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1 NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
3

4 Inupiat Heritage Center
5 Barrow, Alaska
6 February 17, 2000
7 9:00 o'clock a.m.
8

9 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

10
11 Fenton Rexford, Chairman
12 Gordon Brower Sr.
13 Charles Hopson
14 Ray Koonuk, Sr.
15 Mike Patkotak
16 Leonard Tukle
17 Terry Tagarook
18
19 Barbara Armstrong, Coordinator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I'll call the North Slope Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting to order. Barbara, would you call the roll please, Harry's not in.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Fenton.

CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Harry's excused. Ben is excused. Terry will be in late, I think he's on the morning jet. Gordon is excused, he called me last night. Ray.

MR. KOONUK, SR.: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Leonard.

MR. TUKLE: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Mike.

MR. PATKOTAK: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Paul, I have not heard from.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Charles.

MR. C. HOPSON: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Gordon should be here, he was on teleconference. Mr. Chair, you have a quorum.

CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you.

MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman, for the record I want to apologize for being late. I had prepared myself for this meeting and then my -- had a little bit of problems with one of my boys. We have children then they become teenagers. So if you'll excuse me for being late and delaying this meeting.

CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you Mike. I want to welcome everybody for coming up this morning to help us with our Regional Advisory Council meeting. We'll go around the table here and make introductions.

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1 We have Ray Koonuk from Point Hope. I'm Fenton.
2 Mike Patkotak from Barrow. Leonard Tukle from Nuiqsut.
3 And Charlie Hopson's the representative from Barrow. And
4 Gordon Brower will be joining us this morning. Maybe we'll
5 start with Dr. Syndam over there on the back there on the
6 left.

7
8 MR. SYNDAM: Good morning. My name is
9 Robert Syndam. I'm with the North Slope Borough,
10 Department of Wildlife Management.

11
12 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm Helen Armstrong with
13 the Fish and Wildlife Subsistence Office.

14
15 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Barb Armstrong,
16 Coordinator for North Slope and Northwest Arctic.

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18 MR. RABINOWITCH: Sandy Rabinowitch, Staff
19 Committee to the Federal Board for the Park Service.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Donna.

22
23 MS. DEWHURST: Donna Dewhurst with the U.S.
24 Fish and Wildlife Service.

25
26 MR. YOKEL: Dave Yokel with the Bureau of
27 Land Management.

28
29 MS. SCHICKENGRUBER: Katrin Schickengruber.

30
31 MR. CARROLL: Geoff Carroll, Alaska
32 Department of Fish and Game.

33
34 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Fred Armstrong with Fish
35 and Wildlife Service.

36
37 MR. JENNINGS: Good morning. Tim Jennings
38 with Fish and Wildlife Service Subsistence Office.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you. And
41 our recorder.

42
43 REPORTER: My name is Tina and I'll be your
44 recorder today.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. Very well.
47 And we'll probably be joined by Terry Tagarook and maybe
48 others after the morning flight and we'll see how that
49 goes. But we do have a quorum to conduct business. The
50 next item on the agenda is to review and adopt the agenda.

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1 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Mr. Chair, I make a
2 motion to approve the agenda.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Ray. A
5 motion's on the floor to adopt.

6
7 MR. C. HOPSON: Second.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Seconded by Charlie.
10 Discussion.

11
12 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Question.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Question. All in favor
15 of approving the agenda as presented say aye.

16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Those opposed same sign.

20
21 (No opposing votes)

22
23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you. Then we have
24 our minutes from October 19 and October 20th, '99 in Tab R
25 that's before you for adoption. We'll have a minute to
26 quickly review them.

27
28 MR. C. HOPSON: I make a motion to adopt
29 the minutes of October 19 and 20.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Charlie. A
32 motion.....

33
34 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Second.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Seconded by Ray.
37 There's a couple typos on Charlie Hopson's last name there
38 on the second page, I think it might be throughout the
39 minutes, that Mr. Hopson's.....

40
41 MR. C. HOPSON: And also on the last page
42 Ben Hopson should be.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: It should be H-O-P.

45
46 MR. C. HOPSON: H-O-P.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: H-O-P-S-O-N.

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50 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Is that in the minutes?

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah.

2

3 MR. C. HOPSON: I think it's done
4 throughout the minutes and Ben Hopson's name in the back,
5 Page 13, too.

6

7 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Page 13.

8

9 MR. C. HOPSON: Page 13 and Page 3, 6.

10

11 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay, thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: H-O-P-S-O-N.

14

15 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Oh, okay, thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any other corrections or
18 comments on the minutes of the October meeting?

19

20 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Patkotak.

23

24 MR. PATKOTAK: The point that Charlie
25 Hopson made in our last meeting was about the Western
26 Arctic Caribou Herd committee that was formed. And when I
27 talked to the -- one of the people that sponsored this --
28 the representation -- that a letter was sent to the North
29 Slope Borough, Department of Wildlife but they had not even
30 gotten any word to this Regional Advisory Council and which
31 with in hindsight that maybe in the future anyone from
32 Western Arctic Caribou Herd committee starts to have a
33 meeting that the Regional Advisory Council members be
34 notified directly instead of sending to the North Slope
35 Borough, that way we'll know hands-on about any future
36 meetings by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd committee and
37 attend if possible then we'll have representation from the
38 North Slope area.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: For the record, Gordon
41 Brower, Sr., has joined our Council. Good morning Gordon.

42

43 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Good morning.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: We were just going over
46 the minutes at Tab R, Gordon, and we had a couple of
47 corrections on the last name of Hopson and Mike mentioned
48 about the Western Caribou Arctic Herd information.

49

50 Any other comments or corrections.

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1 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Question called for.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Question is called. All
4 in favor of approving the minutes with just a couple of
5 typo corrections, those in favor signify by saying aye.

6

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Those opposed same sign.

10

11 (No opposing votes)

12

13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you. On to
14 Item No. 6, the floor is open to public comments on the
15 Federal Subsistence Management Program. This opportunity
16 will continue throughout the meeting. However, if you're
17 going to be testifying we have a form where Barbara's at,
18 there's forms there and if you're going to make any public
19 testimony please do so. Again, we provide for the Staff
20 and other people in the audience to make comments or
21 questions. So at this time our village concerns are an
22 important part of our Council hearings or meetings and
23 we'll go around the table and hear from the villages that
24 are at this meeting at this time. And if the other
25 villages to come in late or later this afternoon, we'll
26 give them the opportunity to voice their village concerns
27 from the members. So at this time I'll open the village
28 concerns starting from Charlie Hopson and we'll work our
29 way over this way.

30

31 Mr. Hopson.

32

33 MR. C. HOPSON: Charlie Hopson here from
34 Barrow. I'll make comment on the -- last month or so I
35 went to the Western Arctic Caribou Herd as an observer in
36 place of Fenton Rexford and paid for my way. And I'll
37 report, Harry and I worked together I think he was going to
38 make a report on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd that was
39 held in Nome so there's a report being made by Harry for
40 both of us because we were just as an observer for that
41 meeting. So a report is being made. There are a lot of
42 people that attended and they're still working on how many
43 there are, I read in the last newsletter that they put out
44 that they're still organizing on getting quota, I think.
45 You know, they haven't gotten back to us at all. Like I
46 said, we just went down there as observers, me and Harry
47 Brower.

48

49 And the other concern I've got with what we had a
50 meeting yesterday on some ducks that they want to put some

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1 critical habitat area for this thing. I think, you know,
2 like the first time we heard about it yesterday evening,
3 yesterday afternoon so I think we need to look at that.

4
5 The caribou around here are healthy this year.
6 People been getting caribou from just outside of town and
7 been good weather.

8
9 That's all I have for Barrow.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you,
12 Charlie. Gordon.

13
14 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: I don't have too much
15 concern. Just like Charlie said, I think people are
16 enjoying their subsistence out here. And personally, you
17 know, I haven't been out since last fall fishing and
18 fishing was really good despite breaking through a couple
19 times and getting wet. And we hauled our fish back around
20 December and in the later part of November. So the animals
21 are out there. My two brothers got wolves while they were
22 up there up in Ikpikpuk so I don't have too much concern.

23
24 I think what Charlie said about the critical
25 habitat designation on the North Slope for waterfowl is a
26 concern. I think everybody should be aware of that. I've
27 been aware of that for about a year, I guess, because it
28 was going to affect development in Barrow because Barrow is
29 a nesting site for those birds.

30
31 And that's all I can say for now, I guess.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, Gordon.
34 Questions before we move on? Questions for the Barrow
35 representatives from the Staff? Again, the floor is open
36 for the Staff or if the members in the audience have any
37 questions, please don't hesitate to raise your hand or get
38 our attention.

39
40 Leonard Tukle from Nuiqsut.

41
42 MR. TUKLE: Good morning. Leonard Tukle
43 from Nuiqsut. Our caribou hunting has been pretty good.
44 But the caribou have been moving south due to the alpine
45 development and also the excessive seismic surveys they're
46 doing out there, the caribous are moving down south. For
47 the first time in 26 years of living in Nuiqsut, the
48 Porcupine Herd which usually goes through Nanook, which is
49 the Alpine area, the caribou migration route is right there
50 and the caribous did not pass through there this summer.

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1 They usually come in by the herds every year but they came
2 in like 50 at a group, splitting up right in between the
3 alpine development. Some people have been getting caribous
4 and they're pretty healthy, too.

5
6 And also fishing last fall was good. And some
7 people are finally getting some wolves and wolverines up
8 there this week. And hunting is also pretty good over
9 there, too.

10
11 I guess that's all I have.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Leonard.
14 Questions for Leonard. Mr. Yokel.

15
16 MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Leonard,
17 I just wanted to clarify for myself, you said caribou
18 didn't move through the Nanook area like usual?

19
20 MR. TUKLE: Yeah.

21
22 MR. YOKEL: Like usually that's the area
23 right between Nuiqsut and Alpine?

24
25 MR. TUKLE: Yeah.

26
27 MR. YOKEL: And what time of year do you
28 normally see them?

29
30 MR. TUKLE: In July.

31
32 MR. YOKEL: July.

33
34 MR. TUKLE: July and August.

35
36 MR. YOKEL: Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Hopson.

39
40 MR. C. HOPSON: Yeah, I have a question.
41 Well, there was a comment in our -- in the North Slope
42 Borough thing, I think, Yokel noted that some of the
43 Porcupine Herd didn't even make it to -- I think we
44 discussed this, they just went by Kaktovik and then back,
45 maybe that's the reason that was not in the report prior to
46 this meeting some months back. I think they did have some
47 satellite collaring data on those caribou, they didn't make
48 it, they just turned around and went back up to the
49 mountain. That was the report that I had heard this year.
50 Maybe that's why they didn't see any of that caribou.

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, they were out at
2 our area heading back east the first of July before we got
3 boating around there.

4
5 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Mr. Chairman.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Geoff -- I mean Gordon
8 and then Geoff.

9
10 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: I got a question for
11 you Leonard. You know, I deal with working with the
12 Borough's permitting activities on the North Slope and I've
13 been wanting to hear more about what seismic is doing and
14 we were just -- we were in a meeting this morning that's --
15 I just came out of a meeting on General Concurrence 25,
16 which is the DNR's permit to put seismic and trying to do
17 formal reviews. And some of the concerns that I should
18 have probably put in -- I put in place and mentioned that
19 the caribou have been displaced and people have been having
20 to travel extra miles, even 50 or 60 miles to do their
21 hunting. Is that an accurate depiction of caribous being
22 moved away from too much seismic exploration?

23
24 MR. TUKLE: Compared to all these years,
25 the caribou has been moving south mostly. Like in Ikaluk
26 area and the lower Kikuks, down there, mostly on the south
27 side. And the seismic survey is going to be going on
28 throughout the winter until April, I believe.

29
30 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Uh-huh.

31
32 MR. TUKLE: But some people can request to
33 take a tour with the seismic group with anybody from
34 Nuiqsut, I'm sure they can do that with the Borough people,
35 too, you know, take a closer look at the seismic surveys
36 they're doing. They're heading towards Teshekpuk Lake
37 right now from Itkillik River.

38
39 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Some of the
40 suggestions that we put in, we tried to help with was take
41 an aerial survey. Look at where the (In Native) are, if
42 we're going to move them away, start at an area where
43 you're going to move them toward a village.

44
45 MR. TUKLE: Uh-huh.

46
47 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: I mean I just wanted
48 to hear a little bit more because I know we do a lot of
49 seismic on the North Slope and we really need to get a
50 grasp on what the villages are experiencing to change some

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1 of that.

2
3 MR. TUKLE: Uh-huh.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Gordon,
6 Leonard. Oh, yeah, Geoff, I'm sorry. Mr. Carroll.

7
8 MR. CARROLL: At the North Slope Borough
9 Fish and Game Management committee meeting before
10 Christmas, I believe Ely was saying that the fishing had
11 been very poor last -- or people had very poor success
12 fishing last fall and you're kind of reporting that the
13 fishing was better. Is that probably right? I mean do you
14 agree with that, it wasn't good last fall or that it's
15 getting better or what?

16
17 MR. TUKLE: The Arctic ciscos were few this
18 year.

19
20 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

21
22 MR. TUKLE: There was a lot of humpback,
23 what is that?

24
25 MR. PATKOTAK: (In Native)

26
27 MR. TUKLE: (In Native)

28
29 MR. PATKOTAK: (In Native)

30
31 MR. TUKLE: Oh, these humpback white fish
32 almost -- almost like similar to the regular white fish
33 that we get on the middle area.

34
35 MR. CARROLL: Uh-huh.

36
37 MR. TUKLE: And those were all around the
38 river this year -- last year, I should say, and lots of
39 herrings but white fish, Arctic cisco was real low compared
40 to these past few years.

41
42 MR. CARROLL: So the humpback white fish
43 were good but.....

44
45 MR. TUKLE: Yeah.

46
47 MR. CARROLL:the Arctic cisco
48 weren't?

49
50 MR. TUKLE: And herrings were also there,

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1 too.

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3 MR. CARROLL: I'm sorry, herrings were?

4

5 MR. TUKLE: Herrings were -- there was a
6 lot of herring out there, too.

7

8 MR. CARROLL: And it's just probably a
9 matter of terminology but when you were talking about the
10 caribou moving through there you were saying, Porcupine
11 caribou and I think that, you know, generally the Porcupine
12 Caribou Herd stays a lot farther to the east, you know,
13 they come down up into Fenton's country and then usually
14 back over into Canada. I think usually what you see is the
15 Central Arctic Herd coming through there but I don't know
16 is there some reason that you feel that it is Porcupine
17 over there or is it just a matter of terminology?

18

19 MR. TUKLE: Usually the Teshekpuk Lake herd
20 usually pass through there and then they come right back.

21

22 MR. CARROLL: Uh-huh.

23

24 MR. TUKLE: And the Porcupine Herd crosses
25 over and go on right back, that goes on every year. But
26 last year was different.

27

28 MR. CARROLL: I see.

29

30 MR. TUKLE: We had small herds but not by
31 the thousands they usually be every year.

32

33 MR. CARROLL: Uh-huh. Okay, but you're not
34 differentiating between like Central Arctic Herd and
35 Porcupine, you're talking about the ones that come from the
36 east, I guess.

37

38 MR. TUKLE: Yes.

39

40 MR. CARROLL: So it's probably what I call
41 the Central Arctic Herd and you're calling it -- it's all
42 just a matter of terminology. Okay.

43

44 MR. TUKLE: Uh-huh.

45

46 MR. CARROLL: All right, thank you.

47

48 MR. TUKLE: Okay.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, Geoff.

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1 Any other questions for Leonard, if not, we'll move to
2 Mike.

3

4 MR. PATKOTAK: Good morning. For the first
5 time in the winter I didn't get a chance to go to my
6 campgrounds in Peard Bay. Didn't get to do much of any
7 hunting at all. But I did talk to a couple of people from
8 Wainwright that came over on snowmachines and they have
9 expressed concern that, you know, these pressure ridges
10 that are usually piled up, you could pretty well gage the
11 thickness of the ice that is being -- that comes in and
12 usually averages -- over the decades it's averaged five to
13 six feet and the ice has thinned considerably. And even
14 here in Barrow I've heard from different whaling meetings
15 that the ice has thinned considerably. So it may be
16 something that might want to be noted by our hunters and
17 noted in the village different villages.

18

19 And also a comment on the Western Arctic Herd is
20 that I -- in the summertime I practically grew up in Peard
21 Bay and we go towards Wainwright to Kugrua and spent a lot
22 of time and even before breakup we'd haul our small boats
23 when caribou was not too readily available, take our small
24 boat drag them over the ice and go on into Kugrua and the
25 water was real high and follow the river quite a ways up
26 getting close to Wainwright even to the point where you can
27 see the dewline tower and get caribou that way. And I
28 noticed that on the maps of the Western Arctic Caribou
29 Herd, that they show them -- they show the range not even
30 reaching Wainwright. But we know from -- Wainwright
31 people know, I know we know that the Western Arctic Caribou
32 Herd has been seen to range as far as a place called --
33 between Barrow and here at the skull cliff where that point
34 is (In Native) we call it. And some years those herds
35 ranging by the thousands would stop in Peard Bay to begin
36 their feeding and then head towards the Brooks and then
37 head back. So a lot of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
38 reaches as far as, like I say, that -- and we'd like to see
39 more involvement from this Regional Advisory Committee in
40 terms of information reached by those people that work with
41 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. And I would like to see
42 more involvement from this committee so that we may be more
43 informed of what is going on with the Western Arctic
44 Caribou Herd.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mike, we're keeping --
47 like Charlie mentioned, as observers going to Western
48 Arctic -- I'm sorry that Harry's not here to give us a
49 report on that but it's an ongoing issue. So any questions
50 for Mike? Geoff.

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1 MR. CARROLL: I just want to say there are
2 voting members from Anaktuvuk Pass and from Point Hope
3 involved in the Western Arctic Herd co-management process.
4 And like was said, there were a couple of people who went
5 as observers from the North Slope Borough. But if I could
6 get your name and address I'd certainly pass that on and
7 they could put you on a mailing list to get any kind of
8 information to you that, you know, comes out of the
9 committee. So I don't know, if I could get names and
10 addresses of members and put them on a mailing list or just
11 your name or whatever -- whoever's interested in it. So
12 I'll talk to you about that later.

13
14 MR. PATKOTAK: Thank you, Geoff, I'd
15 appreciate it.

16
17 MR. C. HOPSON: I forgot to mention they
18 did send the minutes of the working group for January 11th
19 and 12th here. It gives you names of who was there and
20 I'll give these to the coordinator so that she can make
21 copies for everybody. I just got this in the mail the
22 other day, I forgot about this.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

25
26 MR. C. HOPSON: These are the minutes that
27 -- well, what happened during that meeting. I just got
28 these and we need to make copies for everybody here.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, Mike.

31
32 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman, I guess I
33 didn't state I know the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
34 meetings like Charlie has there generates a lot of
35 information and if any information that our coordinator,
36 who has done a tremendous job, and maybe she could forward
37 a lot of that information to us in the future.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

40
41 MR. PATKOTAK: Including from the Porcupine
42 Caribou Herd committee.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any other questions for
45 Mike, if not, I'll say good morning as well and Happy New
46 Year to all.

47
48 What I'm going to state is ongoing community
49 concern we're having at the city of Kaktovik meetings. I
50 attend their monthly meeting and it's always a topic as

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1 part of their agenda. I'll just go over it again.

2

3 Monthly meetings with the city council have
4 expressed concerns on muskox. There are four items I want
5 to bring forth from the city council meetings and the first
6 one is the permitting system. We've been going with the
7 present permitting system allowing 15 residents of Kaktovik
8 to go out, however we're learning that this system needs to
9 be upgraded or updated or changed to allow those that are
10 willing or want to hunt or that have a need for muskox.
11 The way the present permitting system, it allows
12 individuals names to be picked out of the hat and I don't
13 want to press this any further but the permitting system
14 needs to be changed to allow those that are willing to go
15 out, that want to hunt and have a need for muskox.

16

17 I know that they have a system with the State that
18 opens the hunting or permitting -- or hunting season and
19 when four are caught then it's closed rather than give a
20 person a permit by name at the hunting season, sometime
21 they wait until the last weekend or the last date to turn
22 in although we have standbys. I think if we allowed the
23 permitting system to go to the first 15 and when there are
24 15 caught without having a name attached to it and when the
25 15 are caught then the season is closed.

26

27 So I'll work with the Staff or the community will
28 work with the Staff to change the permitting system so it
29 will allow those that want, that really have a need to get
30 muskox to go out there. Because I hate to say this but
31 some folks are getting the permits and not going out and
32 saving the muskox and we want to get away from that so that
33 those who are willing to go out and get muskox can get the
34 15. So far we haven't gotten all 15 on record yet so we
35 want to change the permitting system.

36

37 The other item is the committee wants to change the
38 season, open season. And this will be as soon as boating
39 starts but keep it within the 15 or whatever zones that
40 they have. But we want to open the season earlier as soon
41 as boating starts. Because I've stated in previous
42 meetings that the Porcupine took off back east before
43 boating started in Kaktovik so there were very few muskox
44 taken last summer and there's been muskox on the coast
45 we're just watching -- watch them get fat and move. The
46 community wants to have an opportunity to get muskox in
47 July.

48

49 The other item, again, I just want to restate that
50 at the city council meetings and there's a good community

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1 turnout and it's been a topic every month is a carryover.
2 The community would like to see a carryover from one season
3 to the other if 15 were not caught during a particular
4 hunting season. Like if there was only 10 caught this year
5 they want a carryover to put in the bank five for next year
6 and make that 20.

7
8 The last one and again, the community wants to work
9 with the Staff to have the opportunity for calves or
10 yearlings, either one or two as part of the 15. Again,
11 traditionally and customarily, the animals that we catch
12 for subsistence are calf, caribou calves or other smaller
13 animals which we would prefer to take.

14
15 So again I'll just summarize; permitting system
16 needs to be changed to allow those that are willing or want
17 to hunt or have a need, a real need and open it up to
18 anybody from the Kaktovik community until they get 15 and
19 then the season is closed. Change the open season earlier,
20 as soon as boating starts. Carryover from one season to
21 the other if 15 are not caught, then whatever the remainder
22 is to carry that over to the next year. And the last one
23 is the calves or yearlings, perhaps one or two for the
24 community elders and perhaps during Thanksgiving and
25 Christmas.

26
27 So those are the concerns that we talk about in the
28 city council meetings and when we have some time to work on
29 a proposal the way we have it at our neighboring lands, the
30 State lands, it's been stated that perhaps we should go
31 with that type of permitting system where anyone can go out
32 there from Kaktovik, if four are caught in the State lands
33 then the season is closed and we'd like to change that
34 system within ANWR.

35
36 Caribous, I'm happy to say that they've been
37 catching healthy caribou inside the mountains or within the
38 Brooks Range. Not that many but they're healthy. People
39 have caught wolverine. So it's been a good winter for
40 Kaktovik.

41
42 With that, summarize a third and final time;
43 permitting needs to be changed, open season earlier,
44 carryover from one season to the other, if all 15 aren't
45 caught and calves or yearlings, to be given the opportunity
46 for Kaktovik residents on the muskox.

47
48 That's it for Kaktovik. I'll also talk about other
49 statewide or management issues on fisheries on the
50 Chairman's agenda. I have some concerns I want to pass to

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1 the Council for maybe Council action on the way Fish and
2 Wildlife Service will operate fisheries for their
3 employment plan or management plan for the fisheries.

4
5 So with that, did I make myself clear? Geoff.

6
7 MR. CARROLL: On harvesting a calf or a
8 yearling, would you see that as just one that's taken out
9 of the normal quota or do you want to.....

10
11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, it'd be out of the
12 15. I don't think we'll allow for more at this time but
13 keep everything within the 15.

14
15 MR. CARROLL: Okay, that wouldn't be a.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, whatever zone
18 they're in, just subtract in the summertime.

19
20 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, all right.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: But it all would be kept
23 within the 15.

24
25 MR. CARROLL: Okay, thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Geoff.

28
29 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Mr. Chairman.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

32
33 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Within that 15 what if
34 there was no opportunity to catch a calf would that also
35 include maybe just two permits that could have a calf and
36 if there was no opportunity then to go ahead and get a
37 larger animal?

38
39 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I think we'd still keep
40 it within 15, if we can't get a calf then we'll go for --
41 right now we have two cows -- or three cows and 12 bulls.
42 To tell you the truth it's working good at the State lands,
43 it's either sex. I think that's a real good way of allowing
44 hunt and I'd like to see the Federal open up like the State
45 is for either sex hunt.

46
47 So with that, I thank you, Geoff, Gordon. Other
48 questions -- Ray, the floor is yours.

49
50 MR. KOONUK, SR.: As for Point Hope, same

00017

1 thing like in the other villages, caribou hunting is good.
2 Whaling captains are happy getting ready for whaling,
3 catching all the caribou and preparing their crews for
4 whaling.

5
6 There was one item that came up, seal hunting, one
7 individual, an elder caught a seal that was pretty sick and
8 they had sent the sample out, I don't know where Earl sent
9 the sample out but I think to Kotzebue, and haven't
10 received any results as far as what kind of sickness this
11 seal had. As far as the hunter had talked to me about was
12 the insides, all the lungs, liver was all white inside and
13 the hunters -- the seal hunters out there were pretty
14 concerned as far as seal hunting.

15
16 Another item is during the summer we get a lot of
17 barges, cruise ships that pass by or go around, go up north
18 and then head back south, and whaling captains are
19 concerned about what do they do with their waste as far as
20 where do they dump it. They would like to know or try to
21 keep track of all these ships that are out there, barges,
22 to watch them closely. Because we have animals out there
23 that migrate and that we hunt, you know, because we've been
24 getting a lot of sick seals, polar bears, whales and the
25 whaling captains are real concerned what these barges and
26 cruise ships that are out there.

27
28 The hunters have been getting a few wolves, not
29 very many wolverines. They have to travel way out there
30 toward the Cape Lisburne area to track these wolves and
31 wolverines.

32
33 Another issue is when we're out there, going out to
34 these joint meetings with Northwest and the North Slope,
35 and I can't understand why there's no representative from
36 Kivalina. Kivalina is a village that hunts year-round and
37 they do a lot of fishing, a lot of caribou hunting, they
38 get a lot of wolves, wolverine and they go out whaling,
39 they hunt beluga, walrus and I can't understand why there's
40 no representative from Kivalina and I'd sure like to see a
41 representative from Kivalina.

42
43 Getting back to the barges here, especially the
44 fuel barges out there. At times these fuel barges are
45 coming in -- they come in during the summer and we go out
46 and see -- you know, just to look at the barge and these
47 barges are pretty rusted up. And I don't know if they're
48 double-hulled, you know, it's kind of risky just hauling
49 this fuel out there because, you know, we're concerned
50 about this, about the barges.

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1 But as far as caribou hunting, everybody's happy,
2 they're healthy. There's just a few skinny ones here and
3 there but most of them are fat and that's all I have to
4 report.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, Ray.
7 Barbara.

8
9 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, Mr. Koonuk, for
10 Northwest Arctic Council, for years they've been grouping
11 the villages together to be represented by one person.
12 There's one representative from Ambler, Shungnak and Kobuk,
13 and there's a Noatak/Kivalina advisory committee so they
14 chose to go through with one representative from Noatak and
15 Kivalina. And there used to be one representative for
16 Selawik, Noorvik and Kiana. But then since the villages
17 there are a lot larger they've gotten one from Selawik and
18 one from Kiana. And there's one for Deering and Buckland
19 and two from Kotzebue. And I think at this meeting they
20 are going to try to ask for more, either for alternates or
21 make their council larger. They wanted to keep their
22 council under 10 because when you get it more than that
23 it's hard to get a quorum. And that was the reason that
24 Kivalina doesn't have a representative at this time but
25 they're working on it.

26
27 Thanks.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Barbara.

30
31 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Charlie.

34
35 MR. C. HOPSON: I think it's a good idea
36 for Kivalina since Kivalina is going to be impacted by Red
37 Dog Mine, I think, you know, they should have an alternate,
38 at least, from over there, you know. That's all the
39 comment I had.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Patkotak.

42
43 MR. PATKOTAK: Ray brought out a point that
44 -- about the seals. I, for one, I know my crew when they
45 went out they caught a seal that was pretty skinny and the
46 way they told me about that seal was that it was swimming
47 along and they eventually came right up to it and it --
48 they thought it was, at first, a small (In Native) small
49 fresh one, but it was a full grown one, it was really
50 skinny and just plain refused to go down. So I asked him,

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1 what did you guys do with that seal and he said, well, they
2 shot it and sunk it because it looked pretty skinny, you
3 know, you could see the bones through the -- some bone
4 outline through the skin so that might be something that is
5 -- if any hunters come across something like that, to bring
6 it in, you know, and maintain its integrity by putting it
7 in a plastic bag so it can be seen what's making these
8 seals sick. Although the majority over there, there's
9 thousands of seals out there, the majority of them are
10 healthy. And I enjoy eating seal but that is a concern
11 that should be -- I don't know, maybe more people have more
12 information on that?

13

14 MR. SYNDAM: Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Syndam.

17

18 MR. SYNDAM: Robert Syndam with the North
19 Slope Borough. I know that, you know, for the 10 years
20 that I've been working for the North Slope Borough that we
21 often get people who talk -- you know, who say that they've
22 gotten a sick animal and often times we get samples from
23 those animals or somebody brings in the entire carcass to
24 us and often we try to send those out and try to figure out
25 what was wrong with those seals and I'm not sure what
26 happened with the seal that Earl sent out. But any time
27 anybody -- a hunter finds a sick animal we'd be very happy
28 to take a look at it, you know, we have several
29 veterinarians on staff who are very interested in this kind
30 of thing and think it's important to look at sick animals.
31 So if anybody gets one, please give us a call and we'll try
32 to figure out how to get the samples and get the animal
33 and/or get parts of the animal and send them off to figure
34 out what's wrong.

35

36 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Mr. Chairman.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ray.

39

40 MR. KOONUK, SR.: That seems to be the
41 problem, you guys don't know where the samples are. This
42 is not the first time. We have sent caribou samples out in
43 the past, those got lost and now you're telling me you guys
44 don't know what happened to the seal samples.

45

46 MR. SYNDAM: The sample that Earl sent, if
47 they sent them to Kotzebue, you know, we certainly didn't
48 receive them, that he must have sent them down to somebody
49 else. I know that in the past there has been difficulties
50 in us receiving the samples. Sometimes the airlines leaves

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1 them someplace and they end up sitting in a warehouse and
2 getting very hot and becoming rotten and then it's very
3 difficult to determine, you know, what was wrong with the
4 seals. I know there have been times when we haven't been
5 as good as we should have of getting the samples out,
6 getting them back and getting the reports back, and so I
7 think there's definitely a lot of room for improvement.
8 With this specific sample, I'm not aware of it and perhaps
9 Todd O'Hara is aware of it. He often works with Earl on
10 these things and I will ask Todd and find out if he
11 received those samples and if he sent them off, and if not,
12 we can talk to Earl and figure out where they were sent and
13 figure out what happened with them.

14
15 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Well, I'd like to see
16 this resolved because we're out there hunting, you know,
17 these animals and we'd like to know what's wrong with them,
18 you know, we got children out here that like to eat and we
19 don't want them to get sick. I mean, you know, we need to
20 start keeping track, you know, and you guys need to start
21 keeping track.

22
23 MR. SYNDAM: I appreciate your concern,
24 Ray, and I know that it's a concern that you have and that
25 we have and that many other people in the North Slope
26 Borough.....

27
28 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Because I know when I
29 come back here next meeting and I'm going to ask the same
30 question and you better have some answers next time I ask
31 you these questions. I want results. I'm getting fed up
32 with, you know, I don't know where this is, I don't know
33 where that is, who sent this and who sent that. You know
34 you represent the North Slope Borough and we're part of the
35 North Slope Borough and you better -- you guys better start
36 getting on the ball here and start getting these samples
37 analyzed and get some results. You know, you got the State
38 here, too, you know, we need results, we need facts. You
39 know, we eat these animals.

40
41 MR. SYNDAM: I appreciate that, Ray, and I
42 will give Todd a call right now and see if he received
43 those samples from Earl and if not then I'll ask him to
44 call Earl and find out where Earl sent them and figure out
45 where the results are.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, Robert.
48 Barbara and then Mike.

49
50 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I think I got a copy of

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1 those results that Earl may have sent in. Because Enoch
2 works as a coordinator at Maniliiq and that he had dropped
3 them off at the office. I'll send the copies out. I just
4 didn't think to bring them here at this meeting but I'll
5 send the results out. The whole study was about three or
6 four pages long and it was a study on the seal on
7 contaminants and that might have been the one that needs to
8 get out. So I'll send the copies out to you guys and
9 whoever needs it. I think Enoch dropped it off last week
10 at the office.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you.

13
14 MR. KOONUK, SR.: We get copies of these
15 results, could we have somebody that can explain to us what
16 the results are? Somebody that's qualified and qualified
17 to answer questions. Thank you.

18
19 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, Ray.
22 Mr. Patkotak.

23
24 MR. PATKOTAK: Yeah, coming back to that
25 information about how to collect samples, somewhere along
26 the line during our conversation it ended up to being
27 afraid to handle the sick animal and the other thing, yeah,
28 I thought about bringing some of it into the North Slope
29 Borough, and maybe because of the lack of information
30 reaching the end user in terms of how to maintain the
31 integrity of the sick animal, you could probably educate
32 them by sending fliers out to every household or putting on
33 a program or even how to collect samples or have a workshop
34 on it even on certain animals and how to maintain the
35 integrity of the samples that they're taking, if that's all
36 they're taking is a sample. And I guess that would be my
37 concern is educating the end user in terms of how to get
38 samples and how to maintain the integrity of that sample
39 which is taken. Because that is an increasing frequency of
40 something that's happening. There's something happening
41 out there and I don't know whether it's because there's so
42 many seals out there or it's the radioactive waste from
43 Russia or is it the stuff at Endicott or chemicals being --
44 are they ingesting chemicals; what is it, we want to know?

45
46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Mike. This
47 concern has been heard several times throughout my
48 involvement with the Regional Council on sample taking and
49 although we're into hunting and fishing regulations, I
50 think it's the agency's responsibility to get these samples

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1 in and like Ray says, come back with an explanation or have
2 a biologist or scientist come before this Council and help
3 us out because I think we shouldn't just be involved in
4 hunting regulations, we should also be involved in science
5 and know what the problems are with the animals. So I want
6 to thank you very much Ray and I urge out Staff to see how
7 this can be resolved or our concerns taken care of. Thank
8 you very much Ray.

9
10 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Uh-huh.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, before we proceed
13 on to the next item, are there any questions for any --
14 anything else you may have forgotten from the Council? If
15 not, thank you.

16
17 Okay, ladies and gentlemen we're on to Item 7 the
18 agency reports, the briefings on agency concerns or issues
19 relating to subsistence use and wildlife resources,
20 includes the status of the wildlife population updates and
21 reports. Again, that's what the program is for but I think
22 we heard some concerns and they're serious concerns to
23 think of, the samples or helping us keep track of the
24 problems of the animals that we're catching.

25
26 With that, under Item A, there are some people
27 missing. The migratory bird update, I'll just briefly
28 mention something that Mr. Bob Stevens of the Migratory
29 Bird Management office said that the Regional Director's
30 decision is not yet final. As you may recall we discussed
31 this, the various options at our fall meeting about how
32 best to proceed with the migratory bird management. That
33 is still the case. When the Regional Council meets he will
34 send each member a copy or send us a copy of the
35 Washington, D.C., approved decision through the mail.
36 Apparently the final decision has not been made otherwise
37 we'd get the handouts at this meeting.

38
39 So we'll bypass or get done with the migratory
40 bird, that's a very brief update on that. So there's no
41 decision on that one. As soon as we get a report, that
42 will be mailed through the mail.

43
44 MR. C. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes.

47
48 MR. C. HOPSON: While everybody's coming
49 in, can we take a five minute break?

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Let's take a five minute
2 break. We've got another member and other Staff members
3 that have arrived. We'll have a five minute break.

4
5 (Off record)
6 (On record)
7

8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Good morning everyone,
9 I'll call the subsistence meeting of the North Slope back
10 to order after a brief recess, and we have with us some new
11 -- well, not new but good old friends and we have Terry
12 Tagarook who is here with us. He is from Wainwright. And
13 perhaps those that we missed this morning, they can
14 introduce themselves that came in on the morning flight.
15 For the record, state your name, who you work for and all
16 that good stuff, Peggy.

17
18 MS. FOX: Thank you. I'm Peggy Fox. I'm
19 with the Office of Subsistence Management, Fish and
20 Wildlife Service in Anchorage.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ida.

23
24 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
25 Committee member.

26
27 MR. McCLELLAN: Greg McClellan with the
28 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

29
30 MR. VIAVANT: My name is Tim Viavant and
31 I'm with the State Department of Fish and Game.

32
33 MS. MORKILL: My name's Ann Morkill and I'm
34 with the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Fish and Wildlife
35 Service in Fairbanks.

36
37 MR. GEORGE: Craig George with the
38 Department of Wildlife Management in Barrow.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you. I'll
41 just briefly summarize and if I miss any points from the
42 village concerns, those of you from the village, correct me
43 if I'm wrong. But caribou has been very good hunting here
44 around Barrow. The one that we heard this morning was that
45 Western Arctic Caribou Herd's meetings or proceedings, any
46 information we should be given copies or sent to the
47 Council members so that we can keep up to date on what's
48 happening with the Western Arctic Caribou Herd working
49 group.

50

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1 One of the most serious concerns comes from Point
2 Hope about the waste, the ships that might be dumping as
3 they go around the cape. We don't really know what agency
4 or what -- maybe the Borough can help with the monitoring
5 or let the people know around Point Hope how the waste is
6 being handled from the cruise ships and the barges that go
7 around the Cape. And concern that there be representation
8 from Kivalina on the Northwest Arctic area. Barbara
9 touched upon that, that the Northwest Arctic may be
10 considering a larger council. Briefly again, fuel barges,
11 it's a concern and maybe they want to make sure that
12 they're safe hauling fuel and also again the waste from the
13 cruise ships and the boats that go around the cape.

14
15 Questions were answered on the Porcupine or the
16 Central Arctic Herd maybe not coming through like they do
17 in July and the caribou seems to be heading south of the
18 villages due to the Alpine development.

19
20 We also need to keep on top of the tolasik or the
21 spectacle eider critical habitat is a concern, a large area
22 that is being considered; so that's the area of lands to
23 make that critical habitat. So we need to keep on top of
24 that.

25
26 For the Kaktovik area, I had presented four
27 concerns and again we've been meeting monthly with the city
28 council and community members and it's an ongoing issue and
29 we talk about it nearly every month at the city council
30 meeting. One is that the permitting system be allowed to
31 allow those that are willing, that want to hunt or have a
32 need to catch muskox whereas the current permitting system
33 allows a pick of the hat at the -- just go around and some
34 people are waiting to the last minute and we're not getting
35 all the 15. So we want to change the permitting system
36 similar to what's happening at the State or -- if there's
37 allotted 15 and there's 15 caught then the season is closed
38 rather than have a name at the beginning of the season and
39 that will allow those again that are willing, that want to
40 hunt and that really have a need to catch muskox, to open
41 it up to those that want to get muskox. Currently, again,
42 we've heard that some folks are getting the permit and not
43 going out hunting just to preserve them muskox rather than
44 go out and hunt them. So I know there's more than 15
45 people in Kaktovik that are willing to get them but through
46 luck of the draw they're not given the opportunity to get
47 the muskox that they want.

48
49 The second one was to open the season earlier as
50 soon as the boating starts, perhaps in early July because

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1 the Porcupine has been heading back east earlier, back to
2 Canada earlier, sometimes before boating starts and the
3 only animals along the coast are the muskox and we want to
4 have that opportunity to get muskox during the summer
5 months.

6
7 The other one -- the third one is a carryover. For
8 instance if there were only 10 caught this winter, although
9 we're permitted 15 to carry the other five into the next
10 season. So that would give the people opportunity to get
11 the muskox.

12
13 Again, maybe with the permitting system changed
14 maybe we will not need that but these were concerns
15 expressed about the carryover for the amount of whatever
16 muskox were not caught one season be carried over to the
17 next.

18
19 And the final one was calf or yearlings, perhaps
20 one or two for the elders, perhaps for Thanksgiving and
21 Christmas, and all of these changes are proposed we'll be
22 working on with the Staff and the community of Kaktovik
23 will stay within the 15.

24
25 Just briefly again, let me summarize; permitting
26 system needs to be changed, open season, change as soon as
27 boating season starts, carryover from one season to the
28 other and calves or yearlings to be taken by the residents
29 of Kaktovik.

30
31 Have I missed anything from the other concerns
32 of.....

33
34 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ray.

37
38 MR. KOONUK, SR.: I've just got one more
39 item and I'm pretty sure you all hear of the cancer deaths
40 we had in Point Hope. And I'm just saying that there's too
41 many deaths, cancer deaths and we don't really know what
42 it's from. Is it from the animals or is it from the water?
43 That's why I raised these issues as far as the samples
44 getting off and, you know, the community wants to know as
45 far as what the results are. Is it from the animals, from
46 the water? These are questions that haven't been answered
47 yet. And this -- I'd just like to bring this up one more
48 time.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Ray. I had

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1 forgotten the samples and educating the end user. Taking
2 samples, I'm sure that within the State that there's a
3 commission or some way that they work with the Federal
4 agencies in making sure that resources are watched, even
5 though again, like I stated earlier, we deal with hunting
6 and fishing regulations, the Staff or the agencies should
7 also be concerned or help us with the sick animals and the
8 samples. There should be some Federal or State agency that
9 can help the subsistence users.

10
11 Then I'll turn the floor over to Terry for village
12 concerns before we move on to the agency reports. Terry.

13
14 MR. TAGAROOK: Everybody's doing pretty
15 good and there's caribou around the village and in the
16 village feeding. There's quite a few. And everybody's
17 fishing for smelts and going up to the mountains, and
18 that's all I got.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Terry.
21 Questions for Terry. With that, Craig, state your name.

22
23 MR. GEORGE: Craig George with the
24 Department of Wildlife Management. I was curious when the
25 smelt fishery fires up? When do you guys generally begin.

26
27 MR. TAGAROOK: Say it again?

28
29 MR. GEORGE: When does the next fishery for
30 smelt start?

31
32 MR. TAGAROOK: Smelt usually starts around
33 the latter part of December and continue on until
34 springtime.

35
36 MR. GEORGE: Oh, that early, okay. And do
37 you notice differences between years, there's some strong
38 runs and light runs or is it usually about the same?

39
40 MR. TAGAROOK: No, they're not -- wondering
41 where they always go in the summertime.

42
43 MR. GEORGE: Right. They're out in the
44 marine water, I think, rainbow smelt, yeah, they move off
45 shore. But anyway, so December through springtime.....

46
47 MR. TAGAROOK: Yeah.

48
49 MR. GEORGE:April. Thank you.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, George. If
2 there's no other questions from the villages or concerns,
3 tell me if I've missed anything or said something in error
4 please correct me. With that, we were just getting down to
5 -- moving into the agency reports, Item No. 7 in our
6 agenda. Briefings on agency concerns or issues related to
7 subsistence use and wildlife resources which also includes
8 the status of wildlife population and updates or various
9 reports by the Federal agencies. I mentioned that
10 migratory bird -- okay, so we'll be hearing the decision on
11 the migratory birds is not final. Again, we met this fall
12 and considered or looked at the various options on how our
13 input can be as far as managing migratory birds. And the
14 final decision is not made yet and we will be hearing
15 something once there is an approved decision, through the
16 mail.

17
18 There's a fisheries update handout that was just
19 made here a little while ago, progress report for
20 implementing the Federal Subsistence Fisheries Management.
21 Is there someone -- Peggy?

22
23 MS. FOX: Yes.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Peggy, please give us
26 the update on the fisheries.

27
28 MS. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair and council
29 members, I'm very glad to be here and be able to report
30 that we have made some progress. And I want to cover five
31 subjects today. First I want to talk about in-season
32 management and then I want to talk about, as a follow-up
33 item, tribal involvement in the Federal Subsistence
34 Program, thirdly, I want to get your comments on the
35 sustainable salmon fisheries policy that was distributed to
36 you a couple of weeks ago that the State of Alaska has
37 issued in draft. Then I want to talk to you about changes
38 that were suggested during the council caucuses on the
39 Federal/State MOU/MOA and tell you what changes were made
40 and then ones that weren't and why. And then lastly, Ida
41 is going to cover the resource monitoring program update
42 and talk to you about projects and issues that you may want
43 to focus on in this region.

44
45 I'll begin with the in-season management briefing
46 first. And as Fenton indicated, I think, you probably just
47 got a copy of the briefing paper on that this morning. And
48 I don't know.....

49
50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I think -- excuse me.

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1 MS. FOX: Oh, okay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Is it in the.....

4

5 MS. FOX: It was a handout.

6

7 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: It's the stapled one
8 right here.

9

10 MS. FOX: Yeah, it's stapled I think. This
11 one.

12

13 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay, got it.

14

15 MS. FOX: Excuse me, I guess it has not
16 been handed out to you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

19

20 MS. FOX: I know Barbara just got it last
21 night.

22

23 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: It was in the box.

24

25 MS. FOX: I will go over it. But I do
26 apologize that we didn't have these out earlier so that you
27 would have a chance to read them and be in a better
28 position to comment. I hope we make progress on that by
29 this time next year. We have doubled our staff.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: There's two handouts,
32 tribal involvement.....

33

34 MS. FOX: That's the next subject I'm going
35 to cover.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:and in-season
38 management. I didn't get a copy of the tribal involvement,
39 if there's extra copies -- and Ray didn't get one either.
40 Thank you, Barbara.

41

42 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Peggy.

45

46 MS. FOX: Okay, thank you, Fenton. The
47 Federal Subsistence Board is concerned that we make a move
48 transition and provide for participation in in-season
49 management. For the 200 fishing season, however, we will
50 be establishing what we're calling, again, an interim in-

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1 season management decision-making process that will involve
2 the Councils but are really looking forward to 2001 to have
3 a full participative process worked out from start to
4 finish in terms of managing fisheries.

5
6 Due to the wait of October 1st of 1999 to implement
7 any definitive action to prepare for our added
8 responsibilities in subsistence fishing we're not ready to
9 implement full Federal involvement in in-season management
10 and decision-making. Federal agencies won't have the staff
11 on board to access and make recommendations on information.
12 We don't have protocols worked out with the State on how
13 we're going to be doing in-season management to guide
14 Federal and State staff and the Councils in cooperation and
15 coordination efforts. Most importantly, overall, we've
16 been delayed in hiring key staff for positions involved
17 directly in in-season management.

18
19 The potential for the need to intervene in
20 emergency order management of salmon fisheries varies all
21 over the state. For the Yukon River region, that is being
22 labeled as the highest risk area, meaning that's where we
23 will be the most intensely involved. Medium risk areas are
24 the Kuskokwim, the Gulf of Alaska and the Southeast
25 regions. The Arctic, Kotzebue, Norton Sound area is being
26 categorized as low risk at this time along with Bristol
27 Bay, Alaska Peninsula and Cook Inlet regions. These
28 determinations were based on a number of criteria such as
29 the relative abundance of salmon, of course, that's the
30 primary species of concern, the amount of commercial
31 fishing that is occurring and the number of villages and
32 the number of emergency orders that have been issued in the
33 past; that's a pretty good indicator.

34
35 Fisheries regulations do provide for the Board to
36 delegate decision-making authority to agency field
37 officials. We anticipate that that delegation will occur,
38 we're not exactly sure how it may occur or if it may occur
39 this year but certainly by next year we will have full
40 delegation to key individuals across the state to
41 participate in the in-season management decision-making
42 process. Along with that, the Board will develop
43 guidelines to the delegated officials to assure that there
44 is full participation by subsistence users and that we work
45 closely with the Department of Fish and Game in managing
46 the fisheries.

47
48 When we talk about in-season management, we're
49 really trying to focus ourselves and those that we work
50 with on preventive strategies rather than participating in

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1 the process with the idea that if we don't like the
2 decision of the State that we will appeal it to the Board
3 or to the delegated field official through the special
4 action process that I'm sure you're familiar with. We very
5 seriously want to change our approach with fisheries
6 management from what we've been doing with wildlife
7 management, there's virtually too much at stake in these
8 decisions to change the result of an emergency order after
9 the fact. However, that doesn't mean we won't ever do it.
10 We will, under certain conditions, do that. But what we
11 really want to do is encourage support and schedule
12 participation in pre-season and post-season planning and
13 evaluation. Direct participation in the emergency order
14 decision-making process and participation in long-term
15 fishery species, particular species and particular river
16 plans. We want to restrict -- and these are general
17 things, I'm not telling you -- I should say, that these are
18 Board decisions but this is to let you know what our
19 thinking is and to get some response from you. The Board
20 will be looking at these at later date. Anyway, in
21 continuing our other prevention strategies, we want to make
22 it clear that we will be restricting -- considering
23 restricting special action requests to only addressing
24 conservation or subsistence harvest issues. In other
25 words, if there was a user conflict issue, we would say we
26 need to develop that into a proposal and put it through the
27 annual regulatory process. Special action requests and,
28 again, we're talking about such a request that follows an
29 emergency order that's already been issued would need to
30 provide the burden of proof convincing the delegated
31 official or the Board, whichever way that's going to go,
32 that it's justified in turning around the affect of an
33 emergency order.

34
35 So some specific considerations for the 2000
36 fishing season then and again, these are interim, are that
37 the agencies are trying to identify right now people who
38 can work in the field directly with Fish and Game and
39 representatives of the Councils and other representatives
40 of subsistence users in this long decision-making process
41 that actually starts in many areas next month. And have
42 them participate and express their concerns and try to get
43 involvement and participation in leading up to the
44 decisions to do emergency orders as much as possible before
45 that.

46
47 We're also considering deferring any special action
48 requests concerning in-season decision-making until 2001.
49 We don't make that consideration very lightly but we simply
50 don't have the technical support or key staff in place to

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1 be able to focus on this and it does take almost full-time
2 focus in certain areas of the state for this year. Again,
3 we want to ask that people focus on preventative measures
4 such as involvement in preseason meetings for this year.

5
6 Now, specifically what we're considering for the
7 role of the Regional Advisory Councils are that we would
8 ask for representatives of the Councils on a regional basis
9 to participate in the meetings, the preseason meetings that
10 I indicated are getting going next month, the in-season
11 discussions and the post-season meetings as part of these
12 decision-making processes that the State has ongoing. We
13 also -- especially if that's difficult for members to make
14 those meetings, participate in those discussions that at a
15 minimum you do participate in those discussions as they
16 seem to be leading toward an emergency order.

17
18 And finally we are planning on Regional Advisory
19 Council participation in the development of the protocols.
20 And the subject of in-season management, that one will be
21 getting off the ground within the month -- next month where
22 we are trying to develop something for the long-term in
23 working with the State where it's very clear what the roles
24 and responsibilities are and the authorities associated
25 with in-season management decision-making. And that's a
26 process, a protocol development that would occur over the
27 next year so that would be in place, everything's clearly
28 defined and understood by next fishing season.

29
30 Mr. Chair, that concludes my comments on the
31 subject of in-season management. And I'd like to take
32 questions and comments on each subject before I move on to
33 another one.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Questions from
36 the Council?

37
38 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Mr. Chairman, I got a
39 question.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

42
43 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: On in-season
44 management and in identifying people to be working directly
45 and involved with the management process and how that --
46 are you guys currently doing a search on that, to find
47 capabilities within the regions to do the management work;
48 is that what it's about?

49
50 MS. FOX: Let me outline, you know, what I

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1 just did this week when I found out there were three pre-
2 season meetings going on relative to the Yukon and the
3 Kuskokwim, and I would like your advice if this isn't a
4 good process, what else we could do. I contacted the
5 Regional Council coordinator, for example, Vince Mathews
6 who is working with the two Interior regions, and John
7 Andrew who is working with the Yukon-Delta region, and
8 asked them to discuss this with their Councils and see if
9 they would be able to identify some members within those
10 councils who would be able to attend those meetings. The
11 dates have been set and the agendas are being developed
12 right now. And going through the Council coordinators to
13 the Councils and asking them for representatives. Now, I
14 don't think that's a complete process but it's where we had
15 to start this week when we first found out about some
16 meetings. So if you have some advice, we'd certainly like
17 to hear it. There are other ways but that's how we
18 started.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Patkotak.

21
22 MR. PATKOTAK: Good morning, Peggy.

23
24 MS. FOX: Good morning.

25
26 MR. PATKOTAK: My question is for the
27 Colville River area. I know that there had been some
28 comments that there were no commercial fisheries within --
29 on the North Slope, but there is.

30
31 MS. FOX: Uh-huh.

32
33 MR. PATKOTAK: It's located on the Colville
34 River. I, for one, would like to know what kind of
35 harvest, how much harvest data and in terms of the average,
36 long-term and on a seasonal basis because that could
37 seriously affect the subsistence fisheries of the Nuiqsut
38 area who trade a lot within the North Slope area. I know I
39 get fish from him and if his catch is affected in any way
40 it would force me to go other directions for fish. And I'd
41 like to see more involvement -- or more information sent to
42 this -- and if there already is information being gathered
43 to this advisory council right here.

44
45 MS. FOX: Thank you. Yes, we will be able
46 to do that but probably not too much before the fall
47 meetings. Maybe at the fall meeting but certainly at the
48 next winter meeting. As I was indicating earlier, we
49 haven't been able to hire key staff as of yet but within
50 the next couple of months we should be having, be able to

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1 provide you with a name of the fisheries biologist that
2 will support this Council as part of the team and as part
3 of your technical staff. And these are the types of things
4 that will be relayed to that individual to make sure that
5 that begins their role in providing you information.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ida.

8
9 MS. FOX: Thank you.

10
11 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
12 Committee member. In reference to Gordon's question,
13 Peggy, I think there was somewhat of a slight
14 misunderstanding. The Regional Council, this Council will
15 be involved with the Office of Subsistence Management
16 biologists and in those pre-season/post-season meetings and
17 she was saying that in another region they recommended that
18 they appoint members of their Council to participate in
19 those discussions, unless, of course, the discussion was
20 here in Barrow or in your region, somewhere in your region,
21 and it's looking at the role the Council wants to play or
22 how they would forward their recommendations into that
23 process.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Ida. You
26 said you had four points?

27
28 MS. FOX: Yes, I can move on if you're
29 ready.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: You have in-season,
32 tribal was the other one?

33
34 MS. FOX: Yes.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: And then the progress
37 report, is that.....

38
39 MS. FOX: The tribal involvement is the
40 next one and then I was going to talk about the second
41 draft of the Federal/State MOU/MOA.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Uh-huh.

44
45 MS. FOX: And Ida is going to talk about
46 the projects, the resource monitoring program.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: About the implementation
49 of how the management -- of how it will be managed in
50 Alaska. We have the progress report in our folder, will we

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1 be going over that, too?

2

3 MS. FOX: Oh, the one in what, Tab S?

4

5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Uh-huh.

6

7 MS. FOX: I provided that for information
8 but I'd be glad to go over it.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. I'll wait until
11 it's over, I have some questions on that or concerns.
12 Proceed please.

13

14 MS. FOX: Okay. I'll move on to the tribal
15 involvement briefing then. As you know during the -- I
16 think everyone in this Council was there. At the end of
17 January we handed out a number of letters from a number of
18 Native organizations, AFN, AITC, RuralCap, AVCP and we
19 wanted to let -- make you aware of the letters that were
20 received and ask the Council's advice on how they think the
21 tribes and the Councils should interact relative to this
22 program. We did get a number of comments and those are
23 attached in summary at the last page of your handout, the
24 briefing. And I also wanted to indicate that the Board did
25 meet with the leaders of those -- I shouldn't say the
26 leaders, excuse me, with representatives of those different
27 organizations on February 3 and primarily at their request,
28 in order for them to explain a little bit more or the
29 purpose of the letters, their intent and to open better
30 dialogue, if you will, between the Board and those
31 organizations. The Board at that time primarily listened,
32 however they did indicate that they were interested in
33 increasing communications between the tribes and the
34 Councils and the Board and are seeking ways in which to do
35 that. But that the primary focus for this program is the
36 Regional Advisory Councils. That is the original forum
37 where people, whoever they are within the region, are
38 encouraged, invited to attend these meetings, to raise the
39 issues, raise the concerns and present those to the
40 Councils and then let the Councils weigh those based on
41 their knowledge and expertise about what's going on within
42 the region.

43

44 So there was strong support for the Council role.
45 And I will add there was strong recognition relayed to the
46 Board of the role of Councils and recognition that the
47 Councils are working very successfully on behalf of
48 subsistence users.

49

50 The Board has not written any formal response to

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1 those letters and they're still looking for advice from
2 Council members. And so if you have any additional
3 comments, certainly there have been a number of events this
4 week that may have contributed to your thinking. So at
5 each Council meeting we are inviting further comments
6 before we finalize those letters.

7
8 And that's the conclusion of my comments on tribal
9 involvement and would like to take questions and comments
10 at this time.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Peggy.
13 Questions.

14
15 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Yeah, I got a
16 question.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Brower.

19
20 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: I don't understand
21 clearly, you know, just from talking about it, what do you
22 see as the tribe, where do they fit in in this tribal
23 involvement in the subsistence -- Federal Subsistence
24 Management program? Do you -- where do you see them at
25 this point so that I can get a clear understanding maybe to
26 see if we can, you know, try to make a better
27 recommendation of, you know, just to put them in where
28 they're at now. I mean they may be nowhere now maybe, you
29 know, but at what place do you see them being involved?

30
31 MS. FOX: Well, I can only tell you what we
32 have -- the way we work with the tribes at this time and
33 that's, you know, all up for reconsideration based on
34 Council advice and Board thinking to see whether or not we
35 change what we've been doing. So what we have been doing,
36 primarily, is keeping them informed. They're on our main
37 mailing list. Every tribe is on our main mailing list as
38 well as all of the Native -- I mean the regional Native
39 organizations and the state wide organizations that
40 represent or work with the tribes. So they get all of our
41 general mailings and those are announcements of these
42 meetings, they're Federal Register documents, they're news
43 releases, they're the bulk of the mailings that we do are
44 very widely distributed.

45
46 So we do that, which basically makes them aware of
47 what is going on in the program and does not specifically
48 directly invite them to participate but they are made aware
49 with this type of information of an opportunity to become
50 more directly involved. In other words, they get notice of

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1 these meetings and they see -- they can request a copy of
2 the agenda and they can participate. We have perceived the
3 appropriate place for anybody who lives within these
4 regions to raise issues of concern to them or other, you
5 know, anything relative to subsistence, is to go through
6 the Councils. They can bring up anything they want to,
7 anybody can directly to the Board, but certainly you get a
8 better discussion, a better airing and perhaps better
9 support for the concerns or your issues by coming to the
10 Councils and the Councils have taken, you know, everything
11 they hear very seriously and made some very good judgment
12 on how to pursue these things.

13
14 So we've been encouraging people who -- tribal
15 representatives, tribal members, the state wide
16 organizations, the regional organizations to encourage
17 tribes, their representatives or their members to attend
18 these meetings and to work with the Councils on issues that
19 are of concern to them. That's what we've been doing so
20 far. And that's what -- and at least at a state wide level
21 and with one regional corporation, AVCP, I'm not so sure
22 there was clear understanding of what we do and what the
23 involvement has been let alone what the role of the
24 Councils is. I do know that once they heard what we do do
25 and how the program works and how the Councils are
26 represented, in other words, many of the Councils are
27 comprised of Council members, I mean almost exclusively
28 around the state, 90 percent of our members are tribal
29 members. That that made a difference in their thinking,
30 and -- and so we're not feeling that there is the same
31 intensity of, I guess, pressure on us to do something
32 significantly different but where we land in between is
33 something that the Board is thinking about and would like
34 your advice.

35
36 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Thank you. I mean I
37 just wanted to get a little bit better picture of, you
38 know, of where -- I know all of us here, I'm pretty sure
39 every one of us belong to, you know, a tribe here on the
40 Slope. I mean I'm a tribal member here in Barrow, just
41 trying to get, as I see it, an understanding. There's no
42 invitation to the tribes but just in making them know that
43 these meetings occur. I think that our recommendation, for
44 me, I would just, you know, so that -- go see what some of
45 the village tribes are capable of doing and where they may
46 be involved in helping as far as technical support, being
47 involved that way. I think if you are starting to forming
48 a management plan, that you find out what your resources
49 where you're going to be able to collecting harvest data,
50 some of these tribes may have the capabilities to do some

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1 of these things and make the -- and there are people that
2 live on the Slopes or in their regions, and then that would
3 just be my advice. That in some sort of inclusion for
4 them. I know I'm a tribal member but I don't go out there
5 and take the harvest data from somebody else. But the
6 agency, itself, like ours here in Barrow, I think it's one
7 of the maybe more advanced or whatnot, but I do know that
8 they have a wildlife department and they have people that
9 go out there and monitor their boundary and it just happens
10 to be, you know, our corporation boundary of 25 miles in
11 and around Barrow. So I think some of those would be
12 resources for you to look at.

13
14 It's just -- to me it would just be common sense in
15 trying to do some sort of Federal management.

16
17 MS. FOX: Yes. And I did fail to
18 acknowledge that the projects, the resource monitoring
19 process that we have launched in the last few months that
20 was -- you know, the first 17 projects you were made aware
21 of at the end of January and I don't know if you did look
22 at the specific narratives on those projects but they have
23 a clear criteria that there must be local involvement and
24 support for these projects. And along the way there's a
25 clear interest in hiring people locally, working with
26 people locally to actually to a lot of the project work.
27 And you will be hearing more and more about that and that
28 is an added element to our program since we've been able to
29 get funding to do actual projects.

30
31 So I agree 100 percent with what you said Gordon
32 and I do believe that we are moving in that direction. And
33 Ida is going to cover that in greater detail when she does
34 her presentation.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mike.

37
38 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman. Peggy, the
39 bottom paragraph with the tribal involvement in Federal
40 Subsistence Management Program, I guess that Willie Goodwin
41 summarized it better than what could be said at the January
42 meetings and all the, you know, discussions we had with the
43 different members from the different regions, and that
44 really kind of puts it in a nutshell right here. But in
45 top -- the third paragraph it says that number 1, that five
46 tribal representatives be added to interagency technical
47 committee. There was also concerns about rural advisory
48 council members being part of that technical working
49 committee and it doesn't say that here.

50

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1 MS. FOX: Well, these are what the letters
2 recommended not what we -- not what the Board is going to
3 do or what the Board is considering. This paragraph --
4 this third paragraph, is that what you're talking about --
5 I mean you're talking about the last paragraph?

6
7 MR. PATKOTAK: Well, Willie summarized the
8 concerns real well.

9
10 MS. FOX: Oh, I'm sorry.

11
12 MR. PATKOTAK: Go up to paragraph three and
13 that five tribal representatives be added to the
14 interagency technical committee.

15
16 MS. FOX: Uh-huh.

17
18 MR. PATKOTAK: Part of the concerns that
19 Willie kind of put into a summary, is that not just tribal
20 but also rural advisory council members be involved in the
21 technical agencies so that all is informed.

22
23 MS. FOX: Yes.

24
25 MR. PATKOTAK: Walk away from -- you know,
26 instead of just a majority of the tribal clan leaders way
27 before, that some of the rural advisory council members
28 that belong to the minority are also informed.

29
30 MS. FOX: Yes. Yes, and the Board heard
31 those Council comments, including Willie's, exactly right,
32 many Council members commented that, at least,
33 simultaneously with more tribal involvement the Councils
34 need to have a more visible and definite role in a lot of
35 these actions that are moving forward in fisheries.

36
37 And the Board, when they heard what the Council
38 comments were and Willie and Dan's comments when we had
39 this meeting February 3rd, Dan O'Hara did participate in
40 the afternoon, he was not there in the morning when we were
41 listening to the organizations, but they were very, very
42 clear about a focus on the Councils and a consideration
43 that the tribe should work through the Council. And if
44 anybody was going to -- their advice as you indicated
45 Willie said, was that the Councils needed to be represented
46 on these committees and when we develop protocols and so on
47 and not necessarily the tribe.

48
49 So when we do discuss the MOU, Federal/State MOU,
50 that advice clearly went into that and you will see a much

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1 greater role for the Councils being focused on and that's
2 clearly where the Board has guided the work group that's
3 working on this -- that worked on the second draft of the
4 MOU. That's where they guided them to go and you'll see
5 that that's very clear in there.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Peggy. Ida,
8 or are you done with your report, Peggy?

9
10 MS. FOX: I have one more.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: One more, okay.

13
14 MS. FOX: The Federal/State wanted to
15 review, at least in general, and take any comments you may
16 have on the second draft of the Federal/State Cooperative
17 Fisheries Management Memorandum of Understanding which
18 we're proposing to change to Memorandum of Agreement. Some
19 Councils asked us to come back again at the winter meetings
20 and give you a more comprehensive, I guess you might say,
21 opportunity to review the document and talk to people in
22 your regions and give us some more seasoned advice on the
23 document.

24
25 This was mailed to you, however, I think since it
26 was just mailed Monday you may not even get it until you
27 get home but it has been provided as a handout which is the
28 second draft and at the top it says, it's a February 14th
29 date. The work group had to pull together very quickly to
30 summarize the Council comments and then look at proposed
31 changes in the document between the end of January -- well,
32 actually the first of February and being able to get this
33 out so this Council has the shortest notice on what the
34 changes to the MOU/MOA were.

35
36 I'd just like to highlight what they are, what the
37 changes are and that is to say you will see a greater role
38 for the Councils specifically identified in the second
39 draft. You'll also see that Council Chairs will be given
40 -- representatives of the Councils which, in some way the
41 Council Chairs and Mitch are going to have to decide will
42 be a -- given an opportunity to participate in the
43 development of the protocols which we're really seeing to
44 be the heart and soul of the Memorandum of Understanding.
45 As I indicated to you at the end of January, this
46 memorandum is more of an umbrella document, it talks about
47 guiding principles and talks in general about things that
48 everybody agrees to. But what will really happen in terms
49 of coordination and cooperation is yet to be worked out in
50 specific and that will be through the development of what

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1 we call protocols. And that's where the Board clearly
2 landed in concert with many Council comments that Council
3 representatives need to be on the committees that develop
4 these protocols.

5
6 The first one that's coming up is in-season
7 management. We're following very quickly on one for data
8 collection and exchange. The others will be picked up at a
9 later time. But you'll see that that calls for getting
10 Council Chairs to participate in each one of those.

11
12 Also in response to Council comments, involvement
13 of Alaska tribes has also been made more visible by being
14 mentioned specifically rather than just being understood
15 when we say, Native organizations. So you'll see that in
16 there.

17
18 Much more attention is being paid to specifying
19 that cultural practices and cultural information will be
20 part of the information gathering and decision-making
21 process. So you'll see, for example, that we've added a
22 protocol on traditional ecological knowledge, which wasn't
23 in there before. And that will be an important one and how
24 that will play a role in our information gathering and
25 analysis.

26
27 Many of the Regional Council comments really helped
28 to strengthen the document and so we very much appreciate
29 the Councils' review. And if you have comments I'd like to
30 take those in addition to what you've already said. If you
31 feel you need more time, we're gathering Council comments
32 until the end of March if there is some other opportunity
33 that you can talk, maybe on the phone and provide
34 additional comments that would be very welcome until the
35 end of March when we'll be looking at gathering everything
36 together and finalizing the document.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I had the opportunity
39 just to briefly review the redrafted -- or second review
40 and it looks good. The only question that I brought up was
41 that this MOU or MOA still has that wildlife management.

42
43 MS. FOX: Yes.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: One of my concern that
46 we're getting both fisheries and wildlife MOA right away
47 and our big workshop and training was on fisheries and
48 here's this wildlife management MOA or MOU, whatever you
49 want to call it. I'm still curious or still concerned
50 about wildlife management on that.

00041

1 MS. FOX: I'll try to respond to that. We
2 certainly took up every one of the suggestions and
3 discussed them as a work group. The thinking in having it
4 cover both fisheries and wildlife is that we work in both
5 of those areas with the State and that what we'll might
6 decide to do, especially relative to working with the Board
7 of Fisheries should also be considered and carried through
8 in developing some different relationship with the Board of
9 Game.

10
11 We're not going to, however, move on any decision-
12 making specifically on wildlife or Board of Game issues
13 until we work out -- we're going to work out the fisheries
14 issues first. It needed to cover both because Fish and
15 Game covers both, the Federal Board covers both and we
16 wanted things to be consistent in both areas when we make
17 these decisions. Obviously some things apply to fisheries
18 like in-season management that don't apply to wildlife.
19 But the Board and the Commissioner of Fish and Game and the
20 two Board Chairs all agreed on this last year, that it
21 would cover both. So I guess I don't want to say it's a
22 done deal but I mean -- and have that be the answer so I
23 wanted to give you a little bit more of the thinking on
24 that but it was a decision that was made last year when
25 they were having those summer group meetings.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Hopson.

28
29 MR. C. HOPSON: When you talk about the --
30 you had mentioned during that meeting that on the wildlife
31 management we do have to talk about ordinances in the
32 Borough that if we were to follow -- you had mentioned
33 that, I don't know if that should be there. We need to
34 check with what we have in our ordinances for the North
35 Slope Borough on the wildlife stuff, you know. Someone was
36 going to check on that, I don't know if anybody had a
37 chance to do that yet.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Mr. Hopson.
40 Again, I quickly reviewed the draft and under guiding
41 principles and they did mention local organizations or
42 either governmental entities and I think it covered our
43 concern as far as we have the expertise, the scientists and
44 biologists and that it gives the overall government or
45 municipalities to work on the management. So I think it --
46 it looks pretty good on the second draft there.

47
48 Any other comments on that MOU or MOA?

49
50 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: I've got.....

00042

1 MS. FOX: Yes, Gordon.

2
3 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Just out of curiosity,
4 I guess, Fenton's concern of adding wildlife management,
5 does that in turn makes this body a part of a wildlife
6 management Federal subsistence on that issue as well with
7 this MOU or MOA or is that something it would have to amend
8 an advisory council or make another one on that? I mean
9 I'm just a little concerned about -- is that what our
10 Federal Subsistence Advisory Council here, deals with only
11 fisheries? Is that -- I always understand that, I just --
12 through interpretation with Fenton and the way I've
13 listened to them, and does that extend out to the wildlife
14 as well?

15
16 MS. FOX: Yes. The Council is authorized
17 to work with us directly on fish and wildlife issues and
18 regulations as well as any other subsistence matter that
19 comes before -- that is brought to the Council or that the
20 Council wants to raise. Most specifically we do work on
21 fisheries and wildlife regulations now. Other subsistence
22 matters are often treated through the annual report or
23 other processes.

24
25 If I may, if you have questions on the briefing
26 under Tab S, the document that was provided, before I turn
27 it over to Ida, I would like to find out what those
28 questions are or concerns. It's in Tab S and i've listed
29 what we characterize as accomplishments and what we plan to
30 do over the rest of the fiscal year.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, I'll just --
33 rather than beating around the bush here, Grace, the
34 Chairman of Seward Peninsula, Willie Goodwin, Chairman of
35 the Northwest Arctic Regional Council and I met and talked
36 about how various Federal managers or State managers, I
37 don't know how you want to call it but the managers or how
38 the Staff will be allocated. Our concern is that we're
39 bunched up with Bristol Bay, the Aleutian Pribilof -- we're
40 bunched up with Bristol Bay, the Aleutian/ Pribilof/Kodiak
41 regions, the Arctic region, Kotzebue area and Seward
42 Peninsula into one office with a couple of Staff members on
43 that. And I think we -- those areas that I mentioned,
44 Bristol Bay, Aleutian/Pribilof/Kodiak, those are heavy
45 fisheries, they're commercial fisheries. Although you
46 mentioned that they're low risk or medium risk. The
47 Staffing looks -- or we're concerned about the staffing
48 requirements or the management of the positions that will
49 all be stationed in Anchorage and we need to have some
50 managers or other high officers even in the Nome, Kotzebue

00043

1 area. That was our concern and we're working on a draft in
2 response to the plan that we should not be bunched up with
3 again, Bristol Bay, they're really heavy into fisheries,
4 Aleutian/Pribilof/Kodiak, and we're being bunched up with
5 Arctic, Kotzebue and Seward Peninsula, and I think that's
6 going to create a problem as far as one staff or one
7 coordinator for that vast area to try and cover.

8
9 So between the three of us, Helga and Barbara will
10 be drafting up a letter expressing our serious concern that
11 there are not enough positions or the position be closer to
12 our homeland rather than in Anchorage, perhaps basing in
13 the Nome or Kotzebue area or up in this area, too. That's
14 what we're concerned about.

15
16 MS. FOX: Okay. And our staffing plan as
17 originally submitted included a lot more positions than we
18 have ended up with right now. And basically the ones that
19 have been approved are ones that will be in Anchorage. The
20 positions that we intend to -- that we have identified that
21 we need out in the field, which you know what I mean by
22 that, I mean outside of Anchorage in other locations such
23 as Bethel, Fairbanks or wherever, Kotzebue, are positions
24 we're still having to defend. And I guess we're going to
25 be given one more opportunity to go back and are planning
26 on going back to Washington on March 3rd to present our
27 case once again for additional staff and those are the key
28 staff that in many cases are those that would be out in the
29 field working closer with the regions. At this point,
30 though, the Secretary has not approved those. So we concur
31 with your concerns about having more staff in the field
32 working closely with the regions, people in the regions.
33 And I'm talking about fisheries, I'm not talking about
34 additional wildlife stuff. But it's something that we're
35 still trying to get.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, so between the
38 three chairmen, I think.....

39
40 MS. FOX: The letter, itself, would be
41 appreciated because it might help us.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, towards the end of
44 the meeting I think I'll offer to the Council some sort of
45 a motion or action item expressing our concern that we'll
46 be coming up with a letter that we'd like to have more
47 staff to get separated from the Bristol Bay,
48 Aleutian/Pribilof and Kodiak. That's stretching it quite a
49 bit, they're making it pretty thin as far as staffing for
50 our region. We're concerned about that and I'm glad Grace

00044

1 Cross is pushing us along on that and we'll support her
2 letter and action toward that.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MS. FOX: I just wanted to offer one more
7 thing and that is, in terms of the original team here we
8 have a dedicated wildlife biologist, we'll be adding a
9 dedicated fisheries biologist to work with you in terms of
10 regulatory issues and other matters that this team has
11 worked with you on in the past, Helen and Donna and
12 Barbara, we'll be adding one more. But the other
13 positions, that one has been approved. The other positions
14 that I said that have not been approved are the ones that
15 are specific on fisheries information gathering and
16 fisheries decision-making. And that those were specific to
17 the chart that I was provided that you were looking at.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you. Thank
20 you, Peggy.

21

22 MS. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council
23 members.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Let's see, Ida will wrap
26 up the fisheries update and then we'll break for lunch.
27 Ida.

28

29 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, that means I
30 have two minutes. On the fisheries update, the easiest way
31 to do it is if you have, I think Barbara just handed to
32 you, this Project 2000.

33

34 As you know during the training in January we had
35 17 projects to look at and consider. On the second page
36 there's one of them that I'll use for an example. On the
37 page that looks like this, on the abbreviated process,
38 abbreviated because the fish are coming in June or sooner
39 and we didn't have time to get as much consultation and
40 involvement as we wanted so we just hurried into what was
41 going on from your previous reports and your previous
42 annual reports and projects in the regions. And in the
43 back of your material it has all these little boxes, that
44 shows where we got the information from. They called
45 Councils, they called the North Slope Borough, they called
46 various people that were doing studies or projects in your
47 region to see what kind of information was already
48 available and what wasn't available. And from that they
49 came up with what are ongoing projects that could be added
50 to or what are projects that needed to be done to answer

00045

1 subsistence questions that will come before the Board
2 regarding fish. And that was how you got the 17 projects
3 that were before the Councils during the training session.
4 And that format that's in this first example, is the format
5 that they're going to use for the April discussion when
6 more projects for 2000 will be looked at and will be
7 basically the format that will go into the year 2001.

8
9 On the top of the project is a description of what
10 the issues are or what the project is going to be. The
11 next paragraph is basically a discussion of how you're
12 going to do that. The paragraph after that, it talks about
13 how are local people involved, how are the subsistence
14 users involved, how are the tribes or local Native entities
15 involved in this project, do the local people agree that
16 this is an important issue. And then it talks -- it closes
17 with some budget figures. You have to have some idea of
18 how much this is going to cost, and you look at the whole
19 project as you would for any agreement. If you say you're
20 going to do something, how much is it going to cost and can
21 you do it in the time that you say you're going to do it.
22 That's kind of the general process.

23
24 But the identification of how do you find which
25 projects are important, that's the role of this Council.
26 If the Council were to say these are the important issues
27 in our region, the local people that come and testify
28 before you -- I think last year you had the Native village
29 of Barrow testify before you, you've already expressed this
30 morning you had concerns that you want to consider your
31 local ordinances regarding fish and game in your
32 discussions and Gordon expressed a concern of involving the
33 local people with their expertise to add to the pile of
34 projects or information that you identify as your needs.
35 All these needs should come before the Council or be raised
36 by the Council and you, in turn, make these recommendations
37 that these are the projects.

38
39 All Councils will have that opportunity and look at
40 and raise the concerns and of course, everything is driven
41 by money, if we don't get funded that's probably the end of
42 that but as long as there is funding and this appropriation
43 was a no year appropriation so it can carryover, that the
44 Councils make their recommendations, the office of
45 Subsistence Management, and its team look at all of the
46 recommendations and come up with these sorts of charts of
47 what are the issues and what are the questions that will
48 come before the Board and begin to eliminate or to -- the
49 priority of the Council is the highest priority, but after
50 -- if you have more projects than you have money then you

00047

1 you, Ida. I know this is a lot of information so maybe --
2 let's see, resource monitoring project selection for spring
3 2001, this is happening with -- I think there were three
4 projects or four for our area.

5
6 MS. HILDEBRAND: Well, that was the
7 accelerated process for -- abbreviated process for 2000
8 which means those projects are going to go in the water
9 this year.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

12
13 MS. HILDEBRAND: The 2001 is the one that
14 you have more Council involvement in and a longer time to
15 say these are the things that you're interested in.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Next September or
18 October we'll be looking at.....

19
20 MS. HILDEBRAND: At this meeting is a good
21 time to start your discussion on what are the things in
22 addition to the ones that are on the January list that you
23 already saw and in the April list that is going before the
24 Board in April for approval for 2000. Then you would say
25 in addition to those, these are the issues that are
26 important to our region and these are the projects that we
27 think you should be looking at seriously or are our highest
28 priority.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. So maybe next
31 year in February 2001 we'll be looking at more projects
32 for.....

33
34 MS. HILDEBRAND: You'll probably be looking
35 at new projects next February but the time to start saying
36 what those new projects are is today as you're speaking now
37 or throughout your meeting. I mean you don't have to have
38 it done today but it is the time to begin that discussion
39 and looking forward, looking at the projects that already
40 affected your area and the projects that are coming down in
41 April.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. I'm trying to get
44 a picture because our proposals for wildlife are usually in
45 December and the proposals for fisheries are presented at
46 February's meetings, right? Is that where we're going?

47
48 MS. HILDEBRAND: But fish is going to have
49 the opposite -- the Board decisions on fish are going to be
50 in December.

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1 MS. FOX: Right. But the proposals are
2 during these meetings, in the winter for fisheries.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Will our
5 September meeting catch those proceedings for the Board
6 doing it in September.

7
8 MS. HILDEBRAND: Uh-huh.

9
10 MS. FOX: Yes.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. So we'll have
13 time, okay. All right, thank you, Ida. Any questions for
14 -- Gordon.

15
16 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: You say, you know, a
17 project needs to be identified now for projects to be
18 scheduled or potentially funded for next year or something
19 like that?

20
21 MS. HILDEBRAND: Yeah.

22
23 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Is there any criteria
24 for a project, does it have to be on Federal land only or
25 is it something -- because I think of things that we do on
26 the Slope or just like the representative from Nuiqsut,
27 Leonard, has concern about a lot of seismic activity. And
28 some of the questions that I have and that it's a valid
29 concern is what does seismic vibriosis do to over-wintering
30 fish in those lakes when you're going over those and I know
31 those studies during the thaw out period, they're in open
32 water type but what is happening when the ice is five feet
33 thick and there's a little bit water on the bottom and
34 there's still fish down there, what happens to those fish
35 when seismic vibriosis over that? I mean those are some of
36 the questions, I think, that would be, in my view, a
37 concern for some kind of a study.

38
39 MS. HILDEBRAND: In response to your
40 question, Gordon, there's a section in this handout that
41 says, questions and answers.

42
43 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Uh-huh.

44
45 MS. HILDEBRAND: That will help some of
46 your questions. But to answer specifically is it only on
47 Federal lands; for the most part, yes. That's the quick
48 answer. But in some regions they're looking if you can tie
49 the connection that it is off of Federal land but impacting
50 Federal -- fish on Federal lands and if the State were

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1 interested in doing a study in that area or other partners
2 were interested in doing a study in that area or they
3 already had something ongoing, then it would be
4 considering. The competing factor for this area is, even
5 if it's a good idea and you need the information, it would
6 come down to does this Council say that's their most
7 important or is the fish on the Colville or is the fish on
8 some other river up here a more important issue to study.
9 So you can raise all the things that are of concern that
10 the people want to have information and data on. And when
11 you look at all your own concerns that you've identified,
12 then you start prioritizing, this is more urgent or this
13 should be answered first. Should we do stock assessment
14 and trends, should we do traditional and environmental
15 knowledge, a study on that, or should we do monitoring to
16 see how much subsistence fish is needed, are we meeting our
17 needs or are there -- are we just meeting what we're
18 permitted to catch?

19
20 So in those three categories, this Council would
21 say, no, this one is more important. If they all came up
22 and say, that's the only one we want, then it would have to
23 go through the process of does it -- in the end, the end
24 product, your study or your report, that information, that
25 would enable the Board to make a decision on Federal
26 subsistence use or does it add to that. But it is -- it
27 doesn't say take off the table anything that you want
28 studied but it does, after a while, after you've identified
29 them then you have to start saying, well, we only have this
30 much money so this is what we're going to study.

31
32 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: I think that kind of
33 answered my question then. I think there's a way of
34 getting to what you want, what is more important than the
35 other. But you can bring any kind of a concern that deals
36 with subsistence and your catch regardless of what's
37 affecting it and just try to get to the bottom line; that's
38 what I'm understanding. If it's industry doing something
39 that affects subsistence users and there's no other place
40 of getting information and asking industry, what happens to
41 the fish when you go over them, when you do this kind -- is
42 there some kind of affect on it?

43
44 MS. HILDEBRAND: Well, yes, I agree with
45 you you can, like I said, put anything on the table but if
46 you instead have a fish that you eat that you know is
47 infected, the people will probably say let's study that
48 infected fish first, but yes, that's true.

49
50 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Okay.

00050

1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you very
2 much, Ida. We looked at the projects that are coming up
3 for this year and the only concern that I heard was there
4 is not enough dollars for the work that's going to be done
5 on the North Slope Borough area. Let's see, specifically
6 there's Arctic char, the study objectives as stated in
7 there, I think technical committee or the folks that's
8 going to be reviewing, the time frame for the refinement of
9 the project, I believe that's the only comment that I can
10 make at this time. The technical oversight committee
11 perhaps can work with the North Slope Borough on that so
12 this will be happening April through June 30; is that when
13 the -- or February through March 30 is the technical
14 overview committee, they look at the proposed projects or
15 -- is that what kind of comments we were looking for or
16 prioritizing?

17
18 MS. HILDEBRAND: The 17 projects that you
19 looked at in January were approved by the Board in their
20 February meeting and there's another batch of projects
21 going to the Board in April. And once the Board approved,
22 for example, the 17 projects -- I'm trying to answer your
23 question.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Uh-huh.

26
27 MS. HILDEBRAND: It approved that project,
28 then the people that are going to do the project, whether
29 it was local tribe or State agency or Federal agency have
30 to get together and pull out a full proposal saying exactly
31 what they're going to do and how they're going to do it.
32 And at that time, if it was a project with the North Slope
33 Borough, then they would be meeting with either the Federal
34 or State agency that they're going to be working in
35 conjunction with and come to an agreement of who is going
36 to be responsible for what task and that would become part
37 of the .809 agreement with the Office of Subsistence
38 Management, that would put out -- specify exactly who's
39 responsible for what.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. And then the
42 columns are -- it says, preliminary information, use
43 assessment?

44
45 MS. HILDEBRAND: Right. That's kind of the
46 background of how we came up with projects that we started
47 with and it's good information to read through to get some
48 idea of what was out there and what were the concerns.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

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1 MS. HILDEBRAND: They looked at concerns
2 of, was there information lacking and is the Board going to
3 need that information to make a decision in the future or
4 is there already a lot of information out there on this
5 topic or this species that you didn't need to do another
6 study. And some of the things that made you either go for
7 a project or pull back from it. And in this list, were
8 there ongoing studies or projects in any region. If the
9 project was already ongoing, did they complete the task of
10 did they get the kinds of information they needed, that
11 that project ended or did they need more information, so
12 you would add on to that project for another year.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

15
16 MS. HILDEBRAND: And that's all these
17 little boxes mean.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Ida.
20 Any other questions or comments? I hope that recorder
21 didn't pick up my stomach, it's growling. With that, I
22 want to thank you Ida and Peggy for fisheries update. I
23 think there's -- Tim, on the migratory bird update, can you
24 do that after lunch?

25
26 MR. JENNINGS: Sure.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Can you provide us a
29 brief update on that?

30
31 MR. JENNINGS: I think you already
32 commented of the status.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: No, about the spectacle
35 eider and I don't think we have any expertise on that. But
36 I'll mention something after lunch on that. Okay, we'll
37 have a lunch break and come back maybe at 1:30 and try to
38 finish up the rest of the agency reports. Todd O'Hara will
39 come back and give some information on the seal samples for
40 Mr. Koonuk. I think everybody else is here and we'll try
41 and push the meeting along and try to get off at 5:00. So
42 with that, the lunch break is called until 1:30.

43
44 (Off record)
45 (On record)

46
47 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Good afternoon, ladies
48 and gentlemen. After lunch recess I'll call the meeting
49 back to order. We were done with the fisheries update and
50 I asked Fred Armstrong to give us a brief -- oh, he's not

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1 in here, well, in that case we'll catch up with him on
2 that. I want to have the Council hear what's the latest on
3 the spectacle eider and the critical habitat meeting. So
4 that takes us to the moose sex part info.

5
6 MS. DEWHURST: Oh, everybody's favorite
7 topic.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: It's info only Donna.

10
11 MS. DEWHURST: I'm not going to be very
12 long, it's at Tab T.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: We talked about this
15 last fall.

16
17 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, I know. That's
18 basically the issue, it went to all the Councils. The
19 summary of the Councils are under Tab T. It was basically
20 decided at that point, most of the Councils either said
21 that it didn't really apply to their Council or they were
22 against changing. The bottom line was basically based on
23 the compilation of all the information from all the
24 different Councils, we decided that it shouldn't be a state
25 wide issue and that it should only apply to Southcentral
26 and so that's where it's going is Southcentral will still
27 be taking this proposal up but it will only be a
28 Southcentral issue. It's no longer a state wide issue.
29 And this little tab goes through all the information that
30 we gathered from the different Councils. So that's it in a
31 nutshell.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. Very good,
34 Donna. I won't make any further comments on the nutshells.
35 With that, I have sent Helen on a run to the store real
36 quick so she's up next on Ralph Lohse. We'll be pretty
37 flexible here this afternoon. Is Todd O'Hara -- he's not
38 in yet. We're going to hear from Todd O'Hara. As you
39 know, Taqulik is probably on maternity leave so she can't
40 join us. So Ann Morkill with the Arctic Refuge, Ann, can
41 you come up please?

42
43 MS. MORKILL: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
44 Council, Greg McClellan is also going to join me so if we
45 could add him to the agenda, the report for the Arctic
46 Refuge. We'll start out with some reports on wildlife
47 surveys and also in response to some questions you had at
48 the last meeting about guided hunting trips into the Arctic
49 Refuge and some of the harvest levels taken by clients of
50 those guides and that's what Greg is handing out now and

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1 I'll let him report on that particular issue. And then
2 I'll follow up with a few general items of things that are
3 going on in the Arctic Refuge.

4
5 MR. McCLELLAN: Mr. Chair and Council,
6 again, my name is Greg McClellan with the Arctic National
7 Wildlife Refuge. And I guess first thing I want to
8 recognize Fenton's comments from the village concerns about
9 the muskox permit hunt out of Kaktovik and as I reported at
10 the last fall meeting, we had several meetings with the
11 community last year on the hunt and ideas about trying to
12 make some changes. So again, appreciate the comments and
13 we'll definitely plan on meeting with the community and see
14 if we can't work to make things better.

15
16 I just had a few quick updates on biological
17 surveys that we'll be planning for this summer. One, a
18 complete photo-census of the Porcupine Caribou Herd is
19 scheduled for this summer. And then the Refuge -- and that
20 census will be a cooperative project with ADF&G and
21 Canadian agencies and the Refuge. And another caribou
22 issue, the International Porcupine Caribou Board is
23 scheduled to hold their next meeting on March 30th and
24 that's scheduled to be held in Fairbanks. Concerning
25 moose, the Refuge is hoping to do a North Slope moose
26 survey on the Refuge and including the area south of
27 Kaktovik and hopefully that will occur sometime this
28 spring. They're looking at early to mid-April. And then
29 the Refuge is planning to do their annual pre-calving
30 census in mid-April and the composition counts in June and
31 July for the muskox population.

32
33 And then the handout that I handed out at the last
34 meeting in the fall in Anchorage, is part of the
35 information from the Refuge. We handed out a paper that
36 showed the recreational use on the Arctic National Wildlife
37 Refuge through special use permits and at that meeting
38 Fenton had asked for information on the hunter guiding
39 activity and also the air taxi use and there's four
40 different pages in the handout. The first page is every
41 year the Refuge does a, it's called an annual narrative,
42 it's kind of a report of all the activities that occur on
43 the Refuge and this table from 1997, it's from the 1997
44 narrative and it shows the registered guides that have
45 permits on the Refuge and the animals that were harvested
46 and then information on the number of clients they had,
47 total client stays. And then the next page is just a
48 summary for the last 10 years from 1990 through '99 of the
49 animals that were harvested through hunting guides and
50 outfitters that had special use permits on the Refuge.

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1 Then the next table is again from the '97 narrative and
2 this is for the air taxi operators and their dropping off
3 people for float trips, other type of recreation like
4 hiking, camping, et cetera, and then the hunters and then
5 again the number of animals that the air taxi transported.
6 And one note, in a lot of cases the hunters listed under
7 the air taxi's are hunters that also worked with one of
8 these guides. So the harvest totals, like if you look for
9 sheep where it says 37 sheep were harvested to hunters
10 going through air taxes and 44 on the guide outfitters,
11 there's going to be some overlap, it's not a total of 81
12 sheep that were harvested but it's an overlap. And then
13 again, the next page is a summary of the animals harvested
14 and reported. And like I said, this information in the two
15 tables from the '97 narrative are examples of the
16 information that the hunter guides or the air taxi's are
17 required to report to the Refuge as part of their permit --
18 getting their special use permit.

19
20 So that was the main portion I had and I'd like to
21 -- be happy to try to answer any questions if you have any
22 questions on the handout or any of the surveys I had
23 mentioned. Yes.

24
25 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, Mike.

28
29 MR. PATKOTAK: On the second page, just out
30 of curiosity, on your 10 year harvest report.

31
32 MR. McCLELLAN: Uh-huh.

33
34 MR. PATKOTAK: On sheep, it says '90, '91
35 and '92, the numbers are pretty well 70 average and then
36 all of a sudden it goes down to 40, 43, 42, 39; was this
37 due to regulation or just a decrease in hunters?

38
39 MR. McCLELLAN: No, I think in that case
40 it's primarily the sheep population has decreased
41 throughout the Brooks Range and so there was just less
42 hunters coming up.

43
44 MR. PATKOTAK: Was it just less hunters
45 coming up or the sheep population going down?

46
47 MR. McCLELLAN: Well, it's a combination.
48 There were less sheep so hunters were going to other areas
49 in the state to hunt.

50

00055

1 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: I got a question.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

4
5 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: In looking at the
6 amount of animals taken in the Arctic National Wildlife
7 Refuge and the amount of animals that are nearest village
8 uses, is there a set way that these hunters that fly in
9 have a limited number to catch versus the amount of
10 subsistence take? Have you analyzed the subsistence take
11 of the village and what their real needs are and in turn
12 adjusting that so that that village can have more for
13 subsistence purposes than the hunters can take?

14
15 MR. McCLELLAN: Yes. Specifically on the
16 guide hunters, their -- on their permits, they're only
17 allowed to guide for a specific number of hunts and harvest
18 a specific number of animals. So that's definitely taken
19 into consideration when the those areas are advertised,
20 they're only advertised limited with a certain amount of
21 animals and what species that they're allowed to take.

22
23 MS. MORKILL: They're also, you know,
24 restricted by State or Federal regulation. And I believe
25 under the State regulation sport hunters are limited to one
26 sheep whereas under the Federal subsistence regulations the
27 local community of Kaktovik, say, an individual could take
28 up to three sheep under the subsistence program. So there
29 is recognition there that they use more sheep than sport
30 hunters.

31
32 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: I got one more
33 question. Is muskox an item that is taken by sport
34 hunters, too, in this area?

35
36 MR. McCLELLAN: No.

37
38 MR. PATKOTAK: One more question, Mr.
39 Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mike.

42
43 MR. PATKOTAK: I notice this is in Federal
44 lands, it pertains to guides -- guided hunts, unguided
45 hunts. Are the regulations in the Federal Reserve the same
46 as the State's to where, I know the State now requires
47 guides to be pilots now, meaning private pilots, and are
48 the requirements the same with the Federal government?

49
50 MR. McCLELLAN: Well, for a guide to guide

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1 on the National Wildlife Refuge, first they have to be a
2 certified guide and licensed with the State, so, yes, they
3 would have to be.

4
5 MS. DEWHURST: That was recently
6 challenged, too. What you're talking about Michael was
7 that the guides had to be part 135 air taxi's.

8
9 MR. PATKOTAK: Yeah.

10
11 MS. DEWHURST: And they re -- that was
12 challenged in court very recently and I think it was the
13 last -- the last I heard it was overthrown and now they
14 don't have to be so -- but it's all being appealed and
15 going back and forth. But the latest I heard was now they
16 don't have to be again. They said they were for a year and
17 now they don't have to be.

18
19 MR. PATKOTAK: Well, if I remember
20 correctly and correct me, Mr. Chairman, I know that in the
21 past it was a hot issue of more Natives becoming guides and
22 then special interests like the Alaska Outdoor Council and
23 those folks putting in the requirement to be part 135 and
24 that kind of pushed out a lot of Natives. And I just
25 wanted to bring the issue back up, that just virtually all
26 Natives are put out of the market and it's a growing
27 market.

28
29 MS. DEWHURST: Well, as far as I know, like
30 I say it was challenged and the challenge is standing right
31 now, so I think that that requirement has been temporarily
32 lifted. So I don't know where it's going from there. I
33 know it's still going back and forth in the courts with the
34 FAA.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Greg, anything else?

37
38 MR. McCLELLAN: That was all I had and then
39 Ann was next.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Go ahead Ann.

42
43 MS. MORKILL: I just wanted to update the
44 Council on a few items that might be of interest but are
45 not necessarily specifically related to the Federal
46 subsistence program.

47
48 As Fenton is aware, the Corps of Engineers is
49 involved in a pretty extensive cleanup operation of the
50 Distant Early Warning line stations on the North Slope and

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1 there are several sites within the Arctic Refuge and I know
2 that they're working outside on some other areas on the
3 North Slope. They've completed cleanup of hazardous
4 materials and old drums and things that -- Brownlow Point
5 and at Manning Island near Barter Island, Griffin Point and
6 Demarcation Bay. And this summer there's going to be some
7 pretty intensive cleanup work to demolish and remove the
8 buildings at Collinson Point and at Nevagapak Point at
9 Beaufort Lagoon. And so our hopes are that a lot of those
10 materials that pose a threat to public safety and
11 potentially contributing contaminants into the environment
12 will be removed as of this year. And over the next several
13 years, I believe the Corps and the Air Force are
14 collaborating to do even some more extensive drum pickup
15 work. And Fenton could probably attest to the amazing
16 difference at Manning Point, they've removed thousands of
17 drums and you can actually see the tundra now. And that's
18 true at Jago Delta, they counted in an aerial survey some
19 400 to 600 drums -- 50 gallon drums that are scattered
20 across the Delta there and they're willing to work with KIC
21 and Kaktovik and the Arctic Refuge to get those removed
22 eventually.

23
24 Just a little bit migratory bird management is
25 involved in doing some coastal waterbird surveys and this
26 is in relation to the oil development in the near-shore and
27 on-shore areas around Prudhoe Bay looking at, you know,
28 potential impacts of oil spills on coastal waterbirds that
29 molt in the lagoons and berry island systems. So migratory
30 birds, last year, and I believe for the next couple years
31 will be involved in some coastal surveys, I believe all the
32 way from Point Hope over to Demarcation Bay. And that
33 ought to be some information to see how many birds and what
34 species are in those areas and might be vulnerable to oils
35 spills in the development area in Prudhoe Bay and the
36 Central Arctic.

37
38 Secondly, as a result of the North Star permitting,
39 BP is required to support polar bear surveys during the
40 open water season in early to late August through November
41 and so there'll be some flights with the Fish and Wildlife
42 Service, Marine Mammals office and some contract work by BP
43 to take a look at polar bear use of coastal areas and berry
44 islands during the open water season. There's been a lot
45 of reports of not only females with young that have stayed
46 on shore but also some males that have swum on shore early
47 on and they're picking up beach carcasses and things and
48 might be vulnerable to activities. And that information
49 will be available to local communities for safety reasons
50 and also, you know, to keep the industry informed about

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1 where polar bears are to avoid disturbance.

2

3 The last thing is there is a pretty large
4 cooperative effort in Canada and the Arctic Refuge has
5 recently become involved in it, called the Arctic
6 Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Cooperative. And this is
7 an effort that was started five or six years ago to involve
8 local communities in research projects, previously
9 Environment Canada and Canadian Fish and Wildlife Service
10 to look at things that are going on in the local
11 communities, areas, to gather information from local
12 hunters and gatherers about, you know, things like what
13 condition were the caribou in this year, how were the berry
14 harvests, what are your observations about ice breakup and
15 try to build a long-term data base of what local
16 communities are seeing out in the environment. And they
17 invited Alaska communities and agencies to be involved in
18 this effort. The Arctic Refuge has attended a couple of
19 meetings and we've provided them a list of potential
20 interest parties in Alaska, including the communities of
21 Kaktovik and Arctic Village as well as North Slope Borough,
22 Department of Wildlife Management, Native village of
23 Kaktovik, Arctic Slope Native Association, et cetera. And
24 there's a gathering, this will be the fifth year, a
25 gathering in Old Crow, Yukon Territory, next week, when
26 people get together and report on these things. And it's a
27 good opportunity to share information between agencies and
28 local communities and we hope that the Alaska communities
29 will consider getting involved and sharing their
30 traditional in this forum.

31

32 And that's all I have.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Ray.

35

36 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Could you show us on the
37 map the places you were talking about, the contaminants?

38

39 MS. MORKILL: The contaminants?

40

41 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Yeah.

42

43 MS. MORKILL: If we have.....

44

45 MR. KOONUK, SR.: And what kind of
46 contaminants are you talking about?

47

48 MS. MORKILL: Unfortunately, I'm not an
49 expert on the contaminants but I do know that a number of
50 them were related to petroleum products, the fuel products

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1 that were in the drums that they had to basically provide
2 fuel for the Dewline Stations. They also had asbestos in
3 the buildings. And things like battery acid. And a number
4 of those particular items were actually cleaned up in '97
5 and '98 and this is a subsequent cleanup to actually take
6 the buildings out, remove the buildings and all the old
7 equipment and the cranes and the towers that used to be
8 part of the operation that have since been sitting there
9 since the '60s.

10
11 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Do you have a report on
12 that?

13
14 MS. MORKILL: I don't with me but I could
15 provide one if you'd like that summary.

16
17 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Yes, please.

18
19 MS. MORKILL: Okay. Shall I provide that
20 to Barb and she could distribute it to the Council?

21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah.

23
24 MS. MORKILL: Okay.

25
26 MR. KOONUK, SR.: And could you show me on
27 a map.....

28
29 MS. MORKILL: Sure.

30
31 MR. KOONUK, SR.:the areas that you
32 mentioned?

33
34 MS. MORKILL: Could I see a map -- maybe it
35 would be easier if I walked over. Within the Arctic Refuge
36 specifically there's a site at Demarcation Bay that's been
37 cleaned up and then Nevagapak Point is about this area,
38 Manning Point was off of Barter Island, that's out of
39 Kaktovik, that's cleaned up. Conson Point is here in
40 Camden Bay, that's to be finished this summer. And
41 Brownlow Point is right at this red line here that's been
42 cleaned up. There's some additional sites they're working
43 on at Bowling Point, Oliktok near Prudhoe Bay. Where else
44 -- I think, Dave Yokel, do you know of any at NPR-A.

45
46 MR. YOKEL: Kugrua.

47
48 MS. MORKILL: Kugrua up in this area. And
49 I believe there's a couple of additional sites perhaps
50 right at Point Hope and Point Lay.

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1 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Okay.

2

3 MS. MORKILL: Yes, and Cape Lisburne, I
4 believe they're doing some work there.

5

6 MR. KOONUK, SR.: And in someplace here,
7 too?

8

9 MS. MORKILL: Uh-huh. I have a summary
10 report that the Corps provided that covers all these sites
11 and I'll provide that to you and it has a map on it, too.

12

13 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Okay.

14

15 MS. MORKILL: Thanks.

16

17 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, Ray.
20 Council comments or questions.

21

22 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mike.

25

26 MR. PATKOTAK: Since we're on the subject
27 of contaminants. On the Dewline sites, my younger brother
28 and my sister -- you know, I grew up around Peard Bay and
29 that Federal Dewline site is Lis-C. When they did the
30 cleanup I know they were supposed to remove all
31 contaminants. And they happened to catch -- well, they
32 were caught -- the contract, I forget who it was that was
33 supposed to do the cleanup at Peard Bay, and they had
34 noticed that some bottles were to be put on pallets and
35 danger, do not go near and then they noticed that they did
36 not put them on the barge. And it became obvious to them
37 that they were going to leave those behind. And when they
38 did, the personnel proceeded to dig a hole in the ground
39 and bury these batteries. Now, was that a legal procedure
40 was that supposed to -- were these batteries filled with
41 acid and stuff or were they supposed to be physically
42 removed from the site?

43

44 MS. MORKILL: I'm afraid I can't answer
45 that question. I'm not familiar enough with the
46 regulations. I know that there's been an issue on Barter
47 Island at the long range radar site there where there's an
48 old landfill that there's -- the Air Force, you know, has
49 claimed that they cleaned all the hazardous materials out
50 but there's still a lot of material in there and it's

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1 buried and contained, so to speak. So there might be some
2 particular items that they talk about that if they can
3 contain it on site and it won't contaminate the
4 environment, that that falls under cleanup. But in terms
5 of the specific of what has to be removed from the site and
6 what can be buried safely, I don't know the answer to that.

7
8 MR. PATKOTAK: Well, for the public record
9 so that it's recorded somewhere, I went over there to the
10 site and proceeded to dig to the area, it was -- the
11 bottles were only a foot and a half, not more than 18
12 inches below a gravel pad. And I dug far enough to uncover
13 one whole row and one of them had broken due to the weight
14 of the gravel amount being on it and it had broken and
15 there was what looked like -- how do you -- that sulfuric
16 acid when it comes into contact it kind of.....

17
18 MS. MORKILL: Crystallizes.

19
20 MR. PATKOTAK:crystallizes, and there
21 was a lot of crystals in the gravel pad. And this was an
22 area where me and my brother were going to build a new
23 cabin and I told him I said, hey, we better not build this
24 cabin here while all these batteries are here. And we had
25 written about -- to the contractors to have them remove
26 them from that site but we've never heard anything from
27 them.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Yokel.

30
31 MR. YOKEL: What year?

32
33 MR. PATKOTAK: Pardon?

34
35 MR. YOKEL: What year was that?

36
37 MR. PATKOTAK: Two years ago.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ida.

40
41 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
42 Committee member. Fenton, just for -- Mr. Chairman, excuse
43 me, for Ann's information there's going to be a TK
44 conference in Southeast Alaska March 7th and 8th for your
45 Old Crow people to know about. And for Mike if you haven't
46 gotten any response perhaps the people to write a letter to
47 is the EPA regarding the battery incident you just spoke
48 of.

49
50 MR. PATKOTAK: To who again?

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1 MS. HILDEBRAND: EPA.

2
3 MR. PATKOTAK: EPA?

4
5 MS. HILDEBRAND: Right.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Ida. Any
8 other questions for Ann or Greg?

9
10 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: I've got one.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

13
14 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: This is way off the
15 subject, though, but she kind of touched on a little bit
16 was, to hear about different changes in ice or whatnot in
17 the environment. And it just so happens last week I was
18 just talking with my dad about old times and what they used
19 to do when they were reindeer herding and he talked about
20 areas where there used to be just abundance everywhere you
21 can walk and look in areas where they used to bring their
22 reindeers where they walked where there was salmon berries
23 and those kind of plants that had fruits like that and then
24 nowadays when he goes to those areas they are not there,
25 they're not growing. And I just thought that -- I think
26 that's some kind of change in times or if it's just weather
27 related or moisture content or in the -- and that's just
28 one of the things we were talking about, some old time
29 stuff and I thought I'd mention that.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Gordon. Any
32 other questions for Ann or Greg? I want to thank you,
33 Greg, for the report here. I'll share this with the people
34 in Kaktovik and I'm pretty sure they'll be interested in it
35 and I'm glad that you gave us information on the hunting
36 guides and the types of animals that they catch. It's very
37 informative and I want to thank you very much for making
38 that available for us.

39
40 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Mr. Chairman.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ray.

43
44 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Could we have EPA come
45 down for our next meeting? I think there are some
46 questions that need to be answered here since you can't
47 answer the questions. As far as what's being cleaned up
48 and what the contaminants can do to the environment and to
49 the animals itself. I think EPA should be here to answer
50 these questions.

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1 MS. MORRILL: The report I mentioned, I am
2 aware of a similar report that's two to three pages and it
3 has some brief information of the types of materials that
4 have been cleaned up and what their plans are. And when I
5 send that to you I'll attach some contact names with the
6 agencies and that way you might know who you'd be
7 interested in contacting.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Information on these
10 kinds, I know we have the restoration advisory boards that
11 I know they go to Point Hope, and I know there's a
12 restoration advisory board for Barrow and we also have a
13 restoration advisory board at Kaktovik in dealing with
14 contaminants and the old abandoned Dewline stations. So
15 that's a real good avenue to get involved in in
16 contaminants. If there's any meetings in your communities,
17 the EPA would be there, the ADEC will be there as well as
18 the Air Force personnel and the contractors cleaning up the
19 dewlines. But we'll put this up for the record for EPA to
20 be at our next meeting.

21
22 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Mr. Chairman, our animals
23 live out there. Our caribous, brown bears and they get
24 close to these dewlines and I think we have a right to know
25 of what is being cleaned up out there at those dewline
26 sites. And these animals we hunt. And, you know, I'd like
27 to see EPA down here for the meeting, at our next meeting,
28 and I'm pretty sure there'll be a lot of questions. I know
29 there's RAB people that go out to the villages but they
30 don't let the public know that they're coming to town. But
31 I'd like to see EPA down here and, you know, I have
32 questions that need to be answered.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, Ray.
35 Further questions for Ann or Greg? If not, thank you very
36 much Greg, Ann.

37
38 MR. McCLELLAN: Thank you, Council.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: We have -- I think we
41 got some information on the seal samples that were sent in
42 from Point Hope and Dr. O'Hara is here from the North Slope
43 Borough to provide us some information on that, Dr. O'Hara.

44
45 DR. O'HARA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could
46 someone restate the question because I got it over the
47 telephone and maybe it would be more direct that way; what
48 was the concern or question?

49
50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Go ahead, Ray.

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1 MR. KOONUK, SR.: There was a hunter that
2 caught a seal and he got in contact with Earl and I think
3 Earl had sent out a sample of the seal. It was pretty
4 sick. What the hunter said, the seal, the innards, the
5 lungs and what not were all white. And the hunter himself
6 was concerned of why that seal was all white and why he was
7 sick. And what are the results?

8
9 DR. O'HARA: I haven't seen the report but I've
10 talked to Jim Dau in Kotzebue who I believe the sample was
11 sent to; is that correct? Is that where the sample went?

12
13 MR. KOONUK, SR.: I don't know where it was
14 sent.

15
16 DR. O'HARA: Okay. Because I don't think it came
17 to our department, I think it went to Jim Dau in Kotzebue,
18 the Department of Fish and Game biologists and he sent it
19 on, so maybe I shouldn't comment until I get some more
20 facts. Because I thought you were going to refer to the
21 seals that are showing up with no hair in Kotzebue and in
22 that region. That's why I wasn't sure what to address. If
23 this is a single seal with those kinds of lesions I'll have
24 to call Jim Dau and probably it went to Kathy Bjork in
25 Anchorage, the veterinary pathologist. So what I'll do is
26 -- I know she's out of town, she's doing some field work
27 but I can check with her on that seal. You said it was a
28 Nuchuk [ph]?

29
30 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Yeah.

31
32 DR. O'HARA: Okay. And the inside of the chest was
33 all white?

34
35 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Yeah. Lungs and kidneys.

36
37 DR. O'HARA: Okay. The issue I thought you were
38 going to bring up was the fact that there's been
39 observations by some hunters of seals with no hair in that
40 region of Kotzebue and south. And we're cooperating our
41 project with the National Marine Fisheries Service and
42 local people to get samples of these seals so that we can
43 compare them to what we're calling normal seals. We
44 apparently still have normal seals in Barrow. There hasn't
45 been any reports that I know of of hairless seals here and
46 so we're sampling what we're calling the normal seals here
47 to compare with those seals that do get sampled that the
48 hunters bring in. And Jim Dau did sample a couple of those
49 and a couple other people have sampled additional seals
50 that have showed up with abnormal pelts. And that's what I

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1 thought we were going to talk about. But that work is
2 underway and they think they might have found what they
3 think is a bacteria that might be causing the hair loss but
4 they want to be sure and we haven't seen it up here.

5
6 And just on that note, there's also been
7 observations of polar bears with areas of hairless spots on
8 them around Prudhoe Bay that Steve Amstrop and his
9 colleagues have been seeing when they go out to put collars
10 on and examine polar bears. So we're helping follow up on
11 that too, just so that you know that these things may be
12 related. The polar bears could be getting this bacteria or
13 whatever it is from the seals and we're looking into it to
14 see how severe it is. It might just be they lose their
15 hair and their hair grows back.

16
17 This particular seal, I'll have to follow up on and
18 I'll make sure I get in contact with Jim and Kathy about it
19 and see what the final report was.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Mike, do you have
22 a question?

23
24 MR. PATKOTAK: In line with what Mr. Koonuk
25 is talking about, our crew last spring or summer were
26 hunting oogruks -- walrus and they spotted a seal quite a
27 ways in the distance and they hadn't seen any animals for a
28 little while so they decided to go towards that animal to
29 see if they could get it. But as they got closer they
30 could tell that there was something wrong with the seal.
31 When they came up to it, they said it was just -- it barely
32 had any energy left and it was just -- you could see the
33 bones outside through the skin and they could very well
34 tell that it was very sick. And they proceeded to put it
35 out of its misery and it sank without too much effort.....

36
37 DR. O'HARA: Sure.

38
39 MR. PATKOTAK:shortly after being
40 shot. But I asked him, I said, hey, why didn't you try to
41 take that -- get that seal and put it inside the boat or
42 put it in a plastic bag or something or take it to the
43 wildlife people up there and he says, well, we didn't know
44 that you wanted us to do that. And so I told them the next
45 time you run into something like that you do that because
46 it seems to be happening with more frequency. Like five
47 years ago I personally -- we came up to a seal that was on
48 top of the ice and it didn't try to run away at all so we
49 went up to it and it was pretty sick. It was still alive
50 but just moments later it would have died so we put it out

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1 of its misery.

2

3

4 I think the point that we're coming to is that
5 there needs to be public education in terms of how to get
6 contaminated samples of animals, especially in the ocean
7 and how to maintain the integrity of that sample, need to
8 be made public in terms of how this hunter can bring about
9 and how many more -- or how frequent this is becoming.

9

10 MR. O'HARA: Would you like me to comment?

11

12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah.

13

14

15 MR. O'HARA: I agree with you. It's
16 interesting how we approach these issues because obviously
17 most people in this room know we -- I'm speaking on behalf
18 of the Department of Wildlife Management, we examine a lot
19 of harvested animals which typically are very healthy which
20 is good news. When we get involved with diseased animals
21 it usually has to involve multiple animals dying for either
22 unknown reasons or unpredictably and we usually call that a
23 mortality event and that usually heightens our concern and
24 we get involved. This more chronic insidious type of
25 mortality that you're talking about could be significant
26 but we don't see it because it's not so dramatic. It's not
27 in a short time period and it's not a lot of animals. So I
28 think you're right, that has fallen through the cracks and
29 we have not addressed that very well.

29

30 That would involve developing a program like you're
31 talking about where we would put out information as well as
32 sampling equipment and instructions to hunters. If someone
33 wants to encourage us to do that I suggest you talk to
34 Charlie Brower and we can do that. Because Geoff and I
35 organized something for the moose population on the
36 Colville that was very successful with hunters. And he can
37 comment on it if he wants but we got good cooperation from
38 hunters and we got quality samples and it helped us fine-
39 tune our studies. So it has been done before but again that
40 was because there was a problem identified. Whereas what
41 you're talking about requires you to talk to us and say
42 we're seeing this over the years, this change, how can we
43 address it and I think then we can approach it. But right
44 now we sort of deal with really healthy animals, the
45 harvested animals and only those dramatic cases that come
46 up, like the Point Hope caribou mortality event, the
47 Colville River moose and now this hairless seal issue. So
48 I'm with you on that, I would like to do that but we need
49 our department to make it a priority and then we can head
50 in that direction. So I understand your frustration.

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1 And you're right about the walruses. To finish up
2 on that, the walruses are showing up on the beaches of
3 Barrow apparently at a higher rate and in worse condition.
4 Mostly pups and on occasion juveniles. We've had a couple
5 show up that are really in horrible condition and there is
6 no management policy that we know of that allows someone to
7 euthanize these animals without direct contact with
8 Anchorage and permission on a case by case basis unless
9 they're being harvested for -- by coastal Natives. So we
10 have management and labor issues to deal with, too, when it
11 comes to marine mammals and how we dispatch them and how we
12 deal with them. And that's something else maybe we can
13 talk with Charlie about and get ironed out, that we can get
14 permission to deal with those.

15
16 So just to follow up, thank you Mike. Point well
17 taken.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you very
20 much, Dr. O'Hara. We'll continue with that information,
21 Ray, we won't give up here.

22
23 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Yeah.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I know I'm kind of
26 jumping back and forth here but I wanted to briefly hear
27 about the migratory bird update and I think Fred Armstrong
28 can give us a brief summary or Tim, both of you, of the
29 spectacle eider situation.

30
31 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: I think you guys got an
32 update this morning on the migratory birds. Fred Armstrong
33 with Fish and Wildlife.

34
35 I guess from what I understand the regional
36 director hasn't finalized his decision on the management
37 body for migratory birds. I think they're in the middle of
38 writing the final rule. This is a way of publicly
39 announcing his decision. Once that has been completed,
40 they'll send the necessary information out.

41
42 As far as critical habitat, we had an informational
43 meeting here at North Slope Borough's assembly room
44 yesterday with the idea of presenting a proposal for
45 designated critical habitat for spectacle eider. Back in
46 1990 a petition was filed to list the spectacle eider as
47 endangered. Part of the criteria for designation is
48 identifying critical habitat in order for a species to
49 survive and rebound or recover. For years the Service
50 hasn't taken that very seriously because, especially in

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1 Alaska, where critical habitat is really not an issue
2 because most of our land is pristine and the habitat the
3 species survive in doesn't really necessarily pose a
4 problem for recovery. However, last year, the Center for
5 Biological Diversity and Christians for Caring, and don't
6 ask me where they're from because I don't know, but they
7 filed a lawsuit in Federal court demanding that the Service
8 designate critical habitat for the spectacle eider. Now,
9 the spectacle eider ranges all the way from California to
10 up here on the North Slope. There's several different
11 species but nevertheless they're listed as one species. It
12 poses a significant problem for the Service because usually
13 when we designate critical habitat, it's normally confined
14 to one specific area, one small area. Migratory birds,
15 they travel a wide range and determining critical habitat
16 was especially difficult.

17
18 You've got some populations in California. You've
19 got some that run along the Aleutian Islands. The Nushagak
20 Bay area. The Y-K and up in the North Slope. And so the
21 BRD, the Biological Resource Division had the task of
22 trying to define critical habitat. They didn't think it
23 was necessary but the court said you either will define it
24 or we'll it for you and they've lost in court every time
25 they've been brought to court for designation of critical
26 habitat.

27
28 I should note that the Fish and Wildlife has only
29 seven listed species in Alaska so that's pretty darn good.
30 NPMFs has hundreds of them. That just shows how well that
31 we manage the resources.

32
33 There was a settlement that was reached to by the
34 Department of Justice and the Interior and the plaintiffs,
35 the environmental groups, and this was just settled in
36 September, this past September '99. The settlement
37 agreement said you will designate critical habitat by March
38 1st. But we've kind of moved it along a little bit because
39 we got to have an opportunity for public comment and review
40 and so what the Service has done now is develop a proposal
41 for designation. I don't know if you guys got the copy of
42 this but -- Barb, did you hand them out?

43
44 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

45
46 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Okay. This really gives
47 you an idea of the critical habitat. And you will notice
48 that all of North Slope, the coastal area, it has been --
49 it is proposed for designation. Now, this designation, the
50 designation of critical habitat doesn't mean it's giving

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1 the spectacle eider additional protection, it's already
2 protected under the Endangered Species Act. Okay, we don't
3 set up no other management plans or nothing. All we're
4 saying that this area is critical to its recovery and
5 that's it. The process is already in place. The Service
6 continues on with its recovery efforts. It's just that if
7 there's any activity that happens in this area they just
8 got to be more careful and ensure that they don't destroy
9 the habitat for the birds to recover.

10
11 I'm sure that the North Slope Borough and the
12 Native village of Barrow and Inupiat communities of the
13 Arctic Slope and any other village in the region that wants
14 a public hearing can request one. I kind of think that
15 will occur.

16
17 Since the Service hasn't designated critical
18 habitat before, we're learning this process, too. And you
19 guys, as the public, can help us shape that critical
20 habitat. The meeting yesterday was very interesting,
21 brought up the lack of traditional environmental knowledge.
22 Some of the scientific data that hadn't been -- probably
23 hadn't been considered before maybe brought to life but
24 they've all got to be part of the public comment process in
25 order for the Service to make its determination. We're
26 under a real tight time frame and I think that by this
27 summer there will be a designation for that. We got to
28 comply with this lawsuit.

29
30 Charlie was at the meeting yesterday and provided
31 some good input into that and making his comments known,
32 well known I should say. But you guys need to be aware of
33 this and can help shape how this will be done.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Fred.
36 Charlie.

37
38 MR. C. HOPSON: Yeah, I had made a comment
39 yesterday, I represented myself in this hearing yesterday.
40 But it does, in fact, you know, it affects our birds here,
41 especially around the Barrow area, you know, you're
42 developing -- at -- you know, would have to apply with this
43 stuff on Kakhill Road, that's where some of these things
44 are nested, I heard, from yesterday, so some of the
45 development that we do up there -- berries affected by this
46 thing, and all this year, there was these -- we've been
47 doing our part trying to help them recover, you know, we've
48 been doing so good. And to have them come up with
49 something like this again, you know, we're forever getting
50 land decide for this. This portions, the critical habitat,

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1 too, we're going to give the eider 40 some million dollars
2 so we can bale the government out of the lawsuit is one of
3 the reasons why I said so, you know, they never done that
4 when they were in that suit, you know, even though they're
5 an endangered species, now, the government is in this
6 lawsuit. I had mentioned that yesterday at the meeting.
7 We do need to get our people together and seriously look at
8 this thing with the planning commissions, with the -- you
9 know, with our own people. It's a serious thing that we're
10 looking at right now.

11
12 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: If I may Mr. Chairman,
13 there are permitting processes that are already in place
14 with the Corps. Like all the Corps has to do is just ask
15 the Service whether or not it will have an adverse impact
16 on the recovery. It may be because of the decline has been
17 more significant in the YK-Delta and not as much up here
18 there was a suggestion made that why don't we just
19 designate the YK-Delta as critical habitat. All they have
20 to do in determining an impact, the process has been in
21 place for years, the Service is not asking the Board to or
22 anybody to bail them out, they already lost their lawsuit,
23 we just have to comply with the law.

24
25 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Patkotak.

28
29 MR. PATKOTAK: The boundaries of this
30 critical habitat on the last map here of the North Slope,
31 why does it go so far up into NPR-A when most of the
32 critical habitat is right within shoreline of -- the
33 spectacle eiders don't go that far inland?

34
35 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: IT was based on aerial
36 surveys that have been done since 1991 or so.

37
38 MR. JENNINGS: '87.

39
40 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: '87. And that was what
41 it was based on, the aerial surveys.

42
43 MR. PATKOTAK: And these aerial surveys are
44 documented, whew, that's a lot of land.

45
46 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: You look at the
47 population, the North Slope has about 10,000, pretty close
48 to 10,000 total population, we've seen a decline about 96
49 percent over 10 years in the decline of spectacle eider.

50

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1 MR. C. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Charlie.

4
5 MR. C. HOPSON: Also yesterday I made a
6 comment that I've been hunting birds and ducks all my life,
7 you know, the spectacle eiders. You know, abundant --
8 they're always the same, you know, you see them once in a
9 while, you see -- then you don't see them, you know. I
10 grew up around the area or you know that treating station
11 and that's where you would see them. They were never an
12 abundant, this species, you know, you see them ever year
13 but you don't see very many of them. You know, they
14 haven't changed throughout the years, you know and now
15 they're an endangered species, you know, they've never
16 been, you know.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

19
20 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: If you look at some of
21 these here, it shows that this bird has a migration route
22 and arrows pointing in the direction of migration. And
23 between Russia and Alaska these birds seem to split apart
24 so wouldn't you agree that those birds that come up here
25 and congregate down here along with the Russian birds are
26 one in the same species?

27
28 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: That's what they claim.
29 But they just go there to the Russian side for, you know,
30 during the summer, they congregate, they form a big
31 congregation near St. Lawrence Island in the winter time.
32 They don't go anywhere else.

33
34 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: And what's the
35 estimated population that's in the Russian side?

36
37 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: The majority of the
38 population exists over there and I'm not really sure what
39 the total amount is. But at one time there was close to
40 360,000 total birds and there are less than 100,000 now.
41 So those are serious concern for the well being of the
42 birds.

43
44 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: I think there should
45 be some sort of study that studies the birds that frequent
46 the north in Alaska and the ones that frequent the north in
47 Russia and see what happens when they get together because
48 some of them may -- the north ones may go to the Russian
49 side as well.

50

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1 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

2

3 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: And you know, you've
4 heard that from elders before on caribou, where big herds
5 get into another big herd that come in and they do all
6 their -- start mingling together and a whole bunch of them
7 break off and follow the other herd.

8

9 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

10

11 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Doing that kind of
12 stuff.

13

14 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: I agree.

15

16 MR. SYNDAM: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I could
17 help answer some of Gordon's questions.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Robert.

20

21 MR. SYNDAM: Gordon, the U.S. Fish and
22 Wildlife Service has been doing surveys for spectacle
23 eiders in the winter time and the last couple of winters
24 they've flown over this area just south of St. Lawrence
25 Island and taken photographs of these huge flocks of birds
26 and then gone back and made big pictures and counted all
27 the little birds on the pictures. And they've estimated
28 that there's about 400 to 500,000 spectacle eiders in that
29 wintering area. So those are birds that both nest on the
30 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, birds that nest on the North Slope
31 of Alaska and also birds that nest in Russia. The decline
32 that Fred mentioned just a second ago, the 96 percent
33 decline is documented on the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, that
34 there were tens of thousands of spectacle eiders down there
35 and now there's less than 5,000. On the North Slope, Fish
36 and Wildlife Service really has not that good of
37 information on how many birds are here nor do they have
38 very good information on where the populations have
39 declined dramatically or increased, I mean they just don't
40 know.

41

42 The surveys that Fred mentioned that have been
43 going on since the late 1980s and early 1990s have shown
44 that there are probably around 10,000 birds here but that
45 is based on these planes flying back and forth and they
46 don't cover the entire North Slope and they don't cover
47 every part of the North Slope and they don't see all the
48 birds that they pass over. So the 10,000 is probably a
49 minimum number, there's probably a lot more up here than
50 that. They just don't know yet. And that's one of the

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1 things they're trying to find out.

2

3 The question that you asked about what Russian
4 birds do and what North Slope birds and what Yukon-
5 Kuskokwim birds do when they get together have actually
6 been studied already. The people from BRD went out and
7 captured birds and put these little satellite transmitters
8 on them -- in them and then followed them around. The
9 birds from Russia or some of the birds from Russia and some
10 of the birds from the North Slope flew down to that area
11 between Cape Lisburne and Point Lay and molted all of their
12 flight feathers so when they become flightless they were
13 down there at sea just south of Point Lay. Many of the
14 birds from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta moved north and spent
15 a lot of time in Norton Sound over toward Elim, south of
16 Elim, Shaktoolik area and were flightless in that area.
17 And then they all came down more south of St. Lawrence
18 Island and that's where they spent their winter. So there
19 is some information about what these birds from the
20 different areas do.

21

22 Fish and Wildlife Service has also looked at
23 whether these birds go back to the same place every year.
24 And what they think, like most ducks and geese, well, at
25 least, with most ducks, is that they think the females go
26 back to the same place every single year, the females from
27 the North Slope that go down to St. Lawrence in the winter
28 time and then they come back in the summer time, the same
29 with the Russian birds and the same with the ones down
30 south in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, they always go back to
31 the same place, more or less the same place, every summer
32 to nest and again, and then the males -- the males just
33 follow the females, you know, it doesn't matter, the males
34 go where the females are. So that's what they think is
35 happening with spectacle eiders. So if the birds on the
36 North Slope -- if all the females on the North Slope
37 disappeared then it is very unlikely that spectacle eiders
38 would come back here or it would take a long time for some
39 of those females to stray a little bit and come back.

40

41 So the big concern that Fish and Wildlife Service
42 has is really on the birds on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta
43 because the numbers are so small down there that they're
44 also concerned about what's happening with the birds on the
45 North Slope.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, Robert.

48

49 MR. SYNDAM: Uh-huh.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Accepting comments for
2 all interested parties is through March 8th and again Fred
3 mentioned that public hearing requests can be made in
4 writing by March 24th. So information on that.

5
6 MR. SYNDAM: Mr. Chairman, may I add just
7 one quick comment.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

10
11 MR. SYNDAM: In another two weeks, I
12 believe two weeks, the Fish and Wildlife Service is going
13 to propose critical habitat for another species of eider,
14 that's the stellers eider, so there'll be two different
15 areas of critical habitat that they're looking for comments
16 on and people's opinion. So it would be great to, you
17 know, if we could get people -- individual people in the
18 villages and organizations to make a comment on what they
19 feel about this designation of critical habitat. I think
20 it's very important for us, up here, to say what we feel
21 about it.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Robert.
24 Mike.

25
26 MR. PATKOTAK: Well, he answered the
27 question.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you very
30 much. Thanks, Fred.

31
32 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: We have a letter from
35 Ralph Lohse, I believe that's the statewide request on --
36 I'm sure the Council members had an opportunity to read it.
37 Were we provided copies of -- Helen, I'll just turn the
38 floor over to you to cover the letter from Lohse and also
39 customary trade.

40
41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'll do customary trade
42 first. Barb went to get the copies of the letter. She
43 asked them to Xerox it, I don't think you have them in your
44 book, did you?

45
46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Pardon?

47
48 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The letter from Ralph
49 Lohse.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I got one through the
2 mail, I believe, but I don't think it's in here.

3
4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Did everybody else get
5 one through the mail or.....

6
7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I'm not sure.

8
9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: She went to get copies.
10 I don't have it in front of me because she took my copy.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Anyway, he withdrew his
13 proposal, the request for that.

14
15 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, basically Ralph
16 Lohse made a proposal for a primitive hunt. Hunting using
17 primitive techniques should be allowed and he withdrew the
18 proposal but he withdrew it on the condition that he could
19 write a letter and have it explained to everybody because
20 he didn't want people angry with him. I'll just summarize
21 it but you can all read it later.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

24
25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: He was doing it with the
26 thought that it takes a lot of great skill to do primitive --
27 use primitive hunting techniques and he thought it would
28 be something that people would want and it would be
29 considered honorable. And he didn't mean for anybody to
30 get upset because there were some people who were quite
31 upset with his proposal. So there was an apology
32 explaining why he had made the proposal. So if everyone
33 would read it, unless you want me to read it into the
34 record.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: (Nods negatively)

37
38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No, okay. And the other
39 subject was customary trade. We talked about it at the
40 last Council meeting and the minutes of our Council meeting
41 said that we would come back to you and see if you had any
42 other additional comments. I think it was mostly the
43 Northwest Council that was really interested in going back
44 to their people and getting comments. But we have not done
45 anything more on customary trade just because of taking
46 over fisheries management and being short-staffed, we
47 probably won't do anything with it for maybe -- for the
48 next year, possibly next winter we'll come back to you.
49 But we've been under a lot of stress in the office just
50 getting fisheries management going. We're also short-

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1 staffed by two anthropologists. So I didn't know if anyone
2 had any further comments.

3

4 If you will look in your book at the minutes under
5 R, and I think it was Page 9, yes, Page 9 there was the
6 discussion we had on customary trade and we had the
7 definitions we went over, barter, trade, tradesman,
8 customary trade, and commercial fishing, and the Council
9 had asked if they could go back and talk to people and see
10 what they felt about these definitions and if they had any
11 further comments. So I don't know if you have anything
12 else you want to add to that. We can certainly collect
13 more information otherwise we can just move on.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, it's mentioned in
16 here about the fall of 2000 we would be provided a draft
17 report for our review.

18

19 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I don't think that's
20 going to happen by the fall of 2000, that's my
21 understanding from the office.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

24

25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: But it won't be too
26 long. I checked with some of the people in the office,
27 what they thought, and it will probably be a little later
28 because we're.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Next, 2001 or something?

31

32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Maybe 2001.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

35

36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. Any comments
39 or questions on the definitions and, again, we'll be taking
40 this up not this fall but the February 2001 meeting.

41

42 MR. PATKOTAK: Are you talking about
43 Proposal 1 or.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: No, it's the
46 definition.....

47

48 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Customary trade.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:of customary trade

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1 and other definitions.

2

3

4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It's under -- it's in
5 the minutes from the last meeting under Tab R on Page 9 and
6 10. We had just -- the Council had just asked if -- said
7 they wanted to go back to people and ask before they made
8 any final recommendations. So we didn't get a final
9 recommendation from the Northwest or the North Slope
10 Councils at the last meeting and I don't know if you're at
11 a point where you want to make any recommendations on that
12 or wait until we get to the next draft report.

12

13

14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I think we can wait
15 until the next --- it's not a pressing issue at this time.

15

16

16 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

17

18

18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Helen.

19

20

20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22

22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: The next item on our
23 agency reports, the briefings on the agency concerns,
24 issues related to subsistence use and wildlife resources
25 will be the National Park Service. Oh, yeah, there we go,
26 right in front of me here, Sandy.

27

28

28 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
29 Actually the Park Service report will be very short,
30 extremely short today. The main item I have for you is we
31 had a -- not a -- not people moving but a change in
32 responsibilities. Steve Ulvi, who's been coming to your
33 Council meetings for many years has had a change in his
34 duties. He's going to be doing planning and other kinds of
35 things for Gates of the Arctic National Park and the chief
36 of operations, Jeff Maw will be taking over his subsistence
37 duties. And Jeff was packed and ready to go to be here
38 today but unfortunately there was a death in his family
39 just yesterday. So he -- I got, literally a phone call
40 from him at the airport that that had happened and he
41 couldn't be here. So I'm sure you'll understand that.
42 Jeff's in Fairbanks in the same office, physically, where
43 Steve is and the Superintendent is. I'm sure he'll be at
44 your next meeting here. And until you get to know him, if
45 you have any trouble contacting him or whatever, just get
46 in touch with me and I'm happy to get people hooked up.

47

48

48 And that's really all I've got to offer.

49

50

50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you very

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1 much, Sandy. Our condolences, you can relay those to Jeff.

2

3 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: We're going to move on
6 to Local Yokel. Dave.

7

8 MS. FOX: No respect.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Well, he got it on his
11 overalls so I can -- I thought I was paying him good
12 respect.

13

14 MR. YOKEL: What you say is true, Fenton, I
15 didn't know you'd ever seen me in my flight coveralls
16 though. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is Dave Yokel with
17 Bureau of Land Management.

18

19 There's two things I want to report to you briefly
20 today. First is the operations that are going on within
21 the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska this winter. ARCO
22 has an exploratory drilling program this winter. They were
23 hoping to begin -- this is in the area immediately west of
24 Nuiqsut. They were hoping to begin as early as mid-
25 December, we did not have everything ready to go in terms
26 of an environmental assessment and a permit until the end
27 of January so they just began putting an ice road in at the
28 start of February. I think they just completed the first
29 ice pad and ice road to that pad last week and began moving
30 equipment in to begin drilling this week. So they'll be
31 drilling their first well very soon here. And of course,
32 they'll be out of that area before spring thaw.

33

34 So let me just -- the second thing I want to talk
35 about quickly is the BLM subsistence advisory panel but
36 before I move into that, do you have any questions about
37 the drilling program?

38

39 Gordon.

40

41 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Mr. Chairman.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

44

45 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Has there been any
46 conflicts that have come to your guy's attention to this
47 date between subsistence and the activities going on?

48

49 MR. YOKEL: No, there has been no mention
50 that I know of relative to this winter's activities. There

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1 were several concerns brought up at meetings prior to the
2 start of activities this winter but I haven't heard about
3 anything in the actual conflicts with the operation. ARCO
4 has a subsistence plan that I was going to bring up under
5 the issue but they're required to develop a plan on how
6 they're going to avoid those conflicts. And part of their
7 plan was to hire a subsistence representative through the
8 Kupik Corporation and have that person be ARCO's
9 representative there in the field. And be on the spot if
10 any conflicts occur and work to get those conflicts
11 resolved as quickly as possible. They've had four
12 different people in line to interview for that job in
13 Nuiqsut but none of the four showed up at the interview so
14 they don't have a subsistence rep yet. They're not sure
15 what they're going to do about that.

16

17 MR. TUKLE: Mr. Chairman.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Leonard.

20

21 MR. TUKLE: Last week about the
22 subsistence, what was that again, the subsistence
23 representative?

24

25 MR. YOKEL: Yes.

26

27 MR. TUKLE: He was hired a couple of days
28 ago and he'll be flying into Anchorage for a week on
29 training, how to do the paperwork and working in the field.
30 So he'll be leaving probably today to Anchorage for
31 training on that position.

32

33 MR. YOKEL: Okay. Well, I guess I got some
34 bad information in the airport yesterday morning then
35 because an ARCO employee told me that no one had come to
36 those interviews earlier this week so -- well, that's good
37 news then.

38

39 But in answer to Gordon's question, I have not
40 heard of any conflict arising yet.

41

42 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Okay.

43

44 MR. YOKEL: The other thing, the Bureau of
45 Land Management's record of decision on the NPR-A plan said
46 that we would create a subsistence advisory panel to get
47 advice from local villages on any exploration and
48 development within NPR-A. That panel was established, it
49 held its first meeting here in Barrow on December 15th or
50 16th, immediately after your fish and game management

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1 committee meeting in December. And the representatives on
2 that panel are Lou Kagarock from the Native village of
3 Atqasuk, Thomas Napageak from the Native village of
4 Nuiqsut, John Hopson, Jr., from the Native village of
5 Wainwright, Earl Williams from the Native village of
6 Anaktuvuk Pass, Charles Naokuk from the Native village of
7 Barrow, and Arnold Brower is the North Slope Borough's
8 representative on that panel. He was not present at the
9 last meeting but Harry Brower, Jr., one of his two
10 alternates, was there.

11
12 The panel elected John Hopson, Jr., of Wainwright
13 as its Chair and Thomas Napageak from Nuiqsut as its vice
14 chair. ARCO reported on its subsistence plan at that
15 meeting and that's what we were just discussing. The main
16 feature of that plan is to have this subsistence
17 representative from Nuiqsut. Another issue that we heard
18 about today was brought up at that meeting, that was the
19 potential impacts of vibriosis on fish under the ice. That
20 panel has requested that we look into that. They want to
21 know how they can find out about what those impacts are if
22 there are any. That was the first meeting of the panel so
23 there wasn't -- not a whole lot else that occurred. There
24 were no other real conflicts or concerns that the panel
25 members had at that time. But in their own defense, they
26 were new at this. We're going to have our next meeting in
27 the village of Nuiqsut. It will be next month, I think
28 March 7th. And that way we'll be able to get some input
29 from the villagers as well. Also we hope to take the panel
30 members out on the ice road, see a drilling operation and
31 hopefully also some seismic work going on in that area so
32 they can get a first-hand look at that.

33
34 So are there any questions on the subsistence
35 advisory panel?

36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Nope.

38
39 MR. YOKEL: That's the way I like it.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, very much,
42 Dave.

43
44 MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: The Chair will request a
47 10 minute break and then we'll move on with the ADF&G and
48 try and wrap up here in a little bit.

49
50 (Off record)

00081

1 (On record)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you for
4 allowing us to have a brief break here. We're on to Item
5 F, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, I notice Sverre is
6 missing, Geoff will probably cover it, cover the
7 subsistence update and the wildlife conservation. Okay,
8 Geoff the floor is yours.

9

10 MR. CARROLL: Okay, I'll be real brief
11 today I know we're trying to get through this. Just a few
12 updates, at some of the past meetings we discussed
13 relocating some wolves to the North Slope. Last spring
14 three sets of five wolves were moved to the North Slope,
15 moved up from the Tok area near Atqasuk, Anaktuvuk Pass and
16 Nuiqsut. At your request, radio collars were not attached
17 to the wolves but ear tags were attached so that the wolves
18 could be identified if people harvested them. The only
19 harvest that has been reported so far is one that was
20 released south of Atqasuk and that was caught in a trap
21 just north of Wiseman last winter -- or this winter. So,
22 you know, Craig Gardner kind of told us from past
23 experience, those wolf, no matter where you turn them loose
24 they generally turn and point towards Tok and head for home
25 and that sounds like this one was doing. If anybody hears
26 of any, you know, wolves that are harvested that have an
27 ear tag I'd sure appreciate hearing about it so we can
28 learn more about what they did once they left here.

29

30 As far as muskoxen, there were nine Tier II
31 subsistence permits issued mostly to -- well, entirely to
32 Nuiqsut residents to hunt between the area between Nuiqsut
33 and the Dalton Highway. As far as I know two people from
34 Nuiqsut have reported harvesting muskoxen. There are still
35 seven more people with permits. Anyone that applies to
36 hunt this spring already has their permits and tags and
37 everything but they will need to purchase a year 2000
38 hunting license. And Leonard, those are available at the
39 city office there at Nuiqsut, I jut checked the other day
40 and they said they had licenses. So if you wouldn't mind
41 passing the word there that you can get licenses over
42 there.

43

44 We also opened a Tier I registration hunt between
45 the Dalton Highway Corridor and the Canning River. We've
46 been issuing permits in Nuiqsut and Kaktovik since October
47 1st. The way this one works is anyone that wants to can
48 get a permit but, you know, we've restricted it to those
49 two villages. It makes it difficult for other people from
50 other areas to get the permits. And when four muskoxen are

00082

1 harvested then we'll close the hunt. It's kind of the same
2 as the other muskox hunt, anybody that gets a permit needs
3 to have a current hunting license. And no use of aircraft
4 is allowed in this hunt.

5
6 We're planning on doing a census of muskox in Unit
7 26(B) during April and we'll be doing composition counts in
8 July.

9
10 Moose. Moose numbers are still low on the North
11 Slope. The population stopped declining but the numbers
12 were very low at that time. It's slowly recovering from
13 the lull of the mid-90s. The calf survival has increased
14 quite a lot during recent years but the numbers just got so
15 low that it's kind of taking a while to build up numbers to
16 where the population can increase more rapidly. The open
17 season at this time is a limited hunt in the area up stream
18 from Nuiqsut. For moose we plan to conduct a census in
19 April and then we'll be doing calving surveys in June.

20
21 Caribou. We took pictures for a photo census last
22 summer for both the Teshekpuk and the Western Arctic herds.
23 We're currently counting caribou on the photographs and
24 should have a population estimate for the Teshekpuk herd
25 this summer and then for the Western Arctic herd by -- for
26 Teshekpuk by the spring and the Western Arctic herd by next
27 summer. It's just that there are so many caribou in the
28 Western Arctic herd now it takes a long time to get all
29 those photographs counted. And the photographs of the
30 Porcupine herd, as Greg mentioned will be taken this summer
31 and so we'll have a more recent population estimate for
32 that herd after that process is completed, too.

33
34 For both the Western Arctic and the Teshekpuk herd,
35 we'll be doing counts this spring to see how many calves
36 survived the winter, we'll do that in March. And then
37 we'll do calving success and location surveys in June. We
38 plan to capture caribou near Teshekpuk Lake in mid-July and
39 we'll be testing some of those for contaminants and
40 diseases and attaching radio collars.

41
42 That's it for my report. Questions.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Geoff.
45 Questions for Geoff.

46
47 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Yes.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

50

00083

1 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Yeah, concerning moose
2 and the population still low on the North Slope, is that
3 the entire North Slope or is that just a certain section
4 that you count?

5
6 MR. CARROLL: Well, moose populations
7 declined dramatically all across the North Slope in the
8 early '90s probably at a 75 percent decline, you know,
9 across the North Slope and it's pretty interesting that it
10 was that widespread, you know, it wasn't some little
11 isolated factor somewhere. It was something that affected
12 the moose in that area and in fact, down in the Noatak
13 River in Northwestern Alaska, in that area, too, there was
14 quite a moose decline during that time. It wasn't as
15 dramatic as up here, you know, so much that it required
16 closing the moose season but they probably had, you know, a
17 25 percent decline down there, too. There were probably
18 major weather factors and things that kind of added up to
19 bring about a pretty major -- a moose decline over a pretty
20 major area.

21
22 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: I just wanted to try
23 to find out, you know, if the count that you performed on
24 the moose, you know, is between Canada and Point Hope and
25 all across and the middle of all of these different lands
26 that are designated as, you know, in ANWR, in NPR-A, all
27 those, and that's the total count?

28
29 MR. CARROLL: Well, personally I basically
30 do what we call Subunit 26(A), you know, which is kind of
31 the western two-thirds of the North Slope. And then other
32 people, people from the Fairbanks Fish and Game office and
33 people from the Arctic Wildlife Refuge do counts in Game
34 Management Units 26(B) and (C) and in the ANWR area and
35 that area between the Itkillik River and the Canning River.
36 So you know it's two or three different organizations that
37 are doing counts, but, you know, one way or another they
38 all get counted.

39
40 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Do you know what was
41 the total amount that was estimated to be, that's still low
42 but slowly recovering?

43
44 MR. CARROLL: The population in 26(A) went
45 from about 1,600 moose down to about 420 moose. I know
46 that pretty well. I can't give you exact numbers, you
47 know, in those other areas but there aren't as many moose
48 farther to the east but there are pretty substantial moose
49 populations over there, too.

50

00084

1 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Has there been a limit
2 on the amount of moose that can be taken now? Is it only
3 subsistence, because on this report from one of the park
4 guys, they got a total of some amount of moose from the
5 North Slope that have taken and transported out of the
6 Slope?

7
8 MR. CARROLL: I'm not sure what report that
9 is. The moose season has been closed for almost all of the
10 North Slope except for that area just up stream from
11 Nuiqsut. We made an exception there because they knew how
12 important it was for subsistence hunters in Nuiqsut so that
13 was -- so we kept a limited hunt opened there. A hunt just
14 during the month of August and just for bulls and with no
15 use of aircraft allowed so that pretty much kept everybody
16 else out of that area. So that's the only area that's been
17 open for the last four years.

18
19 MR. McCLELLAN: Mr. Chairman.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Greg.

22
23 MR. McCLELLAN: If I could comment.
24 Gordon, for 26(C), the North Slope, like Geoff said, that's
25 been closed for moose hunting and the table that I handed
26 out, that's for all the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
27 which includes the area south of the Brooks Range. So a
28 lot of, like especially the moose, that's all primarily --
29 that's all being taken south of the Brooks Range. None of
30 that is occurring on the North Slope for the moose. But
31 those figures are for all the Refuge not just the North
32 Slope of the Refuge.

33
34 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Yeah, I was just
35 curious, you know, if these here are on the -- if they're
36 getting them from the North Slope side when there is a
37 major problem with the moose in trying to recover.
38 Probably subsistence would be the only type -- a limited
39 type that you can get this animal.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Gordon.
42 Mike.

43
44 MR. PATKOTAK: Just out of curiosity,
45 Geoff, the liken that the caribou feeds on, really recently
46 it's been warming up and does that liken pretty fast
47 growing there or anybody ever study it?

48
49 MR. CARROLL: No liken is fairly slow
50 growing and that's one, you know, factor, you know, the

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1 range ecology or whatever. With caribou you always have to
2 take that into account. You know, if populations grow too
3 large and overgraze an area it takes a while for it to
4 recover because they are fairly slow growing plants.

5
6 MR. PATKOTAK: How about the green leaves
7 that it feeds on, the grass?

8
9 MR. CARROLL: What, do you mean does it
10 recover quickly?

11
12 MR. PATKOTAK: Yeah.

13
14 MR. CARROLL: Well, you know, anything up
15 here on the North Slope recovers fairly slowly compared to
16 anyplace else. So I mean that's always a big factor, you
17 know, overgrazing an area -- in any area that takes a while
18 to recover. I think that's why you see a herd like the
19 Teshekpuk herd, you know, use one area one winter and then
20 another area another winter, and another, you know, they
21 seem to always keep themselves moving around so -- it's
22 probably so they don't overgraze any one particular area.

23
24 MR. PATKOTAK: Thank you.

25
26 MR. TUKLE: Mr. Chairman.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Leonard and then Ray.

29
30 MR. TUKLE: Geoff, on the muskox, two
31 muskox were taken and last week we were told by our mayor
32 that the muskox season is closed within -- from Nuiqsut to
33 the Dalton Highway. And he told us that we had to get on
34 the other side of the Dalton Highway in order to complete
35 our four or how many muskox that we permit holders got.

36
37 MR. CARROLL: It sounds like there's been
38 some.....

39
40 MR. TUKLE: Is that true?

41
42 MR. CARROLL: No, there's been some
43 miscommunication. What's happening is that there are two
44 different hunts. One is what we call the Tier II hunt and
45 that's for the area between Nuiqsut and the Haul Road, and
46 that's what, like you get a permit for, that's the Tier II
47 hunt, Tier II permits that, you know, you guys apply for
48 and there are nine permits given out. Those people that
49 got those nine permits, they can hunt in the area between
50 Nuiqsut and the Haul Road.

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1 MR. TUKLE: Okay.

2

3 MR. CARROLL: The other hunt that we're
4 talking about, this Tier I hunt is designed for the area
5 between -- well, to the east of the Corridor on the Haul
6 Road over to the Canning River. It's that area to the east
7 of the Haul Road. And in that anybody that wants to can
8 pick up a permit in the city office there in Nuiqsut or
9 Kaktovik and travel over there and hunt and the season is
10 open until four animals -- or four muskox are harvested.
11 So they're just talking about two different hunts there.

12

13 MR. TUKLE: Yeah.

14

15 MR. CARROLL: But please try to get that
16 straightened out when you get back. Anybody that has those
17 original nine permits still can hunt in that area between
18 Nuiqsut and the Haul Road but they do need to get a year
19 2000 hunting license to be legal.

20

21 MR. TUKLE: Okay. I guess our mayor
22 misunderstood that about the permit holders were told to go
23 on the other side of the Dalton Highway.

24

25 MR. CARROLL: No.

26

27 MR. TUKLE: I'll have a talk with him.

28

29 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, please get that
30 straightened out when you get back.

31

32 MR. TUKLE: Okay.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: And you'll call Leonard.

35

36 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, I'll call Leonard, too.
37 But if we both work on it and both pass the word.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Ray.

40

41 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Geoff, you said you were
42 going to do some contaminant study around the Unit 26 area?
43 Are you aware if there's going to be any kind of the same
44 studies in Unit 23?

45

46 MR. CARROLL: In Unit 23, whenever we
47 capture caribou when they're swimming across the Kobuk
48 River and we go down there and do our caribou capture in
49 September and we take blood samples from all of those
50 caribou and so that -- those blood samples will be analyzed

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1 and looked for disease and contaminants, that sort of
2 thing. I don't think there's any plan right now to kill
3 caribou and check them out for contaminants in 23 so.....

4
5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mike.

6
7 MR. PATKOTAK: Has anything ever been done
8 like say to reduce waterfly, I mean anything like that ever
9 been considered? I mean out of curiosity.

10
11 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, well, not on a large
12 scale. They do that with the reindeer herds down on the
13 Seward Peninsula. There's a drug called ivermectin, you
14 know, you give them a shot and that pretty much kills all
15 the parasites. And, you know, it helps those domestic
16 animals put on weight faster and, you know, it does help
17 them. When we capture a caribou and we put a satellite
18 radio collar on it and we really want for that animal to
19 survive we'll give it a shot with ivermectin and so we do a
20 few of them and, you know, that basically kills whatever
21 parasites are in them then. But to try to do it on a --
22 for 400,000 caribou or something, you know, it's never been
23 thought to be practical.

24
25 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ray.

28
29 MR. KOONUK, SR.: The reason I asked I ran
30 into one individual from Kotzebue, Enoch Shiedt and he told
31 me he got a grant for something like 200,000 to start
32 collecting samples. He didn't say what kind of animal
33 samples but I believe it's all the sea animals and land
34 animals because of the high rate of cancer that we got in
35 Point Hope and, you know, we got people dying left and
36 right. And this is a big concern, you know, to Point Hope.
37 You should talk with this guy, his name is Enoch Shiedt.

38
39 MR. CARROLL: Well, I'd be interested.
40 I'll call him and see what the source of the funding and
41 what the study plan is. You know, something that we've
42 talked about that's come up a couple times today is, you
43 know, getting information to the hunters on the best way to
44 collect samples from animals that they harvest and that
45 sounds like a very good direction to put some energy on. I
46 think that would be very useful. I know we're in the
47 process in Fish and Game of producing a brochure on, you
48 know, how to -- for hunters who harvest sick caribou, you
49 know, the best way to collect the samples and get them to
50 us. It would be a good program to at least think about is

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1 like what Todd and I did with the moose on the Colville
2 River when we were trying to figure out why they were dying
3 and we made these sampling kits up and, you know, I
4 distributed them to people that were going out moose
5 hunting and they were able to collect samples of the organs
6 that were useful to us to look at. It would be a way to
7 get a lot of good samples around here, have the hunters
8 that are going out in the field -- have the active hunters
9 collecting samples like that. And, you know, if the
10 hunters are interested in it and we could get a program
11 like that started that seems like it would be a real good
12 way to get a lot of samples to check for contaminants, not
13 just sick animals but healthy ones, too, you know, instead
14 of having a study where the people have to go out and kill
15 animals just to get the samples, to have the people that
16 are out there harvesting the animals anyway, just to, you
17 know, bring some samples home.

18
19 I don't know there are practical problems with
20 that, part of one of which is in order preserve these
21 samples sometimes you need to use formalin, which is, you
22 know, it's a poison basically that is probably dangerous
23 for people to carry around. I don't know we'd have to
24 think about it and think what's practical. But at least
25 coming up with a brochure on how to sample, you know, do a
26 good job of sampling sick animals and maybe healthy
27 animals, too, I think would be a very
28 good idea.

29
30 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Thanks.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Ray. Further
33 questions for Mr. Carroll. All right, thank you very much,
34 Geoff.

35
36 MR. CARROLL: Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Let me see and make sure
39 I didn't miss anybody. I think we got everything under --
40 oh, are you going to cover the subsistence update?

41
42 MR. VIAVANT: Mr. Chairman and members of
43 the Council, my name is Tim Viavant and I'm with the State
44 of Alaska Department of Fish and Game with Sport Fish
45 Division. And I'll keep this real short. I'll give you
46 just a couple of things about some estimated effort in
47 harvest data that we collect through the state wide harvest
48 survey for the North Slope area.

49
50 Total estimated sport fishing effort for the North

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1 Slope area and this is for '98, which is the most recent
2 data that we have analyzed and tabulated, declined by about
3 1,800 angler days of effort between '97 ad '98. Harvest
4 remained pretty much stable. There was some slight
5 increases in char. For all the three species that there
6 were any appreciable harvest, char there were 1,450 fish
7 estimated harvested in the entire North Slope area and of
8 those, a little over a thousand were harvested in the Haul
9 Road area which is that defined area accessible by the Haul
10 Road. Lake Trout there were only 243 estimated harvested
11 and of those a 144 were harvested within the Haul Road
12 area. And they were a about a little over 1,200 grayling
13 harvested in the entire North Slope area. And of those
14 about 630 were harvested within the Haul Road area. So
15 there hasn't been -- there's been a little bit of decrease
16 in estimated annual effort from sport anglers. And there's
17 been mostly stable amounts of harvest and most of those
18 harvest remain between 60 and 70 percent are harvested
19 within the area accessible by the Haul Road. So there
20 doesn't appear to be a lot of any particular, you know,
21 increase in sport angling effort in the North Slope
22 drainage.

23
24 The other reason I came here today was when -- was
25 it Helen or Ida, I can't remember, talked to you about the
26 resource assessment projects that the first two I believe
27 on your list of 17 were submitted by Sport Fish Division of
28 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. One is for the
29 western, what it is it, Kotzebue Sound project and project
30 number 2 is the eastern/North Slope arctic char abundance
31 project. And I just guess I wanted to answer any questions
32 that you might have about the project and answer any
33 concerns that you had. I'll give you just a little bit of
34 explanation. The office of Subsistence Management
35 requested that the State and other agencies and other, like
36 the Borough, and in any case everyone was made aware that
37 they were requesting proposals to be submitted. So we
38 submitted, I think, about six for the whole northern region
39 of the state. And these two were the only two so far that
40 were approved by the Federal Board.

41
42 The method that they asked us to submit them was
43 very abbreviated, both in time and in detail. We are yet
44 to submit a detailed plan which is called an investigation
45 plan and it will be a much more formal proposal which lays
46 out what we intend to do. This Eastern/North Slope project
47 is essentially an aerial survey project of spawning and
48 overrearing aggregations of char in the, I guess the
49 Ivishak, Anaktuvuk, Kongakut, Canning, Killik and Hulahula
50 Rivers. And it will occur more or less in late Sept --

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1 well, mid- to late September over the period of about 10
2 days. The project originally included some money to go to
3 Subsistence Division to estimate char subsistence harvests
4 in Kaktovik, Anaktuvuk and Nuiqsut. The subsistence -- I
5 don't know if it was the joint technical committee or the
6 Board, but in any case they came back to us and asked us to
7 take those segments of the project out. And I don't know
8 if they were put back into some state wide subsistence
9 harvest monitoring project or why but they told us to take
10 that portion of it out. So for right now the project is
11 only for this stock assessment.

12
13 And they also -- another thing I wanted to tell you
14 is that the project was initially proposed for attempt to
15 estimate stock composition of the subsistence harvest in
16 the three villages because it's a mixed stock fishery that
17 occurs on a number of different spawning populations and
18 it's of interest to management concern to know whether the
19 harvests are -- if a large proportion of the harvest,
20 because of time or area is occurring on a small, you know,
21 on one stock rather than spread over all the stocks. And
22 that portion of the project may be funded in future years.
23 We will probably submit a proposal in the next funding
24 cycle to continue and go on with that project.

25
26 The method of estimating it would be done using a
27 genetic analysis so that all it would require from the
28 subsistence harvest was that someone in each village would
29 be paid to collect a fin clip, you just take scissors and
30 clip a fin off of a certain number of fish or a randomly
31 sampled number of fish.

32
33 Anyway, that's all I have to say. And I would like
34 to hear any concerns that any of you have about the aerial
35 surveys that may happen this fall and answer any questions.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ida, did you have some
38 follow up comment?

39
40 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, Staff
41 Committee member. The subsistence monitoring portion was
42 removed from this particular project because before we did
43 any subsistence monitoring project we wanted a state wide
44 method for all subsistence monitoring and that was approved
45 by the Board in February. And the meeting with the Native
46 group that's going to do the portion that deals with Native
47 input into the design, we had a meeting on Monday and we
48 hope to have that completed by the end of the month to
49 decide who's doing the project and how they'll fit into the
50 other part that's being done by ADF&G. So it isn't that

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1 subsistence isn't important it's that if we're going to do
2 subsistence monitoring we want to do it in the same method
3 across the state. So it isn't indefinitely put off it's
4 put off for the duration of that project.

5
6 And as far as any projects submitted by Sports
7 Division or anybody else they were funded if they gave us
8 some data on subsistence not just funded because they're
9 sport fish and it has to be tied to subsistence or it
10 wasn't funded.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Ida.
13 Well, the only concern I got at Kaktovik is right after
14 Labor Day and when we catch the quota on whales and we do
15 go up in front of Hulahula River and just maybe consult
16 with the Alaska Whaling Commission if you're going to do
17 aerial surveys. That's a critical time for no disturbance
18 either on land or at sea. So you might just want to run
19 that by Maggie and see if she has any comments for aerial
20 survey around Hulahula regarding the timing.

21
22 MR. VIAVANT: Well, I will certainly
23 contact her. We also plan on, like I mentioned before, if
24 this project goes on for future years, to attempt to
25 estimate the stock composition we would be working with
26 Subsistence Division and perhaps the North Slope Borough
27 and the village councils in order to, you know, cooperate
28 on either estimating the subsistence harvest or at least
29 collecting the samples that we might need.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, questions.
32 Gordon.

33
34 MR. G. HOPSON, SR.: Is it my understanding
35 that part of the study that's your proposal is to determine
36 if the fish are different species in each river; is
37 that.....

38
39 MR. VIAVANT: Mr. Chairman.....

40
41 MR. G. HOPSON, SR.: I mean the same kind
42 of fish but they frequent -- that fish goes to that one and
43 that one goes to -- and they frequently come back and forth
44 to that one?

45
46 MR. VIAVANT: That's correct. Fish and
47 Wildlife Service did a couple of studies where they were
48 able to determine that the different stocks in different
49 drainages on the North Slope are, for the most part,
50 isolated to those drainages. They will go out to the ocean

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1 and feed but when they return to spawn they return to the
2 same drainage. And so that's the only management concern
3 is that although there may be, you know, many, many, 70,
4 80,000 char spread out over all the drainages, if for some
5 reason because of timing of subsistence harvest activity,
6 if a certain proportion -- if a certain stock was being
7 impacted, you know, and you wouldn't really know because
8 you would still have good fishing success on all the other
9 stocks but you would be affecting the reproductive capacity
10 of that one stock. And then like I said, the other
11 component is that we would continue to fly these aerial
12 surveys so that we have a general idea of the stock health.
13 The thing about aerial surveys are that the precision that
14 you get is -- it's good to note trends but if you were to
15 see a decline of about, say, 50 percent in the number of
16 fish you counted, it really wouldn't be something to be
17 real concerned about because there's enough problems with
18 the timing and the quality of the survey that it wouldn't
19 lead you to necessarily, you know, be overly concerned.
20 But if you continued over a number of years to continue to
21 see a decline then you would know that you had some problem
22 with reproductive capacity of that stock.

23
24 MR. G. HOPSON, SR.: Yeah, I think I've
25 seen some of that kind of study on Igikpak where they put
26 radio transmitters in the fish and see where they go and
27 where they come back and where they spawn and the white
28 fish. So I think that kind of study, I think, would be
29 beneficial if you're just trying to identify the fish going
30 back to the same place.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any other questions?
33 Okay, thank you very much.

34
35 MR. VIAVANT: Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I think we got everyone
38 under agency reports. Did I leave anyone out? Going once,
39 twice, all right, let's get to the Chair's corner. Under
40 Tab U there's a letter written to Mitch, it's our annual
41 report for fiscal year '99 on the North Slope Subsistence
42 Regional Advisory Council and this is required under
43 ANILCA, Section .805(d).

44
45 The Council held its fall meeting in Anchorage
46 jointly with Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory
47 Council and our winter meeting was held in Barrow. Mr.
48 Terry Tagarook, Mr. Harry Brower and I were reappointed as
49 members to this Council this year. We again have three
50 seats and one alternate to fill during the nomination

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1 process and the application period closed, I think, last
2 Friday, February 11, and there were five or six
3 applications that were submitted to date. The elections
4 were again held at our fall meeting and the results are as
5 follows: Fenton Rexford, chairman. Vice chairman,
6 Benjamin Hopson. And secretary Harry Brower, Jr. That's
7 the officers and all the others are members.

8
9 A brief summary of the annual activities, we held
10 an early winter meeting last February 23 and 24, 1999, and
11 the Council received reports from the various State and
12 Federal fish and wildlife agencies of items of interest in
13 the North Slope region.

14
15 And our Council worked hard, also reviewed and made
16 recommendations on proposals that affected our area.
17 Proposal 63 was deferred by the submitter. North Slope
18 Council recommended that the Federal Subsistence Board
19 defer this proposal so that there would be time to evaluate
20 the current State hunt that is going on in Unit 26(A) and
21 Anaktuvuk and Point Lay area. And of course on Barrow,
22 Wainwright and Atkasuk. The Federal Board accepted the
23 Council's request to defer this Proposal 63. And then this
24 fall at our meeting in Anchorage we withdrew the proposal,
25 we're certain that we will be submitting one on muskoxen
26 and this discussion is being continued.

27
28 Proposal 48, the sheep proposal submitted by
29 Northwest Arctic. This proposal would make the existing
30 Federal subsistence sheep season established by special
31 action in October '98 permanent. Revise the season opening
32 to begin August 1 through April 1 and it would close
33 Federal public lands in these areas to non-Federally
34 qualified subsistence users along the DeLong Mountains.
35 The North Slope Council supported the proposal with
36 modification to split the 20 harvest cap to State and
37 Federal system to be harvested within DeLong Mountains. So
38 up to 10 Federal permits would be issued in Kotzebue with a
39 harvest quota of 10 full-curl rams. The registration
40 permit would allow the use of aircraft, designator hunter
41 permits were also authorized for both the Baird and DeLong
42 Mountains. The Federal Board adopted the proposal with a
43 modification as worked out between ADF&G and local entities
44 but with no closure for the DeLong Mountains.

45
46 No permits were issued for '99/2000 harvest season
47 in those mountains, DeLong and Baird, after the summer
48 survey showed that the sheep count was low.

49
50 As you know we've been working on the harvest plan

00094

1 -- interim North Slope harvest plan was acknowledged by the
2 Federal Board and supported the ideas that were expressed
3 in the harvest plan. We're working on a three -- the next
4 three years, we're trying to complete a more comprehensive
5 muskox management plan.

6
7 There are three issues, however, we know there are
8 many issues besides that but we wanted to note that Issue
9 99-01 muskox. Although we withdrew our proposal we're
10 still discussing, evaluating and gathering information to
11 submit. One for 26(A) and possibly for 26(C) as well.

12
13 Issue No. 2, again this is a comprehensive
14 management plan that we're working on, we're shooting for
15 the next three years. We have a working group that will
16 have three years to complete the plan. And I want to thank
17 the Council members and the Federal Board for their
18 support.

19
20 Issue No. 3, Council stipend. This issue is
21 ongoing. We've give up hope for -- who's our boss again,
22 back East, Babbitt, so we're going to try to workout a
23 letter to our congressmen, Don Young, Senator Stevens and
24 Murkowski. So this is an ongoing issue.

25
26 Any questions on the report?

27
28 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mike.

31
32 MR. PATKOTAK: On the per diem, when we're
33 traveling away from the -- U.S. Fish and Wildlife has a
34 policy of holding back some portions of the per diem, and
35 I'm wondering when that could be alleviated where the whole
36 amount is given to.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Wasn't there a policy or
39 some interoffice -- Peggy.

40
41 MS. FOX: Yes. Barbara had indicated that
42 this question was going to come up and we started to do
43 some research on it but we haven't completed that yet.
44 Trying to arrange travel for everybody in January and all
45 the meetings in February and March, we haven't had the time
46 to work that out. There are some questions, very valid
47 questions about the amounts that are given to members.
48 There are some flexibilities but we haven't really been
49 able to look at it all. So all I can say is by the time
50 the next round of meetings come we'll have that worked out

00095

1 to you and we'll get back to you. Hopefully whatever
2 happens it will be better than what you're receiving at
3 this time.

4
5 If I may ask, it seems the biggest problem arises
6 when we bring people into Anchorage or Fairbanks or larger
7 communities because that's where, potentially, expenses --
8 for example, I understand some people had to put some money
9 down just to use a phone in their rooms which was
10 unexpected and certainly we never anticipated, and then of
11 course the cost of taxis and whatever else people have to
12 use to get around Anchorage. Those things are not part of
13 a cash advance. They never are and never will be, it's
14 always separate; costs of taxis, buses, shuttles. Those
15 types of things related to transportation are a separate
16 allowance and they're not included in a cash advance. A
17 cash advance is intended only to take care of your meals.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

20
21 MS. FOX: But I'm not here to, you know, to
22 tell you that I'm an expert on all of this. These are
23 things that I know from being a traveler myself. But I
24 think part of it is knowing the difference is in what the
25 cash advance includes and what it doesn't include. And
26 then there is a -- at this time Council members are
27 provided 80 percent of what the total cash advance could be
28 if they, in fact, used or stayed the entire time that was
29 planned. Often travel plans change. People leave early or
30 they stay late so it's kind of based on an estimate of how
31 much time you're going to be there. At any rate, I'm aware
32 that it's a concern and we will be researching that and
33 hopefully we can improve on the situation. But it would
34 really help me if I knew specifically what the problem was
35 with the lack of money.

36
37 MR. PATKOTAK: Well, the problem is where's
38 that 80 percent, where's did the other 20 percent?

39
40 MS. FOX: Okay. The other 20 -- the policy
41 is right now is that 80 percent is what is given to
42 individuals who travel as a cash advance, and that applies
43 to us, to everybody. The reason for that is that often as
44 I indicated plans change and if you don't -- if you are
45 given more money than you are allocated for -- say, if you
46 had money for three days and you actually calculated all
47 the times that you left and returned it's only two and a
48 half days worth of meals that you're supposed to be
49 reimbursed for then we have to send a bill to you to recoup
50 the money and that's very hard for people to come up with

00096

1 sometimes. So they tend to give you little less than what
2 you might need but in the end you end up getting a check
3 for that difference rather than us having to try to
4 collect, you know, the difference at a later date. That's
5 the reason for the policy. There may be other things to it
6 but that's what I've been told. So that's the difference.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Is that a written policy?

9
10 MS. FOX: It is a written policy.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Maybe at our next
13 meeting could we get a copy of that?

14
15 MS. FOX: Okay, if that's the only question
16 but if there's other parts of it then I need to know that
17 because I need to give you a complete answer rather than
18 just one answer -- the answer to one question. But if
19 that's it, though, then that's simple.

20
21 MR. PATKOTAK: Well, if it says you're
22 going to get \$56 a day for per diem why don't you just give
23 that \$56 a day?

24
25 MS. HILDEBRAND: Because the travel just
26 changes so much.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I have a solutio for
29 that one, I think that at our next agenda item we'll have a
30 weekend meeting so Staff and us can have the same
31 opportunity to volunteer. Then we'll have a weekend
32 meeting and we'll get even. Anyway, thank you Mike. Any
33 other questions on the annual report. Thank you, Peggy.

34
35 MS. FOX: Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

38
39 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: On that same topic, I
40 think I kind of beg to differ on it. It only makes a
41 difference when you're traveling abroad somewhere else when
42 you got to go to a difference like in Anchorage. I think
43 it makes a difference when you're here, as well, trying to
44 attend these at your best to be here. The North Slope
45 Borough doesn't -- for people who work, that have a regular
46 day-to-day job that provide for themselves and their
47 children and their family, does not provide for us to be
48 here. There's no public service -- I've tried to get
49 across to telling that I'm going to be here and I think
50 it's a public service to the community and to the North

00097

1 Slope that we be here and I feel in my own mind that it's
2 very important to be here and that's how come I try to
3 attend and put my job aside for a little while and do that.
4 But it takes away from making from what I earn. And it's
5 at my own expense to be here.

6
7 MS. FOX: Yes.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you very
10 much, Peggy, Gordon and Mike. Let's see where are we,
11 again, Council stipend we're working on a draft that we
12 want to send out to the Congressional delegates regarding
13 the stipend and loss pay, volunteerism.

14
15 Council charter. Now, is the time to make
16 recommendations and I just want to throw this out to the
17 Council members and see what they think about
18 representation. I know this is an unwritten policy that we
19 have at our Council to have each of the villages
20 represented and we have enough Council, members, a total of
21 nine. And we're experiencing some village attendance
22 problems. And those villages that did have representatives
23 are living -- like in Anaktuvuk Pass and Point Lay are
24 missing, they are not in the community for the past six or
25 seven months. So I just wanted to present to the Council
26 that we have an opportunity for it to be a written policy
27 that our Council have representatives in each of the
28 villages since we're a unique region. And I know I've
29 heard a lot from Point Lay, where is our Council member,
30 he's not living here, what's the scoop? And also the same
31 thing with Anaktuvuk Pass. And we're concerned with
32 they're not getting information back to the villages and
33 that's important. The unwritten policy that we have, and I
34 want to keep it and write it down permanently into our
35 charter.

36
37 So I just want to hear comments from the Council
38 members what do you think about having it written down that
39 each of the villages, eight villages be represented out of
40 the nine? Mike.

41
42 MR. PATKOTAK: I think it's only fair to
43 the villagers in terms of information getting back to them.
44 If a representative is living away from that location then
45 that should be, I think in my own belief anyway, cause for
46 disqualification. I don't know what the other individuals
47 think about that but I feel strongly that due
48 representation to every locality should be a given. It
49 should be expected.

50

00098

1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Mike.
2 Gordon.

3
4 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: I agree with that. I
5 mean I think it's crucial that representation from an
6 affected area because each area may be unique in itself; an
7 area that have sheep, areas that don't have sheep, areas
8 that have muskox. I think representation from each is
9 crucial and that relaying these messages to the affected
10 village on how to proceed and to their hunting, to do it
11 right, and not to be -- not having a question or a cloud
12 over them, that I think a representative from there should
13 be living there.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Again, this is an
16 unwritten policy, and it's worked out real well, however, I
17 know they're not taking advantage of us or of our charter
18 on that, living outside where we selected them -- where
19 they resided but due to relocation or job, those villages
20 that are not here are -- we do not hear from them and I
21 think if our charter, if we had it written down we could
22 make sure that somebody's represented from the village. So
23 I think a motion would be in order at this time for the
24 charter request to be changed to that effect.

25
26 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman, I got one
27 question.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mike.

30
31 MR. PATKOTAK: Isn't there an alternate
32 system for the villages also? That if we were to
33 disqualify someone from sitting on the Council is the
34 alternate automatically in?

35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Not from each of the
37 villages. I think we -- we have alternates from Barrow
38 because most of our regional meetings are in Barrow and I'm
39 glad that we have an alternate otherwise we wouldn't have a
40 quorum here today. But we do have two alternates residing
41 in Barrow just so that we could have a quorum. But as far
42 as the main one probably representatives -- I think we need
43 to change our charter.

44
45 MR. PATKOTAK: So you need a motion on
46 that?

47
48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Uh-huh.

49
50 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chair, I make a motion

00099

1 to change the charter to have a representative present who
2 can represent their village. I don't know how you want to
3 put that.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: That's good. I think
6 there's eight villages, Point Hope, Point Lay, Wainwright,
7 Atqasuk, Barrow, Nuiqsut, Kaktovik and Anaktuvuk Pass. So
8 I think your motion is well.....

9
10 MR. PATKOTAK: Resident requirement, is
11 that it? If you're going to be representative of that
12 area you have to have permanent residence in that village?

13
14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes.

15
16 MR. PATKOTAK: I think that's only fair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: We need a second for
19 discussion.

20
21 MR. TAGAROOK: Second.

22
23 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Question.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All in favor then of
26 amending our charter to having representatives from each of
27 the eight villages on the North Slope say aye.

28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Those opposed same sign.

32
33 (No opposing votes)

34
35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you very
36 much. We met folks from Canada, they want to try to work
37 an international agreement with folks from our area and
38 their area, muskox, and we're still working on working with
39 our Canadian neighbors because they want to start hunting
40 muskox, too. So we're working with the group from Canada
41 on muskox just for your information.

42
43 Barbara.

44
45 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: On the motion that you
46 just did for your charter, are you giving me a directive to
47 contact the two people that are representing Point Lay and
48 Anaktuvuk Pass or do you want to put that into your charter
49 first and then.....

50

00100

1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, you can contact
2 them because I personally have been contacted by people in
3 Point Lay and the other people, the folks in Anaktuvuk Pass
4 and they're very concerned. I think we should put them on
5 notice that there has to be some way to live in the village
6 because they're absent more than the half of the year or
7 three-quarters of the year. The communities are being left
8 out.

9
10 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay, thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any other questions for
13 the Chair? All right, thank you. I don't know how to put
14 this forth but earlier I mentioned, let's see, just give me
15 a minute here, I want to pass on from our neighbors, to
16 Seward Peninsula and to the Northwest Arctic Regional
17 Councils, that we're very concerned. I've met with Grace
18 Cross from the Seward Peninsula and also Willie Goodwin and
19 we're in favor of requesting or sending a letter to the
20 Federal Board members, those that are in charge of
21 employment or are creating positions for the office of
22 Subsistence Management or others that -- our big concern is
23 that our areas do not want to be on the same table, I don't
24 know how else to put it but we don't want to be part of
25 Bristol Bay, Aleutian/Pribilof and the Kodiak, I don't know
26 how else -- plainer or simpler I can make that request.
27 I'll work with Barbara to contact Grace since she's the --
28 she wants to pursue this and both Chairs from the Northwest
29 and North Slope concur with the concern that the staffing
30 will leave us out or we'll feel left out with the other
31 bigger fishing areas. So again, Arctic Northwest and
32 Seward Peninsula do not want to be around -- or do not want
33 to be at the same table with Bristol Bay,
34 Aleutian/Pribilofs and Kodiak.

35
36 So to give it some momentum, the Chair will
37 entertain a motion to that effect. It will be a directive
38 for our coordinator and other Staff members to be aware and
39 the Federal Board that the way they're setting up the
40 informational technical committees, the information and the
41 leadership, we'll be left out between the Seward Penn,
42 Northwest Arctic and North Slope.

43
44 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chair, so moved.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Second.

47
48 MR. TAGAROOK: Second.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Moved and seconded to

00101

1 request that we work with Grace Cross, Northwest Arctic
2 Council and the North Slope, together, be separated from
3 the Bristol Bay, Aleutian/Pribilof and Kodiak staffing.
4 And that we'll be working with Helen and Barbara and the
5 Chairs to work out a memorandum to that effect.

6
7 Discussion on that.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I had a good meeting
10 with Willie and a telephone conference with -- Barbara.

11
12 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Who seconded that?

13
14 MR. TAGAROOK: I did.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Terry.

17
18 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay, thanks.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I had a good meeting
21 with them the other day and we're very concerned about that
22 and I think it's clear enough.

23
24 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Question.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Question is called, all
27 in favor of getting together with Seward Penn, Northwest
28 Arctic and North Slope, together, and being separated from
29 Bristol Bay, Aleutian/Pribilof and Kodiak areas signify by
30 saying aye.

31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Those opposed same sign.

35
36 (No opposing votes)

37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you very
39 much. Ladies and gentlemen, any other reports to come
40 before the Council? Hearing none, I'd like to move on and
41 finish our agenda. What time is it -- 4:15.

42
43 At this time at number 8, the floor is open for
44 proposals to change Federal regulations on fisheries. Any
45 proposals.

46
47 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mike.

50

00102

1 MR. PATKOTAK: I'd like to put forth a
2 proposal in terms of the hunting -- guided and unguided
3 regulations. That if any Natives qualify to be a guide or
4 to delete the part 135.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, this is fisheries.

7
8 MR. PATKOTAK: Oh, this is fisheries, oh,
9 okay.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes. We can.....

12
13 MR. PATKOTAK: This is not wildlife, oh,
14 okay.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: But on the next, I think
17 this proposal period that we go through and that's in
18 October. So we can bring this up at our September meeting
19 Mike? If you can.....

20
21 MR. PATKOTAK: Yeah. Oh, yes.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Is that a State
24 regulation or.....

25
26 MR. PATKOTAK: State regulation that was on
27 -- the Federal guidelines just follow the State guidelines.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. So we'll bring
30 that up September, Mike, if that's all right with you?

31
32 MR. PATKOTAK: Oh, that's just fine with me.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Hearing no
35 proposals for fisheries we'll move on to proposal -- change
36 Subpart D, seasons and harvest limits, methods and means,
37 Tab W. Our comments on the state wide proposals. The
38 floor is yours Helen.

39
40 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's the one we talked
41 about earlier. The next one we have to discuss is Proposal
42 43, this is in Tab W, it's Page 3 in your book. And given
43 the shortness of time I'm going to be fairly brief on this.

44
45 I just wanted to explain a little bit about how
46 we're going to -- we're going to be doing things
47 differently with fisheries so we'll be on alternating
48 schedules. So in the fall we'll take proposals for
49 wildlife, we'll review those analysis in the spring and in
50 the spring we'll take proposals for fisheries and we'll

00103

1 review those in the fall. So we'll be on kind of
2 alternating, we'll have to keep track of which ones we're
3 doing. So it means I'm really busy all year round now, no
4 summer break. I'm pretty busy anyway.

5
6 Okay Proposal 43. This one is affecting this
7 Council even though it's dealing with Unit 24 because of
8 Anaktuvuk Pass being in 24 and Anaktuvuk Pass is part of
9 this Council So it affects mostly -- it just sort of
10 peripherally affects you. The proposal came from Jack
11 Reakoff in Wiseman, and they were asking for all -- for
12 residents of Unit 24, right now, for caribou, they were
13 asking for only the people who've resided in the area for
14 less than one year -- I mean more than one year be allowed
15 to hunt caribou, have a C&T for caribou. This proposal was
16 an add-on, maybe not an add-on, but the C&T determination
17 was done in 1997 for that area and the existing C&T
18 determination right now is for residents of Unit 24,
19 including residents of Wiseman but not other residents of
20 the Dalton Highway Corridor management area and residents
21 of Galena, Kobuk, Koyukuk, Stevens Village and Tanana.
22 When they did this unfortunately there were a few
23 individuals and families who do reside permanently year-
24 round and have their primary residence along the Corridor.
25 There was specifically one family that moved from Wiseman
26 to Oldman, those people were inadvertently left out of the
27 C&T determination. So in order to conclude them this
28 proposal is asking that all residents of the Dalton Highway
29 Corridor be allowed to have C&T and hunt caribou but only
30 if they've lived there more than one year.

31
32 The analysis that goes along with this is the
33 analysis that you would have looked at in 1997 and I'm not
34 going to go through this in great detail. It goes through
35 the eight factors. It talks about each of the eight
36 factors and about the histories of the Nunumiat that live
37 in the area and the Koyukon and it doesn't specifically
38 address the individual people living along the Corridor who
39 have been left out because we don't have information on
40 those people. But the conclusion to the analysis is that
41 we support expanding the existing C&T determination for
42 caribou to include all permanent residents of the Dalton
43 Highway Corridor management. The eight factors support
44 doing this. There's enough information about the people
45 generally in the area to support that. The conclusion is
46 to reject, however, requiring a one year Corridor
47 residency. And the reason that it's been rejected is
48 because last year, in 1991 [sic], we changed the Federal
49 subsistence regulations and the concerns of the people in
50 the Dalton Highway Corridor have been now met by changing

00104

1 our regulations. And what happened was is we changed the
2 regulations to require that an individual be able -- that
3 in order to hunt under subsistence regulations, you have to
4 obtain an Alaska resident hunting license. And anybody who
5 just comes to Alaska for less than a year is then not
6 qualified to hunt under subsistence regs so there wouldn't
7 be any need to put this requirement of one year in there.
8 There's also a requirement that they have to have their --
9 maintain their primary residence. So you can't live in
10 Anchorage but then spend part of the year up in Coldfoot
11 and consider yourself a subsistence hunter you have to have
12 your primary residency in Unit 24 in the rural area.

13
14 There was -- in support -- the justification in
15 support of giving the Corridor C&T was that those people
16 are known to have long-term ties to the area and the
17 natural resources. And until 1997 when a C&T determination
18 was made and they were inadvertently excluded, they had
19 been allowed to hunt caribou in Unit 24 and they also are
20 qualified to take moose in the unit and they can do so with
21 the aid of snowmachines and firearms. There's some
22 limitations in the Dalton Highway Corridor for other
23 people. It was not -- the existing determination did not
24 intend to leave those people out. So this is a correction,
25 if you will, that we're doing,

26
27 The intent is to ensure that transient individuals,
28 those people who working in pump stations, road maintenance
29 facilities, construction camps are excluded from
30 subsistence hunting. And with this year long residency
31 requirement then they are prohibited from hunting in the
32 Corridor under subsistence regs.

33
34 We had a couple of comments on Page 21. The ADF&G
35 supported it. This is a preliminary support, I think you
36 would call it. The State's proposal asks that the Federal
37 Board make its customary and traditional use determination
38 for certain residents of the Dalton Highway Corridor
39 management area outside of Wiseman. We support the Federal
40 Board making this assessment but defer our comments pending
41 review of the Staff analysis. And then written public
42 comments, we received a comment from Peter Johnson of the
43 BLM in support. He agreed with the proposal and felt that
44 all year-round residents of the Dalton Highway Corridor
45 should be eligible to hunt caribou in this area.

46
47 That concludes my quick presentation.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you, Helen.

50

00105

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We started so quick that
2 I -- we don't have much time.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Did that cover both
5 biological and social and cultural analysis, too?

6
7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's it, yeah.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. ADF&G comments.

10
11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I read them already.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. All right. The
14 floor is open for public comments on the proposal. Hearing
15 none, Regional Council deliberation and recommendation need
16 to be heard at this time. You heard that the Staff
17 supports except the year-round requirement, one year
18 Corridor residency and the State of Alaska also supports
19 what the Staff is saying and also supports that is written.
20 So I need a motion from the Council to.....

21
22 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: To support it?

23
24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: To support it.

25
26 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Mr. Chairman.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

29
30 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Is this to support the
31 proposal without a residency of a year to go ahead and make
32 a comment from here that you can be a resident as long as
33 you live there right now?

34
35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: To support the Staff
36 recommendation is saying that, that's true?

37
38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The conclusion is on
39 Page 16, which -- I mean if you want to, I'm not trying to
40 direct the Council, but you could support the Staff
41 recommendation and that would be to support giving C&T to
42 all members of the Dalton Highway Corridor, but to reject
43 that portion requiring a one year Corridor residency
44 because it's not necessary to do.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Yokel.

47
48 MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just
49 want a point of clarification really quickly. This is for
50 the Dalton Highway Corridor south side of the Brooks Range

00106

1 only. Only Anaktuvuk Pass of the North Slope villages has
2 C&T in that area. And the Anaktuvuk Pass people rarely, if
3 ever, hunt within five miles of the highway on the south
4 side of the Brooks Range.

5
6 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Unit 24.

7
8 MR. YOKEL: Yeah.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: The reason why we're
11 involved, again, is Anaktuvuk Pass is within Unit 24. I
12 don't see no problem, the only comment that I have is that
13 you referred to a lot of Anaktuvuk Pass history and I
14 believe this is just one family. You stated at the
15 beginning since the individual and household considered in
16 this are not part of the established communities and you
17 could not do a formal study, demographics and all that
18 other stuff for them, right?

19
20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I should be able to
21 answer that but the anthropologist who worked on this is
22 from a different region and I do think they actually talked
23 to the family because they did a little field trip.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Hearing from the
26 Staff and others, I think we'll just go with the support of
27 the C&T determination and reject that portion requiring
28 that one year residency. Good enough. So Gordon, were you
29 going to make a motion to that affect or does someone else
30 want to do that.

31
32 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: I so move then.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Gordon's motion
35 is to support Proposal 43 to expand customary and
36 traditional use determination for caribou to include all
37 permanent residents of the Dalton Highway Corridor
38 management unit and reject that portion of the proposal
39 requiring for a one year Corridor residency.

40
41 Motion.

42
43 MR. TAGAROOK: Second.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Seconded by Terry.

46 Discussion.

47
48 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Question.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Question is called. All

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1 those in favor of the motion and rejecting the one year say
2 aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Those opposed same sign.

7
8 (No opposing votes)

9
10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you.

11
12 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you.

13
14 MS. DEWHURST: This proposal was made by
15 Seward Peninsula Council. The reason it's being brought to
16 your Council is it also applies to Unite 23 which is Point
17 Hope and Point Hope is under your Council.

18
19 This one's had kind of an interesting history.
20 Basically what had happened is the State Board of Game made
21 a change in their regulations about using snowmachines when
22 hunting caribou. And when the Seward Peninsula Regional
23 Council found out about that they said, well, we'd like to
24 make the same change in the Federal books to make the
25 Federal regulations the same as the State regulations. So
26 that's how this all really started. And the regulation
27 that they're requesting to be changed, right now, a
28 snowmachine may not be used to basically drive, herd,
29 harass any wildlife in the process of hunting. I'm trying
30 to find the exact wording; you may not use a motorized
31 vehicle to drive, herd, harass, or molest wildlife is the
32 way a lot of the Federal regulations read. And the State
33 regulations are very similar. But with the State they've
34 created kind of a little loophole that says that a
35 snowmachine may be used to position caribou to select
36 individual caribou for harvest provided that the animals
37 are not shot from a moving snowmachine. So this, saying
38 you can't -- you cannot shoot from a moving snowmachine but
39 you can use the snowmachine to select individual caribou.

40
41 This was made primarily -- kind of the history of
42 this, it has been recognized as a customary and traditional
43 method in much of that area to use snowmachines and ANILCA
44 certainly recognizes that. The complication that we get
45 into on the Federal side and that's where on the page after
46 the maps, Page 27 is labeled on the bottom, we have a
47 number of Federal regulations that apply for specific
48 areas, like Park Service has its own set of regs, Fish and
49 Wildlife Service on National Wildlife Refuges have their
50 own set of regs, BLM has their own set of regs and all

00108

1 those existing regs say you can't do this. You can't use a
2 snowmachine to drive, herd, harass, molest wildlife.

3
4 The question we run into on this proposal, which
5 gets interesting is kind of more of a legal question. The
6 first question that we run into is is posit -- using a
7 snowmachine to position to select individual caribou
8 different than driving or herding caribou? And what's
9 being proposed is that it is different. The problem that
10 we have is to legally justify that exclusion or that
11 loophole is we have to be able to say how it's different
12 and we haven't gotten that information yet. So we're kind
13 of in a bind here, in that, one of the things we're hoping
14 to do -- this proposal is going to be taken to you folks,
15 Northwest Arctic and Seward Penn over the course of the
16 next three weeks, and one of the things that we are asking
17 is kind of an information gathering thing. Can you explain
18 to us how using a snowmachine to position to select
19 individuals would be different than mainly herding, is I
20 think the real rub. If we can come up with some language
21 and an explanation that we can put in writing that explains
22 how it is different then it is fairly simple for us to
23 write this exclusion in. If we can't come up with an
24 example on how it's different or if people say it really
25 isn't different it's basically the same as herding, we
26 could still pass this but then we run into the complication
27 of what do we do with these other Federal regulations that
28 say it's illegal. Because we don't want to write on
29 Federal regulations in this book that says it's okay and
30 then this book over here says it's not okay. It puts the
31 user in a really tough spot because depending on which book
32 they open it up it will say two different things. So I
33 think everybody -- we don't want to get into that because
34 that's just bad for everybody. So if we can create an
35 exclusion we're perfectly willing to do that, I think, but
36 we need some helps from the Councils in how using the
37 snowmachine to position to select individuals would be
38 different than herding or driving. And that's probably the
39 big question.

40
41 And right now the initial analysis is recommending
42 is supporting this but there's a couple little caveats in
43 that if we do support it we either have to come up with
44 this exclusionary language or we run into some problems
45 with creating, like I say, different regulations in
46 different books. And what we would have to then go through
47 is go back to the Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife
48 Service and BLM and say, well, you need to change your
49 regulations. I do have a statement from the Fish and
50 Wildlife Service that they just issued this week that

00109

1 basically says they're not willing to go back and change
2 the regulations. The original Refuge regulations will stay
3 on the books. So the only way we could get around that
4 would be if we could write this exclusionary language that
5 says how it's different. Otherwise it's -- this is a
6 tricky one. And like I say, the reason you're Council is
7 involved is primarily Point Hope in that area up in the
8 northern portion of 23 who would be involved in this.

9
10 So I guess the first question, before you guys even
11 vote on if you support the proposal or not or the concept,
12 would be more an informational question. Can you explain
13 to me how, for the record, how snowmachines are
14 traditionally used primarily in Rays' area but even in
15 other parts of the Slope? How they're used as far as when
16 you're hunting caribou? If this is a valid thing to say
17 you can use them to position to select and how that would
18 be different than herding. That's really the -- it feels
19 like we're splitting hairs and I think legally we are
20 splitting hairs but if we want to do this and create this
21 and make this legal we have to split hairs. We need some
22 help, I guess, is the thing.

23
24 MR. PATKOTAK: (In Native)

25
26 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: (In Native)

27
28 MR. PATKOTAK: (In Native)

29
30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: (In Native)

31
32 MR. PATKOTAK: (In Native)

33
34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah.

35
36 MR. PATKOTAK: Donna.

37
38 MS. DEWHURST: Uh-huh.

39
40 MR. PATKOTAK: What I've seen in the past
41 and what I see the intent of this proposal is, it's been
42 done traditionally before. You position your hunters to
43 where you're going to sort of like herd your caribou. Like
44 if your caribou are over -- I mean your hunters are over
45 here herds the caribou the snowmachine moves over here
46 heading to them and then shows itself to the caribou and
47 heads towards, slowly, and then the caribou is going to go
48 the opposite direction of the snowmachine to the hunter.
49 I've seen it done that way and traditionally done that way.
50 Before when we were teenagers they'd let us go out on foot

00110

1 and herd them that way.

2

3 MS. DEWHURST: Right. Well, see that's the
4 problem we have is that you have to understand, if this is
5 passed and let's say the Refuge keeps their regulations on
6 the books, their regulations are going to say it's illegal
7 to herd with a snowmachine and if we write these
8 regulations we'll say it's still illegal to herd but it's
9 legal to position. The problem we have is if you have a
10 law enforcement guy up on the hill watching this scene like
11 you say, we have to be able to explain to that law
12 enforcement guy what the difference is between herding and
13 positioning, and that's where we're running into problems.

14

15 If we talked about what you just said, how is that
16 different than herding?

17

18 MR. PATKOTAK: Well, there is no
19 difference, not at least in -- well, there is a difference
20 but there's -- I've never herd an English word for herding,
21 have you? I mean (In Native)

22

23 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (In Native)

24

25 MR. PATKOTAK: (In Native)

26

27 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (In Native)

28

29 MR. PATKOTAK: Yeah, but it's not
30 considering herding.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Herding would be to
33 contain them.

34

35 MR. PATKOTAK: Contain them into a certain
36 corral. And that's the big difference right there, to
37 contain them into a -- like cattle ranchers.

38

39 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Like with the reindeer.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah.

42

43 MR. PATKOTAK: Like you're herding them
44 into an enclosed area, that's herding.

45

46 MS. DEWHURST: Okay.

47

48 MR. PATKOTAK: When you're positioning
49 caribou you're out in the open, you're not putting them
50 into an enclosed corral so to speak. You're not trapping

00111

1 them into an enclosed area. That's positioning.

2

3 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Wait, I think, Peggy.

6

7 MS. FOX: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. I
8 need to modify something Donna said. She indicated that
9 the Refuge or Fish and Wildlife Service is unwilling to
10 change its regulations but I need to point out that the
11 Regional Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service sits on
12 the Board and if he chooses to support this proposal based
13 on what he's heard then he is the one who can direct the
14 Refuge or direct whoever to change those regulations. It's
15 one in the same person who has the authority to make
16 decisions on this regulation and the existing regulation in
17 the Refuge.

18

19 MS. DEWHURST: Well.....

20

21 MS. FOX: They will not necessarily be in
22 conflict, it's a matter of, you know, regulations change
23 over time, if this one changes then that one can change to
24 reflect a change in direction.

25

26 MS. DEWHURST: I guess what I was reading
27 was what I was given on Friday and.....

28

29 MS. FOX: I know, but we need to keep the
30 two separate. What our Staff analysis says and then what
31 an agency comment says, which comes at a later point.

32

33 MS. DEWHURST: Okay.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Peggy. We
36 had a hand over here, Geoff, do you want to continue.....

37

38 MR. CARROLL: I think this is all a matter
39 of terminology.

40

41 MS. HILDEBRAND: Semantics.

42

43 MR. CARROLL: Semantics, yeah. The word,
44 herding. I think herding has been traditional use method
45 of hunting all over for almost ever. I mean whether you
46 walk out and chase the caribou to where you have somebody
47 or deer or whatever or use your dog sled to -- last weekend
48 I did that, I took my dog sled out to chase some caribou
49 over to the guy who was standing there and shot one, you
50 know, I don't think that seems like that's herding to me.

00112

1 Or maybe if you want to call it driving, I don't know,
2 instead of herding.

3
4 MS. DEWHURST: Well, where some of this is
5 coming from is our solicitor, our lawyer, who is asking us
6 for the legal difference. So he is asking us to split
7 hairs on words.

8
9 MR. CARROLL: Well, it seems like what you
10 want to get away from is you don't want -- you've probably
11 all seen it too, somebody going out with their snowmachine
12 and charging into.....

13
14 MS. DEWHURST: Right.

15
16 MR. CARROLL:a bunch of caribou and
17 scattering the caribou all over the place and jumping off
18 and shooting them. I mean it's that fast driving that -- I
19 don't know.

20
21 MS. DEWHURST: Well, that's what we talked
22 about is, you know, there's some cases that are obviously
23 illegal, you know, harassment where you take the
24 snowmachine and you make the caribou run like crazy. And
25 that's an obviously illegal situation. But what we run
26 into is the stuff in the middle ground, well, how are we
27 going to decide whether it's legal or not legal. If we --
28 if we have one regulation that says positioning is legal
29 but we have another regulation that says herding is not
30 legal; it gets into a sticky spot for the officer to decide
31 whether what he witnessed was herding or positioning if you
32 can see what I'm saying.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I wish Mr. Hopson was
35 here. The less regulations we have the better. I think it
36 could be said in one sentence there. But let's see Gordon
37 had his hand up and then Fred, did you have your hand up or
38 somebody back there?

39
40 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: No, but I could say
41 something. Go ahead Gordon.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

44
45 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Mr. Chairman, the
46 terminology is -- I think there is some difference and then
47 if you look at it another way there's no difference. I
48 mean there's traditional ways of hunting that's gone beyond
49 -- before caribou -- before snowmachines arrived. It's the
50 same thing, it's just a new tool. It's just a new means of

00113

1 getting at it. And it was done before. There's lots of
2 places on the Slope where traditional driving into natural
3 amphitheaters where they can go in and they only come out
4 one way and then you're positioning yourself to get these
5 animals. It's the same principle applies. And if you look
6 at it in another way, herding is just putting animals
7 together so you can take care of them, maintain them and
8 select the good ones and use them for food. It's the same
9 thing. you're positioning yourself with a snowmachine and
10 herding them so that you can get your food and selecting
11 the ones you want. I think there's -- the end of it is the
12 selection of the animal. I think it's a little complicated
13 to try and distinguish without getting into some other
14 conflict. You know, there is -- it can go both ways. If
15 you look at it and describe it in different ways.

16
17 So I mean if that's any kind of a help, that's what
18 I think. Yeah, harassment and hazing shouldn't be part of
19 it.

20
21 MS. DEWHURST: Well, I think everybody
22 understands that that's pretty clear-cut difference. Where
23 we run into the sticky part is the difference between herd
24 and positioning. But even if, you know, if we say well,
25 there isn't much of a difference we could still proceed and
26 we may end up perfectly well doing that. That won't
27 preclude us from proceeding. It was just -- that was one
28 of the requests we had when we take this to the Council was
29 to try to get some more information on it that we could
30 use.

31
32 MR. PATKOTAK: Sounds like it's just a
33 definition problem. You know herding is one thing and like
34 I said harassing is another thing and positioning is
35 something altogether completely different, too. And I
36 don't think you can -- well, it comes to English, I'm
37 quickly learning that there can be a hundred different
38 meanings depending on how we use the word in context. So
39 if you get more results -- enforce -- enforcement officer,
40 he's going to be interpreting it in his own way anyway. So
41 I think there's definitely a need to define what this is.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I think the proposed
44 regulation is pretty simple. I would just leave it at
45 that.

46
47 MS. DEWHURST: Well, what we are -- what
48 the Staff recommendation is is to basically support it at
49 this time.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yep, I think that's what
2 we need to do. The proposed regulation states a
3 snowmachine may be used to position caribou to select
4 individual caribou for harvest provided that the animals
5 are not shot from a moving snowmachine. To me, that's
6 pretty simple right there. And Staff recommendation is
7 just to modify -- it just states the National Preserve
8 excluded. I think that's pretty simple.

9
10 Sandy.

11
12 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 I just want to make sure that it's clear also as Donna
14 said, the Park Service regulation actually is exactly the
15 same as the Fish and Wildlife regulation, the words are
16 exactly the same. I came here with a goal of mostly trying
17 to listen and I appreciate the things that many of you just
18 said about what positioning is and what it isn't, and
19 that's really helpful. We'll be all asking the same
20 questions in Seward Peninsula and the Northwest Arctic in
21 the following weeks. The Park Service does have the same
22 problem that Fish and Wildlife has, and that is, the
23 regulation says no herding, hazing, harassing or driving,
24 okay. So even if the Federal Board does support this and
25 change it it's still on the books, it would be, those
26 words, okay, may be legal activities. So like the Fish and
27 Wildlife Service and the BLM for that matter, we would then
28 have to undertake essentially changing our reg which is a
29 lengthy process. The agency regulations don't change as
30 simply as the Board regulations. It's usually a longer
31 process, it's usually a national audience and it's a more
32 drawn out affair. So Donna -- you know, Donna's explained
33 all that and I'll stop at that point.

34
35 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, Mr. Armstrong and
38 then the Board will -- the Council will make a
39 recommendation.

40
41 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: I was going to sit down
42 and be quiet but I guess I can't. It's not herding. I
43 mean you just need to be explicit and clear that this is
44 not herding. You're positioning an animal, you know, so
45 you select the right animals that you want, the healthy and
46 the good ones.

47
48 I was involved in the development of the
49 regulations in GMU 23 with hunting with snowmachines, with
50 hunting caribou from a boat, stuff like that. We had to be

00115

1 absolutely clear that we're really not herding animals and
2 that was it, period. There was no herding of animals.
3 You're just positioning to shoot.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Uh-huh.

6
7 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: That's all there is to
8 it. If the solicitor says, well, you can't herd then
9 you're going to have to tell him we're not herding, period.
10 If he comes up with that term then tell him he's wrong.
11 That's the bottom line. You have to make regulations that
12 are logical and clear. How are we going to enforce this?
13 What's harassment? What's herding? It's got to be
14 logical. And if they come up with this kind of logic that
15 says you can't do this because of that then that's not
16 logical. But clearly, what the language that's been
17 developed, it's clear and concise just like you say.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, it is.

20
21 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Just be ready to defend
22 that, you know, when it comes before the Board for
23 deliberation.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Uh-huh, exactly. Thank
26 you Fred.

27
28 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, Proposal 53 is
31 before us. I'll just open the floor for public comments on
32 Proposal 53. Hearing none, Regional Council deliberation.
33 You heard the summaries and Seward Penn, I think, has
34 worked hard on this, our neighbors down around Nome.
35 People want to simplify their way of catching caribou. You
36 were going to say something Terry.

37
38 MR. TAGAROOK: I move to support Proposal
39 53.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, thank you Terry.

42
43 MR. C. HOPSON: I second the motion.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, the motion I just
46 want to clarify that this Proposal 53, as submitted by
47 Seward Penn, was there any major modification from the
48 Staff -- I think the Bering Land Bridge language is
49 inserted into the record. That seems a minor modification
50 so we can support Seward Peninsula's proposal. Any further

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1 discussion?

2

3 MR. KOONUK, SR.: Question.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Question's called. All
6 in favor of supporting Proposal 53 by Seward Peninsula
7 signify by saying aye.

8

9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All those opposed same
12 sign.

13

14 (No opposing votes)

15

16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Donna. So
17 we're done with the proposals. Again, note the time toward
18 the fall we have, I think, a December deadline for
19 proposals to come in. The time and place of the next
20 meeting, there's a calendar towards the end of your booklet
21 that shows the open window and it starts September 11th
22 through October 2000.

23

24 MR. PATKOTAK: And you want it on a
25 weekend, right?

26

27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, on a weekend. It
28 doesn't say Monday or Tuesday on these, though, however.
29 One, two, three, four, five, six, seven so they're open on
30 weekends too. Let's see, AFN is usually around the last
31 part of October. I know Harry's concerned on the fishing
32 time in October.

33

34 What's the wish of the Council.

35

36 MR. PATKOTAK: Fall whaling, too, you got
37 to consider that.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Fall whaling.

40

41 MR. TAGAROOK: Well, caribou hunting.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Right in the middle some
44 place.

45

46 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Mr. Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon.

49

50 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: I just want to make

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1 sure, you know, I do fall fishing, it's about from -- about
2 the third week of September to about the second week of
3 October that would very much not like to be disturbed out
4 there as far as having to travel up here.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, that brings us to
7 AFN week so our window kind of closes around September 23rd
8 to October 21. And Harry's mentioned that a lot, the fall
9 meetings -- winter -- fall fishing really happens like you
10 say, end of September through the third week in October.
11 Window opens September 11th.

12
13 MR. PATKOTAK: That would be a good time,
14 11th and 12th.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay, what day are
17 these, do they start on Sunday, I don't have a MS.
18 DEWHURST:

19
20 MS. HILDEBRAND: Yes.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: September 10, is that a
23 Sunday?

24
25 MS. HILDEBRAND: Yes.

26
27 MR. PATKOTAK: Sunday, yeah.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Sunday. Monday is the
30 11th and the 12th is a Tuesday. Then we have travel dates.

31
32 MR. PATKOTAK: That whole week of September
33 10 is good.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: If we allow ourselves
36 traveling days, Monday, go home 14th -- 11 and 12 or 12 and
37 13, sound good of September.

38
39 MR. G. BROWER, SR.: Travel is on a
40 weekday?

41
42 MR. PATKOTAK: No, that's on Tuesday and
43 Wednesday.

44
45 MR. TAGAROOK: That will give us enough
46 time to go home before the weekend.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: 12 and 13.

49
50 MR. PATKOTAK: 12 and 13, okay by me.

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: 12 and 13. Any
2 objections to that? In Barrow, place will be TBA. For
3 your information 28 and 29 of March is the Federal North
4 Slope Fish and Game Committee, North Slope Borough Fish and
5 Game Committee.

6
7 All right. That brings us to 10, I want to thank
8 everybody for coming in and I'm surprised that we did this
9 in one day and I'm happy. I'm sure Helen and Donna might
10 be happy about that, too as well as other folks.

11
12 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We're happy to be here.

13
14 MR. PATKOTAK: For your information over
15 there, there's a baleen scrimshaw, scrimshaw baleen over by
16 Barbara over there. It's pretty cheap.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Motion to adjourn.

19
20 MR. KOONUK, SR.: So moved.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Moved by Ray.

23
24 MR. TAGAROOK: Second.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Seconded by Terry to
27 adjourn. All in favor say aye.

28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All those opposed same
32 sign.

33
34 (No opposing votes)

35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you very much
37 everyone.

38
39 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)
40 * * * * *

