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NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

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VOLUME I

12

Inupiat Heritage Center

Barrow, Alaska

March 13, 2001

9:00 o'clock a.m.

16

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18 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

19

20 Fenton Rexford, Chairman

21 Harry Brower

22 Ray Koonuk, Sr.

23 Mike Patkotak

24 Leonard Tuke

25 Amos Agnassagga

26

27 Coordinator; Michelle Chivers

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: It is a quarter after
4 9:00. I'll ask Michelle to give us the roll call.

5

6 MS. CHIVERS: Fenton Rexford.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I'm here.

9

10 MS. CHIVERS: Harry Brower, Jr.

11

12 MR. H. BROWER: Here.

13

14 MS. CHIVERS: Earl Williams. Terry Tagarook.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, he'll be here this
17 morning here in about an hour, less than an hour.

18

19 MS. CHIVERS: Amos Agnassagga.

20

21 MR. AGNASSAGGA: Here.

22

23 MS. CHIVERS: Ray Koonuk.

24

25 MR. KOONUK: Here.

26

27 MS. CHIVERS: Leonard Tukle.

28

29 MR. TUKLE: Here.

30

31 MS. CHIVERS: Mike Patkotak.

32

33 MR. PATKOTAK: Here.

34

35 MS. CHIVERS: Paul Bodfish. Edward Itta.

36 Gordon Brower, Sr.

37

38 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chairman, Gordon is en
39 route for other business today so he's not here.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. So we have six out
42 of nine, so we do have a quorum. Thank you, Michelle. I
43 want to welcome everyone this morning. Again, Terry, will
44 join us a little bit later this morning and I hear some of
45 our other Subsistence Management Office Staff will also be
46 arriving on the morning jet. Maybe we'll go around the table
47 and introduce ourselves.

48

49 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ray.

2

3 MR. KOONUK: What's the reason for the Staff
4 being late? There's so many jet flights from here to
5 Anchorage and Fairbanks, there's no reason for them to be
6 late.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: So noted, Ray. I
9 appreciate your comment there. Helen.

10

11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chairman, the
12 Anchorage Staff is all here. The only person I'm aware of
13 who is not here is Ann Marcott and she's.....

14

15 MR. UBERUAGA: No, she's not, she cancelled.
16 So I don't know who else is coming.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Everybody.....

19

20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So I think maybe everybody
21 is here.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:is here, okay, good.
24 All right. So most of our Staff is here, Ray, but I
25 appreciate your comment on that. With that, maybe we'll
26 start in the back with Dave and work our way to the left
27 there.

28

29 MR. YOKEL: Good morning, and thank you, Mr.
30 Chair. I'm Dave Yokel with Bureau of Land Management in
31 Fairbanks.

32

33 MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning, Waska Williams.

34

35 MS. DEWHURST: Donna Dewhurst. I'm the
36 wildlife biologist on the subsistence team out of Anchorage.

37

38 MS. CHIVERS: Michelle Chivers, Subsistence
39 Management.

40

41 MR. JENNINGS: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
42 Council members. Tim Jennings, Office of Subsistence
43 Management. As I mentioned to several of you, Barb Armstrong
44 is sick and unable to attend so Michelle Chivers is our
45 backup coordinator statewide and she's going to help out at
46 the meeting today. Barb really regrets not being able to be
47 here and so she sends her regards to everyone.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Tim.

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1 MR. UBERUAGA: Good morning. Richard
2 Uberuaga, fisheries biologist working for the North Slope and
3 Northwest Arctic and Seward Penn.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, ma'am.

6
7 MS. REILLY: Susan Reilly, I'm the court
8 recorder.

9
10 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong. I'm the
11 cultural anthropologist who's on Staff for this Council from
12 the Anchorage Subsistence Office.

13
14 MR. TUKLE: Leonard Tukle from Nuiqsut.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Leonard.
17 Fenton from Kaktovik.

18
19 MR. H. BROWER: Harry Brower, Barrow.

20
21 MR. AGNASSAGGA: Amos Agnassagga from Point
22 Lay.

23
24 MR. PATKOTAK: Mike Patkotak, Barrow.

25
26 MR. KOONUK: Ray Koonuk, Point Hope.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right, very good.
29 Once again, thank you, Michelle for covering for Barbara.
30 With that we'll go ahead and review and adopt the agenda, I
31 think the yellow one.

32
33 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ray.

36
37 MR. KOONUK: May I have a moment of silence
38 for our past colleague, Ben Hopson.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Oh, yes, thank you very
41 much, Ray, I really appreciate that. I think it would be
42 appropriate at this time to go ahead and have a moment of
43 silence in remembrance of Ben and also another one from
44 Atqasuk, Lou Talak, was also active with subsistence and BLM
45 and all kinds of work that he did for Atqasuk. Let's go
46 ahead and have a moment of silence.

47
48 (Moment of Silence)

49
50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I want to thank you, Ray,

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1 and I do appreciate that. Although it was tragic, I did make
2 it up to the funeral and it was sad but very good for the
3 community and for us that attended and I heard that it went
4 to a compressed video here in Barrow and the auditorium was
5 also pretty full. The gymnasium was packed in Anaktuvuk,
6 every seat was taken. Sad, but thank you, Ray.

7
8 With that, we have a yellow sheet agenda
9 that's more updated than the one in the book. I note some
10 changes. Again, Michelle will be covering for Barbara, so
11 Barbara's name in there we'll look to Michelle to help us
12 with any items. Under VII(A)(3), I'll have Mike give us a
13 brief update on the customary protocol development and give
14 you an update who the other representatives are. Election of
15 officers, Michelle will help us at the outset to elect a
16 Chair and then the new Chair will take on the vice Chair and
17 the secretary. Throughout the meeting there'll be
18 opportunity for the public to comment throughout the meeting.
19 If there is going to be public comment, there are green cards
20 over there to fill out. Turning the page over, we have the
21 agency reports which should take about an hour or X(A)
22 through VI. I don't see anyone here from Park Service. BLM,
23 Dave is here. And I'm not sure if anyone will be here for
24 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. And then we'll
25 review the proposals. For each proposal the procedure will
26 be to introduce the proposal and the lead agency that we'll
27 get the analysis from the biologists and the anthropologist
28 and if there's any ADF&G comments they'll have their
29 opportunity and then we'll get a summary of the written
30 comments and that will be Michelle, and then we'll open the
31 floor to public comments and then there'll be Regional
32 Council deliberations. We have seven proposals to review and
33 approve or disapprove. Under XII, we have any other reports
34 and I'd like to insert the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
35 Resource Council. As you know there's a vacant seat and we
36 will need to fill that seat that Ben Hopson held.

37
38 Are there any other items that we need to add
39 or delete? Mr. Jennings.

40
41 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chair. Under agency
42 reports, X(A) one through six, I would note the changes for
43 who will be giving those reports. Number 1, partnerships for
44 fisheries monitoring will be myself, Tim Jennings. Items
45 two, three and four, 2001 fisheries monitoring plan, 2002
46 fisheries monitoring plan and the regional subsistence
47 fisheries issues and information needs, all three of those
48 will be done by Richard Uberuaga. And I will also do items
49 five and six where it says Peggy Fox for statewide rural and
50 in-season delegation to field managers.

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1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, Tim. So
4 noted on the presenters. Anything else?

5

6 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ray.

9

10 MR. KOONUK: I'd like to add on stipends on
11 reports.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, stipends. Okay, the
14 floor is open now for adopting the agenda.

15

16 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair, so moved to approve
17 the agenda with the amendments.

18

19 MR. AGNASSAGGA: Second.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: We have those noted
22 changes, mostly the names and the insertion of -- or adding
23 on 12(A) and (B) with the Gates of the Arctic SRC vacant seat
24 and stipends. Other than that most of the items will remain
25 the same except for name changes. Further discussion on the
26 motion to adopt the agenda.

27

28 MR. KOONUK: Question.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Ray. All in
31 favor of approving the agenda as presented and changed say
32 aye.

33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Those opposed, same sign.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Number 5, we will review
41 and adopt the minutes of the public meeting on September 12
42 of 2000 under Tab B -- oh, no, Tab C. Let's take a minute to
43 review that and then the Chair will entertain a motion to
44 approve the minutes.

45

46 (Pause)

47

48 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Harry.

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1 MR. H. BROWER: I move to approve the minutes
2 of September 12, 2000.

3
4 MR. AGNASSAGGA: (Nods)

5
6 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Harry. It's
7 been moved by Harry to approve the minutes, do I hear a
8 second? Did someone second that? Who seconded?

9
10 MR. AGNASSAGGA: (Nods)

11
12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Oh, Amos did, I'm sorry.
13 I didn't hear you there, Amos. Discussion on the minutes of
14 September 12.

15
16 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ray.

19
20 MR. KOONUK: Under members present, what's
21 the position of Harry, is he secretary or vice Chair?

22
23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Secretary, thank you, Ray.
24 Under the first page there, under the members present, it
25 should be Harry Brower, secretary, on the first page there at
26 the very beginning of the minutes.

27
28 MR. KOONUK: On the same page where it says
29 Leonard, Ray, Mike, Paul, they all talked with Barb
30 Armstrong, coordinator, and appears to be excused. How do
31 we go about knowing the rest of the guys here, if they're
32 excused or not?

33
34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Here, today?

35
36 MR. KOONUK: Yeah.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

39
40 MR. KOONUK: Yeah.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, I know Terry is on
43 his way over. I haven't heard from Earl. I did run into him
44 in Anaktuvuk Pass last week and he mentioned that he'd try
45 and make it here so I'm not sure where Earl is. Paul, I
46 think he's out camping, is what I heard. Somebody mentioned
47 that on the way over. Terry, again, will be here so I'm not
48 sure about -- any of our Staff members heard from Earl?
49 Okay.

50

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1 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chairman.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ray, I think it's up to
4 the coordinator to decide, she's the one that communicates
5 back and forth with us and if we let her know ahead of time
6 that we're not going to be attending the meeting she would
7 bring it up at the time of our discussions here about being
8 present and absent. I mean she'd speak for the folks that
9 have called in ahead of time to discuss where they're at.

10
11 MR. KOONUK: But she's not here, you know.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes. Well, Terry did call
14 here and I didn't hear from the others.

15
16 MR. KOONUK: Well, the coordinator's not here
17 and that's why I asked.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Further discussion
20 on the minutes of September. Just a typo on Page 3 in the
21 middle of the paragraph -- or middle of the page, the middle
22 paragraph, where it starts out that Harry said the State
23 should also be -- and then the word should be separated or a
24 space there, a typo. How about from the Staff, anything to
25 be noted or changed?

26
27 Hearing none.

28
29 MR. KOONUK: Question called.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Question called, thank
32 you, Ray. All those in favor of approving the minutes of
33 September 12th, 2000 signify by saying aye.

34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Those opposed, same sign.

38
39 (No opposing votes)

40
41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Minutes are adopted.
42 Okay, folks, again, for public this opportunity continues
43 throughout the meeting for any other public members or
44 regional members to make public comments. We keep that
45 fairly open, just a note for the public comments under six.
46 If there are public members that wish to testify on any other
47 topic, please feel out the testifier's form, it's there where
48 Michelle is.

49
50 We have our Regional Council member reports.

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1 First off under the Chair's report, under 7A, under items
2 one, two and four, I'll give a brief or summarize the
3 meetings that happened during the winter. I'll combine the
4 Fisheries Regional Council Chairs meeting, December 3, I'll
5 combine, again, the Fisheries Council Chair and the Federal
6 Subsistence Board meeting, they were held consecutively on
7 December 4th, and also the Federal Subsistence Board
8 Fisheries meeting, December 5 through the 7th. I don't know
9 if everyone's got a copy of that, maybe you can follow
10 through, it's titled -- it's about a four page report meeting
11 of the Regional Advisors Council Chairs in the Chugach Room
12 at the Anchorage Westmark Hotel, December 3, 2000. I'd say
13 most of the Chairs were present. We didn't have Harry Wilde,
14 but he was represented, he came in at a later day. Most of
15 the Staff were there as you can see at the Chairman's
16 meeting. At the outset, comments from the Chair, Bill
17 Thomas, he's our Chairman of the Chairs started the meeting
18 off with the overview of how the Chairs can help each other
19 and their Councils keep their line of communications open.
20 He welcomed Gerald Nicholia from the Eastern Interior
21 Regional Council, who is the new Chairman of the Eastern
22 Interior. No objections or additions to the agenda, but Bill
23 mentioned that they could add at any time during the meeting.
24 Helga Eakon said the topics were generated as a result of the
25 topics by the Council Chairs through their coordinators for
26 the Chairman and Board meeting the next day. What happened
27 was, the night before all the Chairs get together before they
28 meet with the Board and then Helga went through the topics
29 briefly. Ida Hildebrand clarified there would be a
30 presentation by Ken Lord of the FACA, Federal Advisory
31 Committees Act, what meetings require, FACA
32 modifications/notification, and when work sessions don't fall
33 under FACA, and also the Chairs that are polling their
34 Council by telephone or in person without a meeting.
35 Regarding the memorandum of agreement protocols, the Chairs
36 need to decide which Council members are going to serve on
37 the working groups and it will be clarified who the protocol
38 working group members are, Committee members from our region.

39
40 Then we took up the memorandum of agreement
41 with the State, State of Alaska. That's what the MOA is.
42 And Ralph Lohse, Chair, was concerned about the preamble, and
43 Bill Thomas suggested that we get the wording orally as an
44 option to the written version. Asked about the whereas
45 clause so Ralph reread it, Bill said he recognized a
46 difference between the State's charge as delineated in the
47 clause and their performance. Gerald talked about the Yukon
48 and the Interior, that it's not an in-river problem, it's an
49 ocean intercept problem. Bill wanted the Chairs to develop
50 a statement that the subsistence users have not benefited

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1 from the sustained yield principle response by the State,
2 Ralph said that in the Prince William Sound, the Copper River
3 area, they have more fish coming up the river than before.
4 Grace Cross from Seward Penn said that the worse part of it
5 that the Norton Sound, where fishing had declined
6 considerably. Mr. Thomas suggested that someone is going to
7 have to step forward and suggest a remedy to the situation
8 and it might not happen in one year, to resolve the
9 situation.

10
11 The State Board of Fish has a new policy for
12 sustainable fisheries, while that may be good it has to show
13 itself in practice. The difference here is that the Councils
14 from all over the state coming together, they can influence
15 the system as collectively, or being together or in unity.
16 The language may not come out today but they can at least
17 make some headway. Ralph Lohse continued the preamble,
18 stating -- starting at the second whereas. Ron Sam, the
19 Chairman from the Western Interior talked about the fishing
20 on the Koyukuk and he felt that it was wrong for them to be
21 cut off. The escapement is good enough for them to fish.
22 Bill Thomas asked about the traditional methods and the
23 amount of fishing, pointing out that traditional methods did
24 not allow for over use of the resources. When they get
25 enough they quit fishing. That leaves the rest of them to go
26 up river. So apparently the season was closed or cut off in
27 the Koyukuk area.

28
29 The second whereas is the one that needs to
30 be in the front of the group at all times. The third whereas
31 which deals with cooperative agreement leads to therefore
32 statement, which Bill said was a weak therefore, it doesn't
33 commit anyone to anything. He wanted to add to its
34 substance. The purpose section, Bill wanted to amend that
35 section to include reference to the language and intent of
36 Title VIII, that will keep the agreement from playing into
37 the hands of the State. Ralph Lohse said that the language
38 needed to reflect both Federal and State subsistence
39 priorities not just Title VIII. Ida Hildebrand said that the
40 reference to Title VIII is in the preamble, the main impact
41 would be in the body. There was additional discussion
42 between the State and Federal laws.

43
44 Vince Mathews, one of the Staff members
45 suggested that the section would address management,
46 subsistence priority and meaningful public involvement with
47 specific reference to ANILCA. There was clarification on the
48 wording on meaning public involvement comes from Section 805
49 of ANILCA.

50

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1 Again, the protocol and the preamble and its
2 purposes were next read. That traditional science and
3 approaches of Native people deserve a higher level of
4 recognition and agreement and in the program that the State
5 and Federal are undertaking. Around 2:00 o'clock Willie
6 Goodwin arrived and there was a short break. He was caught
7 up with a meeting, with some process. Grace Cross, the Chair
8 from Seward Penn restated that the coordinated management
9 should apply to State lands as well as Federal lands. Over
10 there, it's kind of checkboarded or -- and Della Trumble,
11 the Aleutian Islands, where she represents, down in that
12 area, the Kodiak area, that there are large areas of Kodiak
13 that are Federal public lands. Ralph also stated that --
14 said he wanted a period after uses.

15
16 What we did on this one was look at the MOA
17 and we just kind of gave our ideas or gave our comments on
18 the MOA. Willie, who was on the working group with
19 fisheries, the MOA along with Ron Sam and Dan O'Hara, Bristol
20 Bay, were in the working group. They've been closely
21 watching this so he commented that the draft agreement was
22 put together so the work on the protocol would move forward.

23
24 And then we moved on to the guiding
25 principles. Grace, Willie and others talked about the
26 agreement being in place for a year, they discussed how the
27 shut down on the subsistence on the Yukon happened without
28 consultation of the subsistence -- with the Council
29 subsistence users. Gerald Nicholia, the Eastern Interior
30 Chair said he didn't think the counting methods were
31 accurate.

32
33 Bill Thomas sat at the meeting with the
34 Board, the State will have representatives, he wanted to
35 address to the other user groups in the mouth of the Yukon,
36 relief to the escapement. This would provide more fish for
37 subsistence, maybe in five or 10 years there should be enough
38 to support subsistence and some commercial use for fishing.

39
40 Most of the rest of the discussion, ladies
41 and gentlemen, are pretty well self-explanatory. We went
42 word for word on the MOA and we put in our suggestions. I'll
43 go ahead and go down to the fourth page under protocols.
44 That's towards the end of the page of the protocols. Willie
45 asked if there were drafts, Ralph Lohse said the information
46 presented was just so the Chairs can decide who would be
47 involved in developing the protocol, and again that the
48 protocols are how the State and Federal will be operating,
49 the memorandum of agreement, and we do have members -- some
50 comments by various Chairs, in-season management protocol

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1 where regions -- would it be region specific, they wanted
2 members of the RAC to be members of the working group. Vince
3 gave a brief overview of how the Yukon group was formed and
4 how it's functioning. Ralph pointed out that some of the
5 protocols that are being considered go across regions or
6 interrelated or commingled together and that some may be
7 statewide. So the Chairs figured out the representation
8 there.

9
10 Willie Goodwin said he did not agree with
11 having a protocol that would restrict subsistence uses and
12 Ralph Lohse read the information protocol section and asked
13 for the information that would just apply to Federal public
14 lands, make sure that we have a reminding statement to these
15 people that they do not want the Council members taken out of
16 the process for developing the protocols. In the past we
17 really wanted our Council members to be involved in the
18 protocol or the proceedings on how they're going to manage
19 fisheries. So the Chairs really were adamant that our
20 Councils be involved in the developing the protocol.

21
22 Ida said that the Chairs should maintain
23 their adamant stance that Council be involved before the
24 drafts are finalized.

25
26 Then when we get down to the working group
27 members, how much involvement would it be, it was asked by
28 Della, and Ida then clarified that the Staff on the working
29 group who put most of the paperwork together for review and
30 that a lot of the work would be done by teleconference and a
31 few face to face meetings. Grace asked about which ones
32 they've already started and the Yukon protocol has come a
33 long way and it's continued to work to this day and that the
34 customary trade protocol has just started and subsistence use
35 amounts have gone nowhere as of today and regulatory
36 coordination has some staff on it but it hasn't gone very
37 far. The management protocol, same way. Willie volunteered
38 to be part of the subsistence use protocol. He was reluctant
39 to set any limits on the species. Della asked about
40 subsistence users needed to take some responsibility for
41 self-limiting in order to sustain the return of the species.
42 She talked that the battles between not restricting
43 subsistence and the need to do it sometimes works. There was
44 additional discussion about the self-limiting aspects of the
45 subsistence use and the differences in the different parts of
46 the state. There was recognition that all -- not all
47 Federally qualified users were restricted -- that -- the
48 harvest that was sustainable. Della and Willie volunteered
49 to be on the subsistence use amount and the rest were
50 solicited by volunteers from the various groups. The one, in

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1 particular, our group is under management planning will be
2 Harry, the management plan protocol. What we needed was
3 represent -- we only have 10 members -- 10 members of our --
4 we broke it down even, I think each region had their own
5 concern -- I thought it would be best to be under management
6 plan protocol that we would have a lot of input from Harry to
7 the management planning protocol.

8
9 Yukon protocol, customary trade discussion.
10 I'll quickly summarize that, Mike Patkotak is our protocol
11 member for customary trade definition making or defining
12 customary trade. Della said that each of the RACs should
13 appoint a member and alternate to the working group. Bill
14 got a call from Tom Boyd who asked Bill's personal view on
15 the topic, Bill submitted a one page of his interpretation,
16 including first to set some background.

17
18 So all and all, this was the Chair's meeting
19 and they agreed to six advisory panels to be the task force.
20 That there's some recognition that the Councils should be
21 equal at the table. Appointments on the task force from the
22 RAC. Southeast, Bill Thomas. And then our region, North
23 Slope, customary trade is Mike Patkotak, and then I'm the
24 alternate. There was discussion to the effect that when
25 Chairs meet with the Board they do not want them to water
26 down the RACs representation on the task force. The
27 subsistence users are the primary component of the program
28 and they should be fully represented.

29
30 So in any other protocol development, we were
31 adamant, by all the Chairs that our Council has to be
32 involved in the development of each and every one of the
33 protocols.

34
35 Statewide rural determination contract. Ida
36 gave an overview on that. That's being developed to do a 10
37 year review of rural determinations. Follow-up on the
38 training for Council and others, Regional Advisory
39 representation of the Board of Fisheries implementation, we
40 kept the same Chairmen on there, Dan O'Hara of Bristol Bay
41 and Willie Goodwin from the Northwest and Ron Sam from the
42 Western Interior. They were the representatives in the past
43 and they would continue in that role by unanimous consensus.
44 And then we judged some art contests.

45
46 Fenton brought up that the North Slope
47 Regional Council's secretary appointments were late. They
48 were late by Secretary of Interior and I wanted clarification
49 as to whether our meeting last time was negated but
50 apparently it was not. Willie said that the Staff, the

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1 subsistence Staff should not come to the meetings and dictate
2 what happens. Again, Willie stated that the subsistence
3 Staff should not come to the meetings and dictate what
4 happens.

5
6 So there we go. Then a statement by Fred
7 Clark if there was any questions he would try to answer them,
8 if not, maybe the Staff could help with the meetings that we
9 had with the Chairmans -- before all the Chairmans -- all the
10 Chairmans met the night before they met with the Federal
11 Board.

12
13 And then, of course, most of us were there in
14 Anchorage, I think it was at Marriott or the Hilton we got
15 some work done there. Oh, that was in February -- but this
16 is the December meeting, there was a follow-up in our
17 February meeting at the Marriott.

18
19 Any questions. Hearing none, Mike, do you
20 have any update on your protocol meetings?

21
22 MR. PATKOTAK: There's really nothing that's
23 been -- Pete Probasco is still in the process of developing
24 -- working with Staff on how the committee will work and our
25 meeting will be April 24 and 25th, so really nothing's been
26 done except maybe by the Staff and no reports have been given
27 to me from the Staff. So we won't know, really, how it will
28 work, we'll have our first meeting on the 24th and 25th.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, the front end of the
31 protocol developments are mostly research and paper and doing
32 most of that and collecting all the information that they can
33 and then you'll meet in April?

34
35 MR. PATKOTAK: Yeah.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: And then a meeting at the
38 end of April, okay.

39
40 MR. PATKOTAK: I think it's April 24. They
41 haven't really decided -- the Council members haven't decided
42 whether it will be April 24 and 25th or May 1 and 2.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. That's about the
45 time that the Federal Board meets.

46
47 MR. PATKOTAK: Yeah.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: So maybe then. Harry, do
50 you have anything new from your.

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1 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chairman, I haven't heard
2 from anybody about when we're going to be meeting about this
3 management planning. I haven't had any phone calls or
4 anything like that so I have no information regarding this
5 management planning.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Tim, do you know who's in
8 charge of the protocol development, is there a team leader
9 for each of the protocols or is there an overall person that
10 takes care of all the protocol development or how does that
11 work? Tim.

12
13 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chair, Tim Jennings,
14 Office of Subsistence Management. You're correct, for our
15 office the overall lead on all the protocol development would
16 be Peggy Fox and Tom Boyd, and then each of the different
17 protocol working groups has membership of Federal Staff and
18 some State Staff and there's typically a Federal Chair for
19 each working group and a State co-Chair and I don't have the
20 list of each of the protocols and who are the Chairs and
21 membership for all these task forces.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

24
25 MR. JENNINGS: But that's the way it's set
26 up.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

29
30 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Harry.

33
34 MR. H. BROWER: It's kind of cumbersome to
35 try to ask any questions when we don't have any of the
36 material that was reviewed by the Chairs, you know.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah.

39
40 MR. H. BROWER: Although it's very important
41 work. When you don't have the material to review that was
42 being discussed, it's somewhat difficult to raise nay
43 questions. I just wanted to bring that out.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Yeah, on this
46 meeting, the Chairman's meeting, we looked at the MOA and
47 kind of went through it page by page and see how that would
48 work. And then the protocol development, I would urge that
49 maybe Peggy Fox or Tom Boyd, they have the emails, and urge
50 there must be some work being done on the protocols and thank

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1 you, Mike and Harry, for being involved in that.

2

3 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Tim.

6

7 MR. JENNINGS: Tim Jennings. Mr. Chair, just
8 to clarify. I don't know if you've heard that the State
9 Commissioner of Fish and Game sent out a letter or an email
10 asking the State employees to pull back from their
11 involvement with the subsistence coordination with the
12 Federal program, pending some issues that they're trying to
13 work out regarding funding. And so just a follow-up on that,
14 all the protocols are currently on hold. The customary trade
15 task force is all a Federal group, and as Mike mentioned Pete
16 Probasco is in the process of putting together a meeting and
17 we believe it's going to happen on April 24 and 25 and so
18 there'll be an update after that meeting. In terms of the
19 other protocols for the MOA, there's been no further work
20 done since the members were appointed by the Chairs to the
21 protocol working groups.

22

23 I just wanted to mention that because there
24 hasn't been anything new to bring forward to the Councils at
25 this time because of the holding pattern with the State.

26

27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Tim.

30

31 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Harry.

34

35 MR. H. BROWER: Tim, maybe before you get too
36 far, is this going to slow the process down on getting these
37 protocols to move forward, with the State pulling its
38 employees back, while there's -- is there some decisions that
39 need to be made by the State on each of these protocols?

40

41 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Harry, this is going to
42 slow it down because no work is being done right now on those
43 protocols. In terms of the long-term effect of that, I don't
44 know how long the State is going to continue to hold their
45 employees back from participating in developing the
46 protocols. We hope it will only be a temporary delay. But
47 as of today it is still on hold. Tom Boyd is trying to work
48 closely with the Commissioner's office to try to get the
49 snags worked out so we can move forward. It's in everybody's
50 best interest to cooperate and coordinate. And we're here

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1 with dual management with both the Federal and State
2 management, we need to make the best of the situation which
3 includes the MOA protocols that will help further articulate
4 how the Federal agencies and State agencies will interact and
5 cooperate and coordinate.

6
7 MR. H. BROWER: Okay, thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Tim. Okay,
10 moving on if there is no other questions we'll go ahead and
11 go to item five, and combine -- I still need to do the 2000
12 annual report, issues, and usually we use our minutes from
13 our fall meeting which sort of summarizes our concerns.
14 Usually our annual report is submitted to Mitch and the
15 Secretary of the Interior states those concerns that we have
16 on the North Slope. So with that, village concerns, we'll
17 discuss what our concerns are but I just want to reiterate
18 from our last fall meeting, again our stipend continues to
19 receive attention. Now, with the a new Secretary of
20 Interior, I think we'll be able to discuss this here at the
21 latter part of the meeting here. I just wanted to quickly
22 summarize some of the 2000 annual concerns or issues from our
23 meeting in September.

24
25 Incidental take, that one is ongoing. It's
26 an escapement program with Unit 26(A), we're still continuing
27 to see how that is being run. We have on the table, I forget
28 what the proposal number is now, 64/65, anyway, there's a
29 proposal that we had for the Anaktuvuk Pass that was on hold.
30 But since the incidental take managed by the State is being
31 run for Anaktuvuk Pass, Nuiqsut area or Barrow area, we'll
32 wait and see how that one is being run. So we're still
33 looking at incidental take, Point Lay, Anaktuvuk, Nuiqsut and
34 Barrow area.

35
36 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chairman, I'm trying to
37 think back. I thought we had withdrawn that proposal?

38
39 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, we did. We withdrew
40 that proposal. But it's still - I mean it's still in the
41 hopper, we can pull that up, we're still reviewing the
42 incidental take. Working group, Muskox Working Group has
43 been, how should I say, this is the first year we'll need to
44 -- we had three years -- we have a harvest plan. We had a
45 three year life of this until we were supposed to come up
46 with a more comprehensive management plan for muskox. So
47 this is our third year, the working group needs to get
48 together and work on a more comprehensive working plan for
49 harvest of the muskox on the North Slope. We had our lead
50 agency, Steve Ulvi, who is the person that was taking charge

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1 but he's gone then this new person from Parks is not here so
2 we'll be -- the Chairman or a group from the North Slope will
3 have to get the working group back in order and put their
4 noses to the grindstone. So that will have to get active
5 again.

6
7 Once again, stipends, although the previous
8 Secretary Babbitt remained firm that the Council members
9 would be volunteers there are other groups across the country
10 that are volunteers as well but we'll continue to pursue the
11 higher stipends, loss of pay or something.

12
13 MR. PATKOTAK: MR. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mike.

16
17 MR. PATKOTAK: Brief comment, I know that the
18 cost of living allowance or per diem if that's what you call
19 it has always been issued at 80 percent. There should be
20 increased to a full 100 percent instead of the 80 percent and
21 have whatever costs that are supposedly incurred by Staff
22 members to be out of their own budget and not from the
23 Regional Advisory Council.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Well, that's on the table,
26 and maybe we can move up the discussion on stipends. I want
27 to include this in our annual report, the deliberations that
28 we're having now can be summarized, again it was discussed at
29 our September meeting in 2000 so I think if there's no
30 objection to that, Ray, we'll discuss the stipends at this
31 time or expenses occurred by the Council members. Ray, do
32 you want to start the discussion on what your thoughts are?

33
34 MR. KOONUK: Well, we talked last night, me
35 and Fenton in regards to the stipends. You know, the amount
36 we get is not helping. Either way, you know, we're away from
37 home and either we're out getting ready for hunting or we're
38 out working and the amount we get here is just -- it doesn't
39 cover it, that's only one day, the pay we get. But since we
40 have a new Interior secretary, maybe things will change and
41 maybe we can push our stipends to the Secretary of the
42 Interior, then maybe, hey, they'll look at raising our
43 stipends.

44
45 MR. AGNASSAGGA: Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Amos.

48
49 MR. AGNASSAGGA: You know, the amount of the
50 taxes we pay, it seems like it's kind of small what we're

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1 getting for this Federal Subsistence Board meeting. The cost
2 of living is quite a bit now days, especially in Barrow.

3
4 MR. PATKOTAK: Not to mention the villages.

5
6 MR. KOONUK: Yes, the villages to.

7
8 MR. AGNASSAGGA: Uh-huh.

9
10 MR. KOONUK: When you buy a drum of diesel,
11 it only costs about 95 to \$100 just to buy one drum, and that
12 one drum will last only two weeks and then you have gas, you
13 have food. Gas is almost \$165 a drum in Point Hope, you
14 know, I can't the extra \$100 I have in here, I can only maybe
15 purchase 10 gallons of gas that will probably only last two
16 or three days, the rest I have to buy food because, you know,
17 I have new grandkids and I have to buy diapers and whatnot.
18 That's not going to get me anywhere.

19
20 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mike.

23
24 MR. PATKOTAK: If I may comment -- if I may
25 entertain that the North Slope Regional Advisory Council
26 develop a resolution to be addressed to the Federal
27 Subsistence Board to pursue this, for this to be negotiated
28 once again by the Federal Subsistence Board Staff and that
29 communications between the Regional Advisory Council be
30 established to negotiations and communications between the
31 Regional Advisory Council to push a concurrent resolution in
32 pursuing this stipend issue in terms of loss of pay. And
33 that the amount be open to negotiation. I don't know how the
34 -- what the -- I don't know how the rest of you feel about
35 this but it's an ongoing issue and like you said, with the
36 new Secretary of Interior that could change.

37
38 MR. KOONUK: She's Republican.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I know there's been a
41 drafted letter regarding this and I'm not sure where it's at
42 right now but I think Bill Thomas or one of those folks is
43 going to continue to pursue that. Because that's what the
44 Chairman wanted to -- on the stipend issue, so it's not only
45 our region here's concern but that it's statewide.

46
47 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chairman.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ray.

50

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1 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, Mike made a good point
2 there as far as putting it in a form of a resolution. I
3 think it needs to be a little stronger coming from the body
4 here and then we could pass that on to the other regions, you
5 know, to have it in a form of a resolution and send it off to
6 the Interior Secretary; I think it will be a little stronger.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

9
10 MR. KOONUK: Instead of being drafted out by
11 a memo, I think by a form of resolution would be more strong.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. We are joined
14 by Ida and, let's see, can you introduce yourself Ida and who
15 you are with and the gentleman that just walked in.

16
17 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee member. I apologize for
19 being late to your meeting.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you.

22
23 MR. HUNTER: Mr. Chairman, my name is Paul
24 Hunter with the National Park Service, Anchorage office. I'm
25 a support person to our Federal Board member and our Staff
26 Committee member as well as to the Gates of the Arctic
27 National Park. Dave Mills, the superintendent will be here
28 a little bit later as well, so we're pleased to be here.
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Paul. Ida, I
32 need you to help me out on the stipend issue. I know we
33 discussed this at our Regional Council Chairman meeting and
34 that it's still an ongoing issue. At our last meeting, our
35 Chairman said that we are not going to drop the issue but
36 continue pursuing that. Ida, can you.....

37
38 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ray.

41
42 MR. KOONUK:could I finish my comment?

43
44 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Oh, I'm sorry.

45
46 MR. KOONUK: Yeah. As I was stating as Mike
47 had mentioned to put this in a form of resolution and I think
48 this should be done before tomorrow's meeting because we're
49 not going to meet again until fall time, and I think this
50 resolution needs to be passed ASAP.

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I was going to ask Ida,
2 our Chairmans met last winter and it's an ongoing issue and
3 I think Bill Thomas or somebody was going to draft a letter
4 or can you help us out in drafting down that issue and maybe
5 use some of those words in that letter as a resolution form?
6

7 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee member. I recall the
9 meeting where the Chairs did agree that it's still an ongoing
10 issue they wish to pursue but I haven't heard or seen any
11 draft from Bill. If you'd like to draft your own resolution
12 we could meet this evening or after the meeting and discuss
13 it and I can come up with some draft for your review tomorrow
14 morning.
15

16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, I wanted to get
17 those items that were discussed, the cost of living and some
18 other issues that we talked about.
19

20 MR. HILDEBRAND: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman,
21 after the break, perhaps or on a break you could call Bill
22 Thomas and ask him if he has drafted a letter and ask him to
23 fax one if he has.
24

25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. That would help us
26 in drafting that resolution.
27

28 MS. HILDEBRAND: Right.
29

30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Because that's a statewide
31 concern and it's our concerns and if I can get those from
32 him.....
33

34 MS. HILDEBRAND: And if he hasn't yet drafted
35 a letter perhaps you could fax him a copy of your resolution
36 when one is passed.
37

38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah. Go ahead, Mike.
39

40 MR. PATKOTAK: Ida, I got a question for you.
41 If this dialogue with this stipend issue, is it being
42 discussed also with the other Regional Advisory Councils or
43 is it just the North Slope?
44

45 MS. HILDEBRAND: At the meeting last
46 December, when all the Council Chairs met, they all
47 unanimously agreed it was an ongoing issue. So whether or
48 not they discuss it in their Regional Advisory Council
49 meetings, I don't know, but I know that when a letter is
50 drafted they have all agreed to sign and when one was drafted

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1 that it be sent out to all Councils.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: There's been a letter
4 already sent to, Mitch, I think and to the Secretary.....

5

6 MS. HILDEBRAND: Uh-huh.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:and we had a response
9 but we're saying we're going to put our foot down and still
10 pursue that.

11
12 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mike.

15

16 MR. PATKOTAK: I agree with Ray in terms of
17 instead of a letter or instead of a memo, it be presented in
18 the form of a formal resolution from the North Slope Regional
19 Advisory Council and be presented to the Federal Subsistence
20 Board in that manner.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

23

24 MR. PATKOTAK: So I guess if it comes to that
25 and if there's disagreement in terms of whether it should be
26 a letter or a resolution, we can vote on the matter.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

29

30 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ray.

33

34 MR. KOONUK: Also a few years back we had
35 drafted out how much we wanted. I think that was, I don't
36 know, it might be in a letter as far as what we wanted it
37 raised up, you remember two years ago -- two or three years
38 ago?

39

40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Harry, do you remember?

41

42 MR. KOONUK: Harry, remember we had requested
43 how much we wanted, 170 or 175?

44

45 MR. H. BROWER: I'm not sure of the amount,
46 Ray, but we did have some discussions about the stipend
47 issues and it was controversial anyway.

48

49 MR. KOONUK: I thought it was drafted out in
50 the form of a letter and sent out to the Interior Secretary

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1 Bruce Babbitt at that time, when we wanted to raise our
2 stipends up.

3
4 MR. H. BROWER: Uh-huh.

5
6 MR. KOONUK: And if we could get a copy of
7 that, it might be in the minutes, just going to have to do
8 some research on that and get a copy of that. That was a few
9 years, but things are getting higher now and the cost of
10 living is higher so we might have to redraft the amount we
11 want. Because I think I remember that, it was brought up and
12 it was drafted out and sent to the Interior Secretary and it
13 got denied. So you might want to.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, I think there was a
16 statewide one and we backed that letter up.

17
18 MR. KOONUK: You might want to get that
19 letter and, you know, it's been how many years ago and use
20 that.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: A few years, right.

23
24 MR. KOONUK: And attach it with the
25 resolution.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you. Any
28 further discussions on the stipends? I'll continue with our
29 annual report issues before we go on to village concerns.
30 Further discussion on stipends. Okay, then.....

31
32 MR. KOONUK: This will be brought up again
33 today or tomorrow?

34
35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes, tomorrow, we've
36 got.....

37
38 MR. KOONUK: Okay then.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:it on 12(B). All
41 right, again, I'll just state that our 2000 issues, our
42 annual report issues should be summarized with a copy
43 attached of the minutes of September 2000 where it expresses
44 our concerns and issues that are always before us. We're
45 onto village concerns. Earl talked about their concerns
46 about Anaktuvuk Pass. Again, Terry Tagarook, at that time,
47 that hunting was good, no concerns there. Gordon Brower,
48 Harry Brower and Fenton Rexford and then the others -- we'll
49 continue our village concern comments today. I want it to be
50 included in our 2000 annual report issues.

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1 At our last fisheries meeting in February we
2 sent a letter from myself, as the Chairman of Region 10,
3 fisheries concerns or fisheries priorities. I want to get a
4 copy of that here, maybe you can help me get a copy of that
5 today. We have a two page letter, it's a draft or suggested
6 topics for biological and subsistence related fish studies on
7 the North Slope. And there are seven items in there. The
8 harvest studies, that should be ongoing in the North Slope
9 villages. Contaminant studies, especially those around the
10 Nuiqsut area need to be conducted, a priority. Stock
11 assessment of the Arctic cisco, what we call Qaaktaa on the
12 North Slope. Arctic grayling research near Barrow,
13 Teshekpuk, Wainwright, Point Lay and Point Hope, and that we
14 recommend studies of grayling abundance in the key
15 subsistence rivers near Point Hope. In the past our Point
16 Hope fishermen have repeatedly reported declines in the
17 grayling in the rivers near the village during the 1990s and
18 they wish to have assistance in determining why the grayling
19 reductions have occurred. Stock identify and status of dolly
20 varden and the Arctic Char on North Slope, broad whitefish
21 distribution, movement and other life, parameters, are there,
22 broad whitefish is a key, subsistence species on the Slope,
23 want to find out about the population levels, stock
24 separation to estimate acceptable harvest rates, and number
25 7 salmon studies. Relatively little is known about Pacific
26 salmon on the North Slope. And studies should be directed
27 towards pink, chum and king salmon. So I wrote a letter to
28 the joint advisory council meeting dated February 1 and most
29 of our people were there so I want to have these two pages as
30 part of our annual report.

31
32 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chair, could we have a
33 copy of that?

34
35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, we can make copies
36 of this.

37
38 MR. PATKOTAK: And are we going to go into
39 discussion?

40
41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Perhaps number 10, under
42 the agency reports, but these were priorities, but yes, after
43 we make copies we can discuss this issue. The Staff in the
44 Anchorage Federal office were very pleased we put a priority
45 list of concerns for the North Slope together, in fact, I
46 think we were the only ones in the region that submitted that
47 so they were very pleased on that.

48
49 MR. KOONUK: I just want to bring one item up
50 under your contaminants as far as the region we represent and

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1 you had mentioned Nuiqsut. I sit in another region, Unit 23,
2 and we have -- there's Red Dog mine there that hauls a lot of
3 minerals, lead, zinc and what not and I'd like to see some
4 studies be done there, too. Around the land, the rivers,
5 because there's caribou and there's fish that migrate. I
6 think it would be good to do work with the Chairman for that
7 region as far as getting reports because I'd like to know
8 what is being done because they're right next door to the
9 mine.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

12

13 MR. KOONUK: And I my village is concerned,
14 as far as what is being hauled from the mine to the beach and
15 also from the beach to the ship.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

18

19 MR. KOONUK: And if there is anything that
20 is, you know, I think it's all in fine dust and if there is
21 anything that leaks out to the land, the river and to the
22 ocean, I'd like to know that.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, very good. We'll
25 have the opportunity to discuss that further, Ray. Again,
26 we'll make a copy of that for our annual report issue for
27 2000. I just want to quickly again go over the minutes.
28 Again, we had village concerns. There are a couple of
29 proposals that were submitted this winter, we'll be
30 discussing those possibly today or tomorrow. Again, we had
31 seven or eight proposals that have come before us, before the
32 Council that we have -- again, that's around Nuiqsut and Ray
33 talked about Red Dog mine area near Point Hope. We also have
34 BLM Lor Alpine activity, oil industry activity impacting
35 subsistence activities around Nuiqsut, ice roads, water being
36 withdrawn from lakes, those kinds of things are issues and we
37 are concerned about.

38

39 So with that, any other annual report issues
40 that we should put in our annual report before we move on to
41 village concerns?

42

43 MR. PATKOTAK: Another area, I don't know
44 what can be done by it in terms of the Borough, the State
45 Wildlife guide -- guiding qualifications. I think that under
46 the Federal guidelines we ought to make a proposal to where
47 the guides in Native lands and Federal lands that for
48 Natives, that the qualifications for being a commercial pilot
49 be waived for Natives on Native and Federal lands. I know
50 that there are some qualified Natives that do not --

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1 specifically do not want to fly because of some of the
2 various hazards, and this is not just an issue restricted to
3 the North Slope but it's a statewide thing. And I don't know
4 how the rest of you feel about it, but it's an issue that
5 should be -- I mentioned it last year and I'll mention it
6 right now, that this is an issue that shouldn't be ignored
7 because there are qualified Natives that are being
8 discouraged as a wildlife guide and those that want Native
9 guides are -- there's a percentage out there. It's an issue
10 that when I wear my jacket on the back of -- like say Fur
11 Rendezvous I was approached by a European person that really
12 enjoyed hunting and he didn't know why he couldn't get a
13 Native guide to help guide him and that all he had was -- and
14 no disrespect to color, but he wanted a Native guide. And we
15 got into the discussions of why and what the qualification
16 processes were and that reminded me that this is an ongoing
17 issue and should be discussed, not only by this Regional
18 Advisory Council but should be brought forward and a dialogue
19 opened between Regional Advisory Councils. There's a
20 considerable resource avenue for Native hunters that are very
21 well qualified but are disqualified under the commercial
22 pilot license requirements by the State statutes.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, is there a proposal
25 -- let's see, what I'm thinking of is the -- do you know
26 where in the regulations where we could defer to that so we
27 know where to make changes or something to that effect? It
28 might not be in the hunting regulations but like a board.....

29
30 MR. PATKOTAK: I believe that the place to
31 talk is under the State Board of Trades, and I believe.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Guiding.

34
35 MR. PATKOTAK: Guiding yeah. Like there's
36 commissions on air -- I think the Staff -- I think Geoff is
37 very well -- Geoff might be able to answer some of the
38 questions in that respect.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Everyone knows
41 Geoff Carroll from Barrow.

42
43 MR. CARROLL: Well, it's something, you know,
44 I think we'd all have to study up on to see what changes
45 could be made. I completely agree with Mike that the guiding
46 system is really very unfair. It's very hard to break into
47 and I think it's designed as kind of a monopoly system and
48 the guys that are in there don't want a whole bunch more guys
49 coming in so it's purposely made difficult to keep people
50 that are starting out -- or keep new people from entering the

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1 system. And you know, it's particularly detrimental up here
2 because you know to become a guide you have to first be an
3 assistant guide and like in Barrow area, there aren't any
4 registered guides so you know a guy that wants to live in
5 Barrow can't be an assistant guide under another -- you know,
6 it is a very unfair system, I think.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

9
10 MR. CARROLL: And you know, it's really not
11 part of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, it's under
12 licensing and that sort of thing, it's a whole different
13 department than Fish and Game. And you know, if there is an
14 avenue for people in rural areas, you know, Natives in
15 particular to get into a guiding system through a Federal
16 program or something, you know, I think it should be
17 something you should investigate and see if you can make some
18 progress in that direction.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Mike, I don't think
21 we'll be able to make a new proposal today or the next day so
22 I think our plan of action would be to get assistance from
23 the Staff to help us research for Mike's concern on whether
24 or not how this Council can address Mike's concern on guides.
25 So it's got to be forwarded to a commission, something like
26 the Licensing Board or something.

27
28 Mike.

29
30 MR. PATKOTAK: The Division of Licensing,
31 it's the same department that licenses mechanical
32 contractors. You'll find that under specialty trades that
33 the same department that handles -- occupational licensing
34 handles the guide qualifications and licensing process. And
35 the Division of Occupational Licensing is the place to start
36 and that's where the regulations are. And they intertwine
37 with a lot of the Fish and Wildlife Division laws. And it's
38 like Geoff said, it's a good 'ol boy network. If you're a
39 Native and you don't know somebody that's a pilot and willing
40 to take you under his wing, it's like a snowball in hell to
41 get a license.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Mike.

44
45 MR. CARROLL: One other option is to become
46 a transporter. It's not nearly as rigorous and you can
47 transport people by boat or by plane or whatever you want and
48 that way you can do a lot of taking hunters out and doing
49 things like that. But I mean, you can't become a certified
50 guide through that route.

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Geoff. Again,
2 our mission as Regional Advisory Council members is to
3 develop and review proposals to change Federal subsistence
4 regulations and provide valuable local information to the
5 Board, mostly dealing with our qualifications is to reside in
6 the region and represent them and have knowledge of
7 subsistence uses and needs. So I just wanted to remind that
8 but we can, as a forum or Council pursue or go through a
9 different board or a commission, but it can be backed up or
10 support from this Council to go before the licensing board.
11 So, Mike.

12
13 MR. PATKOTAK: I realize what you are just
14 now bringing out is something that has always come up, that
15 is a completely different issue. But at the same token,
16 there are very few platforms in which to bring this issue out
17 other than maybe the Regional Advisory Council and before, in
18 the State relations, they've pretty well -- it's like going
19 around a merry-go-round, they point you to, well, it's not
20 ours and they pass you on and pass you on and before you know
21 you're back to where you started without having gotten
22 anything done. So I know that this Board is basically
23 subsistence, but at the same token the issue of big game
24 guiding and hunting has a lot of effect on subsistence.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. We'll -- Donna.

27
28 MS. DEWHURST: This is Donna Dewhurst,
29 subsistence. I just wanted to clarify, Mike, I want to make
30 sure I understand the issue if we're going to do any research
31 to help you guys out. Are you saying now that the State has
32 a requirement that all new guides be pilots or are you
33 referring to there was an FAA regulation that changed about
34 three years ago that guides that were pilots had to go
35 commercial -- had to go Part-135, which was an FAA
36 regulation. I'm wondering if that's what you're referring to
37 or are you referring to some new State regulations that's
38 saying that new guides have to be pilots?

39
40 MR. PATKOTAK: It's my understanding that it
41 was a State regulation, a State requirement that you had to
42 be Part-135 to become a big game guide.

43
44 MS. DEWHURST: Well, the FAA did something,
45 it was about three years ago but that was for guides that
46 were already existing pilots, guides that had flying
47 operations as part of their operation. Their flying
48 operation had to officially had to go Part-135, which is
49 commercial, which has a lot more regul -- a lot more involved
50 in it. But that was an FAA regulation that came out about

00029

1 three years ago.

2

3 MR. PATKOTAK: My concern is that we
4 completely get away from that and we just create a Federal
5 guide -- Native guidelines, completely go away from that
6 regulation.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, we'll have our Staff
9 collect the pertinent data regarding guiding and have that on
10 the agenda for the fall meeting. Any other 2000 annual
11 report issues or concerns before we move on to village
12 concerns? I think we've pretty well summarized what our 2000
13 -- again, I'll just reiterate one more time that we use most
14 of our minutes of our previous meetings to be sent in as a
15 summary form of a letter to Mitch and the Secretary of the
16 Interior. We'll make copies of -- Mr. Jennings made copies
17 of the fisheries priorities for the North Slope, we'll
18 continue that and pick that up and further work on the
19 priorities from this Council. Those priorities came from the
20 North Slope Borough, Fish and Game and our Council here
21 should deliberate over that and make revisions or additions
22 to those priorities from this Council because those again --
23 those seven priorities or seven studies, we're asking the
24 Federal program to look at fisheries did result from the Fish
25 and Game Committee of the Borough, so we'll go over that like
26 Ray wanted to.

27

28 So at this time, what is the wish of the
29 Council before we go onto village concerns? Do you want to
30 go right into village concerns or take a break?

31

32 MR. H. BROWER: Take a 10 minute break, Mr.
33 Chairman.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Terry Tagarook
36 should be arriving so we should keep our ears open for him.
37 We have Charlie Brower that just walked in, Wildlife
38 Department. You know most everybody in here Charlie.

39

40 MR. C. BROWER: Who?

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right, with that we'll
45 have a 10 minute recess and then we'll discuss the priorities
46 and then get down to village concerns.

47

48 (Off record)

49

50 (On record)

00030

1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I'll call the North Slope
2 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting back to order
3 after a brief recess. We were just concluding identifying
4 our issues for 2000 and now we have before us related or
5 similar topics of biological and subsistence related
6 fisheries studies on the North Slope of Alaska. There were
7 seven items ranging from harvest studies to salmon studies
8 and I think it would be an action item for this Council to
9 send this forward for the Federal Subsistence Board on
10 fisheries. The following are a list of topics for biological
11 and subsistence related fisheries on the North Slope related
12 to sustainable use of fish resources. These topics were
13 based or came forward, primarily on suggestions and comments
14 and hearing concerns from the North Slope Borough Fish and
15 Game management committee. And on that committee there are
16 representatives from each of the villages and I would urge
17 that this Council revise, prioritize and identify new items
18 on this topic, fisheries work.

19
20 Number 1, we had the harvest studies, I'll go
21 ahead and go through each and every one of those. The
22 harvest studies estimate the harvest levels of the major fish
23 species harvested by the North Slope villages. This work can
24 be conducted using the methodologies by the North Slope
25 Borough Department of Wildlife Management and the Alaska
26 Department of Fish and Game subsistence Staff from previous
27 North Slope studies, for example, Brower and Heppa, 19 --
28 we'll have to get the correct date on that one. Useful
29 approaches include direct net checks and collections of
30 biological data on subsistence harvest. Did a study along
31 with George and Nageak in 1984, such approaches produced both
32 harvest estimates and biological data but are quite labor
33 intensive. Comments were the Department of Wildlife
34 management has experience in collecting the data or
35 information, however, additional Department of Wildlife staff
36 and data management support would be needed to expand this
37 research. For background in the fisheries studies there's
38 been various groups, maybe from the State and Federal have
39 submitted fisheries study proposals and this would fall under
40 future proposals to be presented to the Federal Board.

41
42 Contaminant studies, organic chlorides,
43 example, DDT and PCB were found in the tissues of fish
44 samples in the Umiat area in recent cleanup activities under
45 the direction of Army Corp of Engineers. A health advisory
46 was issued by the State of Alaska based on the levels of
47 certain contaminants found in burbot livers sampled in that
48 area. Residents of the village of Nuiqsut are now very
49 suspicious of eating burbot and other fish species that are
50 caught in the village area. Contaminant studies on the fish

00031

1 in the Nuiqsut area need to be conducted to assess whether
2 the health advisory is just for the lower Colville.

3

4 We'll go back to these items. I'm reading
5 them right now, I know Ray had something to add onto this
6 topic.

7

8 Stock assessment of Arctic cisco Qaaktaaq on
9 the North Slope, Arctic cisco our major community resource in
10 trade for the village of Nuiqsut situated on the Colville
11 River. Since roughly 1995 catches in the village have been
12 lower than expected. The life history of the species in
13 Alaska is quite complex and specifying harvest levels is
14 problematic. Comments, possible research topics include
15 reestablishment of a type series of the Colville Delta,
16 conducting genetic research on Arctic cisco taking on the
17 Colville River. Determining the separation of Bering and
18 Arctic cisco, particularly on Nuiqsut and determine the
19 contribution of Bering and Arctic cisco to the fisheries.
20 Reexamine the wound data recruitment model for Arctic cisco
21 and the Colville and explain changes in harvest levels.
22 Personnel at Texas A&M University genetics department have
23 published a paper on Arctic cisco and remain interested in
24 further studies on the species.

25

26 Arctic grayling research. Determine the
27 status and harvest levels of Arctic grayling in the fishing
28 areas near Barrow, Teshekpuk Lake, Wainwright, Point Lay and
29 Point Hope. In villages such as Wainwright where whitefish
30 are not abundant, grayling are an important subsistence fish
31 than in Nuiqsut, for instance. Point Hope fishermen have
32 repeatedly reported declines in grayling in rivers near their
33 village during the 1990s and wish assistance in determining
34 why these reductions have occurred. We recommend studies of
35 grayling abundance in the key subsistence rivers near Point
36 Hope.

37

38 Stock identify and status of dolly varden and
39 Arctic char on the North Slope. Genetically examine possibly
40 discreet spawning population of dolly varden in the North
41 Slope drainages and those taken in the waters of the North
42 Slope. Specifically determine harvest levels of dolly varden
43 in Kaktovik. Comments, recommend to support proposed studies
44 by ADF&G and there is in the works this year, proposals
45 submitted to do some work, not only around the Kaktovik area
46 but along the Haul Road and some other rivers near there.

47

48 Broad whitefish distribution movement and
49 other life history parameters. Broad whitefish are a key
50 subsistence species on the Slope. Key questions regarding

00032

1 broad whitefish are proposed population levels, stock
2 separation, develop model to estimate acceptable harvest
3 limits in view of their very delayed age at maturity,
4 distribution and movement of the species, example, genetic
5 and telemetry studies. Studies should focus on the problem
6 drainages, fish in Judy Creek, Chipp/Ipikpuk River, Meade
7 River, Colville River, Inaru River, Topagaruk River.

8
9 Salmon studies, relatively little is known
10 about the fish on the North Slope. The issues should be
11 directed towards determining the spawning status of pink,
12 chum and king salmon on the North Slope. Comments, there is
13 some indication that king salmon are spawning in the Kogru
14 River, Peard Bay.

15
16 So with that, we can go ahead and make
17 comments or additions to this and maybe support this to be
18 brought forth to the Federal Subsistence Board. Again, we
19 presented this by a letter in February to the Regional
20 Advisory Council and we got very comments from the Federal
21 Subsistence Staff that they were happy to see our
22 identification of trying to prioritize our topics of concerns
23 and studies that need to be done on fisheries.

24
25 So with that, Amos.

26
27 MR. AGNASSAGGA: Did they notice in any
28 changing in fish like different species coming to the North
29 Slope that used to never?

30
31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I'm not sure, Amos.

32
33 MR. AGNASSAGGA: I know our climate is
34 getting a lot warmer, you know, and we're getting a lot more
35 king salmon around Point Lay and getting more silver salmon.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, that would be under
38 harvest, probably -- a good identification would be doing a
39 harvest study and seeing what kind of fish are caught with
40 what -- those kind of things would identify new species or
41 less fish caught or give us an idea of what the harvest
42 levels are for a study that we would recommend.

43
44 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chairman.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Go ahead, Ray.

47
48 MR. KOONUK: Is this going to be -- what is
49 this report going to do?

50

00033

1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: What it does is.....

2

3 MR. KOONUK: Is this going to be passed on to
4 the Federal Subsistence Board?

5

6 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes.

7

8 MR. KOONUK: Okay. With the comments I made
9 earlier, I'd like to see part of the comments I made in
10 regards to contaminants put in this report here.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. And just for the
13 record, could you just briefly summarize your concerns there
14 or just refer back to your comments this morning?

15

16 MR. KOONUK: Well, under contaminant studies,
17 we have Red Dog mine, that's about 80 miles -- 80 or 90 miles
18 east of Point Hope, between Red Dog, Kivalina and then Point
19 Hope, and they haul a lot of lead, zinc and what not from the
20 mine out to the ocean and transport it by barge to the beach
21 to the ship, and all that stuff they haul out there is all
22 fine. And you know that fine stuff can blow away and it can
23 hit the land and the rivers and the water and we have a lot
24 of fish and caribou that hang around and migrate around that
25 area. A lot of trout, grayling around the Wulik River, that
26 Kivalina people catch and which they pass onto us, you know,
27 when we don't have good seasons in fishing, like this report
28 says about the grayling and we go to Kivalina and get some
29 trout.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Uh-huh.

32

33 MR. KOONUK: But, you know, the stuff that is
34 being hauled is highly contaminated to where it can affect
35 all the fish and animals that pass through there, plus that
36 goes to the ocean. And I'd like to see some studies being
37 done there. But we live right near Red Dog and we're not in
38 Unit 26 but Unit 23. And also I'd like to see the Chair work
39 with the Chair in the Northwest area as far as getting
40 reports of what they have been doing as far as discussions on
41 contaminants within our area there.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. River drainages
44 that affect Kivalina and the trading that goes on between
45 Kivalina and Point Hope is a concern and that contaminant
46 studies should be done, with particularly pertaining to the
47 Red Dog mind, concentrated or.....

48

49 MR. KOONUK: There is other villages
50 involved.

00034

1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes.

2
3 MR. KOONUK: Like Noatak, Kotzebue, you know.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: And present our concern to
6 Northwest Arctic region about contaminants on account of Red
7 Dog mine, the heavy concentration of iron, lead and zinc.
8 That one is so noted by the Staff, Helen you got that one
9 down?

10
11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Got it.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Harvest studies,
14 anything else in that one to be added on? Again, this is
15 just an estimate to estimate harvest levels. There are some
16 data collections right now by the Wildlife Department and
17 this could come forth as a proposal maybe from the Department
18 to do harvest studies with the Federal program.

19
20 Stock assessment of Arctic cisco. Now, this
21 one, again, there's been recent development around there and
22 they want to find out before it gets any further on out work
23 on Prudhoe Bay, assess the stock.

24
25 MR. PATKOTAK: MR. Chairman.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mike.

28
29 MR. PATKOTAK: Now, the Paktaq, I know is of
30 major concern to Leonard Tukle's constituents. But their
31 major concern over in that region is that there's been less
32 coming up river and their subsistence harvest levels have
33 been decreasing substantially. But yet, at the same time,
34 nowhere in any of these reports has there been statements or
35 issues of any catch studies being done to the -- the
36 commercial Paktaq fisheries that they have over there on the
37 Colville done by the Helmricks. And there's no mention or no
38 -- if there's any data it's never been made public to people
39 at Nuiqsut or to this Council, for that matter.

40
41 I don't know, maybe Leonard has something to
42 say in that respect. I know after talking to him and some of
43 the elders in that area, there is some substantial concerns,
44 and that they were not being addressed. And I want to put
45 Leonard on the platform at this moment if you don't mind, Mr.
46 Chairman.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: No.

49
50 MR. PATKOTAK: I know he has some things to

00035

1 say about that issue itself.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, Leonard.

4

5 MR. TUKLE: Mr. Chairman.....

6

7 MR. PATKOTAK: For the record, we miss
8 Barbara. Barbara get well, quick.

9

10 MR. TUKLE: These past two years, the fishing
11 for Arctic cisco on Paktaq, it's been pretty low. Some of
12 the people in Nuiqsut set nets on the ocean side, on the
13 other side of the entrance of the river, and that's one of
14 the reasons why we found out these Qaaktaaq hardly go in the
15 river, that river is so low that ice is clogging up the mouth
16 of the river right where the -- near my dad's camp -- fishing
17 camp is at, not too far from Elmer's it's about two, two and
18 a half miles west -- northwest.

19

20 And the other thing was the North Star
21 Pipeline, that was one of the reasons why they blame that,
22 too, the community. Putting that pipeline under the river,
23 that might have been one of the impacts, too.

24

25 But getting on to the Natilik side is the
26 area where they're mostly coming in last fall, as of October,
27 that I know of.

28

29 And then east side, it's less. You see we
30 get some fish with tags and they come all the way from
31 Whitehorse Canada or Yellowknife Canada. They're always
32 tagged. We don't see those anymore, very few of them. Just
33 the ones we see tagged are the local area ones. In the
34 summer time they tag a lot of fish, mostly herrings though.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you.

37

38 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ray.

41

42 MR. KOONUK: What is Helmrick's is he
43 commercializing fish or what?

44

45 MR. TUKLE: They're commercial fishermen.
46 You see they catch their fish and they sell them to the big
47 stores like Fred Meyers and the other industry stores.

48

49 MR. KOONUK: Is he licensed to do that?

50

00036

1 MR. TUKLE: As far as I know, yes, he is.
2 But they came in around 1954, was the first time they came
3 around, according to my dad's stories he used to tell me a
4 long time ago.

5
6 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mike.

9
10 MR. PATKOTAK: For another comment, other
11 areas of concern is that the stock levels were getting pretty
12 low and that the catch levels of commercial fisheries,
13 there's no data on how much is being caught and what species,
14 for that matter, and I think maybe there needs to be some
15 quick serious studies here before the species and the
16 subsistence harvest is completely depleted by that commercial
17 fishery.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, Mike.
20 I'll try and review this, unless there's something else. But
21 the stock assessment should include studies for what may be
22 affecting the stock levels or the population levels, the
23 impacts of fisheries from commercial activities -- or
24 commercial sale in that area, would include again, the items
25 that are identified in number 3. Maybe we can add four and
26 five to that. Number 5 would be, what is the stock levels in
27 (In Native) on Colville River is it from industrial and
28 commercial activities and sale so that should be an item
29 added on to number 3.

30
31 Number 4, Arctic grayling research. We're
32 recommending, again, determine the status and harvest levels
33 of Arctic grayling in the areas identified at Barrow,
34 Teshekpuk Lake, Wainwright, Point Lay and Point Hope and that
35 we strongly recommend the studies of grayling abundance in
36 the key subsistence rivers around Point Hope. Anything else
37 to add? Ray.

38
39 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, I just want to make a
40 remark as far as grayling. Growing up 50s, 60s, 70s, when,
41 you know, we used to get a lot of grayling upriver, (In
42 Native), and we used to come home with sacks of grayling
43 mixed with trout. And today it's not very much, you know,
44 you get a few sacks but that's about it. We put out nets, go
45 out fishing but just a few. And I think this recommendation
46 here is good. Studies need to be done. They need to go
47 further up -- all the way up to (In Native) River is further
48 up from (In Native) and I think they need to do some studies
49 up there, too. As for the Kivalina area, they do hunt
50 grayling and I can't understand why their grayling is much

00037

1 bigger than ours. The grayling we catch are small and the
2 grayling they get is a little bigger than ours and I can't
3 understand why there's a difference and the taste is
4 different. But, yes, studies need to be done around (In
5 Native) River and further up.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, I have a note to
8 make sure that they be sure to use the local people to direct
9 the biologists or the people that are going to be studying
10 the areas, that they identify -- they'll be a step ahead
11 because they know which rivers are being used for subsistence
12 take of fish. So it would be in any of those seven items
13 that each one of them should state that we recommend to use
14 local people to identify the river drainages for the
15 coastline where the studies should occur because they've been
16 around there for a long time and they know where the
17 important rivers are. So I forgot to mention that in number
18 3 also, but the local people who know where to do a study, to
19 find out where the fish are going.

20
21 Number 5, if there's no further discussion on
22 grayling research, stock identity and status of dolly varden.
23 There are two that are ongoing now and this is further down
24 the line as priority but there is two studies that are
25 happening. I don't know if they've been approved yet or not,
26 have they? I think they were going to be approved here soon,
27 or this winter anyway, the 2001.

28
29 MR. JENNINGS: 2001.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: If there's no comment on
32 that one. (In Native), do a study on broad whitefish,
33 distribution movement and other life history parameters. And
34 there are drainages that are identified there.

35
36 Salmon studies -- if there's no comments on
37 six, I'm not trying to rush this on, but any comments on five
38 and six?

39
40 Okay, salmon studies. Amos mentioned
41 something about Pacific salmon, I think Point Hope, and this
42 would be Point Lay area should also be -- would help on
43 education of Pacific salmon. So that it should be directed
44 around Point Lay as well. Is there a particular lagoon or
45 river you were thinking about Amos?

46
47 MR. AGNASSAGGA: No.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Just the Point Lay area?

50

00038

1 MR. AGNASSAGGA: Uh-huh.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. So Point Lay should
4 be added on to number 7. What we could do now is prioritize,
5 I think, I know contaminants is a very serious concern,
6 although harvest levels are of concerns as well. I think
7 contaminants for health and safety reasons is of utmost
8 importance to our use of fisheries. So I would recommend
9 that we identify that as number 1 or right up on top of the
10 list for work that is to be done. Or is the numbering okay?

11

12 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ray.

15

16 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, I don't see anything wrong
17 with this list here. Studies are going to be done and I'm
18 pretty sure we'll get results back. And the only thing I
19 would, you know, just to add on to what I had mentioned.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah.

22

23 MR. KOONUK: I would follow this list then.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

26

27 MR. KOONUK: But make sure that we get
28 reports back.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, what needs to be
31 done, Ray, is either the Federal or the State or Department
32 of Wildlife would submit a proposal and they do this yearly
33 and there's one through March 31, I think is the 2001
34 proposal deadline; am I correct on new fisheries proposal or
35 is that for the next cycle? So there is cycles, I don't know
36 if some of these will be done but we've identified our
37 concerns and priorities, I think we'll continue to review
38 this yearly and see where we're at and see which department,
39 either the Federal or State is helping us out on this. But
40 it's very important. And, again, I'll just say that the
41 Federal Subsistence Staff were very happy to see this list.

42

43 Tim.

44

45 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chair. Tim Jennings,
46 Office of Subsistence Management. We will follow-up on this
47 topic briefly or as much as the Council desires under Item
48 10, agency reports, under A.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

00039

1 MR. JENNINGS: Item 2 and 3 and 4, we'll give
2 you an update on the 2001 Fisheries Monitoring Plan that the
3 Board recently adopted. We will talk about the upcoming 2002
4 fisheries that's in the developmental stages. And then Item
5 4 was the subsistence regional issues and information needs
6 and you've basically just covered that in this discussion.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, I'm glad we did.

9
10 MR. JENNINGS: Yes.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right, we got one less
13 item to cover here.

14
15 MR. JENNINGS: Okay.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: But anyway, that's good
18 that you let us know we took care of it.

19
20 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ray.

23
24 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair, I would make a motion
25 to approve the recommendations.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: The list of topics?

28
29 MR. KOONUK:as listed.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yep, okay.

32
33 MR. KOONUK: With the amendments that were
34 made from the Council.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right.

37
38 MR. PATKOTAK: Comments here.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Second. We need a second
41 first.

42
43 MR. H. BROWER: Second.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, go ahead, Mike.

46
47 MR. PATKOTAK: On number 7, the salmon
48 studies, studies should be -- relatively little known is
49 about the Pacific salmon on the North Slope and studies
50 should be directed towards determining the spawning status of

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1 pink, chum and king salmon in Peard Bay and Kugrua. There is
2 substantial spawning. We've been getting some good results
3 and some good sustainable yield of dried salmon and pink,
4 humpback, king salmon and dog salmon and also silvers. So
5 there's a good-sized fishery up there and also the king
6 salmon, I tried trolling in that area, no caribou or nothing
7 so I decided to troll a little bit and darned if I didn't
8 snag onto a good old, big old king, and that was a big
9 surprise for all of us there.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

12

13 MR. PATKOTAK: And I just didn't have enough
14 gas, the guys couldn't get enough of that rod and reel
15 fishing in. So it is a substantial fisheries there. And
16 also, with the increase in the fish there's also been an
17 increase in spotted seals. And spotted seals, they're
18 called, what you call the wolverine of the sea. And there's
19 been a real substantial increase in spotted seal. They've
20 been getting quite a bit into the salmon. And before the
21 spotted seals were just negligible seal -- well, anyway,
22 negligible amount of species there but now they're getting to
23 the point where, man, they're overrunning the area. So we've
24 been kind of hunting them to try to increase the -- keep the
25 spawning level up. And it's a good thing -- the killer
26 whales have been increasing in that area, too, and they've
27 been hunting, going after the spotted seal.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Mike.

30

31 MR. H. BROWER: Question's called for.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, question's called
34 for in favoring or adopting the following seven items we just
35 discussed with some amendments and they are so noted. I
36 won't go each and every one of them, but I'll just try my
37 best to name the main topics, following are the list of
38 topics for biological subsistence related fishery issues on
39 the North Slope, harvest studies for all species should be
40 done; contaminant studies and the increases on the river
41 drainages on account of Red Dog mine, to do some contaminant
42 studies on all river drainages that affect Point Hope and to
43 be in close contact with Region 9, I believe, or Region 7,
44 for Northwest Arctic Region Chair to be made aware that we
45 are concerned there should be contaminant studies in that
46 area due to Red Dog mine; stock assessment of Arctic cisco,
47 comments would be number 5 to include what is affecting the
48 stock levels, is it -- impact on fisheries, is it industrial
49 oil activity or is it commercial sale of Arctic cisco; to use
50 local peoples to identify or direct the biologists in that

00041

1 area, the study area; Arctic grayling research; and if I'm
2 missing anything on any others, I believe that covers the
3 comments or additions to that. All in favor of the motion
4 say aye.

5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Those opposed, same sign.

9
10 (No opposing votes)

11
12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you very much.
13 We'll move on to village concerns. We may continue after
14 lunch but we'll start with Ray and then work our way this
15 way. Village concerns, Ray, or comments.

16
17 MR. KOONUK: Well, I have no concerns as of
18 right now. Everything is good. I just have a concern about
19 Red Dog. I know in the past we -- I had mentioned about the
20 caribou die-offs, but I haven't heard anything yet. But Red
21 Dog, I think, is the main issue that's first. Migration of
22 caribou. And fish going on through the river and all in all,
23 that zinc and lead down to the ocean, transporting it to the
24 ship, just make sure that reports are done and we know what's
25 going on from the activities around the area.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Ray. Mike.

28
29 MR. PATKOTAK: Yeah, my observations of
30 hunting in the Peard Bay area, the ice thickness continues to
31 remain thinner than normal. Water seems to -- water
32 temperatures seem to have increased somewhat. What we've
33 noticed in terms of this thinning ice is -- in terms of
34 pressure ridge activity has changed the patterns of how the
35 seals and the fish migrate in the bay area and has effected
36 how we go about our hunting areas. Other than that we've
37 been pretty successful in terms of the harvest. But this
38 change in the ice thickness has created larger flows that are
39 unsafe to travel on, which makes it a lot difficult -- more
40 difficult to harvest the seals earlier in the spring, which
41 has changed our hunting patterns in terms of drying time, in
42 terms of making our dried and fish and stuff, et cetera.

43
44 And also another is erosion in the Peard Bay
45 area and into some of the barrier reefs that are up near
46 Peard Bay have changed. It's changing substantially. And I
47 guess that for those of you that are familiar with those old
48 -- that old community there near Franklin Point, the erosion
49 is getting to them, but then again the scientists have been
50 consistently working on them on an around the clock basis

00042

1 over there. And of course, they've been getting a lot of
2 Wainwright local help because it's closer to their community.

3
4
5 But other than that, hunting's been real good
6 for those of us that camp at Peard Bay. There's about six
7 families that go over there. We've been doing darn well.
8 The Western Caribou Herd's been going up in that area and
9 we've been seeing a higher portion of reindeer traveling with
10 them. So I guess that's where some of those people from
11 Norton Sound area are losing their caribou -- reindeer to.
12 And in terms of leanness, we've been -- the elders have been
13 -- are leaning towards, if you see reindeer get it, instead
14 of the leaner caribou, so we -- the past several times we've
15 mentioned that and they said -- instructed by the elders to
16 go and get the reindeer because they're a lot more tender
17 than their long-legged cousins.

18
19 So there's been an increase in berries, a lot
20 of berries. The willows are getting a lot higher from the
21 increased temperatures.

22
23 And that's basically it.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, Mike.
26 Going over to Point Lay.

27
28 MR. AGNASSAGGA: Point Lay, basically nobody
29 has been going out because of a storm and it's just getting
30 over with. This is the first year we went without beluga
31 because we didn't hunt any last summer because of the ice
32 conditions, but there was a lot of caribou this fall so
33 people were able to stock up.

34
35 And the last few years now we've been able to
36 fish for grayling near our villages and we used to never, we
37 used to have to go near the mountain. Now, you can go right
38 from the village to Kokolik River, just a couple of bends up,
39 so we don't have to go camping nowadays to do fall fishing.

40
41 Other than that, everything's okay in Point
42 Lay. We miss our beluga, though, that's the first year we've
43 been going without that.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ray, now you know where
46 your grayling's went.

47
48 MR. KOONUK: Yeah.

49
50 (Laughter)

00043

1 MR. AGNASSAGGA: Well, we noticed that after
2 grayling, we started hunting them near our villages, after
3 they did dredging in the river. They dredged for -- in that
4 river where all that fish is near the village, they did
5 dredging that summer, I think that's why they're so close to
6 there now. Real deep, now, yeah.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Harry.

9
10 MR. H. BROWER: I don't have any major
11 concerns to bring out, Mr. Chairman. But you know like Mike
12 says, hunting's been pretty good around Barrow. I was out
13 for 10 days out in the countryside out there hunting and
14 pretty successful. I seen a moose for the first time in
15 about nine or 10 years near the headwaters. So that was a
16 change, a good sight to see out there. I haven't seen
17 anything like that for -- an animal that big in so long it
18 was amazing just to watch it walking around.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 MR. H. BROWER: That's basically what I have.
23 I don't have any major concerns from the community. We've
24 been pretty successful in harvesting resources.

25
26 That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you. Leonard.

29
30 MR. TUKLE: Okay, I don't have any concerns
31 much, but hunting has been pretty good out there at Nuiqsut.
32 Speaking of caribou, they're mostly on the NPR-A side,
33 probably due to so many pipelines being built around the
34 Nuiqsut area.

35
36 And fishing has also been good, except for
37 (In Native), it's mostly herring these past two years. This
38 past month a few people got some wolves and wolverine, which
39 is pretty good this year. And as for the grayling, they
40 usually go for that in the summertime in Chandler River and
41 Anaktuvuk River, that's where they go mostly, way up river
42 using fishing rods. That's where they mostly are. In the
43 lower river there's hardly any of the small ones, but the big
44 graylings are way upriver there.

45
46 I guess that's about it.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, Leonard.
49 Kaktovik, okay, I've got a couple here that I want to
50 mention. This winter, early February, the (In Native)

00044

1 hunters and trappers committee, the whole committee went to
2 Kaktovik and met with the Kaktovik residents regarding
3 muskox. They wanted to hear our traditional knowledge and
4 record in writing and in tape and in videotape about our
5 experience with muskox. And we knew that our forefathers
6 knew that there were muskox in our area. They're dealing
7 with their government on this new introduced species and
8 would like to be able to start hunting muskox. Sine it's a
9 newly introduced species they're really concerned now that
10 the immediate (In Native) community, they're having to go
11 further and further out to get caribou and they're noticing
12 that there's more muskox in their area so they want to be
13 able to hunt muskox. And one of the very interesting items
14 that was brought to us was the satellite or the vegetation
15 and the caribou counts of the migration route, they're being
16 changed and we need to identify where the sedentary muskox
17 are staying, in the windblown areas or in the high ridges, in
18 the lower slopes of the mountains. So it's going to be very
19 interesting to see if we overlap the vegetation, the caribou
20 migration route by satellite and the sedentary muskox are
21 being located, which are diverting the Porcupine main herd
22 that is around (In Native). So that was some interesting
23 information exchanged between the two villages of (In Native)
24 and Kaktovik. They really want to involve our area. The
25 North Slope, they want to be involved in muskox decision-
26 making, so there may be in the future,
27 an international muskox management plan for muskox. We're
28 still working with them and will continue to work with them,
29 with our relatives and friends from Canada regarding muskox.

30
31 Sheep, very few were caught but they didn't
32 get enough sheep for Thanksgiving and Christmas. One of the
33 concerns that I'd like to find out is whether how
34 sportshunting occurs in Federal lands, I asked at the last
35 meeting and Greg was going to to get a population count on
36 dall sheep, get a count on that and see about curtailing or
37 scaling back on sporthunting in Unit 26(C). We need to
38 really take a look at the population of adult sheep because
39 we know there is sporthunting in Federal lands and I want to
40 get back on why there's always sporthunting that's occurring
41 in that area, it could be affecting the population.

42
43 Bear predation. I know last spring there was
44 -- maybe one bear had got five muskox, and we want to look at
45 seeing what the bear population is, the brown or grizzly bear
46 in our area because they must be pretty well established and
47 catching about maybe 10 or a dozen muskox in that area. So
48 maybe we should see about maybe getting more bear, rather
49 than once a year, maybe have a bear management or bear bounty
50 or something. Because we're noticing a lot of bear in Unit

00045

1 26(C) .

2

3

4 Fairly good caribou has been caught this
5 winter and they've been healthy. They've been catching
6 caribou throughout this winter which is good. I don't know
7 how -- a marten came through our village, which is very
8 rarely, rarely seen. We did get one marten, or I did, so
9 that makes it -- it might be a record, on Barter Island, a
10 marten was taken, where I trapped it. So it's a mystery how
11 marten made it all the way up. They thought it came in
12 through one of the hunters on his sled, packed it up, tied it
13 up and when he unpacked his meat maybe it was in the cavity
14 or it might have come through Canada because we just got a
15 bunch of housing materials, maybe it got in the crate,
16 between the crates and crevices, but a marten was caught.

16

17 MR. AGNASSAGGA: Last year there was a couple
18 of marten that went to Point Lay, too, and they caught them.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: So if anybody wants to bid
21 on a marten, I got a marten pelt, you can talk to me later
22 after the meeting.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: But let's see, during this
27 winter -- between September and now, mild winter, wolves been
28 caught, wolverines been caught, so all and all, I think we
29 survived most of the winter.

30

31 Before we get into the next item, election of
32 officers, I want to inform the Council that I'll be -- this
33 is my last meeting with the Council. I've been instructed by
34 the elders of our community to concentrate heavily in our
35 region. I have every confidence in our Council that you have
36 lined up priorities, things to do. We've got all of our
37 subsistence management regulations pretty well established
38 within our region, we did that early on. We did customary
39 and trade -- or customary designation -- or the C&T
40 determinations I should say, but we've been coasting -- or
41 just getting by and our elders, I just want to remind that
42 the less of regulations the better. I just pass that on from
43 Edward Hopson, Sr., the less regulations we have the less
44 problems we'll have. I know we'll have a tough time with
45 customary trade and I have every confidence in Mike reporting
46 to our Council on customary trade. I am very happy to work
47 with the staff. For the past 10 years, I called Harry up and
48 I said how long have we been working on this, he thought '91,
49 but looking at the reports it looks like we started our
50 program in 1990 and I've been very fortunate to get to know

00046

1 most of you and I've enjoyed working with you for the past 10
2 years. And I have every confidence that the Council will
3 move on with the new priorities on fisheries, I think it's
4 the most important one that we'll be concentrating on. And
5 like I said, I'll just review that our land animals,
6 terrestrial animals are pretty well established and muskox
7 will continue to be an issue in our area. So I'll be closely
8 working on that area regarding muskox and sheep.

9
10 So with that, again, I drafted a very nice
11 final letter of resignation on my computer and things got to
12 rushing yesterday and I forgot to print it out and it's at
13 home. I don't have a hard copy relating what I've just said,
14 that this Council is well established, we've done a lot of
15 hard work, so with that I'd like to just say I'm that I'm
16 resigning and this and the next day will be my last meeting
17 and I've enjoyed working with you all.

18
19 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Harry.

22
23 MR. H. BROWER: I just wanted to comment,
24 since you didn't bring your letter of your resignation it got
25 rejected.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ray.

30
31 MR. KOONUK: How much time you have left here
32 on your term?

33
34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I think I just got
35 reelected, hey, Harry?

36
37 MR. H. BROWER: Through this year, after the
38 fall meeting.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: So anyhow, again, I just
41 had a village meeting and the elders want me to work in our
42 area very closely, especially related to ANWR and that's
43 going to take up a lot of time, my work with the village.
44 And I feel, again, very confident in the Council, the work
45 that it's doing. You have good Staff working with you,
46 they've been with us quite awhile, and it was my surprise
47 it's been 10 years already and I really appreciate working
48 with you.

49
50 Ray.

00047

1 MR. KOONUK: I would request the Staff make
2 a plaque.

3
4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We're already in the
5 process of doing so.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Welcome Helen, Barbara's
8 sister.

9
10 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Fenton, I just wanted to
11 say on behalf of the Subsistence Office and since I've been
12 here as long as you have that it's a sad day that you're
13 leaving the Council. You've been a great Chair and we've all
14 really, really appreciated your dedication. And I know Barb
15 Armstrong is particularly sad to have you leave and she was
16 quite distressed when she talked to you but you've really
17 been a great Chair, and I think you are the only Chair that's
18 been with us the entire program, if I'm not mistaken; is that
19 -- oh, except for Bill Thomas, right. So we will really miss
20 you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yep, thank you, Helen.
23 Thank you very much. With that load off of my shoulders
24 we'll proceed with the election of officers. Again, I have
25 every confidence and after lunch we will do the election of
26 officers. It's 12:00 o'clock, so what is the wish of the
27 Council?

28
29 MR. PATKOTAK: 1:30.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: 1:30.

32
33 MR. PATKOTAK: Tomorrow.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. We'll get the
38 letter and I'll get with Bill Thomas this afternoon or
39 something and maybe Ida, you can help me track him down and
40 get that resolution drafted up. So (In Native), lunchtime,
41 we'll be back at 1:30.

42
43 (Off record)

44
45 (On record)

46
47 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I'll call the meeting back
48 to order after lunch recess. Just an update on the
49 resolution or the issue on stipends, I talked with the
50 Chairman of the Chairs, Bill Thomas, from Southeast, he's our

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1 head Chairman of all the regions Chairman, and his
2 recommendation or suggestion was to get a letter formed to
3 him so that he can notify all the other Chairmans throughout
4 the regions so we can, again, bring this issue back up to the
5 new Secretary. So by tomorrow we'll have that letter, but by
6 action of this Council we'll formalize it and press forward
7 on the stipend issue. So that was his recommendation. We'll
8 take his suggestion and type the letter up and he'll notify
9 all the other Chairmans to co-sign it or back up the issue on
10 stipends.

11
12 Okay.

13
14 With that, hopefully, we'll -- tomorrow we'll
15 have the letter drafted and have the Council act on it
16 formally and we'll proceed from there.

17
18 With that, I think we have new people that
19 came in. Those that weren't here this morning, if you can
20 introduce yourself and who you're with, I'd appreciate it
21 very much.

22
23 MR. MILLS: My name is Dave Mills. I'm the
24 superintendent of the Gates of the Arctic National Park.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. We have an issue
27 before us under -- one of our last items is to talk about the
28 SRC for Gates of the Arctic member. I'm glad that you
29 joined us Mr. Mills.

30
31 Okay, before we move onto Regional Advisory
32 Council reports, are there any other concerns or any other
33 issues before this Council? Are there any Regional Advisory
34 Council member reports to come before the Council at this
35 time or concerns? Hearing none, just a reminder, public
36 comment is open. This opportunity continues throughout the
37 meeting. Please fill out the testifying form at the table
38 here in the middle -- at the sign-in table, we appreciate it

39
40 With that, we'll move onto Item No. 8,
41 election of officers. I'll turn the floor over to Michelle.

42
43 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44
45 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ray.

48
49 MR. KOONUK: Any word on Terry and.....

50

00049

1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Oh, yeah, Terry left a
2 message -- two messages for me, while we were out to lunch I
3 received them, his plane was rerouted further south but he'll
4 be in this evening so he wants to join us so he said he'll
5 see us this evening. So he was concerned about a quorum, but
6 he left a message. So he's trying, it's not his fault.

7
8 MR. KOONUK: Yeah.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: The airlines that are
11 getting in and out of Wainwright today, that he's delayed.

12
13 MR. KOONUK: How about Williams?

14
15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Williams, I have no
16 message from Mr. Williams. I did run into him at Anaktuvuk
17 Pass. I don't know if he's still busy with things that are
18 going on in AKP, that's the last time I seen him was there in
19 Anaktuvuk Pass, that was last Thursday.

20
21 MR. KOONUK: Thanks.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: With that, Michelle.

24
25 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We're
26 going to open up the floor for the election of the Chair for
27 the North Slope Regional Advisory Council, if somebody would
28 like to make a nomination.

29
30 MR. PATKOTAK: I'd like to nominate Ray
31 Koonuk, Sr., for Chairman.

32
33 MR. AGNASSAGGA: I'd nominate Harry Brower,
34 Jr.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I move the nominations be
37 closed.

38
39 MR. AGNASSAGGA: Second.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: By paper?

42
43 MR. JENNINGS: So all in favor of closing the
44 nominations say aye.

45
46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47
48 MR. JENNINGS: Any opposed.

49
50 (No opposing votes)

00050

1 MR. JENNINGS: Okay, would you like to do
2 secret ballot?

3
4 MR. KOONUK: Yes.

5
6 MR. JENNINGS: Okay.

7
8 (Pause)

9
10 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, there is a tie,
11 three to three.

12
13 MR. AGNASSAGGA: Mr. Chair.

14
15 MR. JENNINGS: What option, Mr. Chair -- go
16 ahead, Amos.

17
18 MR. AGNASSAGGA: Aren't we going to have more
19 people tomorrow, it seems like it's just a small group of us
20 and a lot of people missing, we're going to have more.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I know Terry's going to be
23 in. I'm not sure about Earl or Paul, I think Paul will
24 probably not make it, but I know Terry will be it.

25
26 MR. AGNASSAGGA: At least we will have an odd
27 number.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, that was going to
32 be my suggestion as well. If the Council desires, it could
33 table the elections until Terry comes we can hold them then
34 in the morning or after he arrives.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: What is the wish of the
37 Council?

38
39 MR. PATKOTAK: I'm in favor. That sounds
40 like it would make it fair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

43
44 MR. JENNINGS: Is that okay?

45
46 MR. H. BROWER: Otherwise we'll sit here all
47 afternoon and vote and vote and vote.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

00051

1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, Ray?

2
3 MR. KOONUK: Yeah.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Harry?

6
7 MR. H. BROWER: That's fine with me.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Leonard?

10
11 MR. TUKLE: (Nods affirmatively)

12
13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. So we'll do that.

14
15 MR. JENNINGS: So unanimous consent.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Maybe by form of a motion
18 or unanimous to table until the morning proceedings; is there
19 any objection to that?

20
21 (Pause)

22
23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Hearing none, thank you.
24 Thank you, Michelle. Tim. We'll table the election of
25 officers until the morning.

26
27 All right, we'll go ahead and.....

28
29 MR. PATKOTAK: Break until morning.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: We'll call for the Federal
34 subsistence fisheries proposals, they'll be accepted from
35 January 8th through March 31, 2001 under Tab D. I'm not sure
36 what that's all about but some general information on how to
37 change Federal subsistence regulations, it gives the deadline
38 or schedule for that on how to proceed in changing fisheries
39 regulations. There are some proposal forms, the guidelines
40 and the application or the proposal on the last page of Tab
41 D.

42
43 So we'll go ahead and move onto the agency
44 reports. Briefings on agency concerns, issues related to
45 subsistence use and wildlife resources, including the status
46 on wildlife population updates and reports. We'll be hearing
47 from Tim Jennings, Richard, who will be the presenters or the
48 reviewers. Do we have copies -- they're probably in the
49 booklet themselves, but copies of the key points are
50 appreciated, just the briefings or key points and we're just

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1 being handing out fisheries monitoring, which will be part of
2 the issues again, real quickly, partnerships presented by
3 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, partnership fisheries
4 monitoring, instead of Steve Fried, we have Tim Jennings on
5 that and Richard will cover two, three an four; five and six
6 will be covered by Mr. Jennings. After that we'll go with
7 National Park Service, BLM and ADF&G as the body of our
8 agency reports. With that, I'll turn the floor over to Mr.
9 Jennings, Tim.

10
11 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If I
12 may, I would like to go back briefly to Tab D to ensure a
13 complete understanding of the call for changing Federal
14 subsistence fisheries regulations. These are proposals to
15 change the regulations themselves in the regulatory book.
16 This is not a new call for fish studies. So if the Council
17 has any at this time, at this meeting, that they would like
18 to, to submit changes to the existing fisheries regulations,
19 Staff would be available to help you submit those. Any
20 fisheries regulatory proposals that are submitted, Staff will
21 do an analysis over the upcoming several months and then at
22 your fall meeting we would come before you to discuss the
23 fisheries regulatory proposals and the Federal Subsistence
24 Board would make their decisions on fisheries regulations at
25 the December meeting. And that's all laid out in terms of
26 the schedule on the first page under Tab D.

27
28 Are there any questions about fisheries
29 regulatory proposals?

30
31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Harry.

32
33 MR. H. BROWER: Could you identify any of the
34 regulations that would be affecting the North Slope region to
35 help us in our discussion as part of these fisheries
36 regulations that we have?

37
38 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, the book you have in
39 front of you, Harry, is the new regulation booklet for
40 fisheries. It has the color art work on the front.

41
42 MR. H. BROWER: The reason I was asking that
43 is, Mr. Chairman, I have read some of these regulations but
44 there are only certain areas of the state covered and nothing
45 really pertaining to the North Slope.

46
47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It's the Yukon northern
48 area that pertains to the North Slope. There aren't many
49 regulations, you're right, Harry. The map is on Page 20 so
50 you can see the area. The regulations are -- they start on

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1 Page 22, and because it covers the Yukon area as well, you
2 have to kind of sift through there to see where the parts
3 that affect the North Slope -- well, see the C&T's are -- if
4 you look after -- it says on Page 22, Yukon River drainage
5 and then remainder of Yukon area, then that's all the rest of
6 it outside of the Yukon River, so that includes you, it's all
7 fish. You have C&T for everything, so there's nothing you'd
8 need to change there. And in terms of fishing periods, Page
9 23, under regulations, there is -- it covers taking salmon
10 and then they have some exceptions but those are all outside
11 of this region.

12
13 MR. H. BROWER: So we're in District 3, is
14 that how we're -- the Yukon Northern Area?

15
16 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I don't -- are we District
17 3; is that right?

18
19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: There's a map on Page 24.

20
21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's Map 3, the
22 districts are on the Yukon River, I'm pretty sure.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Map 3, oh, I see. So
25 we're on the -- the Yukon and North Slope is the same
26 district?

27
28 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, if you look on Page
29 25, the bottom paragraph under gear restrictions, it says you
30 may take fish, other than salmon or halibut by set nets -- so
31 this is any other fish, other than salmon or halibut, you may
32 take by set net, set gillnets, drift net, beach seine,
33 fishwheel, pot, longline, fike net, jigging gear, spear, lead
34 or a rod and reel at any time for subsistence purposes
35 following -- subject to the following restrictions and those
36 restrictions are on Page 26. Those refer to restrictions
37 regarding the Yukon and Tanana River. So basically there are
38 no restrictions that overlay the North Slope region.

39
40 MR. KOONUK: How about within Point Hope, as
41 a different district, within the Kotzebue area, are we.....

42
43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Point Hope falls within
44 the Yukon Northern area so it's -- I mean it's all -- the
45 Kotzebue area is also within the Yukon Northern so it's all
46 the same. There really aren't any restrictions. You are
47 allowed to -- under special provisions, no subsistence
48 fishing permit required, you may take fish for subsistence
49 purposes without a subsistence fishing permit at any time
50 except and then they have the following exceptions but those

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1 are all on the Yukon River and the Tanana River. So really
2 there aren't any regulations, I don't think.

3
4 MR. JENNINGS: It's pretty wide open.

5
6 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Things are pretty wide
7 open for fishing on the North Slope, so there probably isn't
8 anything that needs to be changed unless you ever became
9 aware of a closure you wanted or something else, but right
10 now it's.....

11
12 MR. KOONUK: That would be for the customary
13 -- how about for the Nuiqsut area, this guy had
14 mentioned.....

15
16 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The commercial?

17
18 MR. KOONUK:about this guy was
19 commercial.

20
21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Helmricks.

22
23 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, Helmricks.

24
25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, those are different
26 regulations, he's not hunting under -- I mean fishing for
27 subsistence, he's fishing under a different.....

28
29 MR. JENNINGS: He's fishing under State
30 regulations.

31
32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, under State
33 regulations.

34
35 MR. JENNINGS: Okay, Mr. Chair, are we ready
36 to move on?

37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Just a minute there, Tim.

39
40 MR. JENNINGS: Okay.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: It also gives kind of a
43 summary on Page 10 and 11 -- or Page 10, the general
44 provisions of taking fish. And again, our closures -- or
45 restrictions are identified as Yukon River drainage and --
46 under determination, again, they're clearly defined. I see
47 Kotzebue area, Norton Sound and Yukon Northern area, does
48 that cover us all, like Ray is saying for the North Slope
49 area, C&T use determinations, does this cover our areas?

50

00055

1 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: The remainder of the Yukon
4 area north.

5

6 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chair, that's the
7 area, remainder of Yukon Northern area, C&T species, all
8 fish, and the determination is residents of the Northern area
9 except those domiciled in Unit 26(B) and Helen, is that the
10 Prudhoe Bay area?

11

12 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's correct, there are
13 no communities in 26(B) as we'll discuss later on.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. All right, proceed,
16 Mr. Jennings. Harry, does that answer your question?

17

18 MR. H. BROWER: Yes.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

21

22 MR. JENNINGS: Okay, Mr. Chair, I'll give the
23 first agency briefing for office regarding partnerships for
24 fisheries monitoring and Michelle has given a handout to each
25 of you, it's called Federal Subsistence Board proposed
26 partnerships in fisheries monitoring. And the first two
27 paragraphs lay out the background of this initiative. The
28 Federal Subsistence Board oversees, as you know, the
29 fisheries resource monitoring studies to conduct fisheries
30 studies around the state to collect information on fish stock
31 status and trends, harvest monitoring and traditional
32 ecological knowledge. And to ensure that the monitoring
33 program is effective and scientifically sound, the Board is
34 seeking involvement from local organizations and Native
35 organizations. So there's this initiative called partnership
36 in fisheries monitoring to help facilitate local involvement.
37 And what this is meant to do is the Federal Subsistence Board
38 has set aside up to nine positions, which would be contracted
39 out to local Native organizations and rural organizations
40 throughout the state. And obviously nine positions will not
41 be enough to allow each region to have their own staff
42 person, so initially the Board has looked at six fisheries
43 biologist positions in the Arctic, Kotzebue, Norton Sound
44 area as being one; Yukon River being a second area; Kuskokwim
45 third area; Bristol Bay, Alaska Peninsula, Kodiak fourth
46 area; fifth area, Cook Inlet and Gulf of Alaska and the last
47 area, Southeast. And then three social scientists or
48 anthropologist positions, one along the Yukon River; one
49 along the Kuskokwim River and then other regions beyond that.
50 And the idea behind this is local organizations would be able

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1 to respond to a bid package and submit a proposal to obtain
2 the funding through a contract to hire one of these positions
3 into their own rural or Native organization. So that person
4 will be funded by the Federal program but will be employed by
5 the rural or the Native organization. And the primary duties
6 of these positions would be to facilitate the local
7 involvement, act as a liaison between the local users and the
8 local organizations and our office and other agencies in the
9 development of this fisheries resource monitoring study.

10
11 So we expect that there will be a request of
12 proposals here in the near future and that there will be a 60
13 day time frame once the proposals are out for organizations
14 to prepare and submit proposals. Because there are only nine
15 positions and these positions will be shared by a region and
16 local organizations, there's encouragement for local and
17 Native organizations to collaborate and coordinate when they
18 submit proposals.

19
20 And so the idea is that this, in the long-
21 term, would build capacity with the local organizations and
22 the Native organizations by having paid professionals on
23 staff to help with the important issues of fisheries studies,
24 designing and implementing and monitoring the fisheries
25 studies.

26
27 Let's see, in the process we are in right
28 now, we are currently seeking a government-to-government
29 consultation with the tribes and Carl Jack, who was recently
30 hired as the Office of Subsistence Management's Native
31 liaison is heading that effort for the government-to-
32 government consultation and there's been a letter sent out to
33 all the tribes asking them to submit comments by March 15th
34 regarding this initiative before the -- before we put out the
35 proposals -- the requests for bids.

36
37 Initially there were nine positions, the goal
38 is to have them start, hopefully by this fall, to get them
39 hired, the contracts awarded and hired into the local
40 organizations, and at this time, the Councils do not have a
41 specific role in this. What we're providing, is this
42 information to you, for informational purposes. And so we'll
43 be keeping this informed as this program continues to
44 develop.

45
46 I'll stop there Mr. Chair and see if there
47 are any questions.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Questions from the
50 Council.

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1 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Harry.

4
5 MR. H. BROWER: When is it that they're going
6 to go into these proposals? It hasn't even started yet, has
7 it, they haven't.....

8
9 MR. JENNINGS: We've not put out the request
10 for proposals. Right now we're finishing up the government-
11 to-government tribal consultation. Once that's done and the
12 comments are in, then there'll be a final bid package that
13 will be put together and it will be several months -- that
14 will be sent out to all the tribal organizations and local
15 organizations around the state that are interested in
16 bidding.

17
18 MR. H. BROWER: Thank you.

19
20 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Go ahead, Ray.

23
24 MR. KOONUK: These nine positions, are these
25 local positions that you're going to hire, right? Are
26 they.....

27
28 MR. JENNINGS: Yes.

29
30 MR. KOONUK:going to be trained as far
31 as working with the biologists or are they going to be
32 trained, at least, to be biologists or something, get
33 certified?

34
35 MR. JENNINGS: Yes. If you'll look at the
36 bottom paragraph under cooperative agreements, they would be
37 hired locally but they would be awarded -- we expect to hire
38 professional fisheries biologists or social scientists. And
39 we expect that the successful candidates would have
40 bachelor's degrees. And one of the primary roles, in
41 addition to the liaison and coordination is we expect these
42 positions to do some mentoring for local individuals in the
43 area, young people and others so that maybe there will be
44 some interest in some other people becoming fisheries
45 biologists or social scientists.

46
47 So we're not sure, you know, we know the
48 degree requirement, right now that's in consideration and we
49 know that the degree requirement may limit the pool of Alaska
50 Native or local folks that would be able to qualify for these

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1 positions. So we'll see what the comments are that come back
2 from the tribes in terms of those kinds of professional
3 requirements. The idea is that these would be professional
4 staff that would be able to be technically qualified to help
5 design and implement and monitor these fisheries studies,
6 both stock status and trends and harvest monitoring, and
7 that's why the need for professional qualifications.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any other questions from
10 the Council? Go ahead, Tim.

11
12 MR. JENNINGS: Okay, Mr. Chair, Richard
13 Uberuaga will handle the next three items.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, Tim.

16
17 MR. UBERUAGA: I'll go over here where
18 there's a little bit more room. I've got these handouts here
19 that will help us understand a little bit better what we're
20 going to talk about.

21
22 (Pause)

23
24 MR. UBERUAGA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
25 going to briefly talk about the Fisheries Information Service
26 Monitoring projects for 2001 and 2002. First we'll start
27 with the 2001 projects for the North Slope area. You can see
28 on your handout, the projects 01-113 is North Slope project,
29 the Eastern North Slope dolly varden genetic stock -- stock
30 identification and stock assessment. That project's been
31 funded for the year 2001 and along with another project in
32 the harvest monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge
33 area, which is the 01-101B, Eastern North Slope subsistence
34 fish harvest assessment in the Kaktovik area.

35
36 Project 113, as you know, is being done
37 principally with the Department of Fish and Game, the
38 biologist in charge is Tim Viavont and he's been working with
39 the North Slope, with Harry, I think, and the cooperators in
40 this are the North Slope Regional Council staff, you folks,
41 the Borough Wildlife Department and the subsistence users for
42 the villages of Anaktuvuk, Kaktovik and Nuiqsut, so this
43 project is probably pretty familiar to all of you. I have
44 the budgets here, it's a three year project, and I know
45 you'll be working pretty much with this project in
46 collaboration with this project as it goes along.

47
48 The other project you have down there is the
49 subsistence fish harvest assessment work in Kaktovik. That
50 project is also a three year project. And the collaboration

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1 with them would be with the people of Kaktovik, I'm sure the
2 Borough Wildlife Department is also involved in that project.
3 And local assistance. It says here, local assistance will
4 help with the harvest surveys preparing the site maps and
5 collecting biological specimens. So there will be local
6 people hired to be working on that project too.

7
8 So those are 2001 projects that will be put
9 in place this summer.

10
11 On the next page that you have, you'll see
12 2002 projects. These are projects that are being considered
13 right now. They've been selected for consideration. Right
14 now we're entering a period of preparing investigation plans.
15 Let's look at those projects right now, briefly, for this
16 area. You'll see the temperature and salinity and variability
17 at traditional subsistence sites in the nearshore habitat of
18 the Beaufort Sea. That project's got a lot of cooperators.
19 Principally, University of Alaska-Fairbanks, Geophysical
20 Institute-Fairbanks, Sharon George, Alaska Data Visualization
21 Analysis Service, Tevis Underwood with the Fish and Wildlife
22 Service, and I have a description of that project here, if
23 you'd like some more specifics on that I can give that to
24 you. That project, as you know, is being considered for
25 selection by the Board this winter. Investigation plans are
26 being prepared right now and once those investigation plans
27 are prepared, they will be -- those projects -- we will
28 identify the projects that we would like to go forward and we
29 will bring them before you, the Regional Advisory Council
30 this fall, for your input into these projects.

31
32 So for 2002, we're looking at the Beaufort
33 Sea salinity work and we're looking at assessment of Arctic
34 grayling in the Kukpuk River near Point Hope, Alaska. That's
35 another project for 2002 that has been selected to this
36 point. Okay, the third project for this North Slope area is
37 the North Slope/Anaktuvuk Pass subsistence fish harvest
38 assessment. Again, the North Slope Borough is involved with
39 this project and the grayling project near Point Hope. These
40 projects, both of these grayling projects address some of the
41 priority needs that you folks have identified in your
42 priority listing that you discussed this morning. The
43 grayling, in the Point Hope area came out as one of the
44 priorities where more information is necessary.

45
46 So I want to impress upon you that these
47 projects have been identified for consideration. They are
48 not -- it's not cast in concrete yet for the 2002. And these
49 projects will be looked at in more detail with those
50 investigation plans and then the projects that we would like

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1 to put forward will be brought before the Board for your
2 further input in the fall meeting.

3
4 So beyond that there are projects for 2003
5 that we have not yet started a consideration process. You
6 still have a period of time to suggest more projects which
7 would address your priority needs. And on the third page of
8 that handout, you'll see a time line. This is a FIS,
9 Fisheries Information Service Monitoring Projects time line.
10 You can see at the start of the top of this chart of table,
11 there is year-round, it says identify issues and needs.
12 Well, your Council has identified issues and needs and
13 prioritized those issues very well with what you discussed
14 this morning. That is a continual process, however. And we
15 will be continually asking you to keep the priorities, your
16 Council priorities in mind so you can convey -- tell us
17 exactly what they are because as we approve these fisheries
18 information project -- monitoring projects, we want those
19 projects to address your priority needs.

20
21 So you can see here it says November 1st,
22 call for project pre-proposals, okay, and that goes through
23 February 1st. Well, that's what we just went through for the
24 year 2002, okay, we just selected project pre-proposals and
25 we have them listed there on that second sheet that I gave
26 you for 2002. Those are the pre-proposals that we selected,
27 hopefully addressing your needs, they address your
28 prioritized needs. You can see the third date down there is
29 March 15th, which is the day after tomorrow, that's when the
30 investigation plans start for 2002. So those investigation
31 plans, you'll have April and May, until the end of May -- the
32 investigators will be working on that detailed plan to
33 prepare that investigation plan. And once those
34 investigation plans, that will help us narrow down and select
35 and work projects and narrow the particulars -- the unknowns
36 down so we can better manage to get a better idea of how that
37 project addresses your needs. Okay, then it says June 1st
38 through August 15th, the draft plans. The draft plans that
39 we select for 2002 will be compiled, put into a booklet, into
40 the statewide draft annual resource monitoring plan. That
41 booklet will have all these plans that we have selected with
42 their investigation plans. In September and October, that
43 booklet will come before the Council, before you where you
44 have a chance to look at those investigation plans and give
45 your feedback and your input, whether you agree with what the
46 investigation plans are. If you think they're in the right
47 area of priorities for issues. And then between your
48 September fall meeting, once we have the winter Council
49 meeting or the Federal Subsistence Board meeting, then those
50 final investigation plans will go in front of the Federal

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1 Board and the Board will make the final decision to accept or
2 reject those plans.

3
4 This is pretty much the schedule for
5 monitoring plans. What you have to understand is we've got
6 2001 approved right now. 2002, we're working on. We're
7 trying to get them and we'll get them by the fall meeting,
8 they will come in front of you for 2002 and then by December
9 they'll go in front of the Federal Subsistence Board for
10 final approval. The meantime, we're going to start
11 soliciting for projects beyond the year 2003. Now, as I
12 understand it, the 2003 projects, we will start requesting
13 pre-proposals in November. So this November, you can start
14 submitting pre-proposals for working with various groups of
15 people, with departments, with the Fish and Wildlife Service,
16 with, for example, the Borough Wildlife Management Department
17 may want to do a study on some aspect of subsistence use in
18 the Colville or something, that's for the year 2003, that
19 study would start. So that's a couple years away but it's
20 this fall when the proposals start. So you'll have from
21 November to February to get those proposals in, you know,
22 between now and then you can think about cooperators, if you
23 want to develop some other cooperators with groups that you
24 work with now who may not have funding. You can start
25 talking to them and developing, you know, hey, let's go
26 together and do this.

27
28 So this helps you put it all in place and
29 it's important to know that this fall you'll be looking at
30 2003, projects for 2003 and deciding on those projects for
31 2002. So you will have, in your fall meeting, a real good
32 opportunity to weigh in on these 2002 projects.

33
34 Let's see, what else do I need to say about
35 those two projects, I think I've covered the 2001 and 2002
36 projects. I do have more specific information and if you're
37 interested I can give -- I have two copies of the stuff for
38 2002 and I don't know if you've seen it, Harry, on the
39 salinity, the pre-proposals?

40
41 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chairman, I was wanting
42 to question you about that, I haven't really looked at that
43 proposal or seen it and I was wanting to ask some questions
44 about that.

45
46 MR. UBERUAGA: Yes, the three projects we've
47 got right now for 2002 are the temperature, salinity
48 variability in the nearshore habitat in the Beaufort. I've
49 got the pre-proposal and I can leave it with you today when
50 I go. The other one is the grayling project at Point Hope.

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1 I think I told you that the cooperators.....

2

3 MR. KOONUK: Why can't you give us all a copy
4 of that and not just the one person? I think the rest of the
5 Council would want to read what's going on, too.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes, provide copies for
8 all of us, please.

9

10 MR. UBERUAGA: Okay.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you.

13

14 MR. UBERUAGA: Then the last one, of course,
15 is the Anaktuvuk Pass harvest assessment project. So I'll
16 get copies made today.

17

18 MR. KOONUK: Who are the cooperators on the
19 Point Hope project?

20

21 MR. UBERUAGA: Okay.

22

23 MR. H. BROWER: ADF&G.....

24

25 MR. UBERUAGA: North Slope Borough,
26 Department of Wildlife, MJM Research, and is that all Harry?

27

28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: You're jumping in to
29 cooperate with them Geoff?

30

31 MR. CARROLL: Probably not.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Harry.

38

39 MR. H. BROWER: Richard, on the temperature
40 and salinity variabilities, are they going to be addressing
41 all fisheries -- all fish within the Beaufort Sea or are they
42 addressing specific fish, like for the cisco?

43

44 MR. UBERUAGA: Well, I haven't read this that
45 thoroughly but what I can see is they'll be taking a lot of
46 physical data on salinity and temperatures and, you know, I
47 don't think they're going to be looking at any of the
48 specific fishes. Let's see, I think they're just going to be
49 doing a lot of monitoring of that water variability. So
50 there really is not a fish component of this research. It's

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1 a weather kind of a study, weather, climate study.

2

3 MR. JENNINGS: It's a habitat assessment.

4

5 MR. UBERUAGA: Yeah, suitability of that
6 habitat but not specifically looking at one species of fish.

7

8 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ray.

11

12 MR. KOONUK: When was this information passed
13 out?

14

15 MR. UBERUAGA: This is new information. I
16 mean I just got this, in fact, yesterday.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Amos.

19

20 MR. KOONUK: Well.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Oh, go ahead, Ray.

23

24 MR. KOONUK: I see you allocated on your
25 proposal to fund 10,000, is this going to be long enough to
26 do your research, you've only funded for one year as well as
27 research on grayling in some other areas here; is that going
28 to be long enough for.....

29

30 MR. UBERUAGA: I don't.....

31

32 MR. KOONUK:find out why, you know.....

33

34 MR. UBERUAGA: That, I believe -- I don't
35 know. I don't know why the -- why that 10,000.....

36

37 MR. KOONUK: Well, not just for Point Hope,
38 if you have other areas like Kaktovik 134 for 2001, is that
39 -- is that enough time, just for one year, to find out what
40 you need to find out as far as what information you need to
41 collect?

42

43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Jennings, could you
44 address that?

45

46 MR. JENNINGS: I could address that, Mr.
47 Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Tim, go ahead.

50

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1 MR. JENNINGS: Tim Jennings with the
2 Subsistence Office. We recognize that typically one year or
3 even three years is not enough time because of the life
4 histories of some of the species being a lot longer than that
5 and the variability that occurs within a natural environment,
6 with winter conditions and summer conditions changing. But
7 the Federal Board has looked at initially funding projects
8 for either a one, two or a three year time frame, and then
9 those studies that are determined to have additional merit
10 and they haven't answered the questions that need answering,
11 there's the opportunity to continue those studies beyond the
12 one, two or three years that are initially funded in order to
13 look at a longer time frame.

14
15 MR. KOONUK: Well, I'd rather see a long-term
16 study than short-term because you're not going to be -- what
17 are you going to find out in one year?

18
19 MR. UBERUAGA: The Anaktuvuk Pass is a three
20 year study.

21
22 MR. KOONUK: That's good.

23
24 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, it's just.....

25
26 MR. KOONUK: You know, you have.....

27
28 MR. JENNINGS:it's a Federal Board
29 decision right now that they don't want to go beyond three
30 years. They want an opportunity to look every year at the
31 progress of the studies and evaluate successes. And also
32 some of these studies are fairly expensive and there's some
33 -- there needs to be some evaluation about how much money you
34 put into one study if you go for 10 years.

35
36 MR. KOONUK: Well, this one year study, it's
37 just -- you're just going to waste money. I mean once you
38 finish that 10,000, what're you going to do? Nothing.

39
40 MR. UBERUAGA: That's a two year study also,
41 on the grayling, at Point Hope.....

42
43 MR. KOONUK: Uh-huh.

44
45 MR. UBERUAGA:yeah, it's June 2002 and
46 June 2003. I've got two years on that one.

47
48 MR. KOONUK: Why didn't you say so then?

49
50 MR. UBERUAGA: But the \$10,000, I don't know

00065

1 why that.....

2

3 MR. KOONUK: But still, is that going to be
4 long enough, one or two years?

5

6 MR. JENNINGS: Well, I think the answer is we
7 won't know until we see what kind of information is collected
8 in the analysis that comes back after year one and year two.
9 And then the study investigators may propose some additional
10 funding in years three and four, whatever, to address the
11 questions. So it's not ruled out, but they couldn't go
12 further.

13

14 MR. KOONUK: Okay, that's what I want to hear
15 as far as that.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Amos.

18

19 MR. AGNASSAGGA: On these temperature changes
20 on these man-made projects like this Endicott, the
21 temperature is a big difference because they knowingly didn't
22 let one of the channels go through. Is that taken care of or
23 are they going to just let it go, on some of these future
24 projects, they got to look at stuff like that, you know.

25

26 MR. UBERUAGA: Yeah, I don't know. I -- I'm
27 not the investigator. What I see in here is they'll be
28 working along the coast, key physical characteristics with
29 salinity and temperature. As far as where and the specifics
30 of where the work will be done, that information is being
31 developed now, right now, between now, during the
32 investigation plans are being developed, March 15th through
33 -- what's our date on the -- oh, yeah, May 30th. That's when
34 specific questions will be asked of the investigators from
35 our office we'll -- specific questions they may have of the
36 investigators, well, what are you going to consider over here
37 regarding this development or that, that's when they ask and
38 refine their investigation plan. So I think you'll see a lot
39 more focus in the next two months, on all three of these
40 projects.

41

42 And the one thing I'll note on the handout I
43 gave you for 2002 and you pointed out, that there was \$10,000
44 there.

45

46 MR. KOONUK: Yeah.

47

48 MR. UBERUAGA: Now, that may be a misprint
49 because I have the project here, I don't know why that's
50 10,000, the project is asking for 100,000.

00066

1 MR. PATKOTAK: So it's probably just a typo
2 there, right?

3
4 MR. UBERUAGA: It's probably a typo.
5

6 MR. KOONUK: I was going to say, 10,000, boy
7 that just covers the airfare.
8

9 MR. UBERUAGA: Yeah. That's.....
10

11 MR. KOONUK: That's not very much.
12

13 MR. UBERUAGA: But I look at the project and
14 it says for 100,000. So that's probably a typo.
15

16 MR. KOONUK: Well, you have 10,000 plus and
17 then it says a year, one.
18

19 MR. UBERUAGA: Right. And on here it says
20 June -- it has 2002 and 2003.
21

22 MR. KOONUK: So somebody is giving us the
23 wrong information.
24

25 MR. UBERUAGA: Well no, it's not, it's
26 preliminary. Preliminary information. It will be developed
27 and refined and a lot better information as the investigation
28 plan develops.
29

30 MR. JENNINGS: And those will come back at
31 the fall meeting and you will be able to review those.
32

33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: So at the fall meeting we
34 will pick up on.....
35

36 MR. KOONUK: But still, you know, you should
37 have printed your numbers right.
38

39 MR. UBERUAGA: Well, what usually happens
40 is.....
41

42 (Laughter)
43

44 MR. KOONUK: If you knew that you were going
45 to give 100,000 to this research for two years then that
46 should have been recorded on this, you know.
47

48 MR. UBERUAGA: That's right. Somebody made
49 a mistake and it wasn't me, but we'll make sure.....
50

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1 MR. KOONUK: Well, if it's not you, then
2 whoever did this.....

3
4 MR. UBERUAGA: Yeah.

5
6 MR. KOONUK:you know, that's almost
7 misleading.....

8
9 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair.

10
11 MR. KOONUK:the Council here as far as
12 what research programs we're going to be looking at. You
13 know, you're almost misleading us here.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you. We'll pick up
16 on his concern on the Endicott research and the project
17 length for the grayling.....

18
19 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chairman.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:in.....

22
23 MR. KOONUK:all I'm asking is that
24 these be printed right. What information we're getting, that
25 we get something that we're going to be using, you know,
26 because this is important here. I thought this research was
27 going to be for one year and that's not enough time.

28
29 MR. PATKOTAK: That's why you were asking the
30 questions, yes.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right, Mr. Ubueragak.

33
34 MR. UBERUAGA: Uberuaga, it's very difficult
35 to say but.....

36
37 MR. KOONUK: Is that an Inupiat name?

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 MR. UBERUAGA: You know.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: It feels hard on my
44 tongue.

45
46 MR. UBERUAGA:it's a Basque name.

47
48 MR. KOONUK: Excuse me?

49
50 MR. UBERUAGA: Basque.

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1 MR. KOONUK: Basque.

2
3 MR. UBERUAGA: But you know Basque people,
4 not where I come from, were whalers.

5
6 MR. KOONUK: Oh.

7
8 MR. UBERUAGA: Five hundred years ago they
9 helped Columbus whale -- whaling captains.

10
11 (In Native - Laughter)

12
13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, Richard.

14
15 MR. UBERUAGA: You bet.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: We've covered our.....

18
19 MR. KOONUK: Are we getting back to this
20 information, Mr. Chairman? I mean if it's going to go next
21 fall.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes, September. The
24 September time frame, they'll have the 2002 for comment.

25
26 MR. KOONUK: Well, I want to see something,
27 you know, if this is just information they gave where it's
28 only 10,000 and it should be 100,000.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah.

31
32 MR. KOONUK: I want these printed right and,
33 you know, just for the Council information.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah. Okay, can someone
36 verify the cost figures for that and maybe by tomorrow get us
37 the right ones and make copies for.....

38
39 MR. KOONUK: Because if we go by next fall
40 and it's still printed the same, then we're still going to
41 figure it's \$10,000.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

44
45 MR. KOONUK: And, you know, if we're not
46 going to account for the 90,000.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, Ray.

49
50 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chair, we will take

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1 that back and make those changes and also Amos' comments on
2 the temperature and salinity, the questions that he raised.
3 We will take those questions back to the office that oversees
4 the development, the investigation plans and have them
5 address those issues with the study proponents.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

8
9 MR. JENNINGS: Okay.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Tim. Thank
12 you, Rich. Very informative. I really appreciate the way
13 you gave us the report on the monitoring projects. We
14 covered, I know, number 4, pretty well this morning. I think
15 you'll take those along with you Richard to your office,
16 those two pages that we formally took -- or backed up this
17 morning, the seven projects, identifying the issues.

18
19 MR. UBERUAGA: I'm sorry, I didn't catch the
20 first part of.....

21
22 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

25
26 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, we'll take that back.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

29
30 MR. JENNINGS: And we'll update the Council's
31 regional priorities and information needs.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Tim.

34
35 MR. UBERUAGA: I'll try to get these copied
36 right now.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, Rich.
39 All right, number 5 and 6, again, Mr. Jennings will cover
40 those two. Go ahead, Tim.

41
42 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chair. Michelle is
43 handing out information regarding statewide rural
44 determination process and the in-season delegation to field
45 managers.

46
47 The first item is statewide rural
48 determination process. Within our regulations there is a
49 requirement that every 10 years the Federal Subsistence
50 Board, with input from the Councils first will look at the

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1 rural/non-rural status of the cities and towns and villages
2 on a statewide basis. And so this first 10 year update will
3 be based upon the 2000 census information which is just in
4 the process of being finalized by the Census Bureau and being
5 released in the upcoming months.

6
7 Last summer, the Federal Board directed Staff
8 to work with a contract process, through a third-party
9 contract to develop and refine any further, as necessary, the
10 methodology by which the Councils and the Board look at the
11 rural/non-rural determinations. The contract is currently
12 still in the development process and we anticipate that the
13 Board will give final approval to advertise this third-party
14 contract on methodology within the next couple or three
15 months, so that by sometime this summer it would be awarded
16 and the contractor will develop a draft methodology over the
17 next six months or so after contract award.

18
19 Councils will participate in the process and
20 have an opportunity to comment and make recommendations first
21 on the methodology that would be utilized and then, secondly,
22 after that methodology is approved by the Federal Board, the
23 final determinations of rural/non-rural, using the 2000
24 Census information. And in order to keep the Councils
25 informed and up to date on this issue, the Board has the
26 three Council Chairs designated by the Chairs and those three
27 Council Chairs are Dan O'Hara of Bristol Bay, Willie Goodwin
28 of Northwest Arctic and Gerald Nicholia of Eastern Interior,
29 all three will sit with the Board in deliberations or
30 discussions regarding methodology and final determinations.

31
32 The second item there you see is during the
33 winter and spring, 2002 meetings for the Councils, which
34 would be a year from now, we expect the Councils will have
35 the opportunity to comment and to make recommendations on the
36 methodology.

37
38 And then item number 3, once that methodology
39 is approved, the final determinations for rural/non-rural
40 will be the next step and then during the fall 2002 meetings,
41 about a year and a half from now, we will be soliciting
42 Council input and recommendations regarding rural/non-rural
43 determinations. So I'll stop there, Mr. Chair, and see if
44 there are any questions on the statewide rural process.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Tim. Questions
47 for Tim on the statewide rural determination process?

48
49 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Harry.

2

3 MR. H. BROWER: Tim, are you going to be able
4 to provide the previous information that was used or the
5 criteria that was used to make the statewide rural
6 determinations when the Federal management first started,
7 environmental impact statement and there was some discussions
8 in those -- in that EIS, is that going to be made available
9 to make comparisons as to what changes have occurred over
10 time?

11

12 MR. JENNINGS: Yes. I expect that the
13 contract will have all the background information including
14 the existing frame work, regulations and criteria that has
15 been used for the initial rural/non-rural determinations made
16 by the Board. And that will form the starting point for the
17 contractor to look at recommending any changes.

18

19 MR. H. BROWER: The reason I bring that up,
20 Mr. Chairman, is that there's a lot of comments provided from
21 the Borough and other organizations when we were going
22 through this process and maybe it might be helpful to people
23 that have not been up to speed on that issue learning what
24 was addressed at that time. I think it was the first part of
25 1990 or '91.

26

27 MR. JENNINGS: It occurred in the '90 and '91
28 time frame, you're correct, yes.

29

30 MR. H. BROWER: Yes. So you know, there's
31 changes that have occurred over time and may need to be
32 addressed and it would be helpful if that information was
33 made available for Regional Advisory Council to utilize to
34 help make decisions or comments on this issue. I just wanted
35 to bring that up, Mr. Chairman.

36

37 MR. JENNINGS: So Harry, are you suggesting
38 that as we bring the draft methodology back to the Council,
39 that we also have kind of the baseline or the starting point
40 information from 1990 and 1991 as resource information for
41 the Councils to also have that information before them?

42

43 MR. H. BROWER: Yes, I think it would be a
44 good learning tool to have for the committee and the Council
45 members, you know, I think some of the members might know of
46 it but won't have all the information but it would be a good
47 learning tool for them to use to address this statewide rural
48 determination process. You know, we were right within that
49 realm of being -- of making that rural determination for the
50 North Slope. You know, there was a set number when you could

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1 be determined as a non-rural area versus a rural area. And
2 there's some concern over that, what if there's one over that
3 number, do we start defining this area as a non-rural area
4 and then a person dies after that, do we go back to the rural
5 status? See there's concerns of that nature but I remember
6 when we were going through that EIS. So that environmental
7 impact statement, I thought I'd bring that out to the Council
8 members.

9
10 MR. JENNINGS: Well, if I may, Mr. Chair,
11 I'll summarize real briefly for you, as Harry has mentioned,
12 the existing regulations look at population numbers of a
13 community and there's a presumption of non-rural if the
14 population is over 7,000. And a community that is over 7,000
15 could be determined to be rural if they could demonstrate
16 significant rural characteristics. Between 2,500 and 7,000,
17 there's no presumption in the regulation regarding rural and
18 non-rural, it's viewed on a case by case basis. And then
19 under 2,500, a community with 2,500 or fewer people is
20 presumed to be rural. That's the way the current regulations
21 are set up. And then there are 14 community characteristics
22 that the Federal Board approved in the '90 and '91 time frame
23 that were used to help determine rural versus non-rural after
24 the initial look at population. I believe Harry, that's the
25 kind of background you were referring to?

26
27 MR. H. BROWER: Yes.

28
29 MR. JENNINGS: Yeah, okay.

30
31 MR. REXFORD: Any questions for Mr. Jennings?
32 Go ahead, Tim.

33
34 MR. JENNINGS: Okay, Mr. Chair, I'll move
35 onto the last briefing from our office. It's in regard to
36 the season delegation to field managers. And this is in
37 reference to a Federal Board delegation to make regulatory
38 decisions to open seasons, close seasons for fisheries. On
39 February 26th, just recently, the Federal Board made a
40 decision to expand the delegation for in-season fisheries
41 management to some selected designated Federal officials
42 called field unit managers for the upcoming 2002 fisheries
43 season.

44
45 Last year the Board delegated some limited
46 delegation regarding time and area decision-making. This
47 year the Board expanded that in-season management decision-
48 making to include gear, permits and harvest and possession
49 limits. And the intent was that the Federal Subsistence
50 Board wanted to expand the delegation of the Federal Staff to

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1 basically match or mirror the delegation on the State side,
2 the State fisheries managers. And there is, in areas like
3 the Yukon River and the Kuskokwim River, where we had several
4 in-season management decisions that were made by Federal and
5 State managers last year, some of the Federal decisions took
6 longer because those decisions had to come from the field
7 manager through the local subsistence users input and Council
8 input, up to the Federal Board, similar to a special action
9 process. So the Federal Board has decided to expand the
10 delegation this year and it's for one year and then they're
11 going to continue to monitor how this expanded delegation
12 works.

13
14 There was no -- last year in the 2001 fishing
15 season, there was no in-season management decisions that were
16 made by Federal managers in your area on the North Slope.
17 And we wouldn't expect that to occur unless, as we discussed
18 earlier, there's already broad coverage for customary and
19 traditional use for all species of fish and the seasons and
20 harvest limits are very liberal, you can fish all the time
21 and catch the number of fish that you would like. So the
22 primary in-season management decision that could occur in
23 your area sometime in the future is if locals became
24 concerned about the conservation status of a local stock, if
25 they believed from environmental factors or from maybe some
26 localized fishing pressure that a stock, a local stock was at
27 risk, they could ask the Federal in-season management
28 official to close the season or to limit harvest in order to
29 maintain conservation. So that's about the only potential
30 in-season delegation of a management decision that could
31 happen in the future. We don't know of anything happening
32 for the upcoming season, nothing projected in your area.

33
34 On the Yukon, however, again, they're
35 predicting another poor run and so the Board is trying to
36 gear up on the Federal side to allow the Federal managers to
37 meet what they believe is going to be another difficult year
38 on the Yukon and Kuskokwim River.

39
40 So that's in summary what the Board did
41 recently on in-season management delegations to field
42 managers and I'll stop there, Mr. Chair, and see if there's
43 any questions.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Questions in regard to in-
46 season delegation. Nothing. Tim, thank you.

47
48 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, National Park

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1 Service, Mr. Mills.

2

3 MR. MILLS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't
4 get a chance to do this very often so it's nice to spend a
5 little time, as you know, we've been short-handed recently.
6 Jeff Maw, who was our subsistence coordinator for the Park
7 has recently taken a job working with the Senate Energy
8 Committee, actually Chairman Murkowski's committee and he'll
9 be there for a couple years. So we're in the process of
10 recruiting a new person for that position or a similar type
11 position. In fact, one of the things I'm looking at is at
12 UAF and here at the college, looking around for some folks
13 either from the villages around the Park or associated
14 colleges and universities that we could bring into our
15 organization, young or old, and help them develop into that
16 position. So if you have any thoughts on that you can talk
17 to me afterwards about that.

18

19 Actually this is the third Regional Council
20 in the last week I've been able to attend, so it's kind of
21 nice to be here. Thank you for the opportunity.

22

23 Just a couple of things that I wanted to
24 bring up, is just an update from our subsistence commission.
25 We met last November and the Commission passed and signed
26 their hunting plan that they've been working on for a number
27 of years. I know that went out to this Regional Council and
28 others for review and we appreciate the input and time you
29 put into reviewing that. They're really pleased to have it
30 done and I think they're proud of the document and I think
31 it's a good working plan for that. It's not something that's
32 cast in stone by any means, it's a real flexible document
33 that they can review every year and change. But as you know,
34 that was one of the primary reasons Congress established the
35 Subsistence Commission Resource for the Park is to write and
36 develop a hunting plan that guides our actions around there.
37 So I think we got a real good product. The people from the
38 communities that have worked on it are real comfortable with
39 it so I think we're off to a good start after 20 years now.
40 So it took awhile, but I just wanted to thank you all for
41 your work on that.

42

43 At our last meeting, we did talk -- as well
44 as working on the hunting plan, just an issue that the
45 Commission spent a lot of time on that they brought up and
46 were concerned about was their -- and they passed a
47 resolution and sent it to the state of Alaska supporting
48 Anaktuvuk Pass in some of the concerns they expressed at a
49 hearing last summer as well as in writing about the proposed
50 oil and gas lease sale in the foothills area along the --

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1 just north of Anaktuvuk Pass, along there, so that the
2 Subsistence Resource Commission supported a number of the
3 issues that people in Anaktuvuk brought up along that line.
4 And I understand that lease sale may take place this spring,
5 I think that's the plan, and documents that I've read
6 recently, the State DNR did address a number of the concerns
7 in there and proposed some mitigation measures to address
8 some of those concerns. I think residents of Anaktuvuk still
9 probably have concerns over caribou and things like that.
10 But some of those concerns were addressed by the State.

11
12 And then the final thing that I have -- well,
13 we mentioned the fish studies, I won't go into that but I
14 know Anaktuvuk Pass and the Fish and Game and then some of
15 our Park employees have been involved working with Anaktuvuk
16 on some of the interests they have in documenting harvest and
17 understanding some of those local fishing sites around the
18 village so we're certainly interested in supporting them in
19 that interest.

20
21 And then finally, in terms of the Regional
22 Council representative on the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
23 Commission, we're not planning another Subsistence Commission
24 meeting until next fall so the Council has a little bit of
25 time to think about that and we've been able to get a good
26 quorum there so I just wanted to say there's no immediate
27 rush on appointing that, whenever you're able to do that then
28 we'll certainly -- there's one position reserved on there for
29 a Regional Council member from your Council here. So I just
30 wanted to let you know there's no scheduled meeting and
31 probably until next November, is usually when we try to fit
32 that in.

33
34 And that's all I had unless Paul had
35 something to add, I'd be glad to -- I'll be around most of
36 the day today and I've got some other meetings scheduled
37 while I'm here, a little bit in the morning and then I
38 appreciate the opportunity to be here and participate in your
39 meeting.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, questions for Mr.
44 Mills. I see a sign of yours out there, do you have an
45 office here in the building or you're a sponsor of the
46 building?

47
48 MR. MILLS: Oh, really? I'll take credit for
49 it.

50

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1 (Laughter)

2
3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

4
5 MR. MILLS: This is at the heritage center
6 here?

7
8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah. It's right outside
9 the door there. I have one question, I know we have a
10 working group and the National Park Service, Steve Ulvi was
11 very active in that and we didn't get a chance to meet with
12 Mr. Maw regarding that and this is our third and final year
13 for that harvest plan for muskoxen on the North Slope and our
14 working group should be, maybe at the end of this month we'll
15 be meeting, is that the plan, Geoff?

16
17 MR. MILLS: We'll make sure we have somebody
18 there to continue to participate.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, we'll need someone.

21
22 MR. MILLS: If I can't find somebody I'll
23 come myself.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes.

26
27 MR. MILLS: So let's stay in touch.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, Geoff is one of our
30 runners or.....

31
32 MR. H. BROWER: Coordinator.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:coordinator, not our
35 boy, but our coordinator.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 MR. MILLS: Yes, well, I did read over some of
40 the minutes from the last meeting and I'd like to thank the
41 Chairman and the other people that have worked hard on that
42 plan. I think the text is correct when it says it's really
43 a good example of people working together from a variety of
44 different jurisdictions and interests. I think as time goes
45 on we're learning to even appreciate that effort even more.
46 I think we've got -- I've heard and been told it's working
47 well and that the plan is a good one here. Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, we have under 12(A),
50 we'll be taking it up and talking about it again, Gates of

00077

1 the Arctic SRC, the vacant seat.

2
3 MR. MILLS: Okay.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Just to remind you that
6 we'll be talking about that later on in the agenda.

7
8 MR. MILLS: Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Dave.

11
12 MR. MILLS: Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, with that we'll hear
15 from Dave Yokel for BLM. Local Yokel, we're going to take a
16 10 minute break.

17
18 (Off record)

19
20 (On record)

21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Good afternoon, ladies and
23 gentlemen, I'll call the NSRAC, Region 10, meeting back to
24 order. We're just getting into BLM. Again, I forgot to
25 mention that I had a conversation with Bill Thomas regarding
26 Proposal 1 and 2, which we'll deliberate in the morning, so
27 he gave me some instructions or suggestions on how to deal
28 with the statewide definition. So I'll need to round up a
29 Webster's Dictionary. So we'll use that as.....

30
31 MR. H. BROWER: Did you want a very big one
32 or a small one?

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Whatever. So anyhow,
37 again, on the reviewer's if you have the key points and
38 briefings in writing, it would be appreciated. So Mr. Dave
39 Yokel, the floor is yours.

40
41 MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
42 Council. I don't have very much to give to you today. One
43 of the main things I hope to cover today would have been what
44 happened in our most recent NPR-A Subsistence Advisory Panel
45 meeting. As you all know the panel suffered a double loss a
46 few days right before the scheduled meeting with the deaths
47 of both Luke and Hopson, that meeting was cancelled and we
48 don't have a meeting rescheduled yet at this time.

49
50 The previous meeting of that group was in

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1 December and that has been since your last meeting so I'll
2 just cover a couple of points briefly from that meeting.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

5
6 MR. YOKEL: There was continued concern
7 during that meeting about impacts of vibriosis over ice on
8 the fish that are overwintering in lakes. A study was done
9 last spring and the report is finally out, you know, but
10 basically all that study did was say how loud the noise is
11 under the ice. It makes no connection to the impact on fish.
12 Some suggestions at that last meeting were that they do
13 another study and have a videocamera in the water to watch
14 what the fish do or perhaps put in nets and catch fish or
15 maybe put fish in a cage and see what happens. Something's
16 going to be done this spring but I'm not clear what at this
17 point.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Is it seismic?

20
21 MR. YOKEL: Seismic exploration where they
22 have the huge vibrating machines, that when they're on the
23 earth, the way they put this big presser foot down, shake the
24 earth with, that sound energy goes through the earth and
25 comes back and they pick it up on a geophones and this is how
26 they get their -- looks at what the structure of the earth is
27 underneath and where they expect there may be accumulation of
28 petroleum. I'm sorry, I should have started out with that
29 explanation.

30
31 There's also continued concerns about the
32 impacts to the vegetation of ice roads and seismic
33 exploration and I showed you some slides at your last meeting
34 of some results of last winter's ice road development. And
35 also there's some concern about the color of pipelines,
36 whether or not these bright reflective silver pipelines are
37 scaring caribou. There was some suggestions that maybe they
38 ought to experiment with some different colors of pipes.

39
40 I'd also like to give you a very brief update
41 on this winter's petroleum's exploration in the NPR-A, both
42 BP and Phillips have exploratory drilling programs this
43 winter but they were both held up due to the mildness of the
44 winter. They had difficulties in building ice roads. At
45 this point in time, BP has completed its ice road, it's first
46 pad and this is an area just east of Teshekpuk Lake and they
47 began drilling last week, the first well. And at this point,
48 this late in the season, they're only hoping to get two wells
49 drilled.

50

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1 Phillips, I just got this information
2 yesterday and it wasn't clear, but we think that Phillips has
3 their rig in place, their first pad for this winter.
4 Phillips did, in fact, drill three wells last winter in the
5 NPR-A, and we expect that Phillips will start drilling their
6 first well soon. They still hope to get at least three wells
7 this winter and probably by bringing in a second rig in the
8 NPR-A in the near future.

9
10 And then finally, one third thing, in
11 addition to the Subsistence Advisory Panel made up of local
12 North Slope residents, we were also directed by the Secretary
13 of the Interior to establish a research and monitoring team
14 for NPR-A to look at the impacts of oil exploration and
15 development on most surface resources, most important of
16 which are the wildlife and fisheries resources. And that
17 research and monitoring team charter -- that team will be
18 chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the same
19 as your Council is. The charter was signed by the Secretary
20 of Interior last November, we're in the process right now of
21 soliciting nominations for members to that team or advisory
22 committee. And there is one category of member for public at
23 large. So if there's anybody on this committee, especially
24 those of you from Barrow or Nuiqsut, which are the areas most
25 affected by this activity, I have application forms with me
26 today, if you're interested just let me know and I'll give
27 you a form and give you help in filling it out if you want
28 it.

29
30 And that's all I have, Mr. Chairman, unless
31 there are questions.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Dave.

34
35 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ray.

38
39 MR. KOONUK: A couple of questions. You
40 mentioned about vegetation and caribou, there was a report
41 done by, I guess, North Slope Borough in regards to the
42 caribou die-offs and it was told to us that it was mostly
43 starvation. Now is there something wrong with the vegetation
44 around our area, is there not enough vegetation or why so
45 many die-off -- how come so many caribou died in the Cape
46 Thompson and then right around the Cape Lisburne area?

47
48 MR. YOKEL: Well, first of all, Mr.
49 Koonuk.....

50

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1 MR. KOONUK: If they died from starvation,
2 I'd like to know what's wrong with our vegetation?

3
4 MR. YOKEL: Okay. Well, I don't recall
5 having said anything about caribou, what I was talking about
6 was the impacts on the vegetation from the ice road
7 construction from seismic exploration, which is not occurring
8 in the area that you're discussing.

9
10 MR. KOONUK: Oh, I thought you had mentioned
11 caribou.

12
13 MR. YOKEL: No, I don't recall having said
14 anything about caribou.

15
16 MR. KOONUK: Then I misheard you.

17
18 MR. YOKEL: But in answer to your question,
19 I think that if you would talk to Geoff Carroll or Jim Dau of
20 Kotzebue, it might be an issue, not of the quality of the
21 vegetation but perhaps something about the weather that year
22 that made it more difficult to get to that vegetation.

23
24 MR. KOONUK: Weather?

25
26 MS. DEWHURST: I've had a lot of discussion
27 with Jim Dau out of Kotzebue who was the one that mainly took
28 the carcass samples and did a lot of the coordination of the
29 study. And a big part of that result was considered to be
30 overgrazing, which caribou are notorious for, that's why
31 caribou are often so nomadic is they'll overgraze one spot,
32 which is the favorite feeding spot for a number of winters
33 but lichen are very slow growing. Lichen take 20 or 30, 40
34 years often to get to be a good bed of lichen. and if the
35 caribou really do a number on those lichen, it takes 20, 30
36 years to get it back in one spot. So that's why caribou are
37 notoriously nomadic, in that, they use this favorite spot for
38 a number of years and then move on. And what Jim felt was
39 what they looked at when they looked at the lichen over
40 there, is they were seeing big large patches of overgrazing
41 in that area. I'm just relaying what Jim expressed from the
42 results. And they felt that the lichen in that area had been
43 pretty heavily grazed in certain spots, and especially along
44 the coast.

45
46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: If I can add, Donna wasn't
47 at the Northwest Council meetings. One of the Council
48 members there also asked if the lichen could be tested
49 because -- it was Enoch Shieht, because he was concerned that
50 there isn't enough lichen around and so Jim Dau said he would

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1 do that so they're going to be looking into if there's some
2 problems with the lichen as well.

3
4 MR. KOONUK: Why wasn't it done earlier?

5
6 MS. DEWHURST: You'd have to talk to Jim.
7 It's a common problem.

8
9 MR. KOONUK: Yes.

10
11 MS. DEWHURST: I used to work on the Alaska
12 Peninsula where the caribou down there are restricted to a
13 peninsula, it was a big problem. That's where the Northern
14 Alaska Peninsula Herd crashed because they couldn't move any
15 place else and they severely ate out the lichen on a large
16 part of the Peninsula and now there's no more food. And so
17 that herd has severely declined, where at least, with the
18 Western Arctic Herd, there's lots of room for them to move
19 around and go to new spots. It happens and it's historical.
20 It's happened in a lot of places, that's why they move around
21 so much, because they will overgraze an area.

22
23 As far as why Jim hadn't looked at it before,
24 you'd have to ask him. I don't think they expected it
25 because the Western Arctic Herd kept going up so they assumed
26 the food was good.

27
28 MR. YOKEL: Well, I think we've had concerns
29 over the last 10 years about the forage quality for the
30 Western Arctic Herd because of its size, but I guess the
31 answer to your question, why didn't they look for it, Ray,
32 would be that, where are you going to look in one year when
33 this herd winters over a quarter of the state. If you look
34 at the range in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, it's a
35 pretty huge area to do vegetation trend studies and look at
36 the amount of forage available for that.

37
38 MS. DEWHURST: Until a red flag goes up like
39 a bunch of caribou were found dead.

40
41 MR. YOKEL: And if you do find that forage
42 quality is going down, what are you going to do about it,
43 unless you're going to propose planting lichen.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

46
47 MR. YOKEL: Any questions relevant to the
48 BLM?

49
50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Questions. Hearing none,

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1 Dave, thank you.

2

3 MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Oh, Harry.

6

7 MR. H. BROWER: Did you state anything about
8 when that panel's going to meet?

9

10 MR. YOKEL: The research and monitoring team
11 or the subsistence advisory panel?

12

13 MR. H. BROWER: The advisory panel?

14

15 MR. YOKEL: We have not rescheduled the
16 meeting yet that I know of. Normally that's done between our
17 office manager and the panel chairman.

18

19 MR. H. BROWER: Uh-huh.

20

21 MR. YOKEL: And I think our chairman is
22 resigning, John Hopson of Wainwright, so we need -- we're
23 hoping to elect a new chair at this meeting.

24

25 MR. H. BROWER: Uh-huh.

26

27 MR. YOKEL: So now we're left not only with
28 two vacancies on the panel but also no chairman.

29

30 MR. H. BROWER: Okay.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Dave.

33

34 MR. H. BROWER: Thank you, Dave.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right, we'll move to
37 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Geoff will be the
38 center.

39

40 MR. CARROLL: Geoff Carroll, area biologist
41 for Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'll be more brief
42 than usual today, partly because I'm kind of caught in a spat
43 between the people at -- the Commissioner and Regional
44 Director, there's been kind of a controversy for the last few
45 years between the people at that level about the increasing
46 amount of work that the State is taking on as a result of the
47 Federal subsistence program and the State feels that we
48 should be compensated for some of that time and they're at --
49 they can't seem to come to an agreement on it. And so it
50 kind of came to a head this year and at one point we were

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1 advised not to, you know, participate in the subsistence
2 management process and not even come to the meetings or
3 anything, and a lot of us kind of said that, you know, we
4 feel like our job is really involved in trying to provide as
5 good a wildlife management up here as possible and part of
6 that's coming to these meetings. So anyway, people backed
7 off a little bit and said, you know, participated in the
8 meetings if it doesn't -- but don't put a lot of time into it
9 and also they're not providing any travel money for people,
10 for State employees to go to these meetings. So anyway,
11 that's kind of the main reason that Sverre Pedersen isn't up
12 here. He was planning on coming to this meeting and giving
13 a report on the subsistence monitoring project he's been
14 doing in Nuiqsut for the last couple years but he'll have to
15 give that at some future date.

16
17 So that's kind of that little controversy in
18 a nutshell.

19
20 I would like to talk about a few things while
21 I'm here though. One is that the State recently produced and
22 published this little book on common wildlife diseases and
23 parasites of Alaska. And there's several of these over on
24 the table if anybody wants to see those. But the idea of it
25 is -- well, the guys that produced this, basically there's a
26 guy -- Greg Elkin, (ph), he works in the Northwest
27 Territories and they produced a book like this and then some
28 of the people in our department saw it and, particularly, Jim
29 Dau, who works in Kotzebue, got together with him and he
30 agreed to let us use the basic idea and then he and Randy
31 Zarnkey (ph) from the Fairbanks office added some things to
32 make it more appropriate to Alaska and produced this little
33 booklet.

34
35 And the idea is it's a field guide that
36 hunters can take with them in the field. And it's -- you
37 know, we've been hearing more and more in recent years about
38 people finding sick animals that they've harvested, you know,
39 so you get an animal and see something unusual, I know, as a
40 hunter a lot of times you don't know if you've even got
41 something that you should be very leery of, you know, is that
42 going to -- is that going to make me or my family sick, you
43 know, and you don't really know whether to just leave the
44 whole thing there or actually leave part of the animal -- the
45 fact of the matter is most of these parasites and things that
46 you see in animals, as long as you cook the animal, it's not
47 going to do you any harm, but there are some that you really
48 have to be kind of careful of. And so that's the idea with
49 this booklet, is just to help hunters recognize sickness in
50 an animal, you know, and then if they do see something in

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1 there they can decide whether it's a disease or a parasite
2 and just what it is. And most importantly so the hunters can
3 protect themselves from infection, you know, if it is
4 something like brucellosis that you really don't want to come
5 in contact with or something like that, you know, to stay
6 away from that or if it's some of these other parasites,
7 things like that, that you cook your meat and it's really no
8 problem or you know lung worms, things like that.

9
10 So anyway, if you just -- the idea is it's
11 something that you can just take along with you in the field
12 and have it with you when you harvest your animal and then
13 you're able to look up these things in the book and know how
14 to react to it. And also we're hoping that it will be an
15 aide to us because then when people are out in the field and
16 they see something like this they'll know better how to
17 report it to us if they look it up and can tell us, oh, I got
18 a caribou with brucellosis or I had one with, you know,
19 muscle tape worms, or something like that, then it gives us
20 a better idea of what diseases and parasites are common among
21 these animals.

22
23 So I guess I wanted to make you guys aware of
24 these and also kind of get some ideas on what you think the
25 best way to get these out to the people are. I guess what
26 I'm thinking now is, you know, if you look through these and
27 think they are worthwhile books to get out to hunters,
28 possibly we could do a mailing to all the boxholders in the
29 villages. I don't really have enough of these to send to
30 everybody in Barrow but I think we could send them to
31 everybody in the smaller villages. And then in Barrow, just
32 let people know that they're available and that they could
33 pick them up possibly at my office or the North Slope Borough
34 Wildlife Department or maybe the Vet Clinic, something like
35 that.

36
37 So anyway, that's kind of what I'm thinking
38 about these, so after you've looked them over a little bit
39 and think they're worth getting out to people maybe you could
40 let me know about that.

41
42 Another quick item, we've had a couple of
43 muskox hunting seasons going on. We have a registration
44 permit hunt for the area to the east of the Dalton Highway
45 and then we have a Tier II subsistence hunt for the area to
46 the west. The registration hunt for the area to the east of
47 the highway is -- it's a registration hunt where people can
48 come in and pick up permits either in Kaktovik or Nuiqsut and
49 then the season is open until four muskoxen have been
50 harvested and that quota has been filled so that season is

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1 now closed so that area isn't open for hunting muskoxen
2 anymore. But the Tier II hunt will go on until the end of
3 March. So just kind of a heads-up to Nuiqsut hunters, that
4 there is a couple more weeks left in the Tier II season. So
5 if you wouldn't mind kind of reminding people, Leonard, that
6 you could get out and fill those licenses, you got a couple
7 more weeks to do it.

8
9 We ended up with kind of a registration hunt
10 -- we ended up with kind of a situation that I was worried
11 about for the last few years, when you have a registration
12 hunt like that, one of the flaws in the hunt is that you end
13 up with a bunch of hunters in the field and then the quota is
14 filled and then it's hard to notify those hunters and get
15 them to stop hunting. So we actually did go over the quota
16 by two animals this year. And we had some other weaknesses
17 in the hunt brought out to us because the last two hunters
18 [sic] were taken by some hunters from Palmer that had driven
19 all the way up and it's supposed to be a subsistence hunt and
20 they did several things where they didn't technically violate
21 the regulations but they certainly violated the intent of the
22 regulations. For one, they knew that there was only one
23 animal left in the quota and yet they went out and took two
24 animals that put us one over. Another hunter also took one
25 the same day which ended up being two over. But technically
26 the only way we could close the season is to close it by
27 emergency order and the season closed that night so
28 technically the season was still open when they harvested
29 their muskoxen so it was pretty irritating.

30
31 They also found a loophole in our new
32 crossing the Dalton Highway regulation. The way the
33 regulation reads is that a person can start from outside the
34 Corridor, cross the Corridor and hunt on the other side when
35 you come back. What they did was go to the Prudhoe Bay
36 closed area, which is technically outside the Corridor area,
37 drove all the way up the Sag River up to Kivashak River and
38 harvested their muskox, all the way back down the Sag, so
39 again, that certainly wasn't the intent of letting people
40 cross the Corridor. But they did go by the wording of the
41 regulation, they were legal. They also tried to sneak out
42 without getting a trophy value -- one of the rules, too, is
43 that if you leave the area, you have to have a trophy value
44 destroyed on the skulls and they tried to get away with that,
45 we did nab them on that one.

46
47 So anyway, we have some new loopholes to
48 close in the law, I guess, and we'll have to work on that
49 through the Board of Game process this coming session.

50

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1 I don't have much to report as far as
2 wildlife surveys at this point. We're just kind of starting
3 into the season where we'll be doing a lot of that. We'll be
4 doing a full-blown moose count on the North Slope the first
5 week in April. The moose population seems to have been
6 coming back. Hopefully, we'll see enough moose this year
7 that we can justify opening up a lot more of the area to
8 moose hunting in the following years.

9
10 We'll be doing muskox counts and muskox
11 composition counts later in the summer. And then we'll be
12 doing our normal -- we'll be doing surveys here in a couple
13 weeks to see how many caribou calves survived the winter and
14 we'll be doing caribou calving locations and caribou calving
15 success later in the spring and June. Then we'll be doing
16 some caribou capture work this year. We want to get some
17 more radio collars on bulls. We have a lot of information at
18 this point about caribou movement but we've always collared
19 cows in the past. We really don't know where the bulls are
20 along here and with this increasing development in this part
21 of the North Slope, we want to learn more about the cow
22 populations. So that will be kind of the thrust year is to
23 learn more about where the bulls go.

24
25 So that's about all I got to say.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, Geoff.
28 Harry, you had your hand up, questions from the Council for
29 ADF&G? So when is the fall deliberation for the Board of
30 Game?

31
32 MR. CARROLL: That would be in October. I
33 forget the exact date.

34
35 MR. H. BROWER: Now, I remember what I was
36 going to -- I forgot what I was going to ask but I remember.
37 Geoff, you were talking a little bit about getting people to
38 -- inform them about a deadline or something?

39
40 MR. CARROLL: No, I'm just asking him to --
41 that there are nine muskox permits, Tier II muskox permits
42 and I believe two people have harvested their muskoxen so far
43 and the season ends at the end of March, so I was just asking
44 him to remind people to get out and get a muskox, you've only
45 got a couple weeks.

46
47 MR. H. BROWER: They have two more weeks, is
48 what you're saying?

49
50 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Is there a deadline or
2 schedule for submitting proposals for this fall's Board of
3 Game meeting? Is that for this region or will this be a
4 special.....

5
6 MR. CARROLL: Well, the deadline will be, I
7 believe in August.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: August.

10
11 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. And we could -- I plan
12 on putting a lot of time into this at this upcoming North
13 Slope committee meeting, we'll talk a lot about proposals.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

16
17 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any other questions for
20 Geoff?

21
22 MR. CARROLL: Do you guys think these
23 booklets are worthwhile getting out to hunters?

24
25 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, Harry.

28
29 MR. H. BROWER: Geoff, I would say they are.
30 You know, through our North Slope Borough Department of
31 Wildlife Management, we passed out quite a few of the
32 booklets from the ones we got from your office and we've
33 passed them out to some of the hunters, just started handing
34 them out to visitors that are coming out, they seem to be
35 interested in them. And then there's one of the school
36 teachers, I think it might have been the science teacher in
37 the school requested -- I had given him one and he looked it
38 over and a couple weeks later he called me back up and he
39 wanted 25 more to share with the students. So, you know,
40 even disseminating them to the schools would be useful for
41 the school children to start learning more of what's out
42 there in these animals that they utilize for subsistence.

43
44 MR. CARROLL: Okay.

45
46 MR. H. BROWER: I think it is very useful.

47
48 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

49
50 MR. H. BROWER: From what I've noticed, it's

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1 got pretty good information going out to people that have a
2 lot of questions in regard to parasites and when they find
3 these parasites, is the animal edible or not, you know,
4 there's a lot of questions in that area.

5
6 MR. CARROLL: Well, that's a good idea to get
7 them out to the students as well as the hunters.

8
9 MR. H. BROWER: Uh-huh.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I agree.

12
13 MR. PATKOTAK: Well, when you give them out
14 to students, they generally take them home and it's a good
15 way of getting them to the hunters.

16
17 MR. H. BROWER: When they start asking the
18 parents questions about these diseases, did you see this?

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 MS. DEWHURST: Are these being distributed?

23
24 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, they're pretty much
25 statewide, but mostly to Region 5.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Geoff.

28
29 MR. CARROLL: Thank you.

30
31 MR. H. BROWER: Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. We have
34 actually 11 and 12 to go yet. We have a letter to draft up
35 and before all the offices close I want to get our Staff
36 members to draft a letter regarding the stipends so that we
37 can deal with that in the morning.

38
39 It looks like we have at least a couple of
40 hours or so to cover the rest of the agenda, so I'm proposing
41 or suggesting to the Council that we go ahead and recess for
42 the day and deal with the proposals -- are there going to be
43 any problems with that for the Staff? Okay.

44
45 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ray.

48
49 MR. KOONUK: I'd just ask the guy who was
50 supposed to pass out information.....

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you.

2
3 MR. KOONUK:just to make sure.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: It's not his fault. He
6 said that.

7
8 MR. UBERUAGA: Well, we talked to the State
9 and now we're going to correct it.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you. Thank you,
12 Rich. Okay, with that, I'll just summarize quickly today's
13 meeting. We had good comments from the Chair's report. Good
14 village concerns. We assessed or identified the annual
15 report issues. We need some information from the team member
16 -- or the protocol managers or the team members, some
17 information on that, if that could be done and maybe updated
18 before we leave. Good annual report issues brought up,
19 village concerns brought up. We postponed the election of
20 officers until tomorrow, some time tomorrow, it's up to the
21 Council. I'll be talking with Terry later today and possibly
22 maybe try and round up a couple more other Council members,
23 some alternate. We got good information from Tim and Richard
24 and Mr. Mills, Yokel and Geoff.

25
26 The rest of our agenda, we'll review the
27 proposals and make our recommendations. A brief summary,
28 introduction of proposals and the lead agency, biological,
29 social, cultural analysis, ADF&G and agency comments and
30 summary of written public comments, Michelle will cover that,
31 and then the floor will be open for public comments on the
32 proposals and then we'll deliberate as a Council and make our
33 recommendations and justifications as to the findings of the
34 seven proposals before us tomorrow.

35
36 We will start at 9:00 and hopefully we'll be
37 done by lunch. With that, any comments from the Council
38 before we recess?

39
40 MR. KOONUK: So move, to recess.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, Ray.
43 Recess until 9:00.

44
45 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

46
47 * * * * *

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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STATE OF ALASKA)

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