

NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
September 10, 1998
9:00 a.m.
Arctic Slope Regional Corporation Building
Barrow, Alaska

VOLUME II

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Fenton Rexford, Chair
Benjamin Hopson, Vice Chair
Harry Brower, Jr., Secretary
Terry L. Tagarook
Gordon Upicksoun
Paul Bodfish
Mike Patkotak
Gordon R. Brower, Sr.
Charles F. Hopson

Barbara Armstrong, Coordinator

P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Good morning. Everyone had a good
4 night's rest. We'll start our second day of the North Slope
5 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting back to order at
6 9:15.

7

8 We went as far as getting done with old business, and
9 we were going to move on to new business. However, we promised
10 Ben that we'd revisit his proposal now that his friend,
11 Mr. Gardner, is here with us this morning, so, Ben, I'll turn
12 the floor over to you for your proposal?

13

14 MR. B. HOPSON: Okay. I think most of everyone got a
15 handout yesterday before we finished up yesterday.

16

17 This proposal is to relocate 20 to 35 wolves from the
18 Forty Mile country within Game Management 20(E) of Alaska to
19 Game Management Unit 26, the North Slope of Alaska.

20

21 In the recent past Alaska Department of Fish and Game
22 biologists have relocated 31 wolves to three different
23 locations within our state to increase the population of the
24 Forty Mile Caribou Herd.

25

26 Currently caribou of the North Slope are abundant and
27 will help our caribou herds by predating the weak, sick and
28 older caribou which leads to the strong surviving and breed
29 healthy caribou calves.

30

31 This relocation can benefit local trappers and hunters
32 to reinforce our customary and traditional ties to wolves while
33 enhancing us economically, socially, culturally and our
34 subsistence way of life.

35

36 An increase in the Forty Mile Caribou Herd should
37 reduce hunting pressure in our area.

38

39 One affect that is possible is the relocated wolves may
40 predate the already low population of moose if the wolves take
41 up residence in the Colville River system. Based on local
42 hunter and trapper information from Anaktuvuk Pass, this is
43 unlikely as wolf numbers are down in the Colville River system
44 after the devastating moose die-off from several years ago.
45 Instead, wolves being an opportunistic and flexible predator
46 are predating more on caribou where the prey population is
47 high.

48

49 And then if -- I don't know how you want to handle
50 this, Mr. Chairman. Would Craig follow it with some biological

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1 background, or would you want question and answer?

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, maybe right now we can go with
4 a question and answer and get further.

5

6 MR. B. HOPSON: Okay.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Hear from Mr. Gardner. Any
9 questions at this time for Mr. Hopson? Maybe perhaps.....

10

11 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

12

13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon?

14

15 MR. UPICKSOUN: To start the question process, I move
16 to adopt the -- to start the questioning process, I'll move to
17 adopt Ben Hopson's proposal.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Moved by Gordon to adopt the
20 proposal submitted by Ben for relocation of 25 to 30 -- 20 to
21 35 wolves.

22

23 MR. C. HOPSON: I second it.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Seconded by Mr. Hopson. Mr.
26 Gardner, perhaps if you can get up to the mike there, and
27 provide us further information?

28

29 MR. C. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman, I have a question for
30 Ben. If these were caught in the Forty Mile area, where is
31 that? Around Fairbanks? Or.....

32

33 MR. B. HOPSON: This is the area just east and a little
34 northeast of Tok near the Canadian border. Or the
35 Alaska/Canadian border, referred to as the Forty Mile.....

36

37 MR. C. HOPSON: Now, if they were replanted, where
38 would they -- you know, where would they drop them off? What
39 would be the drop area?

40

41 MR. B. HOPSON: We can have input into this, and -- as
42 well as Craig Gardner. He's had experience with numerous drops
43 from previous relocation of wolves. So there would be
44 possibilities.

45

46 MR. C. BROWER: 'Cause I've been travelling the
47 foothill for the last 25 years, you know, and there are some
48 wolves in the Teshekpuk area, but the -- if it's going to
49 happen, the best place would be on the west side, you know,
50 because there are already those wolves by the Teshekpuk area,

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1 and, you know, they'll be competing. From the last 20 years
2 I've been going up here. There's not that many wolves in the
3 -- around the Lookout Reach area, you know, over in that area.
4 Not that many.

5
6 MR. B. HOPSON: Yeah. Yeah, with -- you know, with the
7 Western Arctic Herd numbers approaching half a million, there's
8 quite a few caribou for them wolves to live on without making a
9 dent on the population.

10
11 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

12
13 MR. B. HOPSON: Several options.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Upicksoun, and then Mr. Goodwin.

16
17 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay. Have we given any thought to the
18 fact that the moose population is trying to grow back now after
19 they were decimated by whatever caused the massive die-off
20 several years ago, now is just -- they're trying to come back.
21 Would introduction of maybe more wolves affect the growth we
22 see in the moose population? Would that maybe affect? Do we
23 have any studies that say otherwise, or pro and con in that
24 regard? Could we be hurting the moose? We're getting a bunch
25 of lost caribou as there is, there's natural predators already
26 in my opinion. Would be hurting the moose that are trying to
27 come back?

28
29 MR. B. HOPSON: You know, when the moose numbers were
30 at their normal population of around 1500 and up, we did have,
31 you know, a good number of wolves in the Colville River system
32 all throughout different drainages that were solely subsisting
33 on a lot of moose year round. And then after the die-out,
34 we've noticed most wolves have moved on somewhere else.
35 There's just not enough moose for them to survive on I guess.

36
37 I've observed, you know, just trapping in the Brooks
38 Range on an annual basis where, most recently last year, we did
39 have wolves, you know, near and around the northern sections of
40 the Brooks Range, and I really didn't see any, you know,
41 movement heading north. I don't know, maybe it's not just
42 enough moose numbers for them to even really prey on animals
43 there. But I knew they were in the mountains where we had
44 caribou. There's sheep around. And, of course, there's moose
45 also in Unit 24 south of us, too. But then Craig may be able
46 to shed more light on that, too.

47
48 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman?

49
50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes, Mr. Patkotak?

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1 MR. PATKOTAK: I don't know whether -- I hunt a lot in
2 the Peard Bay area, and hunt subsistently over the years. My
3 younger years we hardly saw wolves. I don't know whether this
4 is due to the moose population dying off and the Western Herd
5 increasing, but recently we've seen, spotted wolves in the
6 Peard Bay area. Usually they've limited themselves. I don't
7 know, maybe Terry had some comment on that, too, whether
8 Wainwright hunters are catching more wolves, seeing more
9 wolves, because I know at Peard Bay we're seeing -- in the
10 summer, you know, when we're hiking up inland and walking
11 around along the rivers hunting for bull moose -- I mean
12 caribou, there's just more increased sightings of wolf in that
13 area. So I'm just kind of -- I remember seeing more of them,
14 I'm seeing more wolves, so I don't know whether this is
15 relocation. Does this tell you that -- I remember reading
16 somewhere that there's some collared wolves have been known to
17 have quite a bit of range. I don't know, have -- my question
18 would be to him to see whether these wolves go back and forth
19 between north and south of the Brooks, because from reading,
20 layman's knowledge of wolf biology, they have quite a wide
21 range. They can travel quite a long ways. That's just from
22 what you read. I don't know. My question will be to Terry to
23 see whether Wainwright is seeing more wolves or they're
24 catching more wolves, or.....

25
26 MR. TAGAROOK: Yeah, those people that go to the
27 foothills are sighting some wolves. And in our river, in
28 Wainwright, we've been sighting wolf packs in the river where
29 it's shallow. So there are some wolves there.

30
31 MR. UPICKSOUN: So how have you been damaged when
32 they're up in the foothills?

33
34 MR. TAGAROOK: They did not -- John, I seen John caught
35 some.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Goodwin?

38
39 MR. GOODWIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, when can we speak to
40 this proposal? I mean, -- you know, I have a personal feeling
41 on, but I can go from knowledge what (Indiscernible, away from
42 microphone).

43
44 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, we can -- yeah.

45
46 MR. GOODWIN: At this time or.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah.

49
50 MR. GOODWIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize

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1 before I hear you, but.....

2
3 MR. GARDNER: That's okay.

4
5 MR. GOODWIN: Right now for the moose population in our
6 area, predation is a big problem with wolves and bears. They
7 take more than 75 percent of the calves every year, and we're
8 going to address that at home. But I do know that as the
9 caribou start migrating south, the wolves are right behind
10 them, and, by golly, if we're starting to introduce more
11 wolves, some of those wolves will stay and predate more on the
12 sheep and the moose in our area. You're going to have the same
13 problem you're having with the muskox right now, you know.
14 Introduction of a new species or a different species into an
15 area is a big concern. Basically I guess what I'm hearing is
16 the muskox problem. Now, with the introduction of these wolves
17 here.

18
19 There's been reports at home of the people hunting that
20 they see packs of 30 and 40 in the upper Noatak, a pack of
21 wolves in the wintertime. So an introduction of more wolves, I
22 have a feeling that the predation on the moose and sheep in our
23 area is going to get higher, because they do -- those wolves
24 don't stay still, I know that. They move. And if they have a
25 problem out there, I think they should address the predation
26 problem in the Forty Mile area themselves without having to
27 move them to a different area. Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Goodwin.
30 Mr. Charlie Brower?

31
32 MR. C. BROWER: Yeah, thank you. For the record, I
33 don't think this is a good idea made by the Department of Fish
34 and Game just to satisfy the people on the road access for the
35 abundance (ph) in the future to hunt caribou there, and
36 transfer their wolves to us up here in the north. And any
37 transfer is -- I don't think it's right at the first place, you
38 know. These guys, what their thoughts, I can't read them,
39 whether they have this ability to forecast and see these wolves
40 to have sick animals and so on, but I don't think it's right to
41 transfer any animals without much input from the other
42 villages. I agree with what was stated earlier, that if they
43 want to transfer them, transfer them down to Montana,
44 somewhere, not in Alaska. We have enough animals as it is to
45 have concern on. Then you have these leg-hold thing that
46 you're going to have to watch, trapping issue with wolves.

47
48 Ben's a trapper there. He's in favor of that because
49 he can get more wolves. Up here, people around the coastal
50 area have got to travel a whole lot more, and the trip might,

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1 you know, -- they might see some wolves, they might not see
2 any, but it's, you know, that's the way it goes. But I'm
3 against this transfer and I don't think it should happen up
4 here anyway, even though we have -- you know, we have caribou
5 up the hootch (ph), that's -- the increase is quite big, and we
6 know they're going to start declining one way or another in the
7 future, and to put wolves here, you know, the question that was
8 brought out with the moose situation. There are people here
9 just learning to eat on moose, we're trying to let them grow,
10 and the more moose you put out there, they'll be -- mortality
11 rate's high. So I don't think you guys should even consider
12 this. That's my opinion. That's my own opinion. Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Mr. Brower. Mr. Hopson?

15
16 MR. B. HOPSON: Yeah. This proposal was mostly
17 intended to benefit the coastal villages. That's the way I saw
18 the -- you know, when this -- the idea first came up, 'cause in
19 the Brooks Range we already have, you know, enough wolves up
20 there. Yeah, 'cause we have a constantly growing population of
21 wolves that just repopulate year after year. So this was
22 mostly intended to benefit like costal communities that I hear
23 comments now and then, you know, that local hunters would like
24 more opportunities to be able to have some trapping for wolves,
25 or even hunting. And I thought it would be a good idea, you
26 know, with the Western Arctic at near half a million, and then
27 the Central Arctic Herd is numbering at around what, 40-some
28 thousand? I stand to be corrected. And then the Teshekpuk
29 Herd as well. And then there's, of course, the Porcupine Herd
30 way to the east.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Let's give Mr. Gardner a say here.
33 We've been here a while and haven't had him say very much yet.

34
35 MR. GARDNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Craig.

38
39 MR. GARDNER: Hopefully I got down all the questions
40 and points that I've kind of heard in kind of the first line of
41 just questioning, and I'll hit on those points as we along.

42
43 But first, I guess, I just want to thank you even for
44 entertaining this idea. I mean, I've got to admit a lot of
45 other places that I've gone to, the door pretty much slammed
46 shut even before I get to the meeting, so I really appreciate
47 just -- you know, just listening to this.

48
49 But I guess I kind of want to start, I think it's a
50 real important question that was brought up, you know, by

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1 Mr. Brower is that why are the people down in the Forty Mile
2 country even asking, you know, other places in the State of
3 Alaska to take wolves. And actually it's a process that
4 started back in '94, and probably the closest thing to co-
5 management that we have in Interior Alaska. It actually was
6 started by Chief Steve Taylor from the Chanta (ph) Gwich'ins
7 over in Yukon. And he actually corresponded with the Upper
8 Tanana Advisory Committee, and basically on this idea of Forty
9 Mile caribou management.

10
11 The Forty Mile Caribou Herd used to be the size of the
12 Western Arctic, you know, back in the 20s and 30s. You know,
13 it was, you know, in the hundreds of thousands strong. They
14 used to go all the way to Central Yukon, you know, all the way
15 north to Fairbanks. And it used to basically -- was the most
16 important subsistence herd in the Interior. And like today the
17 herd is just kind of a real small percentage of what it used to
18 be, and it's very rarely even seen by people. It kind of --
19 you know, like you guys know a lot better than me how caribou
20 herds, you know, as they rise and fall in size, you know, they
21 shrink their use -- land use. And so people that, you know,
22 that are on the outside parts of the range no longer see them
23 when they shrink.

24
25 Well, you know, these people were quite unhappy with
26 really the state and federal management of the herd, and so
27 they started this process. And basically what they did is they
28 got together, the subsistence users from Alaska and Yukon, they
29 got village corporation leaders, they got urban hunters,
30 environmentalists, and also they got people from every agency,
31 federal and state and Yukon agencies that has something to do
32 with Forty Mile caribou management, and tried to get everybody
33 in a room and then started hacking out a plan to try to recover
34 this herd. And that became the primary goal, is to recover
35 this Forty Mile Caribou Herd back to traditional range.

36
37 And they produced this document here, and this is
38 actually what we're pretty much managing off right now. You
39 know, I'm the manager, you know, of the Forty Mile Caribou Herd
40 for the State, but this is what I'm following, you know, and it
41 was, you know, created by this group of -- really of citizens
42 from Yukon and Alaska.

43
44 What we found in the last 15 years in the Forty Mile
45 herd is that wolves were the primary limiting factor of why
46 this herd couldn't grow back and follow like the same growth
47 phase of the Western Arctic. And the reason why, you know, we
48 didn't see the Forty Mile herd increase during, you know, the
49 70s and 80s, you know, when all the rest of the big herds were,
50 you know, just, you know, increasing out of sight, was that the

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1 Forty Mile herd, you know, like the Western Arctic was in
2 hundreds of thousands, but through some real poor management
3 mistakes in the 60s and early 70s, it got down to 6,000. You
4 know, down to a level that a big herd probably has never seen
5 before. And it just hasn't had the ability to kind of get --
6 you know, to increase again. And what we found, that wolf
7 predation kind of the calving and summer range was the primary
8 reason.

9
10 Well, this team kind of thought, okay, what can we do,
11 you know, and so they came up with actually five kind of steps
12 in this management plan. And, you know, some, they reduced
13 harvest. You know, the first they did was reduce harvest among
14 themselves. The Chanta Gwich'ins, you know, they actually have
15 a 12-month season on their side. Basically they said no
16 harvest. You know, they kind of volunteered. Basically
17 everybody in the band said they wouldn't harvest Forty Mile
18 caribou. Yukon basically said no more harvest on the Yukon
19 side, you know, outside of the Chanta Gwich'ins. You know, in
20 Alaska we reduced the harvest down to the minimum subsistence
21 levels. And this was basically given up by hunters, you know,
22 for this kind of effort, you know. So the people in this area
23 are very serious about bringing this herd back.

24
25 And then back to the wolf side, again kind of today's
26 kind of political arena, it's not so easy just to deal with
27 wolves, you know, like through agency control. You know,
28 there's trappers out there, but this area -- I know it's -- you
29 have a map here, but it's actually fairly remote. It's
30 mountainous. There's a lot of trees, and the trappers really
31 can't get back into the summer and calving range very easy.
32 And so most of the trapping pressure, instead of being right
33 where it needs to be is actually more on the outside.

34
35 And so what this team has done is come up with this
36 idea to kind of include trapping, but to try to use wolf
37 relocation, basically move these wolves out into different
38 areas of the state, which will reduce the wolf population, and
39 then allow calf survival to increase.

40
41 Now, the team as this gentleman pointed out, and I'm
42 sorry I didn't get your name, they -- it wasn't the goal of the
43 team to try to move the problem from Forty Mile to some place
44 else. I mean, in fact that was -- it was discussed for, gosh,
45 hours and days as to how try to move wolves without causing
46 problems somewhere else. And so we kind of look at what wolves
47 are doing already, and, Mr. Patkotak, you kind of mentioned
48 you're seeing more wolves in Peard Bay. Well, I kind of handed
49 this one figure out in this one here, if you look, wolves
50 naturally, like you guys were pointing out, move great

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1 distances, and also wolves, you know, right by trait, they
2 leave. You know, they're born in a certain area, but like 60,
3 80 percent of all wolves, they disperse. They go some place
4 else. You know, they find their own new home. And so this
5 figure here is actually a show of all the places where wolves
6 have been radio collared, you know, over a number of years, and
7 where those wolves have moved to in their dispersal. And as
8 you can see, the arrows go all over the state, and so, you
9 know, wolves up on the North Slope are coming down into
10 probably the Forty Mile country just as much as Forty Mile
11 country wolves are coming up on the North Slope naturally. I
12 mean, it's a phenomenon that's happening, you know, out there
13 today.

14
15 And so this idea of relocating wolves isn't I think
16 what Mr. Brower was mentioning as kind of a transport, or, you
17 know, this idea of moving something new to an area. It's
18 actually trying to mimic what's already happening, you know,
19 and so not to increase wolf populations, because wolves are
20 also moving out of the Slope, but actually just kind of help
21 them on their dispersal. Just kind of give me more of a truck
22 ride or a plane ride instead of them have to walk. And that
23 way we can choose, you know, how far they go.

24
25 Now, the other thing that the team decided is that
26 you're right, why should other areas of the state be the
27 experimental ground? You know, so actually these first wolves
28 that Ben mentioned, we actually moved the first 17 of them
29 right around -- well, we had to give them a certain distance,
30 because like you mentioned, wolves move a great distance, so we
31 had to move them further than what we knew they'd come walking
32 right back. And so we thought, well, let's try 100 miles, 120
33 miles. And so that -- actually that put us over by the
34 Canadian border. It was about as far as we can get and still
35 be in the area, you know, of where the people are trying to get
36 this done, you know. So they're the ones that are first seeing
37 how big of an impact this is. And hopefully you can hear me,
38 but that's what I brought this for, because I think it
39 addresses a lot of the problems that you guys have, is we had a
40 drop point just south of Northway, the Village of Northway, and
41 we had a drop point like I said, right along the Yukon border.

42
43 And the interesting thing about wolves is that, and I
44 don't know how they do this, but they know which way home is.
45 You know, I mean, you figure we catch them, you know, we put
46 them in the helicopter, we take them some place. We put them
47 in an airplane and we fly them to Tok. Now, from Tok sometimes
48 we put them back into another airplane and take them some place
49 else, or we put them in a truck and we drive them somewhere.
50 And yet when they come -- when we release them, they're fully

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1 out of drug. You know, I mean, they just race out of the box,
2 and within two to three days, they -- their first general
3 direction is always toward home.

4
5 So some of the concerns you have, you know, like for
6 Colville moose, or some of these moose populations that might
7 be in lower numbers, actually a relocation program where you
8 guys can pick the spots can actually not cause any problems.
9 Because what we've learned -- I mean, you can see we dropped,
10 you know, quite a few wolves in a small area, and what we found
11 out is, one, they don't stay together. That we move -- here
12 we've moved these wolves as -- you know, they're siblings,
13 they're brothers and sisters, you know, and we've moved them as
14 a pack. We release them as a pack, and they don't stay
15 together. They -- after one day to seven days, these packs,
16 these wolves just break up, and they start heading. Now, they
17 kind of generally head in the same direction, but they don't
18 stay together, so they're not a pack right then. So they don't
19 -- they're not this big killing unit, you know, once they're
20 released. They're actually now individual wolves, which we all
21 know just aren't as efficient. You know, I mean, they're not
22 going to pull down, you know, an adult moose.

23
24 Which is another thing, we're not moving the parent
25 wolves, you know, the big dominant wolf. We're just moving all
26 the subordinate wolves, you know, who just aren't as good as
27 killers, you know, as the larger wolves.

28
29 So not only do they break out and -- and another thing
30 we found out, they don't stay at the relocation site. Not one
31 wolf of all the wolves we've relocated have stayed there.
32 They've all moved. Now, we've dropped them -- last year I
33 dropped wolves where there's 40,000 Nelchina Caribou, and they
34 walked directly away from them. It's not so much the food at
35 the relocation site as that their first movement is away. And
36 so you can actually pick spots where you can put wolves that
37 will actually benefit, you know, that they could actually walk
38 away from places that are sensitive to people or sensitive, you
39 know, for moose or whatever, and these wolves will probably
40 walk away. And we haven't had one wolf that has actually set
41 up residency within 60 miles of the relocation site. And
42 that's only one of them. The rest of them have moved over 100
43 miles. And one in the newspaper has now moved like 300 miles.
44 I mean, they just keep moving, and they're just kind of finding
45 a home.

46
47 Now, and the question that Ben asked me last night is
48 do they instantly form a pack? Well, they don't. They're
49 actually kind of looking, you know, for other wolves, and we
50 have found where wolves will pair, especially females, you

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1 know, once they come into estrus or, you know, heat the
2 following winter, they'll pair up with an individual male. But
3 again that male probably wasn't a resident pack member either.
4 He's also looking for a spot. You know, so you don't get these
5 packs growing really quickly with these relocated wolves. In
6 fact, you're talking six months to two years before they
7 actually establish a range on their own, you know, so they're
8 actually mimicking dispersing wolves.

9
10 And so like I said, they're not a real big impact on
11 the local area where you drop them. They're not an impact
12 because they're a pack. And the last thing that makes them not
13 much of an impact, if you just drop a few wolves is that
14 dispersing wolves, no matter how they disperse, on their own
15 four feet or if we move them, their mortality rate is higher
16 than like if -- when they're living at home. You know,
17 basically we found out that anywhere from 40 to 60 percent of
18 these wolves die. And they die because -- most of the time by
19 traps. I mean, that's the biggest reason why all dispersing
20 wolves will die. And that doesn't -- that's even in Minnesota
21 where trapping's not even legal, you know. Dispersing wolves
22 are caught by traps, you know. And it makes sense. They don't
23 know the country, you know, they're just getting around.

24
25 And so what the team's finding out, that if you move
26 these wolves to these different places around the state, and
27 you only move a few, that there probably is not going to be any
28 impact on people or on wildlife, and that they're generally
29 going to kind of disperse out. So.....

30
31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Gardner.
32 Gordon, you had a question?

33
34 MR. UPICKSOUN: Yes. Craig, you will never repopulate
35 the caribou herd like it was in the 20s. The hunters are more
36 mobile. There's more people hunting in that area. It will
37 never go back to the population or the kind of herd they had in
38 the 20s. It will never happen. And why can't they thin out
39 the wolves themselves, the hunters in that area?

40
41 MR. GARDNER: Okay. Two questions. One, they're
42 trying actually, the hunters and trappers. It's a lot
43 different there, like I was saying. It's real mountainous and
44 really treed, and the trappers just have a real difficult time
45 getting there.

46
47 MR. UPICKSOUN: Well, if you can in fact catch the
48 wolves and relocated them, why can't the hunters.....

49
50 MR. GARDNER: We use.....

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1 MR. UPICKSOUN:why can't they -- if you can
2 access those wolves and transplant them like you want to in
3 that area, why can't the hunters get to wolves, too?

4
5 MR. GARDNER: We use helicopters.

6
7 MR. UPICKSOUN: Pardon?

8
9 MR. GARDNER: We use helicopters.

10
11 MR. H. BROWER: Their method of transportation is
12 different.

13
14 MR. GARDNER: Yeah.

15
16 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, I move to table this
17 issue. I as a council member am opposed to transplanting
18 wolves to our area. I make a motion that we table the
19 transplant issue.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah. Mr. Upicksoun, we have a
22 motion at this time before us.

23
24 MR. H. BROWER: We're still under discussion.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, we're still under discussion
27 on the motion that was made to look at this proposal.

28
29 Let me recap what I've heard so far and we can continue
30 on. Again, when proposals are submitted, we revisit these in
31 the February/March time frame, and there will be further
32 discussion and actual votes for or against this proposal in the
33 spring time. So we're hearing this proposal that is submitted.
34 Who -- is this going to be submitted by the State of Alaska?
35 Or.....

36
37 MR. GARDNER: Actually this is not really a proposal as
38 much as a request, you know, to basically the, you know,
39 Regional Council, to the North Slope Borough Fish and Wildlife
40 Board, and to the individual villages.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: So it's not going to be a game
43 regulation.....

44
45 MR. GARDNER: No.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:proposal. Okay.

48
49 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman, I have one question about
50 the -- my problem with this proposal is I don't know who it

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1 came from. It has no name, it has no region. It has -- It
2 doesn't have -- it doesn't have the agencies or communities
3 involved with their names on it. It would go a long ways, you
4 know, right now I could go either way how this goes, but I
5 don't know who this come from or who (Indiscernible --
6 simultaneous speech).

7

8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. We could get the answer to
9 that. Mr. Brower, Mr. Hopson, and then Harry.

10

11 MR. G. BROWER: Well, I have been hunting and doing
12 things at Chipp Nine (ph) and up around there, and Panekseok
13 (ph), and a lot of times I tutulak (ph) there in the fall and
14 get my catch, and then I get up there in December and start
15 hauling it back with my brothers. Every time we get up there,
16 we all disperse and try to go get a kovik (ph) or try to go get
17 a wolf, and they're hard to find. Wolves are real to find.
18 You have to -- you've got to just about scrounge around every
19 way, and you're lucky to get one. There's a lot tutu around
20 there.

21

22 One question I had is does this animal -- will it
23 predate on the muskox? You know, will it do something like
24 that, you know.

25

26 MR. GARDNER: I would think if they had an easy muskox,
27 they would take it.

28

29 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. And I think I'm for it, because
30 in times gone past, I think my dad would tell all kinds of
31 stories. They had reindeer herds do deal with, and they always
32 had the opportunity to get wolves. Sometimes they'd get seven
33 in one night just around the reindeers. I don't see that kind
34 of wolves any more. I mean, we're -- we try to bring some home
35 to bring ruffs and stuff to make nice parkas, or sometimes to
36 sell them. And I've gone out, I've never caught one before.
37 And my brothers are lucky to have caught some I think. I'd
38 like to see them more often. I know Wainwright probably gets
39 their share, but they probably have to bonesksel (ph), too. If
40 they're going to do some kind of transplant, you know, I think
41 the North Slope is the right place to do something like that
42 for hunters that be around there. I mean, I'm one of those
43 guys that's always -- I'm always up there trying to get
44 something like that. There's a lot of prey for those animals.
45 It's just -- that's my opinion. My view.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Hopson and then Mr. Brower.

48

49 MR. B. HOPSON: Okay. In answer to Mike Patkotak's
50 question, I'm sorry, I should have put my name and

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1 organization. I'm the sponsor of this request or proposal.
2 Ben Hopson, and then the organization is Region 10, North Slope
3 Federal Regional Advisory Council.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Harry?

6
7 MR. H. BROWER: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd
8 just like to reiterate some of what Mr. Garner was saying.
9 Garner?

10
11 MR. GARDNER: Gardner, right.

12
13 MR. H. BROWER: Gardner. What you said -- a lot of
14 what you said is true from my experience and observations and
15 growing here, you know. The NARL, Naval Arctic Research Lab
16 was in existence when I was growing up, and there was a pack of
17 wolves they raised in there as pups -- from pups, and they
18 transplanted them up beyond Umiat, and they all ended up right
19 back in Barrow. Out of six of them, five of them came back.
20 And I know that type of information is pretty correct. They
21 home in right back to where they've been growing and raised. I
22 know about all that.

23
24 And then following the caribou. The wolf tend to
25 follow the caribou a lot. We've seen that happen here, and
26 I've observed it here, from caribou are now migrating further
27 south, down towards the Kotzebue Sound area, in through that
28 area, and I hear a lot of our friends from down there saying
29 that they're seeing a lot more wolves than they had in the
30 past, because of the caribou moving down that way. And when I
31 go hunting here, and the caribou herds have moved down south,
32 we don't hardly see any game. The wolf -- or basically the
33 wolf, like is what we're talking about. I'll see the wolverine
34 and other resources, foxes are all around here, up where I go
35 hunting. But the wolves are -- they tend to move down south
36 with the caribou, even down, you know, and into the Brooks
37 Range areas, 'cause that's where they winter a lot. Then come
38 early spring, they start coming back, but I'm not sure if the
39 wolves are coming back with them, because I'm not out there to
40 observe them in the early spring. So I know all that happens
41 during the winter time and the fall migration of the caribou.
42 The wolves tend to follow the caribou around. We'll see
43 caribou out in the range of where we're -- where I go hunting
44 up on the east side of Poluktuk (ph) Lakes, up past my cabin
45 quite a ways. Even right onto Umiat, 20 miles into Umiat, we
46 see caribou all around there, but hardly see any wolves. But
47 then we see a lot of dead caribou, too, and a few tracks of
48 wolves when we start finding the dead caribou. But that
49 doesn't mean there's a lot of wolves out there, you know.

50

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1 So I know about -- I know a lot of what's happening
2 here, and I agree with what you're saying about the wolf will
3 be -- once you drop them, they'll probably home right back down
4 to where they came from. And that -- and they'll be kind of
5 dispersed within that area, within the area wherever you drop
6 them off on the North Slope, they'll probably tend to go right
7 back through the Brooks Range and head right back down to where
8 you picked them up at.

9
10 And then I was wanting to say about our -- from our
11 North Slope Borough Fish and Game Management Committee meeting,
12 we brought this out a little bit, and discussed it a little, a
13 short -- for a short period, and there was mixed feelings from
14 our committee members there, that there -- our elders didn't
15 want. Eddie Hopson stated that he didn't want to see that
16 transplant to occur on the North Slope, but then after we
17 discussed it a little bit, there was a couple hunters said they
18 might not mind seeing it happening, but with a limited number
19 of wolves, not 15 to 30 months. Just a short number of wolves,
20 just to get a little research done to see how it works out. If
21 it works out good, they might want to increase the number, but
22 to start with a smaller number than 15. What you have here,
23 might be a little too much maybe.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. You had your hand up?

26
27 MR. C. HOPSON: Yeah, I had my hand up.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: You and Paul and then Helen.

30
31 MR. C. HOPSON: Yeah, I've been going up to the
32 foothills of the Brooks Range for the last 25 years wolf
33 hunting, and I see an adequate number of wolves up there, the
34 population in our area up there. And I think they're, you
35 know, they're stable, they're good, you know. If we had any
36 more wolves up in that area, I think we're asking for problems.
37 We are always inheriting the State's or somebody's problem. If
38 we go ahead and do this kind of thing, we're going to have
39 problems in the future.

40
41 You know, I'm the one that reported those caribou that
42 died off five or six years ago. You know, you can take a snow
43 machine, there are dead caribou. This was not because of the
44 wolf. It was because of the weather. There was a lot of ice
45 that year, a lot of rain. And maybe next year we're going to
46 have a lot of rain and do the same thing, and there goes our
47 caribou population on top of the replanted wolves. You know, I
48 think we're inheriting somebody's problems that's going to
49 cause us problems in the future. You know, we know that the
50 caribou came back real fast in a couple of years, but I don't

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1 think it's correct to do that. I see adequate number of
2 wolves, you know, in the last couple years myself, you know,
3 traveling up there and making these trips for the last 25
4 years, every year. Over 100 miles. I think introducing some
5 other -- somebody else's wolf, then, you know, we're going to
6 create our own problems five or six years down the line, you
7 know. What are we going to do if the caribou die off from the
8 weather in four years? Then on top of that remaining small
9 herd will be -- you know, we'll have competition between, you
10 know, those transplanted wolf. That's my own opinion.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Hopson. Paul?

13
14 MR. BODFISH: Yes. For the past ten years, I've going
15 up into the Brooks Range, up in the Kilik area, Power Pass and
16 up beyond Lookout Ridge, and during those ten years I've seen
17 packs of wolves heading north, like a pack of five, six, eight,
18 ten. Heading north, all the way up to the coastline. They do
19 100 miles a day easy, just clocking (ph) along. So I'm kind of
20 against that wolf relocation, because they come up naturally
21 themselves. They follow the caribou herds, or for some other
22 reason, they want to go out some new country. They do come up
23 north, even though there's caribou or no caribou around. I've
24 been going up there for the past like ten years. Every year.
25 And I see wolves coming up themselves with no help at all, you
26 know. They come from De Long Mountains and from the east side,
27 from Kilik. They head up north. They go all the way up into
28 Teshekpuk area. I covered a lot of country up there, and
29 wolves from the west side, they follow the caribou herd, and
30 they come through. Even their tracks are like a foot wide and
31 how many feet deep. Big pack of wolves. They come right
32 through. So I'm kind of against that relocation.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Paul. Helen?

35
36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Craig, I had a couple questions.
37 How long does it take the wolves go back when we transplant
38 them? I mean, except.....

39
40 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Same day.

41
42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:(indiscernible) that's gone as
43 far as 300 miles, how long did it take her?

44
45 MR. GARDNER: Actually that's a good question. When
46 you first relocate wolves, and Mr. Brower probably saw this
47 with the NARL wolves, is that they first kind of spend maybe
48 anywhere up to a week, ten days kind of getting oriented around
49 where they relocate, then they start making their moves. After
50 that, we had one wolf that returned about 150 to 175 miles, it

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1 took her about three months, three or four months. And then
2 the other ones took like seven months. You know, they spent a
3 lot of time kind of bouncing all over the country before they
4 came back. The Kenai wolf, that one has actually moved out --
5 well, we dropped her in April, and now, you know, we just found
6 her again and -- well, this month, you know, so however many
7 months that is. But most of the wolves never came back, you
8 know, but they move, you know, 100 to 300 miles, but they're
9 not actually getting back to their home territory. They lose
10 interest somewhere along the line and they make a living.
11 But.....

12
13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And how many -- this is a dumb
14 question, but how many caribou does a wolf eat?

15
16 MR. GARDNER: Well, that's not -- it's not actually a
17 dumb question. It's actually one that brings debate often.
18 They look at a wolf, and they say that a -- but you're looking
19 at an adult wolf now, that they can kill probably around 20.
20 They're saying like seven moose, which is like three caribou
21 per, so like 21 to 22 caribou per wolf. Now, that though is,
22 you know, like the prime killer wolves. You know, like I said,
23 these wolves are anywhere from 11 months to years old. I don't
24 expect their kill rate to be anywhere near that high. But
25 that's kind of the potential that they're looking.....

26
27 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: What would you expect it to be?

28
29 MR. GARDNER: You know, I really don't know.

30
31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: (Indiscernible, away from
32 microphone)

33
34 MR. GARDNER: Yeah.

35
36 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chairman?

37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, Terry?

39
40 MR. TAGAROOK: I have a question. Do you know what the
41 wolf population is in that area?

42
43 MR. GARDNER: Oh, in the Forty Miles?

44
45 MR. TAGAROOK: Yeah.

46
47 MR. GARDNER: Yeah, we do. When we started this
48 program, it was -- you know, we were mostly interested, you
49 know, in that calving and summer range. You know, we were
50 looking at that there was about 19 packs, you know, that kind

0126

1 of -- that we were most interested in, and basically they're
2 averaging around seven to eight wolves per pack, you know, like
3 in the fall that's what we started with. And then when we --
4 then we started last year in this wolf relocation and trapping
5 and such, and we've actually worked now six or seven packs, and
6 we've reduced them all down to two. So we started with what,
7 you know, 130 wolves and now we're down to, you know, probably
8 a little less than 100 in that area.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you. Okay. Let me
11 summarize before we take a vote on this. Again I'll just see
12 if I can state the motion that was made to look at this
13 proposal to relocate 20 to 35 wolves. And when I look at this
14 paper, it say 20 -- Game Management 25. Is that a typo?

15
16 MR. B. HOPSON: It's a typo, yes.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: So you've made other requests to
19 other areas?

20
21 MR. GARDNER: That's a good question. Yeah, we have.
22 I gave you copies of the letters that were sent out to village
23 councils and advisory councils.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: How many of those -- how many takes
26 did you have or rejects to relocate?

27
28 MR. GARDNER: Right now, other than the groups in-- you
29 know, right around Forty Mile and the Kenai, they've all been
30 rejects. Basically we've had two yeses and about ten -- well,
31 we haven't got a lot of letters back yet, but by phone calls
32 I've gotten about ten or 11 no's.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you. We've heard that there
35 may be competition in the Teshekpuk Lake area, there's a pack
36 there. We also are aware that the moose numbers are down, we
37 have a two-year closed season for some area around Colville
38 area. We have another year to look at how that herd will do,
39 to open up the moose hunt. We've also heard concern that we
40 need to possibly take this back to the village and hear how the
41 villages feel about relocation, so I myself will have to take
42 this to a town meeting. And if we okay this as a Council right
43 now without input from the communities, I will just restate
44 what Mr. Charlie Hopson was saying, we may be creating more of
45 a problem four or five years down the road. If you can wait, I
46 don't know what your deadline is or what timeline you have or
47 timing for this relocation or if it's continuing since '94. It
48 looks like it's a yearly effort. So rather than having this
49 Council jump into it, -- we appreciate we have the opportunity,
50 and Mr. Hopson brought that up at the last meeting to bring it

0127

1 on the agenda for us to take a look at it. Now we're doing
2 that. With the information that we have, we usually -- before
3 a big decision is made on any big issues, and this is one of
4 them, we want to take them to our respective villages and get a
5 decision that way. So I'd urge as a Council chairman, that
6 provide us an opportunity to bring this information or any
7 information that you have to our respective villages and see
8 what they have to say. We need to look at the whole region.
9 And the talks here are good.

10
11 The problem with your Forty Mile herd that was large at
12 a time, now your wolf population is up. You stated that it's
13 pretty hard to see caribou herd where they once ranged, so we
14 want to look at that for our area in Kaktovik. If a wolf could
15 take 21 caribou, that's pretty much what we almost catch for
16 the year in Kaktovik because of the scarcity of caribou, and
17 they have competition in that area. That is my -- our opinion
18 right now, so.....

19
20 We have mixed feelings at this time. I don't know what
21 the wish of the Council is going to be at this time. We're
22 looking at to -- I think the main motion is to accept the
23 proposal, is that what the motion was, or.....

24
25 MR. UPICKSOUN: Accept or reject.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Accept or reject.

28
29 MR. UPICKSOUN: I made the motion to start the
30 questioning period, Mr. Chairman,.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. I wanted to get that clear.

33
34 MR. UPICKSOUN:that was the intent of my motion
35 was to start the questioning period.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

38
39 MR. UPICKSOUN: And I believe we're at a point now
40 where we reject or accept Ben's proposal.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah. Uh-hum. So with that, you've
43 heard the summary or summarized statements here this morning.
44 Any -- did I make any statement wrong or written anything down
45 wrong or we've heard -- we've got some mixed feelings I guess.

46
47 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman?

48
49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Patkotak?

50

0128

1 MR. PATKOTAK: I've got relatives in Nuiqsut, and I
2 don't think there's any representatives here of Nuiqsut.
3 There's a lot of mixed feelings. You know, I could go either
4 way right now, because I have some nephews that hunt amouak
5 (ph) and they make some of their income on it. I could go
6 either way right now. There's a lot of mixed feelings. So
7 right now I -- what I would suggest is what the Chairman said,
8 is to not reject it and not to accept it, but to table it and
9 go back to the village and then act on it at a later date,
10 because this could go either way.

11
12 MR. B. HOPSON: I would go along with Mike's
13 suggestion.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: To table it.....

16
17 MR. B. HOPSON: To table this.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:table it for now?

20
21 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, if the second -- the
22 person that seconded my motion would withdraw his second, I'll
23 withdraw my motion to approve or disapprove this proposal, and
24 after we do that, maybe we can find out -- get some input from
25 the villages before we accept or reject the proposal.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Upicksoun.
28 Harry?

29
30 MR. H. BROWER: Yeah, I just wanted to reiterate what I
31 said earlier. With our North Slope Borough Fish and Game
32 Management Committee members, they had also mixed feelings on
33 this issue, and they also wanted to bring it to their
34 communities to gain more information from their hunters in
35 their respective villages within the North Slope, and didn't
36 want to answer the question right away. They said they wanted
37 to get more feeling, some input from their community members on
38 this issue also.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Mr. Tagarook?

41
42 MR. TAGAROOK: Yeah. Maybe the best solution would be
43 to increase the bag limit on the wolves in that area for a
44 couple years until the wolf population's lower.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Craig?

47
48 MR. GARDNER: Yeah, and we've actually been trying to
49 get as much participation over there as we can, and the
50 trappers are trying. It's just more of an access problem right

0129

1 now. You know, the seasons are really.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, we can.....

4

5 MR. GARDNER: Pardon me?

6

7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I think we can do away with our
8 motion to get a waiver to have them ride on your helicopter and
9 get more.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Brower?

14

15 MR. C. BROWER: Just a question. I see on your request
16 that you would rather have these sterilized before you relocate
17 them, is that right?

18

19 MR. GARDNER: Actually that's an option that's more for
20 the people here. Dave Sam, you know, had been talking to some
21 of the villages south of the Brooks, and they are more
22 interested in the idea of relocating wolves to that area,
23 because they're not as worried I think in the number, you know
24 three to five wolves per location site. What they're worried
25 about is will these wolf numbers increase due to the
26 relocation, and so they were actually interested that if we
27 sterilize the wolves prior to, then the trappers and hunters
28 could still have a go at them, but they wouldn't be worried
29 about those wolves actually, you know, increasing. It's
30 definitely -- you know, it's an option.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Craig. Gordon
33 offered as the main motion provider, and asked the seconder to
34 go along with his request to withdraw the motion.

35

36 MR. UPICKSOUN: Withdraw your second, I'll withdraw my
37 motion to adopt the proposal, and.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Tagarook, Gordon has requested
40 you -- you were the seconder? Or who was the seconder?

41

42 MR. H. BROWER: Terry.

43

44 MR. TAGAROOK: (Nods affirmative)

45

46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Terry on the motion there to go
47 forward or against the proposal, and Gordon has offered or put
48 on the table there, that we could probably defer this or table
49 rather than make a for or against decision, so what do you want
50 to do, Tagarook?

0130

1 MR. TAGAROOK: Yeah.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Concur with.....

4
5 MR. UPICKSOUN: You withdraw your second, okay, in that
6 case I'll withdraw my motion then.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Gordon. With
9 that, with the concurrence of the seconder, the motion to
10 reject or be in favor of this relocation is off the table.
11 And.....

12
13 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman? It sticks in my mind in
14 regard to this, the statement made by our elder at the North
15 Slope Borough Wildlife Committee meeting, the fact that the
16 elder was opposed to transplanting wolves into our area. That
17 was at our meeting last month I believe?

18
19 MR. H. BROWER: Yes.

20
21 MR. UPICKSOUN: It sticks in my mind the fact that the
22 elder did speak in regards to opposing the transplant.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

25
26 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman?

27
28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Patkotak?

29
30 MR. PATKOTAK: Another thing, too, that might be
31 pointed out in some of the villages, my question is at Peard
32 Bay we've been seeing an increase in sick caribou. I don't
33 know whether it's -- you know, the frequency of seeing sick
34 caribou has increased, and so -- and that's another question I
35 would like to see brought out and answered from each of the
36 regions, too, before any decision is made on this.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you. Ben, we have
39 withdrawn the main motion to reject or in favor of the
40 proposal, or your proposal.

41
42 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: To work in relocating. That we can
45 either make a motion to table this, or just leave it as is, and
46 as information to bring back, or what would the wish of the
47 Council be at this time?

48
49 MR. PATKOTAK: I entertain a motion to table the
50 proposal, and take the information back to the villages, and

0131
1 act on it at a later date.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Motion.....
4
5 MR. BODFISH: Second that motion.
6
7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Seconded by Mr. Bodfish to table the
8 proposal and revisit it at a later date after getting more
9 information from home. Any further discussion? Gordon.
10
11 MR. UPICKSOUN: I'm opposed to it, but my council might
12 -- village council might say bring them on in, so.....
13
14 (Laughter)
15
16 MR. UPICKSOUN:I'll try (indiscernible, laughter)
17 until that comes to it. They might tell me otherwise, bring
18 them on in. Although I am opposed to it.
19
20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Further discussion? Craig?
21
22 MR. GARDNER: Oh, yeah, I was just going to volunteer
23 if anybody -- you know, any of the villages, or, you know, the
24 Fish and Game, you know, Committee wants me to come up, you
25 know, for information, I'd be willing.
26
27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, if you can maybe provide us a
28 summary of your Forty Mile herd program.
29
30 MR. GARDNER: Okay. I can do that. And.....
31
32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Or that, and some more background
33 for us to -- you can either mail that -- it's good to have your
34 copy of letter you want to talk about, and Ben's.....
35
36 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?
37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:application -- Mr. Upicksoun?
39
40 MR. UPICKSOUN: I have one more question for Craig.
41
42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah?
43
44 MR. UPICKSOUN: Craig, what does that Forty Mile do?
45 Does it migrate in and out of the area?
46
47 MR. GARDNER: Actually.....
48
49 MR. UPICKSOUN: Or is that -- they're in that location
50 at all times?

0132

1 MR. H. BROWER: Stationary.

2

3 MR. GARDNER: Well, they're migratory, you know, like
4 the Western Arctic and the Porcupine, but their migrations now
5 are much reduced with the small size. They used to migrate all
6 the way into the Yukon, and then migrate back. They calf, kind
7 of like Ben was saying, northeast of Tok, probably about 100
8 miles northeast of Tok, and then -- but they used to migrate in
9 the winter in central Yukon. In about the 1970s when the herd
10 made the big crash, they no longer would go into central Yukon,
11 so that's really has been the big push to get this going is
12 that basically from central Yukon through the eastern Interior,
13 you know, nobody sees Forty Mile caribou any more, and it was
14 -- and that's what they're trying to do is get that herd large
15 enough where it starts migrating all the way over to central
16 Yukon.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any further discussion on the
19 motion? Ms. Armstrong? On the motion to table?

20

21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, I had one more question for
22 Craig, if I could.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

25

26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Do you any idea if what -- whether
27 wolves prefer -- would prefer caribou over muskox? Or muskox
28 (Indiscernible).

29

30 MR. GARDNER: You know, I mean, basically these Forty
31 Mile wolves have never seen an ox, you know. But I don't think
32 they would mind chewing on a calf ox, that's for sure.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. All right. Any further
35 discussion on the motion to table?

36

37 MR. H. BROWER: Call for the question.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: The question is called on. All in
40 favor of tabling the proposal, say aye?

41

42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Those opposed, same sign?

45

46 (No opposing votes.)

47

48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Ben, and,
49 Craig,.....

50

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1 MR. B. HOPSON: Thanks.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:we may be revisiting this in
4 the near future, so be ready.

5

6 Okay. We'll move on to number ten under new business.

7

8 MR. UPICKSOUN: On what, ten?

9

10 MR. H. BROWER: New business.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: What is the wish of the Council at
13 this time? Do you want to take a few minute break before we
14 start on.....

15

16 MR. UPICKSOUN: So move.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Moved by Gordon to have five? Ten?
19 15-minute break or what?

20

21 MR. UPICKSOUN: Ten.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ten-minute break.

24

25 (Off record)

26

27 (On record)

28

29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Just one follow-up on information,
30 Mr. Gardner and Ben, is to send the summary of the information
31 that you presented to us, perhaps who can distribute or let the
32 community members know for us? We'll present it to them
33 through our Council to, or our best to. Have a discussion in
34 the villages, see how they feel. We'll bring that back up in
35 the March meeting.

36

37 MR. GARDNER: Okay. Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Again, work through Barbara.

40

41 MR. GARDNER: Okay.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: She can help distribute -- with the
44 distribution. Okay.

45

46 At this time we'll move on to new business. We have --
47 we'll have brief summaries, hearing from the various federal
48 agencies that are involved in our region. And first up is the
49 Fish and Wildlife Service, the Subsistence Management Program,
50 and the topic is under tab J in your booklets. We'll be

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1 talking about customary and traditional use determination. In
2 the past there was a way we'll be moving on that. We'll heard
3 a brief summary on the Federal Board restructure, a consent
4 agenda, stipends, request for reconsideration, and fisheries
5 update, and possibly we'll hear something on the steel shot
6 clinic, so -- for your information, Sue Detwiler is not here,
7 so Rosa Meehan will be talking in her place. So at this time
8 I'll turn the floor over to Helen Armstrong for c&t
9 discussions.

10
11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Helen
12 Armstrong, Fish and Wildlife Service.

13
14 You should all have received this letter that's also in
15 tab J in your book. It went out from our office on August the
16 10th, and I don't know if the new members received it, too,
17 Barb, or not. Did they?

18
19 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: It's a green sheet.

20
21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, in any case it's a green
22 sheet.

23
24 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Or, no, that's.....

25
26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No? Anyway, it's in your book. You
27 would have gotten it in your book, and I don't know if the new
28 members would have received it.

29
30 To give you a little background on this issue, we've
31 been doing c&t determinations around the state now for about
32 four years. And we've had a number of them this Council's
33 dealt with, most recently, last year, was c&t for sheep in the
34 whole North Slope.

35
36 And as an example of how it was difficult for us, and,
37 Gordon, I very clearly remember this, was you were the one who
38 said what do we do if we don't fulfill any of the eight
39 factors. Remember, we have the eight factors that we go
40 through when we do c&t, and that was the question. What do we
41 do when we don't fulfill any of the eight factors? How can we
42 then have c&t. And it's exactly that kind of question that has
43 given us a problem with this process. It's been a problem
44 statewide. Part of the problems are that we don't have
45 information to fulfill all of the eight factors, so that we've
46 been frustrated. Sometimes we don't have that information, and
47 the how do you decide which factors -- are some more important
48 than others? And then what happens when you decide you want to
49 give c&t for a place like Point Lay for sheep, but there's no
50 information to support it? We managed to do it last year with

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1 information from you, Gordon, and from Ray Koonuk from Point
2 Hope to provide it. But then the question became do we give it
3 to everybody in the whole North Slope together, you know, and
4 -- which is what we ended up doing. So it gave us a little bit
5 of difficulty.

6
7 And as a -- this has been happening statewide. It's
8 more of a problem, -- it's truly less of a problem here than it
9 is in some of the regions. In the other regions where you have
10 a lot more people, a lot higher density of communities. You
11 have different groups, you've got Yup'iks and Inupiat, or
12 Yup'iks and Athapaskans, or you've got more conflict, user
13 conflict. Yukon River, we've got people going way up river,
14 they didn't used to be able to go that far. So it's become
15 somewhat of a dilemma.

16
17 Well, last year the Board decided we really needed to
18 sit down and address this and say, okay. We adopted this
19 process from the State. Is this what we should be doing, or
20 should we be doing something differently? And the Board formed
21 a task force, working group, which was made up of Mitch
22 Demientieff, our Chair, Fred Armstrong who is our native
23 liaison now for Fish and Wildlife Service. He's also, as you
24 probably know, Barb's husband. Bill Thomas, who's from
25 Southeast, Craig Fleener, who's from Interior, Dan O'Hara who's
26 from the Aleutians, and then from the Staff Committee we had
27 Sandy Rabinowich from Park Service, Ida Hildebrand from BIA,
28 and Keith Goltz from the Solicitor's Office, and Ken Thompson
29 from Forest Service. These meetings ended up being quite
30 large. This group was there with lots of people who came from
31 the various agencies, from our office, to see what the
32 discussion was like.

33
34 As a result of the discussions, we hatched out lots of
35 ideas, and there were certainly lots of them. The final
36 thinking was we needed to take this back to the Councils and
37 get input from the Councils. This working group did not come
38 up with a recommendation. They came up with some ideas of
39 directions we could go, but they did not want to come up with a
40 recommendation until after they heard from the Councils.

41
42 So what we're looking for from you is a recommendation
43 to the working group, who will then make a recommendation to
44 the Board as to what we should do with c&t. The group will be
45 reviewing those recommendations and making that recommendation
46 to the Board by December 1st so that it will go to the Board I
47 believe in the March.....

48
49 MS. MEEHAN: It's December 1st.

50

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1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: They'll make the decision December
2 1st. Okay.

3
4 The first issue is why do we even do c&t
5 determinations? What is our purpose of doing that? The
6 original idea was to protect subsistence uses so that you had
7 -- if you had a resource that was in danger of being over-
8 harvested, that you would not have everybody in the state being
9 able to use it. There has -- there was a lot of discussion
10 amongst our group of whether or not we actually even -- do you
11 want to raise this? Do we actually even need to do it? Is it
12 really a protection, or is it a restriction?

13
14 There are some people who are of the opinion that
15 ANILCA doesn't require us to do it. And it's really an
16 interpretation I think of ANILCA, whether or not you have to be
17 doing it at all. There are people who have looked at ANILCA
18 and said, you don't need to make those restrictions on c&t
19 until there's a shortage of the resource, and at that point you
20 then look at the need, who directly has used it, and whether
21 alternative resources are available. That's a kind of, for
22 lack of a better word, an extreme position, perhaps, but there
23 are a lot of people who feel that we don't need to be doing c&t
24 at all.

25
26 The problem is, is if we didn't do c&t, then what
27 happens? Then do we -- every time there's a shortage of a
28 resource, do we have to do these -- it's from Section 804
29 ANILCA, we section eight -- we do 804 analyses. In the North
30 Slope, it wouldn't be much of a problem, because you don't have
31 the shortage of resources in most cases that you might get in
32 some other areas, except for moose and sheep, muskox. It's not
33 -- you don't have the same level of competition that they have
34 in other regions, so it wouldn't be as big of a problem.

35
36 What ends up happening is if you have -- let's use an
37 example of let's say muskox. We have a shortage of muskox in
38 Kaktovik. If you didn't have a c&t saying who could hunt it,
39 right now what we do, we sort of avoid the issue a little bit
40 by doing -- we just draw the permits. But if you went by
41 strictly an 804 process, it really should be based on need and
42 who and customarily and traditionally used it in the community.
43 And I think some communities, in fact, I'd say most communities
44 that have been in this situation have wanted to avoid sort of
45 dividing the community. So that's one of the issues. But it's
46 certainly.....

47
48 What I want to express is that it's certainly a
49 possibility for this Council that if you were to decide that we
50 didn't -- we shouldn't c&t at all, that is one of -- that is an

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1 option.

2

3 So, okay, we decide we have to do c&t. Do we have to
4 do c&t determinations? And that's one of the questions we need
5 to have you answer is should we be doing these at all. And I
6 don't know if we want to go through the whole thing and then
7 come back to this, Fenton? But it is an answer we need
8 answered -- I mean, a question we need answered is do we even
9 do -- need to make c&t determinations?

10

11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Let me pose a question real quick on
12 the number of animals, the fur bearers we have that are listed
13 in the regulations, how many are c&t and how many are not? Or
14 what kind of ranges do we have for our area, I wonder?

15

16 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: What do you mean by how many are
17 c&t? How many do we have c&t for?

18

19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Animals, yeah. Yeah.

20

21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Oh, how many animals?

22

23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: For.....

24

25 MS. MEEHAN: There is a c&t listed for all of the
26 animals that are under our current regulations. The way this
27 program started out was that if there wasn't a specific
28 geographic determination, then it would be all rural residents
29 are eligible for that resource. But if you'll notice like for
30 sheep, it's -- and this was the one that we just did last year
31 with this Council, is it's all the residents of the North
32 Slope, plus we picked up Point Hope as well.

33

34 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: To answer your question I think.....

35

36 MS. DEWHURST: Five species have had c&t done. And
37 then it looks like there's one,.....

38

39 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Sheep, bear, caribou, moose, muskox?

40

41 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, brown bear, caribou, sheep, moose,
42 and muskox. And then.....

43

44 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right. And then the remainder I
45 believe at this point are it's no determination, a no
46 determin-.....

47

48 MS. DEWHURST: Eleven.

49

50 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Eleven?

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1 MS. DEWHURST: Eleven no determination.

2

3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And with the no determinations, it
4 means that any federally qualified subsistence user, in other
5 words any rural resident, can hunt those animals. And that's
6 pretty much the way it is statewide, that I'd say you're going
7 to add a few species that you don't have here, like goat, in
8 other areas, but the primarily resources that people are
9 hunting that are also ones that sports hunters are looking at,
10 are the ones that have c&t determinations. And then no
11 determination for the remainder of the species, but.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, maybe -- go ahead and go
14 through that, we only have three pages in information packet
15 here,.....

16

17 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Just go through it?

18

19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:so maybe we can quickly go
20 through that.....

21

22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. We'll do that.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:real quick, and.....

25

26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We'll come back. Okay.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: And you could.....

29

30 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So if you can just keep that in
31 mind, do we even need to make c&t determinations.

32

33 So if we decide we want to do them, do we need to
34 change the way they're done? Okay. That's the question. And
35 some of -- these are some of the options that we -- that this
36 group came up with. These weren't staff recommendations.
37 These were from the combination of this working group which
38 were council members and others.

39

40 The first one would be we could keep the existing eight
41 factor, and I just passed out for all of you what those eight
42 factors are. They are also. There's -- just as a kind of
43 reminder, they're also in your operations manual. They're not
44 listed in the reg booklet, but they're in the regulations that
45 -- the official regulations that are written, they are in
46 there, but they're not in the reg booklet. They're listed in
47 the operations manual as well. So if you ever want to go back
48 to that, that's a place to find them.

49

50 Another option would be to modify those eight factors,

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1 and those revised factors are in your book under J, on page
2 three. And this was really a little bit of a combining of the
3 factors. We still have the long-term consistent pattern of use
4 as the first factor, that one wasn't changed. The second one
5 is a pattern of harvest and use by methods and means which are
6 characterized by economy and efficiency of effort. And that
7 included also added in that it had to be reasonably accessible
8 from the community. And the third one is a means of handling,
9 preparing, preserving, storing, consuming wildlife. And then
10 which was traditionally used by past generations. That's a
11 combining of the other, I forget which number factor that one
12 is. And then the fourth one is a pattern of use which includes
13 the handling down -- handing down of knowledge of fishing and
14 hunting skills. And the fifth one is a pattern of use in which
15 the harvest is shared or distributed within a definable
16 community of persons. It's really a blending of some of the
17 factors. We weren't taking them out, but trying to -- so the
18 information would still be put in, but it wouldn't be
19 (indiscernible - something dropped) in the same way.

20
21 And you could also modify your- -- you could give us
22 another modification. You could say, no, we don't like those.
23 WE only want the first three or whatever. But the idea is you
24 could modify the factors.

25
26 Another one was what we're calling the Council
27 recommendation option. And under this one, we would use much
28 more -- I won't say much more. More emphasis perhaps would be
29 put on local knowledge, that local traditional knowledge. Each
30 Council could perhaps come up with their own way of doing c&t.
31 It would have a lot of variability. The Council could ask for
32 an analysis by the staff, but it might not be something that
33 was -- that was required. It would have a little bit more
34 flexibility perhaps. It's one -- and then the Council would --
35 in the same way that we do now, they would come up with a
36 recommendation that would go to the Board for the Board's
37 decision. The Board would still be the final decisionmaker in
38 any of these, but it would -- but the way the Council came to
39 their recommendation might be different.

40
41 And in a way we've done some of this, because each
42 council has done their c&t a little bit differently. And I
43 guess the problem we've had as staff has been that we're not
44 consistent around the state, and we say we're going to do it
45 one way, we say we're going to follow the eight factors, but
46 then we haven't. And ADF&G says -- has criticized us very
47 heavily for this, because we don't follow what we say our
48 procedure is, and we felt that we need to -- if we're not
49 following the procedure, we need to make the procedure
50 something different.

0140

1 The other -- this option is one that has been strongly
2 encouraged from the Interior Region, the units or surrounding
3 subunits. And the way this one would work is that it would be
4 kind of a blanket c&t that all resources, we -- for example, we
5 could say all those resources listed that are in the book that
6 people hunt on the North Slope, would be -- you would get all
7 the residents in Unit 26 plus Anaktuvuk Pass and Point Hope,
8 would have c&t for all those resources. We wouldn't have to go
9 through any analysis. We'd just do a blanket c&t. You hunt
10 everything that's here, and you should have the right to hunt
11 everything that's here.

12
13 And the because you get areas that are on the outside,
14 -- well, we already have it at Point Hope and Anaktuvuk Pass.
15 We'd have to say and those residents in Unit 24 and Unit 23.
16 So you could do the surrounding -- and you might also include
17 25. you could say, you'd say all those residents in Unit 23
18 and those residents in the surrounding -- in this -- in your
19 case, it would be the surrounding.....

20
21 MS. MEEHAN: Unit.

22
23 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:units, because you have whole
24 units. Well, 25 is divided, so you could say in the
25 surrounding subunits. So that it would kind of do a blanket --
26 it would cover everybody. We've done -- we did a little bit of
27 mapping to see if there were cases where anybody would be left
28 out, and certainly by doing subunits, you could leave people
29 out. By doing whole units, it could be all inclusive. You
30 would be giving c&t to people who probably never come up here
31 and never will. If you gave it to all of 23, that's a large
32 area, but it would be including those people who do come in
33 here. So that's one option. This would certainly be a simple
34 way of doing it. You wouldn't have to have analyses, you
35 wouldn't have to have a lot of discussion, or any discussion.
36 And with the idea that if somebody for some reason in some part
37 of the state, just because of the way their units are, some
38 unit was left out, you could then go in and say, well, we have
39 to modify it and include this unit or whatever. So that's an
40 option.

41
42 These four, the core options we came up with. If there
43 are any other options the Council has, they want to do
44 something entirely different, that's fine, or you want to do a
45 blending of things, that would be fine. You could have, you
46 know, some factors in there. Or you can do nothing at all.

47
48 So our recommendation is, should we change -- first,
49 should we do it? Should we change it? And then should we
50 change the way we do it, and if yes, how should it be changed?

0141

1 Any questions?

2

3 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman?

4

5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Questions for Helen? Mr. Gordon?

6

7 MR. G. BROWER: When you -- what do you mean by a rural
8 preference? Does that mean anybody that lives in a rural
9 community, or do you mean rural preference, more meaning you've
10 got to be native to be hunting substance, with a traditional
11 background in hunting that animal?

12

13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's a good question, and that's a
14 good one, especially being new on the Council, because we've --
15 you know, it's something that has often been talked about.
16 When ANILCA was signed in law, they -- I'll back up a little
17 bit. When the discussions were happening, there was in the
18 beginning an intention of making it to be a native preference,
19 but through discussions in Alaska and a lot of, you know, a lot
20 of different people talking, the decision was made not to make
21 it a native preference, but to make it a rural preference,
22 because there were a lot of people who had married into native
23 families, and they didn't want to exclude those people. Or
24 maybe people who had moved into a village and had lived there
25 for generations, and they didn't want to exclude them. It
26 became then a rural -- a law that gave rural preference, which
27 is the whole issue we have right now with the State, is that
28 the State doesn't have that in their constitutional, and so
29 that's why we have this division between the state and the
30 federal management of subsistence. So it's a rural preference.

31

32 And the way we've defined rural in the federal program
33 is the only places that are excluded are Fairbanks, Juneau,
34 Anchorage, Kenai.

35

36 MS. MEEHAN: Those are the primary ones.

37

38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Those are the primary ones.
39 Ketchikan is.....

40

41 MS. MEEHAN: Ketchikan is nonrural.

42

43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Ketchikan is also nonrural.

44

45 MS. DEWHURST: Kodiak, too.

46

47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And Kodiak. Kodiak, the city of
48 Kodiak. It's approximately communities that are larger than
49 7,000 people, although that's not a real hard core definition.
50 So all -- so everybody but those communities I just named have

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1 a rural preference in the State.

2

3 MR. G. BROWER: I just wanted to get a.....

4

5 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Sure.

6

7 MR. G. BROWER:you know, just listen.....

8

9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, it's a good question.

10

11 MR. G. BROWER:to the background on what you
12 meant by rural preference.

13

14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, it's a very -- it's a good
15 question.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Gordon. I have a
18 question on those animals that have -- or species that's
19 already been -- we've worked on to get c&t determined on them.
20 Now, if we change or decide to go with a different way of doing
21 c&t, will the ones that were already c&t'd on the eight factors
22 be different with the five factors, or meeting the requirements
23 on that part? The eight original c&t.....

24

25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Would we redo them?

26

27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:determinations for.....

28

29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:muskox might -- the new one
32 might be more lenient or which one would have the.....

33

34 MS. MEEHAN: You know, Fenton, that's a level of detail
35 that the task group has not gotten into, and I think they would
36 welcome a recommendation from you and the Council on that.....

37

38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-hum. Uh-hum.

39

40 MS. MEEHAN:as to whether if we change the way we
41 do c&t, should we start with a completely clean slate, or
42 should we start with what we have now. And it's a -- I believe
43 they'd be interested in hearing what your preference is on
44 that, and, you know, recognizing that this Council has put in a
45 lot of work, into developing those c&t recommendations.

46

47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: You're in a very different place
48 than some of the councils. Some of the councils still have
49 many resources, many communities that need c&t determinations
50 done for them. And so.....

0143

1 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chair?

2

3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:you're in a place where's are
4 all done. You've looked at them, you decided what you needed
5 to change, and they were pretty much done before we started.
6 We adopted the state c&t. So it's a little bit different. But
7 I agree with Rosa, that a recommendation that said we'd like to
8 keep the existing c&t determinations that we have, you know, or
9 whatever.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Patkotak, then Mr. Upicksoun.

12

13 MR. PATKOTAK: I have a question for you on how this --
14 these eight factors were arrived at. Just reading them, just
15 reading them, I see a lot of flexibility.....

16

17 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-hum.

18

19 MR. PATKOTAK:for each region on how this could
20 be interpreted and how it could be applied.

21

22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: They were.....

23

24 MR. PATKOTAK: Now myself, when it comes to
25 interpretation as to how customary and traditional uses, I
26 really like the flexibility, because we could go to each
27 village and define, use these eight factors and use them to
28 define them to our -- how each tribe customarily and
29 traditionally used these things, because each area is
30 different. Now, that's how I understand it, and that's how --
31 is this interpretation correct, or is this understanding
32 correct?

33

34 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: First I'll answer the first
35 question. These predominantly came from the State. When the
36 State -- we took over management, federal management, we
37 adopted the State's c&t determination process and the eight
38 factors, with just slight wording differences. We tried to
39 make it a little bit more flexible in that we made them factors
40 instead of criteria. I don't know if that's just semantics.
41 We tried to make it so that you didn't have to fulfill all of
42 the eight factors, you could fulfill some of them. It was sort
43 of -- but it became so nebulous that it became more of a
44 problem in decisionmaking.

45

46 The things we don't have in there that make it a little
47 bit of a problem is when do you decide, and this isn't an issue
48 in North Slope, but you take a community like Tok. When do you
49 decide if only 40 percent of the people are still hunting, you
50 know, moose, and 60 percent -- I'm just making these numbers

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1 up, but 60 percent are not. Is that enough to say that the
2 whole community gets c&t? And those are the kinds of issues we
3 really had to grapple with, is -- because there's no number
4 associated with it. So when is it -- do they still get c&t
5 when it's only 10 percent of the community? And then we're
6 saying, what do we do? No? Do we say no, and then ten percent
7 of the people don't get to hunt for subsistence? They have to
8 hunt for -- under sports regs? It really -- it's a really
9 tough question.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you. Gordon?

12
13 MR. UPICKSOUN: Yes. Mr. Chairman, I like the council
14 recommendation option where there's no five factors, eight
15 factors. Our Regional Council would be able to develop
16 criteria and factors for coming to a c&t determination. I like
17 the -- there's no -- it simplifies the process, the regional
18 council recommendation option.

19
20 These eight factors were adopted by the feds, and
21 they're interpreting the intent of Title VIII of ANILCA. They
22 adopted some regulations in imposing structures on the Board to
23 use in determining c&t determinations. The fed adopted
24 regulations. And made it so the Federal Subsistence Board had
25 to have these eight factors satisfied before you get c&t
26 determination.

27
28 If we went -- you know, I think the -- Mr. Chairman, I
29 like the regional council recommendation option where there's
30 no factors or anything. We develop our own criteria for
31 determining c&t, or getting c&t determination. It's simple,
32 and it makes sense, regional council recommendation option.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, we have to come back and
35 develop these certain -- we'd have to identify which criteria
36 or factors,.....

37
38 MR. UPICKSOUN: And also.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:and we'd have to work on it
41 later on.

42
43 MS. MEEHAN: Yes.

44
45 MR. UPICKSOUN: And the fact that you mentioned, what
46 do we do with those species that we have c&t determination on
47 already. Like there's a lot of work done on it. We should --
48 there's positive determination in our favor should not be
49 affected, it's for c&t for new.....

50

0145

1 MS. MEEHAN: For new species?

2
3 MR. UPICKSOUN: New species, yes.

4
5 MS. MEEHAN: Uh-hum.

6
7 MR. UPICKSOUN: And I like the regional council
8 recommendation option. That simplifies everything.

9
10 MS. MEEHAN: Mr. Chairman?

11
12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Rosa?

13
14 MS. MEEHAN: I'd like to share some of the discussion
15 that was -- that happened at the Board/Chair meeting, and then
16 also at subsequent task force meeting. And part -- one of the
17 points that was brought up was that from the Board's
18 perspective, because, you know, c&t goes through several stages
19 to come to a final decision, for the Board members some of them
20 found the eight factors very helpful, and the way they
21 expressed it was that it was a way to organize this whole
22 universe of information about customary and traditional use
23 into kind of packages that they could then look at and
24 understand. And so it's just a way of presenting information.
25 And so I share that with you in light of how having an
26 organization related around criteria or factors can be helpful
27 within the process.

28
29 But one thing that was -- another point that was stated
30 over and over again in the -- at that Board meeting,
31 Board/Chair meeting, and then also at the task group meetings,
32 was that the council recommendations which are made largely
33 based on traditional knowledge are given great weight by the
34 Board, and they're given great weight on their merits
35 irrespective of how the information is presented around the
36 eight factors. But the information presented is really
37 helpful.

38
39 So I just share with you that that's what we were
40 hearing from the Board's perspective, because they have to deal
41 with this as well.

42
43 MR. UPICKSOUN: What's their perspective on another
44 option, on the regional council recommendation option? Do they
45 have a perspective on that also? They didn't have.....

46
47 MS. MEEHAN: Their.....

48
49 MR. UPICKSOUN:if they had an opinion on the
50 eight-factor route, do they have -- did they also give opinions

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1 on the other options?

2

3 MS. MEEHAN: No, they specifically have not,
4 because.....

5

6 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay.

7

8 MS. MEEHAN:they very deliberately wanted to hear
9 from you, and so.....

10

11 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay.

12

13 MS. MEEHAN:the opinion -- what I just shared
14 with you was an initial response, if you will, to the conflicts
15 that we were having with doing c&ts. And so you'll remember
16 the whole sheep issue last year, that the previous year we'd
17 had the -- went through that c&t determination for sheep on the
18 North Slope, sent a recommendation to the Board to provide c&t
19 to all residents of the North Slope for sheep. And then --
20 which the Board adopted. And then we received a request for
21 reconsideration from the State, so we came back last year at
22 this meeting, and said, well, we have this, you know, request
23 for consideration. We need more information from you, which
24 you provided. But I do recall a fair bit of acrimony about it.
25 And, nevertheless, we provided that information, you all came
26 up with it. The information went back through the process, the
27 Board again adopted the same recommendation, and the State did
28 not further challenge the decision. So that's just the way the
29 process is working.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. That's with the eight
32 factors. Okay. Thank you, Rosa.

33

34 MR. PATKOTAK: Yeah. Am I beginning.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Patkotak, then Mr. Hopson.

37

38 MR. PATKOTAK: Am I beginning to understand that this
39 is for development of administrative codes and regulations,
40 hard and fast written rules and written regulations, or --
41 because if that's the case, then I'm in the same opinion of
42 Gordon, that we have the flexibility here with council
43 recommendations. Because I know that's a pretty grey area
44 right there if it's the way I understand it.

45

46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Just so that you know, that this
47 frustration with the process really came up from a number of
48 the council chairs. It wasn't only from some staff
49 frustration. I mean, we've sort of been quietly frustrated,
50 but haven't really expressed that to anyone else, but it was

0147

1 really with some I think council chairs being frustrated with
2 the way the process -- in some regions, they have had so many
3 of these to do, and they just feel like the process could have
4 been simplified. So it's not -- it's by no means a way to be
5 more administrative. If anything, perhaps less administrative
6 I think.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Hopson?

9
10 MR. B. HOPSON: Yeah, I've got something in relation to
11 this c&t determination within Gates of the Arctic National
12 Park.

13
14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-hum.

15
16 MR. B. HOPSON: And I believe it's written into the
17 Code of Federal Regulations. Did I say that right?

18
19 MS. MEEHAN: Yes.

20
21 MR. B. HOPSON: Yes, okay. There's a section under
22 determination of resident zone where it's possible Anaktuvuk
23 Pass residents can lose their right to subsistence hunt if
24 significant concentration of subsistence users within the park
25 fell below a percentage rate of like 50 percent. And that's
26 kind of something that Anaktuvuk people have looming in the
27 back of their minds, which they don't want to lose. You know,
28 what if we found all of a sudden that only 30 percent of our
29 people were actively subsistence users, and 70 percent were
30 not, we could surely, you know, lose our right to totally
31 subsistence hunt within the park with writing like that.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Which one is that?

34
35 MR. B. HOPSON: It's the determination of resident
36 zone.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: That's in the Gates of the Arctic?

39
40 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

41
42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's National Park Service
43 regulation, and maybe Paul would want to talk to that. This
44 does not affect any of that. It's a separate issue, because
45 it's a separate part of -- I mean that's the Park Service
46 regulations. I don't -- do you want to say anything.....

47
48 MR. B. HOPSON: So it's not tied into.....

49
50 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No. No. They have their.....

0148

1 MR. B. HOPSON:this c&t?

2

3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: They kind of have their own little
4 universe, you know.

5

6 MR. B. HOPSON: Maybe Paul can elaborate a little on
7 that.

8

9 MR. HUNTER: Mr. Chairman, Paul Hunter. Helen's
10 correct. That's -- the two processes are completely separate.
11 What Ben is talking about is the process that the Park Service
12 uses for determining eligibility to use the park for
13 subsistence purposes. The park is the most restricted area in
14 terms of eligibility for subsistence use. There's general
15 federal public lands in which all rural residents are eligible
16 for subsistence, depending on -- further depending on the c&t
17 process that Helen is describing to qualify users. But going
18 in, any rural resident in the state is eligible for subsistence
19 use on federal public lands, unless there's been a further
20 narrowing down of the eligible users by the c&t process for a
21 particular area.

22

23 For National Park Service areas, there are some parks
24 that are closed entirely to taking of wildlife for any reason,
25 including subsistence. The old Denali Park is an example.
26 Kenai Fjords National Park is an example.

27

28 Then there are other Park Service areas called
29 preserves that are open to taking of wildlife in the same way
30 for subsistence uses as all the other federal public lands
31 based on being a rural resident and being -- and then based on
32 c&t determinations. Those areas are also open to hunting under
33 state regulations as are the other federal public lands, unless
34 they've been closed to that by the Federal Subsistence Board.

35

36 Then the third category, and this is the category that
37 Ben is talking about, are national parks that are open -- that
38 are closed to hunting under state regulations for any kind of
39 purpose, but are open to subsistence hunting to local rural
40 residents. So it's not all rural residents in the state,
41 depending on c&t determinations, but it's a narrower group of
42 local rural residents. And the Park Service has used a process
43 called the resident zone process to determine who's a local
44 rural resident for a particular national park. And for Gates
45 of the Arctic National Park, the resident zone communities --
46 well, let me back up one -- make one other point.

47

48 A resident zone community is a community that has a
49 significant concentration of residents who have customarily and
50 traditionally engaged in subsistence uses in the particular

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1 park. And for Gates of the Arctic National Park, those
2 communities have been determined to be Alatna, Allakaket,
3 Ambler, Anaktuvuk Pass, the Bettles/Evansville community,
4 Hughes, Kobuk, Nuiqsut, Shungnak, and Wiseman. So anybody that
5 lives in one of those communities is automatically an eligible
6 subsistence user for the park. The only further restriction
7 would be whether or not the Federal Subsistence Board has
8 established a season or a bag limit in that park. But if there
9 is a season and a bag limit, then anybody who's a resident, a
10 permanent resident of those communities is eligible to -- for
11 subsistence uses in the park.

12
13 Any other subsistence user who would otherwise have c&t
14 in that unit where the park is, is not eligible in the park.
15 So, for example,.....

16
17 MS. MEEHAN: Point Hope.

18
19 MR. HUNTER:in, yeah, Point Hope or, for example,
20 Barrow in Gates of the Arctic National Park, is -- if you have
21 c&t in Unit 26 for muskox, and there happens to be a season in
22 Gates of the Arctic National Park, you're not eligible if you
23 live in Barrow. You're eligible if you live in Nuiqsut, and
24 you're eligible if you live in Anaktuvuk Pass. The only other
25 way to be eligible to hunt in Gates of the Arctic National Park
26 is if you apply to the Park Service for a subsistence use
27 permit. And an individual can do that, and all -- and what
28 they have to do is demonstrate that they themselves have
29 customarily and traditionally engaged in subsistence use in the
30 park. And there aren't -- not a lot of people have done that,
31 but a few have, and that's always available if there's somebody
32 in Barrow or one of the other North Slope communities that are
33 not resident zone communities for the national park, Gates of
34 the Arctic National Park. An individual in one of those
35 communities could apply for a subsistence permit themselves.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Hunter.
38 Mr. Patkotak?

39
40 MR. PATKOTAK: You mentioned that you make exceptions
41 on people applying for special use permit?

42
43 MR. HUNTER: It's a type of special use permit, it's
44 called a subsistence use permit that.....

45
46 MR. PATKOTAK: Subsistence use permit.

47
48 MR. HUNTER: We call it a 1344 permit, because it's
49 part of Section 1344 of the Code of Federal Regulations that
50 Ben referred to.

0150

1 MR. PATKOTAK: Well, the reason why I ask is there's a
2 lot of intermarriage between certain -- like certain areas,
3 northwest area,.....

4
5 MS. DEWHURST: Uh-hum.
6

7 MR. PATKOTAK:Interior, so that if -- like say if
8 my wife qualifies, is there a possibility that by proxy that a
9 person could go and hunt for his wife, or her husband, or
10 what's the answer for it?

11
12 MR. HUNTER: The subsistence permits that the Park
13 Service issues generally are to the head of the household, and
14 then anyone living in the household would be eligible. But
15 that's not to say that an individual in a household who was not
16 the head of the household couldn't on their own right.....

17
18 MR. PATKOTAK: Yeah.
19

20 MR. HUNTER:also apply.
21

22 MR. PATKOTAK: What's the processing? How long does it
23 take?

24
25 MR. HUNTER: It's -- you apply directly to the
26 superintendent. You can do it over the phone, and it doesn't
27 take -- it doesn't take long at all unless there's just no
28 basis to show that the individual, you know, has a history of
29 customary and traditional use of the area. Well, let's say
30 that Ben moves to Barrow. He would.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, excuse me. Yeah. I think
33 these answers can be brought up. We're trying to decide
34 whether we should change the way we do c&t and when we get to
35 the particular -- or get to specific options or factors that we
36 want to work on. I've heard a couple of the Council members
37 wanted -- were in favor of the council recommendation option.
38 Right now the question before us, I think, we need to discuss
39 whether we should change the way we do c&t, or continue on with
40 -- or yes or no. Simply yes or no. Should we do -- should we
41 change the way we do c&t? Mr. Patkotak?

42
43 MR. PATKOTAK: Voting yes on it, now, we've all heard
44 that -- we've all argued the point that we have relatives, and
45 there's a lot of transients going into areas like, even myself,
46 I've moved for professional purposes like say to Fairbanks or
47 Anchorage. Now, you mentioned earlier that this customary and
48 traditional determination, does that end when I go to school in
49 Fairbanks, and because of the education, I move there and
50 therefore my customary and traditional uses are terminated?

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1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Only as long as you live in
2 Fairbanks. It's based on residency. And if you live in
3 Fairbanks, you don't qualify. If you move back to Barrow, you
4 qualify. It's strictly based on residency. If you move to
5 Unalakleet, you would have c&t to hunt where people in
6 Unalakleet hunt.

7
8 MR. PATKOTAK: Okay. So then the way I understand it
9 now is that that flexibility is maintained by council
10 recommendation?

11
12 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-hum.

13
14 MR. G. BROWER: Earlier you talked a little bit about
15 numbers, what -- that it was determined if your c&t applies.
16 It's just like what he said, he could be in danger of losing
17 his subsistence in an area because of few numbers hunting
18 there. And if that's going to be based on a c&t, I would
19 propose that a c&t determination for a village, no matter if
20 nobody's hunting that year, that c&t stays there at all times,
21 because sometimes that community or that hunter or that person
22 may not have his money or his equipment that year. It might be
23 broke down or something like that, and not be able to get out
24 there, and you'll see a low number of people who aren't able to
25 go out there to do their hunting. Because a lot of the old
26 ways have died off where dog teams are not used any more.
27 You've got to buy gas for snow machines. It's partly driven by
28 cash economy to get out there and do your hunting. And I think
29 putting a number on a c&t to hunt in a certain area, there
30 shouldn't be no number.

31
32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And there isn't right now. To --
33 yeah, (indiscernible, coughing) understanding there's not a
34 number.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you. Maybe for the
37 record, we -- the Chair will entertain a motion right now to
38 answer the question before us. Should we change the way we do
39 c&t, formalize our discussion and get a consensus or a feel for
40 what the Council wants to do with c&t.

41
42 MR. B. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman?

43
44 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ben?

45
46 MR. B. HOPSON: I make a motion that we say no.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: A motion on the floor to keep the
49 c&t as is.

50

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1 MR. PATKOTAK: Second

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Seconded by Mike. In summary, the
4 discussions here this morning, we heard from the councilmen was
5 that we had -- at least I heard three councilmen wanting to go
6 with the council recommendation. Ben, your motion is to go
7 with the eight factors we're using currently?

8

9 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

10

11 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chairman?

12

13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Brower?

14

15 MR. H. BROWER: I'd like to ask a question on whether
16 we voted no on this, what -- if we voted no on these criteria
17 on determining the customary and traditional uses, what
18 consequences are there in saying -- voting no, and if we do
19 vote yes, what is -- what are the pros and cons on that? I
20 mean, either from Helen or.....

21

22 MS. MEEHAN: If you vote -- the way I understand it, if
23 you vote no, then we'll just continue, and if that
24 recommendation is carried all the way through, then we'll
25 continue to do c&t the way we have done them. Helen will write
26 reports to answer -- to try and come up with information for
27 each of those factors, present it to you. The Council make a
28 recommendation, and that recommendation goes to the Board, and
29 that's what the Board acts on.

30

31 If you vote, yes, should we change the way we do c&t,
32 that means you don't want to do -- have eight factors involved
33 any more, and we need to come up with a different way to do it.
34 Either a different sorting of factors, or strictly a council
35 recommendation as Mr. Upicksoun was suggesting. One of the
36 other -- or some other approach that you, the council, come up
37 with. And this -- you know, we'll take this back as a
38 recommendation, and that working group is going to be looking
39 at the recommendations from all of the councils on it. But
40 they're very interested in your recommendations, and the
41 reasons for them.

42

43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-hum.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Brower and then Mr. Upicksoun.

46

47 MR. H. BROWER: So if we voted no on this, are we still
48 able to use the council's recommendation option?

49

50 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: If you want to vote -- if you want

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1 to do the council recommendations, you need to say, yes, we
2 want to change the way we do c&t, we want to make a council --
3 have it be council recommendation. Okay. We could simplify it
4 by just having a motion saying, I move that we change the way
5 we do c&t, and we have council option. We were just kind of
6 breaking it out a little bit here.

7
8 MR. H. BROWER: Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Upicksoun and then Mr. Brower.

11
12 MR. UPICKSOUN: I'm glad Mr. Hopson made a motion to
13 not to change so we can put this to a vote. It's hard trying
14 to come up with a c&t determination trying to fill those eight
15 factors. If you make a proposal for hunting caribou or in a
16 case like hunting sheep at Cape Lisburne area where we've
17 started, and you try to fill all these factors, it's
18 complicated. I'm glad he's made a recommendation that we not
19 change, because we can choose to change it. And I don't know
20 where that saying came up, you know, keep it simple, stupid.
21 And so I vote, yes, we change and go to the council
22 recommendation route. I vote that, yes, we change. But he did
23 put it in the form of a motion, and we can either say, no, we
24 won't -- we don't recommend a change, or, yes, we recommend a
25 change, and then after we say, yes, we recommend the method,
26 then we can choose an option, recommend an option.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Do we understand the motion
29 here? The motion by Ben was that we should not go with a -- so
30 if you vote, yes, we should not, that means we're not going to
31 change it.

32
33 MR. UPICKSOUN: Say that again?

34
35 (Indiscernible -- simultaneous speech)

36
37 MR. PATKOTAK: Exactly. I understand. I appreciate
38 it. I'm glad that he brought it to a motion, now we have to
39 vote on it.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, his motion is.....

42
43 MR. PATKOTAK: Yeah.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:that we leave it alone. I
46 mean, we leave it the way it is, to simplify it.

47
48 MR. PATKOTAK: Right. But then it's brought to a vote,
49 right?

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes.

2
3 MR. PATKOTAK: Okay. Great.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: And if we say no, then we say, yes,
6 we want to change it. Is that understood.....

7
8 MR. PATKOTAK: Yes.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:by the councilmen?

11
12 MR. H. BROWER: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

13
14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Brower, and then Harry.

15
16 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I know it sounds complicated.
17 Some areas it's -- I would feel it would get complicated to do
18 c&ts, and that I think should be some change to include that
19 the council members be able to make some determination to be
20 able to cut in, especially when trading occurs. That's
21 customary and traditional use when you're trading with somebody
22 else in an area on the North Slope. I think to me that's
23 within its customary and traditional determination when you're
24 trading especially.

25
26 And the other one, I know it's already -- he's already
27 on it here, but for the -- Paul, was where hunting was not
28 allowed in the Park Service. I think it's for scenic view, for
29 something like that purposes, and I think there's natural
30 predators, and I think Eskimos were natural predators, and they
31 should allow hunting in there. They could make changes only in
32 the state that it was, maybe with dog team or something, like
33 they do in some other different countries, that you'd be able
34 to just there without Ski-do's or things like that. Go in
35 there with a dog team and look like part of what it was 1,000
36 years ago.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Brower? Harry, did you have
39 something?

40
41 MR. H. BROWER: Yes. I wanted to bring out this issue
42 on opportunistic hunting. And with this type of criteria when
43 making determination on these customary and traditional uses,
44 many people here on the North Slope have been known to be
45 opportunistic hunters, and travelling to areas where they go
46 out like to the Brooks Range, harvest sheep, and bring them
47 back home and share them with community members and that type
48 of hunt, opportunistic hunting was allowed. Quite a few years
49 back, before my time, they charged over to wherever the
50 resources were. They weren't sitting in Barrow expecting to go

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1 to the store and buy food for themselves. They had to go out
2 and hunt. And regulations were all in -- were not in place,
3 and they didn't have to address these issues like what we're
4 dealing with right now, customary and traditional uses. They
5 went out and harvested resources where they were located and
6 found to hunt. And so I'm kind of in a mixed mood here.

7
8 I like this issue about having this council
9 recommendation option, even though we -- like what Gordon's
10 saying, it's hard to fill in the language in some of this
11 criteria that's used when it is customary in use -- customary
12 and used determinations. This eight factors are very hard to
13 fill in, especially when people from your community have not
14 used the resource for a long time and are now capable to get
15 back to using the resource, now we have to go and fill this
16 informational stuff out on customary and traditional use. So
17 I'm getting a mixed feeling here, and.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Brower. I
20 think -- let me just summarize what the Council members have
21 said so far. Ben, you mentioned something about the resident
22 zone, that you do on want to lose, or keep it intact?

23
24 MR. B. HOPSON: Right. Uh-hum.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: So with the eight factors that it --
27 because of the eight factors, they do not want to see any
28 change in their -- the factors, but with the -- let me see if I
29 can -- if I'm wrong, please correct me, the council
30 recommendation option, we can work on any of the eight or make
31 it five and maybe include your resident zone where it will give
32 our council to make it fit for your.....

33
34 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:for your Park Service.

37
38 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: That's the way I would understand
41 they're trying to work it out to make it all inclusive or make
42 it -- change it around. I'm hearing that eight factors are too
43 restrictive, too cumbersome. We can fix it to include your
44 resident zone for your comfort, and devise -- work on at a
45 later date after analysis is done by the staff.

46
47 So is the Council ready to vote?

48
49 MR. C. HOPSON: Harry?

50

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1 MR. PATKOTAK: I have one more question.

2
3 MR. C. HOPSON: Harry, ask for a roll call vote.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Patkotak?

6
7 MR. PATKOTAK: I had one more question. If we voted
8 no, the broad interpretation for these eight factors, my
9 understanding would be that we still have council
10 recommendation even with these eight factors.

11
12 MS. MEEHAN: That's correct.

13
14 MR. PATKOTAK: So that's why I really appreciate what
15 Ben brought up. There are broad -- you can interpret these
16 eight factors in form that you like for -- without -- but my
17 understanding is that with customary and traditional
18 determinations, it can be interpreted by the region's council.
19 That's your understanding?

20
21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, you're correct. The problem
22 that we have, though, is that, and this is what we got into
23 with the sheep, is that we didn't follow the eight factors. We
24 did something different. We had no information on some
25 communities and we still gave them c&t for sheep. And the
26 thing that has been brought to us by -- to -- for our attention
27 by the solicitor is that there -- he says that we continually
28 get hammered by the State for not following this process, and
29 there's a concern that if we continue to do it that way, that
30 we will be sued and we'll lose, because we haven't followed our
31 process that's in the book. So it -- I mean, perhaps we could
32 -- we would still go by regional council recommendation, we
33 always do that, but, you know, there is a concern I think that
34 at some point we wouldn't be able to be as flexible as we have
35 been.

36
37 MR. PATKOTAK: One more comment. I think I did agree
38 with Charlie Hopson. I think maybe it should be a ballot vote.
39 I appreciate the interpretation, the interpretations are very
40 broad, we determine eight factors. That's the way I understand
41 it, and she just explained it. I think maybe it should -- we
42 could maintain both at the current time. And although there
43 are some ambiguities in how this is interpreted (ph)
44 regionwide, I think maybe we should maintain that flexibility
45 with eight factors.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Mr. Upicksoun?

48
49 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, you were reading the
50 council recommendation option. Under this option the regional

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1 council would recommend c&t determination based on local
2 traditional knowledge from council members. They wouldn't have
3 to go satisfy the board on these eight factors. We use local
4 traditional knowledge from council members. It would make it
5 simpler for elders who request c&t determination for a species,
6 even though -- 'cause imagine an elder trying to fill the --
7 satisfy these eight factors when he can't even read. But he
8 can request a c&t determination by -- because of local
9 traditional knowledge. He wouldn't have to speak or read
10 Eskimo and that. The council will develop criteria or factors
11 for the recommendation on c&t determinations. A council would
12 give its recommendation to the Board for a final decision. The
13 bottom line is keep it simple. So I would recommend that we
14 change the method.

15
16 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chairman?

17
18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: What's the.....

19
20 MR. H. BROWER: I also agree with Mr. Upicksoun's
21 statement.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Uh-hum. Mr. Patkotak.....

24
25 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman?

26
27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:and then Mr. Brower.

28
29 MR. PATKOTAK: We've got to remember there is a motion
30 on the floor to bring this to a vote.

31
32 MR. UPICKSOUN: We're discussing under questions now.

33
34 MR. PATKOTAK: Okay. I think this should be brought to
35 a ballot vote, because there's so many mixed feelings about the
36 different council member.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Brower?

39
40 MR. C. BROWER: I agree, what Mr. Upicksoun stated,
41 that traditional knowledge should have a factor, but, you know,
42 I worked on this issue for some of my 11, 12 years at Gates of
43 the Arctic as a customary traditional use. But those guys in
44 Washington, D.C. don't understand nothing. It may look simple,
45 but they have all these definitions they have to go by, and if
46 they relate back to us, -- take a sample, this management
47 regime that we have for Gates of the Arctic. We've been at it
48 for all these years, make these recommendations, the easiest,
49 simple way, but then when you send them back for clarification,
50 they come back and attack you underneath trying to get more

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1 clarification. It doesn't work. Believe me. Don't take their
2 word for it. I mean, we've been on this so long, it's unreal.
3 We don't have a management regime in the Gates of the Arctic.
4 They haven't even thought of it. Every year we try to put it
5 in. They don't even think about it. And it's hard trying to
6 work with these guys. So make your choice wisely.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Mr. Brower. Mr. Hopson?

9

10 MR. B. HOPSON: Yeah, you know, I -- you know, recently
11 last year we did a c&t determination for the North Slope
12 villages to have sheep c&t. I thought we were filling, you
13 know, like the eight determinations listed to make the villages
14 eligible. But then, you know, we're more flexible, you know,
15 if we make this c&t determination list more lenient.

16

17 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman?

18

19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Just a minute. Mr. Patkotak?

20

21 MR. PATKOTAK: My understanding with Mr. Hopson is that
22 -- Ben Hopson, is that, and from the interpretation of -- that
23 we don't -- the flexibility is that we can use one factor or
24 three factors or eight factors, and we don't have to comply by
25 all these factors to make a decision, and that's my
26 understanding, you know.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: No, we have to do an eight factor.
29 We have to do all eight.

30

31 MR. PATKOTAK: Yeah. Correct that understanding and
32 clearly define it, please?

33

34 MS. MEEHAN: The factors as they're written in the
35 regulation are listed as factors, and so they're used as a way
36 to organize information, but they're not criteria. So you
37 don't have to check off each one of them. It's just used as we
38 have information on this and this and this. The Board does not
39 have to check them off.

40

41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: However, it became a problem when we
42 didn't fulfill any of them.

43

44 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Hopson and then Mr. Goodwin.

47

48 MR. B. HOPSON: I would consider removing my motion if
49 the seconder would remove their second.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. You've heard Mr. Hopson's
2 request.

3
4 MR. B. HOPSON: So in other words, by removing my
5 motion, we'd have more options of choosing which eight we apply
6 to do a c&t. Let's say we use a village, if they wanted a c&t
7 determination for some sort of animal, we won't apply all
8 eight, but instead maybe we apply four or five of these.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: That's the way I understand it,
11 Mr. Hopson. The options are open.

12
13 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: If we worked on with the staff to
16 come up with the criteria and factors that fit best to our
17 needs.....

18
19 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:if we chose the council
22 recommendation option.

23
24 MR. PATKOTAK: Yeah, that's become clearer, and for
25 those reasons, I withdraw my second and.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

28
29 MR. B. HOPSON: Okay. So I withdraw my motion.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. With the concurrence of the
32 seconder, the motion is withdrawn. Mr. Goodwin, did you
33 have.....

34
35 MR. GOODWIN: Yes. I heard some concerns about
36 intermarriage between regions, and I agree. So our region is
37 trying to stay away from making a determina- -- c&t
38 determinations to keep that flexible so that your people can
39 come down and hunt in our area. And we are only going to use
40 it when the animal population is low. That's when it's
41 critical. The Park Service has to narrow down the harvest.
42 And I think that's the only way it should be. I mean, that's
43 my personal feeling is that c&t should be used only when the
44 animal numbers are low, because as long as you don't have a
45 c&t, your people can come down to the Noatak area and hunt, you
46 know, the different species that don't have c&t. That's my
47 opinion. And that's what we're going to use at home.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Goodwin.
50 Mr. Brower and then we'll go -- we'll reconsider the motion

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1 perhaps with the motion being withdrawn, just make it simple.
2 The Chairman will entertain a motion should we change the way
3 we do c&t now?

4
5 MR. UPICKSOUN: I'm getting hungry, Mr. Chairman. I
6 make a motion that we change the.....

7
8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Way we do c&t?

9
10 MR. UPICKSOUN: How we do c&t.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

13
14 MR. UPICKSOUN: I'll make -- put that in the form of a
15 motion.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. A motion before us made by
18 Mr. Upicksoun to change.....

19
20 MR. H. BROWER: I'll second.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:c&t. Seconded by Harry.
23 Discussion?

24
25 MR. G. BROWER: Question.

26
27 MR. UPICKSOUN: Call for the question.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: The question is called. All in
30 favor of the motion to change the way we do c&t, say aye?

31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Those opposed, same sign?

35
36 (No opposing votes.)

37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. We've heard several
39 discussions, and the one that's been picked out is -- or talked
40 about was the council recommendation option. Do we -- should
41 we go this approach? What I'm getting at, around the table
42 here.

43
44 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

45
46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Upicksoun?

47
48 MR. UPICKSOUN: The Board will be receiving the
49 information from the ten regional -- recommendations from the
50 ten regional councils.

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes.

2

3 MR. UPICKSOUN: And if we were to recommend a council
4 recommendation option, which is very simple, hopefully there
5 will be other regional councils that come up with the same
6 recommendation and we may be in the majority and hopefully the
7 Federal Subsistence Board will adopt -- listen to our work --
8 the route we would like to go, the.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

11

12 MR. UPICKSOUN:council recommendation route.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Understood, Mr. Upicksoun.
15 Was that a unanimous request? Or do you want to put that into
16 a motion?

17

18 MR. UPICKSOUN: We just chose to change the method
19 and.....

20

21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: You need to.....

22

23 MR. UPICKSOUN:I will put it in the form of.....

24

25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:you need to recommend what the
26 method is.

27

28 MR. UPICKSOUN: We need to recommend that we change the
29 way, and we did. And under the options, Mr. Chairman, I move
30 that the Council recommend the council recommendation option.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

33

34 MR. UPICKSOUN: I'll put that in the form of a motion.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Motion by Gordon Upicksoun.

37

38 MR. H. BROWER: Second the motion, Mr. Chairman.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Seconded by Harry Brower.

41 Discussion?

42

43 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, one.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Brower?

46

47 MR. G. BROWER: I just wanted to point out I don't
48 think it's going to be lenient if you do that. It's just going
49 to make it simple. I don't think there can be a lenient
50 determination if you are using traditional knowledge and things

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1 like that. I don't think it's lenient at all. It's just
2 simple.
3
4 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, correct. That's right,
5 Mr. Brower. Further discussion on the motion?
6
7 MR. H. BROWER: Call for the question.
8
9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Question is called. All in favor of
10 going the council recommendation option route, say aye?
11
12 IN UNISON: Aye.
13
14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Those opposed, same sign?
15
16 (No opposing votes.)
17
18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: There.
19
20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you.
21
22 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, can we break for lunch?
23
24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. What time do you want to get
25 back?
26
27 MR. H. BROWER: One.
28
29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: 1:00 o'clock?
30
31 MR. UPICKSOUN: Ee-ee, 1:00 o'clock.
32
33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: 1:00 o'clock.
34
35 MR. UPICKSOUN: We've got a long agenda yet.
36
37 (Off record)
38
39 (On record)
40
41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Good afternoon, ladies and
42 gentlemen. If we can find our way back to our chairs, we can
43 get our meeting started. I think we may get done early today,
44 depending on the debate and questions. We have about three or
45 four items left over under the first item with the U. S. Fish
46 and Wildlife Service, Subsistence Management Office. I think
47 we have pretty much all of the information in our booklets.
48
49 MS. MEEHAN: Yes.
50

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Just to expedite a couple of the
2 discussions, or brief summaries, Rosa, maybe you can just
3 quickly summarize the rest of the -- we have this Federal Board
4 restructure, consent agenda, and the stipend. Okay.

5
6 MS. MEEHAN: On that first one, the Federal Subsistence
7 Board restructure, there is a page in your book that follows
8 the c&t. All it says is that as part of looking at the
9 potential expansion into fisheries, the structure of the Board
10 will be looked at again. So it's an on-going issue, but it's
11 kind of on the back burner, if you will, until we figure out
12 what happens with fisheries. So that's it on that one.

13
14 The next one was the consent agenda, and that follows
15 the Board restructure. It's in your book. Last year we tried
16 a new process for the Board meeting where your Chairman was
17 present. And for proposals where the regional council made a
18 recommendation that was the same as the Staff Committee
19 recommendation, the Board took it on a consent agenda. They
20 just lined up all those proposals and basically adopted them.
21 And so it just made the meeting go faster. Strictly a
22 management tech- -- meeting management technique, and it felt
23 like it worked really well. And so I think the Board will
24 continue with that process.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah. When all parties are in
27 agreement.

28
29 MS. MEEHAN: Yes, when everybody agrees.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: The State of Alaska, Staff
32 Committee,.....

33
34 MS. MEEHAN: Oh, that's right, the State was in there,
35 too, yeah. Thank you, Fenton. I left them out. So it was
36 very useful.

37
38 The -- any questions on that? Okay.

39
40 On stipends for council members, we don't have anything
41 in the book with that. That's an issue that remains with the
42 council chairs. The next step is with the council chairs, and
43 so it's up to that group to deal with.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Yeah, just a brief background
46 on the stipends. At this time we're pretty much voluntary
47 council members. This issue has been brought back and forth
48 over the last couple of years, for three years or so. We spend
49 a lot of time away from our jobs, and all we get is lodging
50 pretty much, and a little bit for food and lodging when we get

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1 away from the villages or up to the main hub. So the regional
2 worked with the Staff to try to get some information on that,
3 so that maybe we can get paid, like an honorarium or something
4 like that, so it's still be researched. And also it will set a
5 precedent since there's many, many other FACA councils, not
6 only with our program, but other.....

7
8 MS. MEEHAN: Yes.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:programs throughout the United
11 States. Any questions on that one? If not, proceed, Rosa.

12
13 MS. MEEHAN: The RFR on the State's reply, we did talk
14 about that under the annual report, and that was the sheep c&t
15 where there was more information provided by the Council last
16 year. The Board stuck with its original recommendation, and
17 that settled the issue, so we had talked about that yesterday.

18
19 On the fisheries,.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, just real quickly, the request
22 for recon- -- RFR are for proposals that have already gone
23 through the Board, were passed through the Board before they
24 become regulations. Any party is able to request for
25 reconsideration. That's what that RFR is.

26
27 MS. MEEHAN: Yes. And the -- actually what's in your
28 book, we do have a policy, and this piece of paper follows the
29 -- well, it's just -- it was the next page, follows the consent
30 agenda, and the Board adopted a special action and request for
31 reconsideration policy which is in your book. And basically
32 what it does is it lines out -- there's circumstances under
33 which the Board will accept a request for reconsideration. In
34 other words, it's a challenge of a Board decision. And the
35 circumstances under which the Board will accept a special
36 action. So it's a request to do -- to look at a regulatory
37 matter outside of the regular cycle, instead -- you know, so
38 don't take it through this proposal process, but to do it in
39 the summer.

40
41 And I just want to let you know that we -- for the
42 first time, a month ago, the Board did deny a special action
43 request. It was to close a moose season, close federal public
44 lands to non-federally qualified users down on the Alaska
45 Peninsula. And the Board did not take that as a special
46 action, because there was no new biological information, that
47 the moose population has stayed about the same, that
48 subsistence opportunities have stayed about the same, and that
49 was an action that the Regional Council had specifically
50 deferred the previous cycle so that there would be -- and then

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1 organized a meeting to discuss the issue that's going to happen
2 this September. And so basically the Board said this is a
3 situation that it's not appropriate to look at until we've had
4 the meeting, and then it should go through the regular process.
5 So that can happen. So any questions?

6
7 Ready to do fisheries? Okay. Fisheries is -- you have
8 a green -- some green paper in front of you, and this --
9 there's a letter, the top letter that Tom Boyd signed, and
10 basically the message on that is that December 1st is
11 approaching really rapidly, and to get the proposed -- to get a
12 final rule into the Federal Register by the December 1st
13 deadline, the process to submit it has to move ahead without a
14 real open opportunity to discuss it one final time with the
15 regional councils, so what we'll do is I'll just quickly go
16 through where we're at with the process, and we're not
17 necessarily looking for input at this point, but if you've got
18 comments to make, we'll try and incorporate it into the
19 process. But basically we just have to move along to get this
20 rule going by December 1st.

21
22 MR. UPICKSOUN: We're going to need copies of that now,
23 Rosa.

24
25 MS. MEEHAN: So just to quickly catch everyone up with
26 how we got where we are right now, there's a whole series of
27 events. Now, I'm starting -- there's an outline on your green
28 pages, just starts the next thing, and what I'll try and do is
29 just hit the highlights of it. You do have the outline that
30 you can take home and study at your leisure. But basically we
31 have a series of events that led up to where we're at today,
32 which was started by Katy John, who's an Athapaskan, who filed
33 a lawsuit which was ultimately decided in her favor, that
34 waters and therefore fish should be included in the Federal
35 Subsistence Program. And so we've had - that happened back in
36 1995. Well, in the meantime we've had a series of
37 Congressional moratorium that have prevented the program from
38 expanding into fisheries.

39
40 Well, the Governor this past year put together the task
41 force to look at the subsistence issue and try and develop a
42 way for the State to come back into compliance with federal
43 law, so that the State could resume management. And as I'm
44 sure you're all aware, that effort seems to be stalemated at
45 this point in time, because of the state legislative actions.

46
47 So basically, while the State was trying to sort their
48 issues out, we, the federal program, went ahead and published a
49 proposed rule. We went around and held public hearings. We've
50 discussed it at all the council meetings. You know, we just

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1 got, you know, last year here in Barrow during the spring, and
2 basically where we're at now is the goal of the federal program
3 is to have the expanded program in place by the first of the
4 year, 1999.

5
6 And just to briefly cover what's in the proposed rule,
7 it lines out what the jurisdiction of the program is, and for
8 the North Slope, it's basically the waters in NPRA, and the
9 waters in -- on Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, as well as up
10 in the parks. So it's, you know, the waters that are on
11 federal public lands.

12
13 Another important part of the proposed rule is it does
14 have a provision to -- that basically acknowledges that
15 customary trade exists, and defines it as a limited exchange of
16 subsistence fish to support personal or family needs, not a
17 significant commercial enterprise. It's -- the intent of the
18 regulation is just to recognize what goes on now and make it
19 legal. So that provision is in there.

20
21 We've had an awful lot of comments on the proposed
22 rule. The State's -- frankly the State's comments on the
23 proposed rule are longer than the proposed rule, so a lot of
24 feedback on it. There are several major issues, one of which
25 was that we should do an environmental impact statement, that
26 there was questions of the legal authority, and that customary
27 trade -- there's questions about actually being able to
28 implement the customary trade definition as we have it in the
29 regulation.

30
31 What you all as a council commented on was, first of
32 all, there was a request for comanagement, and a very strong
33 statement that these are our resources, we need to be directly
34 involved in their management. There was a request that the
35 Federal Subsistence Board should meet out in regional centers
36 the way the Board of Game does. And also that there should be
37 no rules or regulations apply to fish within the -- that there
38 shouldn't be any rules.

39
40 With respect to that last point, the current proposed
41 regulations identify that all fish are available for
42 subsistence use by all residents of the North Slope, except for
43 those domiciled in subunit 26(B). And the reason for that is
44 that's the oil field, and the intent of that is to acknowledge
45 that there's people who live in the oil field that are not
46 subsistence users. So that's the way that's -- so basically
47 the way the proposed rule goes in, it is wide open for fishing
48 all species of fish.

49
50 The changes that have happened to the rule as it was --

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1 as you all had an opportunity to review it is -- one is an
2 administrative thing, that the Department of Agriculture
3 identified their waters differently than the Department of
4 Interior. That just affects Forest Service lands down south.

5
6 The other significant point is to -- is the rule is
7 looking at changing the existing fish c&t determinations to
8 include the latest determinations by the State. That doesn't
9 affect this region very much, but it makes a big difference to
10 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta which went from a few identified salmon
11 species to all fish. So that's a significant change for some
12 other regions.

13
14 The one issue that is significant, and I certainly am
15 very interested in your observations on this, or input, is that
16 there's a dispute going on about the customary trade provision.
17 The way it was proposed, again, was that customary trade would
18 be permitted as long as it was not a significant commercial
19 enterprise. Okay. So acknowledge that it happens, and make it
20 legal. Well, that particular part received more comment than
21 any other part of the proposed rule, and the -- so right now
22 it's going to go back to the Board with a different option.
23 It's either going to be the way it's written right now, or an
24 option would be written that customary trade will be permitted
25 by the Board only on a case-by-case basis. In other words, if
26 you wanted to trade whitefish with one of your neighbors, you
27 would have to take -- put it together as a proposal. You all
28 would have to review that, make a recommendation. That
29 recommendation would have to go to the Board, and then the
30 Board would have to make a decision on it. Okay. So it's on
31 an any individual -- any particular of customary trade would
32 have to be identified, acknowledged, and then agreed to by the
33 Board. Okay. So that's a very different approach than what's
34 in the rule right now, but that approach is being considered
35 because of the amount of comments that were received on that
36 particular provision.

37
38 MR. H. BROWER: Rosa?

39
40 MS. MEEHAN: Yes, Harry?

41
42 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chairman? Would that be included
43 under all the federal management or would it be region
44 specific?

45
46 MS. MEEHAN: That's all federal management.

47
48 MR. H. BROWER: All federal management?

49
50 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah. Frankly what it does is it makes a

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1 bureaucratic nightmare, because it would make a lot of -- it
2 would take a general approach to dealing with subsistence
3 resources,.....

4
5 MR. H. BROWER: Uh-hum.

6
7 MS. MEEHAN:and try to break it down into
8 individual actions and make a decision on each individual
9 action.

10
11 MR. H. BROWER: Just for clarification, if we were to
12 remain status quo as to how things are happening now, what
13 concept would that put us into, into this -- what you were just
14 talking about, this.....

15
16 MS. MEEHAN: It's that -- there's that line that says
17 next steps, and right above it there's a diamond that says
18 retain language from proposed rule for customary trade?

19
20 MR. H. BROWER: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

21
22 MS. MEEHAN: Okay. It's that -- that's what we want --
23 that's the way it is right now, and that's a concept that I
24 believe this Council supported before, because it acknowledges
25 existing practices.

26
27 MR. H. BROWER: Uh-hum.

28
29 MS. MEEHAN: Okay. What's being considered is this
30 other approach which would require individual decisions if you
31 will.

32
33 MR. H. BROWER: Uh-hum. So we just.....

34
35 (Whispered conversation)

36
37 MS. MEEHAN: The reason the other approach is being
38 considered is that there is a significant concern that
39 customary trade may provide more of an economic opportunity and
40 therefore become a market opportunity rather than simply
41 customary trade. And some of that is -- concern stems from an
42 issue that had to do with salmon roe down on the Yukon-
43 Kuskokwim Delta. And when that was opened up for customary
44 trade by the State about 20 years ago, all of a sudden the
45 salmon harvest skyrocketed and fish were taken strictly for
46 their roe and the rest of the fish wasted. And that obviously
47 caused a serious resource concern, and so that's the reason why
48 there's a question about just acknowledging customary trade.

49
50 MR. H. BROWER: Thank you.

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1 MR. G. BROWER: (In Inupiat)

2
3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon?

4
5 MR. G. BROWER: This would be affecting NPRA lands?

6
7 MS. MEEHAN: Yes.

8
9 MR. G. BROWER: And if I'm a fisherman and I'm out
10 there to catch my fall fish with roe, and that's what I mainly
11 go after in the winter -- in the fall, just before wintertime,
12 and I -- when you stock up on fish, when you're that type of a
13 fisherman that get a whole bunch, what is customary trade turn
14 into? Well, how do you define that when you have to bring it
15 back to town, your fish, and you have to haul it with snow
16 machines, wait until it freezes up, and bring it back, and when
17 people want fish in town, we do sell it to them.

18
19 MS. MEEHAN: Uh-hum.

20
21 MR. G. BROWER: And it just pays for the gas and that
22 kind of thing to bring it to Barrow. It's -- is that
23 considered a customary trade?

24
25 MS. MEEHAN: It is. And the way that it's -- the more
26 detailed way it's described in the regulation is that the sale
27 is to somebody who is then going to use the fish themselves.

28
29 MR. G. BROWER: Uh-hum.

30
31 MS. MEEHAN: That what would not qualify is fish sold
32 to a commercial processor or to someone who is then going to
33 sell it to someone else.

34
35 MR. G. BROWER: Okay.

36
37 MS. MEEHAN: Okay.

38
39 MR. G. BROWER: I just wanted clarification on that.

40
41 MS. MEEHAN: Certainly.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Gordon.

44
45 MS. DEWHURST: Another example of where it's been a hot
46 issue is Bristol Bay, with the salmon fishery down there. And
47 the concern, as many of you know, the commercial session tends
48 to have set openings where it's open for a short period, and go
49 out and set your nets, and then it's closed. Well, you could
50 have it be closed, and somebody could take their boat out

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1 within federal waters and be setting for fish in a river and it
2 would be subsistence, and then they could turn around and sell
3 those fish, even though there's no opening, you know, the
4 commercial season is closed. And that's been a real issue in
5 Bristol Bay, that, you know, well, how do you define somebody
6 that could be out there, you know, fishing during closure, and
7 they're technically doing it for subsistence, but yet they're
8 turning around and selling the fish. And that was a hot issue.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Just a minute, Gordon. Helen?

11
12 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I had a question for Rosa. When --
13 if the option of having to do -- decide customary trade was
14 case-by-case, would that mean for each species or could a
15 regional council say, we would like to allow customary trade in
16 our region for all species in all cases? Could it be broad
17 sweeping like that?

18
19 MS. MEEHAN: I don't think so.

20
21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It would have to be for.....

22
23 MS. MEEHAN: Yes. Uh-hum.

24
25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:each species of fish?

26
27 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah, that's my understanding of the way
28 it's been -- the way it has been discussed.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon?

31
32 MR. UPICKSOUN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Rosa, maybe you
33 could touch on this -- where -- explain more about the
34 alternative language, that customary trade will be permitted by
35 Board -- by the Board only on the case-by-case basis. Could
36 you touch some more on that? That sounds like it would be very
37 cumbersome.

38
39 MS. MEEHAN: First of all, I agree it would be very
40 cumbersome, and that recommendation is being made with eyes
41 open, that this would result in a lot more work by you as
42 councils, as well as by the Board. What it means to -- and to
43 use Mr. Brower's example, I assume you're catching whitefish?

44
45 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Yeah.

46
47 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah. What it would mean is that
48 Mr. Brower would have to submit a proposal to permit sale of
49 whitefish caught in the fall during the winter in Barrow, and
50 that you as a council would have to look at that action and

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1 come to a recommendation on whether, well, is this something
2 that Mr. Brower has done all his life, and did his father do
3 it, or whatever. Is this a customary practice? Make a
4 recommendation and then that would have to go to the Board.

5

6 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Would it have to be person-by-
7 person?

8

9 MS. MEEHAN: It's not -- yeah. Yeah, let me emphasize,
10 it would not be person-by-person, but it would be the idea of
11 selling whitefish, fall caught whitefish in the winter.

12

13 MR. UPICKSOUN: Oh, it wouldn't be just for him and
14 then Terry would have to make the same request and I might. It
15 wouldn't be like that, it would be a broad case-by-case, like
16 we'd make a determination for whitefish, and it applies to
17 anybody that comes subsistence whitefishing?

18

19 MS. MEEHAN: Right.

20

21 MR. UPICKSOUN: It would be customary trade that would
22 apply to everybody?

23

24 MS. MEEHAN: That's my understanding,.....

25

26 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay.

27

28 MS. MEEHAN:is it would be.....

29

30 MR. UPICKSOUN: It wouldn't be that bad.

31

32 MS. MEEHAN:you know, -- possibly not.

33

34 MR. UPICKSOUN: Uh-hum. Like if Gordon would ask for a
35 proposal like that, then any other person that, say, kuglatokla
36 (ph) like me would be covered. That wouldn't be bad.

37

38 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chairman?

39

40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Brower?

41

42 MR. H. BROWER: I'm getting really confused here.
43 Gordon is saying if one person submitted a proposal for
44 customary trade, that it would entail everybody else within the
45 community to do -- where -- the few other fishermen that do the
46 same.

47

48 MR. UPICKSOUN: That's why I.....

49

50 MR. H. BROWER: And saying.....

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1 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah.

2

3 MR. H. BROWER:the sales of subsistence harvest
4 fish could be sold by another person that harvested the
5 resource.

6

7 MS. MEEHAN: Yes, it would cover, and to use this
8 example, this is catching whitefish in the fall,.....

9

10 MR. H. BROWER: Uh-hum.

11

12 MS. MEEHAN:and selling them in the winter.
13 Okay. It would cover everybody who catches whitefish in the
14 fall and sells them in the winter.

15

16 MR. H. BROWER: Uh-hum. What about catch a fish in the
17 summertime and making dried fish and selling them? Would that
18 also be covered in that same proposal, or do they need to
19 submit another proposal that deals with fish that are harvested
20 in the summer to be sub- -- they're subsistence harvested, but
21 they're dried and sold for customary trade. Would that need
22 another proposal to cover the same fish that are harvested in
23 the summertime? Early summer? Because that's why I was kind
24 of leading the question a little bit. With the state status
25 quo, I don't think we'd have to go through all this process.
26 But through this concept, I think we'd have to address each
27 time of the harvest, each season of the harvest would have to
28 be addressed through a proposal in the sales of the resource.

29

30 MS. MEEHAN: To be honest, I don't think -- this hasn't
31 been thought through as to how it would actually apply. My
32 understanding of it is that any sort of class or general
33 practice would have to be looked at individually, and so
34 particularly for different species, I think that's an easy way
35 to separate, that if it was different species, that would take
36 different actions. I don't know about whitefish, you know.

37

38 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

39

40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Gordon Upicksoun?

41

42 MR. UPICKSOUN: Because of the time constraints where
43 is the Board going to get input in making decisions on issues
44 like this, because of the time constraints we have before us
45 now? Where is the Board going to get input before they decide
46 on stuff like this? Because they don't have time to act.
47 Where are they going to get their input on issues that concern
48 the regional councils?

49

50 MS. MEEHAN: For most of the changes that are being

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1 made, they're cosmetic, if you will. They're not -- they don't
2 have significant implications. This specific one, the Board
3 has to sit down and make a decision on. And that's why we're
4 going ahead and asking you now anyway, even though if you put
5 out a timeline the way the Government likes to put out a
6 timeline on the way they make decisions, it doesn't show any
7 opportunity for more input, we recognize that this is an issue
8 that we really need to hear from you on. And.....

9
10 MR. UPICKSOUN: And there will be a lot of complex
11 issues come up.....

12
13 MS. MEEHAN: Yes.

14
15 MR. UPICKSOUN:December 1st, and I think it's
16 going to be a big mess for a while.

17
18 MS. MEEHAN: I agree. And frankly, the way that the
19 Board I believe, certainly the way our office is looking at it,
20 is that the first year is going to be very similar to the first
21 year of the wildlife program. We're all going to be muddling
22 our way through, and there will be an opportunity to fine-tune
23 things as we go along. But we're stuck with the deadlines that
24 have been imposed by the Congressional moratorium, and by court
25 actions. So we legally have to do something by December 1st.
26 That's.....

27
28 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay. Have they thought through what
29 specific responsibilities of the regional council after
30 December 1st?

31
32 MS. MEEHAN: Yes. Basically the idea is that, and
33 that's part of the next steps, the rules going to go to
34 Washington and do the things that need to happen to stuff to
35 become legal. And then the program will be implemented by the
36 first of next year. That means we'll start with the proposed
37 rule, it will be a final rule, it's basically the existing
38 State regulations, they've just got a federal cover on them.
39 Next year in the spring sometime will be an opportunity for you
40 as a council and all the other councils to look at the fish
41 regulations, the same way we looked at wildlife regulations in
42 this meeting, make suggested changes. Those will be reviewed
43 and analyzed over the summer period, and then in the fall you
44 as a council would have a chance to look at those analyses,
45 make a recommendation, and it would go through to a Board
46 process. So it's split, if you will, from the way we do the
47 wildlife decisions with reviewing proposals in the fall and
48 making decisions in the spring. Well, with fish, you'd review
49 proposals in the spring, and make recommendations in the fall.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Hopson? Ben?

2

3 MR. B. HOPSON: Yeah. I have a question on how
4 specific do the customary trade permit applications need to be,
5 you know, as far as how many pounds of fish and number of fish
6 needed to cover your expenses like, say, Gordon's example, or
7 if I was fishing, too. Would we need to specify?

8

9 MS. MEEHAN: No.

10

11 MR. B. HOPSON: No?

12

13 MS. MEEHAN: What they're -- right now, under either of
14 these situations, that aspect of the total dollar amount is not
15 included. The protection, if you will, is that the fish is
16 sold to someone who will then use it themselves, that it's not
17 sold to a commercial processor or to a grocery store, something
18 like that. So it's avoiding -- the regulations are written
19 carefully to avoid that specific issue.

20

21 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Rosa, thank you for giving us an
24 update on the fisheries. Is there any more to cover?

25

26 MS. MEEHAN: There's one other thing that I just would
27 like to point out so that you have a chance to look at it and
28 think about it. The very last diamond on this, on the -- the
29 last thing on the bottom page has develop a cooperative
30 management strategy with the State. And I just wanted to alert
31 you that with fishery, even more so than with wildlife, we will
32 need to cooperate with the State very closely. And, again,
33 that's much more of an issue on the rivers that have big salmon
34 runs, but there are -- we're definitely looking for ways to
35 work with the State, perhaps somewhat differently from how we
36 do the wildlife program.

37

38 MR. UPICKSOUN: Plus it will be cheaper.

39

40 MS. MEEHAN: That's part of it as well. So that's just
41 the other thing I wanted to point to, and other than that,.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. You mentioned that from prior
44 deliberations and recommendation on the proposed rule, you
45 heard some comments from our Council last spring, and
46 mentioning.....

47

48 MS. MEEHAN: Uh-hum.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:the Prudhoe Bay area. And

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1 we'll also have the opportunity after you get off the high
2 center and get going on fisheries.....

3
4 MS. MEEHAN: Exactly.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:we'll have an opportunity to
7 make any recommended changes.

8
9 MS. MEEHAN: Absolutely.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Now, on the -- their action that
12 they're doing, or the next steps that they're going to do, will
13 there be any major changes for our area or any.....

14
15 MS. MEEHAN: The only.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:changes to that effect, or will
18 that be as we struggle along? I mean, as we move along, maybe?

19
20 MS. MEEHAN: The only change that I believe affects
21 this Council is the potential change in how customary trade is
22 identified, and that's the one that if you as a council wish to
23 provide some specific guidance on or input on, we certainly
24 will have the transcript of what was said, but if you as a
25 council want to make some specific input, that is a decision
26 that's going in front of the Board, and it is a critical one.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, and we've discussed this a
29 couple of times with our joint meeting, if we can get some
30 assistance from the other council members, that we wanted to
31 have very -- as very little rules and regulations, to the
32 minimum as possible, or no regulation.

33
34 MS. MEEHAN: Yes.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: And that there is not much activity
37 or impact as far as fisheries goes on up here.

38
39 MS. MEEHAN: Uh-hum.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: And the current rules and regs
42 briefly touch on that, or very small on the customary trade,
43 and I think we were able to live with that,.....

44
45 MS. MEEHAN: Uh-hum.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:with the current Sate
48 regulations, or adopted current state regulations, that there's
49 really not that much impact. It just talk about just not con-
50 -- we'll not con- -- we will not include significant commercial

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1 enterprise, and we can further define that as we go on I think
2 from what I'm hearing here, and to continue the federal --
3 North Slope Borough Fish and Game members and this Council.
4 There was one question on the Prudho Bay area, to not allow
5 them to do subsistence fishing over there in the industrial.

6
7 MS. MEEHAN: Yes.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: And keeping it pretty much status
10 quo, or keep using the current regulations for fishing.
11 Fisheries. So we don't -- we're not as bad as the Bristol Bay
12 and those other areas here. We're doing fine so far, so I
13 would -- in my opinion, I don't know what you other council
14 members would feel, but go ahead and let this ride, or let this
15 go.

16
17 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

18
19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Upicksoun?

20
21 MR. UPICKSOUN: We held off giving a blanket okay in
22 adopting the State's policy in regards to fish. We weren't --
23 we didn't know exactly what we were getting into, 'cause we
24 really didn't know what we were getting into, so we held off
25 just flat adopting. There may be some sections of State regs
26 that we don't agree with. We just never looked into the fish
27 regs as a group. We held off on blanket approval of adopting
28 state regs until we can see what.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Uh-hum.

31
32 MR. UPICKSOUN:and I think that's where that
33 stays now.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah. Anyway, I'll just summarize
36 real quickly. Regional Council deliberation and recommendation
37 from the last meeting was that the proposed rule, comments were
38 already (ph) towards a desire not to create more restriction on
39 Inupiak way of life. Some discussion on deferring a vote. The
40 Council would like to see an alternative where there would be
41 no rules and regulations for subsistence. The other one was
42 that the Council was pointed to a certain page on the
43 regulation to see that in the North Slope all fish can be taken
44 except for those domiciled in 26(B). So I don't know how we
45 could get give more direction or more guidance to the Federal
46 Subsistence Board.

47
48 MS. MEEHAN: I think you've said it. The only -- the
49 -- let me make sure I've got the interpretation right, that the
50 request to have no rules or regulations, or minimal rules and

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1 regulations, I would take that as an indication from the
2 Council that the customary trade should remain as it is in the
3 proposed rule that it's written, to basically adopt current
4 practices.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Just leave us alone in other words,
7 or don't put any more restriction or regulation on what we're
8 doing today. I don't know how else to say it. Any other
9 Council comments or questions on the fisheries? Mr. Patkotak.

10
11 MR. PATKOTAK: My question is this determination to
12 leave things the way they are, it stops -- am I understanding
13 it right, you're stopping short of supporting State
14 regulations? Just leave things like they are, but stop short
15 of accepting State stuff.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Well, the current one we're under
18 now or whatever regulation we're in, we're not being bothered
19 by it, whatever it is that's in the books.

20
21 MR. PATKOTAK: Oh, okay. All right.

22
23 MR. H. BROWER: No. We don't want to make any changes
24 to get more regulations placed on us is what we're trying to
25 get at.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: We'll continue our trading and
28 bartering.

29
30 MR. PATKOTAK: I guess I misstated my question. My
31 question is are we still able to help make recommendations to
32 our southern brothers there that are being overridden by
33 special interests and especially those south of the borders
34 Porcupine, Yukon and Kuskokwim?

35
36 MS. MEEHAN: I guess I don't quite understand your
37 question. The Council -- the recommendation that I've heard
38 and understand from the Council is that from your perspective
39 minimize rules and regulations so the proposed rule as it was
40 written has minimal rules and regulations.....

41
42 MR. PATKOTAK: Yeah.

43
44 MS. MEEHAN:not bothered by it. And that on
45 customary trade that the recommendation would be to leave it
46 the way it's written, which would not require any further rules
47 and regulations related to customary trade.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: That's how I understand it right
50 now. Is that agreeable to the Council? Is there any objection

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1 to that statement? Customary trade, could you just read that
2 definition again?

3

4 MS. MEEHAN: That it would remain defined -- customary
5 trade defined as limited exchange of subsistence fish to
6 support personal or family needs, not a significant commercial
7 enterprise.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Does everyone understand
10 that? Any objection?

11

12 (Conversation in Inupiat)

13

14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I hear really no objection to what's
15 been stated as far as defining customary trade, a minimal
16 amount of restriction or regulation is what the Council is
17 saying, so there's no objection to that.

18

19 MS. MEEHAN: Okay.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Unanimous.

22

23 MR. UPICKSOUN: There will be regional differences in
24 interpreting customary trade. There will be regional
25 differences.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: And we'll have the opportunity to
28 work on proposals, making definitions. Okay. Any other thing
29 on the fishery update, Ms. Meehan?

30

31 MS. MEEHAN: That's it on fish.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

34

35 MR. UPICKSOUN: I have one more question.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon?

38

39 MR. UPICKSOUN:for her? Barbara, was there any
40 discussion on our desire to have the Federal Subsistence Board
41 meet at places other than Fairbanks and Anchorage, like say in
42 the regional center of Nome, Kotzebue, Barrow, Bethel, a
43 Subsistence Board meeting in those regional centers instead of
44 the urban centers?

45

46 MS. MEEHAN: There hasn't been discussion of that
47 because the Board has been so overwhelmed with trying to deal
48 with the current business and trying to get the fisheries
49 program going, so I would anticipate that kind of discussion
50 will come up after the fishery thing gets taken care of, if you

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1 will. And it's not that it's being dismissed at all. It's
2 just they simply haven't had a chance to address it.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Is the meeting to be
5 announced?

6

7 MS. MEEHAN: That's just in your book.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. Anything else on
10 fisheries, Rosa? Nothing?

11

12 MS. MEEHAN: Unh-unh.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any other questions for her?

15

16 MR. H. BROWER: I have one question.....

17

18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Brower.

19

20 MR. H. BROWER:kind of looming around in my head
21 about 26(b). Is this close for subsistence due to industrial
22 activity for production of oil or what is this for fisheries?

23

24 MS. MEEHAN: The way that's written is that people who
25 live in 26(b) do not have -- do not have recognized C&T use of
26 fish. So you could go over -- and if there are any Federal
27 lands, there's just a very little bit of Federal lands in 26(b)
28 -- well, there's some stuff up in Gates, but you could go and
29 fish there, but people who live in 26(b) cannot. That's all.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Harry, Gordon, it's basically the
32 folks that are out of the oil industry facilities that are not
33 allowed.

34

35 (Speaking in Inupiat)

36

37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Mr. Upicksoun?

38

39 MR. UPICKSOUN: Move to accept Rosa's report.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. She's got one more, but
42 motion.....

43

44 MS. MEEHAN: It's in your book. I'm not going to even
45 say anything about it.

46

47 MR. UPICKSOUN: Oh, you've got -- you need to go, huh?

48

49 MS. MEEHAN: Yes.

50

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1 MR. UPICKSOUN: Sorry.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Motion died due to lack of second.

4

5 (Off record comments)

6

7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Rosa, continue.

8

9 MS. MEEHAN: There's some more information about the
10 migratory bird subsistence program. It's in your book. It's
11 the part that follows all the stuff about the fisheries. It's
12 right before Tab K, so if you turn to Tab K the last two pages
13 right in front of it. The last meeting I explained where the
14 migratory bird program was in terms of the spring subsistence
15 harvest. Well, you will have the opportunity to talk to the
16 migratory bird people directly. On November 18th they'll be
17 having a forum here in Barrow at the Borough Assembly room at
18 7:00 in the evening. And there's some information explaining
19 where they are in the process in your book as well as a
20 contact. Bob Stevens down in migratory birds that if you have
21 a question feel free to give him a call. And if you want to
22 use the 800 number to call our office and then get transferred
23 to him you certainly can do that.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: We're legal now, I think, in other
26 words, right?

27

28 MS. MEEHAN: Not yet, but.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Not yet.....

31

32 MS. MEEHAN:let them explain it.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: We're illegal hunters of birds,
35 wildlife, ducks and stuff. Okay. Any other questions for
36 Rosa on the migratory? Hearing none I want to thank you, Rosa.
37 I don't have any more agenda so we must be done. I've got the
38 first page here.

39

40 MR. UPICKSOUN: Still shot clinics, NTBA.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Shot clinic. That's what she just
43 covered for Migratory Bird Act.

44

45 MR. UPICKSOUN: Oh, okay.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: We've had a request prior to that.
48 I don't know if you heard anything more on requesting a shot
49 clinic.

50

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1 MR. H. BROWER: Something about November 18 in Barrow.

2

3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It was in the paper last week.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Oh, yeah. The shot clinic was at
6 noon, steel shot and stuff. But maybe that was it. Any word
7 from the bird man on that or anything?

8

9 MR. SUYDAM: I think the steel shot clinic elects to be
10 held next spring sometime or the middle of next summer.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

13

14 MR. SUYDAM: There's a tentative date, I think, of
15 March or so, but I know that Charlie has asked that it be done
16 in June here in Barrow. And I think that the North Slope
17 Borough will also ask the Fish and Wildlife Service and Fish
18 and Game to try to hold some steel shot clinics in some of the
19 villages sometime in the next year as well.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Robert.

22

23 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman?

24

25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mike?

26

27 MR. PATKOTAK: On that point, in terms of the steel
28 shot especially in some of the villages nothing was ever
29 brought up by the people that were reporting the steel shot if
30 any consideration was ever being seriously considered in terms
31 of an exchange program especially for those that are
32 continuously overlooked in terms of employment. Those steel
33 shots are 20 some dollars and that's expensive, you know. And
34 (indiscernible) comes around and he's using lead shot yet
35 because he can't afford steel shot. I like you have serious
36 consideration to have an exchange program instituted.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Suydam?

39

40 MR. SUYDAM: Mr. Chairman, the Fish and Wildlife
41 Service has sent up a fellow, or one of their employees, a guy
42 named Greg Bailo (ph) went to Ducks Unlimited last year and
43 asked them if they could donate some funds or some -- end up
44 donating a really nice painting and then that painting was
45 auctioned off and the money from that painting went to buy
46 steel shot. And that steel shot has been used down on the
47 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta in exchange for the lead shot, help get
48 the lead out of the system down there. And so there might be
49 some way that we could try to do something like that as well
50 for the North Slope trying to purchase steel shot and use that

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1 in exchange for lead shot.

2

3 MR. PATKOTAK: Another excuse that I've heard in terms
4 of documentation is that why do you need that program, you're
5 pretty rich up there. It's -- that's another misconception
6 that you need to bring out, too, that there's an exceptional
7 few that make -- go beyond this that make that kind of money.
8 Even those that make 35 or 40,000. And that's just about
9 poverty level when you equate the cost of living. So if that
10 excuse ever comes you might want to bring that out. Although
11 you may be making \$30,000 a year in some village and that's
12 living just above poverty level when it comes to cost of
13 living.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Mike. Before we leave
16 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Subsistence Management Team
17 any questions on any of their presentations?

18

19 Hearing none, thank you, Rosa. Thank you, Helen.
20 We'll move on down to Item number 2 under New Business, Arctic
21 Refuge with Patricia Reynolds and Anne Morkill.

22

23 MS. REYNOLDS: Good afternoon. I'm Patricia Reynolds
24 with the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and
25 Wildlife Service. And I'd just like to give you a brief
26 summary of some of the activities that the Refuge has been
27 involved in this year and take any comments or questions that
28 you have that I can take back to Jim Kurth, the Refuge manager.

29

30 First, I'd like to introduce Anne Morkill. She will be
31 functioning as an assistant Refuge manager that's dealing with
32 North Slope issues, so I'm sure you will see her attending
33 meetings and being heavily involved in North Slope events. So
34 this is Anne. And I'm sure she's going to be here in the
35 future, so I'm glad to have her. We're very happy to have her
36 as part of our team.

37

38 This year we've been participating in the census of the
39 Porcupine Caribou herd in conjunction with the Alaska
40 Department of Fish and Game. This year it occurred in early
41 July. The herd for the first time in several years was
42 successfully photographed and right now people in our office
43 and other people are counting this photographs so we will have
44 an estimate of the population this year.

45

46 The calving surveys in June showed that most of the
47 radio collared females in that population calved in the Arctic
48 National Wildlife Refuge this year.

49

50 We also have been working in conjunction with a number

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1 of agencies including the Canadians with a program to satellite
2 -- put satellite collars on some animals in the Porcupine herd.
3 And our office has created this poster that we put together
4 with -- in conjunction with Canadians and several other
5 individuals that tell something about the project. Dorothy
6 Cooley in Canada, John Nagge (ph) in Canada, the Porcupine
7 Caribou Management Board, Steve Arthur with the Fish and Game
8 Department, Don Russell with the Canadian Wildlife Service,
9 Fred Mauer (ph) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Arctic
10 National Wildlife Refuge have all been heavily involved in
11 this project. And animals have been collared. And this poster
12 has been given to people in Kaktovik and Arctic Village. If
13 someone here is interested in having this poster or having it
14 in Barrow I'd be happy to leave it with someone here.

15
16 On a weekly basis the locations of the satellite
17 collared animals are available on the Web site that's listed
18 down here. And so someone can pull that information and post
19 it weekly you can see where those animals are moving. So this
20 is an informational tool if someone is interested here in the
21 North Slope Borough, perhaps someone in the department might be
22 interested in this poster. I'll be glad to leave it. But this
23 is an ongoing project that we hope there'll be a lot of
24 cooperation with a lot of different agencies and individuals.
25 And the schools and villages in Canada are also getting this
26 information on a weekly basis.

27
28 We've conducted sheep composition counts in Atigun
29 Gorge and on the Hulahula this summer. This year sheep
30 production cap -- our lamb production was moderate to high this
31 year compared to previous years, so we didn't have to.....

32
33 MR. PATKOTAK: Could you say that again, I'm sorry?

34
35 MS. REYNOLDS: Sheep production on the Hulahula and
36 Atigun Gorge, the composition counts on those two areas
37 suggested that lamb production was moderate to high this year.

38
39 We've conducted musk ox surveys in early April in the
40 pre-calving period, counted 331 musk oxen in the Refuge. This
41 is a number that's very similar to what we've seen in the last
42 12 years. Calf production was low this year and we did have
43 high mortality of radio collared females but calf and yearling
44 survival appeared to be fairly high. Calf production survival
45 in many years has been related to years of heavy snow, winters
46 when there's deep snow.

47
48 We've also -- are conducting workshops in Kaktovik to
49 work on sex identifications because this year for the first
50 time females will be legally taken in the Refuge. And so this

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1 winter we'll have some additional meetings to talk about
2 identifying sex and also to talk about concerns with musk oxen.
3 And we have put together a poster which is -- we sent to
4 Kaktovik that shows sex identification of animals. And so
5 this, again, will provide a tool for people in Kaktovik. We
6 took this up, I guess, last week or the week before.

7
8 We've had some work going on at different ecological
9 sites in the Refuge that are being used to monitor changes in
10 bird and small mammal population and shifts and distribution
11 primarily being done by our botany staff. And these people
12 also revisited several sites that have been monitored for many
13 years to look at long-term changes in vegetation as a result of
14 the seismic exploration program that was done about 10 years
15 ago.

16
17 We've also assisted this year with long-term
18 investigation of changes in permafrost levels to -- this is in
19 conjunction with studies of global warming that's being done in
20 Northeastern Alaska and studies on the McCall Glacier (ph)
21 being done at the University of Alaska. So we try to get
22 involved in doing studies with people that are doing studies on
23 the Refuge. We try to contribute to those efforts.

24
25 Swan surveys were conducted this year. And this past
26 week we've had biologists in the field looking at snow goose
27 surveys, winter -- or fall migration snow goose surveys. And I
28 guess that was finished yesterday.

29
30 And we will be conducting North Slope moose surveys
31 this year and muskox distribution surveys between the Kenny
32 River and the Canadian Border later this fall, so you will be
33 informed that we'll be there.

34
35 For people that are interested in finding out more
36 about the Refuge we have a Web page, if anybody is interested
37 in this handout I could give these to anybody that wants one.
38 So if you're interested in information about the Refuge or you
39 have people in your villages in your interest and they have
40 access to Web site through the schools they can pull these --
41 and this information changes frequently as we update this Web
42 page. So that's information if you're interested in taking.

43
44 If anyone has comments or questions for anyone on the
45 staff or for Jim Kurth I'd be happy to take those back to him.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Patkotak?

48
49 MS. REYNOLDS: Yes.

50

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1 MR. PATKOTAK: Well, I know this doesn't have anything
2 to do with subsistence, but it has to do with guiding in that
3 area. And it recently was with the State requirements for
4 being a registered guide. I'm wondering if anything's being
5 done to ensure that Natives, that licensing of eco-tour people
6 be restricted until Native guides can be certified because it's
7 been pretty restrictive to just urban areas in terms of guiding
8 in that area. And we know that it needs to be addressed, not
9 just by the fisheries parts but by the North Slope Yup'ik
10 Community, the Arctic Slope in terms of development. And we
11 know that tourism is increasing, but the requirements for being
12 a guide has been pretty restrictive and it's pretty well closed
13 the door on Native guides.

14
15 MS. REYNOLDS: Uh-hum.

16
17 MR. PATKOTAK: So I'm wondering if there's anything
18 being instituted or any dialogue developed to where the
19 existing guiding can be grandfathered or licensing stopped all
20 together until the Native community can develop a guiding
21 system for these type of things.

22
23 MS. REYNOLDS: I think that's an excellent comment and
24 I will -- both Anne and I will talk to Jim about that. You
25 have some interest in hunting guides, having commercial hunting
26 guides coming from the North Slope or North Slope residents
27 becoming commercial hunting guides, is that what you're saying?

28
29 MR. PATKOTAK: Yeah.

30
31 MS. REYNOLDS: Yeah.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I think the big game guide is under
34 the jurisdiction of the State. They have a commission for big
35 game....

36
37 MR. PATKOTAK: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I know it's within
38 the jurisdiction of the State and the State will continue to
39 fly up, but my interest is in the Federal aspect of it, is to
40 -- on Federal lands to close it to any further State
41 grandfathering it or closing the date for the State. And on
42 Federal lands requiring more Native participation in that, and
43 who qualifies to do those kinds of things.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Have you got that, Patricia?

46
47 MS. REYNOLDS: Uh-hum.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

50

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1 MS. REYNOLDS: Yes. Yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Do you have a hand up? Mr.
4 Upicksoun.

5

6 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, I was a resident of
7 Kaktovik over on wildlife service people over there. Does the
8 number of hikers and floaters affect your subsistence hunting
9 area in the wildlife refuge? Has it affected your hunting area
10 yet, human activity?

11

12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, human activity. Any human
13 activity when it's migrating? Yeah. They've cited -- we've
14 been told to make a video tape of them. We've sighted so many
15 that's what we're told is you should have a video camera to
16 make it seen in color, but planes coming in and out of there
17 and helicopters and whatnot, we're pretty much coast --
18 restricted to the coast and when the guy comes around the coast
19 we get irritated or mad is when the planes and helicopters come
20 near the shore. And we're waiting for them to get closer to
21 our boats and they get hazes and harassed and we've got that
22 problem, yeah.

23

24 As far as the hikers and floaters, I mentioned at the
25 beginning of the meeting about having these base camps or
26 (indiscernible) right on the pass -- or right on the path of
27 the caribou. We haven't addressed that kind of situation yet,
28 but make that known to ANWR 'cause that's when the peak of
29 hikers and floaters come in to see the migrating caribou. And
30 I'm sure that -- I know myself when I get in front or in the
31 path of a caribou trying to get one they'll change their route.
32 So hunting experience wise, but maybe if you're just sitting
33 there waiting for them, I don't know what the problem is, but
34 people move around and that's when we get affected.

35

36 MR. UPICKSOUN: So would the refuge people have a
37 position on the concerns of the residents of Kaktovik in
38 regards to possibly harassing the game that the subsistence
39 hunters are trying to harvest?

40

41 MS. REYNOLDS: Yes, I think we have concerns about the
42 harassment.....

43

44 MR. UPICKSOUN: In regards to the floaters and hikers,
45 the number and where they set up camps within your Refuge.

46

47 MS. REYNOLDS: That needs to be addressed in terms of
48 consideration of movements of animals of where people are
49 allowed to stage campsites or where aircraft is allowed to
50 land. We've had a lot of discussions about where aircraft are

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1 allowed to land. There's ongoing discussion about the effects
2 of aircraft on animals and on wilderness areas and where people
3 -- hikers and floaters are going. I think that one thing we
4 have seen that there actually has been a decrease in visitor
5 use, at least, last year compared to the early '90s. However,
6 we need to monitor how many people, you know, come and use the
7 Refuge in terms of -- particularly there's been an increase in
8 commercial groups, commercial floating trips, but at least in
9 the last few years we have seen a decline, at least, in river
10 floaters and people that come in on commercial trips. So,
11 hopefully, maybe it's not going to increase real rapidly. It
12 may be starting to level off. But we are concerned with any
13 kind of harassment of wildlife by aircraft, by -- if there's a
14 problem with people being in an area that you people feel is
15 inappropriate that would be good to know. That's good
16 information that we need.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any questions for the Refuge?

19
20 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chairman?

21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Tagarook?

23
24 MR. TAGAROOK: I would make a suggestion. When the
25 migration or whatever is happening I think they should close
26 that to the float -- close the season for the floaters and the
27 hikers when the caribou are starting to migrate. That's it.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Mr. Tagarook.

30
31 MS. REYNOLDS: I'll write that down (ph).

32
33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah. I have a formal request I'd
34 like to resubmit again. Maybe make this into a public request
35 for the Fish and Wildlife Service. And I'll include parks,
36 National Park Service. Our request is to get a copy of your
37 Comprehensive Conservation Plan. I'm not sure that the Arctic
38 National Wildlife Refuge on how they operate or manage ANWR or
39 other refuges, whether you use a master plan for your course or
40 for your duties and responsibilities. I know that you look
41 into how to manage subsistence and animals, a Conversation
42 Comprehensive Plan or other -- other plans like for cabins or
43 river management plan, those plans that come up for review
44 every three to five years or in some cases some of them may be
45 10 years. So those I requested last year. I think I want to
46 make this into a formal request.

47
48 MS. REYNOLDS: I'm sure you'll get one. Yeah.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Then I requested also with Steve

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1 Ulvi to get a copy of whatever volumes that they have as far as
2 master plan, conservation plan, river management plan, cabin
3 use plan, aircraft use plan, anything that makes your job or
4 why you're here. The reason why we're here is that we have our
5 charter, we have guidelines to use, and we want to see what
6 your Fish and Wildlife and Parks use as far as guiding your
7 principles or your daily duties so that maybe we can -- I know
8 there's two tier, I can see two tier of regulations and parks.
9 We have hunting regulation that we pass proposals with, and
10 then on top of that there is a plan that restrict, further
11 restricting in a district zone or some kind of resident zone.
12 That's not in the regulation not even further restriction,
13 further restricted, further restrict the subsistence hunting.
14 So that's why we want to work not only with this proposal but
15 as a Council on working with your agencies on master plans or
16 conversations plans or river management plan to make it easier
17 for us to live with you. 'Cause we've got not only this area,
18 but we've also got your mandate or your management program plan
19 hurdle or obstacle that we have to contend with. So that's why
20 I'm making this formal request for ANWR, to please provide us a
21 copy of your -- of any mission statements or plans that you use
22 to manage your lands. I don't know whether that should be in
23 the form of a motion, but I think the Council here needs to get
24 a copy of not only the Parks but also ANWR.

25
26 MS. REYNOLDS: We'll provide you with the current
27 comprehensive conservation plan. Those plans for the refuges
28 in the state are being updated, the one on the Arctic National
29 Wildlife Refuge is apparently not one of the first ones
30 updated, so it may be a few years before it is updated, but we
31 will send you the current plan that we operate under. You want
32 it sent to you, Fenton, is that where it should go?

33
34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah.

35
36 MS. REYNOLDS: Yeah. You want it mailed to you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes. Wildlife Department too. Mr.
39 Upicksoun?

40
41 MR. UPICKSOUN: You didn't put it in the form of a
42 motion, did you?

43
44 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: No, that's why I wanted to see what
45 the other Council members feel.....

46
47 MR. UPICKSOUN: Seems like a consent agenda item.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I don't know. I think the request
50 has been out there from myself verbally, or by handshake or

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1 something, but it's been well over a year now and I haven't
2 seen any.
3
4 MR. UPICKSOUN: Patricia will honor your request. You
5 will send.....
6
7 MS. REYNOLDS: Yes.
8
9 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay.
10
11 MS. MORKILL: Yes, two of us.
12
13 MS. REYNOLDS: Yes. No, we've got Anne,.....
14
15 MR. UPICKSOUN: So we're all right then.
16
17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Hopson.
18
19 MR. HOPSON: Something maybe in addition to Fenton's
20 request are like the managers, like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
21 manager of ANWR and the Park Service, do they have like a
22 priority plan of what they want to accomplish in a year, yearly
23 basis? Is that part of public record, too, and could we get a
24 copy of that?
25
26 MS. REYNOLDS: I'm not familiar -- he may have a
27 personal list, you know, of his own personal goals. I don't
28 know of any public document that, you know, states what is
29 being done. We do have -- on the Refuge we do put out an
30 annual report or an annual narrative. And if you would like
31 copies of that we would be glad to provide you with that as
32 well. That tells you what went on in the Refuge.....
33
34 MR. HOPSON: Yeah.
35
36 MS. REYNOLDS:for the year.
37
38 MR. HOPSON: Like for the year of '98 and '99.
39
40 MS. REYNOLDS: Right. It won't be done until next
41 winter, but -- yeah.
42
43 MR. HOPSON: And ANWR would have a set of priorities,
44 what they want to accomplish in the coming year or something
45 like that.
46
47 MS. REYNOLDS: We don't have a formal list, no.
48
49 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman?
50

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Patkotak.

2

3 MR. PATKOTAK: The reason why I brought that up is I
4 subscribe to the Alaska Journal of Commerce and within this
5 past year there's been three articles in the Alaska Journal of
6 Commerce and the State being heavily involved with fish and
7 wildlife in terms of development of that area in terms of
8 tourism. So I think maybe the State's interest involving ANWR
9 and U.S. Fish and Wildlife and how it affects that, I think,
10 maybe if we -- we as a Native group get involved with and say
11 yeah, raise a red flag and say hey, man, where's our input on
12 this.

13

14 MS. REYNOLDS: Uh-hum.

15

16 MR. PATKOTAK: And they -- I don't know whether these
17 are optimistic projections or not, but their plans were pretty
18 hopped up in the state, want to spend some money on developing
19 tourism in that area. And that's why I brought it up.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Mike.

22

23 MS. REYNOLDS: Excuse me, could I ask what journal you
24 saw?

25

26 MR. PATKOTAK: The Journal of Commerce.

27

28 MS. REYNOLDS: The Journal of Commerce.

29

30 MR. PATKOTAK: The Alaska Journal.

31

32 MS. REYNOLDS: Oh, the Alaska Journal of Commerce.
33 That's good information. Thank you.

34

35 MR. PATKOTAK: Yeah.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any questions for Arctic Refuge?
38 Mr. Brower?

39

40 MR. G. BROWER: Concerning requests that our Chairman
41 made, does those include ways and means when you're looking to
42 update a conservation plan, does those include necessary or
43 avenues to make the valid input for your conservation plan,
44 does that include that or can come in from somebody to make
45 proposals that could help -- you know, help.....

46

47 MS. REYNOLDS: Uh-hum.

48

49 MR. G. BROWER:enhance maybe Native use of that
50 land.

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1 MS. REYNOLDS: I think when the Comprehensive
2 Conservation Plans are updated there is a public process and
3 when that occurs on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge there's
4 no doubt we will involve these groups when that occurs. I
5 don't know what the timeline for that is, but there is a public
6 process. I don't know if it's outlined in the comprehensive
7 plan, I don't think that's outlined how it's done, but it will
8 occur. It is a public process, the development of those plans.
9 And when they're updated it's a public process.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any other questions for our Refuge
12 folks? Anne, did you want to say something?

13
14 MS. MORKILL: No, that's fine. Just to let you know
15 that I'm available and I do plan to come up to Barrow and
16 Kaktovik on a regular basis and just be available to discuss
17 some of the issues and concerns that local communities have
18 about Refuge management and be there to listen and, hopefully,
19 resolve some of the concerns you have. So.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you very much, Anne. Thank
22 you, Patricia.

23
24 We'll move on with National Park Service, Mr. Paul
25 Hunter.

26
27 MR. HUNTER: Mr. Chairman, members of the Council, I'm
28 Paul Hunter filling in for Steve Ulvi, the subsistence manager
29 for Gates of the Arctic National Park.

30
31 Steve asked me to cover a couple of items with you.
32 The first item is this Council's appointment to the Gates of
33 the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission. Ben
34 Hopson is your current appointee to the Subsistence Resource
35 Commission. And his appointment is up for renewal next month
36 on October 16th. So we'd like to just remind you of that and
37 let you know that Ben has been a real valuable asset to the
38 SRC, and his local knowledge, traditional uses there at
39 Anaktuvuk Pass and the Park has been very, very helpful for the
40 Resource Commission doing its work. So if Ben is willing to
41 continue we'd certainly recommend that you consider re-
42 appointing Ben.

43
44 For the new member, let me just explain, the
45 Subsistence Resource Commission is an additional advisory group
46 that was established by ANILCA for the national parks that
47 allow subsistence use. And the -- it's a nine member
48 commission and there are three members appointed by the
49 Secretary of Interior, three members appointed by the Governor,
50 and then three members appointed by the Regional Advisory

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1 Councils that affect or cover the park. And for Gates of the
2 Arctic National Park there are three Regional Advisory Councils
3 that each make one appointee or one appointment to the
4 Commission. And that's the North Slope, your Council, the
5 Western Interior Council and the Northwest Alaska Council.

6
7 And I can -- right now let me just tell you who the
8 members are. Right now the appointees by the Governor are
9 Charlie Brower from Barrow, Stanley Ned from Fairbanks, Delbert
10 Rexford who's the chair of the Commission from Barrow. The
11 Secretary of Interior appointees are Bill Ficcus from Crevice
12 Creek, there's a vacancy right now, Raymond Paneak resigned
13 from the Council recently, and so his seat is vacant right now
14 pending appointment by the Secretary of Interior of a
15 replacement. Jack Reakoff from Wiseman is appointed by the
16 Secretary of Interior. And then, the three Council appointees,
17 Levi Cleveland is the Northwest Arctic appointee from Shungnak,
18 and then Ben Hopson from Anaktuvuk Pass, and Paul Simon is the
19 Western Interior appointee from Allakaket.

20
21 So as I said, Ben's appointment is up for renewal next
22 month. The appointments -- the appointees can continue until
23 they're either re-appointed or a replacement is appointed, so
24 at whatever point you're ready to consider that re-appointment,
25 you know, you have some time to do that, either this meeting or
26 your next meeting or in between if you get together and decide
27 on an appointee. So.....

28
29 The other item is the -- and this ties in with the
30 Chairman's request for management plans. And that is that the
31 Gates of the Arctic National Park is working with the
32 Subsistence Resource Commission right now on a subsistence
33 management plan for the park. It's in kind of a rough draft
34 stage right now and this fall and winter the SRC will be
35 reviewing that draft and then it'll be ready possibly by your
36 winter meeting for broader review, so that -- that management
37 plan is in the process of being created as we speak.

38
39 The other plans, the Park has a general management
40 plan, and we'll make sure that you get a copy of that. There's
41 also a natural resources management plan that includes
42 subsistence and that -- there's a completed plan for that. As
43 I mentioned, we're working on a subsistence management plan
44 with the SRC. And we're also starting on working on a
45 wilderness plan. And Gates of the Arctic National Park is
46 mostly wilderness so that'll be a significant plan for the park
47 as well. So that's in real early stages of kind of planning
48 how to move forward with that. And so you will be notified
49 when we have it ready for, you know, review and for meetings,
50 community meetings, and the full scope of public involvement in

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1 creating that plan. So that's about all we have right now.

2

3 If you have any questions I'd be glad to.....

4

5 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman?

6

7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Patkotak.

8

9 MR. PATKOTAK: Forgive me, I'm a new member. I want to
10 know the nomination selection process for those National Park
11 Service Commission, I think you said it was.

12

13 MR. HUNTER: The Subsistence Resource Commission?

14

15 MR. PATKOTAK: Yes.

16

17 MR. HUNTER: Well, the process.....

18

19 MR. PATKOTAK: Do you have anything in writing that you
20 can give to us for this process? I would assume that it falls
21 under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

22

23 MR. HUNTER: Yes, it is. It's the same authority as
24 this Council.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Part of ANILCA we have -- one of our
27 duties is to select from our Council. We have nine members
28 here.

29

30 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It's in our charter.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: It's in our charter, too. To select
33 or elect or appoint one of your members here. Ben is the
34 current one who will expire next month named to the Resource
35 Subsistence Commission.

36

37 MR. PATKOTAK: Yeah. I'd like information on not just
38 this Council but the seat and the selection process.....

39

40 MR. HUNTER: That can be done.

41

42 MR. PATKOTAK:in writing. I sure wouldn't mind
43 that information.

44

45 MR. HUNTER: I have a copy of the charter and also a
46 sheet that lists the basic eligibility requirements and the
47 process, so I can -- I'll make sure that we get a copy for
48 anyone that's interested and.....

49

50 MR. PATKOTAK: I would like a copy of that.

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1 MR. HUNTER: The basic eligibility requirements,
2 there's two. And it's that the appointee be a member of a
3 local advisory group, either the Regional Advisory Council or
4 one of the other local Fish and Game advisory groups that -- in
5 the area. And then the second requirement is that they be a
6 subsistence user of the Park. So when you put those two
7 together they're fairly limiting in terms of the numbers of
8 people that are available for appointment because of the
9 limited nature of the people that are eligible for subsistence
10 in the Park. And then, of course, the limited number of people
11 that are on advisory groups in the area, so it's a fairly small
12 number. And I -- correct me if I'm wrong, but I think
13 traditionally the appointees have come from this group.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, you're right.

16
17 MR. HUNTER: Yeah. I believe so.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon, did you have a question? And
20 then Ben.

21
22 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that
23 Ben's term will end next month it would be prudent for the
24 Board to recommend that our coordinator recommend a name for
25 his seat, re-appointing.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. The Chair will entertain a
28 motion after questions.

29
30 MR. UPICKSOUN:and then re-appoint Ben if he
31 doesn't object to his seat, to the SRC seat so he can represent
32 the North Slope Federal Subsistence Regional Council.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. We'll take that up under any
35 other new business down in B3.

36
37 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Or now.

38
39 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay. Okay.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Or we ca do it now, whatever.....
42 Any more questions? Ben?

43
44 MR. HOPSON: Yes. You mentioned the wilderness plan is
45 in the early stages. What was the other plan you were working
46 previous to that you mentioned?

47
48 MR. HUNTER: The plan that's further along is the
49 subsistence management plan that is in draft form. It was
50 reviewed by the SRC, I think you guys reviewed it at your last

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1 meeting. It was a rough draft at that point. It's gone
2 through some revisions and based on the comments that we
3 received from the group. And it'll be -- you know, a revised
4 draft will be available this fall and winter for the SRC to
5 review and comment on further.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: There's a general management plan
8 and a natural resource management plan in addition to that.

9

10 MR. HUNTER: And those two plans, they mention
11 subsistence, they have sections that deal with subsistence in a
12 general way. The specific subsistence management that is being
13 worked on now with the SRC will be more definitive and
14 complete.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Uh-hum.

17

18 MR. HUNTER:on subsistence management. So -- and
19 then that's the same for the wilderness plan. Both of those
20 plans have general comments on -- or general sections on
21 wilderness, but not as comprehensive as the specific plans will
22 be.

23

24 MR. HOPSON: And the hunting plan is part of
25 subsistence management.

26

27 MR. HUNTER: That is correct.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any other questions for Mr. Hunter?
30 Harry?

31

32 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Hunter, I'm not sure if you're
33 aware of the technical committee on the muskox harvest plan.
34 We had sent a copy of it and there's some reservations by the
35 National Park Service representatives on this committee. I'd
36 like to find out if you know or have heard anything in response
37 to what the National Park Service wanted to change the language
38 in, if there's been any work to that?

39

40 MR. HUNTER: I hesitate to comment because I've just
41 been briefed, you know, given a summary essentially by Steve.
42 Basically what we covered yesterday. I could take back to
43 Steve your request for a fuller explanation or summary of the
44 Park Service position.....

45

46 MR. H. BROWER: Uh-hum.

47

48 MR. HUNTER:and see that that gets back to you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Is that your question, Harry?

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1 MR. H. BROWER: Thank you. Yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any other questions from the Council
4 for Mr. Hunter on the National Park?

5

6 We have a recommendation or a request to re-appoint Ben
7 Hopson, Jr. from our Council to the Subsistence Resource
8 Commission to the Gates of the Arctic. Mr. Upicksoun?

9

10 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to put it in the
11 form of a motion. I'd like to delegate our coordinator to
12 draft a letter to the -- stating our support and would like to
13 have Ben Hopson represent our Regional Council in the Gates of
14 the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. You heard the motion by
17 Gordon to send a letter with our back-up for re-appointing Ben
18 Hopson, Jr. into the SRC.

19

20 MR. TAGAROOK: Second by Terry Tagarook.

21

22 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, who would that letter of
23 support be directed to? The Secretary of the Interior.....

24

25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Steve Ulvi.

26

27 MR. HUNTER: It would be to the superintendent of Gates
28 of the Arctic National Park, Dave Mills.

29

30 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Dave Wilson?

33

34 MR. HUNTER: Dave Mills.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Dave Mills.

37

38 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay. So Barbara can draft a letter
39 stating our support of Ben Hopson to that Commission.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: The motion has been seconded. Any
42 further discussion?

43

44 MR. UPICKSOUN: Call for the question.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: The question is all in favor of
47 appointing Ben Hopson, Jr. to the SRC say aye.

48

49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Those opposed same sign.
2
3 (No opposing responses)
4
5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Hunter. Thank
6 you, Ben.
7
8 We have BLM up next. What is the wish of the Council?
9 Do you want to take a break now or at 3:00.
10
11 MR. HOPSON: Take a short break.
12
13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Take a short break. Okay. 10
14 minute break before we get to the local.....
15
16 (Off record)
17
18 (On record)
19
20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Good afternoon, ladies and
21 gentlemen. I'll call the meeting back to order. I want to
22 thank Mr. Hunter again. I wanted to -- I think I mentioned
23 when ANWR was there that I think we need to find a place or a
24 library and I would recommend that you send those manuals to
25 our Department of Wildlife management folks. They have a good
26 resource library there. In addition, we also have AS&A who's
27 got Natural Resources, Mike Peterson, who's part of our working
28 group on muskox be sent. If you can provide us two sets to two
29 offices here in Barrow it will really help us understand how --
30 why you're here, why you're a hired person to manage the parks,
31 Gates of the Arctic and the National Wildlife Refuge, at least.
32 We have sort of an idea of what's going on with BLM, with NPRA
33 happenings now, so we want to keep up with all of that.
34
35 I just want to summarize real quick what's been stated
36 earlier. We made regulations and we think we're in the clear
37 and then we hit a big wall again or a big obstacle like we're
38 trying to get out of a tent or something, we'd be in the clear.
39 We've made regulations and we think we got it taken care of.
40 And Gordon you put it real well that we get hit with another
41 mandate or restriction from the Federal agencies own plan or
42 management plan, so that's one of the big reasons we want to --
43 if we can't beat the system we might as well know how you're --
44 why you're here and running the show, so we'll walk alongside
45 you and maybe try and smooth things out for our -- the
46 betterment of our way of life and hunting up here.
47
48 With that I'll turn the floor over to Mr. Yokel to talk
49 about BLM.
50

1 MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm here to talk
2 about another Federal agency management plan today just very
3 briefly. As you're all very aware the BLM has been working for
4 the last year and a half to develop a plan and environmental
5 impact statement for the northeastern corner of NPRA to
6 possibly include petroleum development in that area. And on
7 August 7th, just a month ago, the final plan and environmental
8 impact statement was released. And I just passed out during
9 the break a copy of this NPRA Update and Summary to every
10 Council member. And I've got two more left over here if
11 somebody in the audience wants a plan -- or a copy of this
12 summary.

13
14 And if you want a copy of the whole final plan and EIS
15 it tells you how to get it on the last page here, it says for
16 more information if you want a copy. It comes in two volumes.
17 It's about this thick, that you're welcome to them if you want
18 a copy of them. We'll mail you one. Also you can read it, the
19 whole thing in the entirety on the Internet. And it tells you
20 in here also how to find that if you're interested in pursuing
21 it that way.

22
23 What I just want to cover with you really briefly today
24 is go over the preferred alternative that was introduced in
25 this final plan, and a map that shows some of that is on page 5
26 of what I handed out today. And I also have it here. This
27 photocopy that I have here on the screen didn't come out so
28 well, but you have a copy there before you. This map pretty
29 much shows how oil development would be dealt with and the
30 preferred alternative. Now, the preferred alternative came out
31 on August 7th, there's a 30 day comment period on that
32 preferred alternative. That comment period ended Tuesday of
33 this week, just two days ago. So now the BLM has to put
34 together a record of decision. In other words, a final
35 decision on what is going to be the result of this plan. And
36 that final decision, I would guess, would look pretty similar
37 to this preferred alternative, but I don't know yet. It'll
38 probably be out in a couple of weeks.

39
40 Anyway, this area here that's highlighted on this map
41 is what we refer to the Northeast Planning area. It's about
42 4.6 million acres. And under the preferred alternative all of
43 this area would be open for oil and gas lease sales with the
44 exception of this green area at the top. And that's the plain
45 green area. The stippled green area around that would be open
46 for oil and gas lease sales. It's kind of hard to see up here,
47 but it should show it better on your copy. The stippled green
48 area, it's about six miles wide. That would be open for oil
49 and gas sales, but under the preferred alternative there could
50 be no permanent facilities of any kind in that area, nor could

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1 there be any winter exploratory drilling or drilling for
2 delineation wells. So that could be leased, petroleum could be
3 got -- extracted from underneath it under the preferred
4 alternative if they could reach it from the white area outside.
5 In other words, have wells outside that area that would reach
6 with directional drilling underneath there.

7
8 The reason that this area up here would be closed to
9 leasing is primarily to protect the molting area for geese in
10 the summer that's mostly north of Teshekpuk Lake. It protects
11 Teshekpuk Lake itself and it also protects most of the calving
12 grounds of the Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herd and the insect
13 relief after for Teshekpuk caribou.

14
15 And then the areas that are in brown are areas that
16 would be open to lease but, again, there could be no permanent
17 surface facilities along those river corridors. In the Fish
18 Creek Drainage that's primarily to protect subsistence
19 activities in that area from development infrastructure. The
20 same thing would be protected along the Colville River and
21 these two tributaries of it, but in this case it's also to
22 protect nesting raptors, Perrigrine Falcons, Geo Falcons, Rough
23 Legged Hawks.

24
25 The areas in the yellow along the (indiscernible -
26 background coughing) Mountain and the Fish Creek drainages and
27 the Colville and its tributaries, those are areas for special
28 consideration. If any development is planned in those areas
29 there would be extra consultation with the North Slope Borough
30 and the public on the North Slope to ensure that that
31 development could occur in such a way that would not have the
32 -- would have the least possible impact on subsistence
33 activities. So this provides you a very brief description of
34 the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative also
35 includes the establishment of a subsistence advisory panel that
36 would help advise the oil industry in any developments so that
37 it could have the least impact on subsistence activities. Also
38 an interagency research and monitoring team would suggest the
39 best ways -- the research that most needs to be done to protect
40 the wildlife resources in this area.

41
42 And also I should mention that Geoff Carroll isn't here
43 today, but in his written report that's in your booklet it
44 mentions briefly at the very end that a cooperative project
45 that we have with the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd, this is an
46 opportunity to collect baseline data for this herd and have
47 been collecting data for several years, have baseline data
48 before any potential development. And that's an opportunity
49 that we did not have with the Central Arctic Herd and Prudhoe
50 Bay because very little data had been collected for that herd

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1 prior to development. In this case, if we are going to have
2 development on that area that this herd uses we're going to
3 know something about what that herd was like and what its areas
4 of use were before development. So I think I'll leave it at
5 that.

6
7 Like I said, you can read this on your own time. You
8 can get additional information through the sources that are
9 mentioned here. And I'd like to just answer any questions now
10 that you might have.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any questions from Council?

13
14 MR. G. BROWER: Yes.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Oh, Mr. Brower.

17
18 MR. G. BROWER: This little brown spot on the tip.....

19
20 MR. YOKEL: Pick dunes (ph).

21
22 MR. G. BROWER: No. Cape Halkit (ph).

23
24 MR. YOKEL: Okay. This brown here at Cape Halkit
25 represents private lands. Those are owned by ASRC. This brown
26 over here represents private village corporation lands.
27 Koopick (ph) Corporation.

28
29 MR. H. BROWER: The green represents no surface
30 activity or any kind of industrial activity, right?

31
32 MR. YOKEL: No, in this whole green area there would be
33 no permanent surface facilities. There could be surface
34 activity in the way of inner-seismic exploration, also overland
35 moves, supplies, material being brought to Barrow and down to
36 Atqasuk could be brought through that area in the winter.

37
38 MR. H. BROWER: I'm just referring to like facilities
39 for, you know, a well house.....

40
41 MR. YOKEL: Right.

42
43 MR. H. BROWER:and stuff of that nature for oil
44 production.

45
46 MR. YOKEL: It's not written out in this brief summary
47 I have, but in the plan there's a definition of permanent
48 facilities. And that would include any of the infrastructure
49 that's involved in the development of oil fields.

50

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1 MR. H. BROWER: Since that little brown spot is
2 surrounded by all this green, does that affect what they could
3 do on that brown spot?

4
5 MR. YOKEL: It doesn't affect what they can do on it
6 because that's private land and we can't -- not regulate what
7 goes on on that private land. It -- our plan would affect how
8 they could get to that private land. For instance, if there
9 was a proposal to move things overland during the summertime
10 over the NPRA lands to the private land then this plan would
11 not allow that, but it would allow winter overland movement to
12 that area.

13
14 MR. H. BROWER: I think that in those areas I've been
15 working with permits before concerning activities in those
16 areas and waking up polar bears that were denning in the
17 premature -- the polar bear baby ones that are still pink and
18 roaming around that had taken place. I just wanted to inquire
19 about that.....

20
21 MR. YOKEL: Well, we have concern all across the North
22 Slope of the impact on denning polar bears of winter moves.
23 And research is being done on ways to locate polar bear dens by
24 using infrared photography, also trying to model habitat that
25 would be best for polar bear dennings so we could try to avoid
26 those in advance.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any other questions for Mr. Yokel?
29 Gordon and then Harry.

30
31 MR. UPICKSOUN: Could you touch on the bird
32 conservation area?

33
34 MR. YOKEL: Sure. The bird conservation area, it's not
35 pictured in here, but the area that's been proposed for that
36 goes about from the mouth of the Kikiakrorak River along the
37 Colville River and on down off of this map to the mouth of the
38 Kilik River. And this area would include BLM lands, State
39 lands and ASRC lands. This plan is not going to create a bird
40 conservation area. It says that the BLM supports that concept
41 and hopes to talk with the State of Alaska and ASRC about
42 development of such an area. And if those three entities can
43 agree on this, the idea of it is to ensure that even though
44 there may be development in this riparian (ph) corridor along
45 the Colville River on State or ASRC lands we'll plan that
46 development so that some proportion of the riparian (ph)
47 habitat needed by the birds along there is kept intact at any
48 one point in time.

49
50 Under this plan within our planning area anyway there

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1 would not be any development on the BLM lands that would affect
2 that riparian (ph) habitat because there would be no permanent
3 facilities there in this brown area.

4
5 Did that answer it?

6
7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Did he answer your question, Gordon?

8
9 MR. UPICKSOUN: We've got enough parks, preserved,
10 reserves and all.....

11
12 MR. YOKEL: The bird conservation area would be.....

13
14 MR. UPICKSOUN:jams and jellies and some
15 more.....

16
17 MR. YOKEL: So it would be a voluntary agreement if
18 these three entities, if these three land owners voluntarily
19 agreed to develop or establish a bird conservation area.....

20
21 MR. UPICKSOUN: So that action may or may not happen?

22
23 MR. YOKEL: It may or may not happen. If it does
24 happen it'd be a voluntary agreement that any party can quit
25 from at any time.

26
27 MR. UPICKSOUN: All right. That answers my question.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Gordon. Harry.

30
31 MR. H. BROWER: I overheard Gordon saying something
32 about polar bears. And you were saying they've got something
33 that they'll use to detect polar bear dens? What is this?

34
35 MR. YOKEL: Well, the USGS Biological Resources
36 Division and especially Steve Amster (ph) in their office in
37 Anchorage is doing work, started last winter, I think, or maybe
38 the winter before, I think it was just last winter where they
39 actually knew where some polar bear dens were because they had
40 radio collared females in dens. Then they flew over them with
41 infrared photography to see if they could detect with that
42 photography the heat given off by the polar bear inside the
43 den. And I haven't heard back from Steve how that worked last
44 winter, but if, in fact, it does work out well then these
45 flights could be made along seismic lines or overland moves or
46 where ice roads are proposed to be built or anything, take the
47 photography with infrared and see if there are any den of polar
48 bears. And that would be one great way to allow these kind of
49 activities to occur on the surface and -- but know in advance
50 where the bear dens are and they can be avoided.

1 MR. H. BROWER: And if that doesn't work then they
2 don't have to collar bears to depend on to get a locate on and
3 that doesn't work, what alternative method do you have planned
4 for that?

5
6 MR. YOKEL: Well, the alternative -- one obvious
7 alternative is what we're doing now. That is trying to avoid
8 any area where snow drifts up deep enough to be a good polar
9 bear denning site. Now, you can't avoid all of that. If you
10 have to move from east to west across the North Slope obviously
11 you're going to cross some river drainages and there might --
12 but when you do it you try to do it in places where the snow is
13 not drifting up as deep on the bank.

14
15 MR. H. BROWER: Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any other questions for Mr. Yokel?
18 Thank you very much, Dave.

19
20 MR. YOKEL: Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Moving right along we'll go
23 to number 5, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
24 Subsistence Update from Sverre. And I believe that Susan
25 Bucknell is not here.

26
27 MR. PEDERSON: Mr. Chairman, I'm Sverre Pederson, I'm
28 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Geoff isn't here,
29 I'll try to answer, you know, some of the questions directed
30 towards material that he's produced here. And in some ways I'm
31 also going to be basically speaking for him on a couple of
32 issues that I'm going to raise with you here.

33
34 We've talked a little bit -- the principal issue that
35 he and I have been involved in that affect you is the muskox.
36 And we have spoken a little bit about the incidental take
37 regulation. What I'd like to do is just to back up and let you
38 know that the muskox working group or the technical group met
39 last winter and late last winter just before the Board of Game
40 meeting and developed background information to allow the North
41 Slope Borough and the Fish and Game Management Committee and
42 the communities of Kaktovik and Nuiqsut to sit down and develop
43 some proposals that were sent to the Board of Game that we, the
44 Department, also signed on to. I just want to let you know
45 what the outcome of those proposals -- what the outcome was on
46 each one of those proposals and answer any, you know, questions
47 you may have regarding those.

48
49 In the previous years there have been a limited amount
50 of muskox hunting taking place in Unit 26(b). And there's been

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1 a request basically from communities in the Central Arctic and
2 Eastern Arctic or North Slope to expand the muskox hunts. And
3 several proposals were submitted to the Board of Game to
4 accommodate those interests. And representatives from the
5 North Slope Borough, from the Fish and Game Management
6 Committee and from the communities of Nuiqsut and Kaktovik came
7 to the Board of Game meeting in Fairbanks and participated
8 effectively with the Department in working through a lot of
9 questions that the Board of Game had concerning the proposals
10 that were presented before them.

11
12 And to keep this short I'll just go straight to what
13 the outcomes were of those proposals. And basically we ended
14 up with three major proposals being passed having to do with
15 direct harvest and one proposal that we really already talked
16 about concerning incidental take, but I just want to review
17 with you what we've come up with here. I'm going to focus on
18 the Central Arctic because the harvest of muskox in Unit 26(b)
19 is basically handled by the Fish and Wildlife Service. And if
20 you have questions about that you could probably talk to them
21 about it. But there's an allocation of 15 muskox will be here,
22 but will be allowed to be harvested this year.

23
24 In terms of the Central Arctic where we had proposals
25 these were on State land where the Board of Game took action
26 were basically after a lot of negotiations not only between,
27 you know, the Department and North Slope interests, but also
28 taking into account other public interest including the Fish
29 and Game Advisory Committee in Fairbanks we sort of negotiated
30 and came up with three regulations for the Central Arctic.

31
32 Two pertaining to the area east of the Haul Road.
33 There's going to be a drawing permit hunt there for four muskox
34 that's called a Tier I hunt. And permits will be distributed
35 in Nuiqsut and Kaktovik and they will be distributed sometime
36 in late October when overland travel conditions are good.

37
38 Three drawing permits for muskox in the same area that
39 were issued to basically support hunters. And then we have --
40 and so that's the second regulation.

41
42 And then the third regulation pertains to the area
43 26(b) west where there are nine Tier II permits available. And
44 all of those nine Tier II permits have gone to Nuiqsut
45 residents. The fourth proposal -- or the fourth regulation
46 passed pertains to Unit 26(a) and we talked about that earlier.
47 That's the regulation to accommodate incidental take. And it
48 was in response to a proposal that, I think, was originally
49 developed here by the North Slope Regional Advisory Council,
50 proposal 108. And it came before the muskox working group and

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1 we said, well, maybe there's a way to work with the Board of
2 Game to try to take care of this. And I understand that the
3 Regional Advisory Council said yes, that sounds good if this
4 proposal can be passed we'll hold off on pressing for
5 consideration of this proposal. And the Board of Game, as
6 we've talked about earlier, allows for some take of incidental
7 -- allows the take of incidental muskox that have become
8 established in areas where peo- -- where residents of Unit
9 26(a) think they may be a detriment for human use or for
10 adequate passage of migrating caribou.

11
12 So those are the issues that I just wanted to cover
13 with you quickly and tell you that the proposal in process and
14 the discussion in front of the Board of Game was a real good
15 one. It was an example of good, sort of cooperative effort
16 between many different groups of the public and interested
17 parties. And the solutions that we came up with were
18 reasonable and everyone basically walked away from that meeting
19 feeling that they'd accomplished pretty much what they'd come
20 to carry out. And the Board of Game felt comfortable with the
21 track record and with the decisions that they made. So we're
22 all looking forward to this next year and seeing that we have a
23 good harvest of muskox. And we realize that this is an
24 experimental period. We're looking to see if there are any
25 problems in the system in these regulations they've come up
26 with and clearly as has been pointed out by Mr. Upicksoun with
27 regard to the incidental take regulation, I've taken notes on
28 that and I'm going to make sure that we follow up on the
29 recommendation you made that this be -- we provide better
30 public information on that particular regulation and we'll work
31 on that, and come back to the Fish and Game Management
32 Committee with, you know, suggest- -- suggested approach there.

33
34 And it's unfortunate that it took some time to get
35 those permits to Point Lay, but they were issued finally to
36 Point Lay and so I think we're sort of up and running there.

37
38 So, Geoff has also some other comments and they are in
39 written form in the -- I'm not sure which attachment they are
40 here, but they're in your folder, so they have to do with a
41 wolf survey that he'd flown and some information on that, on
42 the moose on the Colville River.

43
44 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

45
46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

47
48 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Pederson, before you go into the
49 next section regarding wolves while we're still on muskox. I
50 wasn't quite clear about in your written report it's quite

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1 specific about muskox moving into an area near a village
2 affecting our hunting. I'm still not clear on what happened to
3 Gordon's dad when his dad was trying to chase the muskox away
4 from his hunting area near his cabin. Could you clarify that
5 so they don't -- when we thought, in fact, he did have the
6 right to hunt those muskox. And will you be clarifying that
7 issue so, in fact, they won't be wasting time trying to chase
8 them away so they can hunt in their normal hunting area? It's
9 not near a village. It's near their camp where they normally
10 hunt their meat for the winter, their caribou for the winter.
11

12 MR. PEDERSON: Mr. Chairman and Mr. Upicksoun, when we
13 worked on this regulation, you know, this incidental take
14 regulation the first concern we had was with respect to major
15 movements of caribou. And it, you know, was based on concerns
16 that you had in Point Lay and concerns that we heard from
17 Anaktuvuk Pass. So when we talked to the Board of Game about
18 this we spoke about, you know, community sort of decisions
19 about muskox being in the wrong place and not the individual
20 person's decision that muskox were in the wrong place. So we
21 clearly have to come back and talk about that a little bit and
22 see, you know, how we can accommodate the individuals who feel
23 that their individual hunting is being affected by muskox being
24 in the wrong place at the wrong time. The original discussion
25 had to do with communities sort of decisions that -- in
26 Anaktuvuk, for instance, that, wow, there are muskox- -- a
27 muskox group up by Tulagok (ph) Lake and they're in a place
28 where caribou usually come through. We as a community feel
29 that that's not a good place for them to be, so can we have
30 permission to harvest those muskox and move them out of there.
31 So that's what the Board was really interested in
32 accommodating.
33

34 Individual requests, I'm not sure that they were -- you
35 know, they could accommodate.
36

37 MR. UPICKSOUN: There are many camps up along in that
38 area, Harry and representatives on this council from the Barrow
39 area can tell you how many camps are in that area. But where
40 they go stock up on caribou for the winter.
41

42 MR. PEDERSON: Uh-hum.
43

44 MR. UPICKSOUN: And if, in fact, the muskox are
45 affecting the hunting in that whole area and there are many
46 camps up there. We've got -- would they be allowed to hunt the
47 muskox. We've got to clarify that. They are a lot of camps up
48 there. They can tell you more about them hunting camps than I
49 can.
50

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1 MR. PEDERSON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Upicksoun, we -- in
2 about a week and a half ago we became aware of the fact that
3 there were muskox on the Chipp River. Up until that point we
4 were just sort of planning ah- -- thinking that this might
5 happen a year or so down the line, which would give us some
6 time to think about how to handle the situation like this. And
7 this has happened, you know, right now.

8
9 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay. They are in Unit 26 already.

10
11 MR. PEDERSON: They're already there.

12
13 MR. UPICKSOUN: Yeah.

14
15 MR. PEDERSON: And when I talked to Geoff before he
16 went to Onion Portage (ph) he said he would be prepared to
17 issue permits on the Chip River to take muskox.

18
19 MR. UPICKSOUN: On a case by case basis. Okay.

20
21 MR. PEDERSON: Yeah.

22
23 MR. UPICKSOUN: That's what I wanted to hear. Thank
24 you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: And Mr. Gordon Brower.

27
28 MR. G. BROWER: This is not the first time we've seen
29 muskox there. There's been maybe within six years we've seen,
30 you know, not every year but they'd come around and you'd see
31 them sometimes in the sand dunes huddled up on a big circle,
32 but this particular one is about five bulls just around the
33 camp cabin, going between the two -- the houses down by the
34 cellar. You just couldn't be cutting up fish in front of those
35 things. They were intimidating. And also that one spot where
36 we're at -- actually our main hunting right there, big caribou
37 go right through there. We don't even have to -- you just make
38 breakfast, wake up and start shooting your catch for the
39 winter. It's one big -- when they start to get perky and it's
40 mating season time, it's -- they're just running to beat the
41 band right in there. So it's migration run for rutting time.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Gordon. Harry Brower.

44
45 MR. H. BROWER: You know, on this deal about getting
46 Tier I permits over on the east side of the Haul Road kind of
47 throws me off, kind of upsets me at times, getting a sport hunt
48 in there while we're still trying to provide a subsistence hunt
49 over here in the rest of Unit 26. Even though we've made a lot
50 of stride and efforts in making this management plan work it's

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1 -- I still don't feel comfortable getting that started before
2 we even approve the management plan and getting to address a
3 lot of these concerns that the local folks bring out on the
4 muskox issues. And I -- to date even though I'm on the
5 technical committee I still don't feel comfortable with that
6 happening because of how State regulations work that it's
7 occurring now. Now, after a few years of this happening then,
8 you know, we don't know whether the population of the muskox is
9 going to be stable or whether they're going to decline. And
10 then for some unknown reason we decide to knock that Tier I
11 hunt off and there's no more sport hunt, then sport hunters are
12 going to be attacking or trying to make way (ph) saying that
13 they had grandfather rights to hunt resources in the area.
14 See, those are some of the things that kind of come into my
15 mind in trying to address these concerns that we hear of on a
16 daily basis here on the North Slope regarding muskox.

17
18 MR. PEDERSON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Brower, yeah, you
19 know, that's a really difficult issue and -- however, the North
20 Slope Borough Fish and Game Management Committee and the
21 communities of Nuiqsut and Kaktovik decided to submit these
22 proposals to the Board of Game. And, you know, we went to the
23 Board of Game with certain -- you know, with certain
24 recommendations, but it is a -- you know, that's a public
25 process and any time you take a proposal in front of the Board
26 of Game you're not necessarily going to come away with exactly
27 what you asked for.

28
29 MR. H. BROWER: Uh-hum.

30
31 MR. PEDERSON: And, you know, both Geoff and I were
32 pretty -- nervous isn't probably -- isn't the right term, but
33 we were apprehensive about, you know, bringing this in front of
34 the Board because we knew that there's a very strong sport
35 hunting interest in muskox on the North Slope. And I had the
36 pleasure of going in front of the Fairbanks Advisory Committee
37 on several occasions to talk to them about muskox hunting on
38 the North Slope and what -- you know, what their suggestions
39 were. And I can tell you that their original suggestions on
40 what we should do on the North Slope is very different than
41 what we have there right now. And they're not real satisfied
42 with what the Board of Game came up with either, but they're
43 satisfied enough to say, okay, well, you know, none of us got
44 exactly what we wanted here. This was a compromise between
45 interested parties and a reasonable one. So I think we came
46 out of it well.

47
48 And I think in terms of the management plan we will be
49 meeting over -- in the long haul the needs of the people in the
50 Central Arctic and allowing a few, you know, sport hunting in

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1 Unit 26(b) east is probably the area where it's going to have
2 the least effect and be least felt by residents on the North
3 Slope. And, you know, they are a very strong group and
4 shutting them out would probably have created more problem in
5 the long run than letting them get three permits as the Board
6 of Game did this time around so it's a balancing act.

7
8 And, you know, as I have said to you earlier the
9 Department of Fish and Game and the Board of Game, we have a
10 limited number of tools right now to accommodate subsistence
11 and we're doing the best we can with the few little tools we
12 have. And I would say that we have -- from my perspective from
13 having worked on this now for 19 years I say we're doing pretty
14 darn good. I think we're holding our ground pretty good here
15 in terms of meeting subsistence, you know, requests considering
16 the poor tools that we have to work with. But I can understand
17 your frustration and my wish were that, you know, the legal
18 situation was a little different but it isn't. This is what
19 we've got and this is what we have to work with.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Brower.

22
23 MR. H. BROWER: Thank you. Sverre, I'm not trying to
24 pick on you or anything, it's the emblem behind the people that
25 you work for, you know, State of Alaska. I think that you need
26 to address a new management tool concept to address the needs
27 of people that are residents, you know, not outside interests
28 first. Even though, that's their resource and income in the
29 ways to provide for other things that need to be addressed.
30 But I think that's, you know, one thing that needs to be
31 addressed, also, is to try and see if there's another
32 management tool that could be used besides what's been applied
33 for the past 30 years. You know, it's not always working
34 right.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, to disallow real sport
37 hunters, we put a restriction or something on top of that Tier
38 I to destroy the horns or cut them up, not to bring them out of
39 the area.

40
41 MR. PEDERSON: Mr. Chairman, the Tier I hunt, which is
42 a registration hunt, which basically there's four -- you know,
43 four muskox that are going to be harvested there. And if
44 there's a person who lives outside the North Slope who gets one
45 of those permits somehow, and he or she wants to take the
46 muskox skin and the horn out of the unit they had to -- the
47 trophy value has to be destroyed. So anyone who wants to use
48 one of those permits for a trophy hunt is going to discover
49 that that's not going to work. Now, only the three permits
50 that are drawing permit will allow people to take a trophy off

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1 the North Slope. So that limits trophy participation, we hope.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, who else had their hand up?

4

5 MR. H. BROWER: Thank you, Sverre.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

8

9 MR. UPICKSOUN: Regarding the same issue that Harry
10 brought up, he's stating it nicely. Some people are quite
11 passionate about that issue. Harry was saying it very nicely.
12 Most of the people are real passionate about why is there a
13 sport hunter when we can't subsistence hunt. He brought up the
14 point quite nicely. You know, it is a thorny issue. Thank
15 you, Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Anybody else want to pick on Sverre.

18

19 MR. PEDERSON: Mr. Chairman, let me just.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Here's your opportunity now.

22

23 MR. PEDERSON: Let me respond to Mr. Upicksoun and tell
24 him -- you know, I invite you to come with me to a Fairbanks
25 Advisory Committee meeting and hear the equally passionate, you
26 know, feelings that people have down there.

27

28 MR. UPICKSOUN: I can understand -- I was in Nome when
29 the Board of Game was appreciative of how we were going to
30 allocate the additional muskox in 26(B). They were supportive
31 of that and we were -- we were supposed to come up with a plan
32 of how we were going to allocate those additional muskoxen in
33 26(B) and to pacify them we, in fact, gave them the four. So I
34 know where they're coming from in Fairbanks or any other sport
35 hunter's interest in muskox.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any questions for Mr. Sverre on
38 26(B), 26(A) State proposals. Gordon and then Ben.

39

40 MR. G. BROWER: I, too, am concerned about muskox hunt
41 by sport hunters versus giving those to the subsistence user
42 especially around the Nuiqsut area where there's been a big
43 crash in moose. For subsistence use, the moose been sick with
44 brucellosis or some other kind of sickness. I know that you
45 probably don't make the decisions on who gets the permits, but
46 I just don't know the process being new to this -- to this body
47 here. But it bothers me, too, to think that way, that some
48 rich guy will be able to come up there and just kill it for his
49 -- just because he wants to kill something, when maybe some
50 family needs it and they're hungry for it and he has children

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1 to support. I think those kind of issues need to be said to
2 the Game of Board or whoever they are who make that kind of
3 decision and control up here in the Arctic up here of that type
4 of animal and really seriously look preference to the
5 residents.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you. Sverre, answer.

8
9 MR. PEDERSON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Brower, you know, it's
10 a very good comment and let me just fill you in on one detail
11 that is useful for you to know here. And that is that in
12 discussions with people in Nuiqsut, they did not have real
13 strong feelings about the hunt east of the Haul Road. And they
14 said that if an area, you know, if there was an area that
15 should be open to a sport hunt, that would be the area of
16 preference and they did not want any of this going on in their
17 front yard. And we've managed to, you know, keep the area
18 around Nuiqsut only a subsistence hunt. And there's an area on
19 the other side of the Haul Road that is open to sport hunters.
20 It's not the hunt right near Nuiqsut.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Hopson.

23
24 MR. HOPSON: I wanted to ask Sverre, what's the status
25 of the proposal regarding 26(A) muskox incidental hunt for
26 Anaktuvuk on State lands?

27
28 MR. PEDERSON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Hopson, the 26(A)
29 proposal that was passed by the Board of Game contains a
30 provision to include the lands around Anaktuvuk Pass that are
31 basically public lands. Not Federal public lands, but State
32 lands or private lands. So the area north of -- from the
33 community and north in the valley is open to the taking of, you
34 know, this incidental take regulation.

35
36 MR. HOPSON: And that's any time we.....

37
38 MR. PEDERSON: Yeah.

39
40 MR. HOPSON: If we -- it seemed we had muskox coming in
41 through the pass and say a resident wanted to.....

42
43 MR. PEDERSON: Right.

44
45 MR. HOPSON:get a permit next week, who would he
46 call?

47
48 MR. PEDERSON: Geoff.

49
50 MR. HOPSON: Geoff in Barrow?

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1 MR. PEDERSON: Yeah.

2
3 MR. HOPSON: Okay.

4
5 MR. PEDERSON: And that regulation is basically exactly
6 as you in Anaktuvuk requested it be, you know.

7
8 MR. HOPSON: Yeah, uh-huh.

9
10 MR. PEDERSON: And as it was discussed at the muskox
11 working group includes the lands that the State has regulatory
12 authority over.

13
14 MR. HOPSON: Okay, thanks.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any other questions on the muskox on
17 B and A? C.

18
19 MR. PEDERSON: Thanks.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Are you done?

22
23 MR. PEDERSON: Yeah.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right.

26
27 MR. PEDERSON: Yeah.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Good. I think the others are pretty
30 well self explanatory. There is a wolf count and some moose
31 count numbers, and also a little bit -- there's a written
32 report by Geoff Carroll. Gordon, was your answer okay on your
33 issue that you wanted to bring up, the written report by Geoff
34 on the issue of incidental take?

35
36 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, I disagree with one
37 statement in his written report under B, Unit 26(A) when he
38 stated, we prepared the necessary paperwork but then the
39 muskoxen didn't move into an important area. I don't know what
40 he meant by that. But when we reported those muskox, I thought
41 they were in a important area and he's misstated it here,
42 definitely.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

45
46 MR. UPICKSOUN: They were in an important area, that's
47 why we reported them. We wouldn't be reporting them if they
48 weren't in an important area. So that's a misstatement right
49 there. And that's the only misstatement I see regarding 26(A),
50 Mr. Chairman.

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Anything else, Mr. Upicksoun?

2

3 MR. UPICKSOUN: No.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you. Sverre, have you
6 got that noted?

7

8 MR. PEDERSON: Yes.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: That takes care of Item #5. We'll
11 move on to the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife. I
12 don't think we'll have a representative from my cast here this
13 afternoon. Mike Peterson had a question and after the report,
14 Mike, you can bring up your concern or question on the
15 vaccination of brucellosis. And then after that we'll come up
16 with the initiative for the election that's coming up, a
17 follow-up report by Ben. And then that will move us on to Item
18 #10 (B) after that. So I'll turn the floor over to you Mr.
19 George.

20

21 MR. GEORGE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you already
22 noted, Taquliq isn't here so we've put together sort of a brief
23 description of what the department's doing at the moment and
24 I'm going to call on Harry and Robert to assist me with this.
25 As mentioned, the bowhead whale research, the harvest
26 documentation program; the areas running, some IWC matters,
27 caribou research. Robert will talk about bird and beluga
28 research. And then just a quick note on some of the work we've
29 been doing and commenting on these EIS' for the various
30 development proposals in the area.

31

32 Okay, regarding bowheads. It's getting late isn't it?
33 Currently we're continuing with the standard work we do where
34 we attend the whales that are landed by the local hunters and
35 take a series of measurements and tissue samples and that sort
36 of thing. There is going to be a large health assessment done,
37 Todd's mentioned that a couple times, he got a big Federal
38 grant to sort of get baseline information and determine
39 techniques for assessing the health of the bowhead population.
40 Currently, we really don't have good baseline data on that.
41 The morphology work is going on, you've seen all these bowhead
42 skulls that are mounted around the village. It's work that Tom
43 Albert's involved in. The (indiscernible) describing the
44 morphology of the skull.

45

46 There's a big feeding study going on in Kaktovik at the
47 moment and I'm on the science advisory board for that. It's to
48 assess the importance of the waters to the east of Kaktovik to
49 the Canadian border for this Bering/Chukchi Beaufort Sea herd
50 of bowhead whales. Do you want to say anything about the

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1 study? Okay, anyway, but it will be a three year study and
2 hopefully it will sort of vindicate some of the statements of
3 the Kaktovik areas that that area is an important feeding area.
4 We don't know how that will turn out, but that's under way at
5 the moment.

6
7 We had a bowhead whale assessment at the IWC this year.
8 We presented a number of papers. Just so you know, management
9 advice has not changed. There's a five year quota from 1998
10 through 2002, allowing 280 whales to be landed over that five
11 year period. That's 56 a year. That allows five for the
12 Russians each year. I don't know if you're aware of it, but
13 the Russians and the Chickaka(ph) people in the Bering Strait
14 region are now allowed to take five whales a year. You can't
15 exceed 56 strikes in any one year, and there's 15 carryovers
16 and unused strikes are allowed to be moved to the following
17 year. Harry, you want to say something about the harvest
18 documentation work?

19
20 MR. H. BROWER: Thank you. I have been working with
21 Taquliq Hepa, Tom Rulland and myself, working on the
22 subsistence harvest documentation project for the North Slope
23 Borough. Currently we have four people working under the
24 subsistence harvest documentation project. It's a part-time
25 position that we are trying to get to fill the needs of the
26 communities. We're having a real poor turn out on that due to
27 the part-time position that it's been created as. But we've
28 been successful in collecting harvest data for five of the
29 communities out of eight. And we have written three reports
30 for the community of Anaktuvuk Pass, Nuiqsut and Atqasuk
31 currently have a draft report for Kaktovik just about
32 completed. We're -- like I said, it's in the draft form and we
33 need to review it before we can send it out for, you know,
34 review by different agencies or whoever would like to look at
35 it and we're going through that process right now. And like I
36 said, we have four people and working with Tom Rulland, Devin
37 Bates, Tina Bole. And Earl Kignak was working for us out of
38 Point Hope but we're not getting good results from him and
39 we're debating whether to let him go; we got a subcontract with
40 the Native Village of Point Hope but it's not working out good.
41 Anyway, we've collected some information from Kaktovik,
42 Nuiqsut, Atqasuk, Barrow. We've done one years work in Point
43 Lay, we haven't really collected any harvest information from
44 Wainwright and Point Hope. And that's about where we're at.

45
46 We've completed three reports, like I said earlier,
47 Nuiqsut, Atqasuk and Anaktuvuk Pass. And that's where we're at
48 today with all the -- with all this harvest documentation
49 project. It's been going on for the past three years. This is
50 the third year in the works.

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1 MR. GEORGE: Thanks Harry.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any questions for Harry? Gordon.

4

5 MR. G. BROWER: Is this a harvest for wildlife, too,
6 and fish documentation, and is that Barrow included in that?

7

8 MR. H. BROWER: Yes, Barrow was included. And we're
9 collecting information for all resources that are utilized by
10 each of the communities. Like for the coastal communities for
11 whales, walrus, seals, migratory birds, fish, you know,
12 whatever resources are utilized by each community, we're trying
13 to collect information on.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any other questions for Harry. If
16 not, good job, Harry, thank you.

17

18 MR. GEORGE: Yeah, they have done a very good job.
19 They get very high participation work and I guess we should
20 thank Sverre, too, for helping design the original program
21 that's done in conjunction with the Alaska Department of Fish
22 and Game Subsistence Division.

23

24 Okay, Robert, do you want to say a couple of words
25 about the bird and beluga report?

26

27 MR. SUYDAM: Sure. I'll just briefly talk about a
28 project that we did this summer in Point Lay. And a lot of you
29 heard this at the North Slope Borough Fish and Game management
30 committee meeting, so I won't talk in great depth about it, but
31 just kind of show you the results.

32

33 For years, the hunters and the biologists have been
34 asking one another, where to belugas go after they leave Point
35 Lay? Nobody knew. We knew they spent about three weeks or
36 four weeks around the Point Lay area in late June and early
37 July, but where they went after that we didn't know. We
38 suspected they came up the Coast and maybe went out into the
39 Chukchi Sea or someplace, but again, we didn't know. So the
40 last three years we've been trying to live capture and tag
41 beluga whales and attach satellite transmitters to them. And
42 finally this year we were tremendously successful because to a
43 great deal, the hunters there in Point Lay helped us out and
44 allowed us to try to catch these whales. So this summer we
45 caught six whales and we put satellite tags on five of them and
46 two of the whales, the transmitters only lasted for about two
47 weeks. One, we got the last signal right here at Icy Cape. It
48 kind of went up to Wainwright and then back down and just kind
49 of hung out between Point Lay and Wainwright for about two
50 weeks. The other one went up toward Barrow and it's last

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1 signal was just north of Barrow, again, after about two weeks.
2 The other three, as you can see, did some pretty amazing
3 things. They came up past Barrow and just kept heading north,
4 and they went up to, basically halfway between Barrow and the
5 North Pole, we're up at about 108 -- or sorry, 180 degrees
6 north and they were about 134 degrees west, which is basically
7 just north of the McKenzie River Delta.

8
9 What they're doing up there, we have no idea. We guess
10 that they're probably feeding, but on what, you know, that's
11 the big question. The water in that area is about 12,000 feet
12 deep, so they're most likely not diving to the bottom. But you
13 know, they're eating cod, maybe there's something else that's
14 up there. We don't really know. As you can see, the three
15 belugas then moved south and as of about a week and a half ago,
16 all three of them were kind of here north of Barrow and north
17 of the Colville River Delta, in this area. Two of the tags we
18 got the last signals on about a week ago so we only have one
19 beluga that's still sending us information and again, she's
20 just kind of to the northeast of Barrow right now. Probably
21 about 50 to 100 miles off of the Coast.

22
23 So we're really excited about this information because
24 it's the first time we've been able to satellite tag belugas in
25 Alaska and it's given us some exciting data to ponder and to
26 speculate as to what they're doing. We're hoping next year or
27 the year after that or both of those will be able to tag more
28 belugas at Point Lay, see if they do the same thing year after
29 year.

30
31 Also we've been talking about trying to get into
32 Kotzebue Sound working with Willie Goodwin and other folks down
33 there and try to tag belugas in Kotzebue. Kind of the reason
34 for that is for many years we've thought that the belugas moved
35 from Kotzebue up to Point Lay. Now, we have a little bit of
36 evidence that maybe they don't do that, so we'd like to find
37 out if, indeed, the belugas that -- at least in some years gone
38 to Kotzebue come up to Point Lay.

39
40 Just to show you a little bit of the same movements but
41 in terms of ice cover. The pack ice edge is right about there
42 and you can see the belugas travel hundreds of miles into the
43 pack ice. You know, again, they must be going up that far
44 north for some reason but why, who knows? Maybe one of these
45 years we'll get a submarine or an ice breaker or something and
46 get up there and check it out.

47
48 The North Slope Borough is also participating in a few
49 different bird projects in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and
50 Wildlife Service. Here in Barrow we've been trying to

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1 understand what kind of tundra stellers eiders like to nest in.
2 The area out here on the tundra, you know, specific areas where
3 they nest. Stellers eiders were listed as a threatened species
4 several years ago, actually about a year ago now. And so
5 trying to understand their biology and the possible impacts of
6 building roads and houses and that kind of thing out there.
7 We're also trying to monitor king eider and tom eider
8 populations and they seem to be declining and why we don't
9 know. So we're trying to answer some of those questions. And
10 we're also trying to figure out the different areas where
11 brandt nest and how many brandt there are between -- especially
12 between the Colville River and Barrow, that information has
13 been lacking until just the last couple of years.

14
15 So in a real brief nutshell, that's kind of what I
16 wanted to say unless there's any questions that people have.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any questions for Robert? Paul.

19
20 MR. BODFISH: In your question to how the eider ducks
21 are being depleted, I have noticed seagulls getting into their
22 nest and robbing them of their eggs. Those seagulls, they're
23 numerous out over the tundra. That might be one of the reasons
24 why the eider ducks are being depleted.

25
26 MR. SUYDAM: Thanks for that observation, Paul. I know
27 we've been talking about that quite a bit over the years,
28 Warren Matuniok, in particular, has expressed over and over
29 again that gulls are a big problem. That yeagers might be a
30 problem. The foxes are a problem. And gulls and foxes, in
31 particular, their numbers probably have increased over the
32 last, you know, 10 or 20 years, you know, with more and more
33 dumps. And you know, people shooting gulls and trapping foxes
34 less, that their populations are likely increasing and might be
35 impacting eider abundance. So that's definitely one of the
36 things that we're trying to look into and understand better
37 than we do now.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Paul. Mike.

40
41 MR. PATKOTAK: In terms of your beluga that's pretty
42 interesting. Under the ice. My grandfather and I were pretty
43 close and he's a documented, God bless his soul, was a
44 storyteller and a half. And I used to love to fish, and he
45 used to always tell me that if I want to go get some fish, go
46 where's there some pressure ridges and there'll be some air
47 pockets in there and whales go under there, beluga go under
48 there and a whole slew of assortment of fish go under there to
49 hide from, you know, where there's ice pockets and stuff to
50 hide from their predators. So that might be something you

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1 might want to document in terms of the elders.

2

3 MR. SUYDAM: Thank you, Mike.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any other questions for Robert. Go
6 Robert.

7

8 MR. GEORGE: The cooperative caribou research we're
9 doing with ADF&G and BLM is continuing. We now are in our
10 ninth year doing satellite telemetry work with the Teshepuk
11 Lake Herd. And this is just a quick plot of all the data from
12 1990 to 1996, which is immediately impressive and obvious is
13 that this herd that -- you know, the Teshepuk Lake Herd calves
14 up in this region is using a tremendous part of the state. And
15 every village, but Kaktovik takes these animals that may, in
16 fact, be the herd that's the most important subsistence herd on
17 the Slope at the moment in terms of numbers of animals taken.
18 Geoff Carroll thinks a lot of the animals that are taken at
19 Barrow, Atkasuk and Wainwright to some extent are these
20 Teshepuk Lake animals. They also, in some years, they winter
21 clear down in Seward Peninsula, down near Klukwan. So they're
22 real rangy critters. They've wintered in a number of different
23 areas near Point Hope, Anaktuvuk Pass, along the Haul Road over
24 here one year and two years, at least, near Wainwright they've
25 wintered over there. You guys have reported huge numbers of
26 caribou over there. So that study is ongoing. What we plan to
27 do now is kind of roll our sleeves up and really do a bang-up
28 analysis in all this. We've got a ton of data to go through,
29 so we're in the process now of trying to figure out a -- a
30 research plan to really get this stuff properly analyzed.

31

32 Dave and I will spending some time tomorrow working on
33 this.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Could you leave that one on there?
36 That almost looks like a natural stop light on the west going
37 east.

38

39 MR. GEORGE: Oh, right here, where the muskox land?

40

41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, no, I mean -- yeah, yeah.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: No wonder the pipeline.....

46

47 MR. GEORGE: Boy, that's interesting. Do we have one
48 in there?

49

50 MR. GARDNER: We don't have, but we can do that.

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Whether the pipeline.....

2
3 MR. GEORGE: Do you want to try it?

4
5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:plays a.....

6
7 MR. GARDNER: But as I recall, this year, yeah, they
8 butted up against the road when they cross it -- I don't know
9 exactly why.

10
11 MR. SUYDAM: Well, Craig, are those caribou over there.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Whether that's a barrier or not. I
14 think that would be my hunch, just looking at the data that you
15 have there.

16
17 MR. GARDNER: Yeah, this is a -- I think it's all the
18 animals.

19
20 MR. SUYDAM: Right. But I mean, the ones that are over
21 there to the east?

22
23 MR. GARDNER: Oh, right.

24
25 MR. SUYDAM: Aren't there.....

26
27 MR. GARDNER: Right. Yeah. Yeah, this is a little
28 misleading because it's a lot of years and some years there's
29 only -- like now, I think there's only three or four animals on
30 there. Some years there's been as many as 10.

31
32 But, yeah, I think we can start asking some pretty
33 interesting questions. Look at the habitat preferences and
34 winter ranges and movement rates and weather effects and all
35 these sorts of things at some point. But we just haven't
36 gotten to it.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Craig.

39
40 MR. GARDNER: Yeah, okay.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any questions on this? Gordon.

43
44 MR. G. BROWER: Craig.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Craig, you have one over here.

47
48 MR. G. BROWER: What's your size of the Teshepuk Herd
49 and does it intermingle with the other herds when they're
50 migrating? Because in the past I've heard from, like my dad,

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1 talk about them but they were (Native) from another group and
2 sometimes they would get a little bit bigger because some other
3 group would just break up and follow another herd when they
4 collide as different herds.

5
6 MR. GARDNER: The first question is how many are there?

7
8 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah.

9
10 MR. GARDNER: The last census was a couple years ago,
11 there was 27,000. And ADF&G shot the photo array and we've
12 counted them here. And they've increased -- all that -- this
13 little herd's increased pretty quickly and, you know, they've
14 been in like a 15 percent annual rate of increase since Pat
15 Reynolds did -- by the way, I had a chance to -- Pat has now
16 finished her Ph.D., it's now Dr. Reynolds.

17
18 Anyway, Pat -- sorry, Pat, had to get that in. Anyway,
19 you did the initial population estimate, is that right, back in
20 the early '70s.

21
22 MS. REYNOLDS: '76.

23
24 MR. GARDNER: Wasn't there like 4,000 animals?

25
26 MS. REYNOLDS: There were 5,000 animals at that time.

27
28 MR. GARDNER: Yeah, so they've really -- and actually
29 you talk to the old-timers here, there weren't any animals near
30 Teshepuk Lake in the '40s. Alfred Leveit, Sr., said that he
31 grew up out there and he said, there weren't any wild caribou
32 around at the time they were caribou herding in that area.

33
34 MR. H. BROWER: Reindeer herding, not caribou.

35
36 MR. GARDNER: Yeah, reindeer herding, that's right.
37 Excuse me. But the other thing, they do intermingle with the
38 Western Arctic animals. But it's interesting that they do seem
39 to form a boundary here on the Colville where the Central
40 Arctic animals hang out, that might be some habitat
41 partitioning going on there. I'm don't know.

42
43 Okay, any other questions? We hope to have a more
44 thorough analysis at your next meeting.

45
46 And that's really it. Another thing that our
47 department spent a lot of time on this last year is commenting
48 on draft EIS' for the NPRA project that Dave Yokel just
49 described. From the North Star and Liberty proposals for
50 offshore development. And we put in a lot of time. As a

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1 matter-of-fact, that's where this analysis came from. We did a
2 lot of work putting together the joint State NSB preferred
3 alternative for the NPRA Northeast Planning area. It was
4 interesting.

5
6 That's it. Anything else? Anybody?

7
8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Patkotak.

9
10 MR. PATKOTAK: Yeah, Craig, in terms of the moose, the
11 brucellosis problem, my question is is there a vaccine being
12 developed? And this brucellosis problem, is it effecting the
13 caribou in any way or is there any studies in terms of the
14 danger of brucellosis going over into caribou?

15
16 MR. GEORGE: Well, it's endemic in caribou; is that
17 right Craig? It's in the population always at some level.
18 It's uncommon in moose. As a matter-of-fact, it's usually
19 quite lethal. I guess this is unusual to have a herd that
20 seems to be tolerating it to some extent. I did talk to Todd
21 O'Hara this afternoon and asked him about the work, the vaccine
22 work and that's being done at UAF right now with domestic
23 reindeer. They're testing a brucellosis vaccine at the moment.
24 I think there's some optimism; is that right, that it might
25 actually be successful. But for moose, he said there's no work
26 being done and it's unlikely that there will be because it's
27 quite rare. As a matter-of-fact, when we did the initial
28 screening, the ADF&G pathologist said don't even bother looking
29 for it because it's so lethal that if they have it they die
30 quickly. But we found a high percentage of these moose had
31 been exposed and survived it. And now, even some of the
32 exposed females are calving successfully, so it's unusual.

33
34 And they've even isolated the strain of brucella, too,
35 now, and I don't recall what it is. Do you know, Craig or
36 Sverre?

37
38 MR. GARDNER: No.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you. Okay, as stated earlier,
41 we don't have a representative from my cast. The other
42 business or other new business was to get some information on
43 the election or the referendum that's coming in. Perhaps that
44 -- we can be bringing this information to the community as
45 representatives. This is a political issue, which could make a
46 very big impact on our way of life, however, I think maybe we
47 can hear from Ben in bringing this issue to our community.
48 Ben.

49
50 MR. B. HOPSON: This was intended to be mostly like an

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1 information use to the Board, or like an update, since I had
2 talked previously at the fall and spring meeting regarding this
3 issue.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Well, you made a very good
6 presentation the other day about what impact this referendum
7 will be or initiative that's going to be on the new member
8 ballot or October ballot?

9
10 MR. B. HOPSON: It's coming up in the November.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: November ballot. Keep an eye out
13 for that.

14
15 MR. B. HOPSON: But what the Athabascans and the other
16 Interior communities like Yupik people are very concerned.
17 This may have an effect where if this snaring ban succeeded for
18 wolf, you know, they may do something like for beaver, where
19 actually a lot of Athabascans and Yupik snare beaver just for
20 the full nutritional value.

21
22 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Upicksoun.

25
26 MR. UPICKSOUN: Ben, will there be -- you guys will be
27 having TV ads opposing the ban on snaring? I know you
28 mentioned funding from different sources.

29
30 MR. B. HOPSON: And then we're encouraging like, you
31 know, village organizations like corporations, city councils,
32 tribal councils to, you know, help pitch in with some dollar
33 contributions so we can buy these spendy TV air time. We're
34 looking to raise around \$100,000 to actually do all our
35 campaigning on TV.

36
37 MR. UPICKSOUN: Well, you're lucky on poker, I'll loan
38 you 100,000.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, Ben. We'll move on
41 to 10(B). Mike had an issue on the polar bear hide. You
42 wanted to discuss that further, Mike?

43
44 MR. PATKOTAK: Well, basically I know it's a growing --
45 there's a growing group of people that are -- that would like
46 to see ongoing discussion in terms of polar bear products, like
47 I said, mittens, ruffs, and handicraft items, muk-luk, that are
48 made not just to be sold to Natives only, but expanded to non-
49 Native people. I know it's an issue that's touchy but it's a
50 growing -- there's -- it's a growing problem and the group of

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1 people need to be heard. I know there's some people in
2 Wainwright there and people in Nuiqsut that get polar bears and
3 convert them into handicraft items and they don't have the
4 market that Barrow does. And when they do travel it's a
5 saturated market.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mike, if it's all right with you,
8 I'd like to get some more information perhaps from the Nanook
9 Commission, get all that -- get that Act, get the laws that
10 pertain to that and see what we could do as a Council at our
11 March meeting.

12
13 MR. PATKOTAK: Uh-huh.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: And I know Rossman wants to talk
16 about it further in his Fish and Game committee, the North
17 Slope, so possibly in the next North Slope Borough Fish and
18 Game Committee they'll bring that up as well. So if that's all
19 right with you.....

20
21 MR. PATKOTAK: That's just fine. It's ongoing
22 dialogue, it's mainly to put into the record.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Gordon.

25
26 MR. UPICKSOUN: When will the next joint meeting be
27 with the Regional Advisory Council and the North Slope Borough
28 Wildlife Management Committee? That would be a good time to
29 really hash it out.

30
31 MR. PATKOTAK: Yeah.

32
33 MR. UPICKSOUN: Plus the information from the Nanook
34 Commission and the Marine Mammal Protection Act that effects
35 this issue and have it in the form of an information packet at
36 our next joint meeting if, in fact, our next meeting may be a
37 joint meeting.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. We'll be having a joint
40 meeting sometime in the future. But I want to bring it up for
41 more information at our next meeting. Okay, Mike?

42
43 MR. PATKOTAK: Uh-huh.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you. Is there any other new
46 business to come before the Council?

47
48 MR. UPICKSOUN: Item 11 is new.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: No other new business. We'll move

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1 on to Item 11. Harry.

2

3 MR. H. BROWER: I'd like to say thank you for all the
4 agencies that come up and give us reports on all these issues
5 that we have to deal with under this Federal Management
6 program, so I'd just like to say thank you to all the agencies
7 that come up here and the people, who give us the reports.
8 Sverre, I don't mean to pick on you and I hope we didn't become
9 enemies after that.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Anybody else want to pick on Sverre?
12 Now's the opportunity.

13

14 MR. PATKOTAK: When's the lynching party?

15

16 MR. PEDERSON: Tomorrow.

17

18 MR. PATKOTAK: Tomorrow.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, I, too, want to say thank you.
21 I know previous times we've had our meetings and I'm glad that
22 we had the Staff from the various State and Federal agencies
23 stay with us until the meetings are all over. We came up short
24 a couple of times and we did have to work on the proposals and
25 we worked on them at the end, we had agency reports towards the
26 beginning of our meeting and as proposal issues came up, we
27 didn't have any Federal and State agencies. So I really
28 appreciate you hanging in there with us for these full days
29 here and look forward to meeting again there in February and
30 March time frame.

31

32 What's on the calendar?

33

34 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: It's under K.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: There's a couple of pages long of
37 considering the winter meeting, does someone want to read
38 those? But our window opens February 22 and closes March 24th,
39 so that's it.

40

41 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, do you recall what day we
42 set for the North Slope Borough Wildlife Management Committee
43 meeting?

44

45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: No, I wasn't here.

46

47 MR. UPICKSOUN: Do you remember Harry?

48

49 MR. H. BROWER: I have a copy of -- a draft copy of the
50 minutes from our Fish and Game management committee, Mr.

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1 Chairman, and I could just state that it's -- the next meeting
2 is set for November 18 and 19.

3
4 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay.

5
6 MR. H. BROWER: Here in Barrow.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ben.

9
10 MR. B. HOPSON: I would recommend, you know, we meet
11 like the first week of the window there, like 24 or 25.

12
13 MR. UPICKSOUN: How about 23 and 24?

14
15 MR. B. HOPSON: Yeah, I like that.

16
17 MR. UPICKSOUN: Because I'd like to leave on the 25th.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon, do you mean on the 23rd and
20 24th of February, 1999?

21
22 MR. UPICKSOUN: Yes.

23
24 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

25
26 MR. H. BROWER: No discussion, call for the question.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Harry. All in
29 favor of February 23 and 24.

30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Those opposed same sign.

34
35 (No opposing votes)

36
37 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Harry.

40
41 MR. H. BROWER: Can I make a comment of scheduling our
42 next fall meeting?

43
44 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

45
46 MR. H. BROWER: Not in September.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

49
50 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: You'll see that window in your next

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1 meeting.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah.

4
5 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I'm sure -- they discussed it,
6 they're already discussing it to put it back further so it
7 might even be back -- September might be gone so we might be
8 having our meetings in (indiscernible - away from microphone).

9
10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: The reason Harry brought that up is
11 we're in the middle of fall whaling.

12
13 MR. UPICKSOUN: October is fall whaling and
14 (indiscernible) Barrow is just starting.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I think we formally excused him
17 because he couldn't make it here, he's been out fall whaling,
18 too, and we shouldn't penalize him for missing a meeting
19 because he's doing an important mission.

20
21 Item 12.

22
23 MR. BODFISH: I so move.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Move by Paul.

26
27 MR. H. BROWER: Second.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Seconded by Harry. All in favor say
30 Eee.

31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All those who say no.

35
36 (No opposing votes)

37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Meeting adjourned.

39
40 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2
3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
4) ss.
5 STATE OF ALASKA)
6

7 I, Rebecca Nelms, Notary Public in and for the State of
8 Alaska and Reporter for R&R Court Reporters, Inc., do hereby
9 certify:

10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 223
12 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH SLOPE
13 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING
14 taken electronically by Meredith Downing on the 9th and 10th
15 day of September, 1998, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock
16 a.m. at ASRC Building, Barrow Alaska;

17
18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
19 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by
20 Meredith Downing, Salena Hile and myself to the best of our
21 knowledge and ability;

22
23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
24 interested in any way in this action.

25
26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 18th day of September
27 1998.

28
29
30
31
32 _____
33 Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 10/10/98