

1 NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

2 PUBLIC MEETING

3 VOLUME I

4 September 8, 2004

5 9:00 a.m.

6 Inupiat Heritage Center

7 Barrow, Alaska

8 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

9

10 Harry K. Brower, Jr.

11 Ray Koonuk, Sr.

12 Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak

13 Raymond Paneak

14 Terry Tagarook

15 Amos Agnasagga

16 Paul S. Bodfish, Sr.

17 Gordon R. Brower, Sr.

18 Regional Council Coordinator, Barbara Armstrong

19

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Barrow, Alaska - 9/8/2004)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning everyone. I think we'll call the meeting to order this morning. It's 9:30, 9:29. Welcome everybody to Barrow. As you know, we have weather problems around the state. Clearing off, getting foggy. It hasn't changed very much.

Anyway, good morning everyone, and we'll start with our North Slope Regional Advisory Council meeting this morning, September 8. Can we have roll call, please.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Harry Brower.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Raymond Paneak.

MR. PANEAK: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Terry Tagarook will be here later. Amos Agnasagga.

MR. AGNASAGGA: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Paul Bodfish, Sr.

MR. BODFISH: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Ray Koonuk, Sr.

MR. KOONUK: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak.

MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Gordon Brower, Sr.

MR. G. BROWER: Here.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Barb. Good morning everyone.

We have our agenda before us, and as we follow through it, we have a moment of silence this

1 morning. You know all the activities that we deal with,
2 the purpose, and all the resources that we deal with,
3 we're put on this great earth for a reason. So with all
4 the things that we have to deal with, and all the family
5 that we have left, we'll have a moment of silence and
6 thinking of all the activity we have to deal with today.

7

8 (Pause - moment of silence)

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, everyone.
11 Again, my name is Harry Brower, Jr., Chairman of the
12 Regional Advisory Council for the North Slope for those
13 of you that don't know me, I'm born and raised here in
14 Barrow.

15

16 MR. KOONUK: Nice meeting you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Nice meeting you, Ray.
19 Welcome to Barrow. Anyway, we have welcome and
20 introductions. We'll just go around and start from the
21 end of the table and work from the right side and go
22 left, I guess. Amos, introductions.

23

24 MR. AGNASAGGA: Amos Agnasagga from Point
25 Lay.

26

27 REPORTER: Please turn on your
28 microphone.

29

30 MR. AGNASAGGA: Everybody there try to --
31 Amos Agnasagga from Point Lay.

32

33 MR. PANEAK: Raymond Paneak from
34 Anaktuvuk.

35

36 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak
37 from Nuiqsut.

38

39 MR. KOONUK: Ray Koonuk, Point Hope.

40

41 MR. G. BROWER: Gordon Brower from
42 Barrow.

43

44 MR. BODFISH: Paul Bodfish from Atqasuk.

45

46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong from
47 the Office of Subsistence Management. I'm the
48 anthropologist that supports the team.

49

50 MS. CRAVER: Amy Craver, I'm the new

1 anthropologist for the Fisheries Information Service.
2
3 REPORTER: Meredith Downing, court
4 reporter.
5
6 MR. YOKEL: Dave Yokel, Bureau of Land
7 Management.
8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Do you want to get them
10 on the mike, or.....
11
12 REPORTER: There's not that many people.
13 They can probably just come up and -- the other one, not
14 the one that's blinking.
15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.
17
18 MR. YOKEL: Dave Yokel, Bureau of Land
19 Management.
20
21 MR. RABINOWITCH: Good morning. Sandy
22 Rabinowitch with the National Park Service.
23
24 MR. FISHER: Good morning. Dave Fisher,
25 Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence
26 Management, Anchorage.
27
28 MR. CHEN: Good morning. My name is
29 Glenn Chen. I'm from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
30
31 MS. BROWN: Good morning. Wennona Brown,
32 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arctic National Wildlife
33 Refuge, Fairbanks.
34
35 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Barbara Armstrong,
36 your coordinator. (In Inupiat)
37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, everyone.
39 We welcome you all to Barrow.
40
41 The next item is No. 5, review and
42 adoption of the agenda.
43
44 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chairman, so move.
45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on the
47 floor to adopt the agenda.
48
49 MR. PANEAK: Second.
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Discussion. Seconded.
2 We have under discussion, there's an addition that I'd
3 like to, before we get any further, regarding -- let's
4 see, where did I write it down, I know we have something
5 here. I've got two books here, so I've got to shift from
6 one book to the other. It would be under 10, add on a C,
7 special action regarding a special action form that's
8 going to be presented by Sandy Rabinowitch.

9
10 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: You could put it
11 under.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I asked that we put it
14 under -- I can put it under here.

15
16 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chairman.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ray.

19
20 MR. KOONUK: Why wasn't this brought up
21 earlier to the coordinator as far as putting it on the
22 agenda?

23
24 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: It was. It was, and
25 then I have it on here, and I was just wondering if we
26 were going to put it somewhere else, but if it -- if the
27 Chair says we'll put it under 10 under C, it's fine with
28 me. It's the RFR on the -- is this on the sale of the
29 handcrafts on bear?

30
31 MR. RABINOWITCH: No.

32
33 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Oh, okay. So this is
34 different. I have a different item.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

37
38 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, we'll have it --
41 it was just brought up. I'm not really familiar with all
42 the activities, but it's something that was just brought
43 up this morning.

44
45 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ray.

48
49 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, just for
50 clarification, it just came in last Friday. It's a

1 special action, so it's brand new to us, too. So I
2 didn't see it before yesterday.

3

4 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chairman.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ray.

7

8 MR. KOONUK: Well, what is this special
9 action?

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe we could have
12 Sandy come up, explain what the special action form is
13 about, to respond to Mr. Koonuk's question.

14

15 MR. RABINOWITCH: The special action was
16 just submitted on the second of September, so it followed
17 -- it was later than the book was printed, and it's
18 actually the second in two special actions that deal with
19 the area. The first one was submitted in -- I'd have to
20 look at the date, but about mid August, and I'll explain
21 those also.

22

23 What it deals with is moose hunting in
24 actually Unit 24, not Unit 26, but it has some effect for
25 people in Anaktuvuk Pass, and so that's why it's being
26 brought up so that everyone here is aware of it, and you
27 can comment if you like, you know, after we explain it.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Sandy. Ray.

30

31 MR. KOONUK: Yeah. Thanks

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Raymond.

34

35 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Do you want to explain
36 about 03 or do you want to.....

37

38 MR. RABINOWITCH: Do you want to do that
39 now or do you want to wait?

40

41 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Wait. Well, you can
42 bring up.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're working on the
45 agenda, if there's any other items that we need to
46 address this morning regarding changes to the agenda.
47 We're under discussion right not.

48

49 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Barbara.
2
3 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: We need to add RFR on
4 the sale of handicrafts on bear, and I don't know where
5 you would want to add that on, under probably new
6 business. There's been an RFR, request for
7 reconsideration on the bear regulation that was made for
8 Eastern Interior, Bristol Bay and Southeast. And the
9 State has made that request. And then someone here will
10 be discussing that. Can we put that under new business.
11 The RFR under 14, is that okay with you?
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Under new business
14 under.....
15
16 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: No. 14.
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm reading 15 for some
19 reason.
20
21 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.
22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. It's moved up.
24
25 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. This is.....
26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I have to look at
28 the new booklet here.
29
30 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, use the new
31 book.
32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes. Okay. Under 14
34 we have the RFR. It's regarding the brown bear
35 handicraft sales.
36
37 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. Yeah.
38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did you have a
40 question, Ray.
41
42 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chairman, so we're
43 making an amendment to our agenda?
44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes. Adding item
46 regarding the RFR, request for reconsider -- and it's not
47 a request for reconsideration, it's -- is it? RFR?
48
49 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh. That's
50 correct.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I'm getting my
2 acronyms all mixed up here, and.....
3
4 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I know.
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER:I've got to think
7 about it here for a second. Okay. It is.....
8
9 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That's why I just put
10 them down and just go with it.
11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It would be an add on
13 to No. 14 under new business, RFR for brown bear.
14
15 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I think that's all I
16 have for the agenda.
17
18 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.
19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ray.
21
22 MR. KOONUK: Do we need a motion to amend
23 the agenda, or are we just going to go by.....
24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We were.....
26
27 MR. KOONUK:under discussion.
28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We are bringing them
30 out under discussion for adding on more items to the
31 agenda. There's these two items that we have. If
32 there's any -- should we act on them as a motion or we'll
33 just add them on? We're under discussion of the agenda,
34 review and adoption of the agenda. Ray.
35
36 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, for the record, I
37 think we need to add -- put these in a motion for
38 amendments on the agenda, so I so move.
39
40 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Second.
41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on the
43 floor for amending of the agenda, and seconded. Any
44 further discussion.
45
46 (No comments)
47
48 MR. BODFISH: Question.
49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been

1 called on the motion, amending motion, to add on the two
2 items, special action form under 10.C. and new business
3 is the RFR for brown bear. All in favor of the motion
4 signify by saying aye.

5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

9
10 MR. PANEAK: Question call for the main
11 motion.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question called on the
14 main motion. All in favor of the agenda, signify by
15 saying aye.

16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have our agenda
20 before us, and we'll follow through. Our next item is
21 No. 6, review and adoption of the minutes.

22
23 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair, so move to move
24 the minutes.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on the
27 floor to approve the minutes.

28
29 MR. PANEAK: Second.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Raymond
32 Paneak.

33
34 MR. AGNASAGGA: Call question.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
37 called on adoption of the minutes of March 4, 2004.
38 Didn't even get to the discussion part of the minutes,
39 but the question has been called. All in favor of
40 adopting of the minutes of March 4, 2004, signify by
41 saying aye.

42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I'm
46 flipping pages from left to right and right to left, so
47 -- we have our next item is Council members reports,
48 agenda item No. 7. Paul, did you want to get us started
49 this morning.

50

1 MR. BODFISH: Okay.

2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

4
5 MR. BODFISH: Good morning. Fishing and
6 caribou hunting's been good all summer. That's just
7 about it. Everybody harvested. They're still harvesting
8 caribou right now. They're coming in from the west, the
9 main caribou herd. A lot of caribou that we've been
10 seeing are coming from the west.

11
12 Fishing's been good all summer. But I
13 did see some defective (Inupiat names) on the Okpiksak
14 River. From out of 10 fish, about three or four of them
15 would be really soft and they have like big sores in
16 them. So that's what we're seeing on the Okpiksak River,
17 or on the main. That's all I have.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Paul. Any
20 questions to Paul from the Council or the public.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If none, go ahead,
25 Gordon, and we'll just keep going around.

26
27 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Gordon Brower for
28 the record representing out of Barrow.

29
30 I've been out hunting here and there,
31 been pretty good, been pretty successful. Caribou
32 scattered around. Some of my other brothers have been
33 hunting different areas and been successful in different
34 locations. We did harvest one caribou just above Chipp
35 Six that was kind of sick I guess. It had some stuff in
36 it. We knew just by looking at it when we opened it up,
37 it was sick, so we didn't harvest it for food. Just kind
38 of left it like that after we took it apart.

39
40 Fishing's been pretty good. River's been
41 really high. We've been taking advantage of the BLM
42 river gauge, been using that on the Ikpikpuk, and it's
43 been really accurate to date. It spiked up a couple
44 weeks ago and when we got up there, sure enough the river
45 was in pretty good flood stage, and we did a lot of
46 hunting using that river gauge as a tool to show high
47 water.

48
49 Anyway, we've been travelling up and down
50 the Chipp River and Ikpikpuk. Went up to Harry's place

1 and got some caribou up there, and to Wulik, so it's just
2 been pretty good. Not very large concentrations of
3 caribou, but just scattered throughout, so it's been
4 pretty good.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
7 Ray.

8
9 MR. KOONUK: I've got a question of
10 Gordon.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sorry. Go ahead.

13
14 MR. KOONUK: You talked about a river
15 gauge. Where did you get that river gauge?

16
17 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, that river gauge, I
18 think Richard Kemnuts (ph) out of BLM takes care of that,
19 but if you're on the e-mail, I mean, I could e-mail you
20 the address. I don't know it right off hand. I just had
21 been working as an intern with BLM some time ago, and got
22 aware of that river gauge, and been spreading it around
23 with people that frequent Ikpikpuk, but they do have
24 river gauges on -- I think some near Point Hope, maybe
25 the Wulik or -- I'm not too sure.....

26
27 MR. YOKEL: Not BLM.

28
29 MR. G. BROWER:or the Nortak, but
30 for sure it's Colville and Ikpikpuk I know for sure have
31 them, so -- and you can see the rainfall way up inland
32 versus the tidal rise, and the ones with the river gauge
33 are the rainfall stuff. It's a very good tool.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions.

36
37 MR. KOONUK: Thanks.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Ray. Go
42 ahead, Ray.

43
44 MR. KOONUK: Yeah. Morning. Well,
45 hunting's been real good. A lot of fish coming in real
46 early. Salmon, a lot of salmon. They've been getting in
47 some caribou. They got some caribou, but some of the
48 caribou showed up with some real heavy pus, they didn't
49 take them home. They just left them, but they reported
50 that to Kotzebue Fish and Wildlife. Forgot that guy's

1 name there.

2

3 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Jim Daw.

4

5 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, Jim Daw. Yeah.

6

7 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Fish and Game.

8

9 MR. KOONUK: Yeah. They sent some
10 samples out to him and -- to see why or what's happened
11 to cause these caribou to have these, you know, big pus.

12

13 Walrus. We never caught any walrus for
14 the last two years. And they've been just bypassing
15 Point Hope because of the -- you know, blocking us from
16 going out, the ice. Everybody showing walrus, but
17 nothing out there.

18

19 I'd sure like to get one of those river
20 gauges, what Gordon was talking about, and I'll talk to
21 the BLM guy here. That's all I have. Thanks.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Ray. Any
24 questions to Ray.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, we'll
29 move along. Rosemary, go ahead.

30

31 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We had an okay season
32 with fishing this year. Some areas did better than
33 others. Earlier in July was better this year. There
34 were some people that got caribou, not as many as we
35 would like. There's a lot of overflight activity causing
36 difficulties for many of the hunters. They have
37 travelled way up Itkillik all the way through Chandalar.
38 And we've gotten maybe three moose in the community in
39 the last month, at least one muskox. I think two muskox
40 now. So those are helping to provide for the families
41 with the difficulties in getting to the caribou.

42

43 We've had quite a few young people have
44 to get rescued this last quarter, partly due to
45 inexperience and partly due to needs to travel greater
46 distances to attempt to harvest, so that's becoming more
47 of a concern. We're going to have to do stronger
48 education with the young adults that are just going out
49 on their own on proper things they need to bring before
50 they head out to make us not have to work so hard to get

1 them back. So that's one of the biggest concerns we've
2 seen this year.

3

4 The fish, we did see some with lesions,
5 like they were -- like Paul was talking, and we did see
6 some with parasites. The -- I know with -- for me, we
7 put out three nets, and our best day we only got 10. We
8 should be getting 30 in a net at least, and so I know we
9 didn't have as good of a season as we wanted to have.

10

11 They are seeing a lot of salmon. There's
12 a different species of salmon that came in this year.
13 I'm not sure what it is, but we saw six in our nets, and
14 I'd only seen one before. We also saw quite a few char
15 this year in the nets.

16

17 Lots of seals in the river though,
18 especially at the bar of the Colville. And there were
19 one walrus caught this year, the first I've heard in
20 Nuiqsut since I've been out there, almost 20 years now.
21 And maybe three bearded seals were caught this summer. So
22 that was also good for us. We don't get too many of
23 those. They're usually way out there, but the ice
24 conditions allowed them to get way out there this summer,
25 so that was good. And that's about it. Thanks.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
28 Any questions. Gordon.

29

30 MR. G. BROWER: Rosemary, you mentioned
31 longer distances. What are you talking about as far as
32 the range of their subsistence activities, having to go
33 further out?

34

35 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Hunters are averaging
36 about 30 miles now to have hopes to attempt to harvest.
37 We have to get out on the ocean, go up the coast more.
38 We used to just get them right out near the coast, but
39 with all the activity that's now going on, you have to go
40 up the coast towards Barrow to try to attempt to harvest.
41 The migration didn't stay around us at all. They just --
42 they came near us and continued out, so we didn't see the
43 big herds this year at all. We saw it inland in July,
44 but with all the activity, it just kept going, didn't
45 stay around us at all. But there are caribou here and
46 there, it's just very difficult, very few numbers. A lot
47 of the hunters were saying maybe only 1,000 around us was
48 seen this year versus we should be seeing tens of
49 thousands in July, and we just haven't seen them. It's
50 been much more harder to harvest. But I've heard hunters

1 talk of using over 300 gallons of gas in July crossing
2 all the tributaries in their attempts to harvest caribou.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
5 Any other questions. Ray, did you want to bring this up
6 right now.....

7

8 MR. KOONUK: No.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER:or wait until
11 they're done?

12

13 MR. KOONUK: Wait.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Raymond Paneak.

16

17 MR. PANEAK: Good morning. Last spring
18 the caribou herd travel earlier, earlier than we thought
19 then. Some our way were not be able to catch some for
20 the summer. Then they arrive late at Anaktuvuk, about
21 middle of August. Right now the herd is going through
22 Anaktuvuk, which is real good now. Good caribou hunting
23 now. And big herd are going through right now, that's
24 pretty good fall herd.

25

26 And I've got one other thing though we
27 noticed that that Teshekpuk Herd usually go through
28 Anaktuvuk. They didn't make it through Anaktuvuk. They
29 ended up towards Kaktovik area. That herd that used to
30 go to Anaktuvuk didn't. Those Teshekpuk Herd usually go
31 through Anaktuvuk, too, and we used to harvest some of
32 those, but they never -- last fall they went to Kaktovik
33 area and crossed the pipeline.

34

35 Other than that, caribou hunting good
36 now, right now, and moose season's pretty good. And
37 sheep hunting is also pretty good. So pretty good
38 hunting now at home.

39

40 Fishing here and there, that's pretty
41 good, too. That's all I have. Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions to
44 Raymond from the Council. Gordon.

45

46 MR. G. BROWER: Were you guys in
47 Anaktuvuk area impacted in any way by the guided outfits
48 this year?

49

50 MR. PANEAK: Yeah, we always do. There's

1 one guide that just north of us, Dennis Reiner, he bring
2 in a lot of hunters, something like 20 hunters. But they
3 -- but he got permission from State and I guess from
4 North Slope Borough. We can't do anything. And there's
5 some guide towards Galbraith Lake, Itkillik area that
6 sort of affects our hunting, too. And this -- I guess
7 Senate okay that people travelling in wintertime with
8 snow machine and ATVs. That could really bring a lot of
9 people. But that I guess we've got to live with it.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Gordon.

12

13 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Just observation.
14 I mean sometimes the North Slope Borough is not aware
15 that there are guided outfits. Some of them, even the
16 residents can request to look at their permit from the
17 North Slope Borough, and that's the law on the permits.
18 If they don't have their permit from the Borough, then we
19 should be notified sometime if it's impacting
20 subsistence.

21

22 MR. PANEAK: Well, what can you do when
23 they get a permit from State already? State already give
24 them permit first, and they go to North Slope Borough,
25 then all okayed.

26

27 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Gordon.

30

31 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. The North Slope
32 Borough doesn't automatically give them permit because
33 the State gives them permit. We will review it. The
34 North Slope Borough will review it and weigh it and put
35 conditions on how they should conduct their activities,
36 so the North Slope Borough doesn't just give them permit
37 because the State gives them permit.

38

39 MR. AGNASAGGA: Mr. Chairman.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Amos.

42

43 MR. AGNASAGGA: Yeah, on the spike camps,
44 when they had the public hearing on the spike camps what
45 we're talking about, they had it here in Barrow, not in
46 Anaktuvuk Pass, because I was there when they had problem
47 with these spike camps in the past, and they still will
48 -- which group is supposed to be the ones take care of
49 those spike camp, North Slope Borough, this group or --
50 well, nobody's doing it, and they did have a public

1 hearing on these spike camps, but nothing ever happened,
2 because it happened here in Barrow, but that should have
3 happened in Anaktuvuk Pass, not here. The problem is not
4 here, the problem is there.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Amos.
7 Gordon.

8
9 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. I think the
10 responsibilities for permitting are some of your land
11 managers here. We can direct them to do different
12 things, but if they're actively permitting guided
13 outfitters, that these guys that issue permits should
14 also notify other agencies with permitting authority that
15 they're permitting these activities so that we can be
16 aware and conduct our own inquiries to those activities.
17 So it is us, this body can tell them, the land managers
18 that they need to be aware that there's subsistence
19 activities that are conflicting with guided outfits,
20 rafters, and that they need to make it aware to the other
21 permitting agencies, local governments that these
22 activities are taking place so there is multiple
23 governmental agencies that do permitting on different
24 lands, even Federal lands. So we just here can talk
25 about it and make the -- learn the impacts. That's what
26 I want to do is learn the impacts from you guys.

27
28 MR. AGNASAGGA: Okay. Is there anything
29 this group could do to help Anaktuvuk Pass on this
30 problems with spike camps?

31
32 MR. G. BROWER: Yes, I think there are.
33 We inform these land managers who have permitting
34 authority. It may be the State, it may be the Park
35 Service or BLM, that they have to notify other local
36 governments when these activities are taking place, so
37 our permitting authority can also work. They can be
38 asked to be -- to vacate the site by the Borough if they
39 don't have a valid North Slope Borough jurisdictional
40 boundary permit, ELAMAR (ph) permit, so the Borough has
41 some authority because of its Title 19 and being able to
42 use its subsistence policies and its zoning authority.
43 So, yes, we can help.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Raymond.

46
47 MR. PANEAK: Also last month that this
48 guide probably have almost 20 hunters, but people were
49 complaining that they're not bringing the meat, that all
50 those hunters are out of state. All those hunters are

1 out of state, from way down south, Lower 48.

2

3

MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

4

5

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ray.

6

7

MR. KOONUK: I've got a couple of
8 comments. One is who has authority? I mean, you know,
9 we sit here as the Federal Subsistence, and then you have
10 the State Fish and Game or whatever they're called. Who
11 has authority? I mean, who's in charge? I mean, we sit
12 here and we talk about a lot of issues, and the same
13 issues keep coming up, you know, with these hunters out
14 there. Sport hunters. And it seems like nothing is
15 being done, so who has authority? Do we have authority
16 as Federal? You know, we represent our area within the
17 Borough, and these issues keep coming up over and over,
18 and I don't know what the State, it's so -- you know,
19 where do they stand? I mean, are they enforcing,
20 because, you know, we have our people out there that are
21 trying to, you know, feed their families, and they're not
22 out there for sports. So where do we stand? That's my
23 first comment, because, you know, I'm getting tired of,
24 you know, hearing the same thing, nothing is being done.
25 I mean, you have all these guys here that sit here. You
26 know, they sit in the departments, but what are they
27 doing, you know? How come they're not enforcing? So
28 what authority do we have as Federal Subsistence Board
29 members? I mean, do we just talk? You know, if we're
30 just talking, hey, what's the use sitting here, you know.
31 We have a lot of problems out there. There's animals
32 that are sick, and we've been repeating ourself year
33 after year as far as what is being done. And, you know,
34 my question is, what authority do we have? You know, as
35 Federal Subsistence Advisory Board, where do we stand?
36 And then you go to the State, you know, I don't know what
37 the State is doing, you know. Then you have our main
38 body, the Federal Board, all the chairs, you know, what
39 are they doing? And, yeah, we get letters from, what's
40 his name, Mitch, but, you know, hey, good for him. I
41 need to.....

42

43

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50

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ray, would you like a
reply to your first comment, we have Dave Yokel with BLM
and Sandy Rabinowitch with the.....

MR. KOONUK: Yeah, but I just.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER:or did you want to
finish your other comment that you.....

1 MR. KOONUK: No, go ahead.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Dr. Yokel.

4

5 MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 I'll risk sticking my neck out and see if I can clarify
7 the issue a little bit. First of all, the issue that Mr.
8 Paneak brought up of the guide hunters north of Anaktuvuk
9 Pass, I'm pretty sure that that's occurring on state-
10 owned lands. So for that specific instance, or anything
11 else that occurs on State-owned lands, this Federal
12 Subsistence Program has no authority, because its
13 authority only extends to Federal Public lands. Now, in
14 that case the State has all of the authority to permit
15 those commercial outfits, and then the North Slope
16 Borough Planning Department has some responsibility in
17 that arena as well, although I don't know what criteria
18 they have to go by in whether or not -- determining
19 whether or not to issue a permit.

20

21 On BLM lands, I can speak to that, we do
22 require permits for commercial activities, so if
23 somebody's guiding hunters for money, then they do have
24 to have a permit to use BLM lands for that. We do not
25 manage the game resource itself. We only give the permit
26 for the use of the land, so basically for the camp site,
27 for their spike camp. And that's the main issue we would
28 look at, the impacts to the land itself. If there are
29 just air transporters out there dropping hunters off, we
30 don't have any purview over their activities. And I
31 think that's about as far as I can take that discussion,
32 Mr. Chairman.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

35

36 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. A question for you
37 concerning that ANILCA stuff, what is that, six? Is it
38 .810 or -- and using that as a tool, when you're
39 permitting a spike camp, are you able to condition your
40 permits to prevent wanton waste and to leave the meat
41 behind if possible to the nearest affected villages,
42 maybe make that meat available to a village that is being
43 impacted by subsistence hunt, you know, the hunters being
44 displaced? I mean, are you able to do anything of that
45 sort using your subsistence ANILCA stuff?

46

47 MR. YOKEL: Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Dr. Yokel.

50

1 MR. YOKEL: The issue of wanton waste is
2 a state law, so the State has primary authority over
3 that. Our law enforcement officers can enforce those
4 state laws on Federal land. They have, I'm not sure what
5 you call it, an agreement or whatever, reciprocal
6 arrangement with the State. But law enforcement is a
7 different issue, because of how few law enforcement
8 officers we have for the millions of acres that we have,
9 so normally we don't even try to deal with issues like
10 that unless it's a heavily used area. For instance, back
11 along the Dalton Highway when there were a lot of rifle
12 hunters coming up there for caribou hunting in the early
13 90s, we did have law enforcement up there trying to keep
14 an eye on the situation. But as far as patrolling the
15 North Slope in general, we can't do that. And that's
16 more of a fish and wildlife protection officer, which are
17 part of the State's Department of Public Safety, State
18 Troopers, that's more of their purview.

19
20 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Gordon again. I
21 mean, I'm not really trying to talk about the enforcement
22 provision, I mean to be able to condition your permit so
23 that the applicant followed a set of rules that are --
24 that have some values to it, and able to be in compliance
25 with ANILCA to prevent adverse impact to subsistence
26 users.

27
28 MR. YOKEL: All of our permits for any
29 type of use of the Federal lands require that the
30 permittee follow all other applicable laws and
31 regulations of other governments without specifying what
32 those laws and regulations are. And so through that we
33 can enforce those laws and regulations of the other
34 governments simply by saying they're not in compliance
35 with their permit conditions. But again the actual
36 enforcement of that is a different matter because of the
37 logistics and costs of being out there for some of these
38 widely scattered camps.

39
40 Now, the ANILCA thing is a different
41 issue. I think you're touching on Section .810 of ANILCA
42 now where when we allow an action out on the Federal
43 lands, we have to evaluate that action to see if it's
44 going to cause any significant restriction to subsistence
45 uses. And in general a permit for a very local operation
46 like that would not cross the threshold of significant
47 restriction. And if it did cross that threshold, that
48 would -- and according to ANILCA, that would still not
49 mean that the action could not take place. It would just
50 trigger some other requirements on our part before we

1 allowed that action.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dr. Yokel.
4 And did that answer your question, Gordon, Ray?

5

6 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair, I don't think my
7 question was answered.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

10

11 MR. KOONUK: I understand where the State
12 and what the -- I understand all that, but, you know, my
13 question is what authority do we have? I mean, we -- you
14 know, I don't know. You didn't answer my question.

15

16 MR. YOKEL: Well, Mr. Chairman, I tried
17 to answer that question for the specific issue north of
18 Anaktuvuk Pass where I said your body has no legal
19 authority, and if somebody from the Office of Subsistence
20 Management thinks I'm wrong, I'd appreciate being
21 corrected, but those are State lands, and to the best of
22 my knowledge, the Federal Subsistence Program has no
23 authority over those State lands. It does have some
24 authority over State hunting regulations on Federal
25 lands, but that's a different issue.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So did that help answer
28 your question, Ray, that it's.....

29

30 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, a little bit, yeah.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dr. Yokel.
33 Sandy.

34

35 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you. Good
36 morning again. I'm Sandy Rabinowitch with Park Service.

37

38 Ray, my answer to your question is that
39 this Council's an advisory body to the Federal
40 Subsistence Board, so like it or not, we all go to
41 meetings and we push paper around a fair bit. So I think
42 the tools that you have are to do exactly what you're
43 doing, just to bring up issues that concern you, to do
44 exactly what you're doing, and that's to discuss them,
45 ask questions, try to draw out what ways you can try to
46 influence these activities. So I think you're doing
47 exactly the right thing here today, having this
48 discussion, kicking these things around, and trying to
49 figure out how you can have some impact on things that
50 trouble you. So that's my take.

1 I would add that on the Park Service
2 piece of this, because there's a lot of Park Service land
3 around Anaktuvuk, in the part that's national Park, there
4 is no sport hunting allowed. Probably most of you know
5 that. Raymond knows that. So that's the benefit of
6 subsistence users, because there's no competition from
7 sport hunters. In the preserve portion which is toward
8 the Dalton Highway part, there is sport hunting
9 allowed, and anybody that does business in a national Park
10 has to have one of two kinds of user permits. They're
11 not called permits exactly, but one's an incidental
12 business permit, I guess it is called permit, and the
13 other one's a concession contract, and it's kind of like
14 an easier one to get and a harder one to get. Both of
15 those involve writing .810 evaluations of ANILCA like you
16 were just discussing.

17
18 And the -- I can say the Park Service has
19 paid pretty close attention to these things. Further
20 away down the Kobuk River, way at the other end of Gates
21 of the Arctic, there's also a preserve area. And I know
22 that our superintendent, Dave Mills, had some conflict
23 there a couple of years ago with a guide. I don't
24 remember his name or all the details, but there was
25 conflict between this guiding operation and subsistence
26 users on the river. And so the next time his permit came
27 up, there were some restrictions put in to keep the guide
28 away from the area that the local people used, and it
29 created a fair bit of fuss, but everybody held tough, and
30 I believe those restrictions are still in place.

31
32 So my point is that when good information
33 comes forward like what you all are talking about, and
34 people, you know, stay on it and communicate, I think
35 some things can be done. It takes some persistence, and
36 I know that's frustrating, but I -- you know, vent your
37 frustration, but keep going, sort of don't give up would
38 be my two cents. That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Sandy.

41
42 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

45
46 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I think the main issue
47 at hand is that there is concerns to allowing the
48 traditional users of the area to continue their
49 traditional activities, and if there is some foresight
50 put into discussions such as limitations in interactions.

1 When the herd is on the move, putting limitations on not
2 allowing them to guide over those leaders when the herd
3 is migrating, those types of things. Restricting areas
4 from high concentrated use from the local community, you
5 know that the community harvest in this area, restricting
6 their activities over to those areas, and also doing some
7 monitoring. There's got to be some spot checks, seeing
8 if these guides are bringing any meat back. I mean, if
9 there is no effort putting into looking at it, they
10 already admit the State doesn't have enough resources to
11 go out and monitor adequately. Well, if they can't do it
12 out there, then let's get some activity going at the
13 airports, checking these guides that are occurring. And
14 you don't have to do it every day, but spend one day a
15 month where they go over and do spot checks on these
16 various guides' areas and see if they are bringing any
17 meat back. I mean, that's the issue. We want them to do
18 what they're supposed to. Go out there, if they're going
19 to bring someone out there, bring the meat back. Don't
20 waste it. And, you know, we've got to look at other ways
21 to try to interact and finding ways to make sure that
22 they're not doing things that they're not supposed to be
23 doing.

24
25 We can say that we're finding wasted meat
26 out there, but if we're not getting those concerns
27 brought to the right entity, you know, I don't know if
28 the Borough's going to get an expansion within the
29 wildlife, but it's obvious that with the increased
30 activity, our communities need to have a contact point to
31 be consistently bringing our concerns to on a routine
32 basis in every community. There's got to be a tracking
33 system established to allow us to get these concerns into
34 the right board, to make sure that there's some effort to
35 receive these concerns in a timely manner, not once or
36 twice a year.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
41 Raymond, we were discussing -- did you have any other
42 issues that you want to bring out, or concerns regarding
43 hunting activities around AKP?

44
45 MR. PANEAK: I think we're going to get
46 into that Unit 24 on moose hunting, right, a little bit
47 later. Okay. So at that time I'd have concern on that.
48 That's all I have.

49
50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Raymond.
2 Any other questions to Raymond Paneak.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not, we'll move
7 along to Point Lay. Amos.

8
9 MR. AGNASAGGA: Good morning. At Point
10 Lay we had a good summer I would think. We had whale
11 with beluga. Caribou's been abundant all summer. No
12 musk ox. There was good fish netting. So we basically
13 had a good summer.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Amos. I'm
18 trying to write and taking notes here so -- you know, I
19 haven't done any of my portion, but I think I'll do that
20 now.

21
22 Barrow's been fairly active with all the
23 hunting and fishing that's been going on throughout the
24 summer. There was a short period of where we had low
25 waters in the river system. People were catching fairly
26 good amounts of fish before the tide started changing,
27 and as soon as that occurred, the fishing got slow, and
28 there was hardly any fish being harvested. But then the
29 hunting turned to the caribou and other resources,
30 whatever they were harvesting for. Migratory birds and
31 stuff like that. That's been fairly good throughout the
32 summer. We've seen an increase in the snow geese over
33 there in the Ikpikpuk Delta.

34
35 I've been travelling and staying fairly
36 busy within our department and doing some of the research
37 that needed to get done. Travelling back and forth
38 supporting the researchers has been keeping me busy all
39 summer. I can tell you how much I've been travelling, I
40 wore out the envelopes carrying my mail back and forth.
41 Anyway, that was fairly exciting. And we've been doing
42 the fish research. They've got the fox research that
43 they're doing, and done some migratory bird tagging all
44 along the Teshekpuk area, so we've been fairly busy
45 throughout the summer in all those three resources, and
46 have been fairly busy within our department.

47
48 And the community's been fairly happy
49 with what they've been harvesting. I don't think I've
50 had any real complaints about the resources. There's

1 been observations of sick animals or birds harvested and
2 reported to our Department of Wildlife Management, and
3 through working with our biologists, they've sent
4 specimens out to the appropriate agencies to do the
5 analysis on the animals that were provided to us to do
6 that, so they're waiting on the responses as to what the
7 findings will be. There's been some fish that were
8 harvested with lesions again as mentioned by Rosemary and
9 Paul. And there's been caribou harvested with sores on
10 them, so they've been turned into our department, and
11 we're just waiting on the analysis to come back as to
12 what their findings will be. So we're waiting on that,
13 patiently waiting on that. Some haven't even been sent
14 out yet. We're still continuing some of the research.

15
16 Fishing's been good over here in Pikanut
17 (ph). There's been a lot of fishermen with nets out
18 there this summer, and they've been catching the
19 different species of fish. Broad whitefish, salmon,
20 humpies, some occasional pink salmon. I seen a good 40-
21 pounder harvested in one of the nets. That was kind of
22 unusual.

23
24 There's been a lot of marine mammal
25 hunting, some walrus hunting, bearded seals, ring seals.
26 I seen a beluga whale harvested the day we were leaving
27 on a boat, so they -- that's been occurring over the
28 summer.

29
30 Migratory birds, there's been the king
31 eiders, the brandts, some geese have been harvested over
32 this fall.

33
34 So Barrow's been fairly busy and
35 harvesting the different resources available to them.
36 It's been a good fall season, good summer.

37
38 The ice is fairly far out. It's over --
39 it was at 200 miles north of Point Barrow a week ago, and
40 I'm not sure if it's come in any closer with all the west
41 wind we've been having this past week. So I haven't
42 really observed the distance as to what it is today.

43
44 Those are some of the -- part of the
45 activity that's been happening here in Barrow. And I
46 know Wainwright's -- Terry will probably give a report as
47 to what they've been harvesting. I've been monitoring
48 the communities as to what they've been harvesting.
49 Kaktovik's been -- I'm not sure how they did with the
50 caribou this fall. They did have some earlier in the

1 summer, but I'm not sure how the caribou hunting occurred
2 this fall in Kaktovik.

3

4 That's all I have for Barrow. If there's
5 any questions, I'll try to respond to them. Gordon.

6

7 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, just in the past
8 month I know Wildlife Department has been dealing with
9 encounters with polar bears. And is there an estimate of
10 how many of these bears are making landfall because of
11 the open water?

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just there was -- when
14 we first started, there was like 10 to 15 polar bears
15 hanging around the community, but some have moved on. As
16 of yesterday there was three of them within the vicinity
17 of Barrow. But they've been scared away from the
18 community. So there was that 10 to 15 at the beginning,
19 but then they -- the rest of them kind of moved out of --
20 away from Barrow, so they're moving out towards the
21 Barrier Islands and north of -- or not north, just
22 northeast of Barrow up further inland away from Barrow.
23 There's still a couple of them hanging around. As of
24 yesterday morning, there was one out at the NARL
25 facility, the research lab. Another one was just up past
26 the lake, that fresh water lake at NARL. So there was
27 two of them there. They've moved down.

28

29 Ray, did you want to bring out another
30 issue you mentioned earlier?

31

32 MR. KOONUK: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

35

36 MR. KOONUK: We had some clean up
37 activities around Cape Lisburne area, and what I was told
38 that there was a lot of, what should I call it, you know,
39 PCB, batteries, a lot of other things that were buried
40 underground, and apparently they didn't finish the job.
41 And we have -- you know, we have a lot of animals,
42 caribou and polar bears and whatnot that, you know, hang
43 around that Cape Lisburne area, too. And, you know, if
44 the Government is going to do a clean-up job, I would
45 suggest that they do and finish the job, because
46 apparently they didn't finish the job. And these -- what
47 they buried here, and they're pretty toxic. And that can
48 affect our animals. So I'd like to, you know, let the
49 Council and let the Staff know as far as what has been
50 going on up around Cape Lisburne.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Ray. We
2 have one of our Council members just arrived. Terry.
3 Good morning, Terry, and welcome to Barrow.

4
5 MR. TAGAROOK: Good morning. It's good
6 to be on the ground. We flew about 15 minutes out
7 there, two other aircrafts flying around.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think I'll call for a
10 five-minute break, get Terry situated here and we'll give
11 him the floor for a few minutes to update. And we'll
12 take a five-minute update at this time.

13
14 (Off record)

15
16 (On record)

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We did council member
19 report, and Terry just arrived, so we'll give him the
20 opportunity at this time. Terry, welcome to Barrow.

21
22 MR. TAGAROOK: Good morning. Thank you.
23 Everybody's doing okay in Wainwright and getting all
24 their subsistence hunting done. And (In Inupiat) a good
25 caribou migration going through Wainwright again this
26 year. And that's about it. And I hope we have a
27 successful fall season.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Terry.
32 Questions from the Council.

33
34 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Terry, I've always
35 wanted to ask questions concerning distance of
36 subsistence harvest patterns from Wainwright and some of
37 the other villages, and make some comparison. Because
38 some of my hunting I take is like 80 to 100 miles out of
39 Barrow when I'm hunting to do my hunting. Some of it is
40 within 25 miles, and I just wanted to know what kind of
41 distance do you conduct some of your subsistence
42 activities.

43
44 MR. TAGAROOK: During the falltime and in
45 the wintertime we go up to Kotukruk (ph), that's about 78
46 miles from Wainwright, and beyond. We go to the -- we
47 could see the De Long Mountains, when we're up in the
48 mountains. And up to Driftwood. And that's close, just
49 following the river, the drainages, it can be to Noatak.
50 So some -- very few people go up to the mountains though.

1 It's just good place for hunting wolves, wolverine. And
2 in falltime it's fishing for grayling.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon, did you have
5 another question.

6

7 MR. G. BROWER: No, it's just sometimes I
8 always want to make comparison in each village on
9 distance relation to subsistence harvest patterns. And
10 it's part of my job, too, so I try to make these type of
11 determinations of impacts. And.....

12

13 MR. TAGAROOK: Well, Gordon, when we make
14 a round trip from our cabin at Tukkok (ph) sometimes it's
15 over 100 miles round trip just from the cabin, going to
16 different rivers, Carbon Creek and Driftwood, and then
17 making it back to our cabin, round trip during a one-day
18 trip.

19

20 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Thank you, Terry.

21

22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Helen.

25

26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: This is Helen
27 Armstrong with OSM.

28

29 Gordon, I'm actually glad you asked those
30 questions, because we look at that. The anthropologists
31 are always talking about, you know, how far will people
32 go, because when you're looking at customary and
33 traditional use determinations, you know, we've had this
34 sort of theoretical discussion of what's reasonable for
35 people to travel. Is it, you know, 100 miles. And, I
36 mean, generally I think around the State you'd find 50
37 miles is pretty average, but people do go further, you
38 know, but do they go 200 miles. You know, with better
39 snow machines, can they go that far? So that's
40 definitely been a question that's come up. And it comes
41 up from the North Slope, too, because we've got C&T for
42 some areas where people, you know, it's hundreds of miles
43 away, so that's been something the Board has raised, too.
44 Good question.

45

46 MR. PANEAK: Mr. Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Raymond Paneak.

49

50 MR. PANEAK: Gordon asked now subsistence

1 harvest in the other villages is like. My village, North
2 Slope Borough hire one of the ladies to -- I mean, she's
3 working part time, and every time after caribou hunting
4 or moose or fishing, she go to almost every house and ask
5 questionnaires, see how many caribou you catch, and
6 that's been going on for two years right now depending on
7 the funds. But I know that lady was working for North
8 Slope Borough and asked us how many caribou we take and
9 all that, how many fish, all that. That's -- I know
10 right now that lady is working for North Slope Borough
11 right now doing that harvest report or something like
12 that on hunting.

13

14 MR. G. BROWER: Thank you, Raymond.

15

16 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

19

20 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: There -- in our
21 community, we have people that go travelling great
22 distances. You can go hundreds of miles, but there are
23 changes to how we're hunting. We used to go out and stay
24 out for weeks at a time, and those kind of changes are
25 occurring so that people are going out for short periods
26 of time, travelling many, many miles during these short
27 periods of time and coming back. So those kind of
28 changes are also occurring. The efforts to cover a
29 larger area of land and river is very high now. Many of
30 the hunters will cover many tributaries in their efforts
31 to harvest. We used to just go to certain areas, but
32 it's so much more difficult now, we cover many
33 tributaries in our efforts to hunt, so those kind of
34 changes are occurring in our area.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

37 Ray.

38

39 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Well, last
40 two, three years the migration has changed. Everything
41 has been coming in early. And I don't know if there's
42 any studies or anything, you know. You know, I guess the
43 climate is changing, and I don't know if there's any of
44 the departments here are, you know, looking or trying to
45 see what's going on as far as migration. You know, the
46 whale, beluga, walrus, you know, and the caribou, fish
47 are coming in early, real early. And that's been
48 happening the last two, three years now. So I just
49 wanted to bring this up to see if anything is being done,
50 or any studies are being made.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's just
2 observations are being documented in terms of your
3 question, Ray. I know from our Department I see that
4 with our biologists documenting the changes that are
5 occurring through the different -- for the different
6 resources that are being harvested. I know we have the
7 bowhead whale monitoring that they're doing with the
8 biologists, and the counts that they do, they see that
9 migration is changing. Even the aerial surveys that they
10 do with National Marine Fisheries Service have indicated
11 the migrations are beginning earlier than in the past.
12 So there's observations of those being documented through
13 our Department. I can reply to that. But I'm not sure
14 about the different resource managers as to what they're
15 observations are.

16
17 And I can speak for our wildlife
18 biologists. They see the different resources moving in a
19 little bit earlier than before. Caribou's travelling a
20 little bit earlier, further away from the communities.
21 That's what the last couple have been.

22
23 Those two resources I could speak for,
24 caribou and bowhead whale. And even -- I'm not sure how
25 the migratory birds are doing, but they seem to have left
26 already around here. There's the snow buntings and the
27 sea gulls are just about left here.

28
29 MR. KOONUK: Well, I'm sure not just the
30 animals, but the ice conditions itself, too. You know,
31 the ice is not thick as it used to be. It's a lot
32 thinner, and it's very dangerous when we go out there
33 hunting. You know, I think, you know, we need to address
34 this problem and see what is causing this, you know. Is
35 it the warmer climates, or, you know. And, you know,
36 just being out there, it's real dangerous, you know, and
37 we've been -- while we're out whaling, you know, the ice
38 would break off right behind us, and then, you know, we'd
39 have to haul all our boats, snow machines, you know, just
40 like here in Barrow, the same thing, you know.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Ray.

43
44 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

47
48 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. I had some
49 observations I guess, and in talking with my elder, my
50 dad, he's always talking about stories and caribou all

1 the time. He always mentioned sometimes reindeer will
2 just follow caribou and mix with them. But also makes
3 statements that reindeer has a different time frame, and
4 I don't know if that biological time frame mixing with
5 caribou could have an effect on a major caribou herd,
6 because they -- when they're reindeer herding, the
7 reindeer calf a month ahead of caribou. It's a different
8 time frame.

9
10 And one of the other things that he had
11 some observations about was some of the die-offs of
12 caribou just recently, especially maybe out of the
13 Teshekpuk Herd by Selvoniktu (ph) on the east side of
14 Prudhoe Bay. And some of his observations in the past is
15 the survival instincts of caribou. They require complete
16 quietness of the environment. They just know the
17 environment noise, not the industrial noise, and that if
18 they cannot -- if they move to an area where they're not
19 habituated to, and they're already habituated to the
20 wildlife environment where they hear the wolves in the
21 dark, where they hear their predators in the dark, when
22 they can't hear that any more, they're stressed out is
23 his observation, and they don't rest. They get stressed
24 out because they hear the humming of industry. And he
25 said it goes the same way around. For the animals that
26 are habituated in the industrial centers, then they
27 forget about the wildlife noise, the instinct to survive
28 from the predator.

29
30 So those are some of the things that he
31 was making talk about when I was visiting him just
32 recently. We were talking about caribou, reindeer, and
33 all of these. I mean, it just come -- you know, we just
34 sat up there and hunting caribou. Then we start telling
35 old stories, and talk about animals and their instincts.
36 And, you know, just understanding why these animals the
37 way they are, and what will bother them, and what they
38 need to survive. Anyway, those are just some of my
39 observations. I thought they may be useful sometime as I
40 do my work or talk with other Council members, because
41 the animals, you know, they have a survival tactic, and
42 if you interfere with that.....

43
44 One case is I remember a couple years ago
45 we did several seismic operations on NPR-A, and south of
46 Colville by Inigog and Ikpikpuk area all at one season,
47 and there was about maybe 200, maybe 100 caribou died off
48 the upper Ikpikpuk. And, you know, it was a brutal year,
49 too. It was cold, and very cold, but his own -- my dad's
50 own instinct was the animals were stressed out. They can

1 survive the harsh, even if it's really harsh. They've
2 just got to work at it. But if you interfere with their
3 survival instinct, and they can't hear the environment
4 and they hear industrial noise when they're not used to
5 it, they're not habituated to it, then you're interfering
6 with their sense of survivalness and stress them out. So
7 that's -- anyway, that was just his observations.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
10 Terry.

11

12 MR. TAGAROOK: Yeah. One thing we
13 noticed this past summer was the ice didn't come back in
14 that much, and the ice is -- well, the main pack ice is
15 way out there, and people got their bearded seals though
16 when it was nice out. They haul them in. But for sure
17 this ice didn't stay long, and it was unsafe in some
18 places, and got rotten, rotted real fast in the spring,
19 in the flat ice. And it was thinner than usual, than in
20 previous years. We're noticing that every year. That's
21 for your information.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Terry. Any
24 other comments or questions. Paul

25

26 MR. BODFISH: Yeah. (In Inupiat)

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Those comments I
29 brought up were during the spring harvest, spring
30 migration.

31

32 MR. BODFISH: What month?

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's in April. They
35 just get started -- they started this year about April 9,
36 and they usually started about the 20th, and this year it
37 started on the 9th.

38

39 MR. BODFISH: Well, my observations of
40 the whales, starting their early migration, I was down
41 the coast a little ways and seen blows in, gee, in the
42 middle month of March. So maybe the Whale Congress
43 should try and observe that and start their count early,
44 because I did see a number of whales when we had that
45 thin ice, breaking through the ice and breathing in the
46 middle of March.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Paul.
49 Gordon.

50

1 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, maybe just some
2 corroboration with some of that. I mean, we did, you
3 know, start chasing whales as soon as our trail was done,
4 and we were down there about April 9, April 10, and, you
5 know, it's sometimes in the past middle of April before
6 we start to (In Inupiat). But we (In Inupiat) real
7 early, you know, and we were chasing whales about the
8 first week of April.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ray.

11
12 MR. KOONUK: Yeah. In talking with some
13 of the whaling captain, the thing about going out early,
14 about in March, because that's when we spot whales. And
15 it's colder, ice is thicker, and safer in March. And
16 that's something we were talking about, and I should know
17 more probably by February, that see what we're going to
18 do.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Ray. Terry,
21 you were -- anyone have any other comments while we're on
22 this discussion topic, Council member reports.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If none, we'll move on
27 to our next agenda item. It's the Chair's report. I
28 don't have too much to report. Good morning.

29
30 Anyway there's what's stated -- what's
31 written on the agenda is Federal Subsistence Board
32 meeting. I can tell you this much, I didn't make it to
33 the meeting. I was busy during the time of the meeting
34 that occurred for the Federal Subsistence Board. It was
35 right in the midst of our bowhead whaling activities, so
36 I know our vice chair and I were busy at the time, so I
37 didn't even have time to come in. At the time I was out
38 on the ice, so I did not participate in that meeting
39 regarding the Federal Subsistence Board.

40
41 Then there's the next -- there's three
42 items here I need to discuss. There's the 805(c) letter.
43 It's regarding the response to one of the comments that
44 the Council had made in regards to the per diem,
45 requesting that to be at 100 percent, but there's
46 regulations that we have to comply with that they issue
47 it at 80 percent. We had requested that it be brought to
48 100 percent for per diem, but there's regulations stating
49 that we cannot do that, so they have to withhold taxes, a
50 portion for the taxes out, and that brings it down to 80

1 percent. And there's that letter that's probably in the
2 packet. So all this information is within your package,
3 the responses to these questions.

4
5 The 2003 annual report response, again
6 the Board reviewed our annual report and there's a couple
7 of issues that we had identified. Let's see. I wrote
8 something down in my notebook here. And there's three
9 issues that we had brought out. The grayling issue near
10 Ray's community, was it Kuparuk or something like that,
11 the river that you, Kupuk the grayling fishing that had
12 the problem a couple years ago. That didn't get
13 addressed. They replied that it was under State lands
14 and we could not use any Federal funding to do any
15 research on the State lands, so they were asking if we
16 could request for submitting a proposal to Federal -- not
17 the Federal, but State Board of Fisheries regarding the
18 grayling issue.

19
20 The other issue was the compensation from
21 80 percent to 100 percent, but that got denied. We're
22 going to con -- it's going to continue as stated under
23 the 805(c) letter that the compensation be at 80 percent.
24 That 805(c)'s under ANILCA, and then the written
25 regulations, that's what they have to follow through on.

26
27 The third issue from that was the moose
28 alignment, moose hunting regulations that we had
29 discussed along the Colville, and align those
30 regulations, the State regulations with the Federal
31 subsistence regulations, so that did occur. Those
32 changes were made along the Colville River.

33
34 So those were the three issues that were
35 identified under this report, the Chairman's report. Let
36 me see. 2003 annual responses, those are the three
37 issues that were discussed under that response from the
38 Federal Subsistence Board Chair. And those are the
39 issues that we had identified. Is there any questions.
40 Yes.

41
42 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: A comment.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

45
46 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We're concerned about
47 the decreasing -- the grayling on those areas. We feel
48 that increasing gravel placement, inadequate monitoring
49 is causing problems with migration, as well as if they
50 were making gravel withdrawals in the areas of the Lower

1 48 and making artificial lakes in areas and things like
2 that, there would be adequate monitoring, because it
3 would cause fish entrapments in those areas. These are
4 routine activities that are approved. Being that we're
5 so far north, that could also be a very valid reason why
6 the fish migration is not occurring the way they are with
7 the decline in the graylings. So as development comes
8 closer to our community, we're very concerned about that.
9 It may also be a relation to why we're having some
10 decline in our onokluk (ph), and worries about the
11 migration with offshore development for our cisco. So
12 that's something that needs to be assessed in the.....

13
14 With the seasonal water levels, if
15 they're doing their monitoring of hydrology in July after
16 the fish have migrated out in June, then that's a
17 problem. Some of the studies are occurring in July. If
18 they're not doing the studies in June when the fish are
19 in the lakes and whatnot, they're not going to catch the
20 fish to see that they're in these lakes. We've seen that
21 with water withdrawal for the ice road season and things
22 like that.

23
24 But we've got to get adequate numbers in
25 these small tributaries of what's there before we get the
26 gravel roads out there. It's really important.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
29 Ray. Ray Koonuk.

30
31 MR. KOONUK: As far as your report, I
32 don't see anybody from the State here, Fish and Wildlife.
33 If that's the route we have to go in order to get studies
34 done on the grayling, on Kupuk, you know -- I don't know
35 why nobody's here from the State. And I think this needs
36 to be passed on to the State. And I've been bringing
37 this issue up year after year, and still nothing's being
38 done as far as the grayling, why there's, you know,
39 decrease in grayling, and they grayling they catch now,
40 it's a lot smaller and not like what it used -- what they
41 used to be.

42
43 And the other thing is on this stipend
44 that we get. I'm still going to push. I'm not going to
45 give up. I'm still going to continue to bring this out
46 that we either get loss of pay or something. We come
47 here, we volunteer and we don't hesitate. And I still
48 will continue to say my piece as far as, you know, and
49 what we receive, you know, is just what, you know -- we
50 lose quite a bit, you know, where we work, and we don't

1 get anything off, you know, coming here, just to get our
2 per diem. That's all we receive. I'm still going to
3 continue to keep on pushing this. And I, you know, will
4 take any action or draft a resolution or anything that I
5 need, you know.

6
7 And the other issue is, you know, we've
8 been staying at the Airport Inn the last two meetings,
9 and I don't know what's going on. You know, the Staff
10 staying at Top of the World Hotel. I don't know what the
11 deal or why we're staying in separate hotels. That issue
12 needs to be -- you know, it -- I don't know, there was
13 something that needed to be signed by the ASRC or -- and
14 I don't know why ASRC is not signing this, or, you know
15 -- that's my -- that's the issue I'm talking about, is
16 the hotel. The Airport Inn is real small, you know, and
17 there's no place to walk in your room, you know. It's
18 just like a little camp. You can't breathe.

19
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Ray. Did
23 you want to respond to the comment, Barb.

24
25 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I'll try. When we
26 came across this registration thing, it's a Federal thing
27 where we cannot pay with the invoices like we usually do
28 for all the Council members. And we tried working with
29 ASRC to ask them to register to this Government program.
30 So since they own the Top of the World, we tried going
31 through the channels and getting them to register. We
32 had no response from them. We couldn't get them to call.
33 We asked them, we called them and talked to them, and
34 talked to the people over there at ASRC and telling them,
35 we'll work with you. If you need help, we'll work with
36 you. You know how to get on the internet, we'll help
37 you, give you the numbers. We offered, and made offers,
38 and stuff, and then we just kept getting blank. And we
39 called Airport Inn and then they got in right away and
40 got registered, and that's why we are stuck with Airport
41 Inn. And we will try again to work with ASRC to get them
42 to register so we can get back over to Top of the World.
43 We cannot use purchase orders, and ASRC couldn't -- I
44 mean, Top of the World couldn't take credit cards, the
45 Government credit cards that they had, and so we had to
46 use the P.O.s, like we have to use our own credit cards
47 to check in over there at the Top of the World for
48 ourselves. And that is why we are using Airport Inn.

49
50 And we even had problems wit the meeting

1 places when we first started. And this fall we didn't
2 have any problems, because -- since this place is under
3 the North Slope, North Slope Borough is registered to
4 that Government thing, and then we had no problems
5 getting this place for a meeting place. And when we
6 first started a year ago, we almost pulled the meeting
7 back over either to Fairbanks or Anchorage, because of
8 that Government registration that we are required to meet
9 in places that have the Government registration. And
10 that is why we are where we're at.

11

12 But we will still try to work with ASRC
13 to see if they would register. Maybe they have new
14 people over there. So that's where we're stuck at, Ray.

15

16 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ray.

19

20 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, I don't -- well, I
21 can't understand why ASRC don't want to sign or, you
22 know, cooperate with you guys since, you know, they get a
23 lot of contracts from the Federal program, and I can't
24 understand why they don't want to sign anything. I mean,
25 maybe our Chair should go talk to the president. Maybe
26 he can help you guys, you know.

27

28 But, you know, like I stated earlier, you
29 know, we're staying in this hotel, and, you know, at
30 first they put me in a room that was about six-by-ten,
31 and I say, hey, I'm not going to stay in this room. It's
32 too small. So I had them move me into another room, and
33 it was a little better, but, you know, I'm getting kind
34 of tired of these little things, and hopefully this will
35 get resolved. Thanks.

36

37 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. I'm going to
38 work on it this fall for your winter meeting, and I'll
39 probably go see someone if I have time to go see someone
40 at the ASRC, and I probably need to go higher than who
41 I'm talking with right now. And I'm going to really try
42 for your winter meeting.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Barb.

47

48 MR. PANEAK: Mr. Chairman.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Raymond Paneak.

1 MR. PANEAK: I could bring that up to my
2 fellow board members here. And I think the person to get
3 hold of is Dino Olyman.
4
5 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Dino.
6
7 MR. PANEAK: Yeah.
8
9 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay, I know Dino.
10
11 MR. PANEAK: Sure.
12
13 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I'll work with Dino
14 then.
15
16 MR. PANEAK: Or other person would be
17 Flossie Christman.
18
19 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Flossie?
20
21 MR. PANEAK: Yeah.
22
23 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. I know her,
24 too.
25
26 MR. PANEAK: Any one of those two I think
27 would be able to help you out. Or I could also bring it
28 up in a board meeting.
29
30 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. I'll talk to
31 Dino then.
32
33 MR. TAGAROOK: This is Terry. Barb,
34 maybe a letter from this Board to ASRC would help,
35 because if you just talk with them, they'll forget. But
36 if they see the print, maybe they'll remember.
37
38 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Let me try first
39 before doing that. Thanks.
40
41 MR. G. BROWER: I have a question.
42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.
44
45 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. This kind of
46 refers to Ray's question on grayling. Does any of that
47 river extend further up into Federal lands, because
48 spawning will usually occur up there, and they move down
49 to the drainages. I'm wondering if that is where the --
50 if it's impacting Federal public lands up further.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm not a fisheries
2 biologist, but if we had a fisheries biologist we'd
3 probably have a reply on that, so we need to see how we
4 could address that. We've got Federal and State lands
5 near Unit 23, and the problem is occurring within State
6 lands. That's what was indicated by the Federal
7 Subsistence Board, and that we should address the State
8 Board of Fisheries and submit a proposal to them to see
9 how they could address this concern regarding grayling.
10 Barb.

11
12 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, we don't have a
13 fisheries biologist here from FIS, and I just found out
14 that Amy Craver will be taking the place of the fisheries
15 report this morning for the FIS program. So we don't
16 have a fisheries biologist here from OSM.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

19
20 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Terry.

23
24 MR. TAGAROOK: Well, I had a question for
25 Rosemary. Those ice bridges they use during the winter
26 for the ice roads, what impacts are they having on the
27 fish or the spring break up?

28
29 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: These concerns have
30 been brought out in many of our community meetings that
31 there are concerns that the ice bridges are grounding out
32 the river in various areas. There are monitoring
33 activities that are occurring where they cut into the ice
34 and make sure that it's not grounding out, but some of
35 the placements of these ice bridges are put on the lowest
36 water level areas, because it's safer to build on those
37 areas, so it's part of the intention. But they're
38 supposed to not be blocking the fish. But there are
39 concerns like with some of the ice pads that are being
40 built, especially when they're nearer the ocean, that
41 these don't break down as normal, so now they cut into
42 them with the saws and breach them when they finish their
43 season. But that's a concern that's been brought out in
44 many meetings that maybe these ice bridges are grounding
45 out areas and preventing the migration from occurring
46 normally, because of the thickness of the ice that occurs
47 with the building of these things. So there is -- every
48 year they do a little bit of modifying to try to address
49 these concerns, and the final answer, we'll have to get
50 more communication with the fishery people about what are

1 the true issues as far as the studies prove.

2

3 When these big bridges and things do get
4 moved out, there are -- it's a lot harder for them to
5 move out to the ocean, and ice pads also are seeing when
6 all the ice goes on the ocean, some of the ice pads stick
7 around so that also is a concern in itself.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did that help answer
10 your question, Terry.

11

12 MR. TAGAROOK: Yes, it does, and maybe
13 that would be one factor that's affecting the fish coming
14 in or, Harry, you know, the flooding of some areas and
15 some places.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
18 Terry, we need to look into how the fish biologist would
19 respond to that, so I'm not sure. We don't have -- I'm
20 not the one that's been addressing that, so I'm not sure.

21

22

23 Anyway, under this Chair's report, that's
24 what -- those are the issues that we to discuss this
25 morning. And I brought out what was replied by the
26 Federal Subsistence Board on the three issues, the 805
27 letter, the 2003 annual report response. They're all in
28 your booklet's, so they're all self-explanatory if you
29 haven't read up on them.

30

31 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair, do we need to
32 approve?

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm not sure if we need
35 a motion to approve the Chair's report. It's just some
36 information to pass on to you folks. That's how we see
37 it, Ray. It's informational items as to what activities
38 occurred, or what actions were taken by the Federal
39 Subsistence Board.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 The next agenda item is public testimony.
44 I had a comment I made earlier. You know, we've been
45 holding these meetings during the day, and the majority
46 of the community members, the outspoken ones, are
47 employed during the day and have jobs, and we're kind of
48 giving them -- putting them in a disadvantage situation.
49 They're holding, you know, and they have to attend their
50 work during the days, and they're free basically during

1 the evenings. I think if we hold an evening meeting one
2 of these times, we might be able to get some public
3 testimony on the concerns regarding North Slope Regional
4 Advisory Council and the resources that we deal with
5 within the North Slope. I was wanting to find out if at
6 some point in time if we could hold an evening meeting
7 within one of the communities or here in Barrow to hear
8 public testimony or concerns from people other than us as
9 representatives for the communities. I think there are
10 concerns that could be very useful to hear in terms of
11 resource management or resources that are not being
12 discussed. I think we need to have that -- bring that up
13 for consideration at some point. Barb.

14
15 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, evening
16 meetings are at your call.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

19
20 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And if you prefer, at
21 your winter meeting, if you want to have an evening
22 meeting, it's at your call, and decide which day, since
23 you have two days blocked for that meeting. And if you
24 want to have an evening meeting and start at six or seven
25 for a couple hours to first start your meeting off,
26 that's your call, and we'll do the best we can to
27 accommodate an evening meeting. And I need to know ahead
28 of time so I could set up the time with wherever we're
29 going to have our meeting at.

30
31 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Barb.
34 Rosemary.

35
36 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'd like to extend an
37 invitation to the panel to come out to our community.
38 We'd be more than willing to share some of the things
39 we've learned over the years in our community.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
44 Any other comments.

45
46 MR. PANEAK: Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Raymond Paneak.

49
50 MR. PANEAK: Yeah. That's always a

1 problem in village also that when we try to have a
2 meeting in daytime, everybody's working, and then not
3 many people come into the meeting. But if we have some
4 jointly meeting with like these oil companies always come
5 up and have evening meeting with some of the Federal and
6 State people. After work, we'd get a lot of people
7 alright. I would like to invite this panel also to my
8 village with some of the State and Federal people. Then
9 after working hours, a lot of people show up in our area,
10 I mean, for the meeting.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Raymond.

13

14 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ray Koonuk.

17

18 MR. KOONUK: Yeah. It would be good to
19 set up a teleconference, too, you know, if we're having
20 -- wherever we're having it, it would be good to have
21 teleconference set up so if there's any concerns or any
22 comments that need to be made from the village that, you
23 know, we not only listen to one, we listen to all the
24 villages.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sure. Yes, that's a
27 very good idea, Ray. Gordon.

28

29 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I'd just like to
30 say that, you know, the evening meeting is a very good
31 idea, because we frequently for the North Slope Borough
32 conduct evening meetings just so that we can have a turn
33 out and get the people, you know, that are working, that
34 make a better response to what we want out of meetings,
35 so evening meetings are very good idea. I think you'd
36 get a better response, and get the input from other
37 hunters other than just the representatives.

38

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

41

42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I have a question. I
43 remember the first time we came up here when we were
44 doing the EIS, we had it at the Borough Assembly meeting
45 and had it on KBRW. And as a result, we had a lot of
46 people come down to the meeting, because they were
47 hearing it on the radio. And I don't know if that's
48 another way to get public input is to put it on KBRW. I
49 don't know if that's a possibility still or not.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think that would be
2 -- you know, we need to work with the different -- the
3 staff of KBRW, and maybe with our council and the Staff
4 as to how we want to arrange this, and figure out where
5 we're going to hold an evening meeting.

6
7 I think it -- I agree with you all that
8 it's a very good idea to do so, because, you know, I've
9 heard it from different folks that I talk to within
10 Barrow, and, you know, they've suggested that to me, and
11 I wanted to bring this out to you all to see how the
12 Council or the Staff would feel about holding an evening
13 meeting, and our vocal people are at work at the moment,
14 and they're not here to, you know, bring out any issues
15 that they feel would be worth discussing or bringing to
16 our attention, or even to the attention of the Federal
17 Subsistence Board, which would be useful, as, you know,
18 different information coming in from other folks from the
19 community in terms of public testimony.

20
21 Anyway, Gordon, did you have another
22 comment.

23
24 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. I mean, we just
25 recently at the Barrow just started the Planning
26 Commission on the KBRW, so each Planning Commission once
27 a month is aired through KBRW, and we've started to see
28 people that are listening to the radio just come into the
29 meeting to make public testimony, so it's an effective
30 tool as well.

31
32 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

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

36
37 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes, I also support
38 that. I wanted to inform the panel we do have a camp
39 available in our community for people to stay if they
40 were to have a community in our community. And it also
41 would be beneficial to get Barb on KBRW for a short spot
42 like with Doreen Simmons to give a communication about
43 what our Board is and what our objectives is. And,
44 Harry, you would be very good to get on that. She's very
45 good about doing short interviews, and she's willing to
46 work around various schedules. I remember somebody got
47 stuck at a meeting until 12:30 in the morning, so they
48 went to KBRW and recorded after the meetings. So they're
49 willing to do different things. Anything related to the
50 importance of our traditional lifestyle, they will

1 support.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for sharing
6 that, Rosemary. Any other comments.

7

8

(No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anyway that public
11 testimony is open to any more community members
12 throughout this meeting. We'll keep that open. I wanted
13 to bring that out, and if there's any public testimony to
14 be given, we'll make that available for it, keep it open
15 anyway.

16

17

The next item is the No. 10. North Slope

18

19

20

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: The only other problem
21 we would have is if I would go to accept those
22 invitations to Nuiqsut and Anaktuvuk, but then there's
23 another snag that we would get at is that registration,
24 and getting the Council into the hotels there at
25 Anaktuvuk or Nuiqsut. So those hotels would need to be
26 registered, too. Yeah, that Federal -- so we need to
27 work with that if the council should decide to either go
28 to Nuiqsut or Anaktuvuk. So in order to do that -- and
29 also the meeting place needs to be registered so we can
30 work with the credit card and stuff. Unless they can
31 take credit card, then it's okay. But other than that,
32 if we have to use invoices and stuff, they need to be
33 registered. So that's where our snag will be. I just
34 wanted to bring that up to your attention.

35

36

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Barb. Going
37 back, No. 10. North Slope did not have any fish
38 proposals. I had a question in regard -- in terms of
39 this. I know one of our requests was to do the research
40 on grayling and I think we need to better understand this
41 program is to fund research on Federal lands, so we need
42 to take a closer look at a map as to when we're
43 discussing these issues.

44

45

That's one thing I wanted to bring out.
46 We have this map and it identifies State lands and
47 Federal lands, so this fisheries research needs to be on
48 Federal public lands, if there's any -- if that's going
49 to be funded by the Federal program, Federal management
50 program.

1 Anyway, we tried getting this grayling
2 issue addressed, but now they've replied to us that it's
3 under State lands, and we have to work with the State
4 fisheries, so we need to look at the map and keep that in
5 consideration.

6
7 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ray.

10
11 MR. KOONUK: Not just the grayling. What
12 about the caribou and, you know, all the other animals
13 out there? I mean, they're -- are they within the State
14 lands?

15
16 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: The fish is different.
17 And I was the one that brought that. I said, do we have
18 jurisdiction over those two rivers, and then we started
19 looking into that, and then that's where we found out is
20 that we didn't have jurisdiction over those rivers to do
21 any studies, and then that's where we asked that a
22 fisheries proposal could come -- is there an advisory
23 committee at Point Hope, or do you go with Kotzebue?
24 Advisory committee.

25
26 MR. KOONUK: The State?

27
28 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: State advisory
29 committee?

30
31 MR. KOONUK: The Borough has. The North
32 Slope Borough fish and game.....

33
34 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Oh, North Slope
35 Borough fish.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have our North Slope
38 Borough Fish and Game Management Committee. The State,
39 it only exists in names, you know. They're not really
40 active. They have the eastern advisory council and.....

41
42 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And western. Yeah.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER:then the western
45 advisory council for the State.

46
47 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: So they're not active.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But they're not active.
50 They only exist by name. And what we've been -- the

1 North Slope Borough, the Department of Wildlife
2 Management has its North Slope Borough Fish and Game
3 Management Committee, and we do address all the resources
4 within -- that we deal with under subsistence. And then
5 we could probably work with them in, you know,
6 forwarding.....

7
8 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Do a proposal.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Doing a proposal
11 with.....

12
13 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: For the State -- to
14 the State.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes. If we had the
17 State person invited here to this meeting, we could
18 probably work with that person and submit a proposal.....

19
20 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER:from this Council
23 to -- with the aid of the State biologist.

24
25 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: It would have to come
26 from -- yeah. And the State person was invited, and this
27 is their busy time of the year to do caribou counting and
28 collaring and stuff. A proposal will come, and we're
29 willing to support whoever is willing to do a proposal
30 for Point Hope, either the Wildlife Department up here,
31 or through the advisory committees. I know that they
32 have -- just hired a coordinator about a year ago, and
33 he's just getting his feet wet. Charlie Greg. And he's
34 the coordinator for the State, so I'll call and talk with
35 him, too. And he's on e-mail.

36
37 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ray.

40
41 MR. KOONUK: Where is he from?

42
43 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: He's originally from
44 -- he's one of the Sampsons. He's from Noorvik
45 originally, Charlie Greg, and then he just started with
46 the State. He's the coordinator there now at Kotzebue
47 Fish and Game, so I'll get in touch with him, and then
48 probably connect you to him through e-mail. Okay.

49
50 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ray.
2
3 MR. KOONUK: I know in the past, a few
4 years back, that we had a joint meeting with the Borough
5 Fish and Wildlife and our Board here. Is there any way
6 that we can have a meeting with them again? A joint
7 meeting?
8
9 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: We can ask. It
10 doesn't hurt to ask. And right now Federal funds are
11 down, State funds are down. It might not work, but it
12 wouldn't hurt to ask, and I'll ask for you. If you want
13 to meet with the Northwest Arctic or the advisory
14 committees, I will clear that out with the two of you,
15 and then we'll know.
16
17 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.
18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Ray.
20
21 MR. KOONUK: Yeah. You know, because
22 we're looking at airing this out now, and it would be
23 good to at least have one joint meeting, you know, with
24 the other representatives within the North Slope area,
25 and with the body here, and, you know, I'm pretty sure
26 we'll hear a lot of concerns.
27
28 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: If you wanted to make
29 it into a motion, make an action on it, that's your
30 choice.
31
32 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.
33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ray.
35
36 MR. KOONUK: I so move that we have a
37 joint meeting with North Slope Fish and Wildlife Board
38 and the Federal Subsistence Advisory Board. I don't know
39 when the date, but that's the motion I make, Mr. Chair.
40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I guess Ray's making a
42 motion to hold a joint meeting with our North Slope
43 Borough Fish and Game Management Committee and the North
44 Slope Regional Advisory Council. There's a motion on the
45 floor.
46
47 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I second that motion.
48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Rosemary.
50 Under discussion. Barb.

1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, since you're
2 doing a motion, so we can make it an invitation to the
3 North Slope Borough Fish and Wildlife Department, from
4 your Board to them, and we'll write a letter with Harry's
5 signature to their chair, and I think that's Fenton, if
6 they would come to your meeting on March 2 and 3. There
7 might be an evening session on your first day.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm not sure how we're
10 going to hold that joint meeting, but, Ray, do we need to
11 amend the motion to what you just stated, Barb, as to how
12 we -- to getting an invitation out? No?

13
14 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: No, you already made a
15 motion that you want to have a meeting with the North
16 Slope Fish and Game Committee, and then that's okay.
17 Then from then on we'll write a letter for your signature
18 and send it to the chair, and invite them to our meeting,
19 and tell them our meeting is March 2 and 3, and there
20 also might be an evening session at that time. And we
21 can go from there. And we'll keep all the Council
22 members -- I have them all on e-mail now, and keep them
23 posted on what happens.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Gordon.

26
27 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I just wanted to
28 get a clarification on the reasoning behind wanting a
29 joint meeting. Is it to, you know, transmit concerns
30 from here to that body to promote studies to the State
31 program, or to promote studies with the Borough program?
32 It seems to me we should have a clear reasoning why we
33 want to plan a joint endeavor like that to -- you know,
34 we should have some reasoning for an agenda.

35
36 MR. PANEAK: Mr. Chairman.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Raymond Paneak.

39
40 MR. PANEAK: That would include, we would
41 include in the meeting to include all the biologists,
42 fish biologists, wildlife biologists in the State -- all
43 the Federal and State people, because I always thought
44 the Park -- we hunt in the park land also, so include
45 Park Service people and Park biologist and stuff like
46 that.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're still under
49 discussion. I think that would be an invitation to those
50 -- the biologists to be present. Once we have this

1 letter formalized, and then I think we could start
2 inviting folks if it is going to happen. We still need
3 to figure out if it is going to happen or not, you know.
4 It's an invitation to the North Slope Borough Fish and
5 Game Management Committee to hold a joint meeting, so
6 they need to reply on that before we can make any real
7 commitments. So we still need a reply from the Fish and
8 Game Management Committee chairman, and the Committee
9 itself as to how the meeting's going to occur, or when
10 it's going to occur. Rosemary.

11

12 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Part of the reasoning
13 would be behind that these tributaries and rivers cross
14 both lands, Federal and Borough lands, in getting both
15 parties present to discuss these similar concerns and
16 information transfer from both entities here is really
17 important, to get the support from both sides so that if
18 it's necessary to get the approval from our side or their
19 side or other entities that are necessary to get these
20 activities following these tributaries, the whole course,
21 that's the effort to get the meeting going.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary,
24 and did that help, Gordon?

25

26 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I think that, you
27 know, as long as we, you know, decide there is some major
28 issues that needs to be dealt with that aren't really
29 being dealt with.

30

31 One of the things that I've been thinking
32 about is, you know, some studies, if not already done
33 somewhere, concerning industrial noise on animals not
34 habituated to industrialized areas, and the displacement.
35 If that is -- if there is real stress factors in die offs
36 of caribou are related to industrial noise. And I think
37 NPR-A is a prime target, because it has on-going several
38 documents, Northwest Planning Area and Northeast Planning
39 Area of Federal public lands with the major caribou herds
40 that inhabit the areas, some areas of the Western Arctic
41 Herd. We get the outer periphery of that around the
42 Ikpikpuk when they're moving down, and then we've got the
43 Teshekpuk in these areas. So I think there needs to be
44 some effort to make some study program of industrial
45 noise, because of the level of activities that's going to
46 be planned coming on, and the potential impact to
47 subsistence of these animals.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.

50 Barb.

1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, Gordon has
2 a good point. There would have to be two agendas that we
3 would have to deal with, and it's -- for the Fish and
4 Wildlife Committee, it's at the Borough's expense. So he
5 has a good point, because there has to be a very serious,
6 high profile reason for them to come and attend our
7 meeting. And monies are down, and we all know that. So
8 we'll have to just write that letter and just ask.
9 That's all we're going to do is ask, and we'll get a yes
10 or a no answer from them and we'll from that with that.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Raymond Koonuk.

13

14 MR. KOONUK: Yeah. You know, it's been,
15 what, a few years that, you know, we met. I think it's
16 about time we met jointly. I mean, it's not going to be
17 every year or every twice a year, but maybe every five
18 years, you know. It's been a while since we both met,
19 and, you know, we've got to know what they're doing, you
20 know, what they have planned, and they've got to know
21 what we're talking about, too. I think it would be good,
22 you know, for us to get together, because we both
23 represent our areas within the North Slope, and it's
24 about that time to meet with the State Board, you know.
25 I mean, we can't.....

26

27 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. Yeah, I hear
28 you. And if they do agree, they -- you know, when we --
29 years back, I don't know how many of you were there. I
30 know Harry and Ray were there when -- and Terry, when we
31 had the meeting in Anchorage with the Northwest Arctic.
32 They had their own agenda. We had our own agenda. We
33 had the first day, and Northwest had the second day. We
34 can work it. We can make it work. They can have their
35 own agenda where you listen in to their issues. And then
36 they'll have a day also where they listen in to your
37 issues, and the input time. So it can work. So we'll go
38 ahead and ask.

39

40 Taikuu.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I wanted to bring out
43 while we were under discussion of this motion is it could
44 be a conflict. I could be in a conflict situation here,
45 because I'm the executive manager for that committee, and
46 I have to make arrangements for them to travel, and
47 accommodate their needs while they're here, and then
48 trying to be the chair of this Council at the same time
49 would be kind of a situation that I'm going to have to be
50 dealing with trying to deal with both groups at the same

1 time, so I need to be careful as to how and which side
2 I'm going to be sitting on, and how much activity I'm
3 going to be involved in.

4
5 But anyway to hold a joint meeting seems
6 to be a great idea. It's just that we need to have our
7 -- the reasoning and justifications addressed and brought
8 out to hold this meeting as a joint meeting. And yet
9 again we need to have a response from the chairman of
10 that committee to see if it's something that they would
11 like to take part in.

12
13 Any further discussions on the motion.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair, question.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ray. The question has
20 been called. All in favor of the motion to hold a joint
21 meeting with the North Slope Borough Fish and Game
22 Management Committee and the North Slope Regional
23 Advisory Council signify by saying aye.

24
25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any opposed.

28
29 (No opposing votes)

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. At this
32 time I think -- thank you, Counsel members. I think I'll
33 introduce a break for lunch. I think we could probably
34 take an hour, hour and 15 minutes if we adjourned or
35 recessed for lunch break. 1:30 or 1:00 o'clock, what's
36 the wish of the Council. 1:30. I'm giving you folks
37 time to run around that just arrived this morning. Okay.
38 We'll reconvene at 1:30. Thank you.

39
40 (Off record)

41
42 (On record)

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good afternoon,
45 everyone. We'll call the North Slope Regional Advisory
46 Council meeting back to order after lunch break. We were
47 discussing a motion regarding -- or did we act on that
48 already, or did we just go on a break. That's what I was
49 trying to recall, if we acted on the motion or not.

50

1 MR. KOONUK: Oh, yeah, we did act on the
2 main motion.
3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We did act on the main
5 motion. Okay. That's what I couldn't recall. I was
6 getting so hungry, I forgot. Okay.
7
8 Our next item that we have is item 10,
9 Fisheries Information Service, Amy Carver. Pronounce
10 your last name for me again.
11
12 MS. CRAVER: Craver.
13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Craver. Thank you.
15 She'll be providing the information on this fisheries
16 program.
17
18 MS. CRAVER: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.
19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.
21
22 MS. CRAVER: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.
23 My name is Amy Craver. It seems to me that people are
24 having a hard time with my name, even in the office that
25 I'm working in.
26
27 I'm the new anthropologist with Fisheries
28 Information Service, and this is my first RAC meeting,
29 and I'm delighted to be here. Thank you. And I'll be
30 responsible for the northern harvest monitoring and TEK
31 projects for the northern district. And I'll be working
32 with Steve Fried. I wasn't able to come here today, and
33 unfortunately he wasn't here to answer some of your
34 earlier questions, but hopefully we can get some of them
35 addressed later.
36
37 And I just want to -- I'm here to just
38 tell you a little bit about this program, and the goal of
39 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring program is to fund
40 projects that address highly priority subsistence
41 fisheries issues, and that are technically sound, have
42 broad public support, and ultimately provide information
43 for managers to manage Federal fisheries. The projects
44 that we fund are both immediate information topics such
45 as in harvest surveys -- excuse me, in-season harvest
46 monitoring, and long-term information such as TEK
47 projects for Federal subsistence fisheries management.
48
49 And one of the things that I want to
50 bring to your attention is that the work that we do at

1 FIS is -- the management of fisheries is different than
2 for wildlife management. And our office is primarily
3 interested in funding research-based projects. So what
4 I'm going to do is sort of tell you about the process of
5 submitting a proposal and sort of what we're looking for
6 when we receive investigative plans dealing with
7 fisheries.

8
9 In order to get at the important issues,
10 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program relies on
11 Regional Advisory Councils such as yourselves to identify
12 issues and information needs. And generally we ask the
13 Council to review, revisit and if necessary revise issues
14 and information needs on an annual basis. So it's very
15 important for us to get input from the Regional Advisory
16 Councils in this whole process of updating these issues
17 and information needs. And what we do, the Staff at FIS,
18 is to work with people like the different Regional
19 Advisory Council members to develop these issues and
20 needs.

21
22 And one of the things that I want to
23 bring to your attention, especially based on your
24 previous discussions about how to go about identifying
25 some of these issues is that we're in the process of
26 doing a statewide strategic planning process. And we've
27 already conducted one strategic plan for Bristol Bay
28 Region, and also for Southcentral. And we're kind of in
29 the final stages of getting that plan together. And
30 eventually in the next couple of years, we will be doing
31 the same process up here for the northern district, or
32 northern region.

33
34 And one of the things that it's important
35 to note about this process is that we are inviting people
36 from both the State, Federal agencies, university and
37 local people to be part of this process to identify what
38 are the most updated, contemporary issues and information
39 needs. So I think that sort of what your discussion was
40 earlier, we've got this process in place, and in the next
41 couple of years we're going to -- FIS will be funding
42 people to come together to address these issues regarding
43 fish.

44
45 And the criteria in terms of when we're
46 evaluating proposals that are submitted to our program,
47 number 1 criteria is strategic priority. You talked a
48 little bit about this earlier. And first, the main
49 priority is that it falls under Federal jurisdiction, and
50 basically does the project have direct association to a

1 Federal subsistence fishery. And then there's a
2 conservation mandate. Is there a conservation risk to
3 the species addressed in the proposal. Allocation
4 priority. Is there a risk that subsistence harvest needs
5 are not being met. Data gaps, and basically we're
6 looking for the highest priority will be given to topics
7 that have not been addressed yet. And then the role of
8 the resource. How important is it to the fisheries
9 resource, to subsistence users. And then is it of local
10 concern.

11
12 And then the second criteria that we're
13 looking for is technical and scientific merit. And
14 basically the proposal should have clear study
15 objectives, standards for sampling design, and
16 statistical analysis, and a realistic schedule and
17 budget.

18
19 And then we also look at past performance
20 and administrative experience. The investigators must
21 have the technical administration and expertise to
22 conduct the project.

23
24 And then finally, but certainly not least
25 important, we really look at this whole idea of capacity
26 building and building partnerships. And so we're trying
27 to develop fisheries management expertise within the
28 local communities. And so that's a big component of the
29 proposals that we evaluate.

30
31 And in terms of the process of project
32 selection, the first round is in-house. It's with our
33 Staff. We evaluate, we write up critiques on the various
34 criteria, how well the proposal meets the different
35 criteria. And then that is submitted to our technical
36 review committee, and then they make -- they review it
37 and make recommendations to go forward.

38
39 The next review process is the Regional
40 Advisory Councils, and then they in fact review what the
41 TRC comments are and then make recommendations for that
42 proposal to be forwarded to the and Federal Subsistence
43 Board, and then ultimately they make the final decision.

44
45 In terms of just the Federal Subsistence
46 Board policy guidelines, a minimum of 60 percent of the
47 program monies go to non Federal sources. Some
48 activities that are not eligible for funding under this
49 program are things such as habitat protection,
50 restoration enhancement, hatchery enhancement,

1 restoration, and supplementation, and then anything
2 dealing with contaminants doesn't really fall under this
3 program.

4
5 And then generally the proposals are no
6 longer than three years.

7
8 And I've got -- let's see, on page 25, I
9 hope I've got the same booklet that you do, but I wanted
10 to alert you to this table 1. So this is the Federal
11 subsistence guidelines models for funding. So by region,
12 if you take a look at this, the northern region receives
13 17 percent of the total funds that go -- that are
14 disbursed by Department of Interior throughout the State
15 of Alaska. And I can't tell you exactly how they come up
16 with this figure, but it's basically they're looking at
17 issues and needs across the State, and certainly there's
18 some areas that are of more -- that there's more need for
19 research than other areas. And then by data type, in
20 general two-thirds of the stock status and trends
21 projects for the northern region is budgeted for
22 \$162,000. And then a third of the harvest monitoring and
23 TEK projects for the northern region, it's \$81,000 is
24 allocated.

25
26 And then just the overview for 2005, 31
27 projects were submitted, and this is statewide, for
28 funding. And then unfortunately there was only one that
29 was included for the northern region, and that was a
30 stock status and trends proposal. And overall 24
31 projects were recommended by the Technical Review
32 Committee.

33
34 And again on -- I'll tell you to go to
35 page 29, sort of an overview of the northern region in
36 general. This sort of -- in your packet, it sort of
37 begins with a brief discussion of the issues and
38 information needs, and it's sort of how well funded
39 studies have addressed these issues and information
40 needs.

41
42 And I have -- let's see, I've got a
43 packet here of the issues and information needs for the
44 Arctic. Now, this is something -- I'm not sure exactly
45 when this was developed, but this is what in this next
46 strategic planning meeting would be revised. And we're
47 always open to adding and subtracting information needs.
48 So based on sort of your discussion here, there may be
49 some issues that come up that are more pressing right now
50 than way were in the past. And part of what's important

1 about getting these issues and information needs, the
2 most pressing ones up front is that then when we go to
3 evaluate proposals, you want to make sure that the
4 proposals that really -- that are funded address the most
5 pressing issues, so it's really important to get your
6 input, and hopefully you'll work with people in our
7 office to make sure that those issues are documented and
8 get into this list.

9
10 And as I said, only one project was
11 submitted for funding, for consideration in 2005, and
12 that was for the entire northern region. And part of the
13 low number of projects submitted has to do with there
14 needs to be sort of a revision of these information
15 needs, and that it needs to -- people need to know what
16 the issues are so that we can go ahead and work with
17 various organizations to help you get more projects
18 funded in this area.

19
20 And the one project that's being funded
21 by the TRC for development of an investigation plan is
22 project 05101, and it has to do with coho salmon. It's
23 in your packet here. And this project was proposed by
24 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and it's located in
25 the Unalakleet River. And there's map on page 32 showing
26 where this project is taking place. And it basically
27 addresses as I said coho salmon abundance and spawning
28 distribution. And apparently they feel that the counting
29 towers and the aerial surveys aren't getting an adequate
30 read of what's going on, the numbers, and so they want to
31 use radio tags in this project.

32
33 And you'll see on page 30 that you've got
34 -- there's one, two, three, four, five -- six on-going
35 projects that are being done in the North Slope, and most
36 of these are dealing with dolly varden, the stock status
37 and trends projects, and then there's two TEK projects
38 that are being done, one in Anaktuvuk Pass on subsistence
39 fish harvest assessment, and another TEK project being
40 done in Kaktovik. And I would recommend for you to take
41 a look at some of those projects. If you want more
42 information on them, I'd be happy to provide more
43 information. And perhaps maybe at the next Council
44 meeting you'd want to invite some of the principal
45 investigators on these projects to speak to, you know,
46 what their findings are.

47
48 I can say first hand that there's some
49 really interesting results that have come out of
50 Anaktuvuk Pass. Great work done by Grant Spearman and

1 the people in Anaktuvuk Pass collecting traditional
2 knowledge from the elders about fish. It's a really
3 great project, and there's another one being done in
4 Kaktovik as well.

5
6 And then pages 37 to 43 basic just
7 provide an overview of the interregional categories and
8 projects that are being done. And in this area, there's
9 only one project that's being considered, and it's
10 looking at genetic species markers in whitefish. And the
11 TRC has recommended it for funding.

12
13 And that's pretty much -- Mr. Chair,
14 that's all I have. Unless the Council has any questions
15 on any of the projects before you, I would ask at this
16 time that the Regional Advisory Council support the
17 recommendations of the TRC.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have a question
20 regarding your last -- the ones you were describing, the
21 last project.

22
23 MS. CRAVER: Uh-huh.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The whitefish genetic
26 marking.

27
28 MS. CRAVER: Right, uh-huh.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Who was that submitted
31 by?

32
33 MS. CRAVER: Oh, you know, I can find
34 that out. Let's see, we're on page -- I don't have my
35 book. It's an interregional project.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: On page 41.

38
39 MS. CRAVER: Let me look here.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Genetic species markers
42 and population structure in Alaskan whitefish. I'm not
43 sure if that's the one you were mentioning, Gordon, that
44 genetics marker. I guess what I wanted to find out was,
45 is that going to be happening up here on the North Slope,
46 too?

47
48 MS. CRAVER: No.

49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's just.....

1 MS. CRAVER: I don't -- it's mostly on
2 the -- it looks like they're going to be addressing the
3 Yukon River and Koyukuk, Tanana and upper Yukon Rivers.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank you.
6 Any questions or comments from the Council.

7
8 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Gordon.

11
12 MR. G. BROWER: It's on the whitefish.
13 The North Slope depends heavily on whitefish throughout
14 the region. And I've expressed concern several times,
15 you know, just having been associated with harvesting
16 whitefish for many, many years. And the age in the
17 harvest that we get these animals, they're -- like the
18 fish harvest seems to be just when they're starting to
19 become mature enough to spawn. A lot of the -- like when
20 I was much younger, the fish seemed to be much larger,
21 and just knowing that the stock has a life span of, you
22 know, 40 years probably for one fish. I'm wondering, you
23 know, the harvest rate of these fish and the age, and if
24 that's having an affect. I think there should be some
25 effort to do some of these studies on the North Slope,
26 because it is a high consumed fish.

27
28 MS. CRAVER: Well, that's exactly the
29 kind of comment that we're looking for, and I would
30 suggest that I could talk with you more. Steve and I
31 could talk with you more about how we could go about
32 trying to develop or generate some proposals that are
33 addressing that very topic. And that could be, you know,
34 one of the top information needs for next year's call for
35 proposals. And that's a way that that topic could get
36 addressed in terms of research that's being done by our
37 program. So that's -- I would really encourage people to
38 go back to their communities and really come up with
39 topics and needs so that we can respond, our program can
40 respond in the RFP to get people from here to develop
41 proposals looking at those topics. So thank you so much,
42 because that's exactly what we're looking for, comments
43 like that.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments.
46 Rosemary.

47
48 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We've had a lot of
49 concerns about the whitefish in our area, the increased
50 concentration to the changes of the land usage is very

1 important to assess and what reactions that's going to
2 have when we've already had changes to our whitefish, so
3 I think it's really important to get that communication
4 going in the appropriate chains. We do have studies that
5 are occurring, but as the land use continues to expand
6 across such a large area, what additional changes is that
7 going to do. With the climatic change, we're seeing
8 changes in temperatures to the water and the rivers, and
9 I'm sure in the lakes there's changes that is occurring
10 to land with increased travel across the land, and that's
11 causing breakdown in the areas, so it's really important
12 to look at the wide variety of changes that are occurring
13 with the increasing trails that are making, you're
14 getting waterways that were not common, because of the
15 breakdown in the tundra, and what effects is that going
16 to have, how is it going to affect the water movement
17 between the lakes with these kind of things occurring.
18 And what's the threshold that's necessary to preserve, to
19 keep our stocks alive and occurring.

20

21 MS. CRAVER: Thanks.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
24 Any other comments from the Council.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If none, one of our
29 biologists from the Department of Wildlife Management
30 walked in. Craig George, if you could introduce
31 yourself. I know I mentioned your name. He's a
32 fisheries biologist for our department. Craig, we're
33 currently talking about these whitefish. There's a
34 proposal to do a whitefish genetic species markers and
35 population structures in Alaskan whitefish, and we were
36 just talking about that issue, and other information
37 needs, issues and information needs on fisheries. So
38 we're just getting into the discussion, and Amy just
39 provided us information on some of the issues that were
40 identified through the Fisheries Information Service. So
41 we're just getting into those discussions. There's a
42 proposal, it's an interregional proposal which talks
43 about those genetic species markers and population
44 structure in Alaskan whitefish. It's not from our
45 region, it's from a different region down south, and it's
46 probably something that we might on the North Slope be
47 interested in finding out, to see if that kind of
48 research is something that we want to get done here.

49

50 Craig, you could come on up to the mike

1 and Amy could share with you the mike. You don't have to
2 move, Amy, just move the mike over a little bit. Use the
3 middle one. There you go. Just introduce yourself for
4 the record.

5
6 MR. GEORGE: For the record, Craig
7 George, wildlife biologist with the Department of
8 Wildlife Management. And I guess Harry mentioned that I
9 try to fill in as a fisheries biologist.

10
11 We've been doing fisheries work since,
12 well, 1984, the first surveys in the Nuiqsut area,
13 looking at what areas that people were targeting, the
14 species they were after in terms of fisheries, and just
15 some rough estimates of what was being harvested and that
16 sort of thing, and then moved into the descend (ph) with
17 Teshekpuk Lake area.

18
19 And the last couple years we've had a --
20 actually three or four years we've been using NPR-A
21 impact funds and the work -- there was a bunch of work
22 done in the Fish Creek, Colville, Duty Creek area where
23 fish were tagged with transmitters. Burbot, grayling and
24 the broad whitefish. And that technical report is out.
25 I finally got them today. And I could circulate this,
26 but this is done primarily by Bill Morris with ADF&G
27 Habitat. Now he's with DNR Habitat.

28
29 And it was a really interesting study.
30 In terms of broad whitefish, what it clearly showed was
31 how they use these attached lakes. And all the fishermen
32 here, of course, know that, but they run up these tiny
33 little creeks into these attached lakes that often
34 they're only accessible at breakup, and possibly a little
35 later towards freeze up, sometimes the rivers come up.
36 But anyway -- and extensive use of all those river
37 drainages, and then spawning up in the Colville.

38
39 And then we've moved this program further
40 west, and we're now just completed two years of field
41 work, and actually the tracking will go on for another
42 year, but the same thing. We instrumented a bunch of
43 broad whitefish. And what we found is that again they're
44 using extensive areas, so the fish that were tagged near
45 Teshekpuk have moved into the lake and clear over into
46 the Chipp/Ikpikpuk system. I don't have a map here, but
47 anyway it shows that it's sort of a shared resource
48 amongst a lot of the heavy fishing areas. They're
49 probably fishing the same population.

50

1 But it argues for doing some genetics
2 work. And we were going to use impact funds to try and
3 initiate some of that. We've taken fin clips now from
4 the fish in this region. I know there's genetic data for
5 the Colville fish, and it would be good to do the other
6 drainages and find out if there are discrete populations
7 that are being fished.

8
9 We've got enough tags out that I think
10 we'll be able to get some rough idea of -- yeah, probably
11 pretty rough, but some idea of the catch rates on what we
12 call the 400 millimeter, you know, the fish this big and
13 up that are caught in the four and a half to five inch
14 mesh that people use. So far the catch rates have been
15 surprisingly high, so there's definitely a pretty
16 significant fishery underway for those large spawning
17 aged fish and larger.

18
19 We have not -- anyway, the funding source
20 has been from the NPR-A impact funds, and we have not
21 proposed anything from this initiative. However, there
22 is interest now in trying to continue this type of work
23 with different funding, so you may see some proposals.
24 They're due when, by December something?

25
26 MS. CRAVER: November I think.

27
28 MR. GEORGE: Yeah. Yeah, you'll very
29 likely see a joint proposal between us, DNR and ABR
30 Consulting Group.

31
32 MS. CRAVER: That would be great.

33
34 MR. GEORGE: But again it's probably more
35 focused on trying to get the habitat use patterns figured
36 out, dispersal patterns. And I think one thing we really
37 need to do is get fishermen to keep catch records of what
38 they're harvesting, and size and numbers. And just keep
39 an eye on the fishing pressure.

40
41 Another thing is predevelopment
42 information. We also are using impact funds to do a
43 baseline study on hydrocarbons in broad whitefish. And
44 we'd sampled from the Teshekpuk Lake, the Mayoriak, and
45 Ikpikpuk, that system there. We're going to Nuiqsut next
46 year. And we don't expect to see much. The hydrocarbons
47 are petroleum based compounds. It's mainly just to get
48 baseline levels should development move rapidly. Well,
49 it's certainly in your area now, but -- and this is all
50 done with a high powered lab out of Florida, Mote Marine

1 Lab that does a lot of this kind of work, and it's all
2 chain of custody. They have established procedures for
3 documenting the data and getting it certified and then --
4 I don't know all the legal approaches they used to make
5 sure that it's all properly documented, so that if
6 something occurs like occurred in Prince William Sound.
7 They had a really tough time because they didn't have
8 certified records on a lot of these compounds apparently.
9 So, anyway, that's underway, too, again with NPR-A impact
10 monies. So.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Craig.

13

14 MR. GEORGE: Yeah. So I'm rambling here.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You have mentioned some
17 abbreviation. I just need to make sure we get them on
18 record. NSB, DNR, ABR.

19

20 MR. GEORGE: Yeah, DNR, Department of
21 Natural Resources. That's Bill Morris. ABR is a
22 consulting firm out of Fairbanks, and it's just ABR now.
23 It used to be Alaska Biological Research, but they've
24 moved outside Alaska, so they changed their name to ABR.
25 And MJM has been working with us. That's Larry Molton,
26 who a lot of people know. He's been on the Slope over 20
27 years doing this fish research.

28

29 And the -- I'm primarily a bowhead
30 biologist, but I have seen the need for this work, and
31 I've tried to keep some programs going, but I'd sure like
32 to see this expand beyond our group or our Department.
33 But it should be well-coordinated.

34

35 And we really need to have a local -- a
36 meeting with the fishermen and find out -- tell them what
37 we've done to date, and see what directions they want to
38 head. Tagging is unpopular. We never tagged before.
39 All the work we did earlier, we never tagged a single
40 fish, because people don't like them, and especially
41 radio transmitters. I've gotten a number of complaints
42 on that. And the -- I understand that it's not a whole
43 lot of fish. It adds up to two sacks, there's little
44 broad whitefishes that have transmitters in them. I
45 think there's about, well, maybe three sacks. There's
46 like 70 fish out there right now, which I think is
47 plenty.

48

49 But it's a little disturbing to fishermen
50 to find the animal with a surgically implanted

1 transmitter in them. But we learn so much from them, and
2 we've already, you know, found out a few -- well, like I
3 mentioned earlier, that it looks like the
4 Chipp/Ikpikpuk/Mayoriak/Teshekpuk group might be a single
5 population, so if someone's hammering them hard in one
6 place, they're drawing from a huge area, and it could
7 affect fishing over hundreds of square miles of that
8 central NPR-A region.

9
10 So that's the sort of thing. And there's
11 a bunch that we can't find, and we think they might be up
12 in the other drainages, or moved out. But so far all the
13 evidence is that the Colville/Fish Creek group and this
14 Chipp/Ikpikpuk/Mayoriak appear to be separate. They
15 don't seem to want to go around Cape Halkett for whatever
16 reason, and that's based on a fair amount of tagging.

17
18 We might have had one fish from the Chipp
19 that we did back years ago, we did put a few transmitters
20 in to try it out, and we're pretty sure one of those
21 might have wound up in Kalubik Creek over in the oil
22 fields. It was on the same frequency as a grizzly bear,
23 and they tracked it in and they couldn't find the bear.
24 They were getting a strong hit on this frequency, so they
25 called around and, sure enough, I had one 151400. And
26 it's pretty fantastic if true, but that would be the
27 first evidence of exchange between those groups.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Craig.

30
31 MR. GEORGE: Yeah. All right.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon, did you have a
34 question. Just hold on Craig.

35
36 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. I had a question.
37 I mean, all these studies and stuff, I mean, we
38 understand the need to do studies of this nature, because
39 we have concerns being subsistence fishermen ourselves.
40 But one of the questions I'd been thinking for a long
41 time is the age bracket and harvesting. When you're
42 harvesting the just maturing levels, like I think, what
43 are they, 12 years and they're just about.....

44
45 MR. GEORGE: I think 12 years before they
46 even -- that's 50 percent maturity. That's the age at
47 which half the fish are mature.

48
49 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. And to what level,
50 when you're harvesting the just maturing stock, just

1 getting there to be able to reproduce, at what level do
2 you I mean find out if there's enough pressure on these
3 broad whitefish. Because I know in the past when we're
4 fishing, the levels of older fish caught was much
5 greater.

6

7 MR. GEORGE: Yeah.

8

9 MR. G. BROWER: Because you can tell,
10 because the size of the fish matters with the age. And
11 that's one of the things I always wanted to figure is the
12 age and the pressure related to sustain this wild fish
13 stock.

14

15 MR. GEORGE: Right. Well, that's
16 interesting you mention that, Gordon. I know it's a
17 little bit of a touch subject, but that's my main
18 interest know is if we get additional funding would be,
19 like I said, to have people keep catch records. We'd
20 sub-sample it and age them, get age and length on some.
21 I used to buy sacks of fish from Dougy Edwardson and age
22 them. I've discontinued that, but I have some records
23 from the late 80s and early 90s of kind of average ages
24 of catch, and what you should see is what you mentioned,
25 is that dropping. There are some still very old fish.
26 We had one that was 38 years old out of the Chipp. But I
27 think there's some tools we can use to look at that, some
28 modeling tools, and get some idea of what sort of fishing
29 pressure is safe.

30

31 We did have a meeting, and unfortunately
32 I've never formally written it up, but I got together all
33 the old timers like your dad and Sadie and Dougy and
34 Warren, a lot of the old timers from around here that
35 have fished that system for a long time. And I tried to
36 get their sense on whether the current fishing pressure
37 was a problem. And, you know, it didn't get, of course,
38 a direct answer that you'd expect, you know, maybe from
39 talking to a biologist. I got more a general sense that
40 what I heard was back in the dog team days and also when
41 they were reindeer herding out of Aluktuk and that
42 country, that they really fished hard, and the resource
43 could handle it. So the sense I got from them -- I mean,
44 that's how they answered it. They said, well, you know,
45 the fish are always there, and if they're not there, it's
46 because of movements or whatever.

47

48 But one thing's for sure. It's an
49 incredibly productive system, but still it seems like the
50 number of camps is increasing, and fishing pressure -- I

1 don't have a good way to gauge it, but it looks like it
2 might be at least at historic levels, I don't know, as it
3 was back in the old days.

4
5 But I'm with you. I'd sure like to take
6 a shot at setting some guidelines for harvest levels and
7 gear types. One thing we probably don't want to do is
8 start dropping mesh size and going, you know, too far
9 down to the smaller age classes, but maybe like you sort
10 of are alluding to, that targeting the spawners, which
11 the suvuk fish, the fish with eggs is what people prefer,
12 the big ripe females. At some point that might be a
13 problem, too. I really don't know.

14
15 It's -- but there's some things we can
16 do. We can estimate the habitat available, you know, the
17 areas of all these lakes. That's can be done with GIS
18 systems and that sort of thing. And like I said, I'm not
19 really trained in fisheries, but there are some smart
20 people out there that I think could help us with that,
21 and give us some idea. Maybe we're nowhere near what
22 this system can handle, or maybe they'd look at it and
23 go, whoa, you know, there's some problems. And we've got
24 enough tags out, we've got over 1,000 of the regular
25 little tags, that we should get some idea of what the
26 return rates are on those large age classes. So like i
27 said, there are probably some people we can work with
28 that are pretty familiar with these types of harvest
29 models and could help us. But at least to start
30 bracketing things.

31
32 It's not a resource that we'd lose. It's
33 just we may -- it takes so long to mature, what would
34 happen is if they got hit hard, it might be a lot of
35 years before you get those, the big fish that the old
36 timers describe, or that are even being caught now. But
37 you talk to your dad and, you know, he talks about, you
38 know, the 12, 15 pounders which are extremely rare now,
39 you know.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank you,
42 Greg.

43
44 MR. GEORGE: Yeah.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon, does that
47 answer your comment.

48
49 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. I mean,
50 that's.....

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Thank you.
2
3 MR. G. BROWER:just one of those
4 concerns.
5
6 MR. GEORGE: No, I think that's an
7 excellent idea, Harry.
8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I had invited Craig to
10 help bring in some of this information as to the research
11 that's been conducted within our Department, the North
12 Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management, and the
13 different fish species that we've been targeting here
14 within the North Slope, especially near the industrial
15 activity is occurring, trying to collect some of that
16 data before all this activity really starts occurring in
17 these areas. And that's something important in the event
18 of an oil spill in any of these areas, at least we'll
19 have this background information that we could fall back
20 on, and that's part of that, why this research is
21 conducting. I wanted to get him to share this
22 information with you all and our Fisheries Information
23 Service, to get them up to speed on some of this
24 information. We don't have all the information. We have
25 some of the information. We have different fish.....
26
27 MR. GEORGE: Yeah, it's a start.
28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, it's a start.
30
31 MR. GEORGE: The last comment I would
32 make is the use of these tiny ephemeral streams, these
33 seasonal streams into these different lakes, we've got --
34 I think we have strong evidence now how important they
35 are. That's the way these fish -- that's part of their
36 use pattern is they spawn in the big rivers, but then
37 they -- after feeding, they run up these tiny little
38 creeks, sometimes -- I haven't witnessed it, but your
39 dad's told me about the yearlings, you know, that they're
40 going through grass at breakup. And they might spend 10
41 years in there before they get out in some cases. But
42 when development occurs, we've got to push real hard on
43 even the most insignificant looking creek, having a
44 bridge or a proper culvert built on it, or we could lose
45 huge areas of bearing habitat and so on. Anyway, thanks.
46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Craig.
48
49 MR. GEORGE: I'll talk -- we can talk
50 some more about that.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is there any Council
2 questions from the Council. Terry.

3
4 MR. TAGAROOK: Thank you. It sounds like
5 we need to come up with a proposal for mentioned area,
6 and where Gordon was talking about. You know, if we
7 could get that, and then we'll find out more about where
8 the species go.

9
10 MR. GEORGE: Yeah. And I think we need
11 to a bit of a PR campaign, and get a community meeting
12 together and make sure that people are comfortable, that
13 the questions are coming from the bottom up rather than
14 the top down, because, you know, like I said, I don't
15 know about your area, but here and initially in Nuiqsut
16 tags were pretty unpopular, but they're an incredibly
17 powerful tool for learning about what fish do. But,
18 anyway.

19
20 MR. G. BROWER: Radio frequency, you open
21 the lid and it sounds off and on.

22
23 MR. GEORGE: Sorry, found one of the
24 fish. I know it's down here.

25
26 MR. TAGAROOK: I have another one, it
27 might be a comment. I wondered if the ice break up in
28 the spring has an effect on the habitat areas of the fish
29 in the rivers. Sometimes it might be blocked for a long
30 time, and then finally just goes out, because in our
31 river we see the tide -- I mean, where it's flooded, and
32 some places it went up to the cabins, too, before the ice
33 finally broke through. I mean, the river broke through.

34
35 MR. GEORGE: Yeah. That's a good.....

36
37 MR. TAGAROOK: Because the flooding of
38 the rivers during breakup might have an impact on the
39 fish, too.

40
41 MR. GEORGE: Yeah. I don't have a good
42 feel for that. By and large breakup's been earlier, and
43 there may be -- you know, they might be running into --
44 what we found is that right after breakup they're
45 charging into these lakes, these shallow lakes where it's
46 warm. And actually when they get too warm, they probably
47 pull out for a while. They don't like it when it gets
48 too warm, either, but, yeah, I'm sure there's blockages
49 that affect, you know, distribution and all that. But I
50 don't really understand it very well.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Gordon.
2
3 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, just to my
4 understanding, breakups always been good for the fish.
5
6 MR. GEORGE: Yeah.
7
8 MR. G. BROWER: It's a way of
9 dissemination, it's a way of moving fish around, and when
10 the grasslands get flooded, the fish move right through
11 that, you know, and move around.
12
13 MR. GEORGE: Yeah. That's really
14 apparent especially for that fish, that that's super
15 important. That breakup period is when a lot is
16 happening, and they run real hard in these little creeks.
17 It's amazing, the catch rates are phenomenal. Anyway, so
18 it's all important, all these little tribs and lakes and
19 creeks, it's all -- they need it all. Even near shore
20 brackish water, we find some out there, of course. And
21 so the deltas and the delta fronts are used as well.
22 There are some that will feed marine, in brackish marine
23 waters, and some are lake residents. You know, they
24 really are highly variable in their use. And we saw that
25 when we did some isotope work out at Teshekpuk. It
26 looked like of the big onoklik (ph) there, and in the
27 Chipp, about half showed a marine signal and half didn't.
28
29 But I was surprised that that many
30 apparently go out into the lower Admiralty Bay or
31 something and feed in the brackus water and pick up the
32 marine signals.
33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I need to interject.
35
36 MR. GEORGE: Yeah.
37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Amy, you don't happen
39 to have any of those proposal packages for fisheries
40 monitoring?
41
42 MS. CRAVER: Oh, yeah.
43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Will there be more
45 being sent out to Regional Advisory Councils? I'm just
46 asking that to maybe share with Craig.
47
48 MR. GEORGE: Yeah.
49
50 MS. CRAVER: And actually I could give

1 him these copies.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

4

5 MS. CRAVER: I've got a few copies here
6 and I could give them out.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Once you're done with
9 them or I could pass them out in case we need to leave at
10 short notice, Craig, and we'll provide them to you.

11

12 MR. GEORGE: I don't know if Harry
13 mentioned but we're over our heads with work and, you
14 know, to take on another big project is impossible so
15 we're going to look to other people to pick up the slack
16 on some of this. But a big focus of our department is
17 bowhead research. We're trying to do it all right now
18 and some of the bowhead work is kind of suffering as a
19 result.

20

21 So anyway, it'd be great to get some
22 collaborative work going.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, again,
25 Craig, for your time and sharing this information.

26

27 MR. GEORGE: Yeah, thanks Harry.

28

29 MR. PANEAK: Mr. Chairman.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Raymond.

32

33 MR. PANEAK: Before you go, I had a
34 question here. What kind of fish monitor do you have or
35 how you tracking them because 1970s Fish and Game were
36 tagging those fish at Anaktuvuk, on Arctic char and lake
37 trout and they put little nylon thing back here on the
38 fins and we got some of those fish, they were not to good
39 to eat already.

40

41 MR. GEORGE: Yeah.

42

43 MR. PANEAK: Then they also have a button
44 on it, you know, on the thing.

45

46 MR. GEORGE: Yeah.

47

48 MR. PANEAK: And I witnessed some people
49 that caught those and the fish was not really good to
50 eat, so what kind of fish tracking system you got now, is

1 it better or is still the same?

2

3 MR. GEORGE: Well, it's still the same.
4 They're called floyd tags, I guess, they're like a little
5 nylon thing.

6

7 MR. PANEAK: Yeah, that's what it is but
8 the rope, the rope causes
9

10

11 MR. GEORGE: Yeah, it effects fish
12 different ways but, yeah, I can't say that -- I don't
13 know, you might know more about it. But, yeah, it's not
14 great for the fish that are tagged and, you know, I think
15 depending on the condition, I don't think it's harmful to
16 eat them but I probably wouldn't either. Hopefully it's
17 only a few out of your catch. Now, it can be overdone,
18 during the days of heavy research in the Prudhoe region,
19 some fishermen in Nuiqsut would have caught, you know, 50
20 or 60, you know, that starts to be a substantial loss.
21 But if it's only a few hopefully it's not a big hardship
22 and we are paying a tag return, not that it -- you know,
23 it's a little help but not considerable.

24

25 I understand what you're saying and I
26 don't like tagging animals, I don't like doing it but
27 it's one of those things that you learn so darn much from
28 it that it's probably worth it. But, again, if people
29 absolutely don't want tagging done, that should be known
30 and there's other techniques that can be used that we
31 should look at.

32

33 MR. PANEAK: Also in that 1970 studies in
34 Chandalar Lake, they net a lot of Arctic char and a lot
35 of lake trout and kill them in checking, you know, there
36 was so many of them they caught.

37

38 MR. GEORGE: Yeah.

39

40 MR. PANEAK: After that there were not
41 that many fish that live in that lake.

42

43 MR. GEORGE: Yeah, well, I've heard about
44 that. I heard about some studies in Peter's Lake and
45 other places where the sample sizes were gigantic and
46 that's unnecessary and if biological research is harming
47 the resource there's a problem. You know, that's not
48 what's supposed to happen, so that's clearly a case and I
49 heard about that. I think they way over sampled. And
50 you just got to make sure that that doesn't happen again.

1 MR. PANEAK: Thank you.

2

3 MS. CRAVER: Yeah, thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Raymond.
6 We've heard a lot of the topics on this issues and
7 informations needs regarding the Fisheries Service,
8 there's Technical Review Committee there, project
9 evaluation process and those projects need to be within
10 Federal jurisdiction, and there's Partners for Fisheries
11 Monitoring, capacity building, strategic priorities; we
12 need to probably discuss that a little bit more to see
13 what we need to do as what is the strategic priorities;
14 conservation mandates, allocation priorities, data gap,
15 local concerns. I think those are issues that we need to
16 keep in mind as a Council as to what we need to address
17 regarding these Fisheries Information Service. Then
18 there's the policy and funding guidelines, guideline
19 models for funding, under that the title is the stock and
20 trend harvest monitoring 2005 fisheries research
21 monitoring plan, survey of project funding under
22 subsistence fisheries resource monitoring, invite project
23 investigators for winter meeting.

24

25 So those are some of the issues or topics
26 that amy brought out. If there's something under each of
27 those titles we need to discuss a little bit more, this
28 would be a good time to bring it out.

29

30 I was wanting to find out about this
31 strategic priorities and the conservation mandate, what
32 are the mandates that we need to be aware of in terms
33 fisheries research or information needs on the North
34 Slope. You mentioned something about a conservation
35 mandate under the strategic priorities, yes, could you
36 elaborate a little bit more on that? Because I really
37 haven't heard of this, you know, I've read through some
38 of the transcripts and the subjects in the booklets and I
39 guess I didn't catch any of this strategic priorities and
40 conservation mandates, as to what it really means for our
41 Council to address.

42

43 MS. CRAVER: It's basically -- what
44 they're looking at is they're giving higher priority to
45 if there is a conservation risk to a particular species
46 of fish and how it relates to subsistence needs.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

49

50 MS. CRAVER: So that would be an issue

1 that would probably rise up towards the top of the list
2 as opposed to a species of fish that isn't, nobody's
3 concerned -- or they're not as concerned about.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh, okay, thank
6 you. Is there any comments or questions from the
7 Council. Rosemary.

8
9 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: If the North Slope
10 Borough's wildlife department is not able to work with
11 our area on these issues due to their load status, what
12 would be the best way for us to get a proposal presented
13 for the concerns that we presented today? To me it seems
14 like we need to go through our Native villages, it's
15 important to get the traditional knowledge which is from
16 our elders which is a part of our Native villages. We
17 also want to build capacity, working with the Councils,
18 and we also want to build capacity with our young people.
19 So that may be the area to broach it but going through
20 the Regional tribal may also be the other entity to
21 consider.

22
23 What would you recommend if the Borough
24 can't do this for us, what are the other resources we
25 should consider?

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary, I think Craig
28 mentioned that the department is overwhelmed with the
29 work that they're currently doing but there are these
30 consulting firms, you've heard Larry Molten and his
31 associates working on the Arctic cisco in the Colville
32 and there's the Alaska Biological Resource, that ABR,
33 they've done some work for industry and they're also a
34 consulting firm. So maybe getting those folks together
35 with our IRA Councils and tribal organizations would be a
36 good approach to take in working all together and hashing
37 the issues out and working and getting them involved in
38 these research projects might be a way to step forward in
39 getting funding from the Federal government or these
40 Federal resources to the fish that we need to address. I
41 think that might be one way of addressing and maybe
42 setting up a meeting in the middle of winter with these
43 researchers or the consulting firms to, you know, get
44 their help and input on conducting some of this research.
45 And they need to be within the lands, so we need to keep
46 that in focus also.

47
48 I know we tried addressing the concern
49 from Point Hope and Point Lay about the fish, grayling,
50 but they're both on State lands and we're faced with that

1 problem but we still need to find out if there's means of
2 getting that research, probably submitting a proposal
3 through Alaska Department of Fish and Game or the Board
4 of Fisheries to address the grayling issues within those
5 two areas might be one means.

6
7 But again what we need to focus on is on
8 Federal lands. And what I wrote down was the three
9 Federal agencies that we're currently dealing with; BLM;
10 National Park Service, Gates of the Arctic; Arctic
11 Wildlife Refuge and that's U.S. Fish and Wildlife
12 Service. Those three agencies are the ones that we need
13 to be working with in terms of identifying fisheries
14 research.

15
16 Did that help answer your question,
17 Rosemary?

18
19 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah. I also want to
20 recognize the level of demands that are being placed on
21 members of our community. Our elders are being bombarded
22 on multiple levels to continue to volunteer in all of
23 these various levels of efforts and it's important to
24 recognize that they are the specialists of the generation
25 and they are carrying generations of knowledge and they
26 may not have the degrees behind their names but they've
27 got the knowledge with them and they should be recognized
28 with their specialized knowledge and compensated for
29 their participation. The demands that have been placed
30 on many of our elders, some of them are starting to
31 refuse and if we can work it into recognizing their
32 participation at the levels that they've been
33 participating and getting them some compensation may ease
34 us in getting people to continue to participate in these
35 efforts.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
38 Amy.

39
40 MS. CRAVER: I just wanted to add that,
41 you know, Rosemary, and others on the Council, it may be
42 useful to work with FIS Staff to sort of see models in
43 other parts of the state in terms of capacity building
44 and how researchers have really linked up with tribal
45 organizations or even in your own region. You've got the
46 Simeon Paneak Museum that's involved in one of the
47 projects and just sort of look at different alternatives
48 that other groups have come up with. I'd be happy to
49 show you some examples that have worked where you've got
50 local people that are, you know, really taking charge and

1 taking ownership of the project and learning research
2 techniques and they're sort of in the driver's seat of
3 some of these projects that we're funding, and it's
4 really exciting to see that, that it's not so much being
5 driven by agency folks, but local people.

6
7 Thanks.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments or
10 questions from the Council.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, thank
15 you, Amy for providing that information.

16
17 MS. CRAVER: Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

20
21 MS. CRAVER: We've got one proposal that
22 the TRC has recommended and, if possible, I could get the
23 Council's support on that.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we will be
26 addressing proposals here at the next topic, call for
27 proposals -- this was on the fisheries proposals?

28
29 MS. CRAVER: This is just fisheries, this
30 one here. This is on Page 35 and it's being done in --
31 it's not in your area but it's in the northern region and
32 it's being submitted by Department of Fish and Game and
33 the Native Village of Unalakleet. It's estimation of
34 coho salmon, abundance and spawning distribution in the
35 Unalakleet River. It's Page 35.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I like to follow the
38 process on the agenda and when we get to those proposals
39 we'll bring that up.

40
41 MS. CRAVER: Okay, Mr. Chair, what Sandy
42 says, there's a distinction, this is for Fisheries
43 Monitoring.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

46
47 MS. CRAVER:and the others are
48 regulatory.

49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

1 MS. CRAVER: So it's a different group of
2 proposals.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

5
6 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, it's a
7 proposal for research, not a proposal to change
8 regulations.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Gordon.

11
12 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, seems to me that
13 this is out of the boundaries of the North Slope, if it's
14 not affecting research on the North Slope that a similar
15 group with a different Council, maybe it's Kotzebue,
16 Northwest region, would better suit the proposal.

17
18 MS. CRAVER: Yeah, it's confusing because
19 he Fisheries Monitoring Program, the fisheries program,
20 they've got different regions than the regulatory side
21 for wildlife. And so you've got Norton Sound, Northwest
22 Alaska and the North Slope that's all treated, in terms
23 of fisheries related issues, in the northern region. And
24 so that's why this proposal's come before you even though
25 it's not being conducted in your area.

26
27 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: It still needs your
28 approval.

29
30 MS. CRAVER: It still needs your approval
31 because it's in the northern region.

32
33 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

36
37 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Are we competing for
38 priorities with this project versus other projects in our
39 area, is that why it's being presented for us?

40
41 MS. CRAVER: No. There were no proposals
42 submitted to FIS in your area. This was the only
43 proposal that we received out of the entire northern
44 region and so because you didn't submit any proposals
45 you're not competing against this proposal, it's the only
46 one.

47
48 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That region needs your
49 support in approving for it. So that region like the
50 Seward Penn area needs your support to get it approved

1 for their region, by getting your help.
2
3 MS. CRAVER: Uh-huh.
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Gordon.
6
7 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, did you want to
8 take this up during proposals or did you want to lend the
9 support now, you know, in the form of a motion?
10
11 MS. CRAVER: Yeah, in the.....
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think it's your last
14 comment, it's to support the research proposal.
15
16 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman, I would
17 move that we support this proposal for the other regions
18 to conduct their research monitoring and do we need to
19 name it by what it is; is there a name for it?
20
21 MS. CRAVER: Yes.
22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Would you please state
24 the name.
25
26 MS. CRAVER: It's number is 05-101,
27 estimation of coho salmon abundance and spawning
28 distribution in the Unalakleet River.
29
30 MR. G. BROWER: So moved, Mr. Chairman.
31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on the
33 floor to support the research proposal on estimation of
34 coho salmon abundance and spawning distribution in the
35 Unalakleet River.
36
37 MR. BODFISH: Second.
38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded. Any further
40 discussion.
41
42 MR. KOONUK: Question.
43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question's been called
45 on the motion. All in support signify by saying aye.
46
47 IN UNISON: Aye.
48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any opposition to the
50 motion.

1 (No opposing votes)
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, thank you
4 Amy.
5
6 MS. CRAVER: Thank you.
7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We added on 10C special
9 action. Sandy Rabinowitch will be introducing this
10 special action to us. Sandy you have the floor.
11
12 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you, Mr.
13 Chairman. Again, I'm Sandy Rabinowitch with the Park
14 Service. I think to make this special action make sense
15 to you there's a few things that I need to explain and
16 I'll try to do that as quickly as I can. This morning we
17 put several pieces of paper on your table, one of them is
18 a news release and up at the top it says news release in
19 kind of big letters. I'll show you all these things,
20 then I'll give you a chance to find them. The other
21 thing to capture is this kind of brightly colored map
22 here that looks like this with the A, B, C, and D on it.
23 And then the third piece of paper to find is two pages
24 and at the very top it says special action.
25
26 Is anyone having trouble finding those
27 because we've got some more on the table if you're not
28 finding them. I tried to punch them so you could --
29 well, actually you don't have binders so I guess that
30 didn't do any good. And Dave Fisher's telling me that
31 you also have a copy of a special action analysis that's
32 related to this. I'm not going to get into the details
33 of that special action analysis, Dave might be doing
34 that, I'm not sure.
35
36 So I think I can tell you most of what I
37 think is important from this press release form. This is
38 kind of the history part. What this press release tells
39 you is that the Federal Board closed the antlerless moose
40 season in most of Unit 24, actually as of today, just
41 effective today. This vote was taken about eight days
42 ago, became effective today, and it includes, if you look
43 at this brightly colored map, it includes the area C, D,
44 and E. So that's done, okay, it's already happened, and
45 that's an important part of the history here.
46
47 That brings the Federal regulations into
48 alignment with the existing State regulations, there's a
49 lot of regulations here, but if you were to look in the
50 State book, you would find that what I just told you

1 makes a match, okay. And the reason that the State did
2 this and the reason that the Federal Board did this is
3 that there's been very poor survival of calves and poor
4 recruitment from yearlings into adulthood. So just in
5 one sentence the biological information is is that the
6 production is low and the recruitment is low, it's been
7 this way for about four years, and that the population is
8 in a downward trend, so the goal is to try to arrest that
9 downward trend, not have it get any worse.

10

11 The State did all of their stuff in the
12 spring last year, all of their regulatory action in the
13 spring at a Board of Game meeting. The Federal
14 Subsistence Board, back to this brightly colored map,
15 changed a number of regulations further down river,
16 south, quite a way south of Anaktuvuk Pass, last year,
17 and this special action that's just effective as of
18 today, closes off only the antlerless moose part, so you
19 can still hunt bulls, nothing's changed about taking
20 bulls.

21

22 And the Western Interior Council Chair,
23 Ron Sam, reviewed this proposal, the one that I'm saying,
24 just effective today, and was supportive of doing that.
25 So maybe I should pause for a moment, that's kind of the
26 history I wanted to tell you and I'll get into the
27 special action that's fresh and on the table here. I'll
28 pause for just a moment and see if there's any questions
29 about that.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

32

33 MR. G. BROWER: You said it's already
34 being aligned with the State regulations, and that's
35 already done with. Is there any other efforts besides
36 closing off for the antlerless, is there any pressure
37 from predators on the calves because they're always the
38 most vulnerable at that stage, more like wolf control,
39 relocation of wolves, I mean it's been done in the past
40 and I'm wondering if you're looking at anything like that
41 to help manage the recruitment of the moose?

42

43 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'll answer that one as
44 best I can and it's possible that one or two other people
45 in the room may be able to add to this. In terms of the
46 Federal agencies, I'm not aware that any of the Federal
47 agencies are looking toward any kind of predator control
48 program. I can say with confidence that the Park Service
49 that I work for is not. I can't speak with as much
50 knowledge about BLM or Fish and Wildlife Service who are

1 also co-sponsors of this special action, again, that just
2 went into effect today. And I assume somebody will wave
3 at me if I'm mistaken about them. I'm not seeing anybody
4 wave. So the short answer, no, I don't believe the
5 Federal agencies are.

6
7 In terms of the State, as best I am aware
8 they are not moving in that direction yet, though, of
9 course, I think we can all see in the newspapers and
10 other parts of the state, the State's been more
11 aggressive in the last say two years about moving that
12 direction, but as far as I know they're not taking steps
13 in Unit 24 yet to go down that road.

14
15 Other questions.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments or
18 questions from the Council. Raymond.

19
20 MR. PANEAK: Yeah, you're talking about
21 Unit 24 moose hunt, before the funeral there was somebody
22 that asked me that if they could kill a cow down Unit 24
23 where we hunt also but we got word from somebody that
24 sent us a fax that moose season was already closed for
25 cow and they were wanting to kill a cow for the funeral
26 but couldn't do it, he was in Unit 24. Unit 26 we didn't
27 have no problem but these moose were in the Unit 24 area,
28 we do hunt on Unit 24 also but it was already closed for
29 cow.

30
31 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay. If I understood
32 Raymond right, I think you were asking me, could you take
33 a cow for a funeral, for potlatch?

34
35 MR. PANEAK: (Nods affirmatively)

36
37 MR. RABINOWITCH: I think that
38 there's.....

39
40 MR. PANEAK: It was already closed.

41
42 MR. RABINOWITCH: It was already closed.
43 Well, I mean there is a regulation, and I would have to
44 look it up because I haven't looked at it in a long time
45 now, but there is both a State regulation and a Federal
46 regulation that allows for taking wildlife out of season
47 for ceremonial purposes. It would take me a few minutes
48 to find that and look it up, and I could do that if you
49 want and come back up, so my answer would be is I think
50 that it's possible that there's a way to do that legally

1 already established, I just can't do that one from my
2 head.

3
4 And in terms of what may have been faxed,
5 if it was just recently it may well have been this piece
6 of paper right here that was just recently faxed that
7 says news release on the top. Did that answer you okay?
8

9 MR. PANEAK: (Nods affirmatively)

10
11 MR. RABINOWITCH: And Helen just helped
12 me very quickly, in the Federal book, the green colored
13 Federal book here, that you may take wildlife outside of
14 established seasons or harvest limits for food in
15 traditional religious ceremonies which are part of a
16 funerary or mortuary cycle, including memorial potlatches
17 under the following provisions and then there's a number
18 of paragraphs of text. This is on Page 16 of this book.
19

20 MR. PANEAK: Yeah, we are aware of that
21 but we receive a fax that it was closed so what we can do
22 when it's closed, they tell us it's closed, they send a
23 fax to the office and, you know, had to tell everybody
24 that season's closed in Unit 24.

25
26 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, I think if you
27 have a funeral or a potlatch, that you just need to
28 explain that and I think there's a way for you to do that
29 even though it's closed.

30
31 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, that would be my
32 understanding, you wouldn't suspend existing law on that
33 one, I mean it's just closing for the antlerless season
34 but for ceremonial purposes it's still open.

35
36 MR. RABINOWITCH: Right.

37
38 MR. G. BROWER: When you have a death and
39 there's a need for this type of event, it happens.

40
41 MR. RABINOWITCH: Wennona's pointing out
42 to me that there are conditions, and this is -- I didn't
43 keep reading this so there's a whole number of lines, it
44 says the appropriate Federal land manager will establish
45 the number, the species, the sex or location of harvest
46 if necessary for conservation purposes. So, for
47 instance, if you had a funeral and you wanted to get a
48 cow moose, that the Park Service, because they're
49 surrounding Anaktuvuk, they might say, well, could you go
50 over in this area or over in this area or could you try

1 to get a bull, you know, there's a number of things that
2 they might say but I believe that you had an opportunity
3 to take an animal. So I would just encourage you to talk
4 with the Park Service, assuming it's Park Service land
5 that you want to hunt on for that, and I'd be happy to
6 try to help if you're not making headway.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Do you understand that
9 Raymond?

10
11 MR. PANEAK: (Nods affirmatively)

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Rosemary.

14
15 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'd also consider
16 other stress impacts to the cow being in the close
17 proximity to the Dalton, there is off road activity that
18 occurs in that area and if there's an increase
19 concentration of activity in those areas, that's going to
20 be causing stress for cows and moose, and that's going to
21 be very concerning with this winter coming on if there's
22 already decreased numbers, so adding additional permit
23 stipulations it's going to be an issue for tourists
24 activities, when they stop and look at these things and
25 those kind of things that are also stress indicators for
26 these animals. So other considerations should be looked
27 at with this coming to being an issue in this area.

28
29 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay, thank you. Mr.
30 Chairman, I'll go on then.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

33
34 MR. RABINOWITCH: So this special action
35 piece of paper that looks like this, it's two pages and
36 at the top it says special action form and it's dated
37 September 2nd of this year, just a few days ago, I think
38 of this is a second special action, I've just explained
39 the first one, this is the second one. This one is
40 submitted only by the Park Service because it deals only
41 with some land in Gates of the Arctic National Park so
42 the other agencies didn't have any reason to submit this.
43 And what this special action does is exactly the same
44 thing that the first one did except for two things. It
45 does it only for the John River drainage in Gates of the
46 Arctic, and again if you look at this map with the A, B,
47 C on it, that's the area C as in Cat so it's only for the
48 area C, and it's only for the period October 27th through
49 December 31st, which is the remaining part of the season
50 that hasn't already been closed to the taking of cows.

1 There's a procedural reason why this
2 wasn't done all at once, and I could get into that if you
3 want, but I don't think I'll go there for starters. It's
4 just a requirement of the Federal procedures and so we
5 were -- if we wanted to have cows not taken in the latter
6 sort of two months of the season we have to go through
7 this process, so that's what we're doing.

8
9 And I would point out that the first
10 special action and this second one are only for this
11 season, they're not a permanent change. The State
12 regulations have already been permanently changed, but we
13 thought that it made more sense to do this on a one year
14 at a time basis, which is something that the Western
15 Interior Council has had a lot of concern about, not
16 changing the regulations permanently but trying to deal
17 with special actions on a yearly basis and on the State
18 side with the emergency orders, kind of see what happens,
19 so we're trying to follow that, I guess, wish of that
20 Council about doing it this way. It makes for more
21 paperwork, but it kind of moves things along stepwise.

22
23 So that's all I have to offer. I can
24 certainly answer questions, you're welcome to comment,
25 you're welcome to make a motion and vote in favor of it
26 or against it or anything you may like, though you're not
27 required to take any action, it's really up to the will
28 of the Council.

29
30 MR. G. BROWER: This is Gordon Brower for
31 the record. This is just to December 31st for one bull
32 and the antlerless, to leave those alone.

33
34 MR. RABINOWITCH: Correct. Right now the
35 way the regulations work when you combine them all
36 together, is that someone could take an antlerless moose
37 between the 27th of October and the 31st of December.
38 This special action will make it so they could only take
39 a bull, and that's all it will do and only this one
40 season.

41
42 MR. G. BROWER: Just a follow up
43 question, and I touched on it a little bit earlier. Do
44 you know the specific reason why the survival rate is
45 really low? Is it a predator issue or is it deep snow or
46 what is going on with the recruitment of these moose to
47 the point where there's a problem associated with
48 harvest?

49
50 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm not sure I can do

1 the best job of answering it, and, again, I'll welcome if
2 anyone else from Fish and Wildlife or BLM can help on
3 this. I think, though, to say that, you know, are
4 predators part of the problem, yeah, I think they
5 probably are. Probably, you know, bears and wolves both
6 are probably taking some toll on moose. A lot more of
7 the study that's been done is further down river from
8 Anaktuvuk Pass and even actually down toward Hughes and
9 Huslia and such. This is kind of a whole Koyukuk River
10 situation, so it's a very broad area. In fact, the Park
11 Service, this fall, as soon as the snow's on the ground,
12 has a major survey planned in these exact drainages in
13 the C, D and E areas here on the map to try to get some
14 real up to date information up in these headwater
15 drainages. But, you know, is it habitat, is it too much
16 hunting, is it predation, is it other causes, my best
17 guess is some combination.

18
19 I don't know if anybody can jump in and
20 help me out.

21
22 MR. G. BROWER: Just some observation. I
23 don't know, in the past they did some predator work and
24 relocated wolves to the North Slope from high pressure, I
25 think it was Fortymile caribou was being affected, and
26 they didn't kill the wolves, I mean they just relocated a
27 whole bunch of them to -- I don't know that a whole bunch
28 had that much effect on a population like the Fortymile
29 caribou but is it a PR problem to consider something of
30 these -- you know, of this type of magnitude that
31 wouldn't be looked at or is it something that would be
32 frowned upon by who's making the closure, the Federal
33 Board?

34
35 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm not sure I
36 understand your question exactly when you say would it be
37 a PR problem. I'm not sure what you're asking would be a
38 PR problem.

39
40 MR. G. BROWER: Yes, I mean you just look
41 at what the State did and it was highly publicized to do
42 predator control, and there was all kinds of issues
43 flying around in the newspapers and it seemed like it was
44 a potential -- like the State with its new regime came in
45 and took total control and did things the way he wanted
46 to do them. But all in all it was a way of managing and
47 preserving some other species, it didn't really -- you
48 know, didn't effect the wolves or anything because they
49 reproduce at a high rate, you know, those guys. I mean
50 I'm just thinking that if that's a PR problem, to try to

1 control predators, why they would go straight on into
2 limiting harvest.

3

4 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, I'll take a stab
5 at answering that. Would it be a PR problem, my two
6 cents is, yeah, it might well be. That's just my own
7 opinion and there's five different member agencies on the
8 Board so there certainly could be other opinions.

9

10 I think it's in your book, I'll look over
11 toward Helen because I can see her, Helen, don't we have
12 a copy of the Predator Management Policy in the Council
13 book?

14

15 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Actually it was the
16 next agenda item after you.

17

18 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay.

19

20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It's in there and it
21 was a written statement but I'm going to just briefly let
22 you know it's there and talk about it a little bit.

23

24 MR. RABINOWITCH: So if we can, I think,
25 some of your question can get answered in the next
26 presentation. But sort of in short, the Board just
27 adopted a new policy after about a year, two years of
28 review, you've all seen that a couple of times in the
29 last two years, and there's some room, I think, for the
30 Board to act but there's a kind of a deferral to each
31 individual land managing agency. So like in the case of
32 the Park Service, you know, I can tell you that the Park
33 Service is not a great fan of predator control, it's not
34 something that we jump into casually, in fact, it's
35 probably pretty hard for us to jump into it. So is it
36 impossible, no. Is it hard to get there, yes. At least
37 for the Park Service.

38

39 MR. G. BROWER: Anyway, just, I guess my
40 last two cents in there, I think it should be supported
41 and maybe in the future, I know you're going seasonal for
42 this, ending the 31st, but for the future if there's
43 still continuing decline, I think just to do predator
44 control, but whoever did that Fortymile stuff had a good
45 idea then, he didn't kill the wolves, he just relocated
46 them, and those became harvestable in other areas and
47 were harvested by hunters in some other region. So I
48 think there should be some effort to look at a long-term
49 solution instead of just making a total cutoff to help it
50 recruit healthy and robustly, I think you have to do other

1 things other than just limit the harvest.

2

3 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay, thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
6 Sandy. Any other comments from the Council regarding
7 this special action form.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: He did mention there's
12 several things we can do. The first one is we don't have
13 to do anything, the other we could support the proposal,
14 the special action form in regards to Unit 24 moose,
15 antlerless moose hunt closure. What's the wish of the
16 Council.

17

18 Rosemary.

19

20 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Just one last
21 question, has this been something that's been building
22 over time, what's been the record of these type of
23 closures over time in this area?

24

25 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes, it has been
26 building over time and the downward trend has been, I
27 think, some of the earlier documentation, since about
28 1998, so the Western Council in particular and there's a
29 Koyukuk River Moose Management Group composed of a lot of
30 citizens from Koyukuk River communities have been meeting
31 and talking about this, they actually came up with a
32 management plan, there's a reference to it in here. And
33 actually closing the fall antlerless season was the first
34 step in their plan about how to address this and it has
35 been happening for several years in more down river, than
36 up in the headwaters here.

37

38 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Motion to support
39 this.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor to
42 support the special action form.

43

44 MR. TAGAROOK: Second.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded. Any further
47 discussion.

48

49 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.
2
3 MR. G. BROWER: Discussion. I would like
4 to add to there that they do a long-term view to make a
5 healthy robust recovery of this to look at other than
6 just harvest limit, to look at other means as well to get
7 a healthy population going.
8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.
10
11 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ray.
14
15 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, was that an amendment?
16
17 MR. G. BROWER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I
18 would make that as a discussion item to amend that motion
19 to where it includes a long-term solution to have a
20 broader view other than just limiting the harvest; to
21 look at ways to maximize recovery, which may include
22 predator management, maybe relocating predators that
23 routinely prey on calves and these more vulnerable of the
24 moose.
25
26 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair, I second that
27 motion, on the amendment.
28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's an amendment on
30 the motion and seconded regarding Gordon's amending
31 motion to look at other means other than just restricting
32 harvest of predator management.
33
34 MR. TAGAROOK: Question.
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question on the main
37 motion -- I mean on the amending motion, I'm getting
38 confused here.
39
40 (Laughter)
41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anyway, all in favor of
43 the amending motion signify by saying aye.
44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.
46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any opposed.
48
49 (No opposing votes)
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, okay,
2 we're back on the main motion.
3
4 MR. BODFISH: Call for question on the
5 main motion.
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question on the main
8 motion to support with the modification by Gordon on the
9 special action form. All in favor of the motion signify
10 by saying aye.
11
12 IN UNISON: Aye.
13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any opposed.
15
16 (No opposing votes)
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank you,
19 Sandy.
20
21 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you very much.
22
23 MR. BODFISH: Mr. Chairman, call for a
24 five minute break.
25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're going to take a
27 five minute break at this time. Thank you.
28
29 (Off record)
30
31 (On record)
32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll need to get
34 moving again. All the Council members are coming to
35 their seat. We're at agenda item 11, call for proposal
36 to change Federal subsistence wildlife regulations.
37 Proposal period ends October 22, 2004. And it looks like
38 we're very happy with our regulations because we don't
39 have any to change.
40
41 (Laughter)
42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we must be happy
44 with our regulation booklet, I haven't reviewed it for
45 quite some time anyway. Helen, did you want to bring us
46 up to speed on that.
47
48 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Actually I was coming
49 up here to get ready for No. 12.
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

2

3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I don't think there's
4 anything to add on taking proposals, just letting people
5 know that we're in the proposal period and if the Council
6 has anything they want to propose today we could
7 certainly do that. I don't know if it's worth looking at
8 the proposal book, you know, maybe this evening people
9 could look at it and see if there's anything they want
10 changed.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we've been
13 keeping from making too many changes to the regulations
14 to try to stay in line with what the State regulation
15 booklet to keep from getting people confused with all the
16 regulation changes that occur. I think they're pretty
17 much in line as of today, since we have that moose --
18 since we acted on that moose proposal and it got
19 accepted. So not unless there's a big urgency to change
20 the regulations, I'm not -- you know, one thing we might
21 want to look at the caribou, it was pretty much the same
22 with what we had in the State.

23

24 (Pause)

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: 26(A), 10 caribou per
27 day, however, cow caribou may not be taken from May 16th
28 to June 30. Federal public land south of Colville River
29 and east of the Talik River are closed to taking caribou
30 from August 1 to September 30, except by rural Alaska
31 residents of Unit 26, Anaktuvuk Pass and Point Hope. I'm
32 happy with that, I don't have any complaints.

33

34 Unless there's any other things we need
35 to address, is there anything on the muskox? We had a
36 muskox proposal that was to close the muskox hunting
37 season, Dave Fisher?

38

39 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: He'll come up on your
40 update on your muskox.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Will that come up on
43 updates?

44

45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, it's under the
46 agency reports.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, maybe we'll wait
49 until then, thank you.

50

1 Since we don't have any proposals to
2 change regulations for wildlife on the North Slope we'll
3 move on to agenda item 12, agency reports, 12A is Office
4 of Subsistence Management. Is that you Helen?

5
6 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: (Nods affirmatively)

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You have the floor.

9
10 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 Fish and Wildlife Service, Subsistence Office. The first
12 four items under the agency reports for OSM are written
13 briefings but, Mr. Chair, did you want me to just kind of
14 go through them like we were talking about during the
15 break?

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

18
19 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Just a little brief
20 overview.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Please.

23
24 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. The first one
25 is one Page 47 in your book, and this one is on the
26 Predator Management Policy that the Federal Subsistence
27 Board has developed, it goes onto the next page as well.
28 The Board spent a couple of years developing this policy
29 because they needed something in writing on this and
30 debating it, it was brought before the Council earlier.
31 This isn't something that we're looking for comment on,
32 it's already been decided. It was something that was
33 commented on earlier. We had two Councils that provided
34 significant written comments to the Board asking the
35 Board to recognize predator control as an appropriate
36 wildlife management tool, but the Board made the decision
37 that although they recognize that it's an important
38 management tool it is not something that the Federal
39 Subsistence Board feels that they have the authority to
40 do. And they feel that they have the authority to
41 establish harvest seasons and dates, methods and means,
42 harvest limits and C&T determinations but they don't have
43 the authority to do predator control. So the next page,
44 Page 48 goes through what their policy is and, you know,
45 you can certainly read through that at your leisure.

46
47 Page 49, the Regional Advisory Council
48 briefing on Council correspondence policy. This was
49 written after there were some questions about what
50 Councils had the right to do, what kind of correspondence

1 they could write, and it had always been an informal
2 policy and the Board decided to make it a formal policy.
3 The intent of the correspondence policy is to just ensure
4 that the Regional Councils are able to correspond
5 appropriately with other entities to assist the Councils
6 to direct their concerns to others and to prevent any
7 breach of Department of Interior or Department of
8 Agriculture policy.

9
10 The types of correspondence that the
11 Council can write with any approval from anybody are
12 listed on Page 52 at the bottom. There are a number of
13 them, one through five. They can write correspondence
14 such as letters of appreciation, cover letters for
15 meetings, agendas, requests for agency reports, they can
16 correspond to the Federal agencies regarding land use
17 decisions as defined in ANILCA, Section .810. They can
18 write letters notifying Subsistence Resource Commission
19 members of their appointment to the Council. They can
20 write proposals to the State Boards of Fisheries and
21 Game, and letters to the Federal Subsistence Board.
22 Those types of correspondence can be written without any
23 approval.

24
25 Other types of correspondence need to go
26 through the Office of Subsistence Management, they go to
27 the Assistant Regional Director, which is Tom Boyd at the
28 moment. It's just a formality reality. The letters, I
29 mean we've been doing this for a long time, they come in,
30 they go to Tom and he reviews them and it's just to make
31 sure that things are always -- things are being written
32 that won't cause us problems later on that we can legally
33 do.

34
35 The other one kind of letter that can't
36 be written by the Council is that you can't write any
37 letters to persuade any elected or appointed political
38 officials, any government agency or tribal or private
39 organizations or individual to take a particular action
40 on an issue because the Councils are advisory.

41
42 You can act as a private citizen and
43 there's nothing wrong with that. They don't want ever
44 want you to feel like you can't write a letter as a
45 private citizen, but you can't write a letter saying that
46 you're a member of the Council and speaking as if you had
47 the Council backing you.

48
49 So this applies us too as government
50 employees. You know, I can write a letter to the

1 newspaper about anything I want to but I have to sign it
2 as Helen Armstrong, I can't sign it Helen Armstrong, U.S.
3 Fish and Wildlife Service, that's the distinction.

4
5 Any questions.

6
7 MR. G. BROWER: I have a question.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

10
11 MR. G. BROWER: Gordon here.

12
13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

14
15 MR. G. BROWER: The last Council meeting
16 we went to we dealt with the Dalton Highway issue, to
17 opening that up to off road vehicles. And a unanimous,
18 you know, consent to write a letter opposing the opening
19 of that, was that an appropriate use of writing letters?

20
21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It should have gone --
22 well, at that time this policy wasn't in effect, it was
23 still draft, but now that this has been formalized, a
24 letter like that should go to the assistant regional
25 director before it goes forward. I mean I think you
26 could -- I'm going to look to Sandy and Glenn. Sandy, is
27 that true, that a letter like that could be written, but
28 would have to go to Tom Boyd?

29
30 MR. RABINOWITCH: (Nods affirmatively)

31
32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, it could be
33 written, but they just ask that it go to Tom first.

34
35 MR. G. BROWER: And is there any blockage
36 of doing that? I mean is there -- let's say that there
37 was a timeline issue that was being considered here, and
38 is there -- there wouldn't be any disruption to get it
39 over to Mr. Boyd, for instance?

40
41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I don't think so. And
42 I know I had somebody write, Grace Cross from the Seward
43 Peninsula Council had a letter that she wanted to send,
44 it was on the Area M issue and they needed it to go
45 immediately, I mean Tom reviewed it and had it done
46 within an hour after she sent it, so I don't think so. I
47 think in that case if we were repeating that scenario, I
48 think what I would have done is called Tom up and said,
49 is this okay, and get approval. So I would hope not, you
50 know, that the bureaucracy couldn't stop something like

1 that because in that situation that hearing was right
2 then, so it needed to be done right away.

3

4 MR. G. BROWER: Thank you for the
5 clarification.

6

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

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Continue Helen.

13

14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The next one is on
15 Page 53, and that's the Regional Advisory Council
16 briefing on participation on Federal Subsistence Board
17 committees. This was in response to the Southeast
18 Regional Council, had requested that the Board review the
19 Council participation on Board committees and working
20 groups and apparently the Federal Advisory Committee Act,
21 which is the Act that we operate under, the Council
22 system, limits the membership of non-chartered committees
23 such as the Memorandum of Agreement Protocol Committee to
24 government employees. And this is just because there's
25 so many FACA requirements that it would make the
26 committees ineffective.

27

28 But the Board wanted to emphasize that it
29 does value the information and advice provided by the
30 Councils and will ensure that they are given ample
31 opportunity to review draft or reports from these
32 committees and to make recommendations on those reports
33 to the Board.

34

35 Any questions.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have a comment I'd
38 just like to add on. I was on one of these protocol
39 committees regarding the subsistence use amount protocol
40 and I got taken out because of this situation that we're
41 faced with here with this FACA charter processes, and Tom
42 called me and told me that I wouldn't be participating in
43 any of these meetings that are upcoming regarding the
44 protocol, subsistence use among protocol. I kind of told
45 him that was a great loss to the protocol committee,
46 getting into that and enjoying all the meetings between
47 the State and the Federal agencies regarding the charge
48 and what we had to go through to get to where we were,
49 you know, making progress on that protocol, subsistence
50 use amount protocol, so that was -- and then Gerald, my

1 other counterpart, had submitted a proposal and it's
2 probably going to be acted on this fall, I think, or did
3 it get acted on this spring, regarding that salmon
4 fisheries on the Yukon-Kuskokwim River?

5
6 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think they deferred.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You know when we first
9 started, the Council Chairs had recommended that they
10 focus on the Yukon River salmon fisheries and focus on
11 that and not get involved with the wildlife species until
12 that gets addressed, but the State folks kept coming in
13 and wanting to address wildlife issues at the same time
14 along with that salmon fisheries along the Yukon and that
15 kept fishing them to stay in line or stay focused on what
16 the 10 Council Chairs had recommended, to try working
17 that Yukon fisheries subsistence use amount before they
18 get into wildlife. And we were just getting to that
19 point where Gerald had submitted a proposal and we were
20 waiting on the action of the Board to see what the
21 outcome of that proposal was going to be.

22
23 So now that we're taken out it's kind of
24 up to the Board and the State of Alaska and their
25 counterparts, you know.

26
27 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I don't know all that
28 much about that committee and that's actually the next
29 one, was the status report, so you've done a good job of
30 talking about that. But I understand from this policy
31 that they won't go forward with anything without having
32 the Councils review it.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

35
36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So the committee will
37 do the background work but the Councils will still get to
38 review what is done.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, I was kind of
41 hoping that we would get done with what we needed to
42 accomplish, I mean, in terms of our charge, was to
43 address the fisheries issues first before we get into the
44 wildlife, but that remains to be seen as to what the
45 outcome of that's going to be.

46
47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: You probably have more
48 inside information than I do. I mean on Page 55 is that
49 summary of that work group.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
2
3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And it just basically
4 says what you've said, that they've been working on it,
5 it's been difficult and they're trying to move forward.
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
8
9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It does not say in
10 here that they have removed the Councils members, though,
11 it says in here though that the group includes Councils
12 representatives so.
13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, that was me
15 and.....
16
17 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Gerald.
18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: On the subsistence use
20 amount protocol it was myself and Gerald Nicholia, we
21 were part of that, but as of August we were -- Tom Boyd
22 had given me a call and said we could not participate in
23 that because of this FACA process that came about.
24
25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right.
26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And that's why we were
28 are not able to participate in upcoming protocol
29 meetings.
30
31 That's all I wanted to bring up.
32
33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So maybe at the next
34 Councils meeting we'll have an update on that. Any other
35 questions.
36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments or
38 questions to Helen on this participation on Federal
39 Subsistence Board committees.
40
41 (No comments)
42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Helen.
44
45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The next page was the
46 status on the subsistence use amounts protocol committee
47 and we just talked about that. They're working but
48 haven't accomplished their goal yet.
49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So we'll see what
2 happens.
3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions or
5 comments regarding the subsistence use amount protocol to
6 Helen.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If there's no questions
11 or comments regarding the protocol we'll move on to the
12 next issue. Dave.
13
14 MR. FISHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
15 just wanted to talk briefly on the muskox, the status of
16 muskox there in Unit 26(C). As you know that season is
17 closed.
18
19 The Refuge personnel counted 30 muskox
20 during their precalving census in April, and also during
21 flights in May on the Canning River and the Aego (ph)
22 River. Animals that were in that area were not
23 relocated. They did count some animals over on the
24 Ugapelik River and they discovered that there was three
25 of those out of a group of 16 that were dead, so this
26 gives us only around 27 animals. And our regulations
27 stipulate that permits will not be issued when three
28 percent of the numbers seen during the precalving census,
29 so we don't have the numbers there so that's why they
30 closed the season.
31
32 That's all I have.
33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for Mr.
35 Fisher on the muskox.
36
37 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.
38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.
40
41 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I mean do you have
42 an idea of what's going on with the muskox? Are they
43 migrating out of range to where you're not seeing the
44 numbers or are they dying off or something?
45
46 MR. FISHER: Well, there could be some
47 migration but I think probably predation would probably
48 be the major factor.
49
50 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, I recall a

1 few years ago Patricia Reynolds from the Arctic Refuge
2 saying that there was some migration of muskox into
3 Canada and a fairly significant number were moving over
4 there. Do you remember that, too, Harry?

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

7
8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So I can't remember
9 how many years ago that was but it was kind of around
10 when the decline was happening of the muskox.

11
12 MR. FISHER: Yeah, I think that coupled
13 with predation probably is the two primary factors.

14
15 MR. G. BROWER: Just one last one, I mean
16 was there any effort in the past to have radios on these
17 and to track where they went?

18
19 MR. FISHER: Yes.

20
21 MR. G. BROWER: I mean when they cross
22 the Canadian border, do you stop your monitoring of any
23 radio collared animals?

24
25 MR. FISHER: They have done some radio
26 tracking but I'm not sure to what extent but I can get
27 that information and get it to you if you want.

28
29 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, because we've seen
30 muskox here and there, I mean they do come around the
31 NPR-A and within the Ikpikpuk and we see them from time
32 to time, so we know they're moving around.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon. Any
35 other comments from the Council.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think regarding the
40 -- all that noise in the background, there's another
41 event that's going that's hosted for the tourists, so
42 there's some Eskimo dancing going on in the hallway
43 there. If you guys want to record that you're very
44 welcome to.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (In Inupiat)

49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

1 (Laughter)
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anyway, any other
4 questions.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was going to ask,
9 Dave, I think there's a muskox working group that's
10 planning to meet this fall in Anchorage to discuss more
11 the issue on the muskox within the Arctic National
12 Wildlife Refuge and with the Canadian counterpart this
13 fall in Anchorage so that's probably going to be coming
14 up this fall.
15
16 Thank you, if there's no other issues on
17 muskox.
18
19 We have 12B, National Park Service, Sandy
20 Rabinowitch. Sandy's in the hall dancing, we have to go
21 pick him up.
22
23 (Laughter)
24
25 MR. RABINOWITCH: She'll tell you I can't
26 keep time.
27
28 (Laughter)
29
30 MR. RABINOWITCH: The only other thing
31 the Park Service has to bring up and you have it in
32 another place on your agenda is that this Council had the
33 opportunity to appoint a member to the Gates of the
34 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission, you have that on
35 your agenda just a little farther down. And the only
36 thing I would say is that, I believe, this is because
37 Earl Williams' resignation from the Council so that's
38 what creates the opportunity, and the qualifications that
39 are needed, and I'm actually looking at ANILCA here, so
40 it's just right out of the Federal statute, is that, to
41 be on a Subsistence Resource Commission, which is
42 specific to Park Service areas, that any member you
43 appoint must be a member of either this group, so one of
44 your members sitting here or a member of a State local
45 advisory committee, and they must also engage in
46 subsistence uses inside the Park area. So there's two
47 qualifications, one is membership and the other is use.
48
49 That's all I have to say, when you get to
50 that on your agenda if you have more questions I'll be

1 happy to try to answer them. So I think I'll leave it at
2 that.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions to Sandy
5 regarding our discussion on the appointment to the Gates
6 of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource
7 Commission.

8

9 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

12

13 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, are you calling for
14 nominations at this point from this body?

15

16 MR. RABINOWITCH: The Park Service would
17 be happy to have you appoint someone because we have an
18 empty seat on that commission and just like when you have
19 an empty seat here, you like to fill it and have
20 representation from communities. But the choice is up to
21 you, to this body, whether you want to appoint someone or
22 not. If you don't appoint someone the seat stays empty.

23

24 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

27

28 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I think we would
29 poll to see who, from this group, you know, as a member
30 utilizes the area. I know Anaktuvuk is usually a member
31 there.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

34

35 MR. G. BROWER: And I'm pretty sure (In
36 Inupiat) uses parts of those areas. So we may have a
37 potential for both villages. But certainly Anaktuvuk is
38 one of the members that utilizes that area probably
39 frequently.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
42 Terry, did you have a comment or question.

43

44 MR. TAGAROOK: Yes. Concerning that, I
45 think it's under 15A, if we could do that -- I think we
46 could do that when we reach that topic, appointment of
47 the new member to the Gates.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, thank you, Terry.
50 Gordon, did you want to make another comment.

1 MR. G. BROWER: No, I think that's more
2 appropriate what Terry's pointing out there.
3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon. Did
5 you have anything else you wanted to bring up Sandy?
6
7 MR. RABINOWITCH: Nope.
8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Sandy. 12C
10 is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Arctic Refuge,
11 Wennona Brown.
12
13 The floor is yours Wennona.
14
15 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
16 the record, Wennona Brown with the Arctic National
17 Wildlife Refuge. I think somewhere on your table Barb
18 gave you handouts of our summary.
19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, we do have
21 handouts, and it's a summary of 2004 survey activities on
22 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, is that the one?
23
24 MS. BROWN: Correct.
25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.
27
28 MS. BROWN: Did you want to just look
29 over it and see if there is questions or would you like
30 me to run through some of the highlights?
31
32 MR. G. BROWER: Highlights.
33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, the highlights
35 will be good, thank you.
36
37 MS. BROWN: Okay. As you see we start
38 off with the muskox, and as Dave reported we only
39 observed 30 muskox in the spring survey, so, therefore,
40 we did not have a hunting season this year. In May they
41 did find three muskoxen in a group of 16 that were
42 killed, most likely by a grizzly bear. They've also
43 noticed that numbers in Northcentral Alaska and
44 Northwestern Canada were relatively stable until this
45 year when there were fewer muskoxen counted also in
46 26(B), so therefore their decline observed in 26(C) is
47 maybe starting to be apparent in other areas.
48
49 In cooperation with Fish and Game, Refuge
50 biologists are also monitoring grizzly bears near areas

1 occupied by the muskox. They're radio collaring bears
2 and tracking them. They're also collecting hair, blood
3 and fecal samples to see if they can determine diets of
4 the grizzly bears and see if that will kind of help
5 understand the interactions of the grizzly bears and the
6 muskoxen.

7

8 For caribou, on the Porcupine Caribou
9 Herd, well, let me back up to the muskoxen, I think
10 Gordon asked earlier about whether or not there were
11 muskoxen that were radio collared. There have been
12 muskoxen collared in the past, and they either all
13 migrated out of the area or they died so right now
14 there's no muskoxen collared on the Refuge. But they do
15 have plans later this month to try to get out, you know,
16 weather permitting and get some collars on some more
17 muskoxen. So we're trying to reestablish the tracking
18 program.

19

20 On the Porcupine Caribou Herd, there are
21 approximately 100 caribou that are fitted with
22 conventional radio collars and an additional 12 to 15
23 that carry satellite transmitters. And they've been
24 tracking these from October 2003 through April 2004.
25 They also tracked them in May to the calving grounds.
26 They estimated that 78 percent of the radio collared
27 females from the Porcupine Caribou Herd had calves in
28 2004; 42 percent of those gave birth on the Refuge and 60
29 percent of those that actually gave birth on the Refuge
30 actually calved in the 10-02 area. Because of coastal
31 fog and heavy smoke the photo census that they were going
32 to do this summer had to be canceled, so they're now
33 planning to do that in 2005. The last photo census was
34 in 2001, which had estimated a population size of
35 123,000.

36

37 Central Arctic Herd, monitoring is also
38 being conducted. And let's see, census herd yielded a
39 population estimate of 32,000. In the winter of
40 2003/2004, almost 80 percent of the Central Arctic Herd
41 overwintered on the Refuge, west of Arctic Village, and
42 approximately 50 percent of the Porcupine Caribou Herd
43 wintered east of Arctic Village, so that we had a
44 significant concentration of two caribou herds on the
45 Refuge this past winter.

46

47 And also this year we had Teshekpuk Herd
48 come into Kaktovik, Barter Island. The caribou moved in
49 in October of 2003 and according to the satellite collars
50 we were able to determine if they were the Teshekpuk Herd

1 and the herd has an estimated population of 29,000
2 animals. This is the first time that they've ever
3 documented the Teshekpuk Herd on the Arctic Refuge. They
4 stayed on the plains on the Refuge between the coastal
5 plain and Barter Island through the winter, and then
6 during the late winter a lot of those that were on the
7 coast, you know, died of starvation, and the surviving
8 animals migrated west in the spring.

9
10 Staff has also done sheep surveys
11 starting with the Hulahula River drainage in June of
12 2004, and these were on the ground surveys. They
13 observed 324 sheep in 32 groups including 10 groups of
14 rams, 22 mixed groups and one group that was too
15 distanced to actually classify it. And the group size
16 varied from a single sheep to a maximum of 40, the
17 average group size was 5.8 for rams and 12.1 for mixed
18 groups. And from the production number of lambs per 100
19 ewes was 48.6 in 2004 which is up a little bit from the
20 39.1 in 2003, suggesting it was a good year for lambs.
21 The number of yearlings was also up in 2004, there was
22 17.1 yearlings per 100 ewes compared to 12.3 in 2003.
23 And they do plan to continue this annual trend and age
24 composition survey to detect long-term trends in the lamb
25 production and survival.

26
27 They did an aerial survey in the Hulahula
28 in 2004 and they plan to conduct this annually for
29 several years to detect trends and these data are still
30 being analyzed and will be available at a future meeting.

31
32 The Atigun Pass, they also conducted on
33 the ground surveys in early June. There, they observed
34 286 sheep in 17 groups, which included five groups of
35 rams and 12 mixed groups ranging in size from one to 49
36 individuals averaging 10.6 for rams and 19.4 for mixed
37 groups. Very close to the average of 293 sheep for the
38 period of 1990 through 2003, however, this years lamb per
39 100 ewes ratio was 24.6, which is less than the estimate
40 for 2003 which was 42.2 or the long-term average which is
41 43.8. The yearling per ewe ratio is also low, 12.3 in
42 2004 compared to the long-term average of 29.8. Harsh
43 winter conditions may have contributed to the poor
44 reproduction and low overwinter survival, and we plan to
45 continue this survey.

46
47 In moose, they did the 2003 survey in
48 April where they observed 52 moose along the river
49 drainages and the proposal was passed, you know, this
50 year for three moose, two bulls from 26(C) and one moose

1 of either sex in 26(B). The registration permit, those
2 permits have been sent up to Kaktovik for distribution.

3
4 They also did Barrier Island surveys for
5 migratory birds, sea ducks, marine birds and shore birds,
6 and they did the area from the Barrier Islands, the
7 western half of the Arctic Refuge from Barter Island to
8 the Canning River. They found about 200 nests in the
9 surveys including nests of common eiders, glaucous gulls
10 and Arctic terns. They did a similar survey last year on
11 the other half of the Refuge, and data from the surveys
12 will be analyzed and reports prepared during the coming
13 winter.

14
15 Fisheries. The Kaktovik lagoon study is
16 continuing. The objectives are to measure relative
17 abundance, determine length and weight characteristics
18 and compare current data with baseline data from the 1988
19 through 1991 study. Focused species are the Arctic cisco
20 and dolly varden. Data summaries of these will be
21 available in the spring of 2005.

22
23 Dolly varden study in the Hulahula River,
24 currently are doing site evaluations for some sonar
25 study. The sonar uses a soundwave that's reflected off
26 the fish and echoes are returned and counted. The
27 technique has been tested on other species, such as
28 chinook and sockeye salmon throughout the state as well
29 as chum salmon on the Chandalar River. They're hoping
30 that the use of the sonar in the Hulahula River will
31 provide annual estimates of the abundance for dolly
32 varden and will allow subsistence users and fishery
33 managers to document changes in abundance. The project
34 will most likely be conducted from late July through
35 early September, and further evaluation of the site is
36 planned for September 2004 and the start of the
37 preliminary study is planned for 2005.

38
39 If there are any questions I'll take
40 them.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions or
43 comments from the Council.

44
45 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

48
49 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman, Gordon
50 Brower for the record. Just a little bit more insight on

1 what happened to Teshekpuk Herd. I had a little bit to
2 hear about it in the past that they did cross over the
3 TransAlaska Pipeline on into near Kaktovik and last I
4 heard about them there were some that died off and I
5 don't know what else happened from that point.

6
7 MS. BROWN: That's correct. Particularly
8 the ones that were out on the coastal plain and around
9 Barter Island, there was a die off and they speculate
10 that that was probably from starvation. They were
11 guessing that the animals were not in that good of shape
12 when they got there and that, you know, they just didn't
13 over winter well because of lack of forage. You know,
14 harsh winter weather and then the surviving animals, they
15 did start migrating westward in spring, and they're
16 assuming they returned back to their traditional calving
17 grounds. But they migrated off the Refuge.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments.

20
21 MR. YOKEL: I'll cover that in a little
22 more detail, Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You got to speak up,
25 Dr. Yokel, I can hardly hear you there's so much noise
26 out there, dancing.

27
28 MR. YOKEL: A summary of the Teshekpuk
29 Herd a little bit more in detail will be coming up.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, thank you. Any
32 other comments or questions.

33
34 MR. PANEAK: Mr. Chairman.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Raymond.

37
38 MR. PANEAK: I was just wondering if
39 those herds crossed the pipeline through Coldfoot towards
40 Arctic Village, I was just wondering -- Anaktuvuk people
41 were wondering if they crossed that pipeline through
42 Coldfoot area because I think travel way south this
43 winter.

44
45 MS. BROWN: I know a lot of the Central
46 Herd as far down as around Allakaket and they did migrate
47 over towards Arctic Village, so got a good.....

48
49 MR. G. BROWER: I got one, did you find
50 that those two groups collided at all? You mentioned

1 that a group near Arctic Village was, I think the
2 Porcupine and one other group, was it the Central Herd,
3 that overwintered near each other, did they collide at
4 all?

5
6 MS. BROWN: I really don't know. I just
7 know that one is sort of -- the Central Herd was kind of
8 more west of Arctic Village and the Porcupine Herd
9 occupied ranges, you know, east of the village during the
10 same period so assuming, you know, depending on how they
11 migrated, it's possible, but, you know, I can find out
12 and get back to you if you want.

13
14 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, because that's been
15 an observation in the past, you know, they do that
16 sometimes and some group may expand and another group get
17 into a smaller size when that happens sometimes.

18
19 MS. BROWN: I know in the past, you know,
20 there have been areas where they have mixed, but whether
21 they specifically mixed around the wintering grounds this
22 year, I don't know. I can check that out for you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments from
25 the Council. Rosemary.

26
27 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Your report you state
28 that the Teshekpuk Herd, the biologists speculated that
29 they were reacting to severe ice storms, was there also
30 any evaluation of other factors that may have caused this
31 reaction, knowing that there was increased activity into
32 research and monitoring efforts into the Teshekpuk Lake
33 area in the last couple of years? Is that something that
34 was considered as part of this factor, it's not noted in
35 here?

36
37 MS. BROWN: I don't know. I can check.
38 I said that this is the first time that they've known
39 that they've actually shown up over in Kaktovik, so I
40 think it was a little bit of an unusual or maybe kind of
41 a surprise to everybody that they were over there. But
42 I'll ask the question and get back to you.

43
44 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

47
48 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, just some
49 observation. I've seen those for the longest time for
50 the Teshekpuk radio collared ones show up at the pipeline

1 with limited crossover and then coming back and some
2 speculation as to why they never cross over and we think
3 it's either industrial noise, the traffic, and there's
4 been evidence in the past that talked about these animals
5 being able to migrate that far and associate with other
6 groups and then split off. So I think it's just
7 something that happened, and I think that needs to also
8 be looked into, not just to theorize that they just
9 starved because there may be other factors for an animal
10 that -- for a group that may not have been as habituated
11 as other groups, that they may have had a very difficult
12 time deciding to cross back. And if that was a situation
13 where they were held back and their foraging was limited
14 at that point, I think those should be studied closely
15 enough to see if industrial activities with an animal or
16 group of animals that haven't been habituated to
17 industrialization such as the Central Arctic Herd, which
18 is highly noted to be habituated in industrial area.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments from
21 the Council.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

26
27 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Wennona.
30 Moving on, we have 12D, Bureau of Land Management, Dave
31 Yokel. Oh, Doctor Dave Yokel, I'm sorry.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
36 have a map that I'd like to refer to while I'm talking
37 for part of this so I'm going to tape it up really
38 quickly here.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

41
42 (Pause)

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

45
46 MR. YOKEL: Okay, Mr. Chairman, it's been
47 a year and a half since I had a chance to speak to the
48 Council here. Last spring your meeting adjourned before
49 you got to my part on the agenda, and September a year
50 ago I wasn't allowed to travel here, our Bureau decided

1 we couldn't spend any more money on travel at the end of
2 the fiscal year. So what I'd like to do right now is
3 give you a little bit of a review and an update on what's
4 going on with oil and gas exploration and development in
5 the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, and some of you
6 are probably pretty familiar with and maybe others of you
7 are not. It has a potential to be very important to your
8 subsistence use of the NPR-A so I'd like to take a few
9 minutes and do that review.

10

11 Let me know if I'm not close enough to
12 the mike.

13

14 First, I'd like to talk about the land
15 use plan for the Northeast NPR-A. This was the first
16 one, this red outlined area here is what we refer to as
17 the Northeast NPR-A. This plan was completed back in
18 August of 1998 and a record of decision was signed in
19 October of '98 and it did allow lease sales in most of
20 that area but not in this area here including Teshekpuk
21 Lake and the area north and east of Teshekpuk Lake. Now,
22 that decision back in '98 has been in litigation ever
23 since. To the best of my knowledge it's still in the
24 courts, but there was no injunction on the part of the
25 judge to prevent the BLM from going forward with any of
26 its planned activities and so the BLM has held two lease
27 sales in that area, back in 1999 and 2002, and these grey
28 shaded areas are the lease tracts that were sold in those
29 two lease sales. The rest of this yellow was offered for
30 lease, not this, this was not available for lease, the
31 rest of this was offered for lease but not sold in either
32 of those two lease sales.

33

34 Now, since the record of decision in 1999
35 we've had five winter exploration seasons and in those
36 five winters 17 wells have been drilled. Almost all of
37 them are right in this area here. There were a couple
38 that were drilled up here and one drilled way out here.

39

40 Okay, I'm going to move ahead but if you
41 have a question just stop me and I'll try to answer it.

42

43 The next thing I want to go over again
44 briefly is the planning effort for what we referred to as
45 the Northwest NPR-A, this area here. This plan was
46 completed just last spring of 2004. And we were
47 immediately sued on that plan as well. And in this court
48 case, a judge decided to let BLM go ahead with its lease
49 sale but place an injunction on any surface disturbance
50 activities until the judge had time to decide on the

1 merits of the case. So we had a lease sale on June 2nd,
2 last June 2nd of 2004 and these grey areas here were sold
3 in that lease sale, however, the judge still hasn't made
4 any decision on the merits of the case so we're presuming
5 that there will be no winter exploration in this area
6 this coming winter because it's getting too late to plan
7 that.

8

9 Okay, the third plan that I want to talk
10 about that is near completion. This one is not a leasing
11 EIS, this one's an actual development. I'm sorry, EIS
12 stands for environmental impact statement. These were
13 both leasing environmental impact statement, but we also
14 have a development environmental impact statement going
15 on for what's referred to as the Alpine Satellite
16 Development Project. And Conoco-Phillips developed the
17 Alpine field several years ago, it includes two drilling
18 pads, now they're proposing to develop five more pads
19 that would give them access to five smaller oilfields,
20 what they refer to as satellite oilfields. Three of
21 these five pads are within the outer boundary of the NPR-
22 A. One of them is on Kuupik land and the other two which
23 are approximately right here and right here are on BLM
24 lands. The final EIS for this plan was just made
25 available to the public last week on September 3rd and so
26 according to our rules we cannot issue a record of
27 decision for at least 30 days after the EIS is available
28 to the public so we may expect a record of decision on
29 this plan in the first week of October.

30

31 Now, this is not only a BLM plan. The
32 BLM was the lead author of this plan, but, you know, the
33 State of Alaska, Kuupik Corporation have some
34 responsibilities in that as well, and the Army Corps of
35 Engineers which covers wetland issues out on State lands
36 also has purview there, so it won't be just the BLM that
37 makes decisions in that record of decision.

38

39 Harry.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You stated that the BLM
42 has not made a decision on the record of decision yet.

43

44 MR. YOKEL: That is correct. We cannot
45 issue a record of decision until at least 30 days after
46 the final EIS is released to the public.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

49

50 MR. YOKEL: So the public has at least 30

1 days to comment on that final EIS. Now, I'm not a 100
2 percent clear on these rules but -- in other words I
3 don't really understand that comment period. So if
4 there's something really grievously wrong with the
5 document, some legal problem, then maybe you could halt
6 the process by commenting at this stage, but in most EIS
7 efforts, by the time the final EIS comes out things are
8 pretty much done, you know, but it won't be official
9 until at least 30 days after the EIS comes out.

10

11 Now, I did want to cover the ANILCA .810
12 evaluation for this proposed development. There were six
13 alternatives in it. Four of them were different
14 development alternatives, the fifth was a no action and
15 the sixth was also a development alternative, it was the
16 BLM's preferred alternative.

17

18 All of these alternatives except the no
19 action and also the cumulative case were determined to
20 have the potential to significantly restrict subsistence
21 uses. So in other words, they triggered those other
22 requirements of ANILCA, Section .810. And those are that
23 the BLM has to determine -- well, I don't have -- well, I
24 do have -- okay, so once BLM has determined that that
25 could have a significant restriction on subsistence use
26 we have to give notice to the appropriate State agency
27 and local committees and regional Councils established
28 pursuant to Section .805 that under Federal subsistence
29 management now is this Council, that's my purpose here
30 today, I think the interpretation of the law is that we
31 don't have to give that formal notice until a record of
32 decision is signed. We have to also give notice of and
33 hold hearings in the vicinity of the activity. Those
34 were held along with the draft comment public meetings
35 for comments on the draft, and we have to determine that
36 this significant restriction of subsistence uses is
37 necessary, consistent with sound management principles
38 for the public land and this is a National Petroleum
39 Reserve so the BLM determined that it was appropriate to
40 develop oil in a National Petroleum Reserve and that the
41 amount of acreage necessary for this is appropriate, they
42 did, and that reasonable steps will be taken to minimize
43 adverse impacts on subsistence use and it is the BLM's
44 opinion that reasonable steps have been taken. But there
45 was a positive determination on ANILCA, Section .810 for
46 this development plan.

47

48 Okay, next, the BLM decided in 2003 that
49 it needed to take another look at the Northeast plan that
50 was just finished in 1998. The BLM wanted to take

1 another look at this area that had earlier been made
2 unavailable to leasing. It also wanted to look at the
3 mitigation package and possibly make some changes in
4 that. The draft environmental impact statement for this
5 plan amendment came out just this summer and the comment
6 period on that closed on August 23rd and so the final
7 environmental impact statement is currently in
8 development.

9
10 On this one the ANILCA, .810 evaluation
11 for the draft environmental impact statement found that
12 all of the alternatives would be below the threshold for
13 significant -- well, let me back up one, for this Alpine
14 satellite development, it was only found to be
15 significant for the village of Nuiqsut, not any of the
16 other North Slope villages except in the cumulative case.
17 In the cumulative case we look at all of the oil
18 development on the North Slope that has occurred and all
19 the oil development on the North Slope that may
20 reasonably occur in the future, in that case it was found
21 it would be above the significant threshold for Nuiqsut,
22 Barrow, Atqasuk and Anaktuvuk Pass. For the amendment to
23 the leasing plan, the original leasing plan found no
24 significant restriction except in the cumulative case
25 which includes all development on the North Slope, same
26 thing for the plan amendment, it was not found to
27 significantly restrict subsistence except in the
28 cumulative case. And so we've remained consistent that
29 way. Just for the leasing EIS we don't see that local
30 significant restriction, but for the development EIS we
31 did.

32
33 Okay, there's one other plan that I want
34 to briefly touch on and then maybe it would be
35 appropriate to take some questions on all these plans.

36
37 This area here we refer to as the South
38 NPR-A planning area. And we intend to begin scoping,
39 which is going out to the public and other agencies and
40 find out what their issues and concerns are for land use
41 in this area. We intend to begin that in the spring of
42 2005 and then we'll move on with that planning effort
43 after that.

44
45 So if you have any questions on these oil
46 and gas exploration and development plans for the NPR-A I
47 could take those questions right now.

48
49 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

2

3 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: One of the questions
4 that we had asked in our community was that with the
5 increased efforts for research and monitoring that these
6 researchers have some kind of identification code or
7 adverse markings on their gear and that's still not
8 occurring. We had wildlife or fishery people out doing
9 fishery stuff, they've got brown camouflaged type of gear
10 on and we've got wildlife bird people doing studies and
11 it's really difficult for hunters, when they're off the
12 river to distinguish if they're in the water between
13 whether they're a human or a caribou when they're wearing
14 those type of clothing. So they really need to use a
15 vest or something of that sort so it's easy distinguish
16 instead of the camouflage clothing. Either that or maybe
17 get an orange flag, bicycle type flag with a stand that
18 they could put up so that when they're in an area we can
19 tell that they're in the area. And also if there's any
20 way to limit their daily take off with helicopters,
21 that's really disturbing for us when we're trying to
22 subsist when there's a concentrated effort with a lot of
23 helicopter activity occurring. With the various areas
24 occurring Nuiqsut is becoming a receiving point for some
25 of this activity and that's becoming very disruptive.

26

27 So if there can be some effort to get
28 their activities done in areas with drop offs and
29 monitoring in those areas for a period of days and then
30 pick up and move to a different area instead of daily
31 flights. Some of these helicopters were landing every
32 few hundred feet and that's very difficult when you're
33 having your few weekends that you can get out and do your
34 caribou hunting and that's when also their are increased
35 efforts are during our harvest season. So trying to find
36 ways to decrease those conflicts would be greatly
37 appreciated for our hunters.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary, go ahead.

40

41 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: And also I was going
42 to say that migration of the Teshekpuk Herd from the
43 Teshekpuk Lake through the tributaries towards Nuiqsut is
44 very important to protect for our caribou hunters.
45 There's large opposition for approving the road with that
46 expansion out to CD-7 and the worries about the pipeline
47 causing conflicts for the migratory for the Teshekpuk
48 Herd. The Central hasn't been going into the village
49 like they used to. They are at the back of the village
50 with the activities around us so it's important to try to

1 continue that migratory route before it's changed like
2 the other herd has changed.

3

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

6

7

Gordon.

8

9

MR. G. BROWER: I don't know to what
10 extent we can say things to Dave, I mean that would have
11 anything to issue after the record of decision of their
12 plan.

13

14 One of the things in dealing with Conoco
15 is how they're going to develop. I did read some of the
16 preferred alternative and there needs to be a concerted
17 effort to design these facilities more in tune with
18 nature. And there was some talks that were used with
19 their permitting agent, like Bruce St. Pierre or those
20 guys to look at better ways to develop, especially areas
21 where a high subsistence use priority existed before the
22 development. One of the things we talked about were
23 designing facilities, maybe that were domed to look like
24 pingos, there's dotted landscapes of, you know, you call
25 them pingos, we call them pingos, they're like hills, and
26 that was not too far-fetched to look at trying to design
27 with nature when you're in areas where animals, migratory
28 routes, a high subsistence priority use area is going to
29 be developed. And to try and influence these enough to
30 where development, you know, tried to use the best
31 available systems or technology to do these things.

32

33

The other thing was looking at CD-6, and
34 some other proposals of their competitors, such as
35 Armstrong Oil, whose proposal is the Two-Bits project,
36 it's in the Westsak 18 area (ph), and just having some
37 insight into what their proposal is, that they may turn
38 around and develop that within a year by Armstrong and
39 their proposal is to do these 4,000 foot linear direct
40 bury pipelines consistent and put them inside the road
41 within the permafrost a little bit maybe or within the
42 road corridor to look at that and wait until that
43 information is available to see if these new types of
44 development are going to be workable in areas where high
45 subsistence priority use exists. And I don't know why
46 they fail to recognize any of this in the EIS. I mean
47 there should have been alternatives promoted such as
48 direct bury systems and not just to say they're out of
49 reach.

50

1 But I know the record of decision is
2 pending and there's still opportunities to look at this
3 and the Borough itself is looking highly in trying to do
4 some mitigation work as well.

5
6 MR. YOKEL: Are you referring now to the
7 Alpine satellite development plan EIS?

8
9 MR. G. BROWER: Yes, I'm referring to
10 that, the development scenario for Alpine. There are the
11 other competitors that are promoting new ways of
12 developing within the permafrost and those should be
13 explored, I think.

14
15 MR. YOKEL: Mr. Chairman, I never got a
16 chance to respond to Rosemary. I'm not sure if she
17 wanted any response but I'm willing to try if that was
18 part of her expectation.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

21
22 MR. YOKEL: The first thing.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was just saying, go
25 ahead, Dr. Yokel.

26
27 MR. YOKEL: Okay, thank you, Mr.
28 Chairman. The first thing about the researchers wearing
29 some special clothing, that's new to me, I hadn't heard
30 that. I assume the great majority of the researchers
31 you're talking about are contractors for Conoco-Phillips,
32 especially their biological researchers that are out
33 there in the summer doing work. I don't know if that's
34 something that Kuupik that tried to work out with Conoco-
35 Phillips. To the best of my knowledge it hasn't come
36 through the BLM office, I can go look into it though, but
37 that is news to me.

38
39 Again, with lots of helio flights some of
40 those helicopter flights are BLM work, again, the vast
41 majority of them are probably contractors of Conoco-
42 Phillips. You know, I can't make excuses for it, it's
43 one of those necessary evils, if you will, if we're going
44 to have a development and do it in such a way that we
45 have the least impact on the biological resources out
46 there, we need to understand how those biological
47 resources work the best we can. I do understand that
48 Conoco-Phillips contractors actually stayed in Nuiqsut
49 this last summer at the Kuupik camp and the helicopters
50 stayed at the Nuiqsut airstrip so.....

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: No.

2

3 MR. YOKEL: No. Oh, it stayed at Alpine
4 but it picked the people up at Nuiqsut so obviously there
5 were flights right over the village of Nuiqsut daily.
6 Again, this is something that has to be worked out
7 between the people of Nuiqsut and Conoco-Phillips.

8

9 As far as opposing the road to CD-7, I
10 know that some people in Nuiqsut did, in meetings we've
11 had in Nuiqsut, there were other people who opposed the
12 preferred alternative for the road, they wanted a road
13 but they wanted it to attach to Nuiqsut so that they
14 could apply for jobs and drive to work, so that wasn't
15 the preferred alternative, though, so I guess in this
16 case nobody got -- neither of those two sides in Nuiqsut
17 got what they wanted.

18

19 And then moving on to Gordon's comments
20 here, the dome facilities to look like pingos, that's
21 another one that's new to me. I'm not saying that the
22 BLM planning project manager wasn't aware of it, I don't
23 know, I can look into that. The buried pipelines in
24 Westsak, I'm not sure if that's relevant to the situation
25 we have in Alpine satellite development because the
26 Westsak is a much colder fluid than most of the oil
27 that's produced on the North Slope and it might be more
28 technically feasible to pipe that underground without
29 having adverse consequences to the permafrost, I don't
30 know. I do know that in our 1998 land use plan for
31 Northeast NPR-A, which is the one that this Alpine
32 satellite development is a stepdown plan to did require
33 that in certain areas where caribou movement is more
34 critical, that buried pipelines be one of the options
35 considered.

36

37 Obviously it wasn't in Conoco-Phillips
38 proposed action nor was it in BLM's preferred
39 alternative, whether or not they took a hard look at it
40 during the development of that EIS, I don't know. The
41 Alpine satellite development EIS was contracted out, it
42 wasn't done directly by BLM personnel so I don't have as
43 close a contact with that one as I do with the two former
44 leasing EISs.

45

46 Maybe no answers to satisfy you but
47 that's the best I can do right now.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments or
50 questions from the Council.

1 MR. TAGAROOK: I have one.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Terry.

4

5 MR. TAGAROOK: Who authorizes the lease
6 sales on the NPR-A?

7

8 MR. YOKEL: Well, the two plans that
9 we've completed so far, the records of decision were
10 signed by the Secretary of Interior, so the Northeast
11 plan was signed by Secretary Bruce Babbitt and the
12 Northwest plan record of decision was signed by Secretary
13 Gail Norton. Once the record of decision is signed
14 authorizing the lease sales, then the BLM in Alaska
15 implements that according to the schedule that they feel
16 is best.

17

18 MR. TAGAROOK: How do you determine which
19 would be the best possible places for the lease sale?

20

21 MR. YOKEL: I don't know that process
22 intimately. But one of the parts of that process is to
23 go out to industry and ask them where their interest is.
24 And our own geologists also look at the potential there
25 and they use that to try to determine the value of each
26 lease tract, the government's required to make sure that
27 it gets reasonable value for a lease, if it's going to
28 sell it.

29

30 In all three of the sales so far they
31 offered for lease all of the lease tracts in the planning
32 areas. But many of them, obviously, were not bid on by
33 industry.

34

35 Now, in the Northwest area I didn't
36 mention that out by Wainwright, part of the decision for
37 the Northwest plan was in this area here to defer any
38 lease sales in that area for 10 years. So there were no
39 lease tracts offered for sale from here west.

40

41 MR. TAGAROOK: In looking at the grey
42 areas between Barrow and Wainwright, that's where all the
43 caribous are migrating during the migration period when
44 they come in or when they start going back in the fall.
45 I think those are very important trails, you can visibly
46 see them when you're flying between here and Wainwright,
47 and those are migratory routes and they've been used for
48 thousands of years and you can see them when you fly over
49 between Wainwright and Barrow.

50

1 MR. YOKEL: And both of those
2 environmental impact statements considered caribou
3 movements and that's partly why in the first Northeast
4 plan there was no leasing allowed in that area up around
5 Teshekpuk Lake. But for most of the area the decision
6 was, we'll go ahead and sell the rights to the oil and
7 gas and then if a discovery is made and a development is
8 proposed then we'll look at the specifics of the
9 development with caribou movements being one of the
10 things in mind.

11
12 MR. TAGAROOK: And you got to also get
13 information from the local people that live in the
14 villages and find out where all the sources of fish and
15 game are and where the habitats are that are important
16 for our subsistence lifestyle.

17
18 MR. YOKEL: Yes, I agree and as you know
19 we were in Wainwright for meetings during the development
20 of those plans and we did try to get as much information
21 as possible, as well as we held meetings in Nuiqsut,
22 Barrow, Atqasuk, Wainwright, Point Lay and Anaktuvuk
23 Pass.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon and then --
26 Amos.

27
28 MR. AGNASAGGA: Yeah, on BLM side, does
29 BLM ever worry about -- because the oil company never did
30 prove how they're going to take care of oil spill. Does
31 BLM ever worry about that or are they just let it --
32 never mind about that?

33
34 MR. YOKEL: Well, I'll speak to two
35 different types of scenarios. The oil company has
36 proven, if you will, how they will take care of oil
37 spills on land because there have been many spills in the
38 current oil fields, most of them very small. And so they
39 have shown what technology they have to clean up those
40 spills and rehabilitate the tundra.

41
42 The vast majority of spills occur on the
43 gravel pads and they're small spills. Sometimes it's
44 crude oil, sometimes it's refined petroleum products,
45 like diesel fuel or lubricants or whatever. And when it
46 occurs on the tundra as well, if a pipeline leak or
47 something occurs, whether it occurs in the winter, the
48 summer does have some difference on the final impacts on
49 the tundra, but for the most part they've shown that they
50 can clean it up to a point -- in the summer time, the

1 clean up activities often cause more damage to the tundra
2 than the oil spill itself does. But over time that oil
3 becomes more like a fertilizer and the vegetation can
4 recover.

5
6 Now, the other scenario is an oil spill
7 out on broken ice in the ocean or the lagoons. There is
8 no known technology for successfully cleaning up spills
9 in broken ice. And for that reason, when BLM offered for
10 lease the Elson Lagoon, Admiralty Inlet, Admiralty Bay
11 and Dease Inlet in the Northwest sale it was under the
12 stipulation that no drilling would be allowed out there
13 until the oil industry could prove that it could
14 successfully clean up spills in broken ice situations and
15 so for the near -- well, you see they didn't buy any
16 leases out there, and we would expect that they'll put
17 that off for some time because they don't have that
18 technology right now.

19
20 MR. AGNASAGGA: But the oil company never
21 did prove how they going to take care of stuff in case
22 there's a spill, that's what I'm asking. They never did
23 out in the ocean and they still -- BLM still gives them
24 land, it don't make sense to me that until they could
25 prove how they could take care of an oil spill that
26 shouldn't happen.

27
28 MR. YOKEL: Well, there are three
29 government entities that might offer for lease oil tracts
30 or oil and gas lease tracts out in marine waters. The
31 BLM, the only marine waters that the BLM has
32 responsibility for are these that are inside the outer
33 boundary of the NPR-A, so Peard Bay, Elson Lagoon, Dease
34 Inlet, Admiralty Bay. We don't offer for lease any lands
35 outside that red boundary because we don't have
36 responsibility of within, I think it is six miles of that
37 red boundary, that's State land. The State has offered
38 many leases in their marine waters and some of them have
39 been developed in the Prudhoe Bay area. Beyond that six
40 mile limit is Federal government again, but BLM is not
41 the agency that deals with that, that's the Minerals
42 Management Service. So the only marine waters that BLM
43 has offered lease tracts in are these right here because
44 we've deferred this for 10 years, so this is the only
45 area where we've offered the lease sales and we did it
46 under the restriction that no drilling, even exploratory
47 drilling would be allowed until they could prove that
48 they could clean up a spill.

49
50 And I agree with you, they know right now

1 that in broken ice conditions, at least, they have no
2 technology for doing that.

3

4 MR. AGNASAGGA: Uh-huh.

5

6 MR. YOKEL: But it was our direction that
7 top management and administration officials in Washington
8 wanted to see as much of this possible available for
9 lease. They made it available for lease but under some
10 pretty severe restrictions right here.

11

12 MR. AGNASAGGA: So what should happen is
13 that nothing could be sold until they could prove, right,
14 is that what really could happen?

15

16 MR. YOKEL: No, they could buy a lease
17 tract there, we'd be willing to sell it to them and take
18 their money, we just wouldn't let them do anything on it
19 until they could prove they could clean it up.

20

21 MR. AGNASAGGA: Okay.

22

23 MR. YOKEL: Now, the State and the MMS,
24 they haven't had those same restrictions for lease sales.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

27

28 MR. G. BROWER: This kind of goes back to
29 the Alpine stuff. To what extent does BLM analyze post-
30 911 concerns, security concerns on terrorism and its
31 impact to subsistence activities for this development?
32 We've asked this to Conoco-Phillips and come up with a
33 blank for the potential terrorism to occur where
34 subsistence is a high priority use area mixing with
35 infrastructure and the vulnerability for that to become a
36 target. I don't know if .810 was applied to a scenario,
37 something like that, and also the -- there was something
38 else here but, I'm getting old.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MR. YOKEL: I have no idea -- I mean I
43 have no knowledge of that environmental impact statement
44 including an analysis of the effects of terrorism in the
45 oilfields on subsistence use.

46

47 As far as how the BLM reached its ANILCA
48 .810 evaluation for the Alpine area, it was a few pages
49 of writing and I narrowed that down to two basic reasons
50 why it was found to significantly restrict subsistence

1 uses and that's primarily for its potential to displace
2 game and hunter use in the Fish Creek area. I don't
3 think there was anything about terrorism in that
4 evaluation.

5
6 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, this comes to light
7 because I've worked in the oil industry, oilfields for a
8 few years myself prior to coming to the Borough. And
9 when the first war was going on, the restrictions around
10 the oilfields were very, very strict. You weren't able
11 to get in there with firearms, you had to have ID, you
12 were asked where are you going to be, your time and
13 destination, where are you going to end up at, the
14 security at the airport was very high profile, people
15 were getting pulled over to the side held during the
16 first war with Suddam and these types of things that if
17 you're going to develop in a subsistence use area have
18 the potential to displace even further, to protect
19 infrastructure, should a threat become imminent in these
20 areas and knowing that domestic oil supply is a high
21 priority of the government, that subsistence land-base
22 would be displaced further if such an action were to be
23 taken to protect oilfield infrastructure.

24
25 The other part is the incident, such as
26 one in Livengood a few years back, where basically a
27 disgruntled person shot the pipeline with, what, a 300
28 magnum or something like that, and put a hole in the
29 pipeline, and if that is another factor concerning the
30 potential displacement of subsistence users because of
31 their predominance with firearms in harvest in these
32 areas, if those were analyzed at all for subsistence
33 impacts.

34
35 MR. YOKEL: Well, again, I don't know the
36 answer to that. My guess would be that that was not
37 analyzed in the EIS and off the top of my head right now
38 I'm not sure what kind of data or experience could be
39 used to analyze the potential of terrorism in the Alaska
40 oilfields to impact subsistence uses. But I will, at the
41 very least, go back and find out if that was analyzed and
42 my response to you then might be, no, it was not.

43
44 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I think it's
45 appropriate because it is a subsistence issue that we're
46 dealing with and the potential for impacts creating it.

47
48 MR. YOKEL: Well, I think it's a lot more
49 than a subsistence issue and certainly the Department of
50 Homeland Security, the State of Alaska are concerned with

1 oil infrastructure, security and I don't know what
2 they're doing to preserve it but I'm sure they're doing
3 something.

4

5 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

8

9

10 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: That also is being
11 discussed with the Department of Transportation. There
12 is going to be a security consultant to interact with the
13 community. That is a very high concern, especially for
14 our whaling efforts. We do have restrictions placed upon
15 us but there needs to be an assessment with BLM to look
16 at the amount of land use change with the various levels
17 of threat. With increased threat, increased restrictions
18 occur and if there can be an evaluation about the
19 restrictions and distance requirements and those type of
20 evaluations, that also needs to be done and communicated
21 and assessed and evaluate for future development
22 activities, especially with the amount of land that's
23 already leased and projected for development, assessing
24 each of the various areas. Right now it's really strong
25 around eastern portion and it's less around the western
26 side because of the further access from the Dalton
27 Highway, decrease risk factors for the industry, but it
28 also has reprocussed [sic] with reactions to us. We
29 don't appreciate having to be escorted or having to have
30 our efforts delayed because we need to have to wait for
31 restrictions and people coming to meet with, to take us
32 through the areas that are our traditional territories of
33 usage. So it's really important to get those assessments
34 done.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

36

37

38 MR. YOKEL: I got a couple of other items
39 I'd like to touch on, Mr. Chairman, if the questions on
40 the map are done.

40

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, Yokel.

42

43

44 MR. YOKEL: The first is very briefly the
45 BLM does have an advisory panel called it's NPR-A
46 Subsistence Advisory Panel that is meant to help BLM
47 prevent unreasonable conflicts between subsistence use
48 and oil industry. We are tentatively looking at
49 September 28th in Nuiqsut for the next meeting of that
50 panel, Rosemary suggested that we postpone it a week and
I just phoned that suggestion back right before lunch. I

1 don't know what the outcome of that will be. We do
2 intend to have that panel meet this month.

3
4 Next, as far as activities in the NPR-A
5 this coming winter, we are expecting to get more
6 applications for permit to drill for exploratory drilling
7 from Conoco-Phillips for this winter, but we don't have
8 them, at least not in our office yet, they may have them
9 in the Anchorage office, but no other activity is
10 expected this winter. No seismic activity, we haven't
11 had any seismic activity, this will be the second winter
12 without it right now.

13
14 I mentioned earlier that almost all of
15 the wells to date have been drilled in this area here. I
16 think what I read in the newspaper is that Conoco-
17 Phillips is going to come in with some permit request for
18 some wells out in this area here. They already drilled
19 one well out here a couple of years ago so they're kind
20 of back in the middle now of that area. So there's
21 definitely some interest along here. There's perhaps
22 more interest here under the Barrow Arch, but currently
23 that's off limits to leasing so nothing's happened there.

24
25 MR. G. BROWER: I got a question.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon, go ahead.

28
29 MR. G. BROWER: Gordon here. Is it a
30 hush-hush thing on the other competitors such as Total on
31 whether or not those guys are planning a comeback?

32
33 MR. YOKEL: Well, they haven't told me
34 what their future plans are. I can tell you that Total
35 did drill one exploration well out in the vicinity of
36 Picdunes last winter, I don't personally know what the
37 results of that well were, but they haven't submitted any
38 applications to come back this winter and have suggested
39 that they won't. I have no idea what their plans are at
40 present.

41
42 MR. G. BROWER: Okay.

43
44 MR. YOKEL: One of the consequences of
45 higher oil prices is that the oil industry has more money
46 to put into exploration but I have no idea what Total's
47 corporate philosophy or strategy is.

48
49 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, have you heard from
50 the other lease holders or are those other lease holders

1 within the Northwest area barred from doing any more
2 exploration? Because it seems to me there was
3 exploration going prior to the lease and was that only
4 limited to seismic or was that also oil exploration?

5
6 MR. YOKEL: There was one seismic
7 operation west of Ikpikpuk River. In recent times that
8 was Western Geco's last gasp on the North Slope two
9 winters ago. As far as I know they were not even able to
10 sell those data, but that was prior to our record of
11 decision and the judge's injunction on surface disturbing
12 activities so no seismic exploration will be allowed in
13 the Northwest area now until this -- until the merits of
14 this case are determined. If the case is determined to
15 have merit, then the judge may choose to keep that
16 injunction in place until the case is decided.

17
18 And then finally I wanted to talk about
19 the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd a little bit. If Geoff
20 Carroll had -- Geoff Carroll was the other person besides
21 myself who wasn't able to speak to you at the March
22 meeting, if he had a chance to talk to you he would have
23 told you what he knew about that movement by the
24 Teshekpuk Caribou Herd this last winter and I'm sure he
25 would have done a better job of it than I will. But I
26 will recount to you what I think I know on that
27 situation.

28
29 Pretty much the entire herd was
30 relatively near to Teshekpuk Lake in the autumn, south of
31 the lake and then that heavy wet snowstorm occurred.
32 Now, perhaps it's coincidence or perhaps it's cause and
33 effect, but right after that heavy wet snowstorm, which
34 then freezes and makes it very difficult and energy
35 expensive for caribou to crater through to get to the
36 foraging resources, the herd split up pretty much into
37 three groups. One group went west, one went south and
38 one went east.

39
40 The hypothesis is is that the one that
41 went east didn't find better foraging conditions until it
42 got clear out onto the Arctic Refuge coastal plain and
43 that's where it stopped for the winter. Unfortunately
44 for a significant number of that herd those conditions
45 still weren't good enough because perhaps thousands of
46 them, I'm not sure, but thousands of them may have died.
47 Now, the population estimate in the Fish and Wildlife
48 Service's report that you just heard before me is old
49 information. The most recent estimate was not 29,000,
50 but 45,000 animals. Now, several thousand of them may

1 have died this year. They were unable to do a photo
2 census this summer because the presumption by the Fish
3 and Wildlife Service that they all made it back to the
4 calving grounds is not completely correct. There was
5 quite a bit of mixing this summer of 2004 between the
6 Central Arctic Herd and a portion of the Teshekpuk Herd.
7 They did exhibit some behavior that certainly suggests
8 that they were disturbed by the TransAlaska Oil Pipeline
9 and the traffic on the Dalton Highway when they moved
10 east. They successfully passed both of those obstacles
11 but they showed a lot more disturbance than the Central
12 Arctic Herd does in that area, the herd that's used to
13 those things.

14
15 On their way back west, they were again,
16 probably, this is my hypothesis, slowed down by the
17 Dalton Highway when they approached it and some of them
18 were slowed down enough that they then got held up by the
19 Sag River breaking up and so some percentage of them did
20 not make it back to the Teshekpuk Lake area by calving
21 season. And I base this just on the data we have from
22 satellite collared caribou. There were three collared
23 animals that did not make it back, one made it all the
24 way to the Colville River and probably got stopped there
25 by that river breaking up and that one animal probably
26 had hundreds or thousands of other animals with it. I
27 don't know. Geoff could tell you better than I, he
28 probably flew them at that time. And we did have two
29 collars, the owners of which died during that winter
30 also. So it was not a good winter for the Teshekpuk
31 Caribou Herd, at least not for that portion that went
32 east to the Arctic Refuge. The majority of them did
33 calve in the normal calving area and, of course, a lot of
34 those were those that did not head east, those that
35 headed south or west. Some of the ones that went to the
36 Arctic Refuge did make it back in time, but not all of
37 them did. It will be very interesting to see where they
38 go next spring. But that's about all I can say on that
39 at this point in time. Those ones that didn't make it
40 back, especially, I mean.

41
42 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

45
46 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Has there been any
47 evaluation of threshold levels on, especially the
48 Teshekpuk Lake Herd, what level of activity can they
49 tolerate, what increases risk factors for cows that are
50 pregnant, those kind of things that -- with the changes

1 that presume to be occurring with the lease sales, if we
2 don't have some threshold levels that's going to be very
3 concerning for future numbers?

4
5 Also, is there adequate baseline data
6 information to use for monitoring reaction? And since
7 these caribou also migrated so far now that gives us
8 concern for other monitoring activities?

9
10 MR. YOKEL: I don't think we have any
11 data that we could use to establish threshold levels. We
12 don't have any real data on the Teshekpuk Herd itself
13 because prior to last winter they had never encountered
14 any oilfield development other than the gasfields outside
15 of Barrow, which are obviously a lot less in extent than
16 the Prudhoe Bay area.

17
18 We do have good data from the western
19 portion of the Central Arctic Herd on how pregnant cows
20 or cows with new calves react to roads, and they do avoid
21 -- have shown an avoidance of roads and traffic on roads
22 and those data have been around for almost 20 years. So
23 we can expect that -- we can reasonably expect that same
24 kind of avoidance in the Teshekpuk Herd, and I would
25 argue that we have no way of mitigating that impact, that
26 if roads are built in the Teshekpuk Herd's calving
27 grounds then those cows are going to avoid those roads if
28 they have traffic on them during the calving season, the
29 cows are going to avoid those roads by one or two
30 kilometers.

31
32 Could you refresh me on some of the
33 latter questions in that group?

34
35 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Baseline data, is
36 there adequacy of information?

37
38 MR. YOKEL: Well, we have, in my opinion,
39 pretty good baseline data on general movements of the
40 Teshekpuk Herd from the 14 years of satellite collar data
41 that we have now. We have good enough data to say that
42 this last winter's move by the Teshekpuk Herd was very
43 unusual, in fact, unheard of. Although the areas that we
44 see to have the most intense calving vary a little bit
45 from year to year, especially in years of a really late
46 break up when some of the cows are struggling through
47 deeper snow late in May and don't quite make it to that
48 calving area before they give birth. You know, we have
49 some idea what the variation is like, we would expect
50 similar levels of variation in the future if we have a

1 development in that calving ground and then see a much
2 different use of calving grounds then we will -- you
3 know, that can also be used as baseline data for
4 suggesting that a big change after development might be a
5 cause and effect relationship. But in science you can't
6 say for sure that that cause and effect is there if you
7 don't have some reasonable control to go along with it
8 where you can -- you want to just test one variable at a
9 time. In this case the variable would be the development
10 in the calving grounds, but there are other things that
11 influence where caribou calve in any year like weather
12 and other things.

13
14 One way we're trying to get at that right
15 now is through this study that was mentioned earlier on
16 the Central Arctic Herd where we have GPS collars, and
17 that study is by Alaska Department of Fish and Game, but
18 BLM is actually paying the bulk of the expense for that
19 study. And putting GPS collars on the caribou, which
20 gives us many more locations and more precise locations
21 and we can see where the caribou are in relation to
22 infrastructure which can all be mapped out and then we
23 can model the reproductive success of the caribou and
24 see, you know, different individual caribou are going to
25 encounter different levels of infrastructure throughout
26 their summer or their lifetime and we can then model the
27 different levels of exposure to infrastructure with a
28 different reproductive success and see if we can see any
29 significance trend that way.

30
31 Because, you know, we have shown in the
32 past that pregnant cows or cows with new calves will
33 avoid infrastructure. We've also seen a shift in
34 distribution of the western part of the Central Arctic
35 Caribou Herd, calving distribution, but what we don't
36 know is if that has any effect on their reproductive
37 success. We do not know that yet. Hopefully this study
38 will shed some light on that.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments or
41 questions to Dr. Yokel.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon. Or Amos, were
46 you raising your hand?

47
48 MR. AGNASAGGA: Nope.

49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I have none,

1 thank you, Dr. Yokel. Do you have any other issues you
2 want to bring out or information?

3

4 MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 That's it for me.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I could make a whole
8 bunch of comments, but I'll wait. At the time it's 5:15,
9 I'm not sure what kind of restrictions we have to be
10 regarding the use of the building, yeah, we're supposed
11 to be out by 5:00, I think they have security that comes
12 in closes up the door. I think we have a couple more
13 items, I don't think it will be a big issue if we don't
14 hear them tonight but get them in the morning. There's
15 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fairbanks, Fish and
16 Wildlife Field Office, Jeff Adams; is he here?

17

18 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: No, we don't have No.
19 E and F.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Alaska Department of
22 Fish and Game, so we'll just move on to No. 13 in the
23 morning, that would be Council Charter Review.

24

25 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So that will be our
28 starting topic tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m., we shall
29 recess until then.

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31 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 2 through 124 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, Volume I, taken electronically by Meredith Downing on the 8th day of September 2004, in Barrow, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 15th day of September 2004.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08 _