

NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC MEETING

September 10, 1996

9:00 a.m.

Arctic Slope Regional Corporation Conference Room  
Barrow, Alaska

Volume I

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Edward Itta, Vice Chair  
Harry Brower, Secretary  
Ben Hopson, Member  
Terry Tagarook, Member  
Ray Koonuk, Member  
Gordon Upicksoun, Member  
Frank Long, Member  
Jimmy Nayukok, Member  
Barbara Armstrong, Coordinator

P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Good morning everybody. Let's go ahead and get started on our joint meeting. Welcome everybody. Our Chairman for the Federal Subsistence Advisory Council got called off on a medical emergency, Fenton Rexford, to Fairbanks or Anchorage, one of them.

MR. H. BROWER: Fairbanks.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: To Fairbanks. Not him, but his wife. So he couldn't be here. We apologize our chairman for the Advisory Council couldn't be here, but at this time also I'd like to go ahead and call our meeting to order from our side, and at this time I want to ask Elokchuk (ph), Eddie Hopson, to open our meeting with a word of prayer. Eddie.

MR. E. HOPSON: (In Inupiat)

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you, Eddie. I want to go ahead and introduce, have everybody introduce themselves, and we'll start with the \_\_ over here in our right corner, if you can introduce yourself, we'll come all the way around. Uh-huh.

MR. RULLAND: Thomas Rulland from Anaktuvuk Pass.

MR. AGUVLUK: William Aguvluk, Wainwright.

MR. AGNASAGGA: Amos Agnasagga, Point Lay.

MR. AHMAKAK: Mark Ahmakak, Nuiqsut.

MR. E. HOPSON: Eddie Hopson, Barrow.

MR. ATTUNGANA: Elijah Attungana, Point Hope.

MR. MILLER: John Miller, Barrow.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Edward Itta, Barrow.

MR. H. BROWER: Harry Brower, Barrow.

MR. B. HOPSON: Ben Hopson, Jr., Anaktuvuk Pass.

MR. R. KOONUK: Ray Koonuk, Point Hope.

MR. UPICKSON: Gordon Upicksoun, Point Lay.

MR. TAGAROOK: Terry Tagarook, Wainwright.

MR. LONG: Frank Long, Jr., Nuiqsut.

MR. NAYUKOK: Jimmy Nayukok, Atqasak.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: And we also have some guests and staff with us, some. We'll start from behind back there.

MS. FOX: Okay. Peggy Fox, BLM.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I'm Barbara Armstrong, coordinator for the North Slope Advisory Committee.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Let's see, Doreen I think.

MS. LAMPE: Doreen Lampe, North Slope Borough, Community Planner.

MS. HOPSON: Dorothy Hopson, City of Anaktuvuk.

MR. OKAKOK: Charlie Okakok, Native Village of Barrow.

MR. EDWARDSON: George Edwardson, Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope.

MR. ULVI: Steve Ulvi, Subsistence Manager, ANILCA coordinator for the National Park Service for Gates of the Arctic National Park.

MR. CARROLL: Geoff Carroll, Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

MR. C. BROWER: Charlie Brower, Director of Wildlife Management.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: All right. Guyana. It's a real pleasure to have our joint meeting again this year. We had one sometime back. It worked out real well. This is our second one, and welcome everybody.

We have our materials that didn't make it on the plane last night, but they're due to be here this morning, and we have an expeditor, Barbara, that's tracking them down, and hopefully be bringing them over, some information regarding the agenda items.

The only agenda right here is the one before you. Does everybody have an agenda? If not, there's some copies up there.

And at this time I want to have roll call on the Subsistence Regional Advisory Council side Harry?

MR. H. BROWER: Okay. We'll start with Fenton Rexford.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Excused.

MR. H. BROWER: Edward Itta?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Here.

MR. H. BROWER: Harry Brower, I'm here. Terry Tagarook?

MR. TAGAROOK: Here.

MR. H. BROWER: Gordon Upicksoun?

MR. UPICKSOUN: Here.

MR. H. BROWER: Benjamin Hopson?

MR. HOPSON: Here.

MR. H. BROWER: Ray Koonuk?

MR. R. KOONUK: Here.

MR. H. BROWER: Frank Long?

MR. LONG: Here.

MR. H. BROWER: Jim Nayukok?

MR. NAYUKOK: Here.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you, Harry.

MR. H. BROWER: We have a quorum, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Go ahead, Charlie?

MR. C. BROWER: All right. Thomas Rulland, Anaktovik?

MR. RULLAND: Here.

MR. C. BROWER: William Aguvluk, Wainwright?

MR. AGUVLUK: Here.

MR. C. BROWER: Mark Ahmakak, Nuiqsut?

MR. AHMAKAK: Here.

MR. C. BROWER: Eddie Hopson, Barrow?

MR. E. HOPSON: Here.

MR. C. BROWER: Elijah Attungana, Point Hope?

MR. ATTUNGANA: Here.

MR. C. BROWER: John Miller, Barrow?

MR. MILLER: Here.

MR. C. BROWER: We have quorum on both sides.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Quorum on both sides. Quyana. We did the welcomes and intros.

Barbara, do we have some more staff people that are going to be coming in?

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, they should have been on this morning's flight. They should be here shortly.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We will have some more staff people coming in this morning, but as we're waiting, we'll go ahead and go down our agenda items. And we've got quite a bit of work before us, but hopefully, if we're \_\_\_ if we do real good, we might even get done today. I don't know, we'll see how we go.

Item number five, review and adoption of our agenda. Entertain a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. It's tentative now.

MR. R. KOONUK: Mr. Chairman, so move.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Moved by Ray. Do I.....

MR. B. HOPSON: Second.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: .....hear a second? Seconded.....

MR. B. HOPSON: Second.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: .....by Ben. Charlie?

MR. C. BROWER: I have some deletion or something. On the second AKP caribou land control proposal, I have that. I didn't get the map, I have a small version of it where I can introduce it for now, but come November, we'll have a full scale proposal for the advisory council to approve or take to the Game Board. (In Inupiat) So I'm going to have to use a smaller version where the outline of the control use area is to be, but we can delete that for the agenda for us to send it as a proposal at a later time for November. How would that be?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. That will fine. You're talking item 7.A.2? Anaktuvuk.....

MR. C. BROWER: No.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: .....Pass caribou?

MR. C. BROWER: Yeah, 7.A.2. Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: 7.A.2.....

MR. C. BROWER: Uh-huh (affirmative).

CHAIRMAN ITTA: .....will be \_\_ we'll do as.....

MR. C. BROWER: Hold on, highlight (In Inupiat) for now,.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. C. BROWER: .....with all the proposals.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Maybe at that time we can highlight the subject,.....

MR. C. BROWER: Right.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: .....and we can discuss it a little bit. Okay.

MR. C. BROWER: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: All right. We \_\_ Geoff?

MR. CARROLL: I just noticed the first thing on the \_\_ under 7.A.1 is going to be Department musk ox update. I was wondering if we could move that further down on the list, because, well, Pat Reynolds will be coming in on this flight.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. CARROLL: She'll have maps and things we need for that. And also there \_\_ the main thing we'll be doing there is going through the revised management plan and it would be good to have people have a chance to look through that a little bit before we talk about it.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. And we'll defer that, item 7.A.1, until staff people get in here a little later this morning. Okay. We'll just hold on that until they come in and then go ahead and pick up that subject on 7.A.1, wait on staff that be on the plane. Real nice weather out there, the plane should make it on time.

We have something I'd like to add on that's right after \_\_ in between item six and seven, maybe we'll call this 6.a, our election of officers is supposed to be on our agenda, and we can discuss what we want to do at that time, but we do need to have it on the agenda, election of officers, as 6.a. Okay?

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh. Or it could be just number seven on its own.

MR. H. BROWER: Seven is old business.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And the other thing.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Seven is old business. We'll just put 6.a. on here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. Okay.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay?

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. This one we can also delete, because Fenton is not here.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. From our staff, from Barbara, we can delete also under old business under item 7.A, item number 6. We can delete Federal Subsistence Board meeting, April 30 through May 3.



MR. E. HOPSON: What about number six?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah. Under item, under old business, 7.A.6, delete 7.A.6. Any more changes or comments? Gordon? Yeah?

MR. UPICKSOUN: Why are we deleting the report?

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That's Fenton. Because Fenton is not here,.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Fenton's not here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: .....he's the chair.

MR. UPICKSOUN: All right.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah. And we don't have his materials. Terry?

MR. TAGAROOK: Is that report going to be sent out?

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: We could do it in writing through Fenton. He was the one that attended that meeting, and that's why we had \_\_\_ when he and I talked, he was going to do it verbally. But he can do it in writing.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: That's the Federal Subsistence Board meeting they had in Anchorage last spring.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. Uh-huh. Yeah.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. H. BROWER: Election of officers is what not?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: 6.a.

MR. H. BROWER: 6.a.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh. Do we have any more comments, questions on the agenda? Charlie?

MR. C. BROWER: I have just one more comment. For the \_\_\_ just to let the North Slope Borough Fish & Game Committee, that we're complying with the Federal Advisory Council here. Our regular meeting will be in December, for their information, because this is \_\_\_ why we are here is like you said, it is a joint meeting.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Right.

MR. C. BROWER: .....to discuss the use of our species, plus the up-coming proposals that will be introduced, too. But our Fish & Game members that they do need \_\_\_ if they need to make proposals and introductions, that we will work this out for the November meeting. But that's why this land use controlled use area, was introduced in here for that purpose for the Anaktuvuk people, and we will \_\_\_ I will highlight that at a later time.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you, Charlie. We're still on review an adoption of agenda. We're still on discussion.

I'd just like to comment, to add onto Charlie's, and correct me if I'm wrong, Barbara, the proposals on any changes that are submitted today will be acted on by the Federal Subsistence Board, or submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board for their October or November meeting?

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: It will be November, because the closing date for new proposals is October 25.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Then you have until then to.....

MR. C. BROWER: Right.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: .....turn your proposal in, and then they're acted on, and then they go back to this Council in February, and then they're acted on again in April, and then that's when \_\_\_ and then they become final in July.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah, it's important on those time lines, because we only have one opportunity per year to change, to submit proposals, to change anything that's wrong regarding our regulations regarding hunting up here. So that's the authority we have as an advisory council to submit those proposals, and that's why we're real glad the Wildlife Committee is here, because we want to hear your concerns, and include them in the proposal so that we jointly all agree and understand, in particular the musk ox and the caribou issues up here, and any changes that can be applied. If you remember, last time we did the same thing, I think we did the limits. We changed the limits from five to ten per day on Tuktu (ph), and we're going to be working on the musk ox issue pretty extensively today also. So that's kind of the highlights of our agenda I think in those two areas.

So any more comments on the agenda?

MR. H. BROWER: Call for the question, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: The question's been called on the motion. All in favor signify by saying aye?

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Opposed, same sign?

(No opposing responses)

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Hearing none, the motion carries. Get my pen. My pen is leaking like crazy.

We have item six for the Advisory Council's consideration, the review and adoption of minutes of our February 8th, 1996, meeting, and also for \_\_ yeah, just for our consideration. I'd entertain a motion?

MR. H. BROWER: So move, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Motion by Harry. Do I hear a second?

MR. LONG: Second.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We're open for discussion on the minutes of February 8th.

MR. C. BROWER: If I may, Mr. Chairman, I have.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yes?

MR. C. BROWER: Just looking through the minutes, I just have a question relating to the National Park Service. They had a draft review of the subsistence law and National Park Service regulations. What is that, pertain to that purpose?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Do we \_\_ Steve has the floor, and get up where people can see you and hear you?

MR. ULVI: Sure. Mr. Chairman, I could address that during my agency report under seven, old business, as was originally planned, or I could address that now, if you would like?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. And that will be under item 7.A.3, National Park Service?

MR. ULVI: That's right.

MR. H. BROWER: (In Inupiat)

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Pardon me?

MR. H. BROWER: (In Inupiat)

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Steve Ulvi.

MR. H. BROWER: State their name, it's being recorded so it can be noted on the minutes. (In Inupiat)

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Yeah, for the record, we need to have you speak up so our \_\_ thank you, Harry \_\_ so that you identify yourself as you speak, because she's going to

transcribe everything we do and then create minutes out of it, so we'd appreciate you stating your name prior to speaking. And that was Steve that just spoke. Steve Ulvi.

MR. ULVI: Steve Ulvi with the National Park Service.

COURT REPORTER: Also, who seconded the motion?

MR. LONG: I did.

COURT REPORTER: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: That was.....

MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chairman, I have a question on the minutes?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Terry?

MR. TAGAROOK: In reference to the caribou that was dying off in Point Hope there, at the Project Chariot site, did they do any studies on that?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: I didn't the question again, Terry? You're on 7.A.2, I believe is where \_\_ or is it?

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: 7.A.2.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We'll be.....

MR. TAGAROOK: All right.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: 7.A.1.b.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. 7.A.1, that will have the caribou update. I'm sorry, we missed an item, but we're still under review on adoption of minutes, but we did miss an item here that should have been 7.A.1.b?

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh (affirmative).

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Caribou update, Point Hope/Project Chariot. Okay. Thank you, Terry.

MR. E. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman, I have a copy with what you're doing now, it's pretty in very small pencil. Do we all have that, or.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yes. Yeah, that's the one we're working off of, Eddie, the same one. I apologize for that oversight on the agenda. But we are on the minutes. Any more discussion on the minutes from our February 8th meeting?

MR. C. BROWER: If I may, Mr. Chairman, just a.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah.

MR. C. BROWER: .....question on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, it's stated that the Porcupine board is being reactivated. To my knowledge, that this is the time when everyone started getting re-appointed and they had a meeting this spring. (Indiscernible, coughing) that came from the North Slope and was approved. Whether Isaac Akuchuk, I think he's a member of the Porcupine Caribou Board that was appointed by the North Slope, and as well, \_\_\_- I didn't know they were defunct, but you state in here they were being reactivated, is that right?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: I don't know.....

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: On the.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: .....if that was by us, Barbara?

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That's with Arctic Native \_\_\_ Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. That is Jim Kurth. They were trying to reactivate the, what is that, the caribou?

MR. C. BROWER: Porcupine Caribou Board.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. He said they were trying to reactivate the Porcupine Caribou Board then. And then if he's here today, he should be, he'll give you another update to see what's going on with that. He had just reported then that they were trying to reactivate that board. But whatever

happened to that is, I don't know, and if he's here today, he should report to you.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Is he due today?

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: He should be here. Jim Kurth?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. YOKEL: Pat Reynolds is here. she'll be here in a few minutes.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: In place of \_\_ will she have this information though on.....

MR. YOKEL: I don't know.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: We had a couple of other people come in at this time. I would ask you to stand up, introduce yourself and your agency, please?

MR. YOKEL: My name is Dave Yokel. I'm with the Bureau of Land Management.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Dave Yokel of Bureau of Land Management. And next to you is?

MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, Bureau of Indian Affairs. Hi, Edward.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah. Ida, my old classmate. Hi, how are you, Ida Hildebrand. Good to see you. Welcome.

Okay. Any more questions or comments on the minutes?

We have a sign-in sheet here by the way, if anybody who hasn't signed in, we'll have you sign.

(In Inupiat)

MR. NAYUKOK: Mr. Chair?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh.

MR. NAYUKOK: Jimmy Nayukok, Atqasak. Is it possible to send out the minutes to the members, board members ahead of time, so we can review them?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah. Okay. Barbara?

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: You heard that? We need to \_\_ we didn't get our materials in time this year for our meeting?

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, I heard that, and I know. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We will make a point of that, Jimmy, and noted.....

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: .....on the record. Thank you.

MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yes, Terry?

MR. TAGAROOK: Call for the question.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: The question's been called on the motion. All in favor of approving the minutes of February '96 say aye?

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Opposed, same sign?

(No opposing responses)

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Hearing none, the motion carried. We'll go on down to our item 6.A, election of officers, and I would at this time request deferral since our chairperson



isn't here at this time, although I guess the \_\_\_ I would recommend that, but we're certainly open if the Board wants to make any movements. Gordon?

MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that we proceed with the election of officers.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. That's fine.

MR. UPICKSOUN: .....in the our chairman. I'm sure he wouldn't object.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. So there's a motion to go ahead and go on. Well, not really a motion, but to go ahead. Any objections from our Advisory Council on that? If not, let's go ahead and.....

MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Terry?

MR. TAGAROOK: I would ask for unanimous consent to keep our existing officers on board.

MR. UPICKSOUN: I'll second that motion.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Outstanding. We have a motion by Terry to maintain status quo on officers, and for the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, seconded by Gordon. We're open for discussion.

MR. UPICKSOUN: For the record, our current chairman is Fenton, Edward our co-chair, and Harry's our treasurer \_\_\_ I mean our secretary.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. TAGAROOK: Question.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: All right. The motion is to maintain Fenton Rexford as our chairperson, myself as vice chair, and Harry Brower, Jr., as secretary, and that's the motion, correct?

MR. H. BROWER: Right.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. E. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman, this is for the Federal?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah, for the Federal side over here.

MR. E. HOPSON: And, by the way, I'm not a part of it, but Terry asked for unanimous consent.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh. I asked if there was no objection to the recommendation. It was not a motion.

MR. E. HOPSON: I know that. That's why I'm mentioning it.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Oh, okay.

MR. E. HOPSON: Unanimous consent is asked for.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. E. HOPSON: If no objection, it passes.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. E. HOPSON: You don't need.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Any objection?

MR. E. HOPSON: .....a motion for that.

MR. UPICKSOUN: Congratulations.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thanks. Yeah, congratulations to all of us. Thank you. Okay. That takes care of business. Thank you.

Okay. We're going down to item seven under old business, under item A, reports. And we have item one, and I don't believe we're ready yet for the Alaska State Department

of Fish & Game. Geoff, would you let us know when you're ready?

MR. CARROLL: Sure.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: We'll just keep deferring for now?

MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: There are some people coming in.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: It looks like we have a lot of our staff coming in now, so maybe at this time we'll just take a very brief break. We'll take a five minute break at this time.

(Off record)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ITTA: We'd appreciate you signing in and.....

We'll go ahead and take another couple of minutes and have the ones that didn't introduce themselves stand up and introduce yourself and the agency you're working with, please? We'll start from you, corner.

MS. REYNOLDS: I'm Patricia Reynolds with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

MR. RABINOWITCH: Sandy Rabinowitch with the National Park Service, for the Staff Committee for the Federal Subsistence Board.

MR. PEDERSEN: I'm Sverre Pedersen. I work for the Department of Fish & Game, Regional Subsistence, Arctic Region.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Go back in \_\_\_ okay.

MS. DETWILER: I'm Sue Detwiler, I work for the Fish & Wildlife Service in Anchorage, in the Office of Subsistence. I work with the Subsistence Board and the Staff Committee.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: All right.

MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm Helen Armstrong, I'm with the Fish & Wildlife Service Subsistence Office, and I'm on the regional team for the North Slope. I'm the cultural anthropologist on that team.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Like I said, make sure you sign in for the record here. (In Inupiat)

(Off record whispered conversation)

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We have staff people here now, both from the State and the Federal subsistence side. And for those of you that came in, for your information, on our right side over here, we have the North Slope Borough Wildlife Management Committee, and this is our \_\_ we asked to have a joint meeting together since we're going to be considering proposals for changes possibly to the subsistence management regulations regarding musk ox, caribou, and whatever other animals that might be coming up.

I've had a suggestion maybe that we might want to move the musk ox update issue onto this afternoon, but I know that we have this packet of information before you. I think a lot of you are familiar with the musk ox issue, and I'm just going to go ahead. We have two hours before lunchtime, and I think this morning while everybody's still fresh would be a good time to go ahead and walk through the proposed changes, and Geoff Carroll with his staff and his people will be walking us through the \_\_ let's see, I think we've got it backwards in here.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We do.

MR. H. BROWER: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah, it's backwards. We've got page one in the back, and so we'll have to work that way. But at this time \_\_ Charlie?

MR. C. BROWER: If anyone else don't have a copy, I can make some more.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Do we need more copies? Everybody have a copy?

MR. C. BROWER: If you don't have a copy? I'll make some.

MR. CARROLL: Edward, we are still running off some copies of what took.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. CARROLL: .....place at the last meeting, so really if there is another subject you can.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. CARROLL: .....talk about first, it's \_\_ we'll be a little bit more ready here.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: All right. Let's get a quick update \_\_ well, let's get an update then on the caribou issue. Do you want to defer that, too?

MR. CARROLL: Well, yeah, I \_\_ the first time I saw that we were going to talk about that was when I saw it pencilled in on the agenda this morning.

COURT REPORTER: Could you sit back here by the microphone?

MR. CARROLL: Geoff Carroll with the Department of Fish and Game. On the Project Chariot caribou project, really the North Slope Fish & Game \_\_ or Department of Wildlife Management has done the analysis of the samples and everything. You know, they're the ones that can really report

in detail on what was found there. In a nutshell it was that most of those caribou that were sampled had died of starvation, and the levels of radio nuclides in the animals was not any higher than samples taken from caribou anywhere else, and that certainly didn't seem to be the cause of death. I don't know, I don't have much more to say about it. I think the results of the studies were sent to Ray and people in Point Hope, and they might have more to \_\_\_ more details on that than I can offer at this time, but that's about it in a nutshell.

MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Gordon?

MR. UPICKSOUN: On the starvation issue, what caused them to starve? What \_\_\_ anything on that other than the fact that you know that they starved, do you know what caused them to starve, what type of theory they came up with?

MR. CARROLL: Well, from people I've talked to that were in the area at the time, it sounds like a much greater number than usual of caribou went right \_\_\_ moved on their southern migration, moved right down the coast that year, and it just seemed that, you know, the first caribou going through pretty much wiped out the vegetation, and then the ones coming along later didn't have as much to eat. In addition to that, there was a series of, you know, very serious wind storms that hit the coast that fall, and kind of one after another. Probably a combination of the fact and the fact that so many \_\_\_ that herd has grown so large, and there are so many caribou in a limited area at that time, in addition to the weather factors would be the \_\_\_ that would be my best guess.

MR. R. KOONUK: Mr. Chair?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Ray?

MR. R. KOONUK: Yeah, as far as the no detection of radio nuclides, how about heavy metal? Was there any sample, or was there anything being analyzed as far as the heavy

metal, the Red Dog Mine, that the caribou passed by there? Was there any?

MR. CARROLL: Well, I kind of hate to be speaking on this, because I'm not the expert on this. Todd O'Hara with the Wildlife Department is the guy that really has done the work on this, and it should be somebody from the Wildlife Department that's presenting the results.

The results that he sent to me, in summary, there weren't any heavy metals that were particularly high in the samples that they took.

MR. R. KOONUK: Mr. Chair?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Go ahead.

MR. R. KOONUK: Could we get Todd O'Hara down here so he can brief?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah.

MR. R. KOONUK: Todd O'Hara?

MR. CARROLL: Yeah, he \_\_ Yeah, Todd O'Hara is out of town. He's getting married.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Todd's not here. We had a request by Ray if Todd O'Hara would be available, who's the main person taking care of the analysis I believe?

MR. CARROLL: Right.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: From the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife, but he's not here, Ray.

MR. R. KOONUK: How about a written report?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Was there a written report presented? You mentioned that a while ago, Geoff?

MR. CARROLL: Yes. What I \_\_ you know, you should really be talking to Charlie about this, you know, that's \_\_

the Borough Wildlife Department did the work, and they're the ones that are responsible for that, and I believe a copy has been \_\_\_ was sent to Point Hope. I don't want to get into this, because I'm not the one who sent the copies.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We'll have Charlie answer that when he gets back in, Ray.

MR. R. KOONUK: Yes.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Go ahead.

MR. R. KOONUK: We were just talking about Point Hope, the caribou out there. Now, also the moose further up northeast. What was the status on the \_\_\_ it was on 14 (ph)?

MR. CARROLL: Okay. Well, I can talk a little more intelligently on moose. It's \_\_\_ the moose die off has been very dramatic on the North Slope. Just within the track that I keep track of in Game Management Unit 26(A), the population has declined from something like, well, practically 1600 moose down to between three and 400 moose in that area. And for the last three years there's been almost no calf survival. Very poor calf survival, so there really isn't anything being added to the population, in addition to a lot of adults dying off.

We captured 35 moose last spring, and those were given thorough physical examinations, and we collected samples from them, and in addition, we put radio collars on those so that we could track their progress through the years, see how many calves were produced and how many died during the course of the summer and that sort of thing.

One of the biggest surprises in the analysis of the blood samples was that we found that the population has a very high rate of disease, of having been exposed to the disease brucellosis. Brucellosis is a disease that's been present on the North Slope for a while. It's in the caribou population, and in the reindeer herds. They \_\_\_ And approximately 10 percent of those animals now have been exposed to brucellosis. This is \_\_\_ it's a real new thing for moose \_\_\_ to have it show up in a moose population. Statewide there's really no other



moose population that has anything but a very, very low level of brucellosis. And from experiments that have been done, the indications are that this could be a very deadly disease for moose. And it's also a disease that can be spread to people, and there's been hunters advisories sent around to the villages, and that was distributed at the last North Slope Borough Fish & Game Management Committee meeting.

In addition to that, there are several other factors that have been working on these moose. We also found that the moose are copper deficient. It's one of the minerals that animals need. It's the sort of thing that has been attributed to a big moose die-off in Sweden, that their moose population has been declining quite rapidly, and they found that they were copper deficient.

And in addition to that, it very well could have been that the moose had over-populated the North Slope, that they had moved into the area in the 40s and 50s, and the population grew rapidly, and then there might have been a food shortage at that time.

So, well, the picture is, is that there are four or five things that are working against this population. The brucellosis factor could explain almost all of it, but even without that there are \_\_ it's probably a combination of factors. The predation is very high. At this point, too, there are a lot of wolves and a lot of bears in that area.

And in addition to that, last summer we found approximately 40 adults along the Chandler and Anaktuvuk Rivers just dead with no sign of predation or anything, and kind of our observation then. But this spring the moose were in pretty good shape, by midsummer they were in very poor shape, and it was one of the worst years for insect harassment that people have seen there.

So there's lots of things that are working on that population, and it's probably a combination of factors that are causing the decline.

As I said, I've been watching the population very carefully this summer to see, first, if the \_\_\_ we knew that there weren't \_\_\_ calves weren't surviving at all. We didn't know if the cows just weren't getting pregnant, or if they were \_\_\_ if the calves were dying along the way. It turned out that most of \_\_\_ 25 out of 30 cows were pregnant, and they had calves. The calves have been ultimately dying, you know, a few at the time during the course of the summer. At this point there are eight calves left out of \_\_\_ from those 30 cows, which isn't very good calf survival, but it's still better than what we've had the last few years, so there's kind of a glimmer of hope there that it might be starting to turn around, but still we are losing a lot of calves, so that's kind of the moose situation briefly.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Charlie?

MR. OKAKOK: Charlie Okakok, Native Village of Barrow. I have a question on the predation, how much of it is attributed to sports hunting on the moose?

MR. CARROLL: On the moose? You know, hunting is always \_\_\_ obviously hunting is a factor, because moose re killed in a situation like that. Before 1993 when the moose started declining, there were \_\_\_ counting both the sports harvest and the subsistence harvest, there were approximately \_\_\_ well, there were between 60 and 70 moose harvested each year. During that same time, there were 300 calves that were being added to the population each year. But I haven't \_\_\_ you know, I count the calves that survive the winter, you know, and that pretty much \_\_\_ you call that your recruitment. Those are the ones that are going to be added to the population, and we were adding about 300 calves per year. So I don't \_\_\_ I mean, hunting certainly wasn't a major factor. It's, you know, a factor, but it wasn't a major factor. So that's one thing you can add in there, but I don't think that hunting \_\_\_ you could say that hunting caused the decline of that population.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Geoff?

MR. CARROLL: Uh-huh.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: What's the current status now on hunting up there? Do you have any \_\_\_ have you put in an emergency order or what's the status now?

MR. CARROLL: Well, in both Federal regulations and State regulations, the hunt is completely shut down across the North Slope, except we were able to maintain a hunt on the lower Colville River where the Nuiqsut people go, and it's a restricted hunt. It's a bulls-only hunt and only for the month of August, and it's no airplanes hunt, so that basically keeps everyone but the people from Nuiqsut that can boat up the river from hunting in that area. So essentially the hunt is shut down for the most part. There is no sport hunting or hunting from other people in the State.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you.

MR. R. KOONUK: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Ray?

MR. R. KOONUK: Yeah, could we get a report, black and white? Can you guys give us a.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Ray's asking if we can get a written report regarding that situation, if it's available?

MR. CARROLL: On the moose situation? Yeah, I don't have it available here now. It wasn't something I knew I would be talking about, but I could certainly send you one. I have one left from the last North Slope Borough Fish & Game Management Committee meeting.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Gordon?

MR. UPICKSOUN: While our North Slope Borough Wildlife Management chair was gone, we discussed agenda item 7.A.1(b),

the question about the caribou the North Slope Borough, Todd O'Hara did, and I think that we \_\_\_ Ray requested an update on their study during Charlie Brower's absence.

MR. C. BROWER: Okay.

MR. UPICKSOUN: Maybe you can.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Charlie, there was a.....

MR. UPICKSOUN: And in Todd O'Hara's absence, maybe he can give us an update on it.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Charlie, while you were out getting copies, our member Ray Koonuk had a question on the status of the caribou die-off last year in the Project Chariot area, and we understand Todd O'Hara is not here, but Ray was asking if there was a written report available, and if so, that we'd like to have a copy of that report?

MR. C. BROWER: I did send one to Mayor Koonuk and one to Rick Suksooluk, the latest redraft update on the study that were done about those caribou that died off at Point Hope. And the conclusion on those was it was just a die-off, malnutrition, of all that died off. There's no radio nuclide effects on any of the caribou whatsoever. But I just sent them a copy, and I sent one to Rick Suksooluk at the same time, when we got the report. But I could make some more (indiscernible, coughing).

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. R. KOONUK: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh. Ray?

MR. R. KOONUK: At our last meeting we brought this up, and the Federal Board, you know, should have a copy of it.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We can, Charlie, maybe later today, this morning, whenever, get a copy provided for us?

MR. C. BROWER: Yeah. I'm glad you brought it to my attention for this purpose, so we can have one made.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. All right. Thank you. Any more questions for Geoff or Charlie regarding the caribou issue here?

MR. R. KOONUK: When are you going to get them?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: If not I guess we'll go ahead and \_\_\_ Geoff has asked us to defer the musk ox issue and the cooperative proposed management plan for this afternoon, so we'll go ahead and comply with his request saying that we can be better organized this afternoon.

But if we don't have any more questions on the caribou update, we'll go ahead and go on down to item two under old business, reports, the Anaktuvuk Pass caribou. First off we have the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and then National Park Service, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, and the Bureau of Land Management. And then, Charlie, you can give us a quick update on the.....

MR. C. BROWER: I can do that before these guys.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Go ahead.

MR. C. BROWER: Thank you. Anyway, I've been working with the City of Anaktuvuk in regard to the shortage of caribou migrating into Anaktuvuk this past few years and some conclusions over what have been made why they haven't been migrating through Anaktuvuk. That's still, you know, the conclusions that haven't come out yet, but from that point, their mayor, Mr. Paul Hugo (ph) made the restriction that we put a land control use area north of Anaktuvuk for two months out of the year, September and October, and that that proposal, we're going to introduce it to you folks, but I don't have the map with me which covers Anaktuvuk. And I have a real small map on Gates of the Arctic right here. The map that I'm supposed to use is a big one, and I don't have that with me. I was hoping to defer that until I have a meeting with the North Slope Board of Fish & Game and see what their

participation would be. But that's an issue right now for Anaktuvuk is there's no \_\_ hardly any migration, what's affecting them, what's causing them not to go through, and it's still a question for us right now. And we're doing aerial surveys right now to see where caribous are north of Anaktuvuk. For the past three weeks they've flown a total of about 1500 miles to figure out where the caribou are right now. And that's still an on-going issue. We have until the end of this month to fly to see where they're at right now. And if Benny or Dodo can hold on on this proposal for the land use area, I'll have to go back to my office and get the map, which I can present later on, maybe this afternoon while I'm still here.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. C. BROWER: (In Inupiat) land control use area north of Anaktuvuk for two months for subsistence only. (In Inupiat) to the spike camps (In Inupiat).

MR. B. HOPSON: Is the date August and September instead of September and October?

MR. C. BROWER: September?

MR. B. HOPSON: August and September.

MR. C. BROWER: Yeah, August and September. Yeah. (In Inupiat) Only two months. (In Inupiat) Their mayor, Mr. Paul Hugo, (In Inupiat) communicate with you for \_\_ on that issue for a while, so I'd rather not (In Inupiat) for the Fish & Game Committee meeting. (In Inupiat)

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you, Charlie. Ben?

MR. B. HOPSON: We sure could use the land control use area, so I'm asking out joint committee support Anaktuvuk for that.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. B. HOPSON: This caribou migration's been very poor the last several years, and the community hunters are getting frustrated, because there's people hunting north of us, and all the migrations are veering off to the west or east of us, and we're just getting frustrated. It's getting hard to get in the caribou. So we have a pretty good idea sport hunting has quite a bit to do with it, because they're the first ones to hunt, and they can swing the herds around quite a bit.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Frank and \_\_ Frank Long.

MR. LONG: Yeah, Frank Long, Nuiqsut. I think I can say something to that effect of what Ben was saying, because I don't think it's only Anaktuvuk that's being affected by having no caribou migrating the route that they used to. This year and past year around Nuiqsut we have very few caribou around during the summer, like at least a couple of months. In the past we used to see the Porcupine herd that goes down below Nuiqsut all the way to Pacikpuk (ph). This year I didn't see any, but the \_\_ and the guys that are trying to hunt caribou are having the hardest time of even finding any. I'm thinking that maybe it could be effect of the tourism that's started on the haul road during the summer, or maybe like Ben said there are already hunters out there that are ahead of us that are making them go a different route, and not reach us for some reason. And I thought I'd pass that on to Charlie, since he sort of manages and takes care of the movement of the caribou. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you. Elokchuk and Steve.

MR. E. HOPSON: Is that open/close season in effect for subsistence in Anaktuvuk area? (In Inupiat) open and closed season (In Inupiat) subsistence uses (In Inupiat).

MR. R. KOONUK: (In Inupiat) all year round.

MR. E. HOPSON: (In Inupiat)

MR. R. KOONUK: It's open to every.....

MR. E. HOPSON: I'll say how about for sport hunters for caribou?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah. (In Inupiat) It's open.

MR. E. HOPSON: All year?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah. It's open.

MR. E. HOPSON: Year round?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yes.

MR. R. KOONUK: Some State lands (In Inupiat) to the north of us where several guides operate.

MR. E. HOPSON: Has anybody really pinned down what is the problem for caribou migrating through there that are having problems now, instead of.....

MR. C. BROWER: When we first started \_\_ Mr. Chairman, if I may?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yes.

MR. C. BROWER: When we \_\_ when this issue was first brought up to us by Anaktuvuk Pass people, we had some thoughts whether there is too much traffic, commercial traffic going in there, too much construction traffic going in there, whether their trash was being burned with the wind, prevailing winds to divert the caribou somewhere else. If not so, there's something like seven or nine spike camps north of Anaktuvuk that bring in sports hunters right at the migration of the caribou starts towards Anaktuvuk, which make them pick their route elsewhere. And also some of the remarks that I will make were maybe there's too much hunting way north up there on one of these Sheep River or somewhere north of Anaktuvuk from the Barrow side, but it's different every year. But those are some of the remarks that were made by us to try to get them out to see where they \_\_ see how we could help with the migration of the caribou. So there's \_\_ we're still working on that right now.



MR. E. HOPSON: One more question. Is it only the sports hunters that go north of Anaktuvuk Pass for caribou? Just the sports hunters?

MR. C. BROWER: (In Inupiat)

MR. ULVI: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: We have \_\_\_ you wanted to have a comment, then Dorothy and Gordon.

MR. ULVI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Steve Ulvi with the National Park Service. Charlie, just clarification there. You're talking about a proposal that you'll meet with your Fish & Game Advisory Committee on again, and then bring forward a proposal to both the State and the Federal side to close lands?

MR. C. BROWER: Just for the Federal Board.

MR. ULVI: Just for Federal lands, the closure?

MR. C. BROWER: Federal and park land, all lands north of Anaktuvuk.

MR. ULVI: Federal lands.

MR. C. BROWER: Yeah. And in regards to that concern, I looked into it with our attorney, and we probably can use Title XIX of ANILCA for that purpose. It's still in the making right now. It's all lands north, it's Park Service land use, I mean, Park land in here north of Anaktuvuk. Yeah. To bring that at SRC meeting.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Steve, thank you. Dodo?

MS. D. HOPSON: There's a spike camp at the base of the Gunsite Mountain that the mayor of Anaktuvuk would like to see removed, if there's any directions as to where we can get help in doing that, because it's located in a sensitive area of the migration of the caribou, too.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Do you know if that area is Federal land or State land?

MS. D. HOPSON: I didn't check.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. That's fine. Before I go on here, I know the Management Committee and us, we need to do a joint proposal, because we oversee the Federal lands from the Federal side over here. And we need to do a joint proposal that includes our areas that also encompass your areas for submittal both I guess to the Federal Subsistence Board and the State Board of Game. Is that the way that I understand it, Charlie, correct?

MR. C. BROWER: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. (In Inupiat) That's within the Borough through your Management Committee. (In Inupiat) submit (In Inupiat) both to the Federal Subsistence Board. And, Dodo, we do have staff that can help us develop that proposal, and we do have \_\_ you do have resources through our Advisory Council, and we have the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service who are our staff people who can help develop the proposal, so we can do that on our side and help support Ben's request here, so.....

Let's see, I had Gordon after Dodo. Are you done, Dodo? Dorothy?

MS. D. HOPSON: Just one more thing.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Sure.

MS. D. HOPSON: The City wanted to thank Charlie Brower and his staff for helping us in this area, and the State Department of Fish & Game for helping us with our caribou sightings and stuff like that.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. C. BROWER: Thank you, Dodo.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh. Okay. Gordon?

MR. UPICKSOUN: Yes. I appreciate Frank's and Ben's statements regarding the possibility of the caribou being diverted from their regular migratory routes and consequently missing for instance Anaktuvuk Pass and Kwethluk. Down the road, that could happen to all the villages. By golly, if that happens to the herds that go through Point Lay, we'd be concerned. So they do have a very valid concern regarding Anaktuvuk migrating caribou possibly being diverted from their regular route by the spike camps, like the spike camp that the mayor of Anaktuvuk Pass there, which was said about the \_\_\_ Dorothy Hopson and all those on State land in the past years, the spike camps might in truth make the problem worse. So \_\_\_ and that could very well happen to \_\_\_ if they can do that to Anaktuvuk Pass area, they'll probably come down to our area, too, and impact our area down the road. So if we don't address that, to stop that now, then we could possibly have a bigger problem down the road.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Just for definition, and correct me if I'm wrong, Charlie, a spike camp is more or less a base camp for registered guides, is that correct?

MR. C. BROWER: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Is that correct?

MR. C. BROWER: Yes. Uh-huh.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. All right. Terry?

MR. TAGAROOK: Terry Tagarook from Wainwright. I'm listening to what Ben and Dodo and Frank have been saying. I think the best way to go about that is to stop the sports hunting, and that would help in keeping the caribou keep their migratory routes.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: I haven't looked at the \_\_ thank you, Terry, but on the controlled use land plan, Charlie, that \_\_ you're currently in the works with that now? You have been working on that, correct?

MR. C. BROWER: We've working on it, yeah.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. C. BROWER: And when you initiate a land control use area just for subsistence hunting only for a period of \_\_ I think there's a time limit, or, I don't know, but we did \_\_ Anaktuvuk wanted to put two months in there out of the year where that land will be only for subsistence purposes only. And that would include the spike camps that are in that control use area.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Just another quick question. When are you \_\_ when is your committee going to deal with this issue?

MR. C. BROWER: I'm working on it, so I'm going to send it out as a report to them before November for consent approval. We don't have one until December.

MR. H. BROWER: Their next meeting is scheduled in December.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. The reason why I'm asking is again we're trying to get within our time lines to submit our proposal on the Federal side.....

MR. C. BROWER: I have those.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: .....for consideration to the \_\_ and what I'm asking is have we on our side, has Fenton started any development of any proposal working with our staff at this time?

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: No, he hasn't. He's going to work with the.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: .....Commission here on that side, and then put that proposal in by October 25.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And you will get to review that in your February meeting. So that you don't have to worry about. They're going to work on it.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And then it will be presented to you in your February meeting, and then that's when you'll discuss it. And that's when you'll put your input in on that proposal,.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: .....whether you agree with.....

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: For support.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: .....it or if there needs to be any changes that you want to make, that's when you'll do it then.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: All right. Quyana.

MR. AHMAKAK: A question, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Mark? Mark and then Gordon.

MR. AHMAKAK: Yes, in regards to this issue of caribou, migrating, and migrating through other routes, we've been on this issue for quite some time, this North Slope Committee, and we have heard and commented on various issues that you raised, especially from Anaktuvuk. But one of the things that need to be looked at is if you're talking about

land use control area, our village is having to go out further and further also to look for their subsistence caribou, see. We may be somewhat talking about overlapping land use hunting control area. For your consideration.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. C. BROWER: I think, if I may, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Sure, Charlie, go ahead.

MR. C. BROWER: To answer Mr. Ahmakak's question, the land use area that Anaktuvuk has approached should go as far as \_\_ it doesn't even reach into Nuiqsut area or anywhere in that. It's just within certain, about 35, 40 miles north slightly. about 50 miles right then.

MR. AHMAKAK: Hmm?

MR. C. BROWER: About 50 miles up north. (In Inupiat) Yeah, the farthest zone.

MR. R. KOONUK: Ee-ee.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Go ahead, Mark?

MR. AHMAKAK: One other thing, our plan (ph) and maybe you are aware, too, our local hunters are having to go way, way up river to look for caribou also, even as far as Omeruk (ph), and it's further than Anaktuvuk or \_\_ see, the caribou is getting scarce also for our community. And you're talking about spike camps, and this other Haul Road that the North Slope Borough has put in some money into for monitoring the Haul Road. I don't know how well that's going to work but we do have a lot of \_\_ we still some planes up and down our river. for your consideration.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We have Gordon and then Eddie.

MR. UPICKSOUN: A question for Charlie now. Who is doing the study on the land use issue? What other department are you working with? And these spike camps that we're

talking about, on what land are they primarily? Are they on State lands and who gives them permits to build all these spike camps? A question from my side.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. C. BROWER: Well, the \_\_\_ I'm working with the Law Department for the Borough, also with the Planning Department. They're the two people that I have to work through.

MR. UPICKSOUN: And are your villages involved?

MR. C. BROWER: The village is involved, that's right. They have the first say so of where they want it done. Then they print it on a map to us, and then we have to analyze where \_\_\_ what's all in that land. Then the Law Department has to define our Title XIX, which I'm trying to use as a tool under the Borough for that purpose, to have some heavy leverage for that from our side, because this thing has been introduced to the Game Board so many times, and we've been told by the ADF Game Board to \_\_\_ you don't have enough data, you don't have enough information for this, so we've just been put aside, put aside, put aside, so we're going to approach it on a different source.

MR. UPICKSOUN: And, Mr. Chairman, maybe.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Sure.

MR. UPICKSOUN: .....Charlie can answer the other two questions I had. The location of these spike camps, are they primarily on State?

MR. C. BROWER: They're on State land, right.

MR. UPICKSOUN: On State land, and they give.....

MR. C. BROWER: They're on the State land, and.....

MR. UPICKSOUN: .....the permits?

MR. C. BROWER: The permit is either from the State or the North Slope Borough.

MR. UPICKSOUN: And how many have the North Slope Borough \_\_ how many permits have they given.....

MR. C. BROWER: Seven. I know there are seven or nine in that area.

MR. UPICKSOUN: They gave these permits to open these spike camps on the migratory route of the caribou going to Anaktuvuk Pass?

MR. C. BROWER: They've been there from \_\_ I think they had grandfather rights or something like that. They were up there long before.

MR. UPICKSOUN: And the rule of the grandfather rights still works even though it affects the whole village?

MR. C. BROWER: If that's \_\_ right.

MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay. That's my question. That doesn't sound right, but if that's grandfather rights does something wrong, it's still okay. That still doesn't seem right.

MR. C. BROWER: Well, that's where we're trying to work with Planning and legal.....

MR. UPICKSOUN: And our Law Department.

MR. C. BROWER: .....(indiscernible, coughing) and with the State.

MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay.

MR. C. BROWER: And the Law Department.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Is that it, Gordon?

MR. UPICKSOUN: Yes.



CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We had Elokchuk and then George. Eddie, yeah?

MR. E. HOPSON: How many different agencies in the Anaktuvuk Pass area are participating in the management? You've got BLM, and you've got Federal Fish & Game,.....

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Gates of the Arctic.

MR. E. HOPSON: .....you've got State, and what have you. Who all \_\_\_ does everybody \_\_\_ every one of these Department have a say-so as far as hunting in that area? Subsistence? Why can't they get together and give it to one management for subsistence? I've go subsistence hunt, go and get a caribou. I've got to deal with \_\_\_ I've got to deal with Fish & Game, Federal, what have you. That \_\_\_ it looks like there's three or four times that one effort, every agency spending money to take care of the resource. I'm not only \_\_\_ we've got to be concerned about Anaktuvuk Pass, because the only subsistence resource they have is caribou. Everybody else have everything, ocean, whale, walrus, seal. And the fish is not that plentiful at Anaktuvuk Pass either. Why can't all these agencies get together and decide and say you take care of the management, and we're going to stay away from there. BLM, Federal, State. I think it's a very important and great concern, because the only subsistence resource Anaktuvuk Pass have is caribou. Maybe moose, yes.

Everybody, Federal, State, BLM, what have you that's involved in that area, they're all spending money for the same thing, which can be handled by one agency, maybe the North Slope Borough is well set up. North Slope Borough is in contact with everybody. That way BLM, State, Federal and all those agencies, you save money if you turn it over to North Slope Borough for manage subsistence. And I believe you all agree with me. That would be the best route to go. Save your money, and give our manage Federal \_\_\_ the subsistence management to North Slope Borough, let them manage it. And all these other agents better come along and go along.

All the sports hunters, State. I know they're providing a lot of funds to operate the State Fish & Game. At least so that the sports hunters can stay away from the migration route at a certain time, and then they can come in later. Wouldn't that be great, that. They're providing a lot of money for permits. People are looking for caribou meat. How many sports hunters deliver their carcass meat to Anaktuvuk Pass when they get a great big winner, you know, they get a trophy for it.

I think ANILCA takes care of subsistence, traditional subsistence hunting. It's taken care of by ANILCA. So I think seriously, whoever is going to lead that effort to manage subsistence hunting for Anaktuvuk Pass, I think we'd better be thinking about it. Everybody's spending much money for the same thing.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you. There are at least \_\_ one, two, three, four \_\_ three Federal agencies, the State Department of Fish & Game are involved in that area I believe?

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes, there are.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Right. Three Federal agencies.

MR. H. BROWER: Uh-huh.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management, correct?

MR. C. BROWER: They're under one umbrella under the Department of Interior, but they're all in different branch. They do their own thing, and.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: I like what Eddie's saying, that under ANILCA, I think we had some discussions about that, how we could try to get it under one entity and agency to try to control those areas, but maybe that's an area that for the record I want it noted that I think our Chair needs to be working with you and see with our North Slope Borough

departments and resources of you, and our resources, to see if we \_\_ if there is a way that maybe we might start looking at a single point of control on these agencies, or one committee or one group or something, but I fully support Eddie's, and I just want it on record that I think, you know, we should not just put it aside, but that it should be a joint effort to explore avenues to have a single entity. And I know it's complicated, but \_\_ Charlie?

MR. C. BROWER: I was just going to say, you know, your recognizing of the Federal act under \_\_ and self-determine under that purpose, you can use BIA funds for a contract under 638 for wildlife parts and to monitor and whatever in your areas by each traditional village. They can do that. But it's \_\_ whether that can go a long ways or not, we don't know. It's still in the air right now. And there's some other thoughts that we \_\_ and I've thought of to do that, but you want to work it out where you want to manage your own, you can use your federally-recognized tribe entities to do that. But another question you do that, you have to have qualified people do the work and maintain those things. You just can't come in and say, all right, we're going to take this opportunity. You know, you just don't act like that. You have to have qualified people to run your show.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: But like if it was the native village of Anaktuvuk or the IRA, they can.....

MR. C. BROWER: They can make a contract.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: .....they can sub out or delegate their authority and responsibility to maybe say the NSB Department of Wildlife Management. Can those kinds of things be considered or.....

MR. C. BROWER: I think really needs to be looked into, whether that can be with the \_\_ verbally (ph) between a home charter and their entity being run under BIA or something. They might have some confusion or, you know, where they can't spend funds under a certain limitation.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. (In Inupiat) And I would encourage that we go ahead and pursue that avenue.

MR. EDWARDSON: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Let's see, I had George Edwardson and Benny and Gordon. George? On the same subject?

MR. EDWARDSON: On the same subject. To start off with, every one of you sitting right there in front of me on the table, you all understand when you go hunting caribou and when the first of the herd comes in, they're the ones that are going to set the path of the migration of the rest. We understand this growing up, being taught by our parents, and then by whoever taught them that this is how the animal migrates. It doesn't matter if it's the Porcupine herd, or if it's the one over toward Point Hope, or the one that comes here into Barrow. When you disturb the first of the herd, you have disturbed the migration path. We understand this.

Then I heard somebody comment a little bit earlier that BLM says you don't have, or Fish & Game says you don't have enough information, and you don't have enough facts to back up what you're saying, so we're not going to listen to you.

But on the side of the State of Alaska, on their constitution, they have Section IV that says, you have your priorities on your subsistence use. On the Federal side, in the Park Service, or in BLM, with the assistance of the BIA, you have mechanisms where you can go into a co\_partnership to manage a resource. And just to give you an example of it working and working very well, you can look at our whaling commission, our AWC. It works. And the body has started to create \_\_ you have started \_\_ the group right here in front of me that can start that kind of management for the animals. You want to take care of the caribou, you have already started the group. The Federal laws are in place. There's BIA, there's BLM, there's the Park Service, the State of Alaska. They all know their rules. And you have started it. And if sport hunters are in the way, then the term sport hunting \_\_ they're just hunting for fun. You put them downstream of the

migration of the people that need them. You put them downstream of Anaktuvuk Pass. You put them downstream of the migration at Nuiqsut. Make sure you get your food first. And Federal law exists, and State law exists. This body right here, you can start managing the game.

Like I said, BLM \_\_ BIA is over there, and they do have money, and we can to into, you know, tri-party agreements with the North Slope Borough, with the Federal, you know, you're a part \_\_ your subsistence board, with the tribal governments. And if that's not enough, then you have the city councils, State-chartered city councils which has authority. And like any city who's boarded (ph) right, you have \_\_ you know, you have the expertise. Quit letting the Federal Government tell you you don't have enough facts.

Somebody mentioned grandfathered rights. Before the term subsistence hunting came, you were hunting. Before sport hunting came, you were subsistence hunting. Before the United States started, you were subsistence hunting. You have grandfathered rights. Somebody who is sports hunting does not have grandfathered rights if you're still living here.

So you people have to sit down and put all the leaders together and come up with the agreement, and the money is there in the BIA, the money is there in the National Park Service, the money's there in BLM, to do this, to form this. That's what I wanted to say.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you, George. And we have Ben and Gordon. Ben?

MR. B. HOPSON: I wanted to state, you know, we just can't express enough in words how much we depend on caribou so much, and access to other hunting areas is very limited, because our village is located right in the heart of the national park. And then like we can't go to the next valley, 40 miles over, because we're not allowed to land, hunt and then take them into the village, so we have a very limited access. And our only hope is really that north section where we have quite a bit of access anyways.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh.

MR. B. HOPSON: The lands to the east are closed, like if we wanted to go over like, let's say, the north fork if the caribou were migrating heavily, we couldn't drive our Argo there or fly there, hunt and transport the meat back to Anaktuvuk.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh.

MR. B. HOPSON: So our only access is through ASRC lands, village corporation lands, and then some access that's been provided by the Park Service in this on-going land trade.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you, Ben.  
(Indiscernible, simultaneous speech) Gordon, then Elijah.

MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay. My name is Gordon Upicksoun. On the point brought out by Elokchuk regarding spike camps, and several people brought up the issue of the migratory route, and there was questions about the permitting process. Okay. And then they used an example of agencies that's working, the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, where they brought concessions from the drilling operations in our area, where they cease drilling during the migratory period of the bowhead whale, for instance. Now, why can't they do that in the case of the caribou that normally migrate through Anaktuvuk Pass, and the permitting process that they do not hunt in these spike camps in front of the migratory route going to Anaktuvuk Pass? We got concessions, the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission got concessions from the oil industry regarding permitting process where they specified that they will cease drilling during the time that the bowhead migrates through the area that they're drilling. And Elokchuk brought a good point out of where why can't they cease hunting in these spike camps that are on the migratory route before the caribou get to Anaktuvuk Pass.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Qu yana, Gordon. Okay. Charlie?

MR. C. BROWER: If I may, Mr. Chairman, I have to excuse myself. I think on this land use area, we will work on

it and introduce it to you in the near future before your next meeting.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. And we'll work.....

MR. C. BROWER: And on the issue, we have experts from the State and BLM and Park here to give you the highlights.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. All right. Thank you, Charlie. Guyana, and we'll see you again. And, Elijah?

MR. ATTUNGANA: Yeah. (In Inupiat) Over three weeks, (In Inupiat) but they go the other way.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: (In Inupiat)

MR. ATTUNGANA: (In Inupiat)

MR. E. HOPSON: (In Inupiat)

MR. ATTUNGANA: (In Inupiat)

CHAIRMAN ITTA: On the \_\_ Elijah's just briefly summarized also supports the proposition that Eddie proposed, his statement on having a single point of management. And he's also using a case in point of the Red Dog Mine, and their expectations in July and August of caribou that traditionally went their way of being diverted because of the road and the activities at Red Dog, and that he feels that Kivalina feels the same way, that the diversion is not there, and he feels very strongly that a single point of management would do a lot to help alleviate their situation, because they also depend on that herd. And he's saying it's not only one way to the west when they migrate, but also coming back, and also from the herds that come from this way and also from the south, so he's pretty much in concurrence with Eddie's in saying that they're dependent subsistence-wise also heavily on the caribou, and (In Inupiat). Somebody help me if I didn't \_\_ if I missed the point. (In Inupiat) Okay.

And for our transcriber, those one in Inupiat, you can take that item and send it up this way and we can have our

translators put it on verbatim for you, and translate so we have it on record. Okay. Quyana, Elijah, and Mark, and Dodo.

MR. AHMAKAK: My name is Mark Ahmakak. (In Inupiat) One other consideration while we're all here together, what's been bothering me is on-going possible developments now that these parties here that takes care of our federal lands, oversees federal lands and subsistence and animals and fishes, NPRA, this committee may have recommendations, but it is your body that would make recommendations in efforts of maximizing or preserving our lifestyle of subsistence hunting. As you are all probably aware, our area is going to be very active, and especially out in NPRA lands, and whatever recommendations the committee comes up with will be brought forth to your committee for your effort in supporting in self-preserving our subsistence land use areas and our animals. Quyana.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you, Mark. Dorothy and then Eddie.

MS. D. HOPSON: If I'm not wrong, the State is doing what they call a caribou air service. They're flying to monitor the frequency of where caribou travel, and I think they've got one more trip to Anaktuvuk to do that, and the mayor wanted to know, the mayor of Anaktuvuk wanted to know if the North Slope Borough could at least sponsor two more trips, and we're doing our own like count on the caribou right now, 'cause we don't have a subsistence specialist that helps the Borough with that. And he would like to see that position open full time for Anaktuvuk. The subsistence specialist position.

And when they've been flying around the caribou surveillance, they seen, these are the number he gave me. When they went 40 miles down, they were very few, but scattered. Seventy miles east, there's the fewest caribou they've seen. Seventy miles north, about 200 caribou. Ninety miles west, most of the caribou were scattered, and there was about 200. They did flying three times, about 11 and a half hours, and that's \_\_ they concentrated in those areas, southeast, northwest. And he just wanted me to give that report. They're not really accurate, but Steve McLean from



Wildlife should have that, the right report on the surveillance.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you, Dorothy. Have the \_\_\_ I know Steve, and that he's been flying. Have the flights stopped now from the Borough?

MS. D. HOPSON: They have. The State has one more trip I think. That's why he's asking to see if the Borough can sponsor two more trips.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Does anybody on the Federal Subsistence side Board have any trouble supporting that request for Anaktuvuk to have at least two more flights sponsored by the North Slope Borough? We can support that request.

MR. UPICKSOUN: Did the director leave.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yes.

MR. UPICKSOUN: .....somebody to delegate to after his \_\_\_ during his absence?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: We will get the word over and support that on behalf of Anaktuvuk, to get at least two more flights by the Borough. And also that subsistence resource specialist, that's been advertised, and just hasn't ever been filled, correct?

MR. H. BROWER: It's still in the open position right now, and we're still taking applications. We're planning to interview probably when Topolik (ph) gets back from her vacation anyhow. About the part of making that a full time, we need to discuss that with Charlie and our staff in Wildlife, to see what we can \_\_\_ how to address that consideration.

MS. D. HOPSON: Since that's the only \_\_\_ caribou and sheep is what we depend on, but mostly caribou, since that's the most \_\_\_ that's the most important one, we would like to see a full time subsistence specialist in Anaktuvuk.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. H. BROWER: Pass that on to our director.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. And I.....

MR. PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Wait, I've got Eddie and then Jimmy.  
Eddie?

MR. E. HOPSON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to say one thing, that everything that I've said, I'm not trying to eliminate all these departments, and I to want to make sure you understand that. I'm not trying to eliminate you. You have \_\_ all of you have responsibility to take care of.

I'd like to quote a verse from the Bible: When God created the earth, resources, the last thing, I believe when he was done, he made was a man and a woman. I always say you read it, you don't have to turn very many pages, maybe turn one page in the Bible in Genesis. The first responsibility that God gave when he created man was to manage the resource. You're going to see that, I think it's on the first chapter, 28th verse. I'm not sure, it's around the 28th verse. After he seen what he's created, the \_\_ he gave one responsibility to the man, you subdue it. In the King James version you'll see that. I'm translating that into saying you manage it. That's where all you different departments come in. We need you. But in the \_\_ but I still say that we should go to one management. That would be good. You will have your conditions in the cooperative agreement. Different departments. I just wanted to say that. I'm your friend, and I'm going to suggest something that's going to work out for our people. I grow old being a poor man, and work for my man. I'm still pushing. So I'd just like to make that clear, that I'm not trying to eliminate all you different departments, but we need you. Just help us make something easier for us.  
Guyana.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you, Eddie. Jimmy?

MR. NAYUKOK: Yes, I had a question on the aerial survey. Is that just in the Anaktuvuk Pass area?

MR. H. BROWER: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: I believe so.

MR. H. BROWER: There have been overflights which the North Slope Borough Search and Rescue. I know the ones for the Borough, I'm not sure what the State's using, but the Borough is using the Caravan and the \_\_\_ what is that other aircraft? The King Air. But we were told that King Air flies too fast, they can't see, and he's flying 200 miles an hours, and they switched it over to the caravan.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We have I think a comment in regards to that question by staff over there, and then I've got Ray and Gordon.

MR. PEDERSEN: Yeah. Mr. Chairman, this is Sverre Pedersen, Department of Fish & Game. I have some information that might, you know, help clarify some of these questions here. So just let me know when you'd like me to.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. PEDERSEN: .....provide you with that additional information?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: If you \_\_\_ if I \_\_\_ if it's okay with you, Ray and Gordon, I'd like to defer right now to our staff person in regards to our discussion, and maybe he can give us some more insight, and I'll give the floor back to you after a minute. So if you could go ahead and make your comments?

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm Sverre Pedersen. I work for the Department of Fish & Game, Division of Subsistence, in Fairbanks, the Arctic Region there.

I have some information I think is useful for you to consider here concerning the situation in Anaktuvuk Pass. I have been working cooperatively with the North Slope Borough,

and actually the Department has worked cooperatively with the North Slope Borough since 1990 when we had a Board of Game meeting where Anaktuvuk brought a proposal to the Board of Game asking for a closure north of the community to deal with a problem that they saw developing concerning the fall migration into the Anaktuvuk Pass area.

Since that time, we've cooperatively instituted an annual harvest survey in the community of Anaktuvuk, where we look at where people from Anaktuvuk are taking caribou, now many they're taking, and what these seasonality of their take has been. And that project has been very successful. In fact now the North Slope Borough Wildlife Department is responsible for that survey. They've taken it over completely and are doing a very fine job.....

MR. H. BROWER: When was this?

MR. PEDERSEN: .....of collecting that information.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: The question was when was this? When?

MR. PEDERSEN: When did they begin doing this? The North Slope Borough took over the project, the principal responsibility for that project basically last summer, and were responsible for collecting harvest information for '94. Up until that time, it had been a joint project between the Department of Fish & Game and the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management.

So the first thing is that we have good information, (indiscernible, coughing) people in Anaktuvuk do. There's been an on-going project since 1990 on understanding what people in Anaktuvuk do.

The second thing that you \_\_ that I can relate to you, of what's going on in Anaktuvuk in trying to deal with the problem that the community is experiencing is that we have instituted aerial surveys. This is the second year in a row that we have aerial surveys in the area north of the community, beginning in late July and going through October, looking at \_\_ and this is trying to now not understand what

people are doing, but this is to try to understand what caribou are doing north of the community. And what we're using is a very simple tool, because this is all we have available to us right now, is to look at where are caribou from the Western Arctic Herd that have radio collars on them, where are they in the area north of Anaktuvuk Pass. And we're using those collars as a way for us to try to begin to understand more about the movements, the migratory movements of caribou in the Anaktuvuk Pass area.

We flew eight flights last year, and we have flown two flights so far \_\_ two? Yeah, two flights so far this year. And that has been a cooperative project between the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, and with National Park Service. We have joint funding for that.

Previous to this, there had been some less systematic surveys of caribou in the Anaktuvuk Pass area flown by the Department, but not, you know, with \_\_ as rigorously as we're \_\_ as has been done recently. Geoff and I tried to institute flights in '91 and '92, and we were running into a number of problems in trying to do it. One of them was availability of aircraft when we needed to fly the surveys, because we were using chartered airplanes. And whenever the weather was nice in Anaktuvuk, and we could fly the surveys, the charter operators that we were working with were too busy doing other things, because, you know, when the weather is good, they were committed to lots of other projects.

There are a couple of other things going on in Anaktuvuk that I want you to be aware of. In order to better understand movements of caribou in the Anaktuvuk Valley itself, together with \_\_ again with the National Park Service, the Department of Fish & Game and also in collaboration with the community, has installed a detection system in the village itself, and what I want to do is draw you a little picture here. We have a receiver in the community, a receiver that is hooked up to a recording device, and that receiver picks up signals from caribou that have a transmitter, you know, a radio collar on them. So whenever a caribou from the Western Arctic Herd moves through the Anaktuvuk Valley, it will be picked up by this radio system, and it basically looks

something like this: If this is the Anaktuvuk Valley, and the community is down here, we have an antenna sitting here, and a recording device, and connected to the receiver, and whenever caribou that has a radio collar comes into the valley here, we will be able to pick it up on this receiver, on this antenna. And again it's a project done together with the community. We discussed it for a year before we acquired funds to put this together, and it has just now been in place about a month, and there have been very few caribou went through the Anaktuvuk Pass area, so there hasn't been much activity on this system yet.

But here's one \_\_ something you need to know, and that is there are only about 100 radio collars on caribou in the Western Arctic Herd, and there's 500,000 animals. So the ratio, you know, between the number of collars and the total number of animals out there is really low, so it's about one collar per 5,000 animals is what it works out to be. That's pretty low. So it's going to take us quite a while to get real meaningful information here, but we've begun it, and we're working in cooperation with the community.

The last thing that I'd like to mention to you that we're doing right now is in recognition of this problem in Anaktuvuk, we have, this is the Department now, has discussed with Anaktuvuk maybe having a broader discussion of this problem in a setting with lots of well-informed people. And to that \_\_ to sort of meet that desire, we have contacted the Arctic Science Conference which is going to be held in September 19, 20, and 21, just south of Anchorage, and requested some time for a forum, for an issue forum. It's about a four-day time period. And we're going to bring people from Anaktuvuk. This is in cooperation now with the North Slope Borough, and hopefully with ASNA, and with the National Park Service and the Department, bring people from Anaktuvuk to this meeting location, bring guides there, bring people who are well aware of caribou migration patterns, and also people who know quite a bit about general Numuit culture to be there, and for four hours sit down and try to discuss, lay out what has been done in Anaktuvuk in terms of trying to meet the problem \_\_ to meet the information needs there, look at what sort of information we have now, and then perhaps come

up with some recommendations as to where we should go from here. So it's basically sort of a scientific panel that's going to sit down and look at the Anaktuvuk situation. And Mayor Hugo and probably two other residents from Anaktuvuk are coming to the meeting, and myself, Geoff Carroll, and two other staff members from the Department of Fish & Game are going to be there. There will be a guide, one of the guides who operates right north of Anaktuvuk is going to be there. His name is Richard Guthrie. He's one of the ones that you've talked about who has spike camps and is guiding north of the community. He will be there. And there will also be other \_\_\_\_ Canadians and other well-informed people about caribou at this meeting or this issue forum to discuss this.

So although, you know, we're not coming up with solutions to the problem in Anaktuvuk very quickly, we are working on it, and trying to address it. And I was kind of aiming for this issue coming up in front of the Board of Game in the fall of '97 is what I was preparing for, but now today I learn that apparently this proposal is not going to come in front of the Board of Game, but be discussed at the Federal Subsistence Board level only, and so I'll.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: I'd just like to make a clarification for our members, and for the Wildlife Committee, if you can hang in there, we had a resolution passed by the Federal Subsistence Advisory Council, resolution, the proposal #95\_62, to the Federal Subsistence Board last year. And it was approved to close federal public lands south of the Colville and to the east of the Knik, is that how you say it? Knik River? And to caribou hunters from August 1 to September 30th. And that was approved. That was passed. Unfortunately, most of that area is all State land. So the Federal Subsistence Board, and I refer to the letter from Mitch Demientieff, the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board to Fenton. I think you all have a copy. It's a single page here dated September 5. And they're still aware that this is an on-going concern and an issue, and they recommend that perhaps we need to do what we're doing right now in order to further dialogue and try to come up with a resolution to the problem. So our Advisory Council has taken that action, and the Federal Subsistence Board approved it, but we don't have a

map up there like Charlie says, but it's all largely state land, so we need to support whatever it is that the State is doing. I just want to make that little bit of clarification. And for all intents and purposes it's more or less ineffective, and, Helen, maybe you can add on?

MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, if you look in your book, there's a map in there on.....

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Page 149 on your proposals.

MS. H. ARMSTRONG: .....page 149, and then you can see in this too, that (indiscernible, simultaneous speech).

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Page what?

MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And the area that was closed was in here, and you can see most of that's white, which means that it's not Federal public lands.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you, Helen. We had, let's see, Ray, you're up next. You had a question? And then Gordon?

MR. R. KOONUK: Just a comment, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to follow up on Elijah's comment in regards to the migration route of the Point Hope, Kivalina area, where Red Dog exists. I guess this issue has been brought up for years as far as the caribou not coming into Point Hope, just a few here and there. And that's been going on for years. And there was a remark of doing an aerial survey as far as which way the caribous are migrating. I would like to recommend that they fly over around the Point Hope area to see where these caribous are migrating. You know, if it's Red Dog, that's, you know, changing the migration route of the caribou, you know, we'd like to know that, too, because our hunters are going way out there, you know, to go \_\_ get at least maybe one or two caribou.

And another thing what Mr. Upicksoun brought up, as far as shutting down the industries during the migration of the caribou, I support that, because if we can do that during



the whaling \_\_ when the whale migrate, or whenever our other animals migrate, you know, we shut down the industries for our hunting so I give my full support to Mr. Upicksoun's recommendation in shutting down all industries when there's a migration on-going. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you, Ray. And were you part of the survey that Geoff was involved with on the \_\_ or the fly-around on the Western Arctic Herd just this past month or so?

MR. PEDERSEN: No, I'm not. I'm only involved in the surveys that are done in the Anaktuvuk Pass area. So if you're.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: All right. Maybe at a little later point, Geoff, you can comment on the Western Arctic Herd, and the fly-by \_\_ fly-arounds that you had. I've got after Ray was Gordon, and then Eddie and Charlie. Gordon?

MR. UPICKSOUN: Could we take a ten-minute break.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Well, we're almost lunch time. How about five minutes?

MR. UPICKSOUN: Five minutes is fine.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We'll take a five-minute break, then Eddie and Charlie.

(Off record)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Let's get back on our topic. And who was it we had up here? One of our staff? I've got Eddie had a comment, and then Charlie?

MR. E. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman, the only thing I have is our \_\_ maybe you're not able to tell Red Dog to shut down when migration to Point Hope is coming in. They're outside of our border boundaries as the North Slope Borough Fish & Game.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. E. HOPSON: That's the only thing I want to say.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: All right.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Right.

MR. HOPSON: I don't know if we can go to Red Dog and say, hey, you've got to shut down for a couple of weeks to let the caribou cross your road. I don't believe that as the North Slope Borough we can do that. They're outside of our boundary. But maybe I'm wrong.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: I think you're right. Your \_\_ John Miller, he asked to be excused. He'll be back at 1:30, but John mentioned that, yeah, that is outside of our jurisdiction, but he did mention that if the Federal Subsistence Advisory Council so chooses, that they can make that proposal, and that it would be asked to be supported by the Management Committee. So (In Inupiat).

MR. R. KOONUK: Mr. Chairman, could we.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Charlie? Pardon me?

MR. R. KOONUK: Could we rebuttal (ph) on or comment on what.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: To the same subject?

MR. R. KOONUK: Yes.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Charlie, I'll give the chair to Ray, and then \_\_ go ahead.

MR. R. KOONUK: You know, NANA Regional or Northwest Arctic has a Federal Advisory Board.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Right.

MR. R. KOONUK: I wonder if we could meet with them, or have our chairman meet with their chairman and.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yes.

MR. R. KOONUK: .....draft a resolution, or maybe we can draft a resolution with regards to this shutting down the mine, (indiscernible, coughing).

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We have done that before. Barbara, maybe you might comment to that?

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, there's \_\_\_ the Red Dog Mine have their own subsistence council.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Right.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I think it's consisting of people from Noatak and Kivalina. And if there would be a letter from North Slope and maybe Northwest Arctic with this concern, and having maybe Mr. Koonuk from Point Hope attend that meeting, if they would, whenever they have a meeting, and present this concern to them, then it would start from there.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I can help write the letter for Mr. Koonuk.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Yeah, if you would, that would be appreciated.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: I think that's a good point. (In Inupiat) and handle that issue. And Koyunakanana (ph)?

MR. OKAKOK: Mr. Pedersen had.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: This Charlie Okakok for the record.

MR. OKAKOK: Charlie Okakok, Native Village of Barrow. On this studies, you stated that twice I believe you said north of Anaktuvuk on the caribou issue, and are there any studies being done south of \_\_\_ because their migration route is north and south for caribou. There should be some studies I believe made south of Anaktuvuk also, to see what is keeping them from coming through from the south area.

MR. PEDERSEN: Okay. That's a very good comment, and actually the study area that we have for the \_\_\_ and I should make a clarification here. There are two types of flights that are being done in the Anaktuvuk area right now. There's one type of flight that the North Slope Borough is sponsoring, and what they do is they fly a Caravan to Anaktuvuk and they pick up I think the search and rescue, they pick up four or five people in Anaktuvuk, and then they fly some of the major valleys in and around Anaktuvuk looking for caribou. Then there's the flights that the Department of Fish & Game, the community and the National Park Service are sponsoring, and they are flights with an airplane that's listening for radio collars.

And we have a study area that looks kind of like this. Anaktuvuk is here, and the Nanushuk drainage is here, Anaktuvuk drainage is there, and the Chandler drainage is here. And what we do is we have a plane that comes in and flies kind of like this and goes off. But it's pretty high up, and it listens for caribou collars in there. And when he finds a collar, he comes back, and I can show you this, he makes a map for us of the study areas, that he heard one caribou there, one there, one here and one here. So we're actually \_\_\_ and here's the John River south of Anaktuvuk. So the systematic study area, you know, contains areas both north and south of Anaktuvuk, as well as east and west of Anaktuvuk. It's only being done in the fall. It's only being done because that's really when the issue, you know, is really serious is in the fall, and so we've had, you know, flights going in here. He flies at about 10,000 feet or so, and listens with the special equipment for those caribou collars, and makes a record of where he's seen them.

And this fall, I might as well just tell you, this fall what we've seen is this: Early in the fall, late summer, we picked up a whole bunch of collars, I think about eight collars up in this area here, three or four over here, a few over here on our first flight, which was in late July. No, let's see here, mid \_\_ early August is when that was. That's right, early August. And then in late August what it looked like is this, is that all together there were 14 collars, 14 radio collars in the area at this time. So Anaktuvuk is here. So there were caribou northeast of the community, there were caribou northwest of the community, and there were caribou southwest of the community. Radio collared animals.

In \_\_ just about a week and a half ago, we had just \_\_ I think we had two collars left in this area here. I think we had maybe one collar left over in here, and then we had a bunch of collars over in here. And I think all together we had eight collars that heard on that flight there.

There is another Western Arctic collar that we didn't hear that's out here that's a satellite collar, one of the ones that we had put on for \_\_ that was put on by the Department of Fish & Game this spring, right?

MR. CARROLL: Yeah. The Borough paid for it, and I put it on for them.

MR. PEDERSEN: Okay. It's way up north here somewhere outside the study area. But what it looks like, you know, on this, was that, you know, a caribou moved out in the last two weeks, and moved in this direction here. Some of them went through Anaktuvuk. There was a small movement of caribou through Anaktuvuk, and actually it looks like that small migration that went through the pass stopped. Because what happened up here is that it snowed, and the weather was pretty nasty up here, and then it got real nice again, and so I think what happened is that the caribou that are in here now have stopped and are sort of waiting for nasty weather again to move on.

And I was in Anaktuvuk last Thursday and Friday, and at that time there were a few caribou being harvested south of

the community, and some right around the community, and some to the west of the community, but not \_\_ there was no migration movement through there. They were small groups. And I was talking to Dorothy, and she said that mainly they were cows and very, very few bulls that they were seeing in these movements, so that means that there hasn't really been a strong migration movement through the area.

This guide who operates up in here is out of the area is out of the area. He's not there any more. He's been out from \_\_ this is Guthrie who operates in the Nanushuk, he's been out of his area for about a week and a half now. And there's another fellow over \_\_ actually, he's over here, Dennis Reiner, and as I was leaving Anaktuvuk, he had four more hunters come in to his camp, and a couple of hunters came out. And I talked to some of his hunters, and they were seeing very few caribou over in this area here where they were hunting.

But anyway, so those are the \_\_ you know, these are the different types of flights are going on, and we're trying to look at both south of the community as well as north and east and west of the community, and, you know, we're doing the best we can with the resources that we have available to us right now.

So does that answer your question?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Just a quick question from me. Is it traditionally over history the Western Arctic herd that has migrated through and only the Western Arctic that has migrated through Anaktuvuk, or is that known?

MR. PEDERSEN: I think Geoff better answer that question, because I \_\_ that's sort of marginal for me to answer.

MR. CARROLL: The majority of the animals that we've picked up going through Anaktuvuk Pass have been Western Arctic Herd, but in some years the Teshekpuk Lake Herd will go up and go through there. Usually later in the year. It's usually mid October or later. And occasionally a very few

Central Arctic Herd collars are in \_\_\_ have been picked up in that area. So the great majority seems to be Western Arctic Herd, Teshekpuk occasionally, and then very rarely the Central Arctic Herd.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you. Charlie, were you done or \_\_\_ ? Go ahead.

MR. OKAKOK: Also, I would like to say in 1995 there was an ungulates conference, the Hoofed Animals Conference, and at that conference there was a whole bunch of information that was put out by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game concerning caribou and musk ox. And I think the Board and the people here should know that there are \_\_\_ there is information about this caribou, and it should be given out to the people that want it. It was given at the Ungulates Conference. I think they're pretty informative. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you, Ahna (ph). Gordon? Oh, okay. Do we have any more questions for staff here regarding our topic on caribou? If not, just a couple announcements. Our meeting place is going to be here again tomorrow, if we to into tomorrow, instead of at the North Slope Borough. The meeting (In Inupiat). And we're at lunch time now. You're on your own for lunch pretty much until 1:30, okay? So we're on our lunch break now.

(Off record - 12:00 noon)

(On record - 1:30 p.m.)

CHAIRMAN ITTA: I want call the meeting back to order. The time is 1:40 p.m. (In Inupiat) At this time we'll go back to, in our agenda, to 7.A.1(a), musk ox update. (In Inupiat) It's going to be two pieces of paper I believe. One is on the draft, cooperative management planning by the Fish & Game Committee meeting, and there's another piece that you had that was put on backwards, ten pages.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That one that was handed out is backwards.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: North Slope Musk Ox Management Plan draft, dated September 10, 1996. And we'll go ahead and ask Geoff to get up front up there so we can get you on the recording, and go ahead and proceed. Okay.

(Off record conversation while Mr. Carroll is handing out papers)

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Everybody have their copy here, and Geoff is going to walk us through the project.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (In Inupiat)

CHAIRMAN ITTA: I got mine squared away.

(Off record conversation while Mr. Carroll is handing out papers)

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Before Geoff gets started, do we have any new members, any new guests that have come in during lunch hour? I see one person. Do you want to stand up, introduce yourself, and who you represent, please?

MR. D. REXFORD: (In Inupiat) Delbert Rexford, (In Inupiat), special assistant to the Mayor. For those of you that don't know who I am, my name is Delbert Rexford. I am one of special \_\_ one of several special assistants to the North Slope Borough mayor, and I'm here to listen in, observe the meeting. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you, Delbert. Welcome.

MR. D. REXFORD: Yes.

MS. FOX: I'll get a chair. These are the other hand outs.

MR. CARROLL: Okay. I'm Geoff Carroll with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. And the person that was real helpful in working on the musk ox planning process at the North Slope Borough Fish & Game Management Committee meeting is Peggy Fox with BLM. She acted as the facilitator there,



and took a lot of notes, and so she'll be the note-taker again this time, and try to get down everybody's ideas so that we can incorporate that into the next draft plan that comes out of this meeting. Let's see.

Well, as you're all quite aware, management of musk oxen has been one of the most controversial management issues on the North Slope for many years. Every time that topic comes up in any meeting, everybody has real strong opinions, and usually that's about all we get to talk about for the next \_\_\_ for the rest of the day.

But in order to try to create a forum where people could discuss the issues and start working together to solve the problems, the North Slope Borough Fish & Game Management Committee decided to start working on a management plan that would satisfy people's needs and get users and management people working together on the problems. There's kind of a short-term and a long-term goal here. Fenton needs to have a management plan that he can present to the Federal Board this spring, and also in the process we want to form a group that can work together on management and \_\_\_ musk ox management problems in coming years and go ahead and work out a co\_management group, or a cooperative management group or some of it.

Anyway, we need to get a management plan out, and then carry on from there and develop a management planning group that could go ahead and, you know, solve these problems with the management people and the users working together rather than us yelling at each other in meetings and things.

So the initial meeting, I mean, half of you were there obviously, but for those of you that weren't there, the initial musk ox management planning meeting was held, you know, in this room at the North Slope Borough Fish & Game Management Committee meeting in July. At the meeting we discussed the status and location of the musk ox populations on the north slope, how musk ox surveys are carried out. We went through descriptions of how hunts are managed in other parts of the State, and like on Nunavak Island and Nelson Island and Seward Peninsula, see how other people do things,

you know, which will hopefully give us good ideas on how we want to manage musk oxen up here.

Then we worked with a draft management plan that we had from years ago. We just went through it step by step, and people commented on what should be added to that plan, what should be taken out, what whole new ideas, you know, just starting new concepts we should start working on.

You have two handouts that we'll be talking about. Now, one of them is this one, it's entitled the North Slope Musk Ox Cooperative Management Planning, and it was a summary of the notes taken in that first meeting that Peggy summarized and wrote up and sent around to those of that were \_\_ that are on the planning group. And it has a good description of the hunts, the way things are done on Nunavak and Nelson Island and the Seward Peninsula and those places. And so if you want to review, you know, catch up on any of that, that's a good place to read it in, you know, a very concise wording there.

So at that meeting a planning group was selected and we were given the job of taking comments that people made at the meeting and incorporating them into a revised Draft Musk Ox Management Plan. This group is made up of Pat Reynolds, and Fenton, Edward Itta, the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management, and myself.

This other handout, the one that ended up getting printed last page first, but hopefully everybody's got that straightened around by now, is \_\_ this is where we attempted to include the points that were made at the meeting and people's comments into a revised draft management plan.

The management plan also contains a brief description of the status of North Slope musk ox populations, so if you want to get up to date on the latest numbers on the various musk ox population, that's summarized in here on I think page two and three. There's a table, for instance, on page three that shows \_\_ tells how many musk oxen were counted on each of each of the counts that Pat has conducted on the musk ox in the Arctic Refuge and in Game Management Unit 26(B).

Just kind of \_\_ I don't know, people kind of seem to get confused between 26(A), (B), and (C), but just kind of to review, basically the Arctic Refuge is 26(C). The area between that and the Colville and the Killik River is 26(B). And 26(A) is this area, is the western side of Game Management Unit 26.

I don't want to spend a lot of time going over the same things we went over in the last meeting, but kind of in a nutshell, the main musk ox populations at this point on the North Slope are the Arctic Refuge population which was relocated there about 1970, and has gone, well, within Alaska from about 60 animals up to about 650, 700 animals within that area. And then there's the Cape Thompson population, which was reintroduced at Camp Thompson, and it also started out about 60 animals. It hasn't grown as rapidly. It kind of topped out at about 130 animals for several years. In 1994 there was another survey done, and 190 some were counted in there, so it has shown signs of increasing recently.

The primary purpose of this management group is to move away from a policy of very conservative management, which was designed to maximize the numbers and distribution of musk oxen to a policy of providing as many local people an opportunity to harvest musk oxen as possible, and of controlling population growth, and protecting the caribou resource. We want to make musk oxen available for people to hunt so it can become a useful food source on the North Slope rather than just a source of irritation.

There's not really time to go through all the changes that we made during the last meeting, but if you again look at this summary that Peggy wrote up, she very diligently listed out all the comments that were made by people at the meeting, and so you can kind of look through there and get the gist of it. And for people that were at that last meeting, if you made comments, and you don't feel that they were incorporated into the current management plan, please let one of us on the planning committee know, and we'll try to rectify that. It's not always possible. There were \_\_ at times there were many varying opinions, and sometimes contradictory opinions, so it's a little hard to, you know, put two things in that say

just the opposite, and so we kind of had to compromise on some of those things, but anyway that's \_\_ this is kind of our best attempt at that, and I think that, well, we'll answer any questions you have at this point, and then we'll just work our way through the current management plan and see if people have more things they want to have added or taken away or just any comments in general on musk ox management plan.

Just one comment, one thing we have accomplished in the last few years, if you'll remember, we came up with a musk ox management agreement that increased the number of musk oxen that were harvested in this 26(B) area, and in particular 26(B) West in the area around Nuiqsut, to where three more permits were added to that area. And for this fall, four people in Nuiqsut have received permits to hunt musk oxen in that area. That will be coming up around September 15th that season opens, so they'll be able to go harvest their musk oxen, and hopefully they'll have good luck and people will enjoy those.

So, I don't know, if anybody has any questions, we can take a pause here, or otherwise we can start working through the management plan.

MS. FOX: Mr. Hopson has a.....

MR. E. HOPSON: Geoff, Mr. Chairman, in this \_\_ this is a report on this musk have been present on the North Slope for thousands of years. They were absent. When was that report? When do you have any idea of when they disappeared when they were here thousands of years ago?

MR. CARROLL: They were \_\_ the late 1800s they were here up \_\_ there were records of them being here up until the late 1800s, and then.....

MR. E. HOPSON: When was that, you said?

MR. CARROLL: The late \_\_ about 1880 the last ones were \_\_ people didn't see any more around after that.

MR. E. HOPSON: Is that evidenced \_\_ is that true about them being overhunted and that they were killed off by hunters.....

MR. CARROLL: Nobody knows that for.....

MR. E. HOPSON: .....on the North Slope?

MR. CARROLL: Nobody knows that for sure, of how much it was \_\_ it might have been change in climate, you know, there might have been a big reduction in the population or, you know, maybe a real bad weather year, but it also happened about the same time that, you know, \_\_ I mean, not about the same time, but people hunting with rifles had been hunting, you know, hunting musk ox and other animals about that, you know, the time previous to that. It's thought that since musk oxen are so susceptible to people hunting with rifles, that that might have been a big factor in the population.

MR. E. HOPSON: That may even been a good thing that Mother Nature took them away from the North Slope.

MR. CARROLL: Well, like I say, it's just not.....

MR. E. HOPSON: You know.

MR. CARROLL: .....known whether it was hunting or.....

MR. E. HOPSON: A lot of this different kind of a migration, the caribou. I think we can sit and talk about what's causing caribou to kind of change their migration patterns and not being around where they used to be annually or something like that. I believe maybe musk ox have something to do with the migration changing. Whenever they're questioned (ph) in the vicinity we can expect then, then they're going to be here in April, and you have to have a small herd of musk ox where they're supposed to migrate through. You see, the pipeline, the Trans Alaska Pipeline never stopped the going back and forth of the caribou. Whoever \_\_ whichever, you know, which herd is crossing the pipeline back and forth, that pipeline and the road have not

disturbed them hardly from their migration. And the only reason for disturbing the migration pattern is \_\_ I hear so many report. I haven't \_\_ I've seen, I know where the musk ox is. Here in Barrow, they come down here, they strayed right down the coast here just the other side of the monument once in a while. And the reports I've been getting for irregularity about caribou migration, they blame it on musk ox.

I think your people that are doing the studies should take that seriously. And we have some report from you people, from Fish & Game Department that you believe that the caribou and the musk ox associate. They see each other, they're going to shake hands and meet each other. No way. They don't do that. Not the report that I heard from a lot of these people from different villages. So I just wanted these \_\_ if, you know, you say that they used to be.

Say that number three on musk ox being here thousands of years ago, but they've been killed off by people that \_\_ people kill them off, that's why they disappear. I don't believe that is correct. As far as I know. I never know musk ox until they were planted on the wild life. I have never heard of in my time and my parents time. Of course, yeah, we know that the dinosaur have been here, too, on the North Slope, in Alaska and in Russia. That's the thing that we're trying to.....

I said this once before that you scientists and all of those especially, they don't \_\_ you don't believe what I tell you, the facts. You don't believe until you see it first hand and view it yourself, see yourself. That's when you \_\_ just like the problem with the migration \_\_ migrating whales. We tell the scientists, the counters come here. As soon as the water closes in, they're going to break up camp and go home and enjoy their T.V. until the water upon up again. We tell them that the whales migrate even though there's no open water out there. And then finally those hardy (ph) folks were starting to use \_\_ get sounding from under water. That's when the scientists here on the North Slope counting whale finally admit, we now believe that the whale migrate whether there's

open water or not. So these things that these hunters report are true.

That's a problem. I guess it's never going to be corrected.

MR. CARROLL: Edward, I'd just like to say that, I mean, I do believe what you say, and, you now, I think that that was stated at the last meeting, that people feel that musk oxen do affect caribou movements, and, you know, and we did try to address that in some parts of this plan.

I'm sorry this got printed \_\_ Wildlife Department printed it backwards and ended up with the positive aspects of musk ox right on top, but that was a big mistake. That was supposed to come right at the very end. People aren't supposed to look at that very much, but, anyway, that's the way things go sometimes.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Harry and Ray.

MR. H. BROWER: Geoff, I would like to apologize also. I just handed the papers that you handed me right to the secretary and I told her to get them printed. So I apologize for not looking it over myself. That's all I have to say, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CARROLL: Okay. I think one of the things we're trying to address in this plan is to minimize the impact of musk oxen on caribou, and that will be addressed in some of the goals, and we'll be coming to that later as we work our way through this. And just at the.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: We have Ray and then Delbert. Ray?

MR. CARROLL: If I could say one more \_\_ just in defense of the whale counters, I mean, I was out there counting whales for 15 years every spring. And I was out there every day whether the ice was open or closed, and I didn't ever go and watch television while the ice was closed. I knew the whales were going by, it was just hard to prove it, you know. And you're right, it was a great thing when we got

the acoustics and we were able to prove that those whales are going by all the time, and it opened up a lot of people's eyes.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: You've got it? You got your answer?

MR. R. KOONUK: Yeah, I got an answer.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Defer to Delbert.

MR. D. REXFORD: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: State your name for the record, please?

MR. D. REXFORD: Delbert Rexford, special assistant to the North Slope Borough mayor.

In December I attended the co-management and environmental impact assessment conference that's in Enuvuk (ph). All of Canada, Greenland, participants, Canada, and I was — Charlie Johnson and I were the only participants from Alaska in regards to co-management regimes.

Specifically on Banks Island, be half a million musk ox that have increased in size over the years. Forced the caribou out into the ocean, and a lot of that caribou died in the ocean, based on the reports that were submitted by the Inuit from Banks Island and from the adjacent island.

The concern that I have for the future is simply this, is that when we go to Kaktovik, Kaktovik residents complain about the musk ox scaring the caribou off for miles and miles and miles and miles, making it difficult for them to hunt caribou. And so over the last 26 years you've gone from 60 animals to over 650 animals. And the main audience each year through the permitting system is not so much the residents of the North Slope Borough, or the Inupiat people of the North Slope Borough, but under the management regime of the permitting system, a lot of sport hunters are coming up and harvesting the musk ox. You can correct me if I'm wrong on that.



MR. CARROLL: You're wrong on that.

MR. D. REXFORD: But basically I want to come back to the simple point of what Banks Island has experienced, and how musk ox do drive caribou herds away. Take a lot at the conservation plans at Banks Island, the reports that they have, and the caribou that has been totally depleted from Banks Island. Is this something that we want to look forward to for the people of Kaktovik and other areas? I know that Point Lay does hunt musk ox, and I don't know what kind of difficulties they've experienced in terms of caribou migrating or caribou having to run across the tundra until they're totally out of sight.

I think this is a management concern that needs to be implemented as to how the musk ox will impact our subsistence way of life, especially in the economically depressed zoned areas where there may not be a cash economy in the future after oil tax revenue bases are removed from sight in the future. What considerations have you placed on those future potential impacts under the co-management plan?

MR. CARROLL: Okay. Just a correction on that. There is no sport musk ox hunt on the North Slope. There was for a while, from about 1983, for a few years there were permit hunts available, and there were sports hunters that came up and got permits for some of the years following that. And it was a very poor policy, and people from Kaktovik protested strongly about it, and it was changed. At this point there's a subsistence, a federal subsistence hunt for Kaktovik residents only within 26(C). They're allowed to take 15 bulls per year. There's a Tier II subsistence hunt in Game Management Unit 26(B), the central region there, and that's again all subsistence hunters. The Seward Peninsula hunt is all subsistence hunters.

There is a hunt on Nunivak Island where they have \_\_\_ where it's been determined that there are more musk oxen available than are needed by the local subsistence hunters, and there is a drawing permit hunt there, which the local people take advantage of by guiding hunters, and it's a

valuable source of income within the Village of Mekoryuk. So, anyway, that's the straight scoop on that.

Let's see, the Banks Island situation I'll, you know, leave. We've been through that, and it is an example of a population that has basically gotten out of control, and that's why one of the things that we address in our management plan is keeping control of the musk oxen on the North Slope. We don't want a run away population situation. We want a hunt where we're basically harvesting most of the harvestable surplus so that the population isn't getting larger. We're trying to work for a stable population. And, you know, I agree with you, that's what we want to do. We want to be able to continue the possibility of subsistence hunting up here and maintain the good quality of life and the good hunting options that we have here.

What we're trying to do with this plan is to add another subsistence option to the hunters up here. We're trying to make it possible for more people to harvest musk oxen and put these animals to good use, so.....

Did I answer all your questions?

MR. D. REXFORD: No, but I \_\_ my understanding is that maybe one or two of the Nuiqsut residents have also been given permits, and you're talking about the Kaktovik area. You're saying that there's no activity there for subsistence harvest of the musk ox, or did I misunderstand you?

MR. CARROLL: There are 15 permits given out to subsistence hunters, all from Kaktovik within the Arctic Refuge.

MR. D. REXFORD: Okay. What about people living outside of Kaktovik in terms of nonresidents from Fairbanks, Anchorage, or other areas?

MR. CARROLL: No, zero. There are none.

MR. D. REXFORD: Well, what is your \_\_ under your co\_management regime for the musk ox, what is your set

population goal that you have identified at this point in time that will not interfere with the Porcupine Caribou Herd, that will not interfere with the Western Central Herd? What is the.....

MR. CARROLL: At this point we're just setting policy. We're just talking it over in meetings like this and deciding which direction people want to go. We haven't set specific population goals. That's something that's going to take a fair amount of discussion and, you know, looking at the population numbers and deciding what level of harvest will maintain these populations, or \_\_\_ and there's talk of even reducing musk ox populations. If there are specific areas where people feel like there's \_\_\_ they are interfering with caribou moving into the area, maybe there are specific areas we want to reduce populations while, you know, maintaining populations in other areas.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: We have George, Ahna and Eddie. Go ahead, George.

MR. EDWARDSON: Okay. I just wanted to ask you a question. You mentioned that, you know, the population decline in the musk ox when rifles were introduced.

MR. CARROLL: I'd say that's speculative. Yeah.

MR. EDWARDSON: So what you're doing is you're speculating that the people that live up here all of a sudden obtained rifles and then the musk ox disappeared.

MR. CARROLL: I'm not speculating. I'm just.....

MR. EDWARDSON: Now, if you had done some of your research like you always \_\_\_ the Fish & Game always claims it does, you would find out when the commercial whalers came. That was one of their main meat supplies.

MR. CARROLL: Uh-huh.

MR. EDWARDSON: And they were the ones that ate musk ox. And then indirectly when you make your reports now, you

give the implication that we as a people, we obtained the guns, now we can kill them off, we've killed them off. That's the implication you give in that kind of a report.

MR. CARROLL: I don't recall saying that at.

MR. EDWARDSON: You just said that.....

MR. CARROLL: I said there were.....

MR. EDWARDSON: .....just a few minutes before that.

MR. CARROLL: .....guns here at that time, and that the musk oxen disappeared.

MR. EDWARDSON: There's.....

MR. CARROLL: I personally think it was more related to weather, but.....

MR. EDWARDSON: You see what I'm saying?

MR. CARROLL: Well, yeah. Okay. Maybe I should have stated that there were whalers that hunted musk oxen, and, you know, there were trappers and there were a lot of.....

MR. EDWARDSON: Because it's science.....

MR. CARROLL: .....other different people in here at that time.

MR. EDWARDSON: It's science that is used against us to say, you know, what we say is not scientific. And then when you make those kind of statements, your statement is definitely not scientific. It's more bias.

MR. CARROLL: Okay. I didn't make any statement, George. I said the musk oxen disappeared. There were two theories as to why that was. One was because they were.....

MR. EDWARDSON: Right.

MR. CARROLL: .....hunted out, and one was because there were weather factors.

MR. EDWARDSON: Exactly. Exactly.

MR. CARROLL: And I didn't say it was native hunters or anything else.

MR. EDWARDSON: That's right, you didn't have to say. We were the only hunters around. That's all I wanted to say.

MR. CARROLL: But you weren't the only hunters. There were also whalers up here, so.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you, George. Ahna?

MR. OKAKOK: I'd like to reiterate this to the whole board, and I think the North Slope Borough Management, Fish & Game meeting, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has a buffalo corral down there in Montana. They keep that area open, it's an open area for buffalo to grow. And they keep the buffalo at a certain number, and if this could be incorporated maybe into the musk ox. Keep the musk ox corralled, and keep them at a certain number, and not let them interact with the caribou.

MR. CARROLL: Well, I don't know. I don't know if we'd really want to start corralling animals on the North Slope, but I guess that's an \_\_ I mean, but the bison down in Yellowstone Park, they're free-ranging, too, they're not within a corral either, but, anyway, that's.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you Ahna. Elokchuk?

MR. E. HOPSON: Oh, I've been wanting to \_\_ this look like my question is going to be a little late. I was going to \_\_ I wanted to say something when you \_\_ while you were talking about Nunivak herd. Who claims the musk ox on Nunivak? Does it belong to the islanders there or State or Federal owns the.....

MR. CARROLL: It's managed by the.....

MR. E. HOPSON: .....musk ox?

MR. CARROLL: It's managed by the State.

MR. E. HOPSON: Who?

MR. CARROLL: The State of Alaska.

MR. E. HOPSON: And is that \_\_ are they open for subsistence for those people on Nunivak Island?

MR. CARROLL: Yeah. That's \_\_ I'm kind of forgetting my numbers. I believe there are, what, 30 permits?

MR. E. HOPSON: (In Inupiat) Were they planted?

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah, the (indiscernible).

MR. E. HOPSON: They were planted?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah, they were planted.

MR. CARROLL: Yeah, they came \_\_ they were planted there from Siberia about 1930, or in the 1930s they were brought over from Siberia and transplanted there. But, yeah, there's a subsistence hunt on Nunivak as well as a drawing permit hunt. And as I said, people from that area generally guide the hunters for the drawing permit hunt, and most of the meat is left in the village. The people that get the drawing permits are mostly interested in taking the horns back, and so the village generally ends up with most of that meat for all of the musk oxen.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Delbert?

MR. D. REXFORD: I have one question. Since there is possible interaction between the musk ox and the Porcupine Caribou Herd or the Western Central Herd, are the musk ox being tagged so that, and caribou tagged, where you can actually see the scientific interaction and what the impact is?

MR. CARROLL: Pat's more in charge of putting collars on.

MS. REYNOLDS: It's (indiscernible).

MR. D. REXFORD: Basically the musk ox interaction with the caribous, whether it's with the Porcupine Caribou Herd and the Western Central Herd, are there radio tags on the musk ox and the caribou? That way when there's interaction, you can actually see the scientific impact on that interaction, and what kind of impact is that?

MS. REYNOLDS: Yes. I think \_\_ Pat Reynolds from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. We have at least in Unit 26(C) marked animals, and a few in Unit 26(B), and we've followed those animals for the past 15 years. We have information also about caribou movements based on marked caribou. One of the things that I hope to do in the next year is take the information from the last several years, and look at the distribution of both caribou and musk oxen to look at those very questions that you talk about. So we will be trying to do that. And we can also do it now with the marked animals that we have. So we are trying to do that, yes.

MR. CARROLL: And I'd like to.....

MR. D. REXFORD: But the technical report should be available now on that interaction?

MS. REYNOLDS: Oh, the interaction. I think.....

MR. D. REXFORD: Because they've already been done.

MS. REYNOLDS: Which technical report?

MR. D. REXFORD: The interactions between caribou and musk ox. I mean, you're saying that you've got to take a look at \_\_ you want to do a scientific report on them as to the interaction and the impact?

MS. REYNOLDS: Well, I think we can take existing information that we have, and look at it in a new way to see if those interactions occur by asking some specific questions, and it will take some more analysis, yes.

MR. CARROLL: I'd like to add to that, too. There is a specific study going on on the Seward Peninsula that 15 musk oxen were collared, and they're looking at interactions between those and reindeer down there, and they're seeing what \_\_ anyway, it's a study that's specifically looking at that, and it just began this last year, so it will be another year or so before there's any results on that.

MS. REYNOLDS: There's also been some \_\_ two studies on musk ox/caribou \_\_ or one study I guess, and another one on the Seward Peninsula, one in the Arctic Refuge or near the Arctic Refuge looking at winter habitat where caribou and musk oxen are close together. And if people are interested in that, I can send them the abstracts from that study. That was done by a student at the University of Alaska.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Gordon?

MR. UPICKSOUN: Yes. Maybe Geoff can tell me, or you can tell me. My name is Gordon Upicksoun, Point Lay. Have you seen here on the Slope, you get complaints from us in Point Lay when we had our last joint meeting with the North Slope Borough Wildlife Management Committee and the Regional Counsel, you heard a lot of complaints about how when there's musk ox in the area, you don't see any caribou. We've noted that in Point Lay. Wildlife Management Committee member Amos and I have gone up to Kupa (ph). We've seen some musk ox up there. There was no caribou. When the caribou (sic) moved to the village, there's no caribou in the area. When the caribou (sic) moved further north to Utukok (ph), about 30 miles away from Point Lay, there's no caribou. We've never seen caribou and musk ox interact and share the same habitat. And when Delbert said Point Lay hunts musk ox, Delbert, it's illegal to hunt musk ox in Point Lay. Maybe you didn't mean that. Okay?

MR. D. REXFORD: Yeah.



MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay. But we've never seen the caribou and the musk ox share the same habitat at the same time. We don't see musk ox here and caribou here and musk ox. No. When there's musk ox here, there is no caribou. We've known \_\_\_ we've seen that. And earlier this summer there was no caribou up at Utukok when there was report of musk ox up there. That we don't see the musk ox now there, but there's caribou now. But we've never \_\_\_ we have never seen them share the same area around our town. When the musk ox are south of Point Lay in the drainage areas and the rivers, there's no caribou in that area. Where the musk ox moved to our village, above our village, in the rivers, there's no caribou around that area. When the musk ox moved north of our village around the Utukok area, there's no caribou. We have never, we have never seen musk oxen and caribou share the same area.

MR. CARROLL: Yeah, Gordon, I \_\_\_ you know, and we hear that report from many villages, and I take it seriously. You know, and I just want to \_\_\_ you know, goal number 11 is to minimize the detrimental effect of musk oxen on caribou and caribou hunting. And.....

MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay.

MR. CARROLL: .....one of the things that we're looking at there, you know, if there are \_\_\_ if it's determined that there are areas where the presence of musk oxen have displaced caribou or affected the migration route, then hunting pressure can be directed towards those area. You know, if we decide that there are certain areas that.....

MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay. That's fine and dandy, Geoff, but if you're doing it like say you put the positive aspects on the top of the page, number four, musk ox is a very interesting animal that people enjoy seeing. Why did you encourage the musk ox herds here in the Slope and \_\_\_ so they can enjoy seeing them, but they're in fact displacing the caribou, the caribou which we prefer. Sure, they're good to see, but they might be developing a trend as the herds get bigger, maybe they'll displace the caribou, and that wouldn't be right. You may be creating a paradox here.

MR. CARROLL: Well, I mean, I \_\_ that's exactly why this management plan talks about controlling musk ox numbers. In the previous \_\_ I mean, the current \_\_ well, the original idea with musk oxen was to, you know, reintroduce into this area, and let the populations grow at the maximum rate until they'd re-inhabited areas where \_\_ all the areas where musk oxen used to be. And what we're saying is we want to change that management policy to one of stabilizing that population, not having that run-away growth, and, you know, that's the idea.

And, you know, I don't \_\_ one \_\_ another one of the goals here is to, you know, investigate the idea of making it legal to harvest some of these musk oxen that are dispersing into areas like Point Lay. I know the \_\_ you know, there aren't really any breeding populations around.....

MR. UPICKSOUN: If I could point out where they stay more or less in the same area. Over the course of the years, have you ever seen them interact with caribou?

MR. CARROLL: Well, all I can say is.....

MR. UPICKSOUN: Contrary to what Mr. Attungana said, that they don't mix?

MR. CARROLL: Well, I don't want to get in an argument over that. All I can say is that, you know,.....

MR. UPICKSOUN: It's not an argument.

MR. CARROLL: .....the year \_\_ you know, it.....

MR. UPICKSOUN: It's an observation from your point as a biologist, have you ever seen them interact?

MR. CARROLL: Well, you know, that year, you know, the Project Chariot, or the great caribou die-off at Cape Thompson a couple of years ago? I mean, that was tens of thousands of caribou went right down the coast that year, which is right \_\_ I mean, that's where the musk ox population is. They must have gone right by the musk ox population. I mean, that's \_\_

it's an example of where they did not deflect caribou away. They were \_\_\_ and, I mean, you know, I'm always kind of in this middle position here. I talk to a lot of people that fly surveys, and they say, well, yeah, we saw musk oxen here and caribou not very far away, and then I also get the reports from the villagers that say that, you know, we had musk oxen move in this year, and we didn't see any caribou, and it's probably both true. I mean, I'm sure it is both true. And so we're trying to address both. Trying to address the concerns here, and, you know, I.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: We have Frank and \_\_\_ okay. Go ahead, Frank.

MR. LONG: Yeah. My name is Frank Long from Nuiqsut. From what you're saying, Geoff, I'm kind of getting the impression of something that we could do so that in a way that we would be able to get the illegality of the hunt of Point Lay and any other village, North Slope villages, including Point Hope, by since population or the growth of the musk ox is good, by increasing the number of the take for the whole Unit 26, to fill in the villages that are not permitted to hunt. Kaktovik is the only one that has 15, and there's extra five that we know of. Maybe we increase the number and open this, where it says no Federal open season on 26(A) and (B).

MR. CARROLL: Yeah. Well, I agree. I mean, that's what we're working toward is.....

MR. LONG: I mean, I'm kind of getting at saying that \_\_\_ I'm kind of getting the impression that what you're telling me is that we could possibly increase the number.....

MR. CARROLL: Yes.

MR. LONG: .....from 15 to as much as 50?

MR. CARROLL: Well, I guess we.....

MR. LONG: Additional 35.....

MR. CARROLL: We need to.....

MR. LONG: .....or 25?

MR. CARROLL: Yeah. I don't know about specific numbers, yeah. I mean, we'd have to work that out. But I certainly agree. We could particularly in Nuiqsut in 26(B) we could certainly harvest more musk oxen from that area in 26(B), and that's one of the.....

MR. LONG: Yeah. Since there's so much musk out there now, you know, that we \_\_ we're having a hard time of finding caribou, and moose is depleting or there's a great reduction on moose, so raise that number up.

MR. CARROLL: Well, that's part of what this plan's all about is working towards that. It's a little bit \_\_ I mean, you.....

MS. FOX: Geoff, maybe it would be helpful to go through the goals or something, to hit \_\_ because we're just getting comments we've already heard.

MR. CARROLL: Well, \_\_ okay. I mean, we're.....

MS. FOX: What do you think?

MR. CARROLL: I wanted to open it up to questions here. Should we start through the goals or do you want to.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: We have Sverre?

MR. PEDERSEN: Yeah. Mr. Chairman, I just want to respond to the question that Mr. Upicksoun had, if there's any one had seen musk ox and caribou together. And I'd like to go on the record to let you know that in \_\_ I think it either in 1988 or '89 we had \_\_ the Department received the comments from Nuiqsut that there were some musk ox and they were becoming established in their vicinity, and the community expressed some real concern about that vis-a-vis the presence of caribou. And the Department responded by flying over to Nuiqsut I think it was \_\_ it must have been in mid September

or late September that year, and bringing I think four community members including the representative at that time from the Fish & Game Management Committee on the flight to look at where were the musk ox and where were the caribou. And we flew probably, oh, three or four hours in the Nuiqsut area, and.....

MR. UPICKSOUN: How many hours?

MR. PEDERSEN: Three or four hours.....

MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay.

MR. PEDERSEN: .....in the Nuiqsut area, and in an area just to the south and a little bit east of Nuiqsut, up on the lower Itkillik River, we found \_\_ there's some high hills there just to the east of the lower Itkillik River. We found a group of I think eight or ten musk oxen feeding totally alongside about 50 or 60 caribou up in there. And when \_\_ this was an observation made not only by Department staff, but also people from Nuiqsut.

That doesn't answer the question of whether or not there's competition here, but it goes on the record as, you know, there are circumstances when caribou and musk ox will, you know, feed next to each.

MR. UPICKSOUN: That was one observation made about them being close together at one time. Our complaints is that there's no caribou when there's musk ox around.

MR. PEDERSEN: Right.

MR. UPICKSOUN: That we know for the fact, and that complaint come from the different villages. You're talking about one incident where both may have come across each other by chance and stopped and eat and now you're saying they cohabit.

MR. PEDERSEN: I'm only responding \_\_ I'm not challenging you. You were asking.....

MR. UPICKSOUN: Uh-huh.

MR. PEDERSEN: .....if someone.....

MR. UPICKSOUN: That might have been a chance for just \_\_\_ the caribou just so happened to be coming by and they stopped and they ate, and you saw it there. You made one flight, and you've made \_\_\_ you can't make a scientific statement out of that one flight.

MR. PEDERSEN: Well, I think I have a pretty solid statement to make about that. And, you know, there certainly are questions about this. And this plan addresses those questions. You know, there are going to be, you know, investigations into this, there's no question about it.

There are, you know, lots of places in the Arctic where there are musk oxen and where there are caribou, and I was just sharing something with Geoff earlier today that there is a fellow who is a Swedish anthropologist doing work on Greenland who just sent us a paper showing that in certain parts of Greenland where musk oxen are beginning to come into areas where there are established caribou populations, that caribou move out of those areas, or do not like to be in those areas any more.

And so I'm not \_\_\_ you know, I'm not trying to argue with you. I just wanted to tell you that our observations, you know, made here in Alaska of caribou and.....

MR. UPICKSOUN: But you only referred to one,.....

MR. PEDERSEN: Yeah.

MR. UPICKSOUN: .....a three-hour flight that you made, or that you or somebody made. Only one observation. And it may have.....

MR. PEDERSEN: That's true.

MR. UPICKSOUN: .....been a chance observation.

MR. PEDERSEN: Possibly.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Ahna? Charlie and.....

MR. OKAKOK: This scientific studies, I don't think they use the words must have or could have or things like that, the things you're saying. The words are coming out of this biologist. Are these biological words? Must have or should have, or are these words that you use? Should \_\_ are these words that should be used within this musk ox plan? Must have or should have? I just.....

MR. CARROLL: You don't think my wording is too nontechnical, is that the problem? Or.....

MR. OKAKOK: Well,.....

MR. CARROLL: I don't understand your question.

MR. OKAKOK: You know, there's \_\_ it could be said in another way, yes. A scientific way.

MR. CARROLL: Well, I kind of think people ought to talk in plain English. I use scientific lingo as little as possible, so if you want to criticize me for that, that's okay.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: We had one other hand over there, and then Dorothy. A staff person over there, go ahead?

MS. REYNOLDS: Pat Reynolds. I've been flying musk ox surveys for.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Before you do, I'm going to have to ask you to state your name again? Because.....

MS. REYNOLDS: Oh, Patricia Reynolds.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: .....the transcriber needs the name at the beginning of your statement. Thank you. Go ahead.

MS. REYNOLDS: I've been flying musk ox surveys for about 15 years on the North Slope. And I agree that people \_\_

you know, I believe that people see on the ground conflicts with musk ox and caribou, but I also have seen many times when I fly surveys for caribou and musk oxen situations where caribou and musk oxen are very close together. I've seen it many times in this 15-year period. And so I would like to state that for the record as well. So it is more than just once.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you. Dorothy?

MS. D. HOPSON: Dorothy Hopson. I was just \_\_ I just have a question about the musk ox, the way they travel. If they have made \_\_ if one musk ox had made a route, would some musk ox follow that route the next year? Or do they travel like the caribou?

MR. CARROLL: Well, they have very different behavior from caribou. I mean, caribou are one of the most mobile animals in the world, and musk oxen are very \_\_ one of the least mobile. They generally establish themselves in an area that's good habitat for them, and most of those animals will stay there almost their entire lifetime. But there are young male \_\_ young, sub-dominant males that will leave these groups and they will travel a long, long way. And sometimes they go back and pick up some females and go back out to these areas that they've pioneered and they might establish a breeding population there, but they don't set up like migration routes like caribou.

MS. D. HOPSON: It seemed like there was one that came by, now there are two that came by this summer.

MR. CARROLL: I see.

MS. D. HOPSON: And does Anaktuvuk have permit to hunt those musk ox?

MR. CARROLL: Well, the permits for Game Management Unit 26(B) are what are called Tier II subsistence permits, and anyone can apply for those. The people that live closest to an area and have the longest history of using animals within that area have the best chance of getting them. So



anyone from the North Slope could apply for those permits. Nuiqsut people usually get most of them, because they are located the closest, but Anaktuvuk is very close, too. If people applied for those, they'd have a good chance of getting permits.

MS. D. HOPSON: So if musk ox are disturbing the migration route, what are you going to be doing for us if they start coming around more often?

MR. CARROLL: Well, that's one of the things that's addressed in this plan. If it is seen that they are interfering with the migration, that according to this plan, we would like to target musk oxen in areas like that, you know, whether.....

MS. D. HOPSON: Because caribou is our main food.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you, Do. Eddie and.....

MS. LAMPE: Could you clarify.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: .....George? Oh, are you done? Sorry. Okay. Doreen, go ahead and then Eddie.

MS. LAMPE: Would you clarify target the musk ox if they become a problem?

MR. CARROLL: Well, it just means have a.....

MS. LAMPE: I'm just getting.....

MR. CARROLL: You decide where the hunts are going to be, and you would open up a hunt in that area, if there's an area where you figure that the musk oxen are a problem for one reason or another. And, you know, I'm not saying this is the way things are going to be. I'm saying we're trying to write a plan that will address all the concerns, and then this plan has to be approved, you know. It isn't like I can say this is the way it's going to be. This is something that we've got to work on.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Eddie?

MR. E. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman, I think this discussion about musk ox and caribou has been coming up at every meeting, and we spend a lot of time just arguing. Likely we have more important things to do, we have limited time to discuss things.

And I believe musk ox most times will scare the caribou away. I haven't seen it, but I'm hearing it. Hearsay. But I believe it's going to be a long time before you see half-breed caribou and musk ox. That's very true.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah.

MR. E. HOPSON: On the other hand, while our dogs and wolves will mix, but caribou and musk ox won't do the mix. So I think the idea, I think there should be a control on the population of musk ox. And the problem that we're having, gentlemen, is caribou. I mean, the musk ox is keeping the caribou from close by. They have to go out and look for them a long, long ways when they used to be available. I would invite you to go where I go every year. I would \_\_ just like reindeer herding this summer. Caribou was all along there all summer. And I was there one month. But it's been \_\_ the caribou have been here, and have left here already, report lately of musk ox close to Barrow. Lately I have been hearing that there have been musk ox close to Barrow. But they have been around Barrow year round. I tell you, you can take a four-wheeler and go out from Barrow for caribou. Now \_\_ and all summer like that. We seen them right at the end of the runway here. All along the coast also. Wintertime is about the same.

So I think the idea is we're going to come up with \_\_ you're going to come up with some solution and I think we'd better quit arguing about caribou and musk ox, fight all the time, or associate like the other side say, come up with some solution. I don't know if anybody ever tried to correct that after the meeting. We talked about it at the meeting, at least in the last three or four meetings. This question come up every time, and we spend a lot of time. Has anything ever

happened to correct the problem after the meeting, after we leave from this room, until the next meeting time?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: No. And I would.....

MR. E. HOPSON: Okay. That's it.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: .....like to propose something, Elokchuk, along your lines if I could.

MR. E. HOPSON: Go ahead.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: And this is the same issue, and I agree with you 100 percent. We've never come up with a solution. What I sense, I feel, is this musk ox issue was forced on us. We never wanted it in the first place. And the \_\_\_ prior to your time here I guess the policy was the advocates for musk ox reintroduction and management was by the State of Alaska, Department of Fish & Game. And we're being asked to participate in something that we're not \_\_\_ we don't want to be a part of. And that's what I'm sensing from everybody, and correct me if I'm wrong.....

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: You're right.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: .....about this. And so I think, Elokchuk, our solution is to discuss among us whether we want to support a management plan or not presented by the State. And if yes, then we do, if no, then we don't, and do not participate. And if the advocacy is to eliminate musk ox, then we state so. And I think that's a solution, 'cause otherwise, you're right, it will just keep going on and on. And I would recommend that we make a decision one way or the other on this issue.

MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: If I could, thank you. I'll take the chair.....

MR. UPICKSOUN: In light of what you.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: .....back, and, Gordon?

MR. UPICKSOUN: In light of what you said, I'd make a motion that the North Slope Borough Wildlife Management support the Subsistence Council in the motion that musk ox be eliminated from the Slope.

MR. R. KOONUK: Second that motion.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: We can make a motion, just for correction, regarding our side of the table,.....

MR. UPICKSOUN: Uh-huh.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: .....that the Federal Subsistence Board has a position, and you can state that, and we would ask that maybe the North Slope Borough Wildlife Management Committee support our position, but would you restate your motion to that effect then?

MR. UPICKSOUN: Along the guidelines that you state, yes. The North Slope Subsistence Council supports my motion, and I'd ask that the North Slope Borough Wildlife Management support our position and back our position, and that will clear that musk ox issue.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. (In Inupiat) Do you understand Gordon's motion? Do we hear a second.....

MR. R. KOONUK: I'll second.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: .....on the Federal Subsistence Board side?

MR. R. KOONUK: Second.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Seconded by Ray Koonuk. We're open for discussion.

MR. E. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yes?

MR. E. HOPSON: That motion is very hard to respond one way of the other. I cannot \_\_\_ I don't agree with the motion. It's a resource.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh.

MR. E. HOPSON: A God-given resource, and if God \_\_\_ to be plentiful. I have no idea which way I'm going to go, except that I'm not agreeing with the motion.

One thing I'd like to mention is on the back land (ph) when the natives in Canada just after shortly they inherit the land they got with the resources on it,.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh.

MR. E. HOPSON: .....musk ox and caribou on that land. Just several years ago we went to Inuit and they were looking for a market for musk ox meat from Banks Island, because musk ox was getting too great in population and eat up the food for the reindeer on the same island. I believe at that time they had just found a market for the musk ox at that time. Russia I think bought several thousand carcasses of musk ox from Banks Island. They were looking for a market for that, because they were grazing on the same food that their caribou eat. That was one way to make the controlling better.

But as far as that motion, I'm not going to go along with that motion personally. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We're open for discussion on any side, because this is a public meeting by the Federal Subsistence Advisory Council, so any member or anybody can feel free to speak. We have Mark, and then we have George and Elijah.

MR. AHMAKAK: I disagree with the motion also, in line with Mr. Hopson's statement. We are all aware that this musk ox was encroached on us without our consent. And in the short time period the musk ox mammal or animal start populating, then the agents just came forward and gave us \_\_\_ said that

they need help from the local community members and the communities themselves, and to asking us how do we manage this? How are we going to deal with this? First you have to remember it was encroached on us without respect to the comments the members of the community made that the musk ox was \_\_ the majority of the blame was placed on the musk ox for lack of caribou coming back around. After a series of meetings, this subject comes on, comes back, never \_\_ nothing ever gets done. And the last presentation we had was from the Federal side, which was totally in my opinion one-sided. Everything was planned ahead of time and presented to us. So the only recourse this committee had was to work with all the agencies and make a provision so all communities can benefit from this resource. If they \_\_ if the permits have to be distributed to all the communities, also includes the other hunters that make applications, in order to be in it. As you recall, the population has increased, but it's not much. What did you say, 750?

MR. CARROLL: Yeah. Approximately 700.

MR. AHMAKAK: One way with musk ox, we can get rid of it if we have to. But it's good food, it's good eating.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you, Mark. George, and then Elijah.

MR. EDWARDSON: I had a comment to make. When you look at \_\_ have you looked at the eating habits of the musk ox? Have you seen how far on the food they eat when they eat? If you did that, you would find out the musk ox when it eats a plant on the tundra, it goes right down to the roots and eats the roots, while caribou and reindeer eat only the surface portion of that same plant, and it can reproduce. It can grow again. But when you take that same plant that the caribou can eat one year and come back and eat again in two years, you let a musk ox eat it, it's gone. Then every time you do that, you lower the food for the rest of the animals around. And this was told to the U. S. Fish & Wildlife and to the Federal agencies right from the beginning, coming from the reindeer herders who had watched the musk ox while they were watching their herds. The eating habits of this animal. And then every year you persist on coming back to reintroducing them.

And knowing that this animal's eating habits goes right down to the roots, and then when you eat the roots of a plant, you know, it might take 100 years for that same type of plant to grow in the same place, having such short growing seasons. That's what I wanted to mention.

Now, if you're looking at it scientifically, you would see that it would not be, you know, a viable project to continue on when you look at the rest of the animals that live in the Arctic. You would endanger the caribou. You would endanger the fish. You would endanger also the moose. You would endanger the fowl. Because you're taking their food away with this implant you're trying to do. And that's the only comment I have. Thank you.

MR. CARROLL: I guess I've looked at a lot of areas where musk ox have fed, and it certainly isn't a barren ground. I mean, they don't leave a swathe behind them with no vegetation on it. I guess I haven't personally done feeding studies on it, you know, but, I don't know, Pat, you're probably more familiar with what it looks like on the ground where musk oxen have been eating.

MS. REYNOLDS: Should I comment?

MR. CARROLL: Well, yeah, I think we need to comment on that.

MS. REYNOLDS: There's been several habitat studies at the University of Alaska, and if people are interested in those, I could send you information about \_\_ I personally haven't done the habitat studies myself, but there's quite a bit of information about habitat and the use of \_\_ how musk oxen feed, and I'd be glad to send that to anyone who's interested in seeing that information about musk oxen feeding habitat.

MR. CARROLL: You know, you kind of create an image of musk oxen going along and leaving a strip mine or clear-cut behind them, and that's not really the case. I mean, they do.....

MR. EDWARDSON: That is what I was explained to by my father who had reindeer herded for years, and had encountered in the past. Now I'll take the word of my father who had stayed out there for years with the animals against somebody that had looked at it two or three years when the season allowed them to. And that's the comment I make.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you, George. We have Elijah and Ben, then John and Delbert.

MR. ATTUNGANA: I'm Elijah Attungana from Point Hope. I support Gordon's motion and also I agree with Eddie, and we have been talking about this musk ox for every year. I'm listening every time we have meeting, we talk about musk ox and what we're going to do about musk ox and reindeer. I mean the caribou. And I would say, I've got no choice, say Kaktovik, that's the favorite food, the only people that hunt musk ox. And Gordon made a motion that we should get rid of them here, like Point Hope, and I would suggest, you know, that you don't have to agree about it, and suggest God gave us this food for our use, especially for the native. Why don't we just give them all to Kaktovik where they can (indiscernible, laughter).

CHAIRMAN ITTA: All right.

(Laughter and applause)

MR. ATTUNGANA: Herd them all up.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you, Elijah.

MR. E. HOPSON: They can build a corral and keep them over there.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: (In Inupiat) Very good. Thank you, and thank you for that, Elijah. Ben?

MR. B. HOPSON: It's a pretty hard decision to make, you know, to \_\_\_ whether to eliminate musk ox right now.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh.



MR. B. HOPSON: That's a good, God-given resource given to us, too. Maybe we could suggest a more liberal musk ox harvest with a total North Slope Borough quota system.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: With a limit, a number?

MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-huh (affirmative). You know, open up musk ox hunting to all the villages, and report all musk ox harvested immediately. That way the biologists keep tab of.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh.

MR. B. HOPSON: .....what's going on.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Did you here that, Geoff?

MR. B. HOPSON: I certainly would like.....

MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

MR. B. HOPSON: .....to, you know, catch musk ox. I had several opportunities several weeks ago. There was some musk ox around.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh.

MR. B. HOPSON: We don't get them, you know, in Anaktuvuk very often, but there's two, three now and then. I'm sure Anaktuvuk residents would \_\_ they've had desires to harvest musk ox, too.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh. Okay. Qu yana, Ben. And, John, and then Delbert.

MR. MILLER: Thanks, Edward. The North Slope Borough Fish & Game Committee, we discussed this for a long time. We've been discussing this for a long time. There was a draft made up, and this is the draft. It's the first draft, and is by no means final. There's a lot of room in there, and I think the \_\_ one of the \_\_ the way that it has to happen for anything to happen is to get into \_\_ to decide whether there's going to be a cooperative management plan or whether there

isn't, much like what's been talked about. If there is, then this is something to start looking at and tearing apart or fixing it, however we think it should be. Elimination of a food source and a species is certainly one approach. Cooperative management would be another approach that could probably lead to the same result.

But this is a draft, and this is something that we came here to have a joint meeting, one of the items to discuss with the Federal side, the Regional side. All these comments will be taken and hopefully a more finalized draft could be made up that \_\_ something has to be done. We can't keep making drafts. We should be getting better at it, and narrowing it down to some sort of an action. And Elijah's right, we've been going around and around for a long time with this. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you, John. Delbert?

MR. D. REXFORD: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Delbert Rexford, for the record. (In Inupiat) I don't envy you. (In Inupiat) A more positive approach than eliminating them. Try re-transplanting them. That would be the North Slope's contribution to another community, to another region. You're not going to solve it here, because the regime of any management regime of wildlife is to increase the population, is to maintain that population so that it's healthy. We've had to tackle that issue with the bowhead whale. When the scientist said there's less than 2,000 or 200 bowhead whales, we had to prove them wrong. They're going to come back to you and say Federal regulations will not allow us to, quote/unquote, eliminate the musk ox. But you've got to have a different management proposal. If we could re-transplant them back to their place of origin, then we've made a contribution to the over-all health of the population of the musk ox without eliminating them.

But right now, the key people that are audience (ph) to the musk ox are environmentalists, Friends of Animals, and people like this. And who's suffering? The Inupiat people. they have to spend more money harvesting caribou. They have to travel a lot further to hunt their caribou, and yet it's

under a wildlife management regime. Increase the population. That was their goal and objective, to restock the North Slope so that it becomes a healthy population. I mean, if we're going to make a positive contribution to the musk ox population on a global level, perhaps a recommendation like a retransplanting them back to their place of origin will be more positive from the global view than eliminating them, because eliminating is a strong word, like Edward Hopson said. That could be another suggestion to the joint committee.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you, Delbert. Doreen?

MS. LAMPE: Doreen Lampe, for the record I'm with our Planning Department.

For the record, I disagree with Gordon's motion to eliminate them. I agree with John Miller's statement that you have a draft before you to manage this problem. I'd encourage you to get the draft finalized and from this population statistics that Pat Reynolds has provided us, it seems like they're growing. In five years there was a growth of 181 in the Arctic, and in the east it was a growth of 148 in the east, so I think you can manage them if you implement your management plan and target those areas real quickly to control the herd, to keep the North Slope's preference of caribou as the primary, quote, animal of the North Slope. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you, Doreen. We had a hand up by staff over here. Go ahead, Steve?

MR. ULVI: Yeah, Steve Ulvi with the National Park Service. I certainly am in no position to comment on your motion. That's your business. But as a staff member, I wanted to point out a couple of things and perhaps ask a question.

One is that the National Park Service's view in general of musk ox dispersal across the North Slope is that they were historically present in the foothills of the Brooks Range and in the Brooks Range, so our interest in this cooperative management planning effort is that at some time in the future in a perfect world, there would be some musk oxen

in the Brooks Range, you know, aside from these other issues that you folks are so eloquently discussing.

The other comments I have I guess are that I wonder if it's possible that musk ox could be managed under a cooperative management plan. And it is my view that as Mr. Rexford has brought up that Federal law \_\_ animals are not owned by the public \_\_ they're not owned by the agencies, they're owned in a public trust, so they're supposed to be managed for the public trust, and you folks are certainly an important part of the public up here on the North Slope in particular, but it's the American public and the Alaskan public as well. So it's a very sticky issue to talk about eliminating a species.

But the comment is, is that it sounds like musk ox disperse very slowly, and perhaps Pat or Geoff or somebody who knows about these things could respond to this, but they disperse very slowly, and it takes time for them to disperse into their full range. I wonder if it might be possible that under a cooperative manage plan over some time and with some tolerance by villagers and community members that there might be an opportunity for animals to disperse into their formal range, and then to more actively manage the populations where there is a conflict with caribou near villages and such.

If it is true that musk ox displace caribou, then it would seem to me that there might be a possibility that in certain areas that are not used a lot by some of the North Slope villages, if there were a musk ox population there, it wouldn't be any skin of anybody's teeth then if the caribou didn't go through those areas, and the caribou were perhaps diverted to areas where you do, the areas that are important to your subsistence uses.

Another thing is, is that as we all know, caribou populations do fluctuate. You folks all know that better, far better than I do. And right now we have pretty much a historic high as far as people know with these three and four herds that we have up here. And I ask the question what about the time when the Western Arctic Herd is not so large as it is

now? And the presence of musk ox would at least give a potential food source at that time.

So I just wanted to make those comments. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you, Steve. Elokchuk?

MR. E. HOPSON: Well, the more I think about this problem, like I said, I'm not agreeing with the motion, it's an idea in case \_\_\_ I don't know how their vote is going to go on the motion, but one thing that can be explored is I don't think when the musk ox is present along the Point Lay area they have been in big groups. Small group maybe. The same way of how about on the Kivalina side where the migration path of the migrating caribou on the other side of the \_\_\_ of Red Dog activity. Also a part of \_\_\_ it can be explored about by federal activity (ph) knows of, if there's maybe three or four maybe sometime that are keeping the caribou away from coming. You know, it only take one person to scare a big herd of caribou away. So it would be with the musk ox. It can be very few musk ox present around the area that keep the caribou out. In the management plan, you know, that is something to be considered as far as migration. If there's any few musk ox on the migration path. You people that are responsible for the management better think about killing those off. I think it's going to take a lot of musk ox. You know, we're very desperate, especially Anaktuvuk side. And Point Lay complain and Point Hope complain. There could be musk ox on both sides of Anaktuvuk Pass where that valley, right at the \_\_\_ they have a hard, to coming through the valley there maybe, a couple of musk ox. That's all it takes.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you, Eddie. We have Harry, Jr.

MR. H. BROWER: Yeah, Edward, I just wanted to remind both the Fish & Game Management Committee and the Regional Advisory Council that we had addressed customary and traditional use determinations at our joint meeting. This was a year and a half ago. And at that time we made a positive determination for musk ox, and that's where this management plan came about. And that's where it started from. If we're \_\_\_ when we made that determination of a positive c&t in order

for the residents of North Slope to be able to hunt musk ox, we needed to start a musk ox management plan, and that's — this is where it started off from. And that's the way it's been going from about two years ago I think. It's been probably more than that, before whenever I came on, but it's at that time when we started this musk ox management plan. I just want to bring that up for your information.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you, Harry. At this time I'm going to declare a ten-minute break. You've got ten minutes. We're still on the motion.

(Off record)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Let's start getting back to our meeting.

(Off record conversations regarding whaling)

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We're still on the motion. I think we've heard quite a bit of good discussion on it. I thank you everybody who's commented on the motion. And with that I call for the question on the motion from somebody.

MR. H. BROWER: Call for the question, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: The question's been called on the motion. We'll take a roll call vote if we can today.

MR. H. BROWER: Shall I start from the bottom up?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. H. BROWER: Jimmy Nayukok?

MR. NAYUKOK: No.

MR. H. BROWER: Frank Long?

MR. LONG: No.

MR. H. BROWER: Ray Koonuk?

MR. R. KOONUK: Yes.

MR. H. BROWER: Benjamin Hopson? He's out of the room, Mr. Chairman. Gordon Upicksoun?

MR. UPICKSOUN: Yes.

MR. H. BROWER: Terry Tagarook?

MR. TAGAROOK: Yes.

MR. H. BROWER: Harry Brower? No. Edward Itta?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: No.

MR. H. BROWER: No. You have one, two, three, four nos and three yes. That's with Benjamin Hopson not in the room.

MR. E. HOPSON: (In Inupiat) Are you \_\_ is that just the Federal Board voting?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Right. Voting no. The motion fails. We still have the issue before us here on the draft plan, draft management plan. And I just want to restate something before we get started here again.

What Eddie mentioned, that once two years ago we decided when we were created, what, two years ago, right? A little over two years ago now?

MR. H. BROWER: Three years.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: This was one of the first issues that came up before us, and at that time because of the permit problems they had, it was decided by the North Slope Federal Subsistence Advisory Council to determine that musk oxen was customary and traditional use. And once we made that declaration, the Federal Subsistence Board chair directed our chair, Fenton, to come up and start drafting a management plan

for the musk ox. And I just want to bring that up to you just as a reminder. That because of our own actions largely, we have this still before us, and it's not resolved yet. But we are certainly open to every item on the draft, to modify, recommend and change as you so feel. So we're still open to discussion.

MR. E. HOPSON: Do we have a paper on it?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: That's that ten pager, Eddie, the one we started off with here, the draft?

MR. E. HOPSON: We have this long \_\_ was that the one?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Geoff, correct me if I'm wrong, but that's about essentially where we're at? We're free to make any changes, modifications or recommendations to the draft?

MR. CARROLL: That's right. That's exactly what it is, it's draft. It's here to be added to or things taken away from. It's an on-going process until everyone decides, you know, to finalize it.

And I guess one quick thing, somebody presented this as an Alaska Fish & Game plan that you guys are supposed to approve or not approve. This is a plan that was created because Fenton requested that it be created. It's, you know, a combination North Slope Borough Fish & Game Management Committee plan \_\_ you know, it's not a Fish & Game plan. It's a cooperative plan that we're all trying to work on together to satisfy \_\_ or come up with a satisfactory way to manage these musk oxen.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: I realize I have the Chair, and maybe I'll hand it over to Harry for a minute, and I'd like to speak to the matter, please?

MR. H. BROWER: Yes.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Harry?

MR. H. BROWER: Uh-huh.



CHAIRMAN ITTA: On item \_\_ okay. Where is that section? Okay. On goal 11, on page eight, management objectives, or goal 11, minimize the detrimental effect of musk oxen on caribou and caribou hunting. Management objectives, item (a), if it is determined that there are areas where the presence of musk oxen has displaced caribou or affected a migration route, then hunting pressure can be directed toward those areas with the intention of reducing the number of musk oxen in that specific area. Can you elaborate a little bit on that, please, for me? And my question I guess would be can we eliminate oxen from any traditional migratory route of caribou?

MR. CARROLL: Well, okay, this \_\_ what this plan is, you know, it's an accumulation of ideas that came up at the last meeting. And, you know, it can \_\_ you know, if you talk about eliminating musk oxen over a wide area, you know, I think \_\_ I doubt that that's legal, but you can certainly \_\_ for instance, if there are places in ANWR that people feel that the musk oxen have moved into, and the caribou don't come into any more. You know, I mean, they have kind of a zone system there anyway. You could direct more hunting towards a zone where you don't want as many musk oxen in that area than the other zones. I mean, I think that's what we're working towards. Or if we see an area where, you know, it is a caribou migration route, for instance, right in front of Anaktuvuk Pass, and musk oxen, you know, set up \_\_ a herd has established right in front of Anaktuvuk Pass, than it, you know, seems like we could direct the hunting, you know on that population. So.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Let me restate my question the other way. I guess maybe I don't want to use eliminate again any more. If there are musk ox in that migration route, can we transplant them out of there somewhere else where they're not in the way of any caribou or will not affect? Because you've heard the testimony that.....

MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: .....once the caribou start going a different way, that's the way they go. And all it takes like, you know, like Elokchuk said, either one person or one musk

ox, and they'll turn the whole thing. And what I'm trying to say is if there's over by Point Lay or by Point Hope or on the traditional migration route, if there's a herd of musk ox there, can we move those.....

MR. CARROLL: And just herd.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: .....to some other area?

MR. CARROLL: Just herd them out of the area? I guess I don't \_\_ I can't really answer to the legality of that. I mean, that's something we would have to research. that's something we want to investigate the possibility of. I guess I couldn't tell you right now that it would be legal to herd them out of the way there. I \_\_ it seems to me like it would, but i don't know. I guess we would have to talk to the lawyers that, you know, have a better understanding of the law than I do. I can't say for sure one way or the other.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. And I didn't get an answer, but the other question then I would have, is there anything to prevent us from saying you will only have in 26(B) and (C) no more than 651 musk ox?

MR. CARROLL: These things are going to have to be investigated, and they're going to have to get through the Federal Board and the State Board, and I guess I can't say for sure that they would pass that or they would not pass that. It's something that we'd have to advocate, say that that's what we want and try to get it through. And that's kind of where it is. I just can't tell you for sure if they would pass it or not.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you. Harry, I'll.....

MR. E. HOPSON: Well, I guess it's pretty much covered, but I was going to ask if you can \_\_ can you drive the herd away from where they are or can you lead them to follow you, or what? Supposing we have right at the pass at Anaktuvuk Pass going north, both of the \_\_ right on the north side of the mountain, you had a few musk ox there about the time you're expecting the migration to go through. Can you

drive them out of there without using a 270 in the neck?  
Okay. I mean,.....

MR. CARROLL: Well,.....

MR. E. HOPSON: .....I mean, just \_\_ I don't mean you  
to laugh.

MR. CARROLL: Yeah, it's.....

MR. E. HOPSON: You can drive caribou. You scare them  
away from there.

MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

MR. E. HOPSON: They will run. How about musk ox?  
Are they so stubborn that, you know, you can't even put them  
aside?

MR. CARROLL: Well, I would think you could herd them  
away, but I guess I couldn't say for sure that they wouldn't  
turn around and come back or something like that. I.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We have a hand up. Go ahead.

MR. G. BROWER: Could you describe or make it a little  
bit clearer what it means by on a migratory route of caribou,  
what you would mean by adding pressure to that area to the  
musk ox? would that include subsistence hunters come take  
caribou in \_\_ musk oxes in the area? They'd be able to  
subsist off the musk ox in that area?

MR. CARROLL: I'm just saying that when the limits are  
\_\_ you know, the number of animals you can harvest in a  
particular area are set, that you would set it so that you  
harvest more animals from that area than other areas. Again,  
a lot of these things are ideas that came up in the last  
meeting that people wanted to see go into a plan. And, you  
know, I haven't had time \_\_ I basically got the ideas into  
this plan. I certainly haven't had time to investigate all  
the legalities of everything involved there.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: John?

MR. MILLER: I understand that this is the first time that the Regional Board has seen this, these ten pages that we're talking about?

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: The draft plan, yes.

MR. MILLER: The draft plan. I almost would like to \_\_ well, I would like to mention that I think that it's unfair for you to receive this today and for us to really talk about it in depth, because you guys haven't had a chance \_\_ you know, your side, you haven't had a chance to really look at it. And so everything that we're talking about, it's like we're looking at it all over again. It's kind of like coming and reading the minutes, and then trying to pass them. You know, you should have had some time to take a look at this and come to the Regional Board's opinion of the draft.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you, John. Gordon?

MR. UPICKSOUN: Yes. And out of the five questions I would ask of Geoff regarding legality of transplanting, can we limit the number of musk ox in a given area, or can we drive them away from a particular area? Four out of five questions, you didn't know, so that's why we're working on this plan. We're trying to develop a plan. Out of the five questions that were asked of Geoff regarding the legality, the transplanting, the number of musk ox that a particular area can handle, or can we limit it, can we drive them away from a particular area, like from Point Lay. Four out of the five questions you didn't know. So that's why the \_\_ we're a long way from solving it, whether we had the draft plan or not. We're trying to manage a resource that we don't want.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you, Gordon. You had your hand up back there? And state.....

MR. YOKEL: Dave Yokel.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: .....your name, please?

MR. YOKEL: Dave Yokel with the Bureau of Land Management. I would like to respond to your question to Geoff, Edward, about whether or not you could eliminate musk ox from a small area if they were deflecting a caribou migration. I would think that if you can develop a plan that includes that, and if you can get that plan accepted by the Alaska State Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board, then, yes, you could do that. There may be some precedents. If the State Fish & Game can have a proposal to eliminate, say, a pack of wolves from the area, then I \_\_ I'm not a lawyer on this, but I would suspect that it would be legal to eliminate musk oxen from a small area as well.

I think the key here though is for this group, both of these groups, and for the agencies here, to come together and develop a rational plan and taking it forward to the Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board. I think the onus is on these groups here to do that. I think anything that the individuals here in this room can agree on is going to carry a lot of weight with those two boards. And I've only been sitting through these musk ox discussions for five years, and I know they've been going a lot longer than that, and I can \_\_ but I can certainly reflect some sentiments of other people in this room that we've been arguing about it for a long time. But until we can work our way past some of those arguments and try to develop something that will meet some of the needs of everybody involved, we won't be able to develop a plan that we can forward to those boards. And until we can do that, nothing will be done, because we need their approvals. I got a little bit longer than I intended.

(Whispered off record discussion between Chairman Itta and Mr. H. Brower)

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Harry just made a point on the deadline, the time frame. I guess I'll put it that way, that we have a time frame as the Federal Subsistence Advisory Council, to come back within a year I guess. Spring of '97, is that correct, Geoff?

MS. FOX: Yes, that's right.

MR. CARROLL: I think that's right.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Or whomever can answer that, that's correct?

MS. FOX: Yes. Uh-huh.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Spring of '97, and this is fall of '96.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And you will probably see a more final draft in your February meeting, depending on how well it goes. And Fenton will be there.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: We have a November meeting scheduled or not?

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: You can have, you can request for a special meeting just regarding on this musk ox plan.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: John, is it any problem with you and your group if we defer this another month or two? Or maybe you'd want to bring that up before your committee?

MR. MILLER: Well, this is a draft from \_\_ this is a draft made up from the discussion that we had before. It's not a final document that we've accepted either.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. MILLER: It's still in the draft format.

MR. AHMAKAK: Yes, what you have before you is the final outcome of a series of meetings from this committee. We were instructed to work with these different agencies, and as much as we could. We about hollered at each other and what not. And the ultimate step now is for your federal agencies to review this and make a recommendation as to your deletion, additions, or what have you that you may want to put in here.

And then present it again for both parties involved. That's the way I look at it.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you. One more question before I forget to ask. When's your next board meeting? Charlie mentioned it earlier.

MR. MILLER: Charlie mentioned December, but the committee can set it for whenever actually.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh.

MR. MILLER: The next scheduled meeting is December, let's put it that way.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Scheduled meeting is December?

MR. MILLER: For us, yes.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: We can go to their \_\_ we can ask to go to their December meeting if it helps.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We had a hand up over here?

MR. UPICKSOUN: You can invite us to it. You can invite us.

MS. FOX: Yeah, I think I can.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Excuse me.

MR. UPICKSOUN: You can invite us to your next meeting.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Go ahead, you had a comment?

MS. FOX: Yes. No, not necessarily a comment, but a help in getting your answer here as far as the process goes. Fenton has talked to me about working with these groups through the process of developing this management plan. And the first meeting, to get this thing going, was in July, and

we met with this committee, the North Slope Borough Fish & Game Committee, and the result of that, a lot of comments, and a lot of discussion. I think we almost went about eight hours on this. Geoff turned that all into this draft management plan. And Fenton indicated at that time in July that it would come before this group today, and then again there would be another meeting where this plan would be revised again and presented in December. And then a final plan at the February/March meeting of the Council before it goes to the Board in April I think it is.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MS. FOX: And so he had indicated there were going to be a series of four meetings at which times new drafts would be produced and there would be opportunities for further revision before it became final.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you. Geoff, and then Barbara.

MR. CARROLL: Well, I just want to make kind of a suggestion for how to proceed on this. I mean, it is not a good thing for these guys to having received this cold today, and suddenly be expected to make comments. I mean, we could let people look at it over night, and we could work on it tomorrow, or we could just kind of walk through them one by one, just kind of quickly summarize them, and see what comments people have on it right now, just kind of go through them in an organized fashion, and just kind of click them off and see what comments people want to make, what changes or whatever. I mean, it's kind of catch them cold, but at least we can look at them and see what people think about them. Or like I say, we could give people time to review it tonight and go through them tomorrow.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Before I get back to you, Barbara, on page one, on the second paragraph, you state that this plan is not permanent, but will be subject to revision in coming years. Recommendations for change will be made through the NSB Fish & Game Management Committee. The plan will comply with limitations imposed by the State and Federal laws and



regulations, and ultimately will need to be approved by the Alaska Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board to take effect. In order for anything to get approved by the Alaska Board of Game, obviously we have to have the Regional Management Committee make recommendations; and then on the Federal size, largely because it's all within the NPRA and different areas, that we have to also \_\_ kind of hand-in-hand, we both need to come to a consensus on a final plan, and, you know, Fenton has been working long and hard on this and also you, Geoff. I'm not trying to put you in a spot or anything, but I do agree maybe that we do need some more time with ourselves to work on this a little bit more, and I would ask to be invited at your next board meeting. I think between us, we can work the numbers out in here. I think, you know, like my concerns, I want to try to add in here, but I want consensus from us, and I would ask to have this deferred.

And one more thing, Fenton is not here, who's been very knowledgeable, very knowledgeable in working on our behalf, at our direction, going to the Federal Subsistence Board and I'm not real comfortable on taking this, leading this issue without Fenton being here, so I would recommend that we defer this as the Federal Subsistence Board, to wait to the next board meeting. And that's what I would recommend at this time.

Barbara, you wanted to add something?

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. I just wanted to ask since Fenton had direction from the Federal Board chair for your Council to work on this management plan, I'm sure they would have to agree for your Council to attend the Fish & Wildlife's next management meeting in December, and then that's when you can bring your comments out to them,.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: .....and then discuss it then further.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Any objections to that, my fellow board members? If not, John, with your concurrence, we'd like

to defer this issue to your next board meeting, and we'll have our comments and what not for your consideration at that time. Is that.....

MR. MILLER: Is there any opposition to a joint meeting in December? Okay. Possibly schedule this for just one day,.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah.

MR. MILLER: .....and nothing else on that agenda but this.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: One day, and for the record, I want our comments to be available about a week or so before the meeting, so we can all take a look at them, okay?

MR. H. BROWER: Uh-huh.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: (In Inupiat) Okay?

MR. UPICKSOUN: The questions, comments from the members of the Regional.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yes. Uh-huh.

MR. UPICKSOUN: .....Council made available to our chair or to Barbara?

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: To me, and I can.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: To Barbara. To Barbara. We can comment, and we can get them down. You can either write them or verbally, and we can get them noted, and we'll sit down with Fenton again, and if we need to, contact everybody and make sure we're on the right track with everybody's comments. Okay?

MR. MILLER: Edward?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh.

MR. MILLER: I also would like it know that this is also the first time that we've seen this document.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. I thought you had already seen this document?

MR. MILLER: No, we went through the meeting. We went through the meeting and the discussion and the loud voices and walking around the room and everything, but this is the first time we've seen it written down.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. (In Inupiat)

MR. MILLER: This will benefit both sides, yeah.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah.

MR. MILLER: Both. Both.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: You got out of that one, Geoff.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. (In Inupiat) We had some real good comments. I commend and applaud the people who commented on this, and I'm sure we'll have some more discussion on it, so I'm going to go ahead and defer this on the Federal Subsistence side and we'll be available at your next board meeting. Okay.

MR. H. BROWER: I have a question, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Harry?

MR. H. BROWER: When you're making this request, do we need to get a \_\_ what do we need to get this meeting set up for a joint meeting for the one day session for both to be involved? Do we need to set a motion by the Council to attend this meeting, or do we need to just.....

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: We need \_\_ we'll need to get an invitation letter from the Wildlife Management, and then I'll start from there and then get it approved then.

MR. MILLER: Let's write on right now.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

MR. H. BROWER: Any further action.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Get us your \_\_\_ because we just do the travel.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: .....and hotel and per diem from them.

MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Harry, you can \_\_\_ Gordon?

MR. UPICKSOUN: This is a joint meeting. We haven't heard a motion from the North Slope Borough Fish & Wildlife Management Committee inviting us to their next meeting. Wouldn't that have to be put in the form of a motion?

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Oh, it can be a motion and in your transcripts, then we can start from there even. Not even a letter.

MR. MILLER: No, we did. We just polled.

MR. UPICKSOUN: Pardon?

MR. MILLER: We just polled. There.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah, there was no objection.

MR. MILLER: .....was no objection.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. That's good enough.

MR. MILLER: There was no objection, yeah.

MR. UPICKSOUN: All right.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That's good enough.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you. We want to go on to item 7.A.3, National Park Service, the new National Park Service regulations update by Steve Ulvi. If you can, Steve?

MR. ULVI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Steve Ulvi, Subsistence Manager for Gates of the Arctic National Park. And I'll take this time just to give a short agency report, and then address this issue of the National Park Service draft issue statement, that I believe all of you have copies of in your blue folder, and I have some extra copies for anybody that doesn't have one when we get to that point. They'll be sitting right here.

The first thing I'd like to say is I always appreciate the chance to come to Barrow, and the chance to sit and listen, particularly this joint committee, because I always learn a great deal, and I appreciate that.

The other thing is, is I wanted to address a comment made earlier by Ben Hopson about the difficulties with the caribou migrations in Anaktuvuk Pass and being surrounded by a park unit. Before I forget, I just wanted to comment that there is, although it's not a perfect solution, there is one solution that does exist in the law for the management of the park area under ANILCA, and that is that they as a community can come to the Park Service and request use of aircraft to fly into the Park, which is not normally allowed for subsistence purposes, but they can request the use of aircraft in a situation like has existed in the last couple of years where there are few caribou migrating through, to go out and harvest animals. So there is that alternative, although I realize it's not the most attractive alternative in some ways, but it does exist in law, so I just wanted to clarify that. Harry?

MR. H. BROWER: Steve, then while you're on that topic, is that addressing the same day airborne hunt, too, or just \_\_ do they need to spend the night there and then hunt the next day, or \_\_ I think that's one of the concerns Ben brought up earlier, that they're not able to fly an aircraft

up to a site where they can land and harvest caribou on the same day. I think that's what you meant there, right?

MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-huh.

MR. H. BROWER: Well, when you're discussing that, is that addressing that issue also, or are they going to have to spend the night there and harvest caribou the next day?

MR. ULVI: That is a good question. I talked earlier here with Sverre and Geoff and other people, and the best understanding I have, and as soon as I get a chance, I'll ask the Regional Solicitor that question, but I'm \_\_\_ I guess I'm quite sure that the answer is that we would still \_\_\_ that action would still fall under the same day airborne prohibition, and that we could not \_\_\_ through that special action for citizens in Anaktuvuk Pass, we could not side-step the same day airborne provisions either on the Federal or the State side. Now, I'm not absolutely sure about that, and I'll certainly check into that.

MR. H. BROWER: And if you address the letter to Ben on the reply of that, I mean, that would help him directly in.....

MR. ULVI: That.....

MR. H. BROWER: .....finding out what's possible and what's not.

MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-huh.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you, Harry. Relative to the same issue, Charlie?

MR. OKAKOK: Yes. Is there a possibility that you can waive that as a manager?

MR. ULVI: Mr. Chairman, as I said, I don't believe so. I don't believe the superintendent of the park or anyone can waive that kind of a legal prohibition on same day airborne. There is a possibility that the solicitor could say

under this special circumstance where you have a community that's identified in the law, Anaktuvuk Pass is only one of two in the State, the other is Yakutat, that's identified in the law as being what's called an exempted community wherein where there is a resource shortage, in a situation like that, they can apply to be able to use aircraft in the park. There are only the two communities in the State. So it is a very special circumstance, and perhaps there would be a chance for a waiver from a higher level of the same day airborne prohibition, but I kind of doubt that. And I realize the problems with that. But again, it is another possibility even with the prohibition, to at least be able to access lakes or some part of the park that you normally would not be allowed to access with aircraft and hunt, and then have the aircraft come back to pick up the meat. But I will certainly get an answer on that. And I apologize for not having that here now.

MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. I'm sorry. Gordon?

MR. UPICKSOUN: Yes. In line with what you said, you said you may permit aircraft in the area, you didn't say provide? You said \_\_ who provides the aircraft?

MR. ULVI: Oh, that would be up to the community or the North Slope Borough, or whatever. You know, that would not be the responsibility of the Federal Government. It would be an allowance for that, what is normally a prohibited form of access, would be allowed in that special circumstance, you know, to help the community with their resource issue. And it has \_\_ that has occurred once before at least in Anaktuvuk in the late 80s where they were allowed to use an aircraft. But, yes, they would have to charter or use North Slope Borough aircraft or something like that.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Go ahead, Steve.

MR. ULVI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, I just wanted to quickly mention to help you folks in your deliberations when you talk about management activities, to let you know a little bit what we're doing in Gates of the

Arctic National Park. We are continuing to cooperate with the caribou population monitoring and harvest survey that Sverre Pedersen talked about earlier. And on occasion \_\_ the Park has two aircraft, and on occasion we have used those aircraft to also try to help locate caribou or get an idea of what's going on. We're going to be in that area anyway.

We also have conducted a cooperative dall sheep survey in the Anaktuvuk area in July, and many local residents, such as Ben and Bob Aguk and others were asked for their advice as to which areas were most important for subsistence use, and asked for information about how those populations move, and those kinds of things, because there was a limited amount of money to survey, and so the areas were selected in part based on what the local residents knew. That greatly helped limit that survey area.

About 2200 square miles in the central Brooks Range there was surveyed by the State of Alaska and the National Park Service with quite a number of aircraft. And it's kind of a good news/bad news thing. The bad news is that it does appear that the sheep density and the population has declined seriously since the last good surveys were conducted over ten years ago, and that it looks at though there are approximately 2800 sheep in that 2200 square mile area, and that the decline is somewhere between 30 to 80 percent over those 1980 figures. It gets worse the further west you go. So this occurred in part of the Itkillik Preserve where there is a guide allowed to work, one guide, and there is sport hunting allowed. That's a full curl regulation for dall sheep there. For subsistence in the park, no one else is allowed to hunt in the park except the residents there, local residents within the resident zone. Nuiqsut and nine other communities including Anaktuvuk Pass. And that Federal regulation currently is three sheep of any sex.

So the bottom line is, is that the good news is that although there's been this serious decline, there does appear to be a pretty healthy lamb crop and juvenile sheep. Good numbers there, so maybe it's already hit the bottom and started back up.



But the people of Anaktuvuk Pass have been very helpful and concerned about the population, and I think that, you know, we have a good situation there. It's an important species for them.

We also have attempted to support, and we're certainly very interested in continuing to try to work with Geoff Carroll on this moose decline in 26(A). We have not been able to lend him the kind of hand we'd like to in the future I think, but hopefully we'll be able to do so this coming year.

We've also had staff attend the initial meetings on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd management planning effort as well as this North Slope musk ox management plan that you just so thoroughly discussed.

The second thing I wanted to mention is that the Anaktuvuk Pass land exchange legislation that some people here are very familiar with and some of the rest of you may not be, but it's been over a decade that the National Park Service, the Nunamiut Corporation, the residents of Anaktuvuk Pass and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation have worked jointly to produce a land exchange plan that has gone to Congress two and a half years ago, because it involves de-authorizing wilderness, so it has to go to Congress. That's the only body that can deal with de\_authorizing wilderness. To go ahead and exchange some lands around Anaktuvuk Pass, to get some of the lands that they traditionally used and need for access with Argos in the fall to caribou, out of the park and out of the wilderness into their ownership, and they in turn exchange some lands to be put into park and park wilderness. It's a fairly large, thick document, complicated. It took a lot of people a lot of years of hard work. And the latest word we have from the staff, the committee staff chair for the Natural Resources Committee under Frank Murkowski is that when the Senate reconvenes, they hope to quickly pass that legislation. And it's had some problems. It's been balled up with a bunch of other legislation that the President has problems with, but hopefully it's been pulled out and separated now, and that with a little luck, the interested parties will have legislation, and then we can begin to work closely to implement that legislation.

Just a reminder that this body, the North Slope Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, on this side of the room, has the authority to appoint one member to the Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission. And that commission member that you have appointed and continues to serve very well in my estimation is Ben Hopson, who is here on this Council. And so you continue to have that authority, and it is up to you as to whether you want to replace Mr. Hopson or continue to have him serve. And as I say, he's -- it's an on-going appointment as long as you're happy with his performance. And as I say, we are very happy to have people of Mr. Hopson's credentials and quality on the Subsistence Resource Commission.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you, Steve. Harry?

MR. H. BROWER: Steve, on that same topic, is that date up for reappointment or is that.....

MR. ULVI: No.

MR. H. BROWER: He's still on as a member then.....

MR. ULVI: Yeah. Yeah.

MR. H. BROWER: .....up to present day?

MR. ULVI: Yeah.

MR. H. BROWER: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Eddie? Eddie, go ahead.

MR. E. HOPSON: On this thing that they're working on on the land exchange deal, isn't it authorized for a community to hunt in their traditional hunting areas in the parks or reserves or federal reserves and all of that? Isn't hunting already authorized? Instead of going through a land exchange so they can get ownership?

MR. ULVI: Mr. Chairman, yes, sir, that's right, but as you might expect, it's more complicated than that. The

issue there with Anaktuvuk was the use of Argos, all terrain vehicles, in park wilderness. In general terms the use of mechanized vehicles, unless it's an outboard motor or an airplane as allowed in ANILCA, is prohibited in national park wilderness areas, so it has been a very complicated, very controversial discussion.....

MR. E. HOPSON: I know that. I know it's very complicated.

MR. ULVI: .....since the 80s that I'm sure you're aware of. So this land exchange agreement was what the interested parties were able to come up with that they thought was a viable solution to a very difficult situation, and that.....

MR. E. HOPSON: Is that deal still in the making? You're negotiating in that?

MR. ULVI: No, that has been final for two and a half years, and it's a matter of Congress acting on it. And as I say, we've been told that the Senate is finally going to pass it fairly rapidly when they reconvene in the next few weeks, and the House has already passed it, and therefore it would become law.

MR. E. HOPSON: In the meantime, Anaktuvuk Pass people are prohibited from going in there until Congress acts on the legislation, is that correct?

MR. ULVI: No, that's not correct. As it stands, for the last few years, what we have is an agreement with the community of Anaktuvuk Pass, and the Nunamiut Corporation that they will abide by the limits of the legislation for ATV use. And they have been doing so. And so in effect we've allowed the limits of the ATV use to be in existence until it's actually passed.

And so then back to the SRC, the next meeting for the Subsistence Resource Commission for Gates of the Arctic National Park will probably be in mid November in Anaktuvuk Pass, and we certainly do hope to at that time have a

celebration there with the community. To step back a little bit, I think, and forget about some of the controversies that certainly face us in the future with implementation of that plan and some of these other issues you've brought up today that we all have to live with, and step back and celebrate a little bit a lot of hard work by a lot of really good people, and a reasonable solution to a very difficult situation, if that legislation passes. So we hope that we can along with the SRC meeting to talk about regular park subsistence issues, we can also step back and celebrate a little bit for some very hard work and dedication.

And I also wanted to mention quickly that we have had the opportunity to review the draft technical report for the North Slope Borough subsistence harvest documentation project of which Anaktuvuk Pass was the first draft completion. And we really appreciate the effort and commend the effort by the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management staff and the subsistence specialist in the community, as well as the people, because we do feel, as I've stated many times at previous meetings, that one of the critical issues from a park manager's perspective is that we have good harvest information, and a good sense of what areas are important to, and which \_\_ maybe which areas are most critical for subsistence activities and uses within the park and the area. And we believe that this effort is an excellent very large step in that direction, and commend the North Slope Borough Department for that work. And also appreciate the opportunity to have commented and reviewed that draft report.

Then lastly, the issue that's on the agenda is this thing that I have copies of here, if anyone doesn't have them. And what we're calling it is a draft review of subsistence law and National Park Service regulations. You should have that in your packet, it's about.....

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I handed it out earlier.

MR. ULVI: .....six or eight pages, double sided, lots of words. It's got U.S. Department of Interior letterhead, National Park Service.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Which one? Steve, which one now? It's got the letterhead?

MR. ULVI: Maybe yours doesn't have the letterhead on it.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, that.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: We don't have a letterhead. Your talking of the draft? Okay.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

MR. ULVI: That's right. Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, that's the correct copy there.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, draft review of the subsistence law. It's under number seven.

MR. ULVI: Mr. Chairman, what I'd like to do is, this is perhaps new to some people sitting at this table, but it has been widely circulated, discussed for at least the last year and a half. It's been in existence for about that long, and prior to that, it took about a year for a group of National Park Service managers and biologists and people to sit down as a work group and kind of hammer this out. And essentially there's two things here.

One is, is what's called a regional subsistence policy statement. It's right on your first \_\_ second or third page there, depending on which copy you have, you know, which way it's formatted, and it's about half a page long, and it starts out by saying the National Park Service will manage subsistence as a legislated use consistent with provisions of ANILCA, and then has some bullet statements.

The remainder of it is kind of an issue by issue discussion, beginning with general subsistence issues, with some conclusions and findings and some suggested action items, and runs through a variety of issues. What this is is the agency, some of our people who have been around the longest and dealt with ANILCA issues, got together and tried to

identify the kinds of issues that we would like to get some input from regional councils, from the subsistence resource commissions, from all members of the public, from other agencies, state and federal, any interested parties whatsoever. These are generally issues that we feel from our perspective are grey areas within ANILCA. They're areas where policies will be developed, regulations may be developed in the future. They're the kinds of things we've wrestled with ever since ANILCA was passed. There are going to be some of these issues that councils such as yourselves and local residents will firmly probably agree with the direction the National Park Service might like to go. And there certainly will be some where we'll disagree wholeheartedly. That's the nature of ANILCA and the way some of these things go, as you well know.

What this really is, is this is not going to be \_\_\_ it's not going to be put out for public comment, take your public comment, make some changes and then finalize this document and have the big boss sign off on it or something, and have it become policy or law. That's not what it is. It's a document that identifies issues that we feel are critical issues within subsistence management and the National Park Service in Alaska.

And there will be more issues. As they come up, they'll be added to this. As issues become important in certain areas of the State, in your case the only park unit that you have involved with the North Slope is Gates of the Arctic National Park. As issues come up, they'll be added. As issues are addressed and resolved in some way or another, then they'll be deleted. So it's kind of a living document. As we all recognize, I think, subsistence issues at least for the near future are probably going to get more complicated, not less.

So this is really people throwing out their best shot at identifying some of the issues our agency has with subsistence management, and asking for comments. It's open for comments now. You can address those comments as individuals, as a commission, as a council, as a committee.

You can address those comments to the Field Area Director, Bob Barbee, and they will be then considered and added.

We've received some comments from the State and from various agencies, and I think it's fair to say that the critical group as we see it are the subsistence resource commissions that are convened to help us manage subsistence and advise us for managing subsistence in the national park areas. Ben Hopson is on our subsistence resource commission, Charlie Brower is on our subsistence resource commission, Delbert Rexford is on our subsistence resource commission, as well as six other people appointed from local communities around the park.

So I just wanted to make sure that you understood this is kind of a living flexible document, it's not going to be \_\_\_ have holy water passed over it and become law or policy. Pieces, issues of it will be lifted and brought to the attention, the public attention of groups such as yourselves. This is also a opportunity for our subsistence resource commission and groups such as yourselves to be able to get inside our heads so to speak a little bit, and see what we're thinking, where we're going, and maybe guess a little bit less and give you something to shoot at, give you something to grab ahold of and make recommendations or proposals or whatever it might be.

So what we're looking for right now \_\_\_ not right now. What we're looking for in the near future is comments in particular about any aspect of this issues paper, but in particular this half page statement about regional subsistence policy for the National Park Service. It's a very generalized statement with some bullet paragraphs there that talk in general terms about the way the National Park Service views subsistence management in national park areas. And if you have any questions about that particular, or anything in this paper, I'm glad to address those things. But again, I would suggest that it would be very easy to get bogged down in some of the details of regulations and where it's written and where did that come from and things, and I would suggest that I don't think that would be the most productive thing to do at this juncture with everything else that you folks have to look

at. But it's here, it's been circulated for the last year and a half. It was mailed out to all of the village corporations, to the State, the federal agencies, the North Slope Borough Mayor's Office, so it's been available and widely circulated. I'm just not sure that we've done a very good job at explaining what it is. And we realize it's also very wordy, and we have a group of people trying to figure out better ways to present these kinds of issues to the public in a more simple fashion, in a more realistic fashion. But it's very — they're very important issues to us, and I certainly expect they're very important issues to all of you who live in or around a National Park Service unit.

Mr. Chairman, I think that's probably all I have to say about that at this time or anything else about our agency's activities.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you, Steve, for your report, and appreciate you coming up. Any questions for Steve? If not, quyana. Ben? We've got one here I think.

MR. B. HOPSON: Steve, I have a question for you on your sheep count. Are you planning to do any more sheep survey counts in the near future?

MR. ULVI: I don't know if — if anyone else wants to chime in, please do. Mr. Chairman, Ben, I don't believe that we have anything scheduled for the near future, but I do know that the subsistence resource commission for the park, as well as the Park Service, have identified the sheep populations in the Anaktuvuk area as one of the most important wildlife issues, and therefore I think you'll see some kind of an attempt to monitor that population in the immediate vicinity of Anaktuvuk Pass every couple of years, or every couple or three years, because it is a critical wildlife population.

MR. B. HOPSON: I noticed the area where the count took place, mostly around up on the 30, 40-mile radius from Anaktuvuk Pass, and it appeared to be visually one-fourth the size of the park, so we could almost say like there's — you counted 2800 sheep in one-fourth of the park. It would be



pretty safe to say we have about 11,200 sheep in the park then?

MR. ULVI: No, Ben, that wouldn't be safe to say at all.

MR. B. HOPSON: 'Cause I read some previous sheep count surveys done by the State along with the help of the park, and I've seen some estimates that ranged 12,000 something in some years when they did a whole count, and then the largest count was 13,000 something in another year.

MR. ULVI: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's correct, Ben. I don't have all those numbers committed to memory, but I do know that the last good intensive sheep survey that was done was in the mid 80s, and it was done for the park as a whole. We do have some areas within the park that have very low density sheep populations. Down around Aragach (ph) peaks and Walker Lake, and down in that way. So this was targeted with limited funds to try to put the effort where it's most \_\_\_ where the information's most useful, and the subsistence resource commission, the people of Anaktuvuk Pass, and the Park Service have all identified that area as one of the most critical areas, as well as the Department of Fish & Game and others. So we tried to focus on that area that locals and the biologists thought was the most important to get the best information we could. You can't extrapolate that to the remainder of the park with any assurance whatsoever. And there are large areas in the park that are not \_\_\_ are very seldom hunted.

MR. B. HOPSON: Yeah, there's.....

MR. ULVI: So that was our focus.

MR. B. HOPSON: Yeah, there's large areas where no human harvest really takes place, except by predators. So \_\_\_ okay.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Quyana. Thank you. Quyana, Steve. All right. Item four, BLM.

MR. H. BROWER: Edward, they're calling you. Five minute break.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Hello. Yes. Good-by. Just for your quick update, they're holding onto the whale, it's not moving. They got the harpoon and the line, and there's three other boats. There's four boats out there total, a little while ago at 4:00 o'clock. 20 minutes ago. (In Inupiat) So he never gave me the latitude or longitude. They don't know how far out they are yet.

Okay. Now with the BLM report.

MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is Dave Yokel with the Bureau of Land Management. I'm always happy to come up to Barrow, and more excited this time than ever to hear about the whale strike while I'm here. I hope they manage to bring it to shore tonight. Maybe I should use that for an excuse to be brief.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah, be brief. There you to.

(Laughter)

MR. YOKEL: I have no special report to give to the Regional Advisory Council on subsistence issues on BLM-managed lands at this meeting. I do have one issue that I would normally bring up at a Fish & Game Management Committee meeting, and that is to report on some of the work that I've done recently in the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska.

Two and a half years ago I brought before the Fish & Game Management Committee the plans that we had to develop a vegetation land cover map for the National Petroleum Reserve. And this summer we finished the third and final field data collection phase of that project, and the map will be worked on over this winter and hopefully by next spring it will be complete for the entire national Petroleum Reserve. And this is a project that's been a joint effort between the Bureau of Land Management and Ducks Unlimited, which is a group interested in the conservation of waterfowl habitat. And we've also had the cooperation of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife

Service and the North Slope Borough's Department of Wildlife Management on this effort. And when we get this digital data base completed, it will be available, made available to the North Slope Borough and their GIS Department will be able to use it as one of the layers of their own data base.

Other than that, I have nothing else to report, but if you have any questions of the BLM, I'd be glad to try and answer them at this time.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Any questions for BLM? If not, thank you.

MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Quyana. Okay. Moving right along, item five under reports on ANWR?

MS. REYNOLDS: Oh, I could just make a brief statement. I'm Patricia Reynolds from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Jim Kurth couldn't be here today. He's on the agenda. There was a question this morning about the Porcupine Caribou board selections I guess. That's still on-going. It's still \_\_ that efforts still being made, and I'm sure he will contact you when those efforts are completed. So if you have any other questions that I could try to answer, I'd be happy to do that.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: When are you going to open up that refuge for us?

MS. REYNOLDS: No questions about musk oxen, however, no. Yes?

MR. LONG: On your monitoring of the Porcupine herd, how far do you go west of ANWR?

MS. REYNOLDS: I think a lot of that effort is being done by the State of Alaska, but to my knowledge most of the efforts are inside the refuge, the Canning River, I'll show it here.

MR. LONG: Uh-huh.

MS. REYNOLDS: Generally in this area here.

MR. LONG: The reason I'm asking, I'm wondering where the caribou are.

MS. REYNOLDS: Oh, this year the caribou left very early, unusually early.

MR. LONG: Yeah, I'm from Nuiqsut.

MS. REYNOLDS: Oh, from Nuiqsut.

MR. LONG: Yeah.

MS. REYNOLDS: The Porcupine Caribou Herd left very early.

MR. LONG: Yeah, I thought so. Good grazing land out there, a lot of wet weather, and everything's gone already. It's bad this year.

MS. REYNOLDS: Yeah.

MR. LONG: And it's pretty hard to find in our area. They're already all gone. They went to visit Gates of the Arctic.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: You can come there.

MS. REYNOLDS: Any other questions?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Any more questions? Okay. Quyana. Next we have \_\_ we eliminated item six since Fenton's not here. We have item seven, and this will be an update on the last Federal Subsistence Board meeting of July 16th, '96, by Sue.

MS. DETWILER: Thank you. My name is Sue Detwiler. I work with the Fish & Wildlife Service, Subsistence Office, in Anchorage.

I noticed that the July 16th Board meeting is on your agenda, and you characterized it as the last meeting. The Board has since met. They met on July the 29th to deal with a couple of requests for reconsideration.

Their meeting \_\_ The Federal Subsistence Board meeting on July the 16th primarily dealt with the Kenai Peninsula. That issue doesn't directly affect the North Slope Borough. If you want me to go into detail on what that meeting was about, I can, otherwise.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: No.

MS. DETWILER: .....I don't have anything additional to say on the most recent Board meeting.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh. There was no action directly relative to the North Slope? Okay.

MS. DETWILER: No.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Any questions for Sue? I believe you also have, while you're up there, item nine, the implementation of Federal subsistence fisheries, and that's going to be a lengthy little.....

MS. DETWILER: Yes.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And you have eight.

MS. DETWILER: And what we're going to asking \_\_ looking for is any comments from people on the Wildlife Management Committee or the Counsel as well as any public comments. That might take some time. And we also have a couple of charts that we'd like to use as visual references.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Correct me if I'm wrong, but that's based on the new ruling that came out that all navigable waters are now going to be under the control of the Federal Subsistence Board, and accordingly then the regional councils are involved, is.....

MS. DETWILER: Yes.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: .....that correct? And you're looking for input not only from us, but from regional committees?

MS. DETWILER: Yes. And the general public, if they wish to testify.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Are you going to be scheduling specific public hearings relative to the issue?

MS. DETWILER: We will later on. We wanted to use this meeting as an opportunity primarily to give the councils a chance to comment, but we will be having meetings later on that will be more general public.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Can you summarize for our benefit just what has happened, what resulted, and how it impacts us, Sue?

MS. DETWILER: Yes, I could summarize it in 25 words or less, or more likely 50 words or less, but I do have some prepared comments to make. Our staff wanted to make sure that all of the regional councils got all of the information, and got all of the same information, so we prepared a written scrip to read so that \_\_\_ to make sure that everybody got the same information.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. And how long is your written script?

MS. DETWILER: About two minutes, two and a half minutes.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Oh, okay. I thought you were talking about a half hour or.....

MS DETWILER: No.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Go ahead.

MS. DETWILER: If you'll excuse minute a minute, I'll get some notes.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Sure. Barbara? Who's got this one?

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Sue can do the same thing.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: She's got this one and this one. Who's got this one?

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: She can do that one, too. It was just an update of the.....

(Whispered off record conversation.)

MS. DETWILER: Mr. Chair?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Go ahead, Sue.

MS. DETWILER: Barbara Armstrong just pointed out to me that that item eight on your agenda is an update on the Federal Subsistence Program, and that precedes the Katie John item. While they're putting up the charts on the wall, would you like me to just run through the.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Go ahead.

MS. DETWILER: .....information I had on item eight?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh.

MS. DETWILER: Okay. This should be fairly short. It's just highlights of what's been going on with the Federal Subsistence Program in the last year. The biggest item has been the Katie John ruling, and essentially that ruling was a decision by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco to uphold the Alaska District Court's ruling that Title VIII of ANILCA applies to navigable waters in which the Federal Government has reserved water rights. The result of that ruling is that we now have to expand the Federal Subsistence Management Program to include those waters in which the Federal Government has a reserved water right, and

since that's the next agenda item, I won't say anything more about that under this agenda item.

In terms of the last regulatory year, the Federal Board addressed 14 requests for reconsideration, and 16 special actions. Requests for reconsideration are appeals of Board decisions and requests for special actions are requests for openings or closings of seasons. Of the 14 requests for reconsideration, five of them dealt with the North Slope. Four of those five dealt with caribou in Unit 26(A). They all dealt with the same issue, the issue of the closure to nonsubsistence uses. There was one special action out of the 16 special actions, and that had to do with adjusting the Unit 26(A) moose regulations to correspond with the State regulations. The Board decided that it would have to reject that request, because it can't treat nonresident and resident hunters differently, which is what the request asked for.

That regulatory year ended recently. The current regulatory year began on August 1st. So far in this regulatory year, we've had three requests for special actions. None of them deal directly with the North Slope region. And we've also had two requests for reconsideration, neither of which deals directly with this region either.

There is one additional item. As you know, the Government was shut down for quite a lengthy period this year, and that resulted in some things that had to be postponed. One of the more significant things was the joint council chair/ Board meeting which had originally been scheduled for last November. That meeting was intended to be an informal work session between the Board and the council chairs to discuss items that are of mutual importance to them. That meeting was scheduled to be a bit longer than the half a day session which it eventually turned out to be at the beginning of the April Board meeting, so the Board has rescheduled that joint meeting for November 19th and 20th for a day and a half. And we have a tentative list of agenda items which were derived from the issues that the council chairs brought forward at the April meeting, and we also have some \_\_\_ a tentative list of issues that the Board members had also wanted to discuss at that meeting. So we're working on the



agenda now, and if this Council has additional items to add to that agenda, you can work with Barb, and she'll make sure that we get them on the agenda.

And that's all I had for that item.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: I think, Harry, you had a question for.....

MR. H. BROWER: Yeah, Sue, on that RFR, request for reconsideration regarding the moose, what actions are to be taken, or \_\_ from the committee to address that RFR? Or is there any action that needs to be taken to help address that? Or what.....

MS. DETWILER: The request as I recall, and somebody else can maybe correct me if I say something inaccurate here, but the request was to align Federal regulations with State regulations. State regulations deal with resident hunters a little bit differently than nonresident hunters. The Federal Subsistence Board determined that it could not discriminate between resident and nonresident hunters in Federal regulations. Does that answer your \_\_ In other words, there's nothing more that the Board can do to discriminate between residents and nonresidents. It's \_\_ they can only provide the priority for subsistence users, and then other users, whether they be resident or nonresident hunters, would be treated the same.

MR. H. BROWER: And would that be under like in the rule, or \_\_ let's see, not rule, but in a community like just for instance, Nuiqsut is a \_\_ I don't know how to \_\_ a nonsubsistence hunter that, like a sport hunter, that wants to go out and hunt, is that the differentiation you're using?

MS. DETWILER: Yeah, I think the origin of the request was that there were out of state hunters competing for the moose,.....

MR. H. BROWER: Uh-huh.

MS. DETWILER: .....and what the request for reconsideration was, was for us also to make different

regulations for out of state hunters rather than in-state hunters, and we can't do that.

MR. H. BROWER: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you. That was actually item eight that Sue just went through. So now we go to the fisheries issue, item nine. Go ahead, Sue.

MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Gordon?

MR. UPICKSOUN: If it will be a long agenda item, could we take a ten-minute break before she starts on that?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: You said it would be about five minutes for you to go through the thing here? Or how long is your presentation? It will be quite a while? If so, let's take a five-minute break. I want to try to break at 5:00 o'clock here, so maybe I can go help tow the whale. We'll take five minutes.

(Off record)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We'll hear her report. I know you expect to get some input from us here, but we can defer that until morning, but I want to hear the report on navigable waters and fisheries and I think we'll honor Elokchuk one question after you're done. He already has a question. So go ahead.

MR. H. BROWER: Number nine?

MS. DETWILER: Okay. Thank you. As I mentioned, I have written comments to present. I am Sue Detwiler with Fish & Wildlife Service. I'm here today to represent the Federal Subsistence Management Program with regard to putting in place the court-ordered extension of Federal jurisdiction for

subsistence uses of fish in navigable waters. Today we'd like to get some ideas from you about certain issues.

As you are aware, Title VIII of ANILCA provides a priority for subsistence uses by rural Alaska residents on Federal public lands. In the Katie John case, a Federal court ruled that the term public lands as used in ANILCA includes navigable waters in which the United States has reserved water rights. The Departments of Interior and Agriculture have tentatively identified those waters as inland waters within or adjacent to the boundaries of conservation system units, such as parks and refuges, and NPRA, and inland waters within or adjacent to the boundaries of national forests, as long as the waters are bordered on at least one side by Federal land.

You can get an idea of the waters that are tentatively planned for inclusion in the Federal Subsistence Management Program by this map up here. The red lines in the drainages indicate the drainages that are \_\_\_ or the waters that are tentatively planned to be included in Federal subsistence fisheries management.

An advance notice of proposed rule making was published in the Federal Register on April 4, 1996, in order to receive comments concerning the suggested regulation changes that will be necessary to comply with the court ruling. There were ten hearings around the state that occurred during May, and two informational teleconferences with the Regional Council chairs. The advance notice also includes in the definition of public lands those lands selected, but not yet conveyed to the State of Alaska and to native corporations. This would not included selected lands within the NPRA. The advance notice would also delegate to the Federal Subsistence Board the Secretaries' authority to restrict nonsubsistence fishing, hunting, and trapping off Federal public lands in order to prevent the failure of subsistence fishing and hunting and trapping on Federal lands.

The comments we received both in writing and in the hearings in response to the advance notice provided the agencies with a sense of how the public viewed the general jurisdictional comments \_\_\_ or concepts outlined in the notice.

In general, the major comments made were as follows, and I'll list the comments.

Fisheries are very important to rural subsistence users.

The Federal Government should not be interfering in any Alaska management.

The State has failed to provide for subsistence uses; the Federal Government should take over management throughout all off Alaska, on all navigable waters.

The identified waters are too extensive in scope.

Federal jurisdiction should be extended to include all marine waters.

Previously, the Federal Government managed fish and shellfish poorly. The State should manage fishing, hunting and trapping throughout Alaska.

Native allotments and water flowing through or past allotments should be included.

The Federal Government should step in to regulate the Area M fishery.

ANILCA does not authorize the extension of Federal jurisdiction off Federal lands.

Congress did not intend for selected but not yet conveyed lands to be subject to Title VIII.

The Federal Subsistence Board should not be granted authority to identify additional lands for designation as public lands.

And finally, people commented that the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule Making violates the Alaska Statehood and Submerged Lands Acts.

Some people commented that various procedural requirements have not been fulfilled, such as complying with NEPA, the National Environment Policy Act, and so on. And I'd like to talk a little bit about what we're doing to fulfill some of the procedural requirements.

An environmental assessment and a rule making are necessary to bring us into compliance with the court's ruling in the Katie John case. The environmental assessment, or an EA, is a document that's required by NEPA that reviews the environmental consequences of this action. We've expanded its scope to also help us analyze options for designing a Federal subsistence fisheries management program. The rule will be developed at the same time with the EA so that issues and options that are analyzed in the EA are carried over into the final regulations that are developed for implementing Federal fisheries management.

We're targeting August of 1997 to have final regulations in place. There's a chart up here that outlines the major steps leading up to the final regulations. Among those steps there are several that will involve the regional advisory councils, and I'll go over those.

The first major step was the meetings in May on the advance notice where we heard about jurisdictional issues.

Now we want to hear from the councils and the public on what should be the structure of the Federal subsistence fisheries management program. We're doing this through the regional council meetings that are occurring right now.

And if a moratorium on implementing the Katie John ruling is not imposed, we plan on mailing out a questionnaire to a large number of other interested publics.

We will then analyze the comments that we receive to help further define the implementing regulations and the program structure.

The regional councils will be treated as an internal public and have the opportunity to review the preliminary

environmental assessment in January and February of 1997, prior to the preparation of the proposed rule. This is an early opportunity for regional council input prior to the writing of the analysis. We'll take oral comments now and receive written comments until October the 23rd.

A further step we're taking in order to meet the court's urging to have a fisheries program in place by January 30, 1997, is to publish an interim rule in December of 1996. This interim rule would be temporary and would remain in place until final regulations are developed. The approach that we're following would be to adopt State subsistence fishing regulations that apply to Federal jurisdiction, making only a minimum number of changes. This approach is necessary, because we do not anticipate that we will have the necessary resources, such as staff and budget in place to implement a final program or even an annual rule making process. We want to ensure a minimum level of confusion between Federal and State management and potential resource conservation problems while we're still developing a fisheries program.

This is much like the situation that occurred in 1990 when the Federal Government was forced to assume subsistence management for wildlife. We had to use the State's regulations initially as a basis for the Federal program, because we didn't have the time, money, staff or regional council structure in place yet. But over the years, significant changes accommodating the local users have been made in the Federal regulations.

Also, there currently exists language in the Interior appropriations bill that would prohibit the implementation of a Federal fisheries program. There's also a proposed amendment to this language that would prohibit planning for fisheries management as well as implementation. If this language becomes part of the appropriation from Congress, we would be prohibited from either planning or implementing both the final rule and the interim rules, depending on how the final language is written.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Would you repeat that, please, that last line? What you just said?

MS. DETWILER: If the moratorium language is inserted into the Interior appropriations bill, which is our funding to implement this, we may not be able either to implement, or to even plan for Federal subsistence fisheries management. The bill is before Congress right now, and there's proposed moratorium language in there that would specifically prohibit us from implementing regulations. And then there's an amendment to that language which would prevent us even from planning. So if both of those amendments get into the appropriations bill, we would be able to do neither.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MS. DETWILER: To facilitate this discussion, we have identified several topics that we would like your input on. This is not intended to limit your discussion and input on any issue or topic you may wish to raise in addition to these. What we really need is your ideas on how the fisheries part of the Subsistence Management Program should be organized, and what regulations should be included. We also need to know if there are any changes that should be considered as the interim rule is developed. The Board realizes that there may be some things about the current system that you feel need fixing immediately, but because of the limitations mentioned earlier, the interim rule will have to track closely to the current State regulations. However, if there are specific existing regulations that are of critical concern to you, we'd like to know about them before the interim rule is finalized. At the present time, only changes occurring within the boundaries of conservation system units, within Federal reserve waters, will be considered for the interim rule.

There may be some limited opportunity in May 1997 to change parts of the annual regulations effective in 1998, but we really expect the first major opportunity to submit proposals to occur during the winter of 1997 to '98, to be effective in 1999.

Finally, with many issues of broad jurisdictional concern already identified, we want to focus now on more specific issues and receive your ideas and comments on them at

this time. And some examples of the kinds of comments that we're looking for are as follows:

Does the current regional council structure need to be revised to meet additional responsibilities regarding fisheries management? In other words, do you need additional members? Should there be new councils created, that sort of thing.

Should the current subsistence resource regions, in other words the ten existing regions, be restructured or realigned for fisheries management?

How should various fisheries be cooperatively managed? For example, State fisheries management areas are different from Federal regional council areas, and the Yukon River extends through three different regional councils.

What meeting cycle will work for councils dealing with fishery issues? Considering the fishing seasons and regulatory needs, we're currently thinking about having proposals in the late winter with regional council review in the fall, and Board deliberation in November, and regulations effective in March.

A few more questions. How should customary trade and significant commercial enterprise be defined? In other words, what's the threshold?

And finally, what would you change with the current subsistence fishing regulations dealing with gear, closure, permits, limits, reports, et cetera?

And that's the end of my prepared comments.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Eddie, you had a question?

MR. E. HOPSON: Maybe you have \_\_ I'm hard of hearing, but how do you identify navigable waters? Who determines the lake or river or whatever is? How do you identify? How do.....



MS. DETWILER: That's basically a legal question. BLM is the agency that identifies navigable waters. I'm looking for help from some of the other Federal staff here to give me some additional help on this. Sandy?

MR. RABINOWITCH: Sandy Rabinowitch with the National Park Service. When the Ninth Circuit Court ordered the Federal Government to go in this direction, there was a group of people from all the Federal agencies put together to answer the very question that you've just asked. And that group met I think a number of months, and the result of their work, and really the simple answer to your question, is this map on the right hand side here.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Can you show those rivers on the North Slope?

MR. RABINOWITCH: Yeah, and you really have to get closer to see it, but if you were standing right here, you can see that, for example, here all the rivers are red. Here all the rivers are blue. And then here again they're red, and here again they're blue. It's all those that are red. That's the \_\_\_ and that's a draft. Let's emphasize that, that's a draft of which rivers would be included and which would not be included. So the red would be included, the blue would not.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: To answer Eddie's question then, who determined what was navigable, you're saying that it was a whole group of affected Federal agencies?

MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: The Park Service, BLM,.....

MR. RABINOWITCH: The judge ordered the agencies to determine which rivers, and it's that group from all the agencies that were put together, and this is the end product. Again, this is a draft.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: And all the ones in red up there are navigable? The ones in red are navigable? That's what's been determined?

MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, actually the red I believe would show all the navigable and non-navigable, because the map shows all the waters, all the waters that would come under this definition. And there's a new definition that's written in this regulatory language that defines what inland waters is. If you looked in the law and regulations right now, you can't find what that means. If you look in the advanced notice that was published in May, there's a definition for this term, and that's what these red are. So the red includes navigable and I believe non-navigable. Does that seem right?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: And what's blue again?

MR. RABINOWITCH: The blue that would be those that are outside of the conservation system units. That is, they would stay under the control of State management.

MR. EDWARDSON: Even if they're navigable?

MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes, I believe. See, you have to have Federal land. You have to be inside Federal land first.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. All right.

MR. E. HOPSON: What do you do in case of a private property? You have a great big lake in the property, and can the department say that it is navigable, and claim it, the area where covered with water is navigable and they want to take it away from me, right?

MR. RABINOWITCH: What \_\_ I'm not sure if I understand your question completely, but.....

MR. E. HOPSON: No, what I mean is I have maybe several acres of lake in my property. Let's.....

MR. RABINOWITCH: Uh-huh.

MR. E. HOPSON: .....use that for example. And then the Department came to me and said, this lake is mine, because it's navigable? You're going to give me a place to select

that acreage that's covered by lake and then you're going to take it away from me?

MR. RABINOWITCH: Let me point to the map. If I understand your question correctly, if your property, what you just made up as a scenario, if your property were here inside the BLM land, what this change would mean is that the fishing regulations set for that lake \_\_ right now I believe they're made by Fish & Game, by the State of Alaska, okay. And what this \_\_ what I believe this means is that it would change,.....

MS. DETWILER: Uh-huh.

MR. RABINOWITCH: .....and they would be made by the Federal Subsistence Board. So you would still own \_\_ if you owned some of that lake, you would still own it. Nothing \_\_ that wouldn't change. What would change is, who set the fishing regulations.

Let me stress, I look around the room for anybody for help, because this all new to all of us, and we're all learning as we're going.

But that \_\_ but if I understood your question correctly, you would still own that land. You would basically go to a different rule book.

MR. E. HOPSON: So under the lake.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh. Yeah.

MS. DETWILER: Yeah. If I could.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: The only thing that would change is who regulates fishing on there. Okay.

MS. DETWILER: Right. Yeah. The Federal Subsistence Program.....

CHAIRMAN ITTA: If it's on Federal land, it will be under Federal rule and regulations. If it's on State land, \_\_

within State land I guess I should say, or within Federal land, the ownership is still.....

MS. DETWILER: Right. That's correct.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: .....you still own it. The only thing that changes is what regulations, are you under Federal regulation or State regulation, depending if you're inside Federal land or State land. But you would still own the property. (In Inupiat)

With that, do you have a written \_\_ do you have copies of that written statement, by the way?

MS. DETWILER: Yes.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Can we have copies.....

MS. DETWILER: Uh-huh.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: .....of that? And with that, I'm going to call it a day here at 5:00 o'clock. And be prepared to jump right into it first thing in the morning at 9:00 a.m., correct? Okay. So we're going to call our meeting at 5:00 o'clock, we'll call it for 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning, same place, right here. Quyana, everybody.

Before we leave, I wanted to thank Jimmy Nayukok for volunteering to come on board with the Federal Subsistence Advisory Council. His first meeting. I know today must be a heck of an introduction. Welcome aboard, Jimmy, appreciate it.

(PROCEEDINGS TO CONTINUE)

# C E R T I F I C A T E

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

I, Meredith L. Downing, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska and Reporter for R & R Court Reporters, Inc., do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 123 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the **North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council** meeting taken electronically by me on the 10th day of September, 1996, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation Conference Room, Barrow, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by me to the best of my knowledge and ability;

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 22nd day of  
September, 1996.

Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 7/3/98

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