be a good option to consider. Just the way we present
47 it in our analysis isn't the way it has to be. We sort
48 of did it because they were all about the same thing.
49 But after hearing the Gates of the Arctic SRC and the
50 Western Interior, it's clear that we can't just lump

1 24B with 26. Or maybe we shouldn't.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

4

5 MS. WILLIAMS: We support the use of
6 bear claw handicrafts. That's the OSM office position
7 wherever the Councils and the people who live there
8 want it. So that was our final conclusion.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Liz. And
11 following the introduction -- does that complete your
12 introduction of the proposal.

13

14 MS. WILLIAMS: That completes my
15 analysis, yes.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. So
18 following that, we have the Alaska Department of Fish
19 and Game comments. Geoff, are you going to be
20 presenting the comments for Alaska Department of Fish
21 and Game.

22

23 MR. CARROLL: Well, the official
24 position -- oh, I'm Geoff Carroll.

25

26 REPORTER: Geoff.

27

28 MR. CARROLL: Okay. I've got the
29 button on and everything. Okay. Geoff Carroll, area
30 biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

31

32 The official Alaska Department of Fish
33 and Game position is to oppose this. And part of the
34 reason is because it creates a very difficult
35 enforcement situation, because if you're got some parts
36 of the State where it's legal, other parts of the State
37 where it's illegal, and you know you see an arts and
38 crafts item, who can ever say where it came from.
39 Things like that.

40

41 You know, there are conservation
42 issues. You know the claws basically are more of a
43 high value item than the fur would be.

44

45 Okay. That's the official State
46 position.

47

48 I'll just tell you as well that when
49 they contacted me, I basically said I don't see any
50 reason to oppose it. We have -- it's legal to use

1 polar bear claws in arts and crafts. That hasn't led
2 to the overharvest of polar bears, you know. And I
3 know when they contacted Jim Daw from the Kotzebue
4 office, he kind of said the same thing. And I think
5 those of us from Northern Alaska don't see this as a
6 problem. But the official State position is to oppose
7 it.

8

9

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

10 comments:

11

12

Wildlife Proposals WP08-52 and WP08-53
13 would allow the sale of handicrafts made from the fur,
14 including claws, of grown bear harvested in Unit 23 and
15 in Units 24B and 26 respectively.

16

17

Introduction:

18

19

Federal regulations authorizing sale of
20 handicrafts made from the skin, hide, fur, or pelt,
21 including claws, of brown bears do not apply to brown
22 bears taken in Units 23, 24B and 26. These proposals
23 would allow such sales. Where such sales are allowed
24 under Federal law, they are limited only by an
25 unenforceable regulation that prohibits sales
26 constituting a "significant commercial enterprise,"
27 which is undefined. Under State law, sales and
28 purchases of handicrafts made with brown bear claws are
29 prohibited. (The State opposes these proposals as
30 written, but notes that sales of bear fur handicrafts
31 without claws would be allowed without adoption of
32 these proposals if Proposal WP08-05 is adopted.)

33

34

Impact on Subsistence Users:

35

36

These proposals would not further
37 subsistence use of brown bear because sales of brown
38 bear handicrafts are not customary and traditional in
39 Units 23, 24B and 26. The Federal Subsistence Board's
40 current allowance of such sales in other units was not
41 based upon a determination that such sales are
42 customary and traditional but upon the Board's
43 unsupported argument that the Board can authorize any
44 use if the take is customary and traditional.
45 Bartering brown bear handicrafts with anyone is already
46 allowed under Federal regulations, and, therefore,
47 these proposals are not needed to allow rural residents
48 or urban Natives to obtain such handicrafts for
49 ceremonial, religious, and cultural purposes. Adoption
50 of these proposals will increase the likelihood that

1 Federal subsistence users will face State prosecution
2 for engaging in sales that are prohibited under State
3 law when they are on State or private lands.

4

5 1 See example Chairman Demientieff
6 letter to ADF&G on January 17, 2006

7

8 Opportunity Provided by State:

9

10 State regulations allow the purpose,
11 sale, and barter of handicrafts made from the fur of a
12 bear, but the State's definition of fur does not
13 include claws. Under 5 AAC 92.900, handicrafts made
14 with bear fur may be sold to anyone, but sales of
15 handicrafts made with claws are prohibited.

16

17 Conservation Issues:

18

19 Regulations allowing the sales of high
20 value bear claws create a legal market for bear claws
21 which is likely to mask illegal sales, compounding
22 problems with the international trade of endangered
23 species and contributing to the illegal harvest,
24 over-harvest and waste of bears in other states and
25 countries as well as Alaska. Brown bears develop
26 slowly and have a low reproductive rate, making small
27 populations extremely susceptible to over-harvest.
28 Allowing widespread sale of high value bear parts
29 without any kind of tracking mechanism is an invitation
30 to illegal harvests. Existing unit-specific
31 regulations are unenforceable and inconsistent with
32 sound management principles. Adoption of these
33 proposals will incrementally increase these problems.

34

35 Enforcement Issues:

36

37 Adoption of these proposals will
38 increase enforcement issues in several ways. First, by
39 expanding the pool of eligible sellers and potential
40 numbers of legal sales of high value bear parts, they
41 will contribute to increased masking of illegal sales
42 and bolster the economic incentives for poaching in
43 other states and countries as well as Alaska. Second,
44 they will add another unenforceable unit-specific sales
45 authorization without any tracking mechanism for
46 linking handicrafts to the location where a bear is
47 harvested. Third, adoption of these proposals will
48 increase the likelihood that Federal subsistence users
49 will face prosecution for attempting to engage in sales
50 on State or private land that are prohibited under

1 State law.

2

3

Jurisdiction Issues:

4

5

The State continues to maintain that the Federal Government lacks jurisdiction to allow sales of any wildlife handicrafts where such sales are not customary and traditional. In the past, the Federal Subsistence Board has rejected this argument, asserting that if any use is customary and traditional, the Board can authorize any other use. The Board's argument is inconsistent with its litigation stance in the Chistochina Unit 12 moose case where it argued that customary and traditional use is related to how a resource is used after it is taken and not to or a prerequisite condition for the taking itself.²

17

18

2 State v. Fleagle, (Case 3:06-cv-00107-HRH) Doc.32 at 22.

20

21

Recommendation:

22

23

Do not adopt Proposals WP08-52 and WP08-53 for the following reasons. No evidence is presented in either the proposal or Staff analyses demonstrating that the production and sale of brown bear handicrafts is a customary and traditional activity in Unit 23, 24B, and 26. Furthermore, such sales will create enforcement problems for subsistence users and are contrary to accepted principles of wildlife management in light of the endangered species and sustainability issues. Sales of bear fur handicrafts without claws would be allowed without adoption of this proposal if Proposal WP08-05 is adopted.

36

37

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Geoff.

38

39

Then we -- I'm following the criteria that's before us, so other agency comments. Do we have any other agency comments.

42

43

(No comments)

44

45

CHAIRMAN BROWER: If there's no other agency comments, we'll move onto InterAgency Staff Committee comments.

48

49

MR. EASTLAND: There are none.

50

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: None.
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: InterAgency Staff
4 Committee comments? So no InterAgency Staff Committee
5 comments.
6
7 Number 6, Fish and Game Advisory
8 Committee comments.
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No Fish and Game
13 Advisory comments.
14
15 Number 7, summary of written public
16 comments.
17
18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: There are none, Mr.
19 Chair.
20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Helen.
22
23 Public testimony. Number 8.
24
25 (No comments)
26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If there's no further
28 testimony, we're down to No. 9. Regional Council
29 deliberation, recommendation and justification. What
30 is the wish of the Council.
31
32 MR. BODFISH: Mr. Chairman.
33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Paul, go ahead.
35
36 MR. BODFISH: Yeah, I make a motion to
37 approve this Proposal WP08-52/53.
38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: A motion on the floor
40 to adopt the proposal as presented, is that what you
41 indicated?
42
43 MR. BODFISH: Yes.
44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: A motion on the floor
46 to adopt WP08-52/53 as presented.
47
48 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.
49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: John.

1 MR. HOPSON: Can you repeat the motion?
2 I didn't get all of it.
3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. The motion was
5 to adopt the proposal as presented.
6
7 MR. HOPSON: Thank you.
8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The Proposal No.
10 WP08-52/53. He got it. (In Inupiat) Did you want me
11 to read the first part of the proposal. Proposal WP08-
12 52 requests the addition of Unit 23 to the list of
13 areas from which the skin, hide, pelt or fur, including
14 claws, of brown bear harvested under Federal
15 subsistence regulations can be used to make handicrafts
16 for personal use or sale. Submitted by the Northwest
17 Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.
18
19 Proposal WP08-53 requests or the
20 addition of Units 24B and 26 to the list of areas from
21 which the above listed parts of brown bear harvested
22 under Federal subsistence regulations can be used to
23 make handicrafts for personal use or sale. Submitted
24 by the North Slope Regional Advisory Council.
25
26 So that was the general description of
27 the proposal. There was a motion to adopt the Proposal
28 52 and 53 as presented.
29
30 MR. GUNDERSON: Second.
31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by David.
33 Any further discussion.
34
35 (No comments)
36
37 MR. BODFISH: Call for question.
38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
40 called on the motion to adopt Proposal WP08-52/53. All
41 in favor signify by saying aye.
42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.
44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed same sign.
46
47 (No opposing votes)
48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So the proposal is
50 adopted as presented.

1 Okay. We'll have, looking back to our
2 agenda here, a statewide proposal, Proposal WP08-01
3 requests that the closing dates of the wolf hunting
4 season and trapping seasons statewide be extended to
5 May 31, and that the harvest limits be increased to 10
6 wolves per day for the dates of April 1 to May 31; and
7 that any restriction to disturbing or destroying wolf
8 dens be removed from regulations. So I'll pass on the
9 floor to Liz.

10

11 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 I'm Liz Williams again from OSM.

13

14 This proposal, the analysis is on Page
15 35, and it was submitted by the Orutsararmiut Native
16 Council of Bethel, and it requests the three related
17 points that the Chair just mentioned: the closing
18 dates of the wolf hunting and trapping seasons
19 statewide be extended to May 31, that the harvest
20 limits be increased to 10 wolves per day for the dates
21 of April 1 through May 31; and that any restriction to
22 disturbing or destroying wolf dens be removed from
23 regulations.

24

25 And the proponent seeks to expand an
26 increased hunting and trapping opportunities on wolf
27 populations statewide in order to provide for more
28 productive moose and caribou populations, which, of
29 course, are important subsistence resources to rural
30 Alaskans throughout the state.

31

32 However, the Federal Subsistence Board
33 doesn't make any regulations related to predator
34 control, and they have a predator control policy that
35 they created in 2004, which I'll pass out to you. And
36 essentially it says that you have to go to the specific
37 land management agency and work within their wolf
38 control regulations or policies. The Federal
39 Subsistence Board only does regulations for subsistence
40 harvest, but not necessary removing a species that
41 causes a decline in another.

42

43 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to
44 oppose this proposal for those reasons.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm getting
47 sidetracked here. I'm reading two different things.

48

49 To follow along with after the
50 introduction of the proposal and the analysis, next on

1 our criteria that we need to follow is to have the
2 Alaska Department of Fish and Game present its comments
3 on this proposal.

4
5 MR. CARROLL: Geoff Carroll, Alaska
6 Department of Fish and Game.

7
8 And, well, the State's recommendation
9 is also to oppose the proposal primarily because it
10 would be a statewide regulation. There may be some
11 places in the state where it would make sense to make
12 these changes and others where it wouldn't, but this is
13 like a, you know, across the board statewide proposal,
14 so the State would oppose that.

15
16 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
17 Comments:

18
19 Wildlife Proposal WP08-01:

20
21 Liberalize wolf harvest regulations
22 statewide.

23
24 Introduction:

25
26 This statewide proposal would extend
27 the wolf hunting and trapping season by moving the date
28 to May 31; increase the hunting bag limit to 10 wolves
29 per day during the period from April 1 to May 31; and
30 delete any restrictions to disturbing or destroying a
31 den.

32
33 Impact on Subsistence Users:

34
35 Adoption of this proposal would: (1)
36 provide additional time and methods for Federally-
37 qualified subsistence users to hunt and trap wolves on
38 Federal lands in spring; (2) substantially increase the
39 harvest limit in some areas for wolves taken under
40 Federal subsistence hunting regulations on Federal
41 lands; and (3) authorize dens on Federal lands to be
42 disturbed or destroyed for the purpose of harvesting
43 wolves. These liberalizations would create wolf
44 management and conservation issues in some areas that
45 would likely result in reduced subsistence
46 opportunities to harvest wolves in the long term.

47
48 Opportunity Provided by the State:

49
50 State hunting regulations allow harvest

1 of wolves in May and/or authorize a bag limit of 10
2 wolves per day in some units where the wolf populations
3 can sustain these harvests. State regulations do not
4 authorize dens to be disturbed or destroyed.

5

6 Conservation Issues:

7

8 Any element in this proposal -- season
9 extension, increased harvest limit, or
10 disturbing/destroying dens -- could result in
11 over-harvest of wolves and create conservation concerns
12 in some areas. In southeast Alaska, for example,
13 increased harvests could lead to wolves being listed as
14 threatened or endangered. The poor pelt quality of
15 wolves taken in spring in most areas reduces their
16 value for subsistence uses.

17

18 Enforcement Issues:

19

20 Differences in Federal and State
21 regulations resulting from adoption of this proposal
22 create enforcement issues in areas with mixed land
23 ownership.

24

25 Other Comments:

26

27 No evidence is presented indicating
28 that the proposed changes are needed to provide for the
29 continuation of subsistence uses of wolves by
30 Federally-qualified subsistence users. Similar
31 proposals to manipulate predator populations that
32 benefit prey populations were submitted to, and
33 rejected by, the Federal Subsistence Board in 2005 and
34 2006 for the following reasons: (1) the Federal
35 Subsistence Board and the Department of Fish and Game
36 were concerned that extending the season statewide when
37 wolves have pups at the den site is contrary to sound
38 wildlife management principles; (2) The Federal
39 Subsistence Board and Department of Fish and Game noted
40 that hides of wolves taken in May are not prime and are
41 of low value for making clothing and handicrafts; and
42 (3) the Federal Subsistence Board reiterated that its
43 policy adopted in 2004 is to not promulgate regulations
44 specifically for predator control.

45

46 The proponent desires that each Federal
47 land management agency take action to facilitate active
48 predator management on Federal units. The State of
49 Alaska is actively engaged in intensive management of
50 wolves in some areas of the state in order to restore

1 healthy prey populations, but Federal land management
2 policies limit the effectiveness of State efforts. The
3 State would welcome opportunities to work with the
4 proponents to encourage Federal land managers to
5 reevaluate their land management policies that limit
6 the State's active management tools on most Federal
7 lands.

8

9

Recommendation:

10

11 Oppose the proposal but support the
12 Council(s) interest in encouraging cooperation between
13 the Federal land management agencies and the State to
14 allow active management of predators.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Geoff.
17 Any other agency comments.

18

19

(No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted.
22 InterAgency Staff Committee comments.

23

24

(No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None. None at this
27 time. Fish and Game Advisory Committee comments.

28

29

(No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We also have no one
32 present from the Fish and Game Advisory Committees.
33 Number 7, summary of written public comments.

34

35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.
36 Chair. There was one written public comment, and that
37 was to oppose the proposal.

38

39 And I also wanted to let you know that
40 two Councils have already met, the Seward Peninsula
41 Council as well as the Western Interior Council. Oh,
42 and Southeast, sorry. And they all opposed this
43 proposal.

44

45

Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Public
48 testimony on Proposal WP08-01.

49

50

(No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No public testimony.
2
3
4 Number 9, Regional Council
5 deliberation, recommendation and justification. What
6 is the wish of the Council.
7
8 MR. BODFISH: They were trying to
9 extend wolf.....
10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was going to say,
12 if we could maybe identify what our current regulations
13 indicate. Under the Federal regulations for wolves we
14 have a pretty long season for wolves in our area I
15 think. That's what I recall. Let's see, getting down
16 to wolf. Our season, open season is from August 10th
17 to April 30. And harvest limits of 15 wolves for any
18 rural residents within Unit 26. Their other issue in
19 this regulation is to take them -- be able to take 10
20 per day under this proposal. Those are the differences
21 in terms of what we currently have and what the
22 proposal is indicating.
23
24 Counsel deliberation.
25
26 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.
27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: John.
29
30 MR. HOPSON: If we approve this, what
31 would it do to the North Slope? And if we denied it,
32 what would it do to the North Slope?
33
34 MS. WILLIAMS: It would reduce your
35 reduce your season from 15 to 10 wolves a day, and
36 it.....
37
38 MR. CARROLL: It's not a reduction.
39
40 MS. WILLIAMS: Isn't that what you --
41 yeah.
42
43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Oh, it's 15 wolves a
44 year.
45
46 MR. CARROLL: Right.
47
48 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. It would increase
49 it to 10 wolves per day instead of 15 wolves per year.
50 And then it would change the season from August 10

1 through March 31st to April 1st to May 31st.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did you understand
4 that, John? It would this number of animal -- or let
5 me get back. The number of animals would increase by
6 10 per day instead of the 15 per year as indicated in
7 the current regulations. And it would also lengthen
8 the season by at least two month I interpret this
9 right.

10

11 Geoff, did you have a comment.

12

13 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. I just wanted to
14 -- that only applies to where you're using a hunting
15 license. If you buy a trapping license, currently you
16 have no limit on the number of wolves that you can
17 harvest, so it doesn't really -- you can't increase
18 over that I guess.

19

20 MR. HOPSON: So based on Geoff's
21 comment there, it wouldn't really affect us numberwise,
22 but it would just lengthen the season?

23

24 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, that's right.

25

26 MR. HOPSON: (In Inupiat) April.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You're right, John.
29 You know the fur starts shedding, and they're not
30 really preferable unless they go through this -- I know
31 some of the hunters go through the selection process
32 and when they're in April they notice that the fur is
33 already shedding, they don't bother taking the wolf.
34 They let them go. But if they seem to be in the prime
35 condition, they occasionally will take them. But
36 that's -- varies (In Inupiat). The majority of the
37 hunt for taking wolves is what we've identified, August
38 through April. But even August is somewhat early for
39 us, because of our accessibility. And we would rather
40 wait until the fur is at its prime in the midst of
41 winter.

42

43 Paul.

44

45 MR. HOPSON: Yeah. Right. Right. And
46 that's when it's the coldest part of the year.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

49

50 MR. BODFISH: Yeah, they're pretty thin

1 at that time of the year. This time or late.....
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: April.
4
5 MR. BODFISH: Early spring, yeah.
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're under Region
8 Council deliberation, recommendation, justification.
9
10 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman, when the
11 females are pregnant, too, they're sometimes -- most of
12 the time, April, May, around there. March, April May.
13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I look to the
15 biologist. Geoff, I mean, basically if you could just
16 answer the question.
17
18 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, that's true. And
19 what this would do is it would extend the season into
20 May when they actually have pups in their dens, so you
21 would run the risk of killing adults while the pups are
22 in the den, and so you wouldn't know how many pups
23 you're killing when you kill an adult.
24
25 And, you know, that's the other thing
26 that this regulation would allow if for people to, you
27 know, go into dens and kill pups. And it's really
28 designed more as a wolf control regulation than a wolf
29 hunting regulation. It's so people who live in areas
30 that would like to reduce the number of wolves by being
31 able to hunt them longer and, you know, kill pups right
32 in the den. And so that would be a change, too, over
33 what's allowed now.
34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Geoff.
36 Any other comments.
37
38 MR. BODFISH: Mr. Chairman.
39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Paul.
41
42 MR. BODFISH: After reading this and
43 hearing from the agencies, I would oppose this
44 proposal.
45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Are you making that
47 in the form of a motion?
48
49 MR. BODFISH: Yes. I'll move that as a
50 motion to approve -- to oppose WP08-01.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
2 the floor to oppose WP08-01, opposing the proposal.
3
4 MR. GUNDERSON: Second.
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by David.
7 Further discussion.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 MR. GUNDERSON: Question.
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
14 called on the motion to oppose WP08-01. All in favor
15 signify by saying aye.
16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.
18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposing the motion
20 signify by same sign.
21
22 (No opposing votes)
23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: They're not here.
25
26 Thank you, Council members. Do we want
27 to move on to our next proposal. So I'll give the
28 floor to Liz to indicate the contents of WP08-05.
29
30 MS. WILLIAMS: Liz Williams with OSM.
31
32 WP-08-05 is taking us to brown bear
33 handicrafts statewide that already exists. And this
34 analysis is on Page 51 in your book. And it's a
35 statewide proposal that was submitted by the Alaska
36 Department of Fish and Game, and it requests the
37 removal of all unit-specific regulations related to the
38 sale of brown bear handicrafts made of skin, hide, pelt
39 or fur including claws. And also wants to restrict the
40 sale of brown bear handicrafts that are made of other
41 parts that are claws, bones, teeth, sinew or skulls
42 only between rural Federally-qualified subsistence
43 users. So it wouldn't be just an open market sale.
44 And the sale of those parts only occur in three units
45 right now, because they're the only ones that wanted
46 them. That's Southeast, Bristol Bay and Eastern
47 Interior.
48
49 The proponent submitted this proposal,
50 because they are concerned about an unconstrained

1 commercial sale of handicrafts made from brown bear
2 parts that might make market incentives from poaching.
3 And as we heard earlier from the person sitting next to
4 me, we haven't seen much of that activity, if any. The
5 enforcement people under the Federal side don't know of
6 any cases.

7

8 Let's see. The proponent's description
9 of people eligible to sell handicrafts would also
10 increase the types of bear parts eligible for sale in
11 much of the state, so they would make it legal in parts
12 of the state where Councils didn't approve it.

13

14 The Federal Subsistence Board has
15 looked at seven proposals at least regarding the sale
16 of bear handicrafts, and they have always supported it,
17 because it's legal under ANILCA, and the Board only
18 wants to support it where the Councils support it.

19

20 The other thing is a lot of the
21 conservation concerns that surround bears today have
22 more to do with habitat loss and the Chinese medicine
23 trade for bear bile and things like that.

24

25 So our preliminary conclusion is to
26 oppose this proposal, statewide proposal, to change the
27 way bear claw handicrafts -- bear handicrafts period
28 are regulated under the Federal system.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Would you restate the
31 last portion, please.

32

33 MS. WILLIAMS: Uh-huh. The OSM
34 preliminary conclusion is to oppose this proposal.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. And next
37 we have -- thank you for the introduction, Liz.

38

39 And then we have the Alaska Department
40 of Fish and Game comments.

41

42 MR. CARROLL: This is Geoff Carroll,
43 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

44

45 And, well, since the State proposed
46 this, the State supports it. So it's -- you know,
47 basically it is trying to reduce -- it's trying to make
48 things more consistent across the state, make it clear
49 that, you know, the use of fur for handicrafts is legal
50 across the state, but, you know, other handicrafts from

1 claws, bones, teeth, skulls, that sort of thing, is not
2 legal. So it's just trying to kind of standardize
3 things, make things clearer. You know, get some of the
4 confusion that exists at this point. So, anyway, the
5 State does support this one.

6

7 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
8 comments:

9

10 Wildlife Proposal WP08-05:

11

12 Change the regulations regarding sale
13 of brown bear handicrafts to allow sales of handicrafts
14 made from brown bear fur in all units and to restrict
15 sales of handicrafts made from claws, bones, teeth or
16 skulls to transactions between Federally-qualified
17 subsistence users.

18

19 Introduction:

20

21 Current Federal regulations allow
22 essentially unconstrained commercial sale of
23 handicrafts made from bear parts taken in some units as
24 a customary and traditional activity, without
25 substantial evidence demonstrating that such sales have
26 ever occurred. The sale of such handicrafts is limited
27 only by an unenforceable provision that prohibits sales
28 constituting a "significant commercial enterprise."
29 The current regulations also allow the purchase of
30 these handicrafts by persons who are not Federally-
31 qualified subsistence users, despite such purchases
32 being prohibited under State law and, as was pointed
33 out in the spring 2006 Federal Subsistence Board
34 meeting, that sales can even occur over the internet.

35

36 Sales of handicrafts made from brown
37 bear claws, teeth, skulls, and bones present a
38 particular problem, because these are potentially high
39 value items, and allowing sales creates market
40 incentives for poaching both in Alaska and other
41 states.

42

43 Black bear handicraft sales, although
44 not customary and traditional, do not create the high
45 level of conservation concern raised by sales of brown
46 bear handicrafts. Similarly, sales of brown bear
47 handicrafts do not raise the same level of concern if
48 limited to the skin or fur as defined in state
49 regulations; and even sales of handicrafts made with
50 claws and teeth do not currently raise extremely high

1 levels of concern if limited to sales among Federally-
2 qualified users.

3

4 Changing the regulation to continue to
5 allow the sale of brown bear fur products to anyone
6 (State allows sale of untanned brown bear hides) while
7 limiting sales of handicrafts made with brown bear
8 claws, teeth, bones and skulls to sales to other
9 Federally-qualified subsistence users should help
10 eliminate commercial markets and the masking of illegal
11 sales in Alaska and elsewhere.

12

13 Unit specific restrictions on sales are
14 almost impossible to enforce without tracking and
15 documentation requirements and are not needed for the
16 lower value fur handicrafts. This proposal will
17 eliminate the unit-specific sale allowances in order to
18 make the regulations more user-friendly and more
19 enforceable.

20

21 Impact on Subsistence Users:

22

23 This proposal will not restrict any
24 customary and traditional activity because sales of
25 brown bear handicrafts are not customary and
26 traditional. The Federal Subsistence Board's current
27 allowance of such sales was not based upon a
28 determination that such sales are customary and
29 traditional but was based upon the Board's unsupported
30 argument that the Board can authorize any use if the
31 take is customary and traditional (see e.g., January 2,
32 2006 letter from Chairman Demientieff to Commissioner
33 Campbell).

34

35 This proposal will continue to allow
36 rural residents to: sell brown bear fur handicrafts to
37 anyone (as allowed under State law); barter brown bear
38 handicrafts with anyone under Federal regulations; and
39 sell brown bear handicrafts to other rural residents
40 under Federal regulations. Therefore, this proposed
41 regulation change will not impair the ability of rural
42 residents or urban Alaska Natives to obtain such
43 handicrafts for ceremonial, religious and cultural
44 purposes.

45

46 Further, adoption of this proposal will
47 significantly reduce the likelihood that Federally-
48 qualified subsistence users will face State prosecution
49 for engaging in sales that are prohibited under State
50 law when they are on State or private lands.

1 Opportunity Provided by State:

2

3 Under 5 AAC 92.200, handicrafts made
4 with bear fur may be sold to anyone, but sales of
5 handicrafts made with claws, skulls, teeth, and bones
6 are prohibited. Whole bear skins, with claws attached,
7 taken in certain predator control areas may be sold
8 under 5 AAC 92.031, but only after sealing and under
9 terms of a permit issued for that bear skin.

10

11 Conservation Issues:

12

13 The Federal Subsistence Board created a
14 new market for bear claws and other high value bear
15 parts which likely masks illegal sales, thereby
16 compounding problems with the international trade of
17 endangered species and contributing to the illegal
18 harvest, over-harvest, and waste of bears in other
19 states and countries, as well as Alaska. Markets for
20 high value bear handicrafts create a conservation
21 concern because brown bears are protected under the
22 Endangered Species Act in other states and Mexico, and
23 the origin of brown bear products cannot be determined
24 by visual inspection. Brown bear are also listed on
25 Appendix II of the Convention International Trade of
26 Endangered Species (CITES).

27

28 In Alaska, economic incentives
29 associated with harvesting brown bear to make
30 handicrafts create conservation concerns because brown
31 bears develop slowly and have a low reproductive rate,
32 making small populations extremely susceptible to
33 over-harvest. Allowing a widespread sale of high value
34 bear parts without any kind of tracking mechanism is an
35 invitation to poachers. Further, the existing
36 regulations are unenforceable and inconsistent with
37 sound wildlife management principles.

38

39 Enforcement Issues:

40

41 This proposal will reduce enforcement
42 issues created by the existing Federal regulation in
43 several ways: (1) By limiting the pool of eligible
44 purchasers for high value bear parts, it will
45 significantly reduce the economic incentives for
46 poaching in other states and countries as well as in
47 Alaska. (2) By allowing the sales of brown bear fur
48 handicrafts from any Game Management Unit, as allowed
49 under State law, his proposal will eliminate
50 unenforceable unit-specific sales authorizations in

1 existing regulation. (3) The proposed regulation will
2 reduce the likelihood that Federally-qualified
3 subsistence users will face prosecution for attempting
4 to engage in sales on State or private lands that are
5 prohibited under State law.

6

7

Jurisdiction Issues:

8

9

10 The Federal Subsistence Board lacks
11 jurisdiction to allow sales of any wildlife handicrafts
12 when and where such sales are not customary and
13 traditional. In the past, the Federal Board has
14 rejected this argument, asserting that if any use is
15 customary and traditional, then the Board can authorize
16 any other use. It should be noted that the Board's
17 argument is inconsistent with its litigation stance in
18 the Chistochina Unit 12 moose case where it argued that
19 "customary and traditional use" is related to "how
20 resources are used after they are taken," and "not to
21 or a prerequisite condition for the taking itself."
22 State v. Fleagle, (Case 3:06-cv-00107-HRH) Doc. 32 at
23 22.

24

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Geoff.

25

26

Other agency comments.

27

28

(No comments)

29

30

CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted.

31

32

33

MS. H. ARMSTRONG: There are none.

34

35

36

37

38

(No comments)

39

40

CHAIRMAN BROWER: None provided.

41

42

MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

43

44

CHAIRMAN BROWER: John.

45

46

47

48

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I look to Geoff or
2 Liz to provide a comment for him? He needs a response.

3
4 MS. WILLIAMS: John, I can tell you
5 what I've read in other Council transcripts. It is
6 confusing, but the real intent of the Board is to be
7 responsive to each Council. Some Councils want this,
8 some don't. And as one person put it, maybe
9 regulations aren't made just to make it easy for
10 enforcement. They are made to reflect the way people
11 live in certain areas. And so while it would make it
12 very simple one sense, it would not allow people to
13 sell their handicrafts to people other than rural
14 Alaskans only. And it would sort of ignore the will of
15 places like Western Interior where there's a very
16 strong cultural prohibition about this where they would
17 make it legal in that area where the majority of the
18 people on the Council don't want it. Does that help?

19
20 MR. HOPSON: Yeah. My mind is racing
21 about that, trying to think of a comment to respond to
22 it right now.

23
24 MS. WILLIAMS: Maybe we should turn
25 your microphone off for that.

26
27 MR. HOPSON: (Laughs)

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. We were down
30 to summary of written public comments.

31
32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.
33 Chair. There were two written public comments that
34 came in. They were both in opposition. One from the
35 Copper River Native Association and one from AHTNA.

36
37 And there were also -- we've also had
38 three councils that have voted on this. And the
39 Western Interior Council opposed the proposal because
40 they said there is no record of abuse and it's been in
41 effect, and there are subsistence users that create and
42 sell handicrafts in question. This proposal would
43 unnecessarily restrict the subsistence uses in the
44 qualified regions of Federally-qualified subsistence
45 users as allowed in ANILCA. There is also no
46 biological evidence that current Federal regulations
47 adversely effect bear populations.

48
49 The proposal was also opposed by the
50 Seward Peninsula Council. And I don't have the

1 Southeast, but Tina, do you know, did they oppose it?

2

3 REPORTER: (Nods affirmative)

4

5 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: They did. I'm
6 getting a nod that the Southeast Council also opposed
7 to this. In fact, when the bear proposals originally
8 came out, Southeast was quite strong in wanting to have
9 region-specific bear handicraft regulations.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. At this
14 time we have public testimony.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No public testimony.

19

20

21 Regional Council deliberation,
22 recommendation, justification. What's the wish of the
23 Council.

24

25 (Pause)

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just a quick question
28 before getting into the deliberations. I guess I'm
29 kind of in the same boat as John in terms of what he
30 questioned. How does this proposal differ the one we
31 just acted on. And if we acted on this one, if we
32 support it, how would that impact the proposal that we
33 just addressed.

34

35 MS. WILLIAMS: As the gentleman behind
36 me stated, it would contradict.

37

38 Like I said, the Board really wants --
39 I mean, the Councils are what drive our program, and
40 they decide for their area. We have so many different
41 cultures and ways of looking at bear in this state,
42 that we do have a checkerboard across the units of the
43 state as to whether or not you can use the byproducts
44 of bear for handicrafts. Some people want it, some
45 people don't. This proposal would make the same rule
46 apply to everybody, which would be highly offensive to
47 a lot of people.

48

49 The other thing is, you would only be
50 able to sell your handicrafts to other rural residents

1 who were Federally-qualified subsistence users. So you
2 would not be able to sell them to tourists coming
3 through.

4
5 The other thing is if you look at the
6 very first page, the way, and I think this is just a
7 mistake, but the way the regulatory language was
8 presented, in the legal citation, there's a line in
9 there that says not including claws. And if this
10 proposed language were adopted, it could theoretically
11 take the sale of claws out of the Federal regulation as
12 well, which is a bone of contention between the State
13 and the Feds. They don't overtly state that, but
14 legally, the way it was written, and it wasn't amended
15 by the proponent, that that -- it would take away some
16 of the things you could sell. So you wouldn't be able
17 to sell to anybody that wasn't a rural resident of
18 Alaska.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Liz. You
21 know, this -- after hearing that last portion, I get
22 right back to what we were being faced with in the
23 Community of Anaktuvuk Pass. Interpretation of the
24 regulation, and who understands it and who doesn't.
25 It's going to be afoot again. You know, that was the
26 very issue that was being addressed in -- or being
27 voiced in Anaktuvuk Pass. To me, the way we interpret
28 the regulation, they were able to utilize the fur.
29 Another person, being a law enforcement agent comes in
30 and interprets it differently. So that -- this would
31 make things more complicated in my view anyway if we
32 did adopt this proposal. And be contradicting the
33 proposal that we adopted in WP08-52/53. I'll just make
34 that note for the Council members.

35
36 What is the wish of the Council.

37
38 MR. BODFISH: I was just saying that --
39 this is Paul Bodfish -- that if we oppose this, we'd be
40 better off than to approve it.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So are you making
43 that in the form of a motion to oppose Proposal --
44 okay. Now I'm really lost. Proposal.....

45
46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: WP08-05.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Do you want to
49 make a motion now, what did I do with it. WP08-05.

50

1 MR. BODFISH: I move to oppose the
2 Proposal WP08-05.
3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: A motion on the floor
5 to oppose the.....
6
7 MR. HOPSON: Second that motion.
8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by John.
10 Any further discussion.
11
12 (No comments)
13
14 MR. GUNDERSON: Question.
15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
17 called on the motion to oppose Proposal WP08-05. All
18 in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.
19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.
21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed same sign.
23
24 (No opposing votes)
25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: They're all quiet.
27 Thank you. Liz.
28
29 MS. WILLIAMS: When these bear
30 handicraft things started to become made legal
31 regulations -- sorry, I'm blathering -- but we made a
32 worksheet, or a sheet of paper, an information sheet.
33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
35
36 MS. WILLIAMS: And what we need to do
37 is update it, and then we'll give it to the Council
38 members, and they can give it to all the people to have
39 this information. And we'll put a date on it, because
40 as other units like yours opt in or opt out of bear
41 claw, bear handicrafts, we'll need to update it. But I
42 think in addition to that, copies of the relevant
43 regulations for places, we can send them to you, and
44 then you can give them to people who have questions,
45 because ultimately that's what really helps to look at.
46 Thanks.
47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Liz.
49
50 Helen, did you have a comment? I

1 thought I seen your hand waving up and down.

2

3 Who? Gordon? Ben's reading something
4 that's on the table and we're looking at another
5 person.

6

7 Okay. Maybe we'll take a 5, 10-minute
8 break at this time. It's 3:30. We can take a brief
9 recess. Thank you.

10

11 (Off record)

12

13 (On record)

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good afternoon,
16 everyone. We'll call the Federal Regional Advisory
17 Council back to order after a brief recess.

18

19 Everybody's back, except we're trying
20 to get ahold of Fenton or Gordon, our other Council
21 member who we excused this morning to take part in an
22 assembly workshop this afternoon, or they're still
23 continuing their workshop. And apparently Gordon was
24 communicating with a lawyer outside the meeting, and I
25 was put on hold twice. So it must be some important
26 discussions happening over there regarding issues that
27 they're dealing with. And Fenton is an assembly member
28 for Kaktovik, and he's also taking part in those commun
29 -- at the workshop. So Gordon and Fenton are both
30 preoccupied at this time.

31

32 So I'm intending in the sense of time,
33 I think I would like to continue with the other agenda
34 items that we have before us, is the new business.
35 We've pretty much covered all our agency reports and
36 the proposals that we needed to address. We have the
37 new business we haven't addressed, and the next meeting
38 of the Council.

39

40 So at this time we'll get started with
41 the new business. 10.A. future Council topics for May
42 2008 Board meeting. It doesn't have anybody listed
43 there, but maybe I'll ask Helen, did you have any
44 information that you want to share with us on this?

45

46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. That's
47 just items that you might want to bring up when you go
48 to the May Federal Subsistence Board meeting. If you
49 have some items for when they talk to the Chairs.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm trying to think
2 of -- what we might want to bring up is the -- I mean,
3 we'll probably basically have -- isn't that the draft
4 annual report that's going to be considered at that
5 time? Isn't that with the Federal Subsistence Board,
6 or is that going to be sometime in the winter meeting
7 or another meeting?
8
9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That will be in
10 another meeting, in the fall meeting.
11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.
13
14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No, this is just if
15 there are issues that you want to bring up to the
16 Federal Subsistence Board.
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
19
20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: You can just contact
21 Barb if you want to and talk to her about it later,
22 too.
23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I was trying
25 to think of what else we had before us. And I wasn't
26 -- I shouldn't say that. Except maybe these comments
27 we need to provide in terms of the implementation of
28 the customary and traditional use determinations and
29 how that information may change. Draft policy on
30 implementation of customary and traditional use
31 determinations. It's a fairly thick report and
32 compared to -- in trying to address all the issues that
33 are before us. I know we haven't had any recent C&T
34 determinations made within the North Slope Regional
35 Advisory Council, and it's been several years. That's
36 what I know of.
37
38 And I'm not sure, is this policy going
39 to change or affect our current decisions that we've
40 had on customary and traditional use determinations?
41
42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, it would
43 depend on what the Board decides. And the Board is
44 having a meeting, I believe it's a work session,
45 sometime in the near future to make some decisions or
46 progress on what they're going to do. At this point we
47 won't be bringing this to the Council again, but that
48 could be something you want an update on from the Board
49 at the May meeting.
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

2

3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That would be
4 appropriate.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think that would be
7 something I could state right off from my observations
8 in terms of what other information the Council would be
9 interested in learning other than just what actions the
10 Board takes. I'm just reading the first two pages of
11 the document that was handed to us, the yellow
12 document, in terms of the public comments that were
13 made in response to the Federal Subsistence Board's
14 draft policy on implementation of customary and
15 traditional use determinations. And there's been a
16 motion by Southcentral Subsistence Regional Advisory
17 Council. It's motion was to request that the Federal
18 Subsistence Board engage to define the long-term
19 consistent use of harvest of fish and wildlife. I
20 guess that there's something -- they're asking for the
21 Federal Subsistence Board to give a better definition?
22 I mean, that's must my read, unless they have a
23 different -- there's a different interpretation, I'd
24 like to hear about what they're asking for.

25

26 Helen.

27

28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think you raise a
29 good question. I think that is something the Board
30 will be grappling with, what does that mean exactly.
31 So at this point it's -- we're at the point of waiting
32 to see what the Federal Subsistence Board decides on
33 the policy.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. Okay. Any
36 other comments or questions from the Council members.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe just a quick
41 question on my part in terms of, you know, the make up
42 of the Regional Advisory Council. And there's been
43 indications or directives to include sport hunters and
44 commercial hunters into the Regional Advisory Council
45 make up. And where is that -- does that continue to
46 apply? I mean, we don't see that type of activity -- I
47 mean, there is some sport hunting activity going on,
48 but we don't have actual representatives living within
49 our North Slope region.

50

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The way -- that's
2 also not been not completely resolved. I mean, it's
3 been resolved, but it's not been completely
4 implemented. But the way I understand it is that
5 there's flexibility in the application if it for
6 regions like the North Slope. And actually you're the
7 only region that really has this difficulty, that you
8 don't have sport and commercial users up here to fill
9 those seats.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

12

13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So at this point I
14 think there will continue to be flexibility when that
15 gets fully implemented.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. You know,
18 I probably have other questions I could add, but I'm
19 trying to keep from steering us off track in terms of
20 what we're currently faced with. And maybe just for
21 discussions, then we can turn to the proposal that
22 we're trying to wait for Fenton and Gordon. John, are
23 you still on?

24

25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I have to get him
26 back on.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

29

30 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So I was trying to
31 figure out how to get him on with Tara at the same
32 time, but I'm not figuring it out yet.

33

34 But we could go ahead and do the next
35 meeting if you wanted to do that. That was the last
36 thing on the agenda. It won't take very long, but we
37 could do that part.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's why I was
40 asking to see if John is on, so to see if he might.....

41

42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Oh, let me get him
43 back on.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we could include
46 him in those discussions.

47

48 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: All right. Hold on.

49

50 (Placing call)

1 MR. HOPSON: Hello.
2
3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Hi, John, we're
4 back. We still don't have Tara on, but Harry wants
5 you to be involved in this next discussion on the next
6 meeting, so we're going forward with that part of the
7 discussion.
8
9 MR. HOPSON: Okay.
10
11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We're still waiting
12 for Gordon and Fenton, but we don't know what's
13 happened,
14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Helen for
16 getting John on line.
17
18 John, as Helen indicated, I wanted you
19 to be involved in -- I'm not sure if you are able to
20 look at some -- take part in the selection of the date,
21 but we have -- our agenda items indicate the next
22 meetings. A. Confirm August 26, 2008 in Barrow. And
23 then item 13.B., establish date and place of Winter
24 2009 meeting. And from reading the calendar, winter
25 2009 Regional Advisory wildlife meeting window,
26 February 9 through April 3 is current.....
27
28 MR. HOPSON: So anywhere between
29 February 9 and April 3?
30
31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right.
32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's our window to
34 meet.
35
36 Meeting window opens February 9 and closes April 3, so
37 we need to select a date in between February 9 and
38 April 3.
39
40 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. This is
41 Helen.
42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Helen.
44
45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: There have been some
46 Councils that have already met, so I just needed to let
47 you know. Because Barbara Armstrong is your
48 coordinator, she can't be at two places at once, and
49 the Seward Peninsula meeting is February 10th and 11th,
50 so those dates, that week really is probably out for

1 her. All the other weeks would be fine. There are
2 other Council meetings, but none of them are more than
3 one a week. And we can't -- we're not allowed to have
4 more than three Council meetings in a week. So it's
5 whatever your choice is, just not February 10th and
6 11th. Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's what I was
9 going to recommend, February 10 and 11.

10
11 (Laughter)

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I mean as early as
14 possible for us. I mean, it's better in terms of our
15 hunting and gathering of resources to get it done
16 earlier. So if February.....

17
18 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman, what about
19 the following week.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: February 17 and 18.
22 I was going to ask what about February 12 and 13. I'm
23 not sure if you're going to be able to accommodate the
24 travels for that.

25
26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: If you -- I mean if
27 the weather was good and, you know, the stars were
28 aligned properly, maybe, but you know how it is in
29 Nome. You can get stuck there for a couple of days.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

32
33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So I think that's a
34 little risky.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. So, John, your
37 recommendation, what -- if you could identify the date
38 maybe? I says February 15 is Sunday. Monday, February
39 16th is the President's Day holiday. So that leaves us
40 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, February 17, 18,
41 19, 20.

42
43 MR. HOPSON: My past ten-year history,
44 I've been home in February. That would be the best
45 time for me to have meetings. March, I'm either down
46 here in Vegas or in Anchorage. That's my history in
47 traveling for other organizations.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Thank you,
50 John. So suggestion of February 17 and 18, that's

1 Tuesday/Wednesday. (In Inupiat) What is the wish of
2 the Council.
3
4 MR. GUNDERSON: Cool.
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: John, would you feel
7 comfortable with February 17 and 18?
8
9 MR. HOPSON: Yes, sir.
10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: David.
12
13 MR. GUNDERSON: That's fine with me.
14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So our recommendation
16 would be for February 17 and 18, 2009 in Barrow. Or
17 we'd better go down to John and make it in Las Vegas.
18
19 MR. GUNDERSON: Second.
20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So February 17 and
22 18, 2009 here in Barrow, Alaska. How does that sound.
23
24
25 MR. BODFISH: Fine.
26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Now that's
28 taken care of. Confirmation of August 26, 2008 in
29 Barrow. What did we do with that calendar. Okay.
30 Here it is.
31
32 MR. BODFISH: We need to confirm.
33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We need to confirm
35 the February -- excuse me, August 26th in Barrow,
36 Alaska. North Slope.
37
38 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.
39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: John.
41
42 MR. HOPSON: Why are our meetings
43 always in Barrow? Can we have them in different
44 villages, moving around so that the other village
45 people get to hear what's going, to attend and get to
46 meet our lawmakers?
47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Helen.
49
50 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair and John.

1 This is Helen.

2

3 We recognize the importance of going to
4 the villages, and I know those of us like myself who
5 have been around for a while really actually enjoy
6 going to see other places and meet other people. The
7 problem we have is that our budget is being cut
8 severely year by year, and so we've been instructed
9 that if there was a reason to meet in another village,
10 like there's a particular proposal that it would be
11 nice to get some input from the people in that
12 community, then we could hold a meeting. But if you
13 need to have a meeting in another community, you need
14 to have an alternative date for Barrow so you can say
15 Barrow or, for example, Wainwright, and then with the
16 understanding that the management in our office would
17 make the decision whether it was too expensive to do.
18 I might not be as big an issue here, because it's not
19 like -- we've had problems with going out to, say, Cold
20 Bay in the Aleutians, which is extremely to get to. So
21 I think it's certainly something the Council can
22 discuss, and then we can take it to management and see
23 what they say.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So, John, did you
26 have a recommendation that you wanted to present
27 besides Barrow.

28

29 MR. HOPSON: I just threw out the idea
30 because everybody knows I feel that the villages should
31 have a chance to attend these kind of meetings. And to
32 what village, it doesn't really matter to me, as long
33 as we get to go meet in a village other than Barrow.
34 It will only take us four and a half, maybe five years
35 to get all of the villages done, because we only have
36 two meetings a year. There's only eight villages. But
37 like Kotzebue or Nome or Bethel would have so many
38 villages scattered all over, we only have eight, so it
39 wouldn't -- the cost wouldn't be as much as other
40 places is what I'm saying, and I would like to see us
41 go to another village and go meet.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

44

45 MR. HOPSON: If you want to make
46 Wainwright the guinea pig, fine with me. If you want
47 to make Atkasuk or Barter Island next, Point Lay, Point
48 Hope, you know.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, I don't know,

1 let's take your recommendation and bring it at that
2 time.
3
4 MR. HOPSON: Okay. I make a motion
5 that I recommend Wainwright as the next meeting site.
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: A recommendation on
8 the floor. Or a motion on the floor to select
9 Wainwright as the next meeting site. August 26, 2008.
10
11 MR. HOPSON: Yes.
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All in favor of the
14 motion signify by saying aye.
15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed same sign.
19
20 (No opposing votes)
21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, Geoff, we may
23 be going to Wainwright.
24
25 MR. CARROLL: I'll have my
26 (indiscernible, away from microphone).
27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: August. So we will
29 keep it up in the air and see what kind of response we
30 get from our higher ups within the Federal management
31 program. Is that OSM or Federal Subsistence.....
32
33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes, that's OSM.
34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. So did that
36 address the confirmation of August 26th, 2008, not in
37 Barrow but in Wainwright. Motion made. And our second
38 alternative would be Barrow. (In Inupiat) John.
39
40 MR. HOPSON: Yep.
41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. And we
43 could be going boating with Paul.
44
45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.
46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Helen.
48
49 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm going to try to
50 -- I'm going to go ask the people at ASRC if they can

1 help us figure out how to have both John and Tara from
2 the Arctic Refuge on at the same time, because I think
3 that's all we have left to do.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Yes. Yes,
6 that's fine. I was just going to say we can't be
7 waiting for -- unless we defer to take any action on
8 this proposal, and I don't think we want to do that.
9 Maybe we could take another brief recess until we get
10 the two on as recommended by Helen. So we'll take
11 another brief recess to get you, John, and the other
12 person on line.

13

14 Thank you

15

16 (Off record)

17

18 (On record)

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're back after a
21 brief recess, apparently we're having some technical
22 difficulties in this day and age. So we're not able to
23 accommodate all the interested participants to take
24 part in this last item that we needed to address.

25

26 It is one of the proposals that deals
27 with moose in Unit 26C. And it was a proposal to
28 change the moose harvest quota from three to five for
29 Kaktovik residents. And that's where we are.

30

31 I need to ask Helen to see who is
32 currently on the phone.

33

34 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.
35 Chair. Right now we have Tara Wertz from the Arctic
36 Refuge on line. And she's here to answer any questions
37 you might have particularly about the survey work or
38 anything, and any questions you might have. And I
39 think she can tell you about some of their proposed
40 survey work they might be doing in the near future.

41

42 So I'll turn it over to Tara. Tara.

43

44 MS. WERTZ: Yes. Good afternoon. I
45 appreciate the opportunity to be here.

46

47 I was asked to take questions or any
48 comments that you had concerning our surveys or
49 additional work that we're planning on doing.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So do any of the
2 Council members have any questions towards Tara on the
3 information that we heard this morning? Paul.
4
5 MR. BODFISH: Yes. My question is what
6 time of the year was the census taken?
7
8 MS. WERTZ: We do our surveys in the
9 spring. Alaska Department of Fish and Game surveys the
10 26B part of the refuge and myself and Pat Reynolds
11 survey the 26C portion. Basically everything east of
12 the Canning River. We usually try to do those around
13 the first week of April.
14
15 MR. BODFISH: Okay. Having heard that,
16 that's about the time of the year that moose start
17 moving. You know, they know further south that that
18 feeding is better, that the snow is melting. And
19 according to what I've seen in the books about the
20 counts, you know, that would be most likely inaccurate
21 on the actual count, because the moose do move quite a
22 bit. They'll move to better feeding areas about that
23 time.
24
25 MS. WERTZ: Well, we do survey into the
26 upper river stretches, and there is complete snow cover
27 still at that time of year, and we survey until there
28 are no more willows to sustain the moose that they
29 could feed on. So, yes, it's possible they could be
30 moving, but basically to the south up further into the
31 mountains the snow is much deeper, and we very, very
32 rarely see tracks of any kind up in the upper reaches
33 of the river drainages.
34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was just asking to
36 see if the question was answered.
37
38 In terms of -- has there been any
39 attempt to monitor moose within -- you know, by
40 different means besides ratio counts.
41
42 MS. WERTZ: Well, right now Beth
43 Lenart, the area biologist for Alaska Fish and Game,
44 and myself are developing a proposal to put some radio
45 collars on these particular moose starting next year,
46 next spring, trying to determine if in fact these moose
47 move across the mountains or perhaps move farther west.
48 We're hoping to get at some of these answers that
49 you've been asking, and that we've also been asking.
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I mean, that's
2 something that we've been trying to get an
3 understanding for for quite some time, since the
4 decline on muskox and the residents have been asking to
5 sub -- I shouldn't say substitute, but to move to
6 another resource to accommodate the need of fresh meat
7 in the community. And I think that still remains to be
8 seen whether it occurs, but, you know, what kind of
9 time frame do you anticipate to see -- to learn of the
10 -- to get the answer for the question? You know, I'm
11 not sure if this proposal is going to be supported or
12 not by what you're asking, to collar moose and what
13 kind of time frame are you looking at to be able to
14 think to have sufficient time to answer the question?

15
16 MS. WERTZ: Well, right now, because
17 we've not seen any population increases, we believe
18 that these moose are resident moose, and they're not
19 moving much. But we do plan on putting -- hoping to
20 put out 20 collars in March or April of 2009, so that
21 will be a year from now, and we're going to try to put
22 satellite collars out, so we will know right away if
23 these moose are moving and migrating, or if they're
24 resident to the river drainages, such as the Hulahula
25 or the Sadlerochit. And at that time, if they are
26 resident moose, I think that the Refuge would still
27 look to be harvesting only two or three moose a year
28 from 26C. So we'll know right away if we could begin
29 to look at increasing it or not.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I guess the
32 other question that was raised this morning in terms of
33 comparison about the numbers of moose harvested on the
34 southern side in terms of the -- and regarding the
35 northern portion. Not knowing the right answer at the
36 moment whether they're transient over the Brooks Range
37 or not. I guess that -- my question would be, to fair
38 in asking the question, in terms of what the numbers of
39 animals that are being harvested on the south side of
40 the range and by who.

41
42 MS. WERTZ: Well, I do have some
43 harvest information on the south side of the Brooks
44 Range from the.....

45
46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: John, we're trying
47 to -- you're on cell phone, and we're trying -- so
48 people can hear this.

49
50 MS. WERTZ:Sheenjek and Colleen

1 River, some off of the Chandalar River. I'm sorry I
2 don't have that right in front of me, but I can get
3 that information to you very quickly.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I mean, this is
6 something we need to be utilizing to provide our
7 recommendation whether to support or not support this
8 proposal, and there's been considerable time that's
9 been given to address these proposals, you would think
10 that the Staff would be able to provide the answers
11 when the appropriate time is arising.

12

13 MS. WERTZ: Well, I'm sorry, no one
14 requested the harvest information from the south side,
15 but as I said, I can get that information for you.
16 However, the Sheenjek and Colleen moose are moose that
17 migrate over to the Old Crow Flats. And we do have
18 good documentation that that occurs on an annual basis
19 from the 90s and also this year Canada put satellite
20 collars on about 20 moose. I'm trying to see if those
21 moose are still migrating from Canada into the south
22 side of the Brooks, and they are. In fact, we have
23 nine of those moose in Alaska right now.

24

25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: John, are you
26 hearing all that? Hello?

27

28 MR. HOPSON: Yes, I am.

29

30 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So to elaborate a bit
33 more into the discussion in terms of movement of moose,
34 you know, we see it going from one side of the
35 International Date Line -- I'm not exactly sure how
36 their terrain is all situated at all in terms of what
37 -- the names you identified, the flats, Old Crow Flats,
38 and whatever into the Canadian side, and what it -- in
39 comparison to what it looks like in the Alaska portion
40 of the demarcation line. We see -- we have some maps
41 before us, and they're limited only to Alaska's Brooks
42 Range and nothing beyond that. And there's a very
43 small portion of the International Date Line
44 information on the maps. So we're not able to really
45 identify what you're talking about with the maps that
46 are before us.

47

48 MS. WERTZ: Well, I apologize for that.
49 I think the underlying assumption for that is the fact
50 we have no documentation of moose that winter on the

1 26C area, which is the north slope of the Brooks on the
2 Refuge, going over into the south side or into Canada,
3 so I'm only relaying the Canadian information, because
4 we don't feel like those moose migrate over to the
5 north side where Kaktovik has asked to harvest moose.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
8 or comments from the Council members.

9

10 MS. WILLIAMS: We're going to try.

11

12 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Go ahead, John.
13 Speak.

14

15 MR. HOPSON: Okay. The proposal that's
16 on the table, what will it do for -- what's going to
17 happen if it's approved, and what's going to happen if
18 it's disapproved? I don't have the background history
19 on this proposal.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have Tom before
22 us. Tom.

23

24 MR. KRON: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. Member
25 Hopson.

26

27 The current proposal, Proposal 54
28 requests that the harvest quota for Kaktovik residents
29 change from three moose to five moose in Unit 26C. So
30 it would provide additional opportunity for Kaktovik
31 residents to harvest moose around their village.

32

33 The other thing it does is that the
34 closure in 26B remainder would be lifted.

35

36 So those are the two things connected
37 with this proposal.

38

39 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom. Any
42 additional questions, John.

43

44 MR. HOPSON: The second issue, you were
45 breaking up. Can you repeat that again?

46

47 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Member
48 Hopson.

49

50 The second part of the proposal was to

1 lift the Federal public lands closure in 26B remainder
2 to moose hunting. It's currently restricted to only
3 Kaktovik residents, but this proposal would lift that
4 restriction in 26B.

5
6 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7
8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Did you hear that?

9
10 MR. HOPSON: Yes. Yes, I heard that.
11 So that's telling me that it will be open to the
12 general public to hunt in that area.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think the current
15 regulations indicate that it's not open to the general
16 public at this time.

17
18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Did you hear Harry?
19 It's only for Kaktovik people.

20
21 MR. HOPSON: Okay.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further
24 discussions on the proposal.

25
26 I think the comment I'd like to make in
27 terms of what Fenton indicated this morning, that he
28 supports Proposal WP08-54 in its contents. But if it
29 fails, that they would continue -- like to have the
30 hunt continue with -- or he indicated, if not possible
31 to adopt WP08-54, recommend to be able to harvest three
32 bulls. So that was his recommendation this morning.

33
34 I just wanted to make sure John heard
35 this while we were under the discussion of WP08-54.

36
37 I'm sure Gordon had some other issues
38 that he wanted to present or ask in terms of what other
39 criteria has been considered before putting this --
40 before the -- let me see. The biological background as
41 to how these things are -- how the numbers were
42 derived, and what the preliminary conclusion indicated.

43
44 Maybe just for John's -- just to get
45 John the background information on this maybe I'll have
46 Les to come back up to.....

47
48 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It's Tom.

49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Or, I'm sorry, Tom,

1 to reread the contents of the analysis.

2

3 MR. KRON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'll
4 quickly go through. Earlier I provided a summary of
5 the proposal.

6

7 Under the proposal Kaktovik -- well,
8 under the current regulations, Kaktovik residents have
9 a harvest quota of three moose, two bulls and one of
10 either sex in Unit 26C and in the Canning River, Unit
11 26B remainder.

12

13 Under current Federal regulations, no
14 more than two bulls may be harvested from 26C and a cow
15 may not be harvested from 26C.

16

17 The current regulations went into
18 effect during the 2004/2005 regulatory year. A
19 combination of low moose harvest numbers and low
20 recruitment in recent years are indications of a
21 continuing conservation concern.

22

23 The Federal Board closed Federal public
24 lands to the taking of moose except by Kaktovik
25 residents holding a Federal registration permit for
26 this hunt.

27

28 In this area, moose are in their
29 northern limit of their range in Alaska. The habitat in
30 the area is very limited, and likely is limiting the
31 growth and size of the moose population.

32

33 Within the analysis we provided a
34 summary of the moose survey data that Ms. Wertz
35 collected with ADF&G, but basically, again for a quick
36 overview for these drainages within 26C, in a 2003
37 survey they counted a total of 52 moose; in a 2005
38 survey, 47 moose; a 2007 survey, 59 moose. So again a
39 very small population spread across a number of
40 drainages in 26C.

41

42 In contrast to 26C, moose populations
43 in 26B appear to now have recovered to a level and are
44 above management objective. But, again, the recovery
45 in 26C is proceeding slower.

46

47 If adopted, Kaktovik hunters would be
48 able to harvest three additional moose than what is
49 currently allowed in 26C, and would be able to harvest
50 in close proximity to their village these moose. They

1 wouldn't have to travel as far as the Canning River
2 drainage in 26B. Such harvest could exceed sustainable
3 levels for the moose population in the area. The
4 population in 26(C) at this time is low and not
5 increasing. the harvest quota limit o five moose could
6 have a negative impact on the recovery of the depressed
7 moose population. The impact could be especially
8 heightened if any cows were harvested. The harvest of
9 any cows would be considered detrimental to an effort
10 to rebuild the 26C moose population.

11
12 The preliminary OSM conclusion was to
13 oppose the proposal as originally requested.

14
15 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom.

18
19 I'd like to let the Council members to
20 -- to find out if there's any other comments or
21 questions to the Staff. John.

22
23 MR. HOPSON: The proposal, they're
24 recommending that it don't go trough. Barter Island is
25 saying we should adopt it, right?

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, John. I'm
28 sorry, I didn't press the mic down. So the mic is on.
29 The answer is, yes.

30
31 MR. HOPSON: Okay. Is there -- they're
32 doing population studies on these moose every year?

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's just the
35 preliminary information that was provided was every
36 other year.

37
38 MR. HOPSON: Can we recommend and
39 request a population count on them for the next 10
40 years if this goes through?

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I need to -- could
43 you restate the last comment.

44
45 MR. HOPSON: If we adopt this, and i do
46 support it, can we recommend and require the agencies
47 to do a population count for the next 10 years so we
48 can see what happens to the population with this new
49 regulation?

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: For this proposed
2 regulation if adopted. I guess that would be amending
3 the proposal slightly to provide an annual count. That
4 would be something that the Staff personnel would have
5 to consider. I don't think I can provide the answer to
6 that. Tom.

7
8 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. I guess I
9 would ask Ms. Wertz if she has some comments or
10 perspective on that request.

11
12 MS. WERTZ: Yes. Mr. Chairman.
13 Because the moose population is so low in 26C, we
14 discussed having a survey every year, but it's not
15 really biologically important to do it every year until
16 numbers, you know, start showing us that there's a
17 population increase. As long as it remains around 60
18 animals, flying every year really doesn't gain you
19 anything, because any increases you could pick up every
20 other year just as well as every year. So we think
21 that it's better for us to put more effort into finding
22 out what's going on with the population as opposed to
23 just counting low numbers of animals every year.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: John, did you want to
26 make an additional comment.

27
28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: John, are you there?

29
30 MR. HOPSON: Yeah, I'm here. What was
31 that?

32
33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Just say it again.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. I was asking,
36 did you want to make additional comment after hearing
37 the comment from the Staff?

38
39 MR. HOPSON: I think we should -- in my
40 opinion we should adopt this with that stipulation in
41 there amending it to ask for a population count based
42 on Staff's recommendation on how to do the count. If
43 they think every two years is better than every year,
44 so be it, as long as we get a good count for the next
45 10 years or so.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further
48 discussion.

49
50 MR. BODFISH: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Geoff.
2
3 MR. CARROLL: Is it okay if I ask a
4 question?
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.
7
8 MR. CARROLL: Okay. Yeah, this is
9 Geoff Carroll.
10
11 Tara, I just was wondering, do you have
12 historical numbers? What were the numbers of moose in
13 these areas say back in the early 90s before the
14 population decline? And also do you have recruitment
15 numbers for these current surveys, how many short
16 yearlings are you counting when you're doing these
17 counts in 2005, 2007?
18
19 MS. WERTZ: Yes. Mr. Chairman. Geoff.
20
21 There were no surveys done in Unit 26C
22 with the exception of the three that I've done in 2003,
23 2005, and 2007. The previous survey was done in 1984.
24 So really there's no data in the 90s in the years that
25 you were talking about.
26
27 And population composition numbers you
28 were asking for, Geoff, we don't have those. One of
29 the things that Beth Lenart and I are looking at doing
30 next spring is, along with our satellite collars being
31 put out, doing a calf survey, looking at reproduction,
32 trying to get some better information on that.
33
34 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Geoff, did that
37 answer your question?
38
39 MR. CARROLL: Yes. Thank you.
40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further comment
42 to -- Paul.
43
44 MR. BODFISH: Yes. If we are to adopt
45 this, you know, I would have them do their count in the
46 fall, see what their numbers are in the fall than in
47 the springtime when transient moose are able to come
48 into the area.
49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further

1 discussion. Who?

2

3

MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Fenton.

4

5

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Where? Okay. Thank
6 you. Depending on your good eyes. I was looking for
7 Fenton. Fenton's come in. So, John, Fenton's just
8 coming back from, and Tara, from his workshop.

9

10 Fenton, we're currently at the
11 discussion of the proposal that's before us, WP08-54.
12 And you had requested to be given the opportunity to
13 speak on the proposal at the time we -- before we get
14 into our deliberations. And so I'll give Fenton --
15 yeah, we have two additional people on line that you've
16 heard. So we haven't taken any actions on it. We're
17 just hearing out what the issues are on the proposal.
18 At this time I would like to give you the opportunity,
19 Fenton, to make -- just to let you know, we have John
20 Hopson, Jr. on line and Tara -- Helen, could you help
21 me with the name, please? Tara?

22

23

MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Wertz, W-E-R-T-Z.

24

25

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Wertz. With the
26 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

27

28

So, Fenton, I give you the floor.

29

30

MR. REXFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
31 I'm honored to before you again. I want to say hi to
32 David, a new member I haven't seen in a while, and Paul
33 and others. I see some new faces I'm not familiar
34 with, but Helen is an old friend. Dave, local Yokel.

35

36

Again, thank you very much for this
37 opportunity. The reason why the Kaktovik people or
38 through Lee Kayotuk, your current RAC member, Mr.
39 President, it was submitted by Lee for the people of
40 Kaktovik. And we've been requesting this for quite
41 some time now to have a moose quota or to have the
42 opportunity to get moose.

43

44

The dilemma that we face is the count
45 that the Service people do since it's on Federal
46 lands, and we know there are more than 50 or 60 moose
47 that go in and out of there. And I stated this again
48 this morning, that by experience, the drainage, the
49 Sadlerochit River goes into Cache Creek or Cairn Creek
50 that goes into the Canning River. You could see the

1 tributaries that go eastward, that get in close to
2 Katakaturuk River and also on over the Sadlerochit
3 River, which is a very low pass, or mountain pass. And
4 it's very easy for snowmachiners and animals to go back
5 and forth there. And Sadlerochit is a prime area that
6 we see moose all the time.

7

8 Again, I'm not sure what page it's on,
9 they had a summary of the moose counts on Page 29.
10 Again, I'm surprised to see that Jago and Okpiliak has
11 no moose, but again we always see -- we traverse those
12 drainages each year, and sight moose.

13

14 But again our situation, and I don't
15 know how much time I have, Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's open at this
18 time, Fenton, so we need to hear your part, along with
19 John and Tara on line.

20

21 MR. REXFORD: Good afternoon, John.
22 Just for your information, and for the new members
23 here, and those that may have read some background on
24 the situation at Kaktovik. And they cite it pretty
25 well in here, the history and the C&T use
26 determination, the regulatory history and the closures
27 and so on and so forth. And some years we don't see
28 any caribou. So we're opportunistic peoples of
29 Kaktovik, and when there are large families that are
30 unemployed and want to feed their families, when they
31 see fresh animals, they don't just sit back and let
32 that animal go, to bring food back to the table,
33 because beef and hamburgers and frozen foods are
34 expensive for those that are unemployed. Those
35 subsistence hunters, the real ones that are unemployed,
36 provide -- I mean, they even provide almost better than
37 those that are employed. We go to their homes, they
38 share. I don't know how else to explain it in simple
39 terms. It's just a matter of putting food on the table
40 for the people of Kaktovik.

41

42 And we -- even to that we had to ask
43 and request for a community harvest, and I really
44 appreciate the Federal Subsistence Management, the OSM
45 office, allowing us to take one for the whole town. It
46 doesn't go very far. When they do get one for
47 Christmas or Thanksgiving, immediately they think of
48 the elders and the elders come first. And they save a
49 portion of it for Thanksgiving, a portion of it for
50 Christmas, and a portion of it for a spring whale

1 festival. And it's not very much meat by the time each
2 festivities occur. It might be maybe three potfuls in
3 addition to waterfowl or the time of the season when
4 our festivities occur. And one lucky resident bagged
5 one moose, but again this person shares. And it
6 disappears right away. It doesn't stay very long. And
7 for two moose for 300 people, it doesn't go very far.

8

9 I don't know how -- we're lucking that
10 the moose goes back and forth. Again, this morning I
11 stated that if we cannot hunt moose in this area, then
12 designate it as an endangered species, make it
13 permanent. I think that's what this Office of
14 Subsistence Management need to do. We get fined.
15 They're hard to tell between what sexes they are,
16 because there's no horns or anything like that. And
17 like I mentioned earlier, hunting license costs \$40. A
18 gallon of gas costs 3.50. The penalty is \$250. But
19 sharing it is priceless. So I think we can afford to
20 be fined \$250 so we can provide food, fresh food for
21 the people. That's the situation we are at in
22 Kaktovik. How else can we explain it better?

23

24 So we're asking for five. One cow.
25 And again earlier we heard last year that 26B in
26 Federal lands was open. I'd like to know what the
27 Service have found out how many moose were taken in
28 26B. That would be very interesting to find out where
29 we only catch two and get fined for one. So if -- you
30 know, there's an inequity there somewhere. Even if we
31 catch a cow, there's always going to be moose coming
32 back and forth from the Canning River drainages, and
33 also on over towards Kongakut, towards the Canadian
34 border. There's plenty moose. 26C will not run out of
35 moose. They'll always be there.

36

37 It's just -- I don't know. I don't
38 know why it's hard for residents of Kaktovik to get
39 currently three moose, and one cow you can catch in
40 26B, which is way quite a ways. So we're only allowed
41 two moose, two bull moose, and one of either sex in
42 26B. So what's the deal here?

43

44 I'm before this Council and before the
45 Staff, for the Staff to reconsider. What, are we in
46 negotiations? Maybe three moose, one of either sex in
47 26C? Knock it down from five.

48

49 So anyway I have no other testimony to
50 present before you, but it will be easier, cheaper,

1 safer and it will take less time for our residents of
2 Kaktovik to hunt in 26C rather than go all the way over
3 to 26B. So I ask that this body and the Staff
4 reconsider the opposition or modify the proposal. We
5 can do that. Rather than oppose it, modify the number.
6 But, again, it's our history shows three permits one
7 year. One didn't provide a harvest report. 2005/2006,
8 three were harvested, one didn't provide a harvest
9 report. Two were harvested legally in October and
10 December and one illegally. One bull and one cow in
11 2006 was taken. One bull and one cow harvested in
12 March in 26C, three permits issued. One did not hunt.
13 And all provided reports. One cow was harvested
14 illegally.

15

16 Again, it's trying to provide food to
17 the families. That's the bottom line I think is if
18 your family's hungry and you can't afford to buy
19 store-bought food, the only choice you have is to
20 either find fish or sheep or something else. But when
21 caribou aren't around -- we're happy when caribou are
22 around, and it's history, when there are no caribou,
23 more sheep are used. When there are caribou, less
24 other animals are used. So, you know, but in some
25 years it's just very scarce to find caribou in 26C.

26

27 But that is our case or our plea to
28 you, to reconsider or amend the proposal. Maybe two
29 moose, one of either sex. Three. We'd prefer five,
30 but, you know, we'll be arguing against the biologists
31 and the sustainable yield or sustainable levels. But
32 again our history and experience, a lot of them
33 traverse back and forth from the Canning River
34 drainages and also from the east. Firth River,
35 Pungakuk River, on and on towards Arctic Village.

36

37 I can't think of anything else to say.
38 So I just ask that this body reconsider or rather than
39 just oppose the proposal to figure out some way to meet
40 us in between or something, rather than being fined and
41 being illegal. Work on this and help the people of
42 Kaktovik.

43

44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Fenton,
47 for taking the time to provide your comments, and
48 definitely taking on this proposal is very serious. I
49 mean I've been -- I provided my comments early on, and,
50 you know, it's just as you indicated, it's providing

1 food for the people in the Community of Kaktovik in
2 times of hardship when other resources have been
3 depleted or not even made available for hunt. It's not
4 on the costs of the community -- or the managers, you
5 know. I took the example of the muskox situation which
6 was an introduced species and was used for subsistence
7 purposes for many years, but then despite the
8 management practices of the Federal government and the
9 harvest from the community, the population continued to
10 decline and now there's no opportunity to utilize that
11 one resource, which is the musk ox.

12

13 So with that, I'd like to ask John or
14 the other person, Tara, if they may have any other
15 comments before we get into Regional Council
16 deliberations.

17

18 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: John.

21

22 MR. HOPSON: What was the reason the
23 Staff recommended to be opposed?

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'll give the floor
26 to Tom.

27

28 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Member
29 Hopson. In the analysis, we went through that, but
30 basically the request was for five moose in 26C. That
31 request represents almost 10 percent of the population
32 there. We had also expressed concern about the cow
33 harvest issue. You know, the population has remained
34 low. We're optimistic that it can rebuild, and to the
35 extent you harvest cows, you take away from that
36 reproductive potential. So that would be my response,
37 but perhaps Tara has some additional comments.

38

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom. And,
42 Tara, do you.....

43

44 MS. WERTZ: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I can
45 only echo what Tom said. Both Beth Lenart, the Alaska
46 Fish and Game biologist, and myself have discussed and
47 agreed that a three percent harvest is what we
48 generally consider to be maximum, especially for a
49 population that is very low. And that also includes
50 no cow harvest. So even at three moose, which is

1 currently in that area, that's really more than we're
2 comfortable with. So from a biological and population
3 standpoint, neither Beth nor I can support that kind of
4 harvest pressure.

5
6 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

9
10 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: John.

13
14 MR. HOPSON: One more comment.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes. Go ahead, John.

17
18 MR. HOPSON: If this is accepted, if
19 this proposal is accepted today by this Council, what
20 would the next steps be, or what's the course of action
21 that will happen. And also if this proposal is not
22 accepted, if it's denied, what would the course of
23 action be also. Both ways.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead. Do you
26 have more comments?

27
28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I can answer that if
29 you'd like, Mr. Chair. The next thing that will happen
30 is it will go before the InterAgency Staff Committee.
31 They'll formulate some comments on it. They don't do a
32 recommendation any more. And then it will go to the
33 Federal Subsistence Board meeting in late May -- I
34 mean, late April, early May. And the Board will listen
35 to the Regional Council's recommendation, the Staff
36 Committee comments, the State's comments, any public
37 and written comments that come in, and they'll make the
38 decision. And if the -- the Board can oppose a Council
39 recommendation only if there are conservation concerns,
40 well, and a few other things, but in this case it would
41 be conservation concerns. So the Federal Subsistence
42 Board could vote to oppose it, or they could modify it
43 I suppose. I mean, those are the possibilities on the
44 table.

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Continue, John.

1 MR. HOPSON: The idea of doing a count
2 if this passes, to do a count for the next 10 years
3 would be able to give us the tool to say the population
4 is still healthy at its current state as it was from
5 today versus 10 years from now. Or if it declines,
6 then more action can be done to help that population
7 and also the people of Barter Island. And that's why I
8 was asking for, you know, a recommendation or an
9 amendment to the proposal that a count be done for the
10 next 10 years so we can actively monitor what is
11 happening based on Barter Island's request to ask for
12 five. And then, you know, everybody will have an idea,
13 including the Barter Island people will have an idea as
14 to what's happening to their moose.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes. So we hear your
17 thoughts on what you're -- how to amend the proposal
18 before we get into the Council deliberation, maybe I'll
19 ask Fenton, did you have additional comment you wanted
20 to make?

21
22 MR. REXFORD: Yeah. Thank you. I
23 really appreciate the opportunity and you're not
24 following the protocol of this I think. But once we --
25 I know what I'm hearing is that if a cow is in 26C,
26 it's going to stay there forever. You get one cow,
27 that's the end of it. There's no more cows in 26C.
28 That's what I'm hearing. Where did the moose come
29 from? Where are they coming from? Should there be
30 satellite collars taken to see whether they're
31 stationary, right in Sadlerochit or Hulahula River
32 drainage? Are we trying to establish population in
33 these drainages? We know that they migrate. So I
34 think it's for the Service to prove that these animals
35 are stationary. If we caught one cow in Sadlerochit or
36 Hulahula River drainage, another cow is going to come
37 in from 26B or Canning River or from Canada or from
38 southern -- on the southern divide.

39
40 So again maybe the Service ought to
41 consider the whole lands for the whole population for
42 the people of Kaktovik. The whole -- the areas that
43 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is managing, count
44 all of those in 26C and B, allow that number to be
45 taken by the people of Kaktovik before it's allowed to
46 be taken on the Haul Road.

47
48 I'd like to hear what the Service has
49 found out, how many moose were taken along the haul
50 road for 26B. I'm very curious. And it's probably

1 going to be more than two. So let's be considerate
2 here. Maybe there ought to be a management strategy
3 here for those that are north of continental divide,
4 count the moose, include it all or be ecosystem
5 management or, I'm not sure, but the Service needs to
6 reconsider allowing the take of moose for the residents
7 of Kaktovik. And we know 26C's the boundary line.
8 They do a count, there may not be enough there, but
9 they traverse back and forth. And let's count the
10 whole -- have the Service count all of the moose in 26B
11 that they are in jurisdiction on. And put a satellite
12 in Hulahula River or Sadlerochit River on one cow.
13 Let's see where that one cow is going.

14
15 The arguments that the Staff is saying,
16 you know, we've been catching moose. You don't know
17 this, but we've been catching moose. And we've been
18 providing. And to finally make it legal, we finally
19 suggested in '95, submitted a proposal. Be within the
20 law.

21
22 So, Mr Chairman, thank you for that
23 opportunity again. Thank you very much.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Fenton.
26 I'm for getting to the deliberations. Tom.

27
28 MR. KRON: Yeah. Maybe just to follow
29 up, and, Mr. Rexford, this discussion occurred a little
30 bit earlier today, but Tara described plans working
31 with ADF&G to put collars, radio collars, hopefully
32 some satellite collars on some moose a year from now.
33 They're trying to get mobilized to do that. And the
34 number I heard was 20 moose, and again I think the
35 assumption is that most of the moose now are fairly
36 resident in their locations, but we know that they've
37 moved into this area historically. I remember
38 discussions back in the 60s and 70s about moose showing
39 up on the coast up here for the very first time. So
40 I'm sure there's some movement occurring. We know
41 that's the case, and again the Arctic Refuge is
42 planning to work with ADF&G to do exactly what you've
43 just described, to start to get some collar information
44 and to get some radio tracking information.

45
46 Again, I guess I would ask Tara, if you
47 want to follow up at all and describe, you know, in
48 addition to what you've provided earlier.

49
50 Thank you.

1 MS. WERTZ: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I guess
2 I can elaborate a little bit. It's still in the --
3 we're still trying to get all of the facets of our
4 proposal together, but what we're hoping to do is put
5 10 satellite collars out on the 26 portion of the
6 refuge, kind of keying in on the Sadlerochit, Hulahula
7 drainages, and also put 10 satellite collars out in the
8 26B east portion, the portion of 26B that, you know,
9 the population has been increasing on, and see if we
10 can find a difference, why are the moose in 26B doing
11 so much better than the moose in 26C.

12
13 And I think just to address Mr.
14 Rexford's comment, is that we do look at the moose
15 population across the North Slope. In 26A where the
16 population has increased dramatically, I think probably
17 Geoff Carroll could address that his harvest strategy
18 is, but that was the first area where moose harvest was
19 allowed to be more liberal. Right now we're seeing
20 that increase in 26B, and, yes, there are some sport
21 hunting being offered there. I think that Beth
22 Lenart's offered -- I want to say 15 tags. I'm not for
23 sure on that. But between 10 or 15 tags for people to
24 harvest moose in 26B. But at population also has been
25 increasing. They have over 300 moose. So, you know,
26 from a biological standpoint, you can kill moose in 26B
27 and not have much of an effect.

28
29 The moose in 26C which we have started
30 to survey on a regular basis for the past six years,
31 every other year, and we're not seeing that kind of
32 increase. If we had that kind of increase in 26C, then
33 we would have that kind of harvest opportunities. So
34 I'm hoping with this study that we can learn that these
35 moose either stay or don't stay in those drainages. We
36 can learn what their reproductive capabilities are
37 right now. And that we can hopefully answer some of
38 those questions that have been put forth to this
39 meeting.

40
41 So I appreciate the opportunity to
42 speak. Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tara. So
45 maybe let me just ask Geoff if he may want to provide
46 the additional information that was requested in terms
47 of the comparison of 26B and 26C.

48
49 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. Tara kind of gave
50 a pretty good rundown on what's happening in 26A.

1 We've had a good solid increase in our moose
2 population. It probably dipped down to some 250 to 300
3 moose at one point in the Colville drainage, and it is
4 over 1,000 moose now. And in 26B it's up to 300 or so.
5 And they are issuing 15 drawing permits per year in
6 that area. So there are several -- and I think most of
7 those permits get filled. I think they harvested, I
8 don't know, 11 or 12 moose last year in that area. And
9 that's all sports hunting basically. I'm not aware of
10 anybody from Kaktovik getting -- going into 26B. I
11 mean, that's a long trip from there to go by snow
12 machine and get a moose.

13

14 I don't know. I guess listening to all
15 this, there are a few things I'd like to throw in here.
16 I think Fenton mentioned maybe the possibility of
17 modifying this proposal a little bit. And one thing I
18 don't know is, you know, the season when you hunt
19 moose. I don't know how difficult it is to limit that
20 to just hunting in the fall. It seems like -- you
21 know, I look at the numbers that are here, and, you
22 know, that's a big problem. We have limited numbers to
23 work with. But if -- you know, you look at what's
24 here, And, you know, you had 47 moose counted in 2005,
25 you've got 59 counted in 2007. I mean, that's a 20
26 percent increase, which isn't too bad, but completely
27 lacking any kind of recruitment information. It's too
28 hard -- it's kind of hard to, you know, put that in
29 perspective.

30

31 And also, you know, I mean, it's real
32 different county, you know, in 26C than it is in 26B or
33 A. It's just, you know, a much smaller area between
34 the crest of the mountains and the coast. So there
35 just isn't as much room there with good moose habitat.
36 And so again without any good information, I don't --
37 you know, I don't know if -- you know, maybe this is
38 getting near peak moose numbers in that area. I don't
39 really have a very good feeling on that.

40

41 But, you know, another thing, I mean,
42 even in the State comments, we say that with three
43 percent moose harvest, you know, you can't justify more
44 than two or three moose in that area, but three
45 percent, on a statewide scale, that's a real low
46 percentage of harvest. There are a lot of places that
47 harvest moose are eight percent or 10 percent, and, of
48 course, that's areas where they have rapidly growing
49 populations. But, you know, three percent is way on
50 the low end of the scale.

1 And one thing I'm wondering is -- I
2 mean, to me the crucial thing there is probably cow
3 harvest. You know, you can generally harvest a fair
4 number of bulls out of a population and not do much
5 damage to the recruitment. And, you know, to me, if
6 you could maybe change the season so that the moose are
7 harvested in the fall rather than during the middle of
8 the middle when it really is hard to tell the sex of
9 the moose, you know, and make it a bulls only hunt.
10 Then you could, you know safely harvest more bulls I
11 would think.

12
13 So as Geoff said what he thinks again,
14 and I get in trouble for that a lot. But anyway that's
15 just some thoughts to throw into the mixture here, so.

16
17 Wildlife Proposal WP08-54:
18

19 Increase the harvest quota and number
20 of Federal registration permits for the Federal moose
21 hunt in Unit 26C.

22
23 Introduction:
24

25 The Federal Subsistence Board and Board
26 of Game closed Unit 26C to moose hunting in 1996 due to
27 very low moose numbers. Effective for the 2004-05
28 regulatory year, the Federal Subsistence Board opened a
29 July 1-March 31 season in Units 26B and 26C with a
30 harvest quota of 3 moose (2 bulls and one of either
31 sex), provided that no more than 2 bulls and no cows
32 could be harvested in Unit 26C and a cow accompanied by
33 a calf could not be harvested. Only 3 Federal
34 registration permits are issued. Federal public lands
35 are closed except to Kaktovik residents holding a
36 Federal registration permit. In the 2007-2008
37 regulatory year, the closure in Unit 26B applies only
38 to Federal land in the Canning River drainage. This
39 proposal would: (1) increase the number of permits
40 issued from 3 to 5; (2) increase the harvest quota from
41 3 to 5 moose (4 bulls and one of either sex); (3)
42 prohibit harvest of a cow accompanied by a calf; and
43 (4) disallow moose hunting by Kaktovik residents in
44 Unit 26B Remainder.

45
46 Impact on Subsistence Users:
47

48 The proposal is designed to provide
49 Kaktovik residents with the opportunity to hunt closer
50 to home and to harvest more moose in the short term.

1 Moose numbers are low in Unit 26C, and conservative
2 management is required.

3

4 Opportunity Provided by State:

5

6 Moose hunting in Unit 26C and the
7 Remainder of Unit 26B are closed in State regulations
8 for conservation purposes. In Unit 26B excluding the
9 Canning River drainage, State regulations for the 2007-
10 08 regulatory year allow a harvest of one bull by
11 drawing permit September 1-14. An additional 14-day
12 resident season during February 15-April 15 for one
13 bull may be announced by Emergency Order.

14

15 Conservation Issues:

16

17 The Department of Fish and Game applies
18 a 3% harvest rate to moose populations on the North
19 Slope, and harvest should be limited to bulls in
20 situations like that in Unit 26C. Surveys conducted by
21 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Unit 26C counted
22 52 moose in 2003, 47 moose in 2005, and 59 moose in
23 2007. Using this formula, no more than 2 bull moose
24 should be harvested from Unit 26C to assure
25 sustainability.

26

27 Recommendation:

28

29 Oppose the proposed increased harvest
30 and retain the existing restrictions in Unit 26C for
31 the reasons specified in the Justification for the
32 Preliminary Conclusion in the Federal Staff analysis.
33 This proposed increase in the harvest of moose in Unit
34 26C is not supported by substantial evidence and would
35 violate recognized principles of wildlife conservation.

36

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, I thank you,
39 Geoff, regardless of if you get into trouble or not. I
40 do get into trouble a lot myself. So welcome into the
41 boat.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But in terms of
46 trying to address the concern of the community again,
47 you know, I've described the consequences that they've
48 been faced with over the many year, in terms of other
49 resources being made available to them, and in some
50 years it's a good year, some years it not. And at

1 these times when there's a good year of other resources
2 available, they may not take the number of animals that
3 are being requested. And in the poor year, when the
4 resources are not so readily available, they take on
5 the numbers that are before them. And so that also
6 fluctuates depending on what the other resources
7 available or not.

8

9 So before we go any further. Tom.

10

11 MR. KRON: I'm going to say some things
12 that I've been thinking. Geoff encouraged me. I've
13 known Geoff a long time.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

16

17 MR. KRON: And I think the question
18 that he asked Fenton I think is a real key one here.
19 Basically the current Federal season extends through
20 the end of March. And our bulls are going to drop
21 their antlers when? You know, the big bulls are going
22 to drop them by, you know.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: November.

25

26 MR. KRON:the start of December?

27

28 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, December.

29

30 MR. KRON: Smaller bulls might carry
31 them a little longer. But if there was an opportunity
32 to shorten the season up as a possible amendment to --
33 and an opportunity to harvest bulls when you knew they
34 were going to have their antlers, you know, it seems
35 like that would address some of the concerns here. I
36 know ADF&G raised this as a concern. I looked at the
37 transcripts when this was originally provided. And the
38 Federal Board was obviously tried to work with Fenton
39 and the community to provide an opportunity, and the
40 request was for this long season. But when you have a
41 long season and the bulls have shed their antlers, we
42 notice in the 06/07 season, somebody got a citation for
43 shooting a cow. You know, people have trouble telling
44 when they don't have antlers. So something to consider
45 would be the possibility of a shorter season and then
46 bulls only. That would provide some flexibility here.

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for your

1 comment, Tom. And, you know, despite the concern -- or
2 the comments, it's again access to the resource, which
3 has a lot of play in terms of being able to take the
4 source or not. I'm not sure if Kaktovik has -- is
5 pretty much in the same predicament that we are in
6 Barrow. We don't have any commercial aircraft or
7 private aircraft to go take into the countryside to
8 harvest other resources where they pick up more
9 available in the distance we have to travel. You know,
10 I can understand where you're coming from, Tom, but
11 it's also the access to the resource. It put a
12 hindrance on the hunters. So we're again limited to
13 the kind of -- and the access, being able to get that
14 proper access to be able to utilize the resource.

15

16 You know, when we talk about the
17 terrain, I mean, we don't even fairly consider the
18 amount of travel the person would have to go to get
19 into 26B. You know, I could understand it if I'm
20 coming from Barrow, going 100 miles to my camp, I
21 traverse over a wide range of terrain here, you know,
22 from flat country to lakes dropping over to 60, 70 feet
23 in some of the banks, and crossing rivers, and finding
24 areas to cross rivers. If a person is not familiar
25 with the terrain, he could get into a very dangerous
26 situation very quickly in these areas. And, you know,
27 we don't even consider that in these -- for
28 consideration of the community and the hunters.

29

30 So I just make that known. I think
31 Fenton was coming back on to make a.....

32

33 MR. REXFORD: On the season, Mr.
34 Chairman. Thank you. Fenton Rexford here.

35

36 The reason why we started July 1 is
37 again the access. The access that we have in July 1 is
38 on the coast. We occasionally see moose on the coast.
39 And they're hard to sneak up on, especially is you see
40 them along the coast. They're wary animals. By the
41 time you hit shore, they're five miles inland already.
42 You know, they're fast runners. But we wanted to have
43 that opportunity to only have access with boats along
44 the coast is why we started in July.

45

46 The other one, I wish we had airplanes.
47 The other problem we have in Arctic National Wildlife
48 Refuge is permits. Permits are issued only to those
49 people that have allotments. And there are maybe a
50 dozen allotments within the Refuge. It does not allow

1 for regular John Q. person in Kaktovik, if they were
2 going to traverse in the summer in the Refuge, what if
3 they didn't have an allotment, and they want to go in
4 prime season in August or September before they start
5 rutting. We don't have that opportunity in the summer.
6 We wait right before November. We kind of wait until
7 after the rutting season is over. So November, we try
8 and get it as close to the festivities. We still have
9 to get one more for the festivities here for this
10 winter.

11
12 But it's access. The permits are only
13 issued to those that, five in the family, that have
14 allotments. And they may be way within the Refuge, so
15 even if the season is shortened, we couldn't go in in
16 August. We can't fly up here. A regular person who
17 doesn't have an allotment couldn't go up there in
18 August. He can't get a permit, an overland permit.

19
20 So that is the reason why we start in
21 July 1 is to have that opportunity, in case we see
22 something along the coast while there's boats, is to
23 try and get something in that area up there.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Fenton.
26 Maybe while you're -- just hang on here. There may be
27 questions to you, Fenton.

28
29 So, Geoff.

30
31 MR. CARROLL: Yes, a question for
32 Fenton. But how about, you know, October, November,
33 December? I guess the key is being able to hunt a
34 moose when it's easy to tell if it's a cow or a bull,
35 while they still have their antlers. Would you have ac
36 -- I mean, would that be a worthwhile trade off to you
37 to be able to take more moose, but have it limited to
38 the time that you can tell, easily tell a bull from a
39 cow, which would be basically from July through
40 December probably.

41
42 MR. REXFORD: Once again we are in
43 ANWR. So they have different -- you have to wait until
44 the ground is frozen and you have, I forget, six inches
45 of snow. I'm not sure what the issue is there, but we
46 have to wait until October for our lagoon to freeze
47 over. Once we get across the lagoon, then we have
48 access to caribou, sheep and moose. We can't easily
49 bring snow machines across, but we have to wait for the
50 snow cover and frozen ground in the refuge. So as soon

1 as the lagoon freezes, people are across there. Once
2 it's safe. Sometimes they take risks. So that, you
3 know -- I don't know if I answered the question or not.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So, recognize Geoff.

6

7 MR. CARROLL: Well, I'm just still, you
8 know, could -- you know could you hunt, get most of
9 your moose hunting done by October, November December?
10 That's the key. I think it's safe to harvest more
11 moose if it's fairly guaranteed that they're going to
12 be bulls I guess is the point.

13

14 MR. REXFORD: Yes.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But again, you need
17 to be considerate of the access issue into where the
18 resources are. I think that's a big factor in what
19 Fenton is indicating, you know, but I see it as part --
20 the access being part of the problem with the
21 constraints that are being placed to the community to
22 traversing through Arctic Refuge lands, and there's
23 constraints as to what type of access can be permitted
24 into the Refuge.

25

26 David, did you have a comment that you
27 wanted to make?

28

29 MR. GUNDERSON: Yes, I was going to say
30 that sometimes during July, too, the moose get spooked,
31 too, by the forest fires in Fairbanks, you know, they
32 push the animals north, or they intend to run in any
33 direction away from the smoke. Have you ever been in
34 an area where you can't see 50 feet in front of you?
35 It's pretty intense, and something that lives there
36 knows this, and is just -- you know, they get it in
37 their mind to run to an open area where they could
38 breathe. I was over there two years ago in Fairbanks,
39 and there was a real bad forest fire that was going on
40 for over two years long. I'm sure you guys heard about
41 it. The one that burned and then when it froze, it was
42 underground burning. And then when it melted, it came
43 back to life, the same fire. Two years long, or it
44 might have been longer. But, you know, the moose I'm
45 sure that year we might have harvested two moose in
46 Atkasuk or more. We might have seen like six moose.
47 So the moose go where they feel more comfortable. They
48 don't sit. They're animals, just like other animals.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Are you done, David?

1 Thank you.

2

3

Tom.

4

5 MR. KRON: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I think
6 Geoff and Fenton, you know, hit on the issue that I was
7 thinking about, but, you know, if there were an
8 amendment, for example, to, you know, have the season
9 from July 1st through the end of December for antlered
10 bulls, and again, you know, some assurance, and you
11 wouldn't have people worrying that they were going to
12 get a citation, somebody got a citation in 2006/2007
13 for shooting a cow. But again if we had a situation
14 where there wasn't concern about, you know, losing cows
15 in this harvest, I think that would address a lot of
16 the concerns that I've heard and read. So that might
17 be something to think about.

18

19 Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom. I'm
22 getting a little bit of pressure from all sides here
23 now. The managers of this facility are questioning how
24 much more time we're going to need to finish our
25 business here. They're wanting to close the facility
26 and it's after five. And like I said, I'm getting
27 pressure from all sides. We're trying to address a
28 very important issue to one of our communities and
29 provide the means for need of a resource. So maybe if
30 there are no further comments -- I was just looking at
31 Fenton.

32

33 MR. REXFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
34 Just one last comment on, Tom is it?

35

36 MR. KRON: Yeah.

37

38 MR. REXFORD: Tom. If we don't get
39 anything by December, because the weather's, you know,
40 basically tracked (ph), too, we try to extend it beyond
41 March 31. We've asked to extend beyond March 31.
42 Maybe through April 15th. Even with muskox we've tried
43 that. I don't know.

44

45 It's up to you folks. We've submitted
46 our proposal. We want you to understand there are no
47 more muskox hunting. Part of the reas -- you know,
48 muskox was very well taken in by the community. It was
49 an added resource when there were no caribou. Now that
50 we can't hunt muskox, we're looking to other resources.

1 And it's either sheep, muskox -- I mean, sheep, caribou
2 or moose. Those are the three big meat -- or the big
3 game animals that are in the refuge.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Fenton.
8 Maybe at this time we've heard pretty much all the
9 debates on the differences in how to address this
10 proposal. The proposal is to -- was submitted by Lee
11 Kayotuk requesting for a harvest quota for Kaktovik
12 residents, change from three to five moose, four bulls
13 and one of either sex in 26C. That there not be an
14 opportunity for residents in Kaktovik to harvest moose
15 in 26B remainder. And that the closure of Federal
16 public lands in 26B remainder to moose hunting for all
17 but Kaktovik residents be removed.

18

19 So we need -- I'd like to get into the
20 Regional Council deliberation on this proposal.
21 Proposal WP08-54. What is the wish of the Council.
22 Paul.

23

24 MR. BODFISH: (In Inupiat)

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Four?

27

28 MR. BODFISH: Four. (In Inupiat)

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: They're asking for 5
31 in 26C.

32

33 MR. BODFISH: (In Inupiat)

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I need to make sure
36 that other Council members understand what we're
37 talking about. John, (In Inupiat)

38

39 MR. HOPSON: I thought you guys were
40 still -- who was talking?

41

42 MR. BODFISH: This is Paul. I was
43 saying that go with the proposal with five, except let
44 it be five bulls, and taken into consideration what
45 Fenton has said, starting the season early in July
46 through December while the bull moose still have their
47 antlers.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So there would be a
50 slight modification to the proposal.

1 MR. BODFISH: Yes.
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I shouldn't say
4 slight. A modification to the proposal.
5
6 MR. BODFISH: Yes.
7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: As how Paul is
9 identifying it, to adopt the proposal with the
10 modification that instead of four bulls, it would be
11 five bulls, and with the season being from July to
12 December. That's my understanding of what Paul was
13 indicating. Any further -- any more deliberations.
14
15 Did you want to make that in the form
16 of a motion or -- let me ask John or David to see if
17 there's any other Council deliberation or
18 recommendation for the proposal.
19
20 MR. BODFISH: Yes, let's hear from them
21 first before I do that as a motion.
22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes. Thank you,
24 Paul. John, do you have any additional comments or
25 recommendations?
26
27 MR. HOPSON: My only recommendation
28 that I had made was to do the population count, and as
29 we were -- as I was listening to the meeting going on
30 and on and on, even if we don't put that recommendation
31 into the proposal, they're already going to have to do
32 the population count in order to manage them, the
33 managers anyway. And we expect their truthful numbers
34 at our meetings.
35
36 I believe that we ought to move forward
37 with this. And we ought to -- in my opinion, we ought
38 to approve it. And work from there. Otherwise, we're
39 going to sit at the next meeting debating it over again
40 for the next 20, 30 years, debating we could have done
41 this, we could have done that to help them. Somebody's
42 got to step up and say, let's do it and move forward.
43 That's the only way we're going to learn what's going
44 on with this population as they're so concerned about
45 and why it's not growing or so forth. And so I think,
46 my opinion, Mr. Chairman, we ought to approve it and
47 work from there, and work with the enforcers and the
48 lawmakers and the scientists and the biologists and
49 just live with our actions, because we have to maintain
50 our subsistence. We're trying to manage our

1 subsistence, and this is one way of doing it. We
2 learn.
3
4 Thank you.
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, John.
7 David.
8
9 MR. GUNDERSON: I agree.
10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.
12 Recommendations, justifications. There's been a couple
13 identified, so we need to take action to support the
14 proposal as is or modify it somewhat to include what
15 the language was identified by John to conduct a
16 population count on an annual basis to monitor how the
17 growth or the decline of moose in 26C.
18
19 Paul.
20
21 MR. BODFISH: Yeah. And when they do
22 their count, you know, it would be appropriate for them
23 to do that in the manner when the moose population
24 would be in the area, which would be mostly in the
25 summertime where the population probably would increase
26 rather than in the springtime when they come out to
27 that area.
28
29 So if you want it in the form of a
30 motion, my motion would be to approve WP08-54 with the
31 modification that it be five bulls taken between July
32 and December if they're able to take them during that
33 time, and also with the modification of taking the
34 annual moose count of 26B and 26C area.
35
36 MR. GUNDERSON: Second it.
37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The motion on the
39 floor is to adopt.....
40
41 REPORTER: Harry.
42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tina.
44 There's a motion on the floor to adopt WP08-54 with the
45 modifications indicating a hunt from July to December
46 for five bulls. The second modification would be to
47 conduct a population count annually during the summer
48 when the animals are within the identified areas,
49 within the Unit 26B and 26C. And it's been seconded.
50

1 Any further discussion?
2
3 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: John.
6
7 MR. HOPSON: You were breaking up a
8 little bit when you were talking about the motion. The
9 motion is to accept it with the addition items you
10 talked about?
11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes. There's a
13 slight wording change in the proposal. It wouldn't be
14 for four bulls and one of either sex, but for five
15 bulls, and the harvest be conducted from July to
16 December. Population counts be conducted during the
17 summer months while the resources are within the
18 subunits of 26B and 26C.
19
20 John, did that help?
21
22 MR. HOPSON: Okay. I understand it
23 now. Thank you.
24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And it's been
26 seconded. So we're further discussion.
27
28 (No comments)
29
30 MR. GUNDERSON: Question.
31
32 MR. HOPSON: Question called for.
33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
35 called on the motion to adopt WP08-54 with the
36 modifications of conducting a hunt for five bulls
37 during the season of July to December, and additional
38 modification was to add a population annually and
39 conduct it during the summer months. All in favor of
40 the motion signify by saying aye.
41
42 IN UNISON: Aye.
43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed same sign.
45
46 (No opposing votes)
47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank
49 you. So that pretty much concludes our business in
50 terms of action items for our North Slope Regional

1 Advisory Council.
2
3 Our last agenda item would be
4 adjournment.
5
6 MR. BODFISH: So move.
7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: A Motion to adjourn.
9
10 MR. BODFISH: So move.
11
12 MR. GUNDERSON: Second.
13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded. All in
15 favor signify by saying aye.
16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.
18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed same sign.
20
21 (No opposing votes)
22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank
24 you. Thank you everybody. Thank you, John.
25
26 (Off record)
27
28 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
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