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NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL
ADVISORY COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

February 19, 2003
Barrow, Alaska

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Harry Brower, Chairman
Amos Agnasagga
Rosemary Ahtuanagaruak
Paul Bodfish
Earl Williams
Terry Tagarook
Regional Coordinator, Barbara Armstrong

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Barrow, Alaska - 2/19/2003)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning everybody.

I'd like to call the meeting of the Regional Advisory
Council to order, please. And good morning everybody.

My name's Harry Brower. I'll turn this
over to Barb for roll call, please.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Good morning. Harry
Brower, Jr.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Raymond Panak (ph) is
absent. Terry Tagarook.

MR. TAGAROOK: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Amos Agnasagga.

MR. AGNASAGGA: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Peter Earl Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Paul S. Bodfish, Sr.

MR. BODFISH: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Ray Koonuk is excused.
Rosemary Ahtuanagaruak.

36
37 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: (In Native) Here.
38
39 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Mike Patkotak is
40 excused. You have a quorum Mr. Chair.
41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Barb. Okay,
43 my name is Harry Brower, Jr., and I'd like to welcome you
44 all to Barrow. This is one of our quarterly meetings for
45 the North Slope Regional Advisory Council. And we'll go
46 around and do the introductions starting with Earl.
47 Introduce yourself and then we'll get started here after we
48 get through with the introductions.
49
50 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay, good morning. Earl
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1 Williams from Anaktuvuk.
2
3 MR. AGNASAGGA: My name is Amos Agnasagga
4 from Point Lay.
5
6 MR. TAGAROOK: Terry Tagarook from
7 Wainwright.
8
9 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: Rosemary Ahtuanagaruak,
10 Nuiqsut.
11
12 MR. BODFISH: Paul Bodfish from Atqasuk.
13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Council
15 members. And we'll go ahead and start with Barb, I guess,
16 she's walking around.
17
18 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I'm Barb Armstrong,
19 Coordinator for North Slope Council.
20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm not sure what your
22 name is, sir?
23
24 MR. EASTLAND: Oh, Warren Eastland. I'm a
25 wildlife biologist with BIA.
26
27 MR. UBERUAGA: Rich Uberuaga, Fish and
28 Wildlife Service in Anchorage.
29
30 MR. JENNINGS: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
31 Council members. Tim Jennings. I'm with the Office of
32 Subsistence Management in Anchorage. And I have one other
33 brief announcement to make at this time. Helen Armstrong
34 who is normally at these meetings and is your Staff
35 anthropologist can't be here because her daughter is having
36 surgery so she sends her regrets that she couldn't be here
37 today.
38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Thank you, Tim.
40
41 MS. WHEELER: Hello, Mr. Chair. I'm Polly

42 Wheeler. I'm with the Office of Subsistence Management
43 also and I work with the Fisheries Information Services so
44 I'll be providing that report and pinch-hitting for Helen
45 so I'll be doing the anthropologist Staff analysis on
46 wildlife proposals.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

49
50 MR. RABINOWITCH: Good morning. I'm Sandy
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1 Rabinowitch with the National Park Service. I serve as
2 Staff Committee to the Federal Subsistence Board.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Sandy.

5
6 MR. CHEN: Good morning. My name is Glenn
7 Chin. I'm a fisheries biologist for the Bureau of Indian
8 Affairs. I also sit as a Staff Committee member.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Glenn.

11
12 MR. PEDERSEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
13 I'm Sverre Pedersen, I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish
14 and Game.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Sverre.

17
18 MR. WHEELER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,
19 Council. I'm Gary Wheeler, assistant Refuge Manager of the
20 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Fish and Wildlife Service.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.

23
24 MS. BROWN: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
25 Council members. I'm Wennona Brown, subsistence
26 coordinator for the Arctic, Kanuti and Yukon Flats National
27 Wildlife Refuges, Fish and Wildlife Service.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

30
31 MR. FISHER: Good morning, Mr. Chair. Dave
32 Fisher, Fish and Wildlife Service, Subsistence Office.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

35
36 MR. LEAN: Hello. Charlie Lean with the
37 National Park Service based in Nome. I work with fisheries
38 in Gates of the Arctic and Western Arctic Park lands.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Charlie.

41
42 MR. YOKEL: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
43 Council. I'm Dave Yokel with Bureau of Land Management.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dr. Yokel.

46
47 MS. MCINTOSH: Good morning, Mr. Chair.

48 I'm Stacie McIntosh with the Bureau of Land Management.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Stacie. And

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1 then we have our court reporter.

2

3 REPORTER: And I'm Nathan Hile with

4 Computer Matrix.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, very much.

7 Good morning everybody and thanks again and welcome you all

8 to Barrow. I know it's a little bit chilly out there for

9 you all but bear with us, you'll get by somehow.

10

11 We have an agenda before us for the Council

12 to review and adopt this morning. Barb, are there any

13 other items we need to add on?

14

15 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: No.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If there's no items under

18 13?

19

20 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: There is a request made

21 by BLM, that if they would give their presentation sometime

22 this morning after your break, it would be appreciated, it

23 would take about a half an hour.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

26

27 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That's the only change

28 that I know of, thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Barb. I'll

31 give the Council a couple of minutes to review the agenda.

32

33 (Pause)

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The Chair will entertain

36 a motion for the adoption of the agenda for the North Slope

37 Regional Advisory Council at this time.

38

39 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chair, I so move.

40

41 MR. AGNASAGGA: Second.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on the

44 floor for the adoption of the agenda and it has been

45 seconded. Any discussion.

46

47 MR. BODFISH: Call for the question.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question's been called.

50 All in favor of the adopting the agenda signify by saying

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1 aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. So we need to
6 figure out the presentation from BLM. You said after a
7 break, Barb?
8
9 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, sometime this
10 morning.
11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.
13
14 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Probably after your
15 election of officers and then you can take a break after
16 that if you want.
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.
19
20 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Thank you.
21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Next on the
23 agenda is the review and adoption of the minutes of
24 September 4, 2002 and that would be under Tab A. I'll give
25 the Council a few minutes to review the minutes from
26 September 4. I know there's a couple of corrections I'd
27 like to add on once we get into the discussion portion.
28
29 (Pause)
30
31 MR. BODFISH: Mr. Chair.
32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Paul.
34
35 MR. BODFISH: I move to accept the
36 September 4, 2002 minutes.
37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on the
39 floor to accept the minutes September 4, 2002.
40
41 MR. TAGAROOK: Second.
42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a second to the
44 motion. Discussion from the Council. While we're under
45 discussion I'd like to make a couple of corrections under
46 this. On the first page it reads NSBWL, I think it's
47 supposed to read North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife
48 Management, under the acronyms. And then one name needs to
49 be corrected which is Craig George, instead of Tom
50 Craighead, that name needs to come out and put Craig George
00007
1 in there.
2
3 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Craig George?
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.
6
7 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Instead of.....
8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tom Craighead.
10
11 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Another comment -- or
14 it's just a question, I guess, I have to Mr. Uberuaga.
15 There's some discussion here about the proposal, the one we
16 deferred to take action on this proposal until there is
17 some discussion points brought out or what -- it read
18 something about leaving it up to the originators to make
19 the final comments on this, which is Proposal 28 from the
20 last meeting. I wanted to find out if there was any action
21 taken on that. Proposal 28 was in regards to the opening
22 of fisheries -- scheduling, opening and closing are -- as
23 the same as those issued for subsistence taking of fish
24 under Alaska emergency orders, Section 16.05.060 unless
25 superseded by a Federal special action. It also reads on
26 Page 11 of the minutes, this proposal submitted by the
27 Office of Subsistence Management would streamline the
28 Federal Subsistence Board's special action process.
29
30 Mr. Uberuaga, you were the presenter on
31 this proposal.
32
33 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, do you have a
34 question about what happened to this proposal?
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes. I would like to
37 find out if there was any action taken by the Board in
38 regards to this proposal. Thank you.
39
40 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chair. Tim
41 Jennings, Office of Subsistence Management. The Federal
42 Subsistence Board did pass this proposal in a modified
43 form, in that, instead of statewide application the
44 streamlining of special actions only applies to the Yukon
45 Kuskokwim area but the Board did pass that for those two
46 areas at their December board meeting.
47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Jennings.
49 I think those are all my comments to the minutes of
50 September 4. Any further discussion on the minutes by the
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1 Council?
2
3 MR. BODFISH: I'll call the question, Mr.
4 Chairman.
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Paul. The
7 question has been called to adopt the minutes of September
8 4. All in favor of adopting the minutes signify by saying
9 aye.
10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any opposed.
14

15 (No opposing votes)

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank you.
18 Council member reports, village concerns, anything of that
19 nature from each of the Council members. Maybe we'll start
20 with you Earl, we'll start from the left and go -- or start
21 from the right and go left. Thank you.

22

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, good morning. Earl
24 Williams from Anaktuvuk Pass. We have no concerns,
25 everything's pretty good at home. Caribous around the
26 village. Some wolves, though.

27

28 Thank you, very much. Good morning.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Earl. Amos.

31

32 MR. AGNASAGGA: I'm Amos from Point Lay.
33 We got no concerns. Hunting is good. There's a lot of
34 polar bear near the village but nobody hunting them. But
35 we got caribou though that's why so everything's okay.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Amos. Go
38 ahead, Terry.

39

40 MR. TAGAROOK: I'm Terry from Wainwright.
41 We have no concerns at this time either. I'd like to
42 welcome everybody here and we'll be working with you.
43 Welcome to Barrow.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Terry.
46 Rosemary.

47

48 MS. ROSEMARY: Good morning, Rosemary from
49 Nuiqsut. We've had more hunters concerned in the fall of
50 October. When we were finally able to gain access to
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1 attempt to harvest caribou, there were a lot of caribou
2 that were harvested that were sick, lesions of various
3 sorts, some on the internal organs as well as on the
4 joints. And tumors, could be anywhere. There were also
5 caribou caught this spring -- or this month that had the
6 same presentations.

7

8 Out of the fall there was 17 caribou that
9 were concerned out of 20 that were reported in that short
10 period of time that we were able to harvest. And then this
11 month, caribou came around the community again and they got
12 five for the funeral we had and out of the five, three were
13 sick.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Caribou -- these were
16 caribou?

17

18 MS. ROSEMARY: These were caribou.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, thank you.

21
22 MS. ROSEMARY: There was also a lot of
23 concern because the fisheries weren't back to its normal
24 take this fall for the Arctic cisco and there were a lot of
25 fish with parasites in the Arctic cisco.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
28 Paul.

29
30 MR. BODFISH: Yeah, hunting was good this
31 year, but we did -- like Rosemary said we did find a few
32 fish with parasites in them and I forgot to bring them up
33 for our Fish and Wildlife. But hunting's been good
34 otherwise.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Paul. Barrow,
37 good morning, Harry Brower again. We don't have too many
38 concerns, I don't think we've heard over the course of
39 winter. We've been pretty fortunate to have resources
40 available to us on land and out in the ocean. Seal
41 hunting's been pretty good. Caribou's been plenty here
42 near Barrow. There's been a lot of people traveling in and
43 coming back trying to hunt for furbearers some have been
44 successful, some come back empty-handed. That's always
45 part of the deal of going out and hunting in the middle of
46 winter, not knowing where resources are and it's the chance
47 you have to take when going out.

48
49 I did have a comment I wanted to make in
50 terms of regarding the annual report. I read something in
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1 the annual report written yesterday. I forgot which tab I
2 was looking at and it had something to do with our annual
3 report in here. I'm trying to look for it in the agenda
4 and what tab, which tab would it be under, Barb, could you
5 help me with that?

6
7 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: On which one?

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: On the annual report.

10
11 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: There should be a copy
12 of your annual report in your books.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm not sure where I seen
15 that yesterday. I just received the manual yesterday
16 afternoon and the meeting today, it didn't give us much
17 time to review the material so there's been a delay here in
18 terms of receiving the material before the meeting, but,
19 despite that I did have an opportunity to read the material
20 and I did take some notes and I wanted to make a comment in
21 terms of the annual report. I noticed something in there
22 and it just -- I can't find it right off the bat.

23
24 Otherwise hunting's been pretty good in
25 Barrow. With all the activity that's been occurring during
26 the month of February we had the (In Native) which was the

27 (In Native) it was a real good turnout, a lot of good
28 healthy activities happening, a lot of visitors, lots of
29 people to feed, that was pretty exciting, for my family
30 anyway. And to feed nine people from the villages and
31 cooking for nine other people, the participants and the
32 feast was keeping us pretty active throughout the four days
33 that they were here.

34

35 And as soon as that was over we got into
36 the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Convention. That was a very
37 active time. A lot of visitors for that one week straight,
38 that was a lot of people here in Barrow in such a short
39 time. I'm kind of tired from being involved in all those
40 activities. It was a real good turnout and lots of people,
41 visitors from all over the state that came up to Barrow for
42 that festivities.

43

44 Anyway, that's about it for my concerns.
45 I guess I'll bring that up, the concern I noted in terms of
46 the annual report, when we get to that I guess I'll bring
47 it out at that time.

48

49 I don't have any other comments in terms of
50 village concerns. Maybe I did have a couple more. I just
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1 wrote things down as I was reading the manual yesterday.

2

3 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: It's under D. It's
4 under D.....

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: D?

6

7 MS. B. ARMSTRONG:the annual report
8 is under D.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Thank you, Barb.
11 There is one thing I wrote down and maybe it's to you,
12 Barb, it's in regard to this orientation for new members,
13 regarding the Regional Advisory Council functions in the
14 Federal Subsistence Management Program, when do we review
15 that as a Council?

16

17 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: On the training for new
18 members?

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Orientation, yes.

21

22 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. We used to have
23 that -- is there an orientation meeting that we're setting
24 up for members or there's -- there isn't?

25

26 MR. JENNINGS: We would set it up as needed
27 for this region and Council.

28

29 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

30

31 MR. JENNINGS: So we need to schedule
32 something with this Council.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
35
36 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. So I would have
37 to set that up for you then.
38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.
40
41 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And I will do it.
42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.
44
45 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: To orientate your new
46 Council members.
47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I think that
49 was one of the comments or concerns I wrote down.
50
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1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Under D.
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Excuse me?
4
5 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Under D, the annual
6 report.
7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: D, all right.
9
10 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: You had a question on
11 it.
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes. I read through this
14 stuff yesterday real quickly and I just wrote down, as I
15 was reading through it, some comments.
16
17 (Pause)
18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here we go, in terms of
20 industrial developments versus subsistence activities.
21 Like I said I was just reading through the document
22 yesterday and I just had some comments that I wanted to
23 write up and some I did write down and the others I just
24 had a question in terms of how are we moving along on this
25 -- in terms of this impact by industrial development?
26
27 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.
28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Barb.
30
31 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: We are working on the
32 draft for answering your annual report at this point and
33 then we haven't gotten that far yet. And we requested some
34 information from BLM and we should have all that in
35 response to you by your next meeting, coming up as a draft.
36
37 Thank you.
38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Barb. Those
40 are the last of my comments here. I'll follow along on the
41 agenda items and bring out the other concerns -- I'll
42 express later in terms of where we are along the agenda.

43

44 There's no other comments. Earl.

45

46 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, Mr. Chair. This is
47 Earl Williams from Anaktuvuk. I thought I'd bring up that
48 -- there was an issue, just like, you know, when the oil
49 dealers came in, they're having a meeting today, too, at
50 Anaktuvuk, BLM, and they had a few questions about, you
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1 know, if it was going to hurt our migratory herds. That's
2 about all they brought up at the meetings. And we had
3 about three or four meetings with those oil well people,
4 and they brought that issue up, that's about it. They're
5 very concerned about that.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And your concern was
10 whether there's going to be interference with the migration
11 of the caribou herd?

12

13 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I'm not sure
16 who we would forward that to right now. Which outfit was
17 up in Anaktuvuk?

18

19 MR. WILLIAMS: Anadarko.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm trying to write some
22 notes down as we go along here Earl, so I'm not sure who
23 would be present to respond to their comments in terms of
24 the industrial activities with Anadarko. I think that
25 consultation would probably need to continue with the
26 industry folks who need the community to see -- if there
27 could be any way they could minimize the impact of the
28 herd, the migration.

29

30 MR. YOKEL: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Dave.

33

34 MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is
35 Dave Yokel with the BLM. What Mr. Williams is talking
36 about is potential development out in the foothills area of
37 the State lands and so if you have concerns there you
38 should probably address them to the Alaska Department of
39 Natural Resources.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dave. Did you
42 get that written down, Earl?

43

44 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, the reason why I

45 brought that up is because the last two meetings they had
46 the village people brought that issue up. Some elders
47 brought that up. And this year there's been caribou around
48 the village and we're kind of happy about that but they're
49 supposed to have a meeting today and I was supposed to be
50 there but I came up here because I didn't want to miss out
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1 on my meeting.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Dr. Yokel.

6

7

MR. YOKEL: That is correct. The BLM is
8 going to hold a meeting in Anaktuvuk Pass this evening but
9 it will not be addressing the State lands out there north
10 of Anaktuvuk Pass. But we do hope to have that meeting
11 tonight.

12

13

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, again, Dr.
14 Yokel. Any other comments or concerns in terms of village
15 concerns. If none, we'll move on to the Chair's report,
16 Item 7 under Tab B.

17

18

All this report is from the activity that
19 occurred over the course of the year. There were several
20 meetings that occurred with the Federal Subsistence Board.
21 The first one is regarding the 50(c) [sic] letter, Federal
22 Subsistence Board meeting December 2002. At this meeting
23 the North Slope Regional Advisory Council did not have any
24 proposals, although we did make recommendations for the
25 Federal Subsistence Board to consider. This was on the
26 proposal, statewide proposals, FP03-27. And another
27 statewide proposal FP03-28. We didn't take any action but
28 we did make recommendations for them to consider.

29

30

I'm trying to figure out where it's at --
31 the Board adopted these proposals with modifications
32 recommended by the Interagency Staff Committee as follows
33 -- I'm not sure if we want to get into reading that or it's
34 up to you folks on how you want to proceed with this. This
35 is just the report that I'm supposed to be making in terms
36 of what occurred over the course -- we didn't have any
37 specific proposals to bring out to the Federal Subsistence
38 Board at that meeting. It's just recommendations that we
39 voiced as a Council regarding these proposals.

40

41

The other issue was on customary trade

42

43

44

MS. ROSEMARY: Mr. Chair.

45

46

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

47

48

MS. ROSEMARY: On the moose section, we're

49

50

fall whaling in September and our designated dates are
September 1st through the 14th. We usually go out, the

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1 moose in August.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Are you referring to a
4 regulation here in the booklet?

5

6 MS. ROSEMARY: Yes. Well, we've got this
7 part here, it's on Page 156 in the green book.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we'll be getting
10 into the proposals here further down the road, I think,
11 under agenda Item 10.

12

13 MS. ROSEMARY: Okay. All right, thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If you would like to
16 bring that up at that time I think it would be appropriate
17 for you to do so.

18

19 MS. ROSEMARY: Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary. The
22 other item I was getting into was the customary trade. The
23 Federal Subsistence Board at the January 14th, 2003 meeting
24 adopted new regulations clarifying customary trade
25 practices of subsistence caught fish, their parts and their
26 eggs. The Board's final rule set enforceable regulations
27 that protect the traditional practices of customary trade
28 of subsistence harvested fish, it would reduce the
29 potential of commercialization of those fish by prohibiting
30 customary trade with any business or resale by non-rural
31 individuals.

32

33 The new regulation allows customary trade
34 transactions between rural subsistence users to continue
35 but limited transactions between rural residents and
36 others, in that, the fish sold must be used for personal or
37 family consumption.

38

39 That's the language that was adopted by the
40 Federal Subsistence Board. So that's where we stand today,
41 although we didn't get into the regional differences in
42 terms of how the enforcement's going to take place. Maybe
43 if one of the Staff could help in addressing how that
44 enforcement's going to occur. If there's any illegal
45 action taken by any of the fisheries -- subsistence
46 harvested fish, how are we going to -- how are you
47 proceeding to monitor that?

48

49 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tim.

2

3 MR. JENNINGS: Tim Jennings, Office of
4 Subsistence Management. I think enforcement activities for
5 customary trade would be similar to other types of

6 enforcement activities dealing with the harvest of wildlife
7 or fish. It will come about primarily through surveillance
8 activities in specific areas, and then probably reports
9 from locals that they know of a situation that they would
10 like the enforcement officers to check into.

11

12 Other than that, I don't have anything
13 specific to offer in terms of how enforcement might
14 proceed.

15

16 It is a concern that the customary trade
17 activities be appropriate and not end up commercializing a
18 fishery and so there will be some concern about
19 implementing the new regulation so I think at future
20 meetings, after we go through a year of the new regulation,
21 which would be next summer, we can give you an update, say,
22 at your fall meeting about how things went and if we know
23 of any problems.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Jennings.
26 Any comments or questions from the Council.

27

28 MS. ROSEMARY: I just want to comment that
29 it's an important part of the people's uses of the
30 resources and the education to the people needs to occur so
31 that they understand what these are.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary. At
34 some point in time I think there's going to be -- I hope
35 there's going to be some other discussion to communicate or
36 educate the public in terms of how this is going to affect
37 the subsistence practices by the Federal Office of
38 Subsistence Management.

39

40 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, the regulation
41 actually was already in place in Federal regulations
42 allowing customary trade, actually at broader levels
43 because we formerly had a level that could be up to -- as
44 long as it didn't represent a significant commercial
45 enterprise and we didn't have that definition of
46 significant commercial enterprise in our regulations. So
47 this regulation is actually more specific. And what we're
48 attempting to do is refine the regulation and allow
49 continuing practices that we believe are already ongoing so
50 it's not really intended to create any new practices but to
00017

1 authorize those customary and traditional practices of
2 customary trade.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did that help, Rosemary?

5

6 MS. ROSEMARY: Yes.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tim. Any
9 other comments or questions in regards to this customary
10 trade?

11

12 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Terry.

15

16 MR. TAGAROOK: I just have one question.
17 Since we have relatives in urban areas, this won't affect
18 us in sending fish to our relatives who live in urban
19 areas? Will that have an affect on us that are sending
20 fish to our relatives that are living outside of the Slope?

21

22 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, and Mr. Tagarook.
23 The regulation allows for the exchange to other residents,
24 to non-rural residents that live in urban areas as long as
25 those folks use it for their personal consumption. The
26 regulation prohibits someone, say, from Anchorage buying
27 fish and turning around and selling the fish in Anchorage
28 or in an urban area. There's no limitation if there's an
29 exchange between rural residents, say, somebody from
30 Nuiqsut trading with somebody in Barrow. There's no
31 limitation there. Those fish could be either used for
32 personal consumption or resold. But when the fish goes out
33 of a rural area into an urban area then there's the
34 limitation that the purchaser or the person receiving the
35 fish must use the fish for personal consumption.

36

37 So that's an important provision of this
38 regulation.

39

40 And then the other, the primary concern
41 that was addressed in this regulation was that no fish can
42 be sold to commercial fisheries businesses licensed by the
43 state of Alaska.

44

45 Does that address your question?

46

47 MR. TAGAROOK: Yes. Yes, it does. But I
48 have another one. It might be funny but since we have our
49 waterfowls, they come in and we get them during the season
50 but at a later date when the season is closed we send some
00018

1 to our relatives when it -- you know, down in the urban
2 areas when it's closed. Will we get into trouble for
3 sending waterfowl that we caught during the open season and
4 we send them when the season is closed, will we get into
5 any problems with that?

6

7 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, Mr. Tagarook.
8 I'll have to see if somebody else can address the question
9 on waterfowl. This regulation on customary trade that the
10 Board passed recently was specific only to fish and so
11 migratory birds and waterfowl would come under a different
12 authority and is not under the Federal Subsistence Program,
13 it's under the Migratory Bird Management Program and I
14 don't know if there's someone here in the audience that
15 could address your question.

16

17 I guess not. If you'd like us to follow up

18 on that we could have somebody either come to your next
19 meeting or we can get the answer and get it back to you.

20

21 MR. TAGAROOK: Thank you.

22

23 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, Warren Eastland
24 from BIA can address that issue.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Go ahead.

27

28 MR. EASTLAND: Mr. Chair, Mr. Tagarook.
29 The issue is customary trade, it's illegal to sell
30 wildlife. In other words, if money changes hands then
31 sending legally caught ducks, geese to your relatives in an
32 urban area would be a violation of Federal law. But there
33 would be no prohibition, as far as I understand the law in
34 you sending legally taken waterfowl to your relatives as
35 long as no cash changes hands.

36

37 Does that answer your question, sir?

38

39 MR. TAGAROOK: Yes, it does. Thank you.

40

41 MR. EASTLAND: Thank you, very much.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Amos.

44

45 MR. AGNASAGGA: How about trading. Like
46 one village, like we hunt beluga and we send some to
47 Kotzebue, Kotzebue sends some sheefish, you could do that?

48

49 MR. EASTLAND: As far as I understand it,
50 sir, yes. As long as no money changes hands that would be
00019

1 a legal translation, sir.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Does that help, Amos?

4

5 MR. AGNASAGGA: Uh-huh.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments or
8 questions in regard to customary trade? Earl.

9

10 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, Mr. Chair. When they
11 say limit, like we don't catch much fish in Anaktuvuk, but,
12 you know, around the coast area people get good seasons
13 sometimes and bad seasons, is there a limit to that?

14

15 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, the customary
16 trade regulation does not have a limit set at this time in
17 terms of the amount of fish or the dollar amount. But
18 there is a limitation, that I mentioned, if fish are sold
19 to persons living in an urban area, the purchasers must use
20 the fish for their personal consumption so that's a
21 limitation. And then the prohibition or the restriction
22 that no one can sell a fish to a commercial fisheries
23 business, that's also a limitation. But between yourself

24 and others in this region there is no limitation at this
25 time. The Board didn't feel that there was a need to limit
26 trade between rural residents.

27

28 We weren't aware of any issues at this time
29 that would lead the Board to set those restrictions. But
30 the Board also said that they would monitor the situation
31 over the next year or several years and as necessary, as
32 issues come up that need addressing, that the Board would
33 readdress those issues at a future time.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did that help answer your
36 question, Earl?

37

38 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, thank you. And the
39 reason why I asked is because I was concerned about family
40 consumption it said on there. Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Jennings.
43 If there is no further comments or questions we'll move on
44 to the next item, statewide rural determination. it's a
45 written briefing in your booklets, the last page.

46

47 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, I could summarize
48 that for you if you'd like.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, please, Mr.

00020

1 Jennings.

2

3 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chair, on Page 29,
4 you have a briefing on statewide rural determinations. And
5 you'll recall over the last several meetings we have kept
6 the Councils updated in terms of the 10 year review by the
7 Federal Board of the rural/non-rural determinations and
8 that presently the Board has undertaken a third-party
9 contract to look at the methodology by which rural
10 determinations are made.

11

12 Originally the Board had a meeting
13 scheduled for January 15th where they would have reviewed
14 the methodology that was proposed by the contractor.
15 However, the Board wasn't ready to have that meeting and
16 needed to cancel it because the contract report was done
17 but it hadn't undergone a peer review by other parties and
18 so the Board felt it was important and necessary to have
19 peer review. So that's currently underway this spring and
20 we will be updating you at future meetings in terms of
21 methodology and then ultimately we will come to the Council
22 for your input and recommendations on rural and non-rural
23 determinations as part of this 10-year update.

24

25 So this will be an issue that we'll come
26 back to you with at future meetings. And that's the
27 current status, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Questions or

30 comments regarding this rural determination.

31

32 MS. ROSEMARY: Do we have a timeline as to
33 when it's going to be addressed?

34

35 MR. JENNINGS: Well, as I mentioned we'll
36 come back at the next meeting. We should have a more
37 specific timeline laid out at the next meeting because I
38 believe we should be far enough along, the peer review
39 should be done and some other steps may have been taken
40 where we can lay out a new schedule. We had a schedule
41 previously that the Board was operating under but with the
42 delay we're having to revise the schedule. So at your fall
43 meeting we can update you with the new schedule.

44

45 MS. ROSEMARY: Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further comments or
48 questions. Thank you, Mr. Jennings. That brings us up to
49 the Chair's report. Any overall questions or comments in
50 regards to the Chair's report for the winter 2002

00021

1 activities of the Federal Management Program?

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None. We'll move on to
6 Item No. 8. This opportunity continues throughout the
7 meeting. Please complete and submit to the coordinator a
8 testifier form from the sign-in table. The coordinator
9 will give it to the Chairman and the Chairman will call on
10 you. Do we have any public testimony at this time in
11 regards to the Federal Management Program?

12

13 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: There isn't any.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Barb. We'll
16 move on to Item No. 9. Or do you want to take a break now
17 or go into elections?

18

19 (Council Nods Affirmatively)

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, we'll take a five
22 minute break. Thank you.

23

24 (Off record)

25

26 (On record)

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, I'll call the
29 meeting of the North Slope Regional Advisory Council back
30 to order from our break. I think we have a couple of items
31 we need to put back on, Mr. Jennings, I'll give you the
32 floor.

33

34 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35 During the break we discussed that, I wanted to add some

36 clarification to the customary trade discussion to define
37 some terms so you'll understand what the regulation
38 addressed.

39

40 Customary trade addresses the exchange for
41 cash for fish. And so that's what the regulation the Board
42 just dealt with and passed. It only addresses where you
43 exchange fish for cash. It does not address barter.
44 Barter would be where you might trade fish for moose or
45 fish for muskox. Barter is already authorized in our
46 regulation and there's no limits on barter of subsistence
47 caught resources.

48

49 So Mr. Chair, I wanted to make that
50 clarification.

00022

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Jennings.
2 Council members, do you have an understanding of what the
3 differences are, barter and customary trade.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. We'll open up
8 the floor for the elections and I think I'll give the floor
9 to Barb to run the elections of officers for our Chair,
10 Vice Chair and Secretary.

11

12 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, since Barb is not
13 here at the moment.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tim.

16

17 MR. JENNINGS:I could handle the
18 election for the Chair, so I would open the floor to
19 nominations for Chair at this time.

20

21 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chair, you're acting
22 Chair, now, right -- I'd ask for unanimous consent to
23 retain Harry as president.

24

25 MS. ROSEMARY: Seconded.

26

27 MR. BODFISH: Call for question.

28

29 MR. JENNINGS: Is there unanimous consent
30 for Harry as president?

31

32 (Council Nods Affirmatively)

33

34 MR. JENNINGS: No other nominations,
35 unanimous consent. Okay, Mr. Chair, by unanimous consent
36 you have been reelected Chair. Congratulations.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

39

40 MR. AGNASAGGA: Congratulations.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Amos.
43
44 MR. JENNINGS: And I will turn the election
45 of vice Chair and Secretary over to you.
46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.
48
49 MR. JENNINGS: Okay.
50
00023
1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Thank you,
2 Tim. The election of vice Chair. The floor is open for
3 the vice Chair.
4
5 MR. WILLIAMS: I'll make a nomination for
6 Terry Tagarook for vice Chair.
7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Nomination for vice
9 Chair, Terry Tagarook.
10
11 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chair, I decline.
12
13 MR. WILLIAMS: Terry, you can't do that.
14
15 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chair, I'll ask for
16 unanimous consent to keep Ray Koonuk as vice Chair.
17
18 MR. AGNASAGGA: Second.
19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any objections to the
21 nomination.
22
23 (No objections)
24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Ray Koonuk
26 is retained as vice Chair. Thank you, Terry. Now, we have
27 Secretary. We need a selection for Secretary at this time.
28
29 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chair.
30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Terry.
32
33 MR. TAGAROOK: I nominate Rosemary
34 Ahtuanagaruak.
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other nominations.
37
38 MR. AGNASAGGA: I move to close the
39 nominations.
40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Nominations have been
42 closed. Rosemary has been selected for Secretary. All in
43 favor of the motion signify by saying aye.
44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.
46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Congratulations,

48 Rosemary.

49

50 MS. ROSEMARY: Thank you.

00024

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you all for the
2 elections of officers. We'll continue on with our next
3 presentation with the BLM. Dr. Yokel, you got the floor.

4

5 MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm
6 Dave Yokel with the Bureau of Land Management in Fairbanks,
7 Alaska. And Stacie and I have three points that we want to
8 cover this morning with you. That will be the Draft Land
9 Use Plan for the Northwest Section of NPR-A. A new
10 development proposal in the area of Nuiqsut. And an update
11 on the BLM's subsistence advisory panel for the NPR-A.

12

13 So we'll start with a little presentation
14 that our field office manager put together on this Draft
15 Environmental Impact Statement and Integrated Activity Plan
16 for the Northwest NPR-A. I'm going to go through this
17 fairly quickly, but I'll stop for questions. Just give me
18 a holler if you have a question.

19

20 We presented this to you a year ago, in
21 January of 2002. We were traveling to villages on the
22 North Slope for scoping meetings to see what concerns and
23 issues local people had for this plan for Northwest NPR-A.
24 Since then we have completed the Draft plan and we are now
25 in the comment phase on that Draft plan.

26

27 Our State director in Anchorage, Henry
28 Bisson, issued a letter in December saying that the Draft
29 plan was available, that it includes several options for
30 the management of 8.8 million acres in the NPR-A. That the
31 BLM has no preferred alternative for this plan. We want to
32 hear from the public, including all of the North Slope
33 residents, what they like and don't like about this plan.
34 What features people think should be included in the
35 alternatives for management of this area and any other
36 comments that people of the North Slope have on this Draft
37 plan.

38

39 I'll tell you in a minute, there are four
40 different ways to communicate your comments to the BLM.
41 And all comments are due in one month on March 18th.
42 That's the deadline to receive comments for this plan.

43

44 We are currently in the middle of our
45 public meeting schedule to present this Draft plan to the
46 public. We had a meeting last Wednesday in Fairbanks, one
47 last Thursday in Anchorage, last night in Point Lay and I
48 apologize we're going to be absent from your meeting this
49 afternoon because we're flying to Anaktuvuk Pass to have
50 our meeting there. In addition, one more meeting has been

00025

1 added to this schedule since this presentation was made up,
2 March 12th there's going to be a public meeting held in

3 Washington, D.C. We'll be back up here next week, we'll
4 have a meeting here next Thursday night in Barrow.

5

6 The plan can be presented, you can get
7 copies of the plan in three different forms. We have the
8 hard copy version, which is two volumes, very big and thick
9 and if anybody wants those we're handing those out at the
10 public meetings. We also have copies of the plan on CD. If
11 you get this make sure that it says updated Draft on it
12 because we had an earlier version that did not work very
13 well. We did pass that out to some people, in, I think
14 Fairbanks and those should be used for target practice.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MR. YOKEL: Here's the NPR-A on the North
19 Slope of Alaska. The only oil and gas activities that the
20 BLM has any authority over are those in the NPR-A, we don't
21 deal with anything on State lands to the east of NPR-A.
22 The BLM completed a land use plan for the Northeast section
23 of the NPR-A in 1998. We held lease sales there in 1999
24 and, again, in the summer of 2002. I'll talk to you a
25 little bit later about some of the results of those lease
26 sales.

27

28 The current planning effort is for the
29 Central portion of the NPR-A which has been named, instead
30 of Central planing area, the Northwest Planning Area, but
31 this is the area that we're going to be discussing today.
32 It includes villages of Wainwright, Barrow, Atkasuk. And
33 in addition to those three villages we're also having
34 meetings in Point Lay, Anaktuvuk Pass and Nuiqsut because
35 they could, as well, be affected by the activities that
36 occur in our Northwest Planning Area.

37

38 Again, the purpose of this plan is to
39 determine how the BLM will manage this 8.8 million acres
40 and of course we have to manage in accordance to the
41 existing laws that pertain to that land.

42

43 The three most important decisions that
44 have to be made in this plan are what lands should BLM
45 offer for oil and gas lease sales, what measures should BLM
46 include in our record of decision to protect surface
47 resources during oil and gas activities, and then also what
48 non-oil and gas land allocations should be considered for
49 this portion of the NPR-A, and those kind of allocations
50 are issues such as wilderness designations, wild and scenic
00026

1 rivers, those kind of things that we have to, by regulation
2 considering this plan.

3

4 There are 16 key issues that we took into
5 consideration when developing this plan. Some of those are
6 the impacts of oil and gas activity on the marine estuaries
7 included in the planning area are the northern most portion
8 of the Kasegaluk Lagoon, the Kuck River area, by Wainwright

9 Peard Bay, Elsen Lagoon and Dease Inlet and Admiralty Bay,
10 so those are very important activities for many wildlife
11 species and also for subsistence activities.

12

13 Yes, Mr. Chairman.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Dave, you don't happen to
16 have a map showing these areas just for.....

17

18 MR. YOKEL: I could go back to that map.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

21

22 MR. YOKEL: I'm not sure how far back that
23 was. Here we are. Okay, it's not a very good close up
24 here but we have the Kasegaluk, the northern part of the
25 Kasegaluk Lagoon right here, the Kuck River here which has
26 some tidal influence, Peard Bay which is up in this area.
27 I don't know if it's the coffee or the chill in the room
28 but I'm not holding this laser very still, am I, Elson
29 Lagoon up here, and the Dease Inlet and Admiralty Bay area
30 here. So those are the marine estuaries that were part of
31 the concerns provided by both local residents and BLM staff
32 back during the scoping phase.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

35

36 MR. YOKEL: Inland waters, some lakes are
37 deeper than others and the deeper lakes have the capacity
38 of holding fish over winter, those are a concern. The
39 riparian habitat along rivers is a highly productive area,
40 although small an area it's highly productive and used by
41 a lot of wildlife species and then, of course, the movement
42 of caribou back and forth through the area is of concern.

43

44 Also we took into consideration the loss,
45 or alteration of any habitat for cliff-nesting raptors,
46 such as peregrine falcons, gyrfalcons. We have two species
47 listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act,
48 spectacled eider and stellars eider and then also a couple
49 of other species that have small and perhaps declining
50 populations, brant and yellow billed loon, and also red-
00027

1 throated loon. We're concerned about any impacts on
2 palentelological and cultural resources. Also a great deal
3 of importance are any potential impacts on subsistence
4 activities and also on those cabins and camp sites used for
5 those activities.

6

7 Some other things of issue were the leasing
8 of split estate lands, I'll show you a map later of what
9 these are but those are areas where the Federal government
10 owns the subsurface, that is the rights to the oil and gas
11 in this case, whereas, either the North Slope Borough or
12 Village Corporations or Native allottees own the surface.

13

14 We are required by the Department of

15 Interior to look at the potential for wilderness
16 designation in this planning area. Also the designation of
17 special areas which were authorized under the 1976 Naval
18 Petroleum Reserve Production Act. Also wild and scenic
19 river designation has to be taken into consideration.

20

21 We're also required to look at the
22 recreational use of off highway vehicles, this is not use
23 by subsistence hunters, this is recreational use. I'm not
24 sure that it occurs presently on the NPR-A but BLM has
25 lands in the western states in the Lower 48 and this is a
26 Bureau wide planning policy.

27

28 Also it came up as a potential issue in
29 scoping of the subsistence use of airboats in the NPR-A.
30 That's one thing that will be addressed in the plan.

31

32 The protection of visual resources is one
33 of BLM's normal planning requirements and also we're
34 required to plan for management of wild land fires,
35 although they're not one of our major concerns on the North
36 Slope.

37

38 This map shows the three areas that were
39 found eligible in our Draft plan for wilderness
40 designation. One area is over here under the Kasegaluk
41 Lagoon and includes, I think, this portion of the Kasegaluk
42 Lagoon. The other two areas are here in the foothills and
43 so those three areas are addressed in the alternatives
44 differently as to whether or not BLM would propose them for
45 wilderness designation.

46

47 All of the rivers that have their names
48 labeled on this map, there are 22 of them were studied for
49 potential designation as wild or scenic rivers in this
50 plan.

00028

1 This map shows the potential for economic
2 oil development in this area in a rather vague way. By
3 geologic and economic, I mean this map takes into
4 consideration where it is thought that the oil is and where
5 it would be most likely feasible to develop that oil based
6 on where it is thought that infrastructure may occur. So
7 the highest economic potential is up here in the northern
8 part underneath the Barrow Arch. It is believed that the
9 interior part is the lowest potential for development and
10 then the southern part would have moderate potential.

11

12 Yes, Harry -- or Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: How are these
15 determinations made in terms of high, low and moderate?

16

17 MR. YOKEL: Well, again, they're just --
18 the high, low and moderate is just relative to each other
19 and it said the combination of the presence of oil and the
20 assumed future presence of oil development infrastructure

21 in this area will make it most likely that oil will be
22 developed here, less likely in this area and least likely
23 in this area.

24

25 And we also have a map showing the
26 potential that we used in our Northeast plan. Now,
27 certainly the oil and gas industry was most interested in
28 this area in their lease sales and they have discovered oil
29 in this area. But we have sold more lease tracts in this
30 area that we called low than we have in this area that we
31 called moderate. So there's a fair bit of guess work
32 involved here. And it seems that the oil industry has
33 slightly different answers to those guesses than the BLM
34 does.

35

36 There are four alternatives in this plan.
37 One, we're required to have in any land use plan is a no
38 action alternative. In the case of land use planning no
39 action means management as usual. At current there is no
40 oil and gas leasing going on in this area so there would be
41 none under the no action alternative.

42

43 The Alternative A would offer up 100
44 percent of the planning area for oil and gas lease sales.
45 and I'll go into this in more detail in a bit. And that
46 includes the lands underneath the split estate, those would
47 be the pink or peach colored, it's kind of hard to see on
48 the projection -- maybe if you'd turn off one of those
49 light switches it might help, please -- also there's this
50 other color, it's kind of a yellow or light greenish color,
00029

1 so under this alternative there would be lease sales under
2 -- I'm okay with the dark if everybody else is, Mr.
3 Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm real afraid of the
6 dark.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. YOKEL: Under Alternative B, about 96
11 percent of the planning area would be offered up for the
12 oil and gas lease sales, everything except the area that
13 was considered for the Kasegaluk Lagoon area that was
14 studied for possible wilderness designation. But there
15 would be a great deal of restrictions on how the oil
16 companies could do their work on the surface. For
17 instance, in all of the estuarine areas, they would not be
18 allowed to develop any permanent surface occupancy under
19 this alternative. That would mean no offshore oil
20 platforms in the lagoons and they would be restricted for
21 various reasons onshore to protect loon nesting or brant
22 nesting, caribou insect relief, deep water lakes, riparian
23 corridors along the river.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: In terms of the
26 designations of -- is it critical habitat or wilderness?

27
28 MR. YOKEL: No. Critical habitat is a
29 legal term under the Endangered Species Act.
30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
32
33 MR. YOKEL: There has been no critical
34 habitat designated for stellars or spectacled eider on
35 land, on the NPR-A, there has been some critical habitat
36 designated out in Ledyerd Bay (ph), but that's outside of
37 the NPR-A.
38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So the two that you
40 identified are proposed designations? There was the one in
41 the middle of the -- above Teshekpuk Lake, south of
42 Teshekpuk Lake and then the other one near Icy Cape? The
43 blue -- the light blue.
44
45 MR. YOKEL: You mean this area here?
46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Next one, a little bit
48 further down, there you go.
49
50 MR. YOKEL: These areas?
00030
1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.
2
3 MR. YOKEL: Okay. What BLM is saying is
4 that if this plan is chosen as how BLM will manage the
5 land, then we will offer for oil and gas lease sales in
6 this area but we will not allow any permanent occupancy on
7 the estuarian waters and on land here, if there are
8 developments proposed, we will look at these and perhaps
9 restrict development within certain distances of nesting
10 loons or brant colonies. And it's similar to the
11 stipulations in the Northeast plan if you're familiar with
12 those. It doesn't use them exactly. I'll get into those
13 in more detail in a minute, how the stipulations vary among
14 the alternatives.
15
16 This is Alternative C. In this alterative,
17 less than half of the total acreage would be offered for
18 oil and gas leases. None of the land in gray would be
19 offered, whether it be because of wilderness proposals or
20 wildlife or subsistence concerns.
21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Would you elaborate a
23 little bit more as to what wilderness designation would be?
24
25 MR. YOKEL: I will go into that in a
26 minute, yes. But when I get there, remember that these are
27 the three, one, two, three areas that were studied for
28 wilderness under this plan.
29
30 Okay, here's some alternatives briefly that
31 were considered but eliminated from the plan. That is the
32 plan for all the rest of NPR-A at once, we did not consider

33 all of the area for wilderness. We did not consider
34 opening the area for mining because it's currently not
35 legal under Federal law and we did not consider the Arctic
36 Slope Regional Corporations proposal for a land exchange.

37
38 And now I'm going to go into review of the
39 alternatives in a little more detail and we'll cover those
40 wilderness issues and the stipulations that go along with
41 oil and gas lease sales.

42
43 Here's the four alternatives and how they
44 compare in terms of wilderness study areas or special
45 areas. There would be no wilderness study areas proposed
46 under either the no action or Alternative A. Nor would
47 there be any special areas proposed.

48
49 Under Alternative B, there would be no
50 wilderness study area proposed but the Kasegaluk Lagoon
00031

1 area would be proposed for designation as a special area.
2 And this designation would be made by the Secretary of
3 Interior as opposed to wilderness areas would have to be
4 designated by Congress.

5
6 In Alternative C, all three of those areas
7 that I pointed out previously would be proposed for
8 designation as wilderness.

9
10 For wild and scenic rivers there would be
11 no recommendation under the no action, Alternative A or
12 Alternative B. Alternative C would recommend that part of
13 the Colville River that's in the planning area as a wild
14 river and the other 21 rivers on that map would be
15 recommended scenic status.

16
17 For oil and gas leasing, as I said there
18 would be none on the no action alternative, 100 percent of
19 the area would be offered under Alternative A and that
20 would obviously include all of the oil and gas potential.
21 In Alternative B 96 percent of the land would be open to
22 oil and gas leases, that's all but the Kasegaluk Lagoon
23 area, that would be 100 percent of what we consider to be
24 high oil and gas potential. Under Alternative C, only 47
25 percent of the acreage would be offered for oil and gas
26 leasing and that includes less than two percent of what BLM
27 considers to be high oil and gas potential.

28
29 Here's a comparison of stipulations and
30 what BLM calls recommended operating procedures in this
31 plan. The no action alternative would be managed as it is
32 right now and the restrictions we use on any activities
33 right now we've had since 1983.

34
35 In Alternative A, there would be very few
36 stipulations compared to those that we have for our
37 Northeast Planning Area, they would be based more -- what
38 stipulations or restriction there would be would more

39 describe out goal and then leave it up until later in any
40 development plan as how to obtain that goal.

41

42 In Alternative B, again there would be more
43 surface occupancy protections as you could see from that
44 map previously. But how we would achieve those protections
45 again would be left up until we had specific proposals for
46 development.

47

48 Alternative C would have stipulations very
49 similar to those in the Northeast Planning Area that
50 describe up front what the oil companies would have to do
00032

1 to protect those surface resources. These are more
2 restrictive and so they rely less on subsequent analysis
3 after a proposal is made.

4

5 Okay, I said earlier that public can
6 provide their comments to the BLM in four ways. One is
7 that the scheduled hearings that we're holding last week,
8 this week and next week. Another way is we have an
9 experimental tool, you can go on the internet, you can see
10 the entire plan on the internet and you can make your
11 comments right there on the web. This is a Bureau wide
12 experiment here so I don't know how easy it will prove to
13 be for people. You can e-mail us your comments at this
14 address here. That's nwnpr-acomment@ak.blm.gov. Or you
15 can mail us in the traditional manner your comments, to
16 this address. And I can get these addresses to you again
17 later if you want them. Again, the comments are due by
18 March 18th.

19

20 Here's where we are in the planning
21 schedule. We were here a year ago, about January of 2002
22 with scoping meetings. Since then we've prepared the Draft
23 plan. The Draft plan, we're in the comment period on that
24 now. After the comments are in, we analyze them, we have
25 to have the final plan drafted up by the middle of June.
26 It is estimated the record of decision will be issued next
27 fall and if there is a decision to hold oil and gas lease
28 sales there would be a notice of a lease sale about the
29 same time as the record of decision and that lease sale
30 might happen sometime in the first part of 2004.

31

32 And if you have any further questions on
33 this plan I could take those now.

34

35 If not.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions to BLM
38 regarding this Environmental Impact Statement.

39

40 MR. AGNASAGGA: Mr. Chairman.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Amos.

43

44 MR. AGNASAGGA: Have you got a map of that

45 lease sale, supposedly go all the way to Icy Cape?

46

47 MR. YOKEL: Well, we don't have a lease
48 sale yet until we decide what areas we will open for oil
49 and gas leasing. But the map that I showed the entire
50 planing area which included all the way out to Icy Cape.

00033

1 So it's possible that we could have oil and gas lease sales
2 out as far west as Icy Cape, but we don't know that yet.

3

4 MR. AGNASAGGA: Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Terry.

7

8 MR. TAGAROOK: Dave, on those proposed
9 wilderness that's going to be talking to the village
10 people, what will happen if the people oppose that?

11

12 MR. YOKEL: Well, we will get comments
13 perhaps for or against wilderness from the public at large,
14 including local people but it should be noted that even if
15 there is a wilderness designation in the NPR-A, that would
16 not affect any traditional use of the lands, subsistence
17 hunting by snowmobile or motorboat, it would still be legal
18 under wilderness management in those areas.

19

20 I -- well, I guess that's as much as I
21 should say right now. I mean I probably should not make a
22 guess at this point as to whether or not there will be any
23 recommendations for wilderness.

24

25 MR. TAGAROOK: Since there's people from
26 Wainwright and hunting in that area, will the regulations
27 change if it's designated as a wilderness?

28

29 MR. YOKEL: If it were to be designated as
30 a wilderness, it would not have any affect on those
31 people's use of the land for traditional purposes. It
32 would prevent sports hunters from flying in because that
33 motor vehicle activity by non-subsistence users would be
34 illegal under a wilderness designation.

35

36 MR. TAGAROOK: And another question, since
37 there are some people that are from Point Lay that have
38 allotments in the NPR-A lands, I think they need to get
39 involved and get their concerns.

40

41 MR. YOKEL: Yes. And we held a meeting in
42 Point Lay last night and answered their questions and took
43 their comments on the plan.

44

45 MR. TAGAROOK: Thank you.

46

47 MR. YOKEL: Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments.

50 Rosemary.

00034

1 MS. ROSEMARY: Mr. Chair, how were the
2 decisions made to come up with the alternatives, was it
3 just put out there? I mean there's very limited views on
4 what the alternatives are listed as.

5
6 MR. YOKEL: Well, we held scoping meetings
7 a year ago and we heard from the public what their issues
8 and concerns were. We included those as well as issues and
9 concerns by BLM Staff, and we came up with a range of
10 alternatives. Now, the four alternatives that I just
11 showed include the whole spectrum of that range. But the
12 final decision does not have to be exactly one of those
13 four. It can be a mix and match. And if there are new
14 issues that come during this comment period they can be
15 taken into consideration and included in the final decision
16 as well.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did that help Rosemary?

19
20 MS. ROSEMARY: It gave us an answer.

21
22 MR. YOKEL: Well, I'd like to -- if I
23 didn't answer it well enough ask me again. I mean we know
24 that, for instance, people locally have concerns about the
25 development, the construction of pipelines and its
26 potential effect on the movement of caribou. So we took
27 that into consideration. And one area where that is most
28 likely to have an impact in this Northwest Planning Area
29 would be in that area of Cape Simpson and Dease Inlet where
30 the Teshekpuk Herd spends part of the -- or part of the
31 Teshekpuk Herd seeks relief from insects in the summer.
32 And there's larger groups moving. So in some of the
33 alternatives, we would look at restricting development in
34 that area in such a way to minimize the impact on caribou.

35
36 So that's just an example of how we take
37 different concerns into consideration when we develop the
38 alternatives.

39
40 MS. ROSEMARY: I wish I had more time to
41 review some of this information to be better prepared to
42 give some comments. But I've gotten a lot of different
43 information that I need to absorb and deal with.

44
45 MR. YOKEL: Well, we'll be in Nuiqsut, I
46 don't know if it's next Monday or Tuesday night of next
47 week.

48
49 MS. ROSEMARY: I saw that. Just a note. I
50 don't think it got put on the community calendar yet so

00035

1 someone needs to inform the city.

2
3 MR. YOKEL: Well, I'm sure we did that when
4 we arranged the meeting weeks ago and reserved a room.

5

6 MS. ROSEMARY: Okay.
7
8 MR. YOKEL: But we will be there next week
9 to take comments.
10
11 MS. ROSEMARY: Which is a help. I'll have
12 more time to prepare then. Thank you for your information.
13
14 MR. YOKEL: Thank you.
15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Paul, did you have any
17 comments, questions?
18
19 MR. BODFISH: (Shakes head negatively)
20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Earl, go ahead.
22
23 MR. WILLIAMS: Earl for Anaktuvuk. Earlier
24 I brought up the comment and concern about the caribou
25 migration, you know, and that's what people are concerned
26 about in the village mostly. And I think you've been there
27 before and you knew the matter of that and I seen you at
28 the meeting before. That's our main concern, about the
29 fishery and mostly caribou. Other than, you know, we have
30 no problem with the oil coming up and having a meeting with
31 us.
32
33 MR. YOKEL: One of the requirements under
34 our Northeast Plan was that the oil and gas companies have
35 meetings in all the potentially affected communities and
36 one of the communities that they've regularly been holding
37 meetings at has been Anaktuvuk Pass. And while they were
38 there they have also spoken about some of their activities
39 on State lands and I think those are of the most concern to
40 Anaktuvuk Pass because those lands are immediately north of
41 Anaktuvuk Pass. And so they -- like I said earlier, BLM
42 has no management authority out there on those State lands,
43 but the Alaska Department of Natural Resources does.
44
45 I don't think that there's been any
46 discovery made out on those lands yet so it's highly
47 speculative as to what development, if any, might occur.
48
49 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, that comment you made
50 about the State land is -- the reason why they bring that
00036
1 up is because the guide hunters come in there and
2 conflicting with the village, but, you know, coming in and
3 out of the village when the caribous are migrating through.
4 That's how come we had that, you know, a few problems, like
5 Sverre kind of know about that, too, so we've been bringing
6 this comment up for how many years and it's still on the
7 table and, you know, we're not going to deal with it in
8 matter of ways [sic], but, you know, we'd just like some
9 comments out of it from the State side.
10
11 Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Earl. Any
14 other comments. If none, maybe, Dave, you mentioned that
15 you had a CD or copies of the information on the EIS, maybe
16 you could share some of that with us it would be helpful to
17 get ahead start on it before the deadline.

18
19 MR. YOKEL: We are passing out CDs at all
20 of the public meetings.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

23
24 MR. YOKEL: I'm sorry I don't have any with
25 me this morning to pass out now. But we are passing them
26 out in the villages.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think it would be a
29 good.....

30
31 MR. YOKEL: And the entire thing is
32 available on the internet as well.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So there's several ways
35 to get access to the material?

36
37 MR. YOKEL: Well, Stacie informed me that
38 we do have some out in the van. So I guess maybe she can
39 get those and we can pass them out later on this morning.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, thank you Dave
42 and Stacie. Any other comments or concerns regarding the
43 BLM's presentation?

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None. Thank you, Dave.

48
49 MR. YOKEL: I have another point to make,
50 Mr. Chairman.

00037
1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Continue.

2
3 MR. YOKEL: And then Stacie has something.
4 This is a development that is less speculative. This is in
5 the area of Nuiqsut, which is right here on the bend in the
6 Colville River. This is a proposal for development from
7 ConocoPhillips and we are just beginning a plan for this
8 development. A portion of it is on State and private
9 lands. The existing Alpine facility is right here. And
10 ConocoPhillips is proposing to develop five new areas, what
11 they refer to as CD-North up here in the Colville River-
12 Delta. I can't even -- I'm sorry for this map, it didn't
13 scan well, CD-South is right in this area, much closer to
14 Nuiqsut, then a prospect they refer to as Alpine-West here
15 on the NPR-A border, and then within the NPR-A over in the
16 Fish Creek area Lookout Prospect and Spark Prospects.

17

18 And for location this is Harrison Bay,
19 Colville River Delta, Teshekpuk Lake. This is the area of
20 the aerial photographs. I'll zoom in just a little bit
21 here and Nuiqsut is right there on Barb's forehead and.....

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MR. YOKEL: And this is the proposal that
26 ConocoPhillips brought to us for development. The yellow
27 includes potential pipelines to bring all of this oil into
28 the current processing facility at Alpine. The light green
29 represents potential roads. And that's as far as we are.
30 We're just in the very beginning process of this planning.
31 I have no idea at this point what different alternatives
32 for development we will come up with in our Environmental
33 Impact Statement but I just wanted this Council to know
34 that this is on the immediate horizon and could certainly
35 have an impact on the hunters of Nuiqsut.

36
37 So if you have any questions about this,
38 I'd be glad to try to address them at this time.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Paul.

41
42 MR. BODFISH: Yeah. Looking at this map
43 and road system and the pipeline, have the industry looked
44 at putting a pipe inside the road system, buried inside the
45 corridor?

46
47 MR. YOKEL: That could be one of the
48 alternatives. I don't know yet at this time. Another
49 alternative might have no roads. Again, I don't know at
50 this time. This is just Conoco's initial proposal. They,
00038

1 depending on what alternatives we come up with and what
2 decision we make, they may decide not to develop at all.
3 They're an international company. They have to decide
4 where to put their money around the world at what time and
5 so depending on what decision is made on this they will
6 take that into account and then decide whether or not to
7 develop these resources.

8
9 MR. BODFISH: Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Are you through Paul?

12
13 MR. BODFISH: Yeah.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

16
17 MS. ROSEMARY: This development will have
18 a lot of impact on our community. This is going to be one
19 pipeline that will give us obstruction to the caribou on
20 that side. We're depending on that area a lot, but with
21 the activities at Alpine, it's prevented a lot of our
22 success rate in harvesting. We have been pushed further
23 inland trying to get upwards towards Umiat to try to

24 harvest caribou in our summertime. So in the past we could
25 depend in July to go out towards the coast and get caribou,
26 it's not a dependence that's realistic anymore. Most of
27 our times to try to attempt to harvest are obstructed by
28 all the activities associated with these developments, the
29 flights relating to bringing in supplies, man haul or
30 related to monitoring activities create us a lot of
31 problems.

32

33 I know that our subsistence harvest
34 document should show a dramatic decrease in what our
35 successful harvest rates were for this area versus after
36 the development of this. But putting in the road is going
37 to cause more problems because of the constant movement of
38 vehicles along that road. There's going to be people going
39 in and out of that area as well as other people wanting to
40 come in and see that area.

41

42 So it is something that there is going to
43 be a lot of people that did come out and give some comments
44 but it was not received as well as I would have liked but
45 I think they had 38 people come in and give some comments
46 so I appreciated that they came out to the village and
47 received those comments.

48

49 MR. YOKEL: And we're not -- I don't
50 believe we've even started the scoping process for this
00039

1 plan yet so there will be -- you know, there have been a
2 lot of meetings with the oil industry and Nuiqsut and other
3 villages and they have presented this proposal in Nuiqsut,
4 they've also presented it to our subsistence advisory panel
5 but there will be a lot more discussion about this plan and
6 obviously if something like this were to occur it would
7 have significant effects on the hunters of Nuiqsut.

8

9 MS. ROSEMARY: There were a lot of efforts
10 to put stipulations and mitigating measures into some of
11 the previous documents related to this area but it didn't
12 carry any weight with enforcement. So even though we put
13 a lot of efforts to try to get some communication out there
14 to try to decrease some of the impacts without any support
15 to enforce it, we're not making any progress to address our
16 concerns. So if there's going to be some issues put in
17 there there needs to be enforcement with it.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
22 Views. Comments. Terry.

23

24 MR. TAGAROOK: This is Terry from
25 Wainwright. Just one question, that yellow line is the
26 proposed pipeline?

27

28 MR. YOKEL: That's correct. And the red
29 over here is the existing pipeline that's taking the sales

30 of oil from Alpine to Kuparuk. Yellow would connect these
31 five pads to the processing facility at Alpine.

32

33 MR. TAGAROOK: And it looks like it's going
34 to -- the road's going to be crossing the river?

35

36 MR. YOKEL: If a road is built to access
37 these prospects west of the channel then there would have
38 to be a bridge to access that road.

39

40 The plan here is to use -- in this
41 proposal, the plan is to use the camp and processing
42 facilities at Alpine so that there would be no people
43 living out at these development sites west of there, or at
44 any of the five. They would all be living at Alpine and
45 then traveling out as necessary to work on these sites.

46

47 MR. TAGAROOK: So you'll be getting all the
48 information from the people that are from Nuiqsut and see
49 what you could come up with?

50

00040

1 MR. YOKEL: That's correct.

2

3 MR. TAGAROOK: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Terry. I got
6 a quick question to you, Dave, how much weight is BLM going
7 to give on the public comments or testimonies given on
8 these concerns regarding what -- like what Rosemary just
9 mentioned, the impacts and enforcement?

10

11 MR. YOKEL: There is no allocation of how
12 we will treat comments from Nuiqsut versus anywhere else as
13 far as I know of. I'd hate to try to quantify that at this
14 time.

15

16 Certainly, we are required to consider
17 impacts to subsistence in anything that the Federal
18 government does. We are the, I guess, referred to as the
19 lead agency for this plan but this also involves State and
20 private lands so there will be influence from the State
21 government as well.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any other
24 comments or questions to BLM. Paul.

25

26 MR. BODFISH: Yeah. I say if the new
27 Secretary was to go put a road system or decide to develop
28 this area, I think it would be a good testing ground for
29 putting the pipe inside the road system. Use this as a
30 test. That's one comment I want to put on.

31

32 MR. YOKEL: Okay. And we'd be glad to have
33 your comments in that light later when we take official
34 comment on this. I mean that is something that's been
35 considered. It has obvious benefits in terms of impacts on

36 caribou movement. The negative side, there's a higher --
37 I don't know about construction -- well, I think
38 construction costs -- any time you bury a hot oil pipeline
39 in permafrost there are engineering and cost concerns,
40 there's also a spill detection concern when you have a
41 buried pipeline. So there are pluses and minuses to that
42 proposal. But it will be considered I'm sure.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Dave, I have a question.
45 Do you have any copies of the material for us to consider
46 or to provide to us in regards to this portion you're.....

47

48 MR. YOKEL: No, I don't. It's too early in
49 our process. ConocoPhillips did handout some stuff on this
50 at our Subsistence Advisory Panel meeting on this last
00041

1 December, and that's all that I have on it myself. This is
2 a -- I scanned this from that pamphlet that they handed out
3 in December.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is there any chance that
6 you could provide us some of this material?

7

8 MR. YOKEL: As we move through the planning
9 process we absolutely will provide material to the public
10 on this issue.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

13

14 MR. YOKEL: And then we'll get it to Barb
15 to make sure that this Council gets it.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any other
18 comments or questions -- Earl.

19

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Earl for Anaktuvuk. Anyway,
21 a while back when Alpine was going in, there was a few
22 comments from the village like Thomas brought up about when
23 they brought the ice road in, after they moved out there
24 was like a -- like into a river or a lake, they had to
25 gouge like, you know, where it impacted the ground. Did
26 they ever resolve that kind of problems like they were
27 talking about before?

28

29 MR. YOKEL: Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Dave.

32

33 MR. YOKEL: Mr. Williams, I don't
34 personally have any information about the ice roads that
35 were built out on State land because I only work on the
36 NPR-A lands on the North Slope. I do know from personal
37 experience and studies that ice roads do have some impact
38 on the vegetation. We haven't been looking at most of them
39 for long enough with any studies to say what those long-
40 term impacts are. We do have some experience in NPR-A. We
41 had an ice road built to Inigok in 1978 and we just

42 recently did a follow-up study on that ice road in the last
43 two years with assistance from aerial photography from 1979
44 which we were fortunate to have. We could tell exactly
45 where that road was and we could fly out there in 2002 and
46 could not find it on the land. So we do know that after 24
47 years, anyway, almost all the effects of that ice road had
48 disappeared.

49

50 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. Anyway,
00042

1 the reason why I brought that up is when they were building
2 the Alpine, when they came to the village of Anaktuvuk,
3 when Thomas was up there at the meeting he brought this
4 issue up, the ice road being, you know, like through -- on
5 rivers, the creeks, streams and lakes area where they got
6 -- you know it looked like they impact where they showed --
7 the springtime and then the summertime, the wintertime, how
8 they built the ice was with water, you know, and that --
9 you know, that was a concern, too, in this.

10

11 MR. YOKEL: I'm not sure, are you talking
12 about the affects on the stream banks? There certainly can
13 be an effect if they try to approach or depart a stream
14 where the bank is steep. We require that they look as much
15 as possible for areas where there is not so steep approach
16 to the stream. In the NPR-A we do have experience with one
17 place where there's steep stream banks on what we refer to
18 as the Bluduoak River. Rosemary could tell you the correct
19 name for it, perhaps. And in that case they built it with
20 snow to protect the stream banks and the willows there and
21 one year they had really good success of protecting the
22 willows and then another year had rather poor success. And
23 so we're still working on ways to mitigate the effects
24 there.

25

26 But again, I don't have any information
27 about specifics on that land north of Anaktuvuk Pass.

28

29 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other issues you need
32 to bring out?

33

34 MR. YOKEL: That does it for me, Mr.
35 Chairman. Ms. McIntosh has some points to cover.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Stacie.

38

39 MR. YOKEL: Thank you.

40

41 MS. MCINTOSH: Mr. Chair, members of the
42 Council. I just have a quick little update on the
43 subsistence advisory panel and the meetings that we've had
44 recently and the meetings that are upcoming to give to you.
45 This will be very quick.

46

47 Basically, the last meeting of the

48 subsistence advisory panel was December 12th and it was
49 held here in Barrow. At that meeting, we basically got the
50 final plans of both seismic operations and any oil and gas
00043

1 exploratory wells that were going to be drilled in the NPR-
2 A during this winter season.

3
4 ConocoPhillips told the subsistence
5 advisory panel that they were going to be doing two
6 exploratory wells out in the Pouviak area but as far as
7 they could tell those were the only wells that they were
8 planing on drilling this year.

9
10 There are also two seismic operations that
11 are going on in the Northeast area and a little into the
12 Northwest area of the NPR-A right now. Western Geco is
13 working to the northwest of Teshekpuk Lake doing some
14 seismic work and they're not doing it for any specific oil
15 company. They're just doing it so that this seismic
16 information could be purchased at a later date by the
17 industry if they wanted. Also a new company named PGS is
18 doing some seismic work for one of our new companies who
19 have new leases in the Northeast area of the NPR-A, that is
20 Totalfinaelf. So PGS is doing some seismic work for them,
21 and that's to the south of Teshekpuk Lake and about the
22 center of the NPR-A, the Northeast area of the NPR-A.

23
24 The next meeting of the subsistence
25 advisory panel is scheduled for next Wednesday, February
26 26th. And this was a meeting that was called especially by
27 the subsistence advisory panel because they wanted an
28 overview of the Northwest Plan that Dave gave earlier. We
29 will be talking specifically about the EIS and the
30 Integrated Activity Plan Draft that is out right now and it
31 will be an opportunity for the subsistence advisory panel
32 to give their opinions on this plan.

33
34 The next meeting after that is scheduled
35 for March 18th and 19th. That's also going to be here in
36 Barrow. And at that meeting it will be the first joint
37 meetings of the subsistence advisory panel and of the
38 research and monitoring team, which basically recommends
39 studies to the BLM. It identifies data gaps in studies and
40 recommends research and other studies that need to be done
41 to fill in these data gaps to the BLM so that they can then
42 contract out these studies to occur. So it will be the
43 first joint meeting of the subsistence advisory panel and
44 the research and monitoring team.

45
46 And that's all I have. March 18th and
47 19th, and that will be here in Barrow right here in this
48 room.

49
50 MS. ROSEMARY: The February 26th meeting

00044

1 was going to be where?

2

3 MS. MCINTOSH: It's going to be here but
4 it's out at the Dr. Albert Conference Room at Illusvagik
5 College, and that will be from 1:00 to 5:00 next Wednesday.

6
7 MS. ROSEMARY: Thank you.

8
9 MS. MCINTOSH: Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments or
12 questions.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Stacie.
17 Moving along with our agenda.

18
19 MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dave. Stacie,
22 thank you again. Sorry for jumping ahead here and trying
23 to move along. Statewide wildlife proposals for Council
24 review and recommendation to Federal Subsistence Board, Tab
25 C.

26
27 Before we continue on that, there's a
28 couple of new faces that have come in this morning maybe if
29 we could just have them introduce themselves. Charlie.

30
31 CHARLIE OKAKON: Charlie Okakon.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Charlie.
34 And.....

35
36 MR. HOPSON: Baxter Hopson, Barrow.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Baxter. We'll
39 go ahead and continue with agenda item 10. Mr. Jennings.

40
41 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chair, what we
42 would do now is pick up with Proposal No. 1. Polly Wheeler
43 is going to lead the discussion because as I mentioned
44 Helen Armstrong is in Anchorage with her daughter who's
45 having surgery so Polly will take over and present Proposal
46 1 at this time.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

49
50 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

00045

1 Proposal 1 is on Page 33 of your Board book behind Tab C.
2 This proposal was submitted by the Office of Subsistence
3 Management. The proposal requests that the Federal Board
4 establish a statewide regulation allowing for the taking of
5 wildlife for religious or ceremonial or potlatch purposes.
6 The Federal Subsistence regulations currently allow for the
7 taking of wildlife for outside of proposed seasons and
8 harvest limits for ceremonial purposes. And adoption of

9 this proposal would standardize and simplify Federal
10 Subsistence wildlife regulations and extend an opportunity
11 to all Federally-qualified subsistence users to harvest
12 wildlife for use in traditional, religious ceremonial
13 pot,latches. The proposed regulations require that the
14 harvesting does not violate recognized principles of fish
15 and wildlife conservation and prior notice must be given to
16 the delegated local Federal land manager.

17

18 Existing regulations regarding ceremonial
19 take are varied around the State and they're rather
20 lengthy. They can be found in Appendix A and that's on
21 Pages 45 to 50 for your reference, Mr. Chair. I won't go
22 over them here but they are there, Pages 45 to 50 in your
23 Board book.

24

25 The proposed regulation is on Page 42 of
26 your board book. And the main points, again, I won't read
27 you the regulation because it is right there on Page 42 but
28 the main points of the regulation, Mr. Chair.

29

30 You may take wildlife outside of the
31 season or harvest limits for traditional,
32 religious ceremonies, or funeral or
33 mortuary ceremonies.

34

35 The person organizing the ceremony must
36 contact the Federal land management agency
37 with information about the species, and
38 the location that it will be taken.

39

40 There cannot be any violation of
41 principles of fish and wildlife
42 conservation.

43

44 A must report must be filed to the Federal
45 land management agency within 15 days
46 after the harvest.

47

48 No permit or harvest ticket is required
49 but the harvester must be an Alaskan
50 resident with positive customary and

00046

1 traditional use determinations for the
2 resource in that area.

3

4 Just to give you a little background, on
5 Page 39 of your Board book is relevant State of Alaska
6 regulations. I guess the main point there is that November
7 of 2002, last November, the Board of Game passed
8 regulations that allow for the taking of big game for
9 certain religious ceremonies. This had started, actually
10 in March of 2002 and then was deferred to November of 2002
11 to allow for sufficient input on the part of users. But
12 under State regulation now a written permit isn't needed
13 but prior notification through a tribal chief or village
14 council is required. A written report after the harvest is

15 required. And on an annual basis, the State lists areas
16 where specific large mammals in specific areas cannot be
17 taken for ceremonial purposes because of shortages of that
18 resource.

19

20 In terms of Federal regulatory history that
21 begins on Page 41 of your Board book. But basically again,
22 since 1991 Federal Subsistence regulations have contained
23 provisions in Subpart B allowing the Federal Board to
24 authorize the taking of fish and wildlife outside of
25 prescribed seasons and harvest limits for, " special
26 purposes, including ceremonies and potlatches."

27

28 The Federal Board has, on a case by case
29 basis implemented unit-specific provisions, either through
30 regulatory changes or special actions that allow for the
31 taking of wildlife for cultural, educational and religious
32 programs and ceremonies.

33

34 As of the 2002/2003 regulatory year, the
35 year that we're in, such provisions, that is, allowing for
36 the taking of wildlife for cultural, education and
37 religious programs exist in 13 of the 26 wildlife
38 management units, so half. And while there's variations
39 between these unit specific regulations, the Board has
40 required that, again:

41

42 The harvesting of the resource does not
43 violate recognized principles of fish and
44 wildlife conservation.

45

46 That the following be provided to the
47 appropriate land manager, information
48 about the activity and in the case of
49 funerary or mortuary ceremonies the name
50 or names of the decedents.

00047

1 Reporting the species, sex, number,
2 location and timing of the harvest, and
3 the name and address of the harvesters.

4

5 In terms of the proposal, which is again on
6 Page 42 of your Board book. Adoption of this proposal
7 should have minimal impacts to wildlife populations because
8 it's not allowing for an expanding of use it's just
9 accommodating existing use. It would standardized and
10 simplify Federal Subsistence regulations pertaining to the
11 taking of wildlife for use in traditional and religious
12 ceremonies. It would shorten by five days the post-harvest
13 reporting period adopted by the Board in March of 2002 for
14 Units 21 and 24, which wouldn't affect you guys or this
15 Council. It would require the individuals or tribal
16 representatives, again in Units 21 and 24 to notify the
17 appropriate land manager prior to attempting to harvest
18 resources. So it would be a little bit of an additional
19 burden on users in Units 21 and 24 but, again, that
20 wouldn't affect this Council. And it would afford all

21 Federally-qualified subsistence users an opportunity to
22 take wildlife for use as food in traditional and religious
23 ceremonies which are part of the funerary or mortuary
24 cycle, including memorial potlatches.

25

26 So the preliminary Staff recommendation is
27 to adopt the proposal with modifications as presented in
28 the Council book on Page 42. And these modifications adopt
29 language and some provisions contained in the fish proposal
30 that the Board passed in December of 2002 regarding
31 ceremonial use of fish. So basically passage of this
32 proposal would increase regulatory continuity. And some
33 regulations and provisions are maintained by the
34 modification.

35

36 As far as justification for recommending
37 passage of the modified proposal, it wouldn't impose
38 additional requirements in most units. The flexibility
39 allowed by this regulation removes the burden from the
40 hunter and provides protection from undue harassment by law
41 enforcement personnel. The potential for such occurrences
42 have increased with recent changes to the State of Alaska
43 hunting regulations. And the regulatory language provides
44 for the conservation of wildlife populations. As I said
45 earlier, little increased additional -- or additional
46 harvest isn't anticipated as the practice has been going on
47 under the State of Alaska and in some cases Federal
48 regulations.

49

50 Mr. Chair, with that, again, I refer you to
00048

1 the proposal on Page 42. I would add the proposal as
2 written revokes some uses or some -- basically it revokes
3 or supersedes some provisions mainly having to do with the
4 taking of wildlife for traditional, religious ceremonies in
5 Units 1 through 5 and also 21 and 24, but it doesn't affect
6 existing uses that are specific mortuary or funerary
7 potlatches specifically like the Nuchalawoyya allowance or
8 the Stick Dance allowance and there's a couple of other
9 ones, but, again, most of those are outside of your area.

10

11 And again, beginning on Page 43, there's a
12 list of regulations to be revoked or superseded and that
13 goes on and on and on, they're somewhat lengthy.

14

15 So, Mr. Chair, that's all I had unless Mr.
16 Jennings wants to add something.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Mr. Jennings.

19

20 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, I'd like to add
21 one more point for clarification. When you look at the
22 regulations on Page 42 as proposed, under paragraphs three
23 near the bottom of that, the last line of that text of
24 paragraph three, the names -- names is misspelled, it
25 should have an e there, the names of the decedents for whom
26 the ceremony was held, that should have been struck out of

27 the regulation from earlier discussions by Staff. It's in
28 the proposed book as a proposed part of the regulation. To
29 make it clear in terms of your Council recommendation, I
30 would request that you address that.

31

32 Last December the Board decided not to
33 include that information for the fish regulation.

34

35 And last week at the Seward Peninsula
36 Council meeting, the Seward Peninsula Council voted to
37 adopt this proposal as written except to strike the name of
38 the decedents for whom the ceremony was held, to strike
39 that language from the regulation.

40

41 And with that, I think that concludes the
42 presentation and we're available for questions, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I'm trying to
45 think, there's some procedures that we're supposed to
46 follow through in terms of making a record, for
47 presentations on the proposals. It's on the first page of
48 the agenda. While we have you here, is there any questions
49 to Mr. Jennings and Ms. Wheeler from the Council?

50

00049

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's a pretty lengthy
4 proposal. I'm not exactly sure how it would affect our
5 subsistence uses of resources in terms of what's being
6 presented here in the proposal. It's difficult to analyze
7 something like this without having any continued
8 discussions or elaborating a little bit further into what
9 we're trying to accomplish here.

10

11 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, as Polly
12 mentioned in her discussion, the Staff assessment is we
13 think this will have minimal effect on wildlife resources.
14 It only would apply where there's a funerary or mortuary
15 ceremony or potlatch. And it would only apply where the
16 need to take a resource, a wildlife resource is outside of
17 a currently existing regulation or harvest limit. And so
18 generally, I believe that most of the needs are being met
19 through the existing regulations in this area because the
20 hunting regulations, say, for caribou already are pretty
21 accommodating.

22

23 But the proposal is to look at this on a
24 statewide basis and to accommodate those circumstances that
25 come up occasionally where a village wants to hold a
26 memorial potlatch for someone who recently passed away,
27 where on short notice they need to harvest an animal and
28 they may not be able to do so within current regulation.
29 So it only addresses that limited circumstance, and,
30 therefore, the Staff assessment is it would have minimal
31 impact on resources while allowing a ceremony for memorial
32 potlatch to go forward.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any comments
35 or questions. Earl.

36

37 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair, when you say
38 limit, harvest limit, you mean like if you go to a
39 different village or different unit, do they limit on
40 harvesting, you said?

41

42 MR. JENNINGS: Yes. As you know, in our
43 Federal regulation booklet we publish seasons and harvest
44 limits for different wildlife species by game management
45 unit around the state. In many of those areas there are
46 seasonal limits on when a hunt can occur as well as maybe
47 a harvest limit. For instance one caribou might be a limit
48 or five caribou. And so this is to allow for a memorial or
49 a funerary potlatch purpose someone to come and ask to
50 harvest an animal outside of a season or a harvest limit if
00050

1 they need to, if the current season or harvest limit does
2 not already accommodate them.

3

4 Does that address your question?

5

6 MR. WILLIAMS: The reason why I asked is
7 because different villages have different populations, you
8 know. I don't think one caribou or one moose would go
9 around one table, say -- thank you.

10

11 MR. JENNINGS: Well, Mr. Chair, as a follow
12 up, for this memorial potlatch, the village could request
13 more than one animal, if they needed it.

14

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, thank you for that.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Polly, go ahead.

18

19 MS. WHEELER: Yeah, Mr. Chair, just --
20 again just to point out in response to that question. On
21 the uses that are currently allowed or that this regulation
22 wouldn't affect, there's a list, again, beginning on Page
23 43 and it says, retain the following regulations and you'll
24 note, like in one area the harvest of 10 moose by residents
25 of Newhalen, Nondalton, Iliamna, Pedro Bay and Port
26 Alsworth for ceremonial purposes in Unit 9, again, that
27 doesn't affect you guys but there are different uses
28 allowed for different limits allowed for under these
29 ceremonial regulations.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any further
32 comments or questions.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sverre, come on.

37

38 MR. PEDERSEN: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, what is

39 the.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If you could, please,
42 come up to the mike.....

43

44 MR. PEDERSEN:procedure for receiving
45 the State's comments?

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sverre, come up to the
48 mike.

49

50 MR. PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, I'm Sverre
00051

1 Pedersen with Alaska Department of Fish and Game. If you
2 look at, I think it is Page 37 you will see comments that
3 the State has provided on this proposal and each proposal
4 that you'll be looking at will have State comments on it as
5 well.

6

7 And though the comments that you see on
8 Page 37 were issued basically when the initial discussion
9 for this proposal took place, there have been some
10 additional comments that have been prepared by the
11 Department and I have a copy of them here. I wasn't sure
12 to what extent you had been copied on it but I have a semi-
13 official version before me here and I can make copies of
14 the most recent comments that the State has.

15

16 On this particular proposal, the most
17 recent State comments basically -- you know, the original
18 comments said that we would prefer if this particular
19 regulation mirrored as much as possible that one passed by
20 the Board of Game. And I have to admit to you that in
21 terms of my expertise, I'm in very deep water here when it
22 comes to evaluating whether or not the new -- the proposal
23 that is before you now, in fact, does mirror the State
24 regulation. But I'm going to leave that to Ms. Wheeler to
25 maybe lay out whether or not it does, if you're interested
26 in that.

27

28 The only difference that I can detect at
29 this point in time in terms of what is the difference
30 between the two proposals, the existing regulation that
31 exists on State lands and the one that is proposed for
32 Federal lands is that in the Federal ceremonial harvest
33 regulation, the term wildlife is used and the one used in
34 the State regulation, big game is being used. I'm not sure
35 that is -- to you, on the Regional Advisory Council for the
36 North Slope, that this is a big deal, but at the
37 administrative level it is a big deal.

38

39 The State would like the Federal
40 regulation to -- or those who are on the Federal
41 Subsistence Board to take a look at whether or not it is
42 necessary to consider changing that term.

43

44 Beyond that, the State supports this

45 regulation. It's an important one. It's a complicated
46 one. And it would be good and I should have done this
47 myself, I just had this thought as I was looking at this
48 and after listening to the Chairman's comments here, that
49 it would be good in situations like this where it's a
50 fairly complicated situation, that some examples be
00052

1 provided to the Council on how, what sort of effect the
2 regulation has, and to give you, you know, a view of how
3 this regulation would operate. And, you know, you're very
4 fortunate up here in that you have very liberal regulations
5 and very long seasons. And so, you know, you're not really
6 as restricted as some other parts of the state are.

7
8 There are places, though, like we will see
9 later on here in our discussions where, I think Kaktovik is
10 going to ask for permission to take a moose, I think, under
11 this regulation -- under it -- or some modification of it.
12 And so you will see demonstrated how this might work here.

13
14 Is that correct, Polly? Do you see any
15 proposal?

16
17 MS. WHEELER: From?

18
19 MR. PEDERSEN: From Kaktovik.

20
21 MS. WHEELER: I have not.

22
23 MR. PEDERSEN: No, okay. anyway, so it
24 would be -- the point I'm making is that we -- for you it
25 would be good to have a demonstrated example -- you know,
26 an example of how this regulation would work here. And
27 let's -- you know, I can concoct one real quickly for you.

28
29 Let's say that in -- oh, probably Barrow
30 would be the best place to use as an example here. If
31 Barrow decides, you know, you have had an elder pass, you'd
32 like to have the opportunity to, during a memorial service
33 serve oomingmut (ph) meat, there's no open season on
34 oomingmut here, you could then make a request to harvest an
35 oomingmut, a muskox, for that memorial service. Currently,
36 you don't have, you know, that opportunity because the
37 season's closed, there's no bag limit, that's an example of
38 how this would work for you.

39
40 And so if you have any -- if I can help you
41 with that any further, I'm happy to do so. The only other
42 thing that the State is real interested in making sure is
43 that the public understands the reporting requirements that
44 is associated with this new regulation.

45
46 And otherwise, you know, for this area
47 there's broad support in streamlining both the Federal and
48 the State systems when it comes to these sorts of
49 regulations. And I don't see any other issues here. And
50 I'll make sure you get copies of the latest comments from

00053

1 the State.

2

3 Thank you, very much, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Sverre.

6 Moving right along and following the procedures in the

7 agenda here, introduction of the proposal, analysis,

8 Department of Fish and Game comments, so were you providing

9 that now?

10

11 MR. PEDERSEN: Yes.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll just go right into

14 the third part of it, I guess, is there any comments or

15 questions to Sverre while he's here at the table? Charlie.

16 Charlie Okakok is a resident of Barrow.

17

18 MR. OKAKOK: I just wanted to ask these

19 people who the Federal land managers are? Are they the

20 tribal governments or do you know, they talked just Federal

21 and State agencies, and there are tribal governments that

22 do govern land and therefore -- on their lands.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tim, please respond to

25 the question.

26

27 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, I can address

28 that. This regulation would apply on Federal lands managed

29 by the Federal Subsistence program so the Federal agencies

30 involved would -- in your region would be the Fish and

31 Wildlife Service, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge over

32 by Kaktovik, and then to the west BLM lands. And I don't

33 know, are there any park lands in this region, Sandy?

34

35 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes. Gates of the

36 Arctic.

37

38 MR. JENNINGS: Gates of the Arctic around

39 Anaktuvuk Pass, and I think that covers it. So it applies

40 to the Federally managed lands, under the Federal

41 Subsistence program.

42

43 MR. OKAKOK: Another question was to the

44 person that just talked up here, what's his name, Sverre?

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sverre.

47

48 MR. OKAKOK: Sverre Pederson or Peterson.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sverre Pedersen.

00054

1 MR. OKAKOK: Yeah. He mentioned the

2 muskox, and we know it's an introduced species. We

3 introduce species to our lands and who regulates the

4 introduced species, the State or the Federal Subsistence

5 Board?

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tim.
8
9 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair.
10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tim, go ahead.
12
13 MR. JENNINGS: Tim Jennings. It depends on
14 where the animals occur. If the animals are on State
15 lands, the State has management authority. On Federal
16 lands, the State has also management authority in
17 conjunction with the Federal land managers, so it's a dual
18 management on Federal lands.
19
20 On Federal lands, the Federal program
21 addresses subsistence uses, and on Federal lands the State
22 can address subsistence and other non-subsistence uses.
23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Sverre.
25
26 MR. PEDERSEN: The only thing I could add
27 to that is that this, you know, we're just talking about
28 subsistence now because the State actually manages
29 sporthunting and other uses. But in terms of subsistence,
30 it's correct, what's been stated.
31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Charlie, did that help
33 answer your question?
34
35 MR. OKAKOK: (Nods affirmatively)
36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any comments
38 or questions from the Council. If not we'll.....
39
40 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chair.
41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Terry, go ahead.
43
44 MR. TAGAROOK: I just have a suggestion.
45 Maybe a different organization like the State or the
46 Federal have meetings for the villages like Anaktuvuk Pass
47 or Nuiqsut, this information you guys should share with the
48 Federal and the State so that everybody will be aware of
49 it. That is one of my suggestions.
50
00055
1 Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Terry. Earl.
4
5 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, the only comment I
6 wanted to make is I support this proposal on our potlatches
7 and stuff because sometimes potlatches last three, four
8 days, sometimes five days, so I really support this
9 proposal. Because on here it said on regulations here, you
10 know, it said that it revokes -- you know that would kind
11 of hurt people in the background, you know.

12
13
14 Thank you.

I just wanted to bring this comment up.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Earl. Polly.

17
18 MS. WHEELER: Yeah, Mr. Chair, the reason
19 why it revokes is not -- it's not taking away those
20 regulations, Mr. Chair, this regulation would just be sort
21 of a -- it would take away the need for those unit-specific
22 regulations because it's a statewide regulation.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

25
26 MS. WHEELER: Yeah. And just to make
27 another comment, too, about what Sverre had mentioned
28 earlier, there's really two major differences between the
29 Federal proposal and the State proposal. And Sverre
30 pointed out one of them. The Federal proposal deals with
31 all wildlife, whereas the State regulation is specific to
32 big game. And the other thing is is the Federal regulation
33 requires prior notice everywhere, you know, it's a
34 statewide regulation so it requires prior notice everywhere
35 whereas the State regulation does not require prior notice
36 in Units 21 and 24 to accommodate the Koyukon/Athabaskan
37 practice, they didn't want to have prior notification. But
38 those are really the two big differences between the State
39 regulation and the Federal regulation as proposed.

40
41 Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. If there's no
44 further comments or questions to either the proposer and to
45 the State I'll move on with the third item. We have
46 several identified procedures here we need to go through in
47 these presentations. I'll just read through them right
48 quick just to get an understanding how it's supposed to go.

49
50 Introduction of proposal and analysis.

00056

1 Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments. Other agency
2 comments. Fish and Game Advisory Committee comments.
3 Summary of written public comments. Public testimony.
4 Regional Council deliberation, recommendation and
5 justification.

6
7 Those are the procedures that we'll be
8 following in reviewing these proposals.

9
10 So we're down to the third item here, it's
11 other agency comments. Come on up and state your name,
12 please.

13
14 MR. CHEN: For the record my name is Glenn
15 Chen. I'm with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Thank you,
16 Mr. Chair.

17

18 The BIA supports this proposal and we also
19 support Mr. Jennings' recommendation that he gave earlier
20 to change some of the language and that language is
21 described at the bottom of Page 42. It talks about the
22 name of the decedent in the reporting requirements. We
23 support Mr. Jennings' recommendation to strike that
24 language. That's based on the development of the similar
25 fisheries proposal that took place last fall and it was
26 approved by the Federal Board last December.

27
28 We heard from a number of Regional Councils
29 across the state who felt that that information was
30 considered to be private and confidential and so we wanted
31 to, again, bring this up to support the recommendation that
32 Mr. Jennings provided.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Chen. Any
35 comments or questions to Mr. Chen from the Council.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Moving along
40 we'll have the Fish and Game Advisory Comments. I'm not
41 sure who's supposed to present those.

42
43 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, we're not aware
44 of any Fish and Game Advisory Committee comments on this
45 proposal from your area.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Written
48 public comments.

49
50 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, on Page 37, we
00057

1 have one written public comment that we received on this
2 proposal in support of the proposal from an Alfred
3 McKinley, Sr., on behalf of the Alaska Native Brotherhood.
4 Who wrote that all Native residents should be included when
5 making regulations for the taking of fish and game as part
6 of the funerary or mortuary cycle, including the 40 day
7 party and the pay-off potlatch which I believe are
8 references to specific activities in this individuals area
9 in Southeast Alaska.

10
11 So we have one written public comment in
12 support, Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Council heard
15 there's written public comments in support. Following the
16 procedures, public testimony. Barb, any written public
17 testimony on this proposal?

18
19 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: No, there's just that
20 one with Charlie Lean went and did himself.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, thank you.
23 Number 7, Regional Council deliberation, recommendation and

24 justification. What is the wish of the Council? Like I
25 said, Mr. Jennings it's somewhat difficult to try and make
26 a determination on something that we really don't address
27 here on the North Slope. It's something new for us to be
28 considering a proposal of this nature. You know, we don't
29 really go hunt for resources at the time of a death in the
30 community, that's against our practices here. At some
31 point -- although there is the use of wildlife that's been
32 harvested before the funeral or at the time of the funeral
33 that are utilized, but we don't -- our practices are
34 somewhat different from Southeast and holding potlatches
35 and that sort of stuff. So it's a little bit difficult or
36 burdensome to try and make a regulation that we don't
37 really foresee us using.

38
39 But I think there's a different
40 understanding as to how this could be utilized. I think
41 Sverre brought up a good point about maybe bringing out
42 some examples of how this regulation could be utilized at
43 different times of need for a specific resource. I think
44 he was referring to something that was proposed by Kaktovik
45 but I'm not sure if it was followed through or not in terms
46 of harvesting a resource in the time of need.

47
48 Like I said, it's a little bit difficult
49 trying to adopt a regulation which we're not accustomed to
50 following through on.

00058

1 I guess in terms of the deliberation or
2 discussing this proposal, my first comment was how are
3 these proposals going to change my way of life if we take
4 an action on this? You know, how is our subsistence going
5 to be changed, the use of these resources if we adopt this
6 regulation?

7
8 Those are my personal thoughts. You know,
9 as Chairman, I'm just bringing these out and I only read
10 this for the first time yesterday and, again, these are my
11 personal comments and, you know, I'm not trying to sway the
12 Council to vote one way or the other these are just some of
13 my thoughts I'm bringing out. It's up to the Council, you
14 know, to voice concerns as we review these proposals.

15
16 Any other comments from the Council.

17
18 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chair.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Terry.

21
22 MR. TAGAROOK: Just a comment, what if the
23 season is closed for specific game, and some hunters will
24 go out and get that specific game during closed season? I
25 think we support that proposal, it wouldn't affect our
26 areas.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Excuse me, I was trying to
29 respond to Terry's comments here in terms of the funerary

30 and mortuary cycles, I'm not sure if it would address the
31 concern he's bringing up in taking game out of cycle. Ms.
32 Wheeler.

33

34 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. Mr. Tagarook, if
35 it's for a funeral or memorial potlatch, it could be taken
36 outside of -- I mean it could be taken in a closed season
37 as long as it's, you know, the resource can sustain that
38 harvest. That's what the regulation, as proposed would
39 provide for.

40

41 MR. TAGAROOK: Yes. Since we don't have
42 any special animals that we could harvest during that
43 period, I'm just saying that it wouldn't affect any of us
44 if we got that game out of season.

45

46 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, you have some
47 options in terms of how to proceed. Obviously you could
48 support this thinking that it would provide a safeguard,
49 although it's not a practice typically in your region that
50 there might be a circumstance that might come up and then
00059

1 you would have it available for your region. Or you could
2 also decide not to take any action on this proposal and we
3 could indicate to the Federal Subsistence Board in their
4 deliberations in May, that in the North Slope region you
5 took no action because you didn't really see that it would
6 be needed or would affect your region. Or if you had
7 strong opposition, I mean if you wanted to oppose this as
8 not needed, you could also oppose this proposal.

9

10 So there's different ways you could
11 approach this in terms of how to proceed.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Jennings.
14 continuing with the deliberations of the Council,
15 recommendation or justification, you Council members can
16 make a recommendation or a motion to the effect of which
17 way you want to propose the motion.

18

19 Again, I stated my concerns. It's somewhat
20 unusual for us to make this kind of practice, you know,
21 within our region.

22

23 Charlie, we're in the deliberation of the
24 Council right now, I'm not sure how we would address your
25 comments right now. Unless we need further information
26 provided to the Council members. We're following the
27 procedures at this time Charlie, the Council needs to
28 deliberate and make recommendation on the proposal.

29

30 MR. OKAKOK: I think there should be some
31 sort of public comment on this because it affects the
32 public up here.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You'll be provided that
35 opportunity.

36
37 MR. OKAKOK: Before the deliberation of the
38 Board or the Advisory Council here.
39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Charlie, we read through
41 the procedures and there was no public testimony at
42 that.....
43
44 MR. OKAKOK: Yes, I realize that. But I
45 think there should be some sort of public comment on this
46 -- for this panel to have the public come in and say
47 something about it.
48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think that opportunity
50 was.....
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1 MR. OKAKOK: The people that are subsisting
2 off this land.
3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes. I think that
5 opportunity was provided in terms of when the regulations
6 were -- when the proposals were submitted. It's been in
7 the regulation booklet for changes, and there's going to be
8 opportunity to make recommendations or comments to that
9 effect. This is just our first go around on this proposal.
10 There's public comments still open, and could be written.
11
12 MR. OKAKOK: Then they'll be after the
13 deliberation and recommendation and justification from
14 this.....
15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: From this Council.
17
18 MR. OKAKOK: Yes.
19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The final determination
21 is to be made by the Federal Subsistence Board.
22
23 MR. OKAKOK: Yes.
24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Charlie.
26
27 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair.
28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tim.
30
31 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, you could, at
32 your discretion go back in the process and entertain public
33 testimony if there is some that is needed at this time.
34 It's your discretion. You provided the opportunity and no
35 one wanted to testify but if you want to entertain it at
36 this time there's nothing that says at your discretion you
37 can't go back and allow for that public testimony if you so
38 desire.
39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, I understand that.
41 At this time if it's okay with the Council, before we go

42 any further -- Barb.

43

44 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, I think what
45 Charlie is asking about is public comment. Is that when
46 the proposals come in they're put together in the office
47 and then there's a booklet that goes out to the communities
48 in distribution and asking for public comment, and I think
49 Charlie didn't get a copy of this proposal and did not send
50 a comment in is what he is asking so once this proposal is
00061

1 dealt with with this Council then it goes before the
2 Federal Board with their recommendation, that public
3 comment has already went through and is already closed.

4

5 MR. OKAKOK: Yes.

6

7 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: So this is it where the
8 recommendation comes in. And so I think what we need to do
9 is put you on the distribution list with our office and
10 then any other further proposals that will be forthcoming,
11 then we could forward them to you for your comment.

12

13 MR. OKAKOK: Yes.

14

15 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (In Native)

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Charlie, did you want to
18 provide additional public comments, I'll make that
19 exception for now, if you would like to make public
20 comments in terms of this proposal.

21

22 MR. OKAKOK: Yes, Charlie Okakok.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

25

26 MR. OKAKOK: On this regulation here, isn't
27 this another regulation that we have to honor and which --
28 which we don't have anything to do with up here, and -- and
29 then saying we're not acting on it and when the Federal
30 Subsistence Board acts on it and passes it, we had no say
31 so about it. And the thing is another regulation here is
32 being added to our region which we had no part of, is what
33 I'm saying. And the thing about this regulation is in
34 future years it might affect us. And I think that your
35 deliberation part should be lengthened for the Board -- or
36 I mean for the Council here so they could get public
37 comments from their regions, from their areas and see what
38 the people think.

39

40 And to put this in front of you and have it
41 passed as something new for this area on funerary and
42 potlatches and such, of course, we do have that -- that is
43 already in place and we've always lived with it and that
44 is, when funeral comes around we feed the people and
45 harvests that were done before, as were mentioned by Mr.
46 Brower, the thing is are we going to be regulated by this
47 when it's passed? Another regulation to go through to feed

48 the people when there's a funerary or a potlatch that's
49 going on? And, you know, there's a lot of thought that has
50 to go through this and I think it should be opened a little
00062

1 bit more than it has been because this is the first time I
2 heard it and, gosh, I wish there was time for me to make
3 more and there isn't and people should be notified of this
4 before any deliberation or resolution or something is
5 passed here.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Barb.

12
13 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes, Charlie, you know,
14 in the other regions, in other areas, potlatches and wakes
15 (In Native) and sometimes (In Native) that season is closed
16 and this regulation would by-pass that closing season. (In
17 Native)

18
19 MR. OKAKOK: (In Native) That's another
20 regulation to go through.

21
22 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: No, it's not. It's not
23 a regulation, it's a safeguard. It's where you would be
24 able to do it if the season was closed.

25
26 Where I come from in Shungnak, we don't do
27 that either, there's so much sharing going on within
28 ourselves to bring food to the wake or to the funeral,
29 potlatches, and then that continues until the burial of the
30 person in our region. And I don't know what Northwest
31 Arctic will say to this regulation, but Seward Penn
32 followed it just for a safeguard because they're low in
33 fish over there. I know we're not low in fish and other
34 hunting resources up in this area and so is on the
35 Northwest Arctic, and I don't think it's going to hurt our
36 people. I think it's going to help us to keep it there
37 just for a safeguard so sometimes, somewhere in the future
38 our kids or our grandkids may need it when the resources
39 should be depleted.

40
41 (In Native)

42
43 MR. OKAKOK: (In Native)

44
45 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

46
47 MR. OKAKOK: (In Native)

48
49 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (In Native)

50
00063

1 MR. OKAKOK: (In Native)
2

3 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.
4
5 MR. OKAKOK: (In Native)
6
7 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.
8
9 MR. OKAKOK: (In Native)
10
11 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. (In Native)
12
13 MR. OKAKOK: (In Native)
14
15 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (In Native)
16
17 MR. OKAKOK: (In Native)
18
19 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (In Native)
20
21 MR. OKAKOK: (In Native)
22
23 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.
24
25 MR. OKAKOK: (In Native)
26
27 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.
28
29 MR. OKAKOK: Really.
30
31 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (In Native)
32
33 MR. OKAKOK: (In Native)
34
35 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (In Native)
36
37 MR. OKAKOK: (In Native)
38
39 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (In Native)
40
41 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chairman.
42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Barb. Go
44 ahead, Terry.
45
46 MR. TAGAROOK: I think what I meant is
47 these other units are doing this but it does not include
48 Unit 26. What I was saying was that we support what the
49 proposals are.
50

00064

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
2
3 MR. TAGAROOK: And it wouldn't affect our
4 area, so leave it the way it is but support the other units
5 that are proposing these. It wouldn't affect our area.
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
8

9 MR. OKAKOK: (In Native)

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Excuse me, Charlie, could
12 you come up to the mike, we need to record this, the
13 comments that you're providing.

14

15 MR. OKAKOK: Charlie Okakok. What if
16 another regulation come by and it affects us and it doesn't
17 affect the other regions and they in turn say, the other
18 regions come and turn and say they did this to us, we
19 should do this to them?

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we're going to
22 keep from going into that. We do have communications
23 between our different Regional Councils and Chairmans.
24 They do discuss different issues to keep from getting into
25 that situation. We try to support each other on our issues
26 so we look to each other for guidance and support in terms
27 of subsistence management. We try to keep that from
28 occurring in keeping open communications. If there's a
29 regulation that's going to affect our region, and it
30 doesn't affect them, they'll communicate with us to see if
31 we want support from their Council or if we don't need any
32 support and just have us address it, the affected region
33 would address the regulation.

34

35 MR. OKAKOK: Yes, the thing is, I'm sort of
36 looking into the future again, and if this passes and then
37 we turn to other resources and the resources, as you well
38 know are not really depleting but they're going down. I
39 know population growth is part of it. But the people that
40 come in and are qualified to go out and get this same
41 subsistence harvest that we can, it's the -- the regulation
42 -- another regulation to deal with is what I'm saying, even
43 though it doesn't affect us but in the future it probably
44 will. And even if it doesn't affect us now, they'll find
45 a way to make it affect us.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MR. TAGAROOK: I have another comment, if
50 that should occur there's a proposal form that we could
00065

1 deal with and they could listen to us and that way we'll
2 have our subsistence lifestyle not change. We have a
3 proposal form that could originate from you or from the
4 other villages that will help out people. So if there
5 needs to be any changes, the proposals can be originated
6 from whoever's involved with the changes. But if there
7 should be any changes it has to come from the people in the
8 villages and these guys will listen to us. They don't
9 control us, we tell them what -- this or that, and we talk
10 among them, among ourselves and put the language down the
11 way it should be in our areas so there's a lot of teamwork
12 from these guys and we appreciate their help, but they have
13 to listen to us, too. So that way everybody is happy.

14

15 Thank you.
16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Terry.
18
19 MR. OKAKOK: Thank you.
20
21 MR. AGNASAGGA: Mr. Chairman.
22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Amos. Thank you,
24 Charlie, for your comments.
25
26 MR. AGNASAGGA: It was in the newspaper
27 about somebody hunting off season for funeral, this will
28 protect something like that. Because back in time if you
29 even went to the newspaper about somebody hunting moose off
30 season for funeral and something like this would just
31 nothing but protect the hunter.
32
33 Thank you.
34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Amos. Earl.
36
37 MR. WILLIAMS: Earlier, the reason why I
38 said I fully support this proposal is because through the
39 years later on we might turn around and we might need some
40 help, you know, some support from another region, that's
41 why I fully support this. I said that earlier. It's on my
42 record.
43
44 Thank you.
45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Earl. We're
47 in Council deliberation, recommendation and justification.
48 What's the wish of the Council. We could take no action --
49 there were several options that were pointed out to us,
50 take no action, support the proposal as presented with the
00066
1 modification of the wording change on the last sentence on
2 Page 42 and the other would be not to support the proposal;
3 what's the wish of the Council?
4
5 (Pause)
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think maybe we should
8 break for lunch and think about it over lunch and come back
9 and make a decision at that time. I think our stomachs are
10 controlling us right now, no food, no thought.
11
12 Thank you. I think we'll go on a lunch
13 break for now and give some thought to the proposal while
14 you're having your lunch. Come back at 1:30.
15
16 (Off record)
17
18 (On record)
19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good afternoon everybody.

21 We'll call the North Slope Regional Advisory Council back
22 to order after lunch. We are discussing Proposal 1, taking
23 of wildlife for funerary and mortuary cycles. We're under
24 the Council deliberations, recommendations and
25 justifications. The last action for this proposal, there's
26 some kind of action we need to take, whichever way you want
27 to go, a motion, whether we're supporting or not supporting
28 this proposal. IT's up to the Council. What's the wish of
29 the Council.

30

31 The proposal starts on Page 33. The Staff
32 recommendation is to support with modification. ADF&G
33 comments, support with modification. Written public
34 comments, support. No other Council recommendations noted.

35

36 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Terry.

39

40 MR. TAGAROOK: I shall move to support with
41 modification.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on the
44 floor to support with the modification.

45

46 MR. AGNASAGGA: Second.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Second. All in favor of
49 the motion signify by saying aye.

50

00067

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed, same sign.

4

5 (No opposing votes)

6

7 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Excuse me, Harry. Could
8 you state your modification to the motion, please?

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The modification would be
11 to take out some of the wording on the last sentence on
12 Page 42.

13

14 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Name of the
15 decedent?

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

18

19 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay, thank you, sir.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Do we need any more
22 clarification on the proposal -- I mean the motion? I'm
23 getting confused here, too many words coming out of my
24 mouth at one time.

25

26 (Laughter)

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(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, hearing none, we'll move on to the next proposal. Mr. Jennings.

MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chair, like the first one, Polly will give the primary Staff analysis.

MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, thank you. The Office of Subsistence Management submitted the proposed change to the general provisions for all units to standardize the designated hunter regulations. The standardization provides a uniform opportunity for subsistence users to harvest or benefit from the harvest of ungulates in all areas of the state.

Currently designated hunter provisions are allowed on a unit specific basis causing an inconsistency in how the regulations address the designated hunter system.

Unit specific provisions have been adopted for 21 hunts in 17 different units. In some cases certain

hunts have been overlooked for this provision creating a possible hardship on subsistence users. And I should say, excuse me, because I forgot to mention it before, Proposal 03-02 begins on Page 51 in your Council book behind Tab C.

Under the existing regulation, designated hunting is only recognized through unit specific provisions which are listed in Appendix A on Pages 66 to 68 in your Council book. And I'm winging off a bunch of page numbers here so if you need me to slow down, by all means let me know. Under the proposed regulations, which are on Page 53, designated hunting for ungulates would be recognized for all units and prohibitions of designated hunting would be through unit specific provisions. The proposed general Federal designated hunter program has the following five provisions.

Any Federally-qualified subsistence user or recipient may designate another Federally-qualified subsistence user to take wildlife on his or her behalf.

The designated hunter must obtain the designated hunter permit.

The designated hunter may hunt for any number of recipients.

The designated hunter may not have more than two harvest limits in his or her possession at any one time.

33 The designated hunter may not charge the
34 recipient for his or her services in
35 taking the wildlife or for the meat or any
36 part of the harvested wildlife.

37
38 This proposal would allow designated
39 hunting of all ungulates on a statewide
40 basis with the option of unit-specific
41 exceptions to these provisions.

42
43 Beginning on Page 57, Mr. Chair, is the
44 regulatory history, which again because it's in your Board
45 book I don't think I need to read through it unless you
46 would like me to. But basically the regulatory history is
47 there and the bottom line is that since the inception of
48 the Federal Program, the Federal Subsistence Board has
49 implemented designated hunter provisions in moose hunts in
50 four units, caribou hunts in seven units and sheep hunts in
00069

1 two units, two special actions this season dealt with moose
2 and muskox.

3
4 The proposal history is listed on Page 59
5 and Table 1, of specifics.

6
7 In addition to this proposal before you
8 right now, there are other designated hunter provisions for
9 other regions currently being considered, but none for this
10 specific region.

11
12 Alaska Department -- I'm not done yet, I'm
13 just giving you a chance, do you have any questions?

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MS. WHEELER: Okay. Alaska Department of
18 Fish and Game regulations are on Page 58. The State of
19 Alaska does provides for the transfer of harvest limits
20 from one person to another through its proxy hunting
21 program. The proxy hunting program of the State of Alaska
22 differs from the Federal designated hunter provisions in
23 several ways. One is there's a statewide application that
24 is for the State proxy hunter program. It applies only to
25 caribou, deer and moose. It's available only to residents
26 that are blind or 70 percent disabled or 65 years or older.
27 Either the recipient or the hunter may apply for the
28 authorization. No person may be a proxy hunter for more
29 than one recipient at a time.

30
31 In the Staff analysis for this proposal on
32 Page 58 there is an error which I need to point out. The
33 Staff analysis says that the recipient is responsible for
34 harvest and permit reporting and this is a mistake, that's
35 not true under the State regulations. So that is a mistake
36 in the analysis.

37
38 Both State and Federal systems assign

39 responsibility to the recipient of the harvest for all
40 harvest permit requirements.

41

42 The harvest history is on Pages 59 and 62,
43 again, you can go through that history. But what you'll
44 find is that basically the designated hunter provisions
45 have been used primarily for deer in Units 1 through 5 and
46 also in Unit 8.

47

48 The designated hunter program is shown by
49 annual harvest on Page 61 and Figure 1. This shows that,
50 again, the two deer hunts in Units 1 through 5 and Unit 8
00070

1 have the highest harvests annual levels. All other hunts
2 have had less than 50 and in most cases less than 25
3 animals have been harvested annually.

4

5 The effects of the proposal before you, Mr.
6 Chair. Currently there are 66 Federally regulated ungulate
7 hunts throughout the state shown in Table 4 on Page 62.
8 Designated hunter provisions are available in 21 of these
9 units. So there are 66 Federally regulated ungulate hunts
10 throughout the state. Designated hunter provisions are
11 available in 21 of these hunts.

12

13 The designated hunting program is not
14 expected to cause any significant increase in participation
15 or delay in reporting of harvest. And it should be noted
16 that as a result of a request made by tribal organizations
17 in the Southeast region, a review of the administration of
18 the designated hunter permits were made. Changes in permit
19 distribution were made in September 2002 and after this
20 hunting season is completed, these changes will be
21 evaluated as to their application to other areas of the
22 state. It also should be noted that the permit form which
23 is included in Appendix C on Page 70 of your Board book
24 used by the Office of Subsistence Management is currently
25 undergoing revision and we'll be reporting back to you at
26 a later point in time on that.

27

28 I would note that since the original
29 writing of this analysis a number of concerns have been
30 raised about the potential impact of designated hunting on
31 small populations. It has been pointed out this could
32 particularly impact goat, muskox and sheep. This proposal
33 may eventually be modified to apply to only moose, deer and
34 caribou. If this modification is adopted then users, then
35 as currently, users could request special provisions for
36 any other species of wildlife on a unit-specific basis.

37

38 So, Mr. Chair, the Staff recommendation at
39 this point in time is to support the proposal, as written,
40 which is on Page 64 of your Board book in bolded language.

41

42 Basically the justification for supporting
43 the proposal as written is that there are currently 21
44 hunts with designated hunter provisions across the state.

45 The harvest by these hunters represents 2.6 percent of the
46 harvest by all hunters. Extending designated hunter
47 provisions to the remaining 45 ungulate hunts allowed by
48 Federal Subsistence regulations should not have a
49 significant impact upon these resources and will provide a
50 uniform opportunity to subsistence users to harvest or
00071

1 benefit from the harvest of wildlife in all areas of the
2 state.

3

4 Permit data from past designated hunts show
5 that these harvests have occurred within the proposed
6 standard two harvest limit provision.

7

8 Mr. Chair, that's all I have. Except I
9 would note that the Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory
10 Council at their meeting last week supported this proposal
11 as written. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Tim.

14

15 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, I would like to
16 add just one comment.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

19

20 MR. JENNINGS: If you look on Page 59 in
21 your Council book where we have the Table 1 that summarizes
22 the designated hunter history under the Federal program,
23 you'll see that there's three instances where the Federal
24 Subsistence Board has adopted designated hunter provisions
25 in your region. Muskox as a result of the request from the
26 city of Kaktovik. And then sheep as a result of city of
27 Kaktovik request, which is the second line down from the
28 top. And then about midway down Units 23 and 26(A) sheep
29 as a result of request from the Northwest Arctic Council
30 adopted back in 1999. And then recently muskox, the last
31 line of this table, as a result of a recommendation from
32 the North Slope Muskox Working Group, and that was a result
33 of a special action request. You may recall that one just
34 recently.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

37

38 MR. JENNINGS: So that's a history of the
39 use of designated hunter provisions in your region. Mr.
40 Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tim.
43 Following the procedures -- before we get into that is
44 there any comments or questions from the Council regarding
45 this proposal? Rosemary.

46

47 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: I'm not familiar with
48 having to apply for the designated hunter permit, is there
49 a process that you have to go through to get approved, or
50 do you just put in the application and get approved? How

00072

1 much hardship is that going to put on our hunters?

2

3 You know, I can think of one instance at
4 home where I had one hunter hunting for five families and
5 the one time the caribou came within proximity, he went out
6 and harvested for those five families and he would have
7 been in violation if he had done it with this regulation in
8 place.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Jennings, do you have
11 a response?

12

13 MR. JENNINGS: Well, this regulation would
14 attempt to address that situation, at least, partially, and
15 I think Sverre will address the State comments. The State
16 has a designated hunter permit provision. As Polly
17 mentioned, to qualify it's more restrictive, you either
18 have to be blind or disabled or over age 65.

19

20 So this is an attempt, in the Federal
21 Program to allow for some of the practices that we know
22 that go on like you've mentioned in your area.

23

24 One of the things you might want to
25 consider as you deliberate this proposal, if you don't
26 believe that the Staff recommendation to limit the harvest
27 to two harvest limits is adequate and it might not
28 accommodate existing practices, you may address what you
29 think could be appropriate for your area if it's different
30 than the two harvest limits.

31

32 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: As well as the concern
33 about trying to get acknowledged as being 70 percent
34 disabled, I mean, that's very difficult in the villages to
35 get any designation as disabled. So how are those needs
36 going to be met?

37

38 MR. JENNINGS: Well, see under the Federal
39 program that would not be a requirement, that's a State
40 requirement and so I would let Sverre address that
41 question. Under the Federal Program, you would qualify if
42 you were a rural resident and had customary and traditional
43 use of the resource that you were going to hunt for for the
44 designated hunter provision.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary, did that help
47 answer your question?

48

49 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: It does answer it,
50 thank you.

00073

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Sverre.

2

3 MR. PEDERSEN: Mr. Chair, before I answer
4 that specific question let's back up and let's just talk
5 about the State's comments on the proposal and then we can

6 come back to that.

7

8 Originally the State's comments -- or the
9 Department's comments were to defer discussion, or, you
10 know, action on this proposal. But in light of the
11 additional information that the Federal government has
12 provided here the State has altered its position and now
13 suggests that they generally support the Federal designated
14 hunter regulation.

15

16 There's only one concern expressed by the
17 State and that is, that in some instances, this, you know,
18 liberal regulation compared to the State regulation may
19 jeopardize conservation of resources in some places under
20 some conditions.

21

22 But, you know, the track record, I guess,
23 seems to indicate that the designated hunter system works
24 fairly well. And so with that in mind, the State then
25 believes that the proposal before you has merit.

26

27 The State's proxy hunting regulation is a
28 lot narrower in scope, as you've heard. And as Council
29 member Rosemary has pointed out, it is in some places
30 pretty difficult to qualify for the State's program and we
31 recognize that.

32

33 The Federal designated hunter is more
34 liberal. It still has, as you've noted, a limitation as
35 well, and you're about to discuss that. So, you know,
36 passing a regulation and providing for the effect of that
37 regulation in a community, for instance, such as in Nuiqsut
38 and it's a difficult thing and it takes awhile to get all
39 of that machine going. And the point that you've raised is
40 a real good one, though, and the State is in many ways not
41 much farther ahead in implementing some of these things
42 than the, you know, what the Federal government is
43 implementing some of its regulations.

44

45 So I hope that answers your questions.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Sverre. So
48 you also provided the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
49 comments on this proposal?

50

00074

1 MR. PEDERSEN: These were the Alaska
2 Department of Fish and Game comments on the proposal. I
3 just phrased it in terms of the State here, rather than the
4 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Moving on
7 with the procedures, any other agency comments.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. Fish and

12 Game Advisory Committee comments.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Summary of
17 written public comments.

18

19 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Mr. Jennings.

22

23 MR. JENNINGS: There were no written public
24 comments on this proposal.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Public
27 testimony on this proposal.

28

29 MR. JENNINGS: Barb, has anybody signed up
30 for public testimony?

31

32 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Oh, I'm sorry, no, sir.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was going to see if you
35 were awake or not.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Barb. No
40 public testimony on this proposal. We're down to No. 7,
41 Regional Council deliberation, recommendation and
42 justification. What is the wish of the Council.

43

44 (Pause)

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wishes.....

47

48 MR. BODFISH: Mr. Chairman.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Paul.

00075

1 MR. BODFISH: Barb, (In Native)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native)

4

5 MR. BODFISH: (In Native)

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native)

8

9 MR. BODFISH: Oh, okay.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're just reiterating
12 what's written in the proposed regulation, getting a
13 clarification as to how it would apply to subsistence
14 users.

15

16 (Pause)

17

18 MR. BODFISH: I got another question, if
19 this goes into effect, will that affect us in the future of
20 limiting us to the harvest of caribou or whatever wildlife?

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No. We only put limits
23 on the normal hunt. It's trying to provide for a person
24 that is not capable of hunting for themselves and to
25 designate a hunter to hunt for these people that are not
26 able to hunt.

27
28 (In Native)

29
30 MR. BODFISH: Yeah, I could understand that
31 part.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

34
35 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And then if you're
36 hunting for them, you could hunt for them and then get
37 their -- like even get five for that family and then it
38 won't affect your personal catch also.

39
40 (In Native)

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further comments,
43 discussions on this proposal.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What page was the Staff
48 recommendations on again?

49
50 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, on Page 64 of your
00076

1 Board book is the Staff recommendations.

2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

4
5 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, the regulation is
6 there in bold, the bold language in the middle of the page
7 on Page 64.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

10
11 MR. JENNINGS: And, Mr. Chair, while you're
12 reviewing that language I could add some clarification, the
13 term ungulate, in Federal regulation is defined as any
14 species of hoofed mammal which includes deer, elk, caribou,
15 moose, mountain goat, dall sheep and muskoxen. So that's
16 what the term ungulate means.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

19
20 MR. BODFISH: (In Native)

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native)

23

24 (Pause)
25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just for your
27 information, Council members, I would move that we support
28 the proposal as stated in supporting Staff recommendations
29 of this proposal, just to start the discussion and getting
30 the motion in order here.
31
32 (In Native)
33
34 MR. BODFISH: I shall move to that effect.
35
36 MR. TAGAROOK: Second.
37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on the
39 floor to support this Proposal WP03-02 supporting Staff
40 recommendations and it's been seconded.
41
42 MR. AGNASAGGA: Call for question.
43
44 MR. BODFISH: Mr. Chairman.
45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Paul.
47
48 MR. BODFISH: Under this proposed
49 regulation, what was the harvest limit?
50
00077
1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We don't have harvest
2 limits on here.
3
4 MR. BODFISH: What Rosemary was saying
5 earlier, that -- like what she was saying that he was
6 hunting for five families and under this proposal he would
7 be in violation.
8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, if there's full
10 individual hunting regulations we need to look at each of
11 the specific resource, like (Native) or caribou, sheep or
12 moose, you know, we need to look at each specific as to the
13 limit -- as to the amount that could be harvested. So if
14 it's caribou it would probably -- we need to look at the
15 regulations.
16
17 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Five per day.
18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What?
20
21 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Five per day.
22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If it was for caribou
24 it'd be five per day for one person. If it was for another
25 resource -- yeah, 26(A), it's 10 per day for one person.
26 If you're hunting under the designated hunter you could
27 take, you know, up to 10 but you don't have to go up to 10,
28 you could go within what you're able to accommodate
29 yourself and the designated hunter provision.

30

31 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Jennings.

34

35 MR. JENNINGS: You're correct, and just to
36 further clarify, it says no more than two harvest limits in
37 your possession at any one time. So in the instance of
38 caribou in Unit 26 where the harvest limit in 26(A) is 10
39 per day, the person could have two harvest limits, their
40 own and another's or for two other.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Individuals.

43

44 MR. JENNINGS:designated --
45 individuals. And once they're back and that's taken care
46 of, the same individual could then go on another day and
47 hunt for somebody else with another designated hunter
48 permit.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, thank you. (In

00078

1 Native) Rosemary.

2

3 MR. BODFISH: Yeah, I understand now.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Rosemary.

6

7 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: That's fine, but to
8 have in your possession, but that's the stickler there.
9 With our subsistence practices you might have caribou
10 hanging outside at your camp or at your residence and you
11 might end up having some that are going to go to another
12 family but they stay hanging where you're at.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

15

16 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: And that could pose a
17 problem. And the situation I was describing, that's what
18 his situation would have been, you know, we finally have
19 access to the animals and we're getting our limit when we
20 have access to them and, they're only going to be available
21 in that short period of time and there are times that we
22 may have hunters exceed their limits as well as now they
23 have the requirement that they have to apply for the permit
24 prior to and get approved for that.

25

26 And there are other designated individuals
27 that they may be hunting for. What the situations -- one
28 of the families he was hunting for, the family member was
29 sick and the parents were out of town but the rest of the
30 kids were there with the babysitter, you know, and it
31 doesn't meet in this criteria that they would have been
32 covered.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So it would be that they
35 were overharvesting a resource at a certain time is what

36 you're getting at without.....

37

38 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: It could be perceived
39 as such.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER:without the
42 designated permit.....

43

44 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: And it's not -- in our
45 perception it's not the situation but it's, you know,
46 taking.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

49

50 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK:advantage of the
00079

1 harvest when we have the opportunity to harvest and meeting
2 the needs of the community. You know, in that situation
3 there was one hunter on the boat, you know, the way I read
4 this, he would have been in violation. But in the
5 community and in our outlook of how we provide for our
6 families he was not exceeding the limits because the number
7 of families he was sharing it with.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: To further clarify the
10 situation, what Rose is describing, do we need to make an
11 amendment to the motion or do we need to amend the language
12 in the regulation? There's a gentleman behind you Mr.
13 Jennings.

14

15 MR. EASTLAND: Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

18

19 MR. EASTLAND: I'm Warren Eastland, the
20 wildlife biologist with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

23

24 MR. EASTLAND: The situation that Rosemary
25 describes put it bluntly, is probably illegal when it
26 happened. The purpose for this regulation is to remove
27 that technical illegality. There's a provision in this
28 proposal that, unless otherwise specified in Unit specific
29 regulations, I would respectfully suggest that after the
30 passage of this, then a regulation or a proposal be
31 submitted to allow the possession of five, six, whatever
32 possession limits of caribou go forth because this is a
33 statewide regulation that covers all ungulates and were you
34 to allow multiple -- when I say multiple, more than two,
35 say you're five possession limits in an area where there
36 are limited number of permits, it would be very difficult
37 to regulate the take within conservation limits because of
38 the potential for one person to suddenly take, say, five
39 limits and that would probably -- and this is a guess on my
40 part, but it would result in the revocation of the
41 designated hunter permit in that unit for that species

42 entirely.

43

44 So I would suggest that a better way to
45 handle your situation would be after approval of getting
46 designated hunter status, then just go ahead and submit a
47 proposal that says five limits of caribou are perfectly
48 acceptable.

49

50 Have I muddled the waters sufficiently?

00080

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, it's getting a
2 little more confusing than what I was trying to understand.

3

4 Because how I read it now, if one person is
5 to take a limit, you know, for two people, the 10 limit, if
6 he was to utilize the two people's amount of harvest, 10,
7 that's 20 caribou, boy, that's a lot of animals to try to
8 take in one day and then having to work, you know, after
9 they've been harvested, you know, you have to cut them,
10 dress them down and put them away in the proper manner to
11 store them, otherwise they'll get spoiled.

12

13 Trying to -- using caribou for an example,
14 I think we're going way beyond what one person can do in a
15 day. I know just handling five for myself is pretty
16 difficult. I'm pretty well beat in one day after dressing
17 out five caribou.

18

19 So I think if -- I could understand it if
20 it was for a resource that we take in a smaller quantity,
21 it might be -- I could understand that sense but for
22 caribou and taking for five people, I don't think that's
23 what a person would want to do, it'd be wasteful hunting in
24 my mind.

25

26 MR. EASTLAND: Yes, sir, I agree
27 completely. But I was merely responding to Rosemary's.....

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

30

31 MR. EASTLAND:direct statement about
32 a situation that occurred in her area earlier, sir.

33

34 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chairman, just a
35 comment.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, go ahead, Terry.

38

39 MR. TAGAROOK: Yeah, in our situation back
40 in Wainwright. We have extended family members that go
41 with us in the boat and we just take what we can handle or
42 carry in the boat and try not to exceed 10 per day, just
43 take what we need and then take them home, store them and
44 then you could come back at a later time. You could hunt
45 again.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Terry. Do you

48 have any further comments Rosemary?

49

50 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: The only line that gives
00081

1 me concern is in possession, you know, when you're at fish
2 camp you might have caribou you hang out from the first
3 part of the season and they're still there when you come
4 back out for the second part of the season, depending on
5 which way you're going. So that'd be the -- who makes the
6 interpretation of what's in possession.

7

8 MR. TAGAROOK: Get a stamp, stamp them.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sandy, go ahead.

13

14 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you. Sandy
15 Rabinowitch with the Park Service. Just to point out,
16 trying to assist you and respond to the question that
17 Rosemary had also. On Page 66 of your book there's
18 examples, I think, this was pointed out, but there's
19 examples of how these regulations exist currently in some
20 units. And if you'll look at the caribou, Unit 9(C) and
21 (E), and caribou Unit 9(D) paragraphs, I'll just highlight
22 for you, one of those talks about no restriction on the
23 number of possession limits and then the one, 9(D) below
24 speaks to four. So I just want to point out that the
25 Federal Board has heard arguments from different areas of
26 the state about issues like what you are raising, that the
27 limits in these hunts, if you'll look at the, I think
28 they're lower, quite a bit lower than the caribou limit
29 here.

30

31 But I would point out that I think the
32 Federal Subsistence Board is willing to hear arguments that
33 are specific to your region, exactly the kind of thing
34 you're talking about and here's two instances where they've
35 diverged and done something different because they were
36 presented with a logical situation and a solution from a
37 Council.

38

39 So I just offer that to highlight it for
40 you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

43

44 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

47

48 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, Earl. Anyway,
49 I'd like to say something about this, because us Native
50 people that hunt, when we hunt we don't go out and kill as
00082

1 much caribou as we can because it gets spoiled, we just
2 limit ourselves sometimes, maybe five or four. But there's

3 a story in the background to this, there was one guy, this
4 White guy, he killed 10 caribous one time, he was out there
5 from 7:00 o'clock to 5:00 o'clock in the morning trying to
6 skin all the caribous and people in the village told him
7 about it and, you know, he was really confused because he
8 didn't know what to do after four caribous. He wanted to
9 give caribou away but in traditional way, you kill it, you
10 skin it, you know, that's the way it goes. And I went out
11 there and got a couple of them but it kind of make me laugh
12 how he shot them all, you know, he got kind of carried away
13 there. Like I said, you know, we just follow our
14 traditional values, how we -- we don't go out and just get
15 carried away.

16
17 This proposal means something to us
18 because, man, 10 caribous is quite a bit.

19
20 Thank you, I was just giving you my
21 comment.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Earl.

24
25 (Pause)

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just for discussion
28 purposes, Rosemary, do you think we could do like what Mr.
29 Eastland said about submitting another proposal to address
30 this designated hunter in the position at one time the
31 person could carry, to change that wording? Do you think
32 you could write up a proposal to that effect that would be
33 -- it would help your concern, addressing your concern.

34
35 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: Yes. In the notation
36 he pointed out on 66, adding on that there is no
37 restrictions to the number in possession would help address
38 those concerns.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

41
42 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: Because I think that's
43 where the problems would arise, is when you're out at camp.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. A question maybe
46 to Tim, who would be providing these permits, designated
47 hunter permits if a person was to request for one? Where
48 would they have to go to receive the permit?

49
50 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, the current

00083

1 process is our office in Anchorage prepares the forms and
2 then either the Federal land management agency in the area
3 of the state can distribute them. For instance, in
4 Southeast we have the Forest Services offices available.
5 In this area we could have either the Park Service or BLM
6 or Fish and Wildlife Service offices if they had something
7 locally, which they typically don't except for summer
8 seasonal staffing. And what we're trying in Southeast this

9 year, for the first time is tribal offices are
10 administering the designated hunter permits in Southeast
11 Alaska. And if that goes well, then that could be expanded
12 elsewhere in the state and if you wanted to consider that
13 for your area you could request that the Board consider
14 tribal administration of designated hunter permits. It
15 would make them more easily accessible directly to the
16 users that way.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any further
19 discussion. I know Amos called the question earlier, but
20 I asked him to hold it because there was further discussion
21 on the motion.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Now, I'll look back up to
26 you, Amos.

27

28 MR. AGNASAGGA: Call for the question.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question has been called
31 on the motion. All in favor signify by saying aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed, same sign.

36

37 MR. BODFISH: Aye.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: One opposed. So noted
40 Paul.

41

42 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tim.

45

46 MR. JENNINGS: To clarify the Council's
47 wishes, if you would clarify for me, do you want Staff to
48 work with Rosemary to craft a proposal for the next
49 regulatory cycle, to work on wording that would address her
50 concern?

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think that would be
2 appropriate in terms of addressing her concern, yes.

3

4 MR. JENNINGS: Okay. And then the other
5 clarification is, do you want to have your views or any
6 views expressed to the Board about administration and
7 availability of these permits since you raised the
8 question? Right now, the answer to where would a person
9 get permits from your region, it would be our office in
10 Anchorage. So if you want further Board consideration to
11 make the permits available locally that could be a
12 recommendation that we could carry forward to the Board.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think that would be

15 favorable to the community, yes, you know, I'm not sure how
16 much of a turnaround it would be from the time a request
17 for a permit is forwarded to the office and by the time it
18 gets back, you know, the resources could have moved to a
19 further dis -- you know, migrating further away from the
20 community. So I think putting that recommendation in would
21 be very helpful to the community.

22

23 MR. JENNINGS: Okay. Because that's one of
24 the issues, I think, that will come up in the discussion at
25 the Board level, is if this is implemented statewide, in
26 some of these regions of the state where we don't have
27 local offices of the Federal agencies, it's very difficult
28 then for the local users to obtain these permits and the
29 Board will need to address that in their discussion and in
30 implementation, our office and the Federal agencies will
31 need to help implement a more accessible way to obtain the
32 permits. So I appreciate that clarification.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. So we have an
35 understanding that the proposal -- or the motion was to
36 support Staff recommendations as written on Page 64. And
37 then we'll come back -- Staff will come back and make
38 contact with Rosemary to make another proposal in
39 addressing the language that needs to be forwarded to the
40 Board.

41

42 MR. JENNINGS: Well, that'd be a point of
43 clarification. It's either to address it for the next
44 regulatory cycle.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, regulatory cycle.

47

48 MR. JENNINGS:or if you want to -- is
49 that okay?

50

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1

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

2

3

MR. JENNINGS: Rosemary?

4

5

MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: Uh-huh.

6

7

8

next year?

9

10

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

11

12

13

right.

14

15

16

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Okay, moving
on to the next agenda item is Proposal -- or was that it
for the proposals, two?

17

18

19

20

MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, we have one more
North Slope proposal 53.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Fifty-three.

MR. JENNINGS: And then we have two additional proposals, No. 38 and 39, which are crossover proposals from another region.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: So where would we find the next proposal?

MR. JENNINGS: Dave Fisher, our wildlife biologist is going to do the Proposal 53 and it starts on Page 75, is the analysis.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Fisher.

MR. FISHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will switch over here and get over on muskox for a few minutes.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

MR. FISHER: This is Proposal No. 53, it was submitted by the North Slope Muskox Working Group.

And actually what this proposal would do would replace the special action that's currently in effect and this proposal would maintain our muskox harvest season from July 15th, through March 31st, allow for one bull harvest by Federal registration permit. And the number of

permits would be based on the population counts that are conducted during the precalving surveys that are in April and May and the number of permits would be based on three percent of the number of the muskox that are counted. And this proposal is also requesting a designated hunter provision, however, the designated hunter provision would be taken care of under Proposal 2 that we just discussed.

The residents of Kaktovik currently have exclusive use of muskox for Unit 26(C).

A little bit on the biology of these animals. They were reestablished in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in 1969 and 1970, they expanded east and west, the population peaked at around 400 in 1986. The population remains somewhat stable for around 10 years. And that population was somewhere around 325 animals. However, the population has declined sharply in the last two years. Less than 70 animals were counted during the summer of -- mid-summer of 2002 and then less than 30 animals were counted in August.

The primary reasons for this seem to be the migration of the animals to the east and to the west, poor calf recruitment and also predation.

27 Hunting of these animals started in 1982
28 and it peaked at around 15 animals in 1997 down to a low of
29 animals in 2002.

30

31 What this proposal would do then would be
32 to restore our July 15th through March 31st season, one
33 bull by Federal registration permit and again the number of
34 permits would be based on three percent of what the
35 population surveys indicate.

36

37 The Staff recommendation was to support
38 this proposal.

39

40 That sums it up somewhat pretty quick and
41 that's all I had Mr. Chairman.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Fisher.
44 Does the State have any comments?

45

46 MR. PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, this is Sverre
47 Pedersen. Yeah, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
48 participates in the North Slope Muskox Working Group and so
49 they've been participating in the procedure here in
50 developing this proposal so there's obvious support from
00087

1 the State. And the fact that it's limiting the harvest to
2 males and reducing the harvest allocation, you know, there
3 are regulatory actions that must be taken at this time to
4 protect the muskox population in Unit 26(C), so we're in
5 support.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Sverre.

8

9 MR. AGNASAGGA: Mr. Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Amos.

12

13 MR. AGNASAGGA: I move we support this
14 proposal.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I have to follow
17 these procedures. Any other agency comments. I guess I
18 better turn my mike on -- I was just asking to see if there
19 was any other agency comments.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Fish and
24 Game Advisory Committee Comments.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Summary of
29 written public comments.

30

31 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chair, there was
32 one written public comment on this proposal. It's

33 summarized on Page 78 in your Council manual. Defenders of
34 Wildlife support the proposal. Substantial declines in
35 muskox populations in this area warrant this action.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair, that summarizes
38 written public comments.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Jennings.
41 Public testimony.

42

43 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, no public
44 testimony at this time.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Now, we're
47 down to the Regional Council deliberation and
48 recommendations. Amos, do you want to restate your motion,
49 please.

50

00088

1 MR. AGNASAGGA: I move that we support this
2 proposal, about one muskox, that's better than nothing.

3

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Second.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on the
7 floor to support the proposal as presented. Discussion.

8

9 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Terry.

12

13 MR. TAGAROOK: Yes. How long will this be
14 in effect, the change?

15

16 MR. FISHER: This change will take effect
17 this coming July and it will remain in effect until another
18 proposal is introduced to change the regulation or a
19 special action is introduced to change the regulation.

20

21 MR. TAGAROOK: Are you keeping tabs on
22 where the muskox are migrating to or is it just natural
23 causes that has the decline on them?

24

25 MR. FISHER: The Alaska Department of Fish
26 and Game and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, they are
27 the two agencies that do the surveys and they report their
28 information to the North Slope Muskox Group, and they have
29 done a -- keep a pretty good handle on what population is
30 doing.

31

32 MR. JENNINGS: Maybe to address your
33 question, Terry, are you asking what are the reasons for
34 the decline?

35

36 MR. TAGAROOK: Yes. And maybe migration to
37 another location would be another answer.

38

39 MR. JENNINGS: Yeah. That's what,
40 apparently, the biologists working on this believe, that
41 the decline is due to some muskox leaving the area on the
42 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, some of them going east
43 into Canada and some of them going west off of Federal
44 lands onto State lands. Also there could be some concerns
45 for poor calf recruitment and some predation. It may --
46 the calf recruitment may relate to overwintering
47 conditions. But that's the extent of why the biologists
48 think the declines are occurring.

49
50 MR. TAGAROOK: And it might be weather
00089

1 conditions also. Thank you.

2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further comments on
4 the proposal. Rosemary.

5
6 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: In light of the belief
7 that it's migration has a factor, do we have any supporting
8 statistics from the nearby areas, like in -- I know in
9 Nuiqsut we definitely have some pretty stable population of
10 muskox out there, is this part of those herds or do we have
11 any documentation to show that there is migration of these
12 animals that is the for sure reason?

13
14 MR. FISHER: I believe they have put radio
15 collars on some of the animals and that's the way they've
16 been able to track the migration to the east and to the
17 west. And I'd like to back up, I guess I misunderstood
18 your earlier question so I apologize for that. But through
19 the use of radio collars, they're able to track the
20 movements.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So the answer is yes,
23 they've monitored them through the radio collar telemetry
24 information and they've also communicated with the
25 Canadians in terms of moving further east, to the other
26 side of the border?

27
28 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: Yeah. I just wanted to
29 see if there were numbers to support that, if they're
30 moving out of that area and coming into other areas, do we
31 have numbers to support that. So there isn't numbers to
32 support that?

33
34 MR. PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sverre.

37
38 MR. PEDERSEN: My understanding here is
39 that, you know, even though there have been a few muskox
40 that have had collars on them that have moved out, you
41 know, that doesn't give you any numbers it just tells you
42 that it's happening. So I don't think that there's been
43 any real tight surveillance to enumerate exactly how many
44 have moved out. It does happen. I mean in any muskox

45 population there's always movement of animals. And, you
46 know, sometimes it's a long-term thing and sometimes it's
47 a short-term thing. Young bulls move out, are gone for a
48 little while, they can come back to a group that they moved
49 out of, so, you know, no definite numbers on the extent to
50 which this is occurring, that I am aware of.

00090

1 MR. WHEELER; Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Mr. Wheeler.

4

5 MR. WHEELER; Gary Wheeler, with the Fish
6 and Wildlife Service, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

7

8 In my presentation, which you'll see a
9 little later, I do have a graph showing the number of
10 muskox and for say, in the last five years, the total North
11 Slope population has been pretty stable until just the last
12 year when it's dropped by about a hundred, but it is still
13 over 500 animals total on the North Slope. We can see
14 numbers off the Refuge increasing to the west, we can see
15 numbers in Canada that are increasing and then just in the
16 last two years there's been a sharp drop on the Refuge.
17 But it certainly appears that those animals are moving off
18 of the Refuge and the total population still seems to be in
19 good shape.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Wheeler.
22 Amos, did you have any comments.

23

24 MR. AGNASAGGA: Yes. Couldn't they find a
25 better way to use these radio collars on those than to take
26 the hair off, even on polar bears, and how do they do it in
27 wintertime, I don't know, but that's not a humane way to do
28 it, they should find a different way or even make it
29 smaller than the way they are right now, they're too heavy,
30 that's why all the hair comes off.

31

32 MR. WHEELER: I'm not sure I have an answer
33 to that. It's certainly looking at something worth looking
34 at, I agree. They do have to be pretty substantial to take
35 the potential abuse from the animals but your concern is
36 certainly noted and worth looking into.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Wheeler.
39 Mr. Fisher.

40

41 MR. FISHER: I just have a little bit to
42 add to that. The fellow was concerned about the size of
43 the collars, that's true, that's -- about 90 percent of
44 that -- the bulk of that collar is battery so as technology
45 gets better and we're able to get more power out of smaller
46 batteries we will go to something that's smaller. And the
47 size of the collars have dropped over the years, with more
48 technology and better batteries and so on.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Fisher.

00091

1 MR. AGNASAGGA: Well, they probably could
2 you use small ones if they put transmitters on the ground
3 instead of using the satellite. Couldn't they do it that
4 way?

5
6 MR. FISHER: Well, the transmitters are on
7 the collars and that's what puts the beep out, and, yes,
8 they do track by satellite and they also track by airplane.
9 The airplane has a receiver in it and it picks up that
10 collar, each collar has a certain frequency and it puts
11 that out just like a radio station does. And those
12 receivers are programmed to pick up certain frequencies.
13 So when the fellow flies over with his plane he has
14 antennas on each wing of his plane and he can pick that
15 certain frequency that's being sent out by that transmitter
16 that's on that collar. It's just like your radio picks up
17 certain radio stations, it's designed to pick up certain
18 radio stations within a certain frequency range.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Fisher.
21 Any further comments, discussions on the proposal.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have a motion before
26 us to support the proposal as stated in the manual. It's
27 been seconded.

28
29 MR. BODFISH: Question called.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question has been called.
32 All in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed, same sign.

37
38 (No opposing votes)

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. The motion
41 passes. Thank you, Mr. Wheeler -- or Fisher, excuse me.

42
43 MR. FISHER: Yes, the next Proposal is No.
44 38 and it deals with wolves in Unit 24. And it was
45 submitted by the Western Interior Council. And what they
46 would like to do here is increase the hunting harvest limit
47 from five wolves to 10 wolves.

48
49 And the reason we're presenting this for
50 your input today is residents of Unit 26 have customary and
00092

1 traditional use of wolves in Unit 24 so it's what we call
2 a crossover proposal, and we're presenting it to you for
3 your information and for your action on it.

4
5 The current regulations, and both the

6 Federal and State regulations are the same, the current
7 regulations for Unit 24 are five wolves, August 10th
8 through April 30th. And what this proposal would do would
9 increase the harvest limit from five to 10.

10

11 The C&T for wolves in Unit 24 is pretty
12 broad across the state. And for your information this
13 proposal can be found on Page 89. The C&T includes Units
14 6, 9, Unimak Island, residents of Chickaloon and also
15 residents of Units 16 through 26.

16

17 Overall the wolf population in Unit 24 is
18 healthy. There were surveys conducted in the year 2000 and
19 they estimate somewhere between 375 and 500 wolves ranging
20 in 58 to 66 packs and the harvest estimate is somewhere
21 between 130 and 140 wolves harvested each year through
22 hunting, trapping and then animals that they figure are
23 harvested but not reported.

24

25 What this proposal would do, like I say,
26 increase the harvest limit and under the hunting
27 regulations, not the trapping regulations, just the hunting
28 regulations. It may increase the harvest in the Gates of
29 the Arctic National Park. And I mentioned a little bit
30 about the harvest, most wolves taken are harvested -- taken
31 under trapping regulations, however not as many under
32 hunting but this would increase the harvest limit.

33

34 This proposal could create some confusion
35 between the Federal regulations if this was to pass and the
36 existing State regulations. The State regulations and the
37 Federal regulations are in alignment right now, this would
38 make the Federal regulations a little bit more liberal than
39 State regulations.

40

41 The Staff felt that this would provide some
42 additional harvest opportunities for subsistence and our
43 preliminary recommendation would be to support this
44 proposal.

45

46 That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Fisher.
49 Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments.

50

00093

1 MR. PEDERSEN: This is Sverre Pedersen
2 again. The Department comments you'll find on Page 91.
3 And there's basically support for this proposal. There's
4 a suggested modification and the modification is to
5 maintain the existing season and bag limits in the early
6 part of the season which is August 10 to October 31 and
7 then to increase the bag limit beginning November 1 and
8 that is to go to the bag limit of 10.

9

10 So that's what the Alaska Department of
11 Fish and Game recommends. And that's the extent of our

12 comments here unless you have questions.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The modification reading
15 existing season and bag limits from August 10, October 31
16 implementing the bag limit of 10 wolves from November 1 to
17 April 30 only. Thank you, Sverre.

18

19 Other agency comments.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Fish and
24 Game Advisory Committee comments.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Summary of
29 written public comments.

30

31 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Jennings.

34

35 MR. JENNINGS: There was one written public
36 comment on this proposal from Defenders of Wildlife to
37 oppose the proposal. It's summarized for you on Page 91 of
38 your Council book.

39

40 They oppose the proposal because the
41 current wolf -- and they're also addressing the next
42 proposal dealing with wolverine, regulations are adequate
43 to provide subsistence needs in the unit, where most
44 furbearers are taken by trapping with no bag limits. And
45 then they go on to further state that the objectives here
46 are for a sustained harvest by ADF&G objectives of no more
47 than 30 percent of the wolf population. These levels are
48 probably now reached or exceeded even though it is
49 impossible to accurately measure because sealing and
50 reporting is so chronically low. In addition planned

00094

1 aerial wolf population surveys in winter 2001/2002 did not
2 occur due to weather conditions. Similarly, wolverine
3 reporting is low and population data is scarce requiring
4 that hunting regulations remain conservative.

5

6 Again, wolverine will be the next proposal,
7 39, so they combined their comments for both 38 and 39.

8

9 Mr. Chair, that is all the written public
10 comments. I do have one comment or recommendation to offer
11 from last week's Seward Peninsula Council meeting at
12 Unalakleet. The Seward Peninsula Council voted unanimously
13 to support the Staff recommendation on this proposal, 38,
14 dealing with wolf.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Jennings.
17 Public testimony.

18
19 MR. JENNINGS: No public testimony, Mr.
20 Chair.
21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Regional
23 Council deliberations, recommendations and justifications
24 on Proposal 38, wolf.
25
26 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chair.
27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Terry.
29
30 MR. TAGAROOK: This has changed due to the
31 increasing wolf population in that area from five to 10?
32
33 MR. JENNINGS: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Mr.
34 Tagarook, this proposal was introduced by the Western
35 Interior Regional Council, and as I understand the
36 rationale as to why they made the proposal was to allow a
37 little bit more liberal hunting harvest level under the
38 hunting regulations to increase from five to 10. I'm not
39 aware that -- and Dave could address this, maybe from the
40 biological perspective, I don't believe the population of
41 wolves has increased dramatically in that area. Did you
42 already report on that Dave?
43
44 MR. FISHER: I basically touched on that.
45 They're estimating that the population is stable to
46 increasing. They don't have a recent survey data, the last
47 survey was conducted in the year 2000 and I think they
48 estimated somewhere there between 375 and 540, something
49 like that. So all indications are that population is
50 stable to increasing.
00095
1 And a lot of that information comes from
2 trapping reports that they get, talking to hunters and so
3 on. So it's just not -- they just don't rely on aerial
4 surveys, there is more that goes into than just aerial
5 surveys.
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Fisher.
8 Any further deliberation or recommendation from the Council
9 in regards to Proposal 38.
10
11 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman.
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Earl, what do you think
14 of this proposal in terms of changing the regulation,
15 you're closer to Unit 24 than we are in terms of distance
16 and use in that area? Anaktuvuk residents do go into 24,
17 I think it's Unit 24, to hunt other resources. You're
18 right on the boundary line.
19
20 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I brought this comment
21 up before, I don't know somewhere back there. Anyway, we
22 got two, like three -- there's 24, 26 and there's --
23 anyway, I brought this issue up one time at the meeting

24 here, you know, about our hunting seasons, you know, do we
25 -- are we limited to our border line, like, you know, the
26 units -- the different units, I brought this up? Anyway,
27 they had no problems, a lot of people from Anaktuvuk
28 trapping down in treelines, so I don't hear no conflict on,
29 you know, about trapping seasons and stuff, other than, you
30 know, about the boundary line, that's about it and I
31 brought this issue up before at the meeting there. And
32 they're doing pretty good on trapping seasons this year.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So the residents of
35 Anaktuvuk are doing more trapping than hunting, the hunting
36 portion?

37

38 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. That's correct.
39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Earl.

42

43 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, and Earl. To
44 clarify, that this proposal addresses hunting regulations
45 for wolves, it wouldn't change existing trapping. So you
46 might address from your perspective what the views are of
47 the community on the hunting regulations for wolves in 24.

48

49 MR. WILLIAMS: Well, I haven't heard too
50 much from hunters, you know, like, you know, they go out
00096

1 hunting and stuff because there's a lot of caribou around
2 the village and we haven't seen much wolves on there,
3 though, maybe one or two, but, you know, we support this
4 proposal.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm not sure which way
9 to, to support or not to support this proposal, because
10 it's dealing with a different unit that we really don't
11 tread on in terms of hunting or going that far across the
12 boundary to go hunt for wolves when most of our hunting is
13 right in within the Unit 26.

14

15 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, that's true,
16 except for the village of Anaktuvuk Pass.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

19

20 MR. JENNINGS: And they're directly
21 affected by this proposal since they're right on the
22 boundary and they hunt and trap in that area. But it is up
23 to the Council's discretion, if you want to address this
24 proposal or if you choose not to, you could defer to the
25 home region which is the Western Interior Council. It's up
26 to you.

27

28 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Earl.
31
32 MR. WILLIAMS: On this last meeting we had
33 on September 4 minutes down here, when I reported, you
34 know, boundary line region, about AKP question, and I
35 brought this issue up before, you know, about we got to
36 have -- I got to get the okay from the Advisory Council,
37 right, before I go to another, ask permission or no?
38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I don't think it comes to
40 that, it's just, you know, the people that hunt in Unit 24
41 have that -- it's been going on for many years so I don't
42 think you need to go seek permission to harvest resources
43 in Unit 24. It's a part of their custom and tradition to
44 do so. So I don't think it -- you know, as long as there's
45 probably usage from both sides, even people from 24 may
46 come up to 26 to harvest resources. So I think it's
47 liberal for that reason.
48
49 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.
50
00097
1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Barb.
4
5 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: When this boundary thing
6 came up a few years ago when back while I was still in the
7 State, there was a letter written out to the IRAs from
8 Anaktuvuk Pass and the Interior regions that were in 24 and
9 also the Upper Kobuk where Anaktuvuk hunted on both sides
10 said that they did not want to change the boundary lines
11 except for that Anaktuvuk was welcome to crossover and hunt
12 on either side of the area so there's no boundary line in
13 traditional uses of Anaktuvuk Pass.
14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So you understand that
16 now Earl?
17
18 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, thank you very much
19 Mr. Chairman.
20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What is the wish of the
22 Council on Proposal 38.
23
24 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I support this, thank
25 you, either way.
26
27 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: You would have to say it
28 in a motion form.
29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Terry.
31
32 MR. TAGAROOK: Is that a form of a motion?
33
34 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I make a motion on
35 this.

36
37 MR. TAGAROOK: I'll second that.
38
39 MR. JENNINGS: Is that a motion to support?
40
41 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.
42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, we have a motion to
44 support Proposal 38 and it's been seconded. Any further
45 discussion on the proposal.
46
47 MR. BODFISH: Call for question.
48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question has been called.
50 All in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.
00098
1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any opposed.
4
5 (No opposing votes)
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None. Motion passes. Do
8 we have any other proposals before us?
9
10 MR. JENNINGS: One more.
11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I'm not sure who's
13 leading, Mr. Fisher?
14
15 MR. FISHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This
16 is Proposal No. 39. It was also submitted by the Western
17 Interior Regional Council.
18
19 Again, we're in Unit 24. We're dealing
20 with wolverine here and what they want to do there is to
21 increase the harvest limit for wolverine in Unit 24 from
22 one wolverine to five for the hunting harvest limit.
23
24 The current Federal and State regulations
25 are in alignment, those are one wolverine, September 1st
26 through March 31st. The seasons would remain the same, all
27 we would be doing here would be increasing the harvest
28 limit.
29
30 The C&T is a little bit more broad here,
31 all rural residents of the state have a positive C&T for
32 wolverine in Unit 24 so the people in 26 would have
33 customary and traditional use for wolves [sic] in Unit 24.
34
35 We don't have a lot of biological
36 information on wolverines, the population is estimated to
37 be healthy. Again, we get this information from local
38 trappers, hunter interviews and wildlife sightings
39 conducted -- wildlife sightings during other surveys so
40 when they're out surveying for caribou or moose, bears and
41 so on, if they see wolverines they make a note of it.

42

43 The reported harvest during the past 10
44 years has been around 26 animals per year, that's combined
45 hunting and trapping harvest. It's felt that increasing
46 the harvest limit from one to five should not affect the
47 population that much. Most of the wolverines are taken by
48 trapping method rather than hunting methods. However, it's
49 felt that it could increase the harvest a little bit in the
50 Gates of the Arctic National Park. And again, this Federal
00099

1 regulation would be deviating from the current State
2 regulation, so the State regulation and the Federal
3 regulations would be out of alignment.

4

5 The preliminary Staff recommendation was to
6 support this proposal. It could provide some additional
7 subsistence opportunity and we didn't feel as though it
8 would impact the population.

9

10 That's all I have, Mr. Chairman. Thank
11 you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Fisher.
14 Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments.

15

16 MR. PEDERSEN: Again, this is Sverre
17 Pedersen, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. On Page 99
18 you'll find the Department's comments.

19

20 And basically the position taken by the
21 Department is that this proposal, is supportable, but it
22 needs to be modified and that the same logical applies here
23 as in the previous suggested modification, and that is that
24 wolverine pelts are really not prime until November, and to
25 increase the harvest limit so early in the season may not
26 be, you know, may not be a desirable thing to do from the
27 pelt point of view anyway, in terms of its value and
28 functional aspects of it.

29

30 So the State recommends that, sort of a
31 middle of the road approach be taken here, that there's no
32 problem having the early season component but to delay
33 increasing the harvest limit until early November is what
34 the Department suggests.

35

36 And also just, you know, for sort of point
37 of fact here is that there -- and this may be a little
38 circular in argument but it's worth mentioning and that is
39 the Department's reports, when it comes to hunting
40 wolverine, do not show that wolverines are taken in this
41 area in September and October, under normal circumstances
42 anyway.

43

44 So that's the logic. So that represents
45 the Department's point of view. Thanks.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Sverre. I

48 have a quick comment just for clarification, I'm not sure
49 why the dates are different from the wolf hunt from
50 November to April 30 and this one reads from November 1 to
00100

1 March 31. Is there a reason why that is?

2

3 MR. FISHER: No, I don't really know why
4 that is. When the Federal Subsistence Program begin we did
5 copy the current Fish and Game regulations, this was back
6 in 1990 and at one point we were kind of out of alignment
7 with the State as far as the harvest limit goes so this is
8 fur -- a lot of furbearers throughout the state so we've
9 been kind of -- an attempt to align the regulations up but
10 I don't know why the dates are different unless someone
11 else would care to comment on it.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Other agency comments.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Fish and
22 Game Advisory Committee comments.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Again, none noted.
27 Summary of written public comments.

28

29 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Jennings.

32

33 MR. JENNINGS: There is one written public
34 comment on this proposal from Defenders of Wildlife who
35 oppose the proposal. The language is on Page 99. It's the
36 same language as I reported under their comments on the
37 last proposal, 39, so I won't read them again into the
38 record but they're there for you on Page 99.

39

40 Also last week at the Seward Peninsula
41 Council meeting in Unalakleet, the Seward Peninsula
42 Council, in the case of wolverine, Proposal 39, they voted
43 to support with modification as proposed by the State, so
44 that the increased harvest limit of five would be for the
45 period November 1 through March 31. And for some reason
46 the Council felt there was better justification on
47 wolverine and maybe it relates to the comments that Sverre
48 had, that typically there's little, if any, harvest that
49 occurs in September and October.

50

00101

1 Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Jennings.
4 Public testimony. Any public testimony on this Proposal
5 03-39.

6
7 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: No there isn't any.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Regional
10 Council deliberation, recommendation and justification.
11 What is the wish of the Council.

12
13 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: Mr. Chair, I'd like to
14 make a motion to support the proposal with the modification
15 with the dates adjustments. I think they should follow
16 through with that.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. A motion on
19 the floor to support with the State's modification in terms
20 of the season, November 1 to March 31.

21
22 MR. BODFISH: Second.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded. Any further
25 discussion on the proposal.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Earl, did you have any
30 comments.

31
32 MR. WILLIAMS: No, Mr. Chairman. I support
33 this proposal.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Comments from your region
36 -- we're just picking on you Earl. Did you call for the
37 question.

38
39 MR. BODFISH: Call for question.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

42
43 MR. TAGAROOK: Call for the question.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. The question
46 has been called on the motion. All in favor of supporting
47 the proposal with the modification as stated by the State
48 signify by saying aye.

49
50 IN UNISON: Aye.

00102

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any opposed.

2
3 (No opposing votes)

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. So we're
6 done with all the proposals. I think I'll call for a 10
7 minute break. I'm getting a flat behind.

8

9 (Off record)

10

11 (On record)

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're under Item 11,
14 Fisheries Information Service Program. Polly Wheeler, you
15 have the floor.

16

17 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. During
18 the break I put a handout on each of your chairs. We don't
19 have anything behind Tab D because we didn't get it done
20 before the books got in. But anyway, the handout that I
21 put on your chair is an update of all the Fisheries
22 Information Services projects that have been funded in the
23 whole region.

24

25 Just to give you a little background, I
26 wanted to introduce myself. I know a lot of you, anyway,
27 from previous jobs, but my name is Polly Wheeler. I'm an
28 anthropologist and I work with the Fisheries Information
29 Services which is part of Office of Subsistence Management.
30 Currently I have responsibility for all of the harvest
31 monitoring and traditional ecological projects statewide.
32 There's about 70 projects. I think there's about 10 in
33 this whole region going on right now. But I'm the person,
34 if you have questions about any of the social science
35 projects that are funded through OSM, the Fisheries
36 Information Services, Office of Subsistence Management, I'm
37 the person. My counterpart biologist is Steve Fried, who
38 typically comes up here and gives the presentations for our
39 office. But he's the biological side of things and I'm the
40 social science side of things.

41

42 I'm not going to go through the handout
43 that I gave you because I recognize that you've got a lot
44 of material in front of you and in the interest of time
45 I'll just touch on a couple of highlights. And I also
46 asked Sverre and Cheryl Hugo, who's here, to give an update
47 on the project that they're working on. Sverre is working
48 with KIC on a project -- I'm trying to look at the name
49 here real quick, the Eastern North Slope Subsistence Fish
50 Harvest Assessment, he'll give you an update on that

00103

1 project. And then he and Cheryl will give you an update on
2 the North Slope Subsistence Harvest Assessment for
3 Anaktuvuk.

4

5 So anyway, the short version of this is
6 that in this handout you'll find updates for every project
7 that's been funded for the Arctic/Kotzebue/Norton Sound
8 region. In total there's been 22 projects funded for that
9 whole region, including six interregional studies that
10 affect the region. Most stock, status studies conducted
11 within the region have focused on dolly varden and the
12 traditional ecological knowledge harvest monitoring
13 projects have addressed dolly varden, sheefish and other
14 whitefish species in general. We've had a couple of

15 projects that have had tribal or rural organizations as
16 partners, like I said, KIC has been a partner in a project,
17 Anaktuvuk Pass is a partner in a project. There's been a
18 couple of projects that have just recently been submitted
19 for funding, requests that have village or tribes as
20 partners on them as well.

21

22 This update here gives you sometimes in
23 excruciating detail what's been going on with some of these
24 projects and I think you'll probably find that most of your
25 questions -- if you have a question on a project it can be
26 answered in the summary that's provided to you.

27

28 Tim Viavant who is a sportfish biologist
29 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game called me last
30 week and said that he was unable to be at the meeting
31 because his father is very ill and he needed to be with him
32 but he wanted to have me let you know that his projects are
33 going well and that he's sorry that he couldn't be here but
34 he will be here at subsequent meetings to give you updates
35 on his projects.

36

37 So, Mr. Chair, if you have specific
38 questions on specific projects I'm certainly happy to
39 answer them but I thought it'd be good again to have Sverre
40 come up and give you an update on an actual project that's
41 been going on because you can certainly read these
42 summaries yourself and it might be useful to have a real
43 live project investigator here to talk about one of the
44 projects that's funded through the Fisheries Information
45 Services, Office of Subsistence Management.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, we'll go ahead and
48 hear from Sverre and Cheryl.

49

50 MS. WHEELER: And Sverre's under strict

00104

1 orders to keep it short, too, so -- no.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The clock is ticking.

4

5 MR. PEDERSEN: Again, I'm going to talk
6 about two projects that Polly mentioned, the Anaktuvuk
7 project and the Kaktovik project. And for those of you who
8 don't know where those communities are -- so here is where
9 the communities are that we are working in, is in Kaktovik,
10 far northeast, and Anaktuvuk Pass in the middle of the
11 Brooks Range basically. Two small communities, population
12 of about 300 in each one of them. I think the Inupiat
13 percentage in each community is about 90 percent so they're
14 mainly Inupiat communities.

15

16 Now, Anaktuvuk Pass here they consider
17 themselves not only Inupiat but also Nunimuit, so we got to
18 keep that mind when we talk about Anaktuvuk.

19

20 So here's the project, basically it's an

21 OSM study, funded through the FIS, it's Study 01-101. It's
22 in partnership with the Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation,
23 Alfred Lynn, Jr., is the one who helped me here. And in
24 fact in both of these projects I want to tell you that
25 typically I like to do these projects myself and go out in
26 the field and boat around and count fish and have a good
27 time but in both cases I found people to work with me who
28 have been so efficient and do such a good job, they
29 completely cut me out of all of that, so all I basically am
30 is administrating this work which is a fun thing to
31 experience to see, but it's also kind of disappointing from
32 a point of view of having, you know, very little field
33 experience here.

34
35 But the one goal that we have in all of
36 this is, you know, capacity building. And here's
37 basically, layout what the goals were and one of them is
38 capacity building and that's working out really well. But
39 the main goal is, in Kaktovik, is to basically get an
40 annual estimate of what the fish harvest is in that
41 community, the subsistence fish harvest and we've divided
42 the year -- there's a two year project and each year is
43 divided into two components, one we call summer and the
44 other one we call winter and they have to do with snow on
45 the ground and with, you know, transportation methods
46 basically.

47
48 So we're looking for, through household
49 surveys, two of them, one for the summer season and one for
50 the winter season, develop an annual harvest estimate and
00105

1 also look at what the species composition is in the harvest
2 and develop basically some background information on one
3 particular species, which is dolly varden, and try to
4 collect some traditional ecological knowledge about that
5 species in these two communities. Now, this is, like I
6 said, Kaktovik, so we've done interviews with knowledgeable
7 individuals to illicit this information.

8
9 We also collect fin clips from dolly varden
10 to assist a project that the Fish and Wildlife Service has
11 in determining basically genetic affinity of the dolly
12 varden populations on the North Slope. So our goal has
13 been in Kaktovik to do eight TEK interviews. To obtain as
14 many dolly varden fin clip samples as we could come up with
15 in the two years we were working, it's basically year 2001
16 and 2002.

17
18 Here is basically where we are on this
19 project. So the cooperation with KIC has worked out very,
20 very well. They've undertaken basically four surveys. You
21 can see their results here in winter 2000/2001 for
22 instance. There are five households in Kaktovik that
23 reported harvesting. In this summer, 2001, there were 25
24 households reporting harvesting. In the winter 2001/2002
25 three households reporting harvesting in the winter. And
26 that is in terms of being successful now. And in the

27 summer of 2002, just last summer, 18 households -- or 19
28 households reported successful harvest in the community.

29

30 We've carried out five TEK interviews, four
31 in 2001 and one in 2002 and I'd like to try to complete and
32 get a couple more TEK interviews here this winter.

33

34 In terms of genetic sampling we haven't
35 been real successful but it has to do with the conditions
36 in Kaktovik. We were collecting fin clip samples in the
37 summer and actually it's been very difficult fishing
38 conditions in Kaktovik these last two years and they
39 haven't harvested nearly as many fish as they wish they
40 could get, particularly in terms of dolly varden and so
41 getting people to submit samples from those few fish that
42 they catch has been difficult because people, first of all
43 they eat the fish just about right away when they catch
44 them so you have to be there to ask for the sample and the
45 second thing is that when they bring the fish home they're
46 really reluctant to have you come and mess with their fish.
47 And I'm sure all of you understand that problem.

48

49 Let's see here, so in terms of our findings
50 so far, the winter harvest in 2000/2001 was about 170

00106

1 pounds of usable weight and the majority of that was lake
2 trout and dolly varden was a small component as you can see
3 in the figures here, it's 170 pounds, 22 pounds of ikulupik
4 or dolly varden and the remainder was basically lake trout.
5 And summer 2001, the total harvest was 3,549, and dolly
6 varden there was the main component with 2,800 pounds and
7 kaktuk or Arctic cisco, number 2 -- distant number 2.

8

9 Let's just go finish this up here. For the
10 winter 2001/2002, harvests in the winter went up a little
11 bit 409 pounds, dolly varden again the main component of
12 the harvest, lake trout -- or actually switched around here
13 -- the dolly varden was a little higher than the lake trout
14 harvest. Now, this is reported harvest, it's not expanded
15 harvest because we haven't processed the data completely
16 yet. So this is what we have reported so far.

17

18 And in the winter -- well, we have
19 collected information on where people went fishing and I
20 may not have pointed it out in the last slide, but in
21 winter 2001/2002 there were four distinct harvest
22 locations. I think there were three in the previous
23 winter. And in the summer of 2002, the overall community
24 harvest was 2,500 pounds, dolly varden again overwhelmingly
25 the highest component, kaktuk very low. And actually the
26 kaktuk harvest here is really low and people are pretty
27 concerned about that. They're wondering what's happening
28 to the kaktuk population, not just in Kaktovik but also in
29 Nuiqsut as well. And so that's uncharacteristically low.
30 The ratio often in the summer harvest is half and half,
31 half dolly varden, half Arctic cisco so this is extremely
32 low. There was six distinct harvest locations used in the

33 summer of 2002.

34

35 Let's see here, okay, we have summarized
36 the TEK information that we have on dolly varden, it's been
37 transcribed and now we're in the process of basically
38 summarizing it. The genetic sampling has been submitted to
39 US Fish and Wildlife Service and we don't have any results
40 from that yet. We're beginning to work on a draft report
41 for this project and we're scheduled to be done with this
42 work September next year.

43

44 So let me just show you real quickly what
45 some of the maps look like that we have developed for
46 Kaktovik and then we'll move over to Anaktuvuk.

47

48 This is from interviews with individuals,
49 this is basically the fishing area for Kaktovik. It's in
50 gray here. Coastal fishing typically summer, inland

00107

1 fishing typically winter. Pretty straightforward there.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What was the winter one
4 again?

5

6 MR. PEDERSEN: Winter part is typically
7 inland.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Inland.

10

11 MR. PEDERSEN: Yeah. There is relatively
12 little fishing on the coast or in the lagoon in the winter.
13 Early winter, maybe there's a little bit of fishing for
14 cod, very little, and in the last few years almost none.

15

16 Let's see, these are the typical coastal
17 fishing sites that we're seeing, net fishing sites in
18 Kaktovik. And here are the areas that were utilized in
19 the time period 2000/2001. I haven't gotten the next year
20 on maps yet. So you see there are some inland fishing
21 sites here and fishing sites on the coast. Now, the reason
22 that this is fairly confined here, usually there is fishing
23 all the way to Flaxman Island and over to Demarcation
24 Point, is that there is a lot of ice in this particular
25 summer so people could not get around and they attributed
26 that, in part, to the low catch in the community as well.

27

28 And when we were talking to people we tried
29 to use, in Kaktovik, and for that matter in Anaktuvuk, we
30 tried to use names, that they themselves used to refer to
31 the fishing sites and we find that we get better
32 information when we work in the same terms that people, you
33 know, who live in the area use, instead of calling it
34 whatever name that's on the USGS map, so it's important to
35 use local names.

36

37 In all of this work for Kaktovik, I have
38 played a very minor role, it's been mainly Alfred Lynn

39 doing this work and he's done very, very well. So in terms
40 of capacity building, that has worked out well.

41

42 This project is, in terms of data
43 collection, over with and we may try to do these TEK
44 surveys, but by and large the project is in basically
45 write-up mode now.

46

47 And I'll quickly move over to the work that
48 we're doing in Anaktuvuk, and again for those of you who
49 don't remember where Anaktuvuk is, this community here,
50 Anaktuvuk, in the middle of the Brooks Range, right at the
00108

1 divide, between the John and the Anaktuvuk Rivers.

2

3 This particular project we have two
4 cooperators besides myself, I try to cooperate from time to
5 time. Cheryl Hugo, which is a local hire in Anaktuvuk
6 working for the city of Anaktuvuk and Grant Spierman,
7 working for the North Slope Borough, the museum in
8 Anaktuvuk Pass, the Simon Panak (ph) Memorial Museum. It's
9 OSM 02-050 and we're just year one in this project and
10 we're just completing the first data collection period
11 there.

12

13 The study context is basically similar to
14 that of our project in Kaktovik, we're trying to do two
15 annual community harvest assessments and have again divided
16 the year up into two components, summer and winter, seems
17 to be working fine. We tried to come up with a total
18 community harvest for the year, and also subdivided by
19 species and also mapping of the use areas, both the
20 traditional period and what's being used now.

21

22 Collecting fin clips like we've done in
23 Kaktovik and also doing TEK interviews.

24

25 In addition to that, in Anaktuvuk, we're
26 also collecting ethnographic information on Nunimuit
27 fishing in the Brooks Range, it hasn't been very well
28 documented so that's what Grant Spierman is tasked with
29 doing. Cheryl is working on the other components. And I'm
30 just basically a bystander watching all this happen.

31

32 Cheryl is over here. Cheryl has joined me
33 here today to both see what the process is in terms of
34 reporting some of the work that she's working on as well as
35 seeing what the audience is and who this work is going to
36 benefit. So I'm real pleased to have her join me. She has
37 done very good work. She has completed the -- well, let me
38 move on here, and I'll show you here where we are.

39

40 So this is a matter of, you know,
41 developing, again, community capacity in doing work and the
42 assumption was that this could be done and I think we can
43 demonstrate very clearly here that this works well, as long
44 as people know exactly what it is that they need to provide

45 you. So the community of Anaktuvuk decided that instead of
46 having the corporation do the work there it would go
47 through the city. So Cheryl is a city employee working
48 with me on this project and that has worked out very well
49 as well. So not only can we work with the corporate
50 entities in communities but also with the local government.
00109

1 Grant has worked on the ethnographic
2 material and he has basically summarized that to-date. We
3 have completed two surveys -- or Cheryl has completed two
4 surveys. The winter 2001/2002 survey and this summer 2002
5 survey. We are in the midst of collecting TEK information
6 and we have two TEK surveys done and we're working on more.

7
8 In terms of genetic sampling, that's going
9 slow. We got a late start in the project and people
10 haven't been real responsive in providing a sample so far,
11 but we hope to improve on that next -- well, this spring
12 and summer as we start working more closely with the
13 fishermen.

14
15 Here is, and I'm sorry about the scribbling
16 on here, that is because the -- anyway, it's a long story,
17 I won't get into the details, what's important there are
18 the numbers here. In terms of the winter harvest for
19 2001/2002 it's about 3,000 pounds, dolly varden composed
20 about 944 pounds, lake trout 964 and grayling 862 pounds,
21 so it's pretty well split on three main species here.
22 There's a couple of other little things here there's some
23 whitefish being caught and there's also some burbot being
24 caught.

25
26 In the summer of 2002 the harvest was
27 about, this is the reported harvest of about 2,600 pounds
28 and overwhelmingly it was graying with about 1,400 pounds,
29 dolly varden was real low 386 pounds. Lake trout fairly
30 high, almost 700 pounds, and let's see -- no, no, no
31 whitefish 160 pounds, excuse me, lake trout 650 pounds.
32 And the six pounds of other, that's basically burbot. So
33 in a sense that shows you why we're having a little trouble
34 getting fin clips from dolly varden because in Anaktuvuk
35 the summer fishing is out in the country and that fish is
36 basically consumed in situ, in location, where people catch
37 the fish. And so to get the fin clips from those fish is
38 a pretty difficult thing to do. We're hoping that, you
39 know, this spring and next year, this spring the fishing
40 will be good and next summer the fishing will improve and
41 we can also be out there in the field and get some of these
42 fin clips from people.

43
44 Let's see here, in terms of the draft
45 report we're basically completing year one here so the data
46 assessment is still in process or in progress. We've got
47 good cooperation from the community. Fishermen are
48 providing information without any problem. In terms of
49 genetic sampling we're having a little trouble. The TEK
50 interviews are going well. And I'm just on the phone with

00110

1 Cheryl talking to her saying how are things going and not
2 spending much time up in the community.

3

4 So in a nutshell, that's how two of these
5 FIS projects are working out. You know, in Kaktovik the
6 project itself was very well received and they're real
7 pleased with the information that they have. In Anaktuvuk
8 the community has always thought of themselves as only
9 caribou hunters and they're now realizing that, you know,
10 fish is actually a fairly important thing to them as well,
11 and they're getting some information on fish and we're
12 developing information on where fish are being caught and
13 it's coming in very handy because some fishing goes on --
14 I don't have a map yet of where the fishing areas are but
15 I'll develop and I'll present that to you in probably your
16 fall meeting. But some of the fishing goes on in the
17 foothills to the north of the community and there are
18 several lease sales that are taking place in the foothills
19 and there's now seismic exploration going on in the
20 foothills and a couple of things here are pretty important,
21 you know, dolly varden overwinter in these winters and
22 sometimes in the headwaters of rivers. And in the areas
23 where people from Anaktuvuk go fishing. And particularly
24 exploration and development require a lot of water and
25 knowing where important overwintering areas are can
26 safeguard both the dolly varden populations there as well
27 as making sure that there's no damage to those areas that
28 people in Anaktuvuk are using for their -- one of their
29 resources that they depend on quite a bit for collecting
30 country food.

31

32 So that being said, Cheryl, do you have
33 anything you think you should add here? I don't want to
34 put you on the spot but I've been dominating, speaking a
35 hundred miles an hour here.

36

37 MS. HUGO: It's just a good learning
38 experience and I want this to be my career.

39

40 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, just a couple of
41 other things to add. I recognize you're getting a lot of
42 information thrown at you here, but, you know, the goal of
43 this particular program that these two projects and the
44 other projects that have been funded through the Fisheries
45 Information Services of OSM, the goal of the program is to
46 fund projects that are going to provide information that
47 will then be used for Federal Subsistence fisheries
48 management so that if we have a proposal that comes before
49 us that deals with what people are doing in Kaktovik or
50 what people are doing with dolly varden or whatever, we've
00111

1 got that information. Both the biological information but
2 also sort of the human use side of things so that we can
3 use that information and apply it to Federal Subsistence
4 fisheries management. So there is a thread here and that
5 is that we are, you know, OSM is funding these projects

6 that are then turning around and that information is being
7 used for management.

8

9 I'm trying to get all of the principal
10 investigators that I deal with to provide -- I mean they
11 all provide performance reports on an annual basis and this
12 handout that I gave you sort of summarizes, pulls out the
13 information from the performance reports. In the end when
14 all of their projects are done they'll provide reports.
15 What I'm going to try and get all of them to do is to do a
16 one or two page, sort of a handout for everybody giving the
17 main points of their findings, charts, graphs, whatever.
18 So I will be reporting back to you on all these different
19 projects. And what I'd like to do at your winter meetings
20 is have an investigator come up like Sverre, like Tim
21 Viavant or somebody and just report back to you what their
22 finding on their various projects. But, if you have,
23 again, questions on any of these projects or you see a
24 project that you think looks pretty interesting and you'd
25 be interested in having a report on that project, by all
26 means let me know or let my counterpart know, Steve Fried,
27 and we'll see what we can do.

28

29 Right now we're dealing with proposals, we
30 just got 140 proposals statewide, research proposals, and
31 we're reviewing them right now and these will be for
32 projects that will start just about a year from now in
33 2004. In your region there were 14 proposals submitted.
34 Six stock status projects and eight harvest monitoring TEK
35 projects. And those will be projects that will be -- the
36 ones that have been forwarded for likely funding
37 consideration will be brought to you at your fall meeting,
38 or brought before you at your fall meeting.

39

40 That's all I have, Mr. Chair, unless you
41 have questions.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any questions
44 or comments from the Council.

45

46 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: Just for myself, I'd
47 like to have a copy of both of those North Slope studies or
48 information relating to that, that would be beneficial to
49 us.

50

00112

1 MS. WHEELER: If you'd like I can get you,
2 actually the December progress reports and then when
3 they're final we'll make sure that you get a copy of them
4 Rosemary.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have a question, in
7 terms of these studies that are being conducted, are we
8 going to have to be learning what's being studied and how
9 much fish is being utilized, are we, at some point in time
10 going to be making regulations to address those fisheries,
11 the use of those fisheries for subsistence purposes?

12
13 MS. WHEELER: Not necessarily. I mean just
14 because something's being studied, doesn't mean that then
15 a proposal is going to come after it. But if a proposal
16 does come up then we've got that information so that we can
17 better address whatever the proposal is that comes before
18 us.

19
20 So, no, just because we're funding
21 something doesn't mean that a regulation is about to
22 descend on you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

25
26 MS. WHEELER: But if something comes up
27 then we'll have something. And like Sverre said, I mean
28 the harvest of fish in Kaktovik has been real up and down
29 and we need to know the reasons why because if it comes up
30 that people say, well, geez, people in Kaktovik aren't
31 fishing that much then we've got the harvest information
32 and we've got the reasons for why the harvest has been up
33 and down. So it's good -- really good to have that
34 background information and you can always go back to it.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I know we've had concerns
37 about the Arctic cisco and I know there was research
38 proposals that were submitted to try and learn more of what
39 the causes of the decline for that fisheries is, so I know
40 a little bit about those issues coming out but, you know,
41 they're still under investigation and so I don't think we
42 have any results to talk about from those fisheries yet
43 from the research.

44
45 I think it was part of this Kaktovik
46 fisheries monitoring in terms of dolly varden and there was
47 a modification to that proposal for doing research for the
48 Arctic cisco to see if it's a specific area that's having
49 a problem or if it's a regionwide problem that's occurring.

50
00113

1 So I know I've read a little bit about
2 those proposals and it's just something I wanted to share
3 with the Council on what's been going on, that we are aware
4 of some of these studies that are happening. You know, it
5 came about from this Council supporting the proposals and
6 they're helping with the management program in terms of
7 what's being utilized in these communities.

8
9 Is there any action we need to take
10 regarding these fisheries proposals?

11
12 MS. WHEELER: No, Mr. Chair, there's no
13 action. I would point out that that study that you're
14 talking about, it's Study 03-102, stock, status and trends
15 of Arctic cisco and dolly varden in lagoons adjacent to
16 Kaktovik and that's going in the water -- that will be a
17 study that's starting this spring and so perhaps at your

18 fall meeting there'll actually be something to report or if
19 not then maybe at your spring meeting we can line up that
20 PI to come and talk to you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

23

24 MS. WHEELER: I guess one other thing that
25 I would add is the issues and information needs that Steve
26 Fried brought before you last fall, those are always, you
27 can always revise those, you can always -- if there's an
28 issue that pops up all of a sudden and you feel like it
29 needs to be added to your specific issues and information
30 needs for the North Slope, again, that's something that can
31 always be raised, that list of issues is meant to be
32 something that changes to reflect if issues have been
33 addressed and don't need to be on that list anymore or if
34 there's something that pops up as a big issue and you want
35 it to be addressed, so that's just something to keep in the
36 back of your mind.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

39

40 MS. WHEELER: Just to think about. Thank
41 you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have a question, in
44 terms of what kind of window are we looking at for this
45 Fisheries Information Services to continue, are we looking
46 at four years, five years, maybe further into the future
47 for monitoring?

48

49 MS. WHEELER: I think the goal is -- I mean
50 we don't have an end point in sight at this point in time.

00114

1 I think it's intended to, I mean it will go on as long as
2 there's money from the Federal government to fund it so I
3 think that it hopefully will be indefinitely because it's
4 providing some invaluable resources, financial resources to
5 study fish populations and fish uses that we don't know a
6 lot about in some cases.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

9

10 MS. WHEELER: So I don't think there's any
11 end date at this point in time but it just depends on the
12 good graces of the Federal government to keep giving us
13 money.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, thank you.
16 Any comments or questions to Ms. Wheeler from the Council.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, very much.
21 Our next agenda item is agency reports. I think we covered
22 Number 11, right?

23

24 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Under agency reports we
25 need to delete D, E and.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Excuse me?

28
29 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I'm sorry. Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Barb.

32
33 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Under agency reports, we
34 need to delete 12D, 12E and 12F2. Thank you, sir.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we're into Item 12,
37 agency reports, Office of Subsistence Management, Barbara
38 Armstrong you have the floor.

39
40 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 Under D there's a copy of a blank form of a proposal form
42 for fisheries, which is still open right now, it will be
43 closing March 28, '03. We don't have any proposals to this
44 date from the North Slope on fisheries.

45
46 Then following that is your annual report
47 for 2002, we are currently working on the response to your
48 annual report and it should come before you at your fall
49 meeting.

50
00115

1 Then there's the regulatory coordination
2 protocol. This is the MOA, Memorandum of Agreement, where
3 the Federal and State agencies have agreed through the MOA
4 to establish protocols that will provide guidance to
5 implement coordinated management of fish and wildlife
6 resources and their subsistence uses on Federal public
7 lands in Alaska. The rest of it is there all in writing.

8
9 (In Native)

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions to Barb in
14 terms to these three items. Fisheries proposal form,
15 Regional Advisory Council annual report, regulatory
16 coordination protocol.

17
18 (Pause)

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

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No comments or questions,
26 we'll move on to the next item. Thank you, Barb. 12B,
27 National Park Service, Dave Mills. I think there was a
28 name change in there this morning.

29

30 MR. LEAN: Mr. Chair, it's obviously not
31 Dave Mills.
32
33 (Laughter)
34
35 MR. LEAN: Charlie Lean.
36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Your name again.
38
39 MR. LEAN: Charlie Lean.
40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Charlie Lean, thank you.
42
43 MR. LEAN: And I am a Park Service
44 employee. Dave Mills sends his regrets, he's involved with
45 the Yukon Quest dog race. I'll meet with him on Friday in
46 Fairbanks and relay any concerns you wish to relay.
47
48 I wanted to say I found the meeting
49 interesting and you've seen Fred Andersen in the meetings
50 here before, Fred and I are in parallel positions, I'm the
00116
1 fisheries manager if you will for the Federal government
2 north of the Yukon and west of the pipeline. And so if
3 there were a fisheries management issue it would be my job
4 to take it up the ladder to my boss Dave Spirtes who is
5 based in Kotzebue and would elevate it on to the Federal
6 Board for consideration if we thought there was a reason.
7
8 So I'm a contact person if any of you feel
9 that there's a fisheries problem, conservation or whatever.
10
11 And that's really the gist of my report,
12 that's it. Thank you for having me and I'm here to take
13 any comments that you have.
14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Questions or comments to
16 Mr. Lean. Earl, come on.
17
18 MR. WILLIAMS: Your office is downtown in
19 that old Doyon building or across from it?
20
21 MR. LEAN: Yeah, Dave Mills' office and
22 Fred Andersen, I'm based in Nome and my office is in Nome.
23
24 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay, thank you.
25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So do you have any like
27 business cards that you could share with us or where do we
28 find your address if we need to get a hold of you? Through
29 Barb.
30
31 MR. LEAN: Barb's a good relay, she and I
32 have worked both with the State and now with the Federal
33 government so she knows where to find me. I don't have
34 business cards with me, they're ordered but they're not
35 here.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

38

39 MR. LEAN: My phone number is (907) 443-
40 6119. And that's the Nome direct line to me.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Lean. If
43 there's no further comments, thank you for your
44 presentation.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MR. LEAN: Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, moving on to 12C,
00117

1 US Fish and Wildlife, Arctic Refuge, Gary Wheeler. Mr.
2 Wheeler, you have the floor.

3

4 (Pause)

5

6 (In Native)

7

8 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (In Native)

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: For those of you who
11 didn't understand what I was saying to Barb, my behind's
12 getting flat again from sitting so long. I'm getting tired
13 of sitting.

14

15 Mr. Wheeler, whenever you're ready go head.

16

17 MR. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 Thank you Council members for inviting us to make a
19 presentation to you today.

20

21 I'm Gary Wheeler, assistant Refuge manager
22 with the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Fish and Wildlife
23 Service and what I would like to present to you today is
24 kind of a quick overview of the, sort of the state of the
25 Arctic Refuge as far as subsistence species are concerned.

26

27 And I'd like to start out talking about
28 caribou. The Arctic Refuge, of course, is just west of the
29 Canadian border and the Refuge is outlined in yellow there.
30 The Central Arctic Caribou Herd covers about the western
31 one-third of the Refuge as well as lands to the west of the
32 Arctic Refuge, and then the Porcupine Caribou Herd range is
33 within the white lines that you see there and encompasses
34 almost all of the Arctic Refuge and then lands to the south
35 and to the east and to Canada.

36

37 What I'm going to show you is just sort of
38 an animation of animals within the Central Arctic Herd.
39 These are animals that have been satellite collared and
40 it's a composite of a number of years of data but you'll be
41 able to see the movement of these animals. Starting out in

42 the winter here, the data is in the lower left-hand corner,
43 so in January you've got part of the herd there between
44 Nuiqsut and Prudhoe Bay and another portion of the herd
45 along the northern edge of the Brooks Range. As we move
46 into the spring you'll see the animals in the Brooks Range
47 kind of move out onto the Coastal Plain. End of May, we're
48 now -- the herd calves, around the first of June, first
49 week in June end of May, so the herd kind of calves in two
50 separate locations, the western portion between Prudhoe Bay
00118

1 and Nuiqsut and there's an eastern component there that's
2 just west of the Canning River and in some years, some
3 animals are calving on the coastal plain of the Arctic
4 Refuge. Continuing on through the summer, spend the summer
5 much of the summer on the coastal plain and then they'll
6 move inland into the foothills and then, again, the front
7 of the Brooks Range.

8
9 As I make my presentation if you have any
10 questions feel free to interrupt me and I'll answer to the
11 best of my ability.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So is this for last year,
14 this year's information or.....

15
16 MR. WHEELER: This is probably over at
17 least a 10 year span of time. So we don't have that many
18 animals that have collars but we were able to make this
19 composite by combining a number of years of data.

20
21 These are the calving locations, the areas
22 in purple there, are kind of the core of the calving
23 grounds, as I mentioned. It's kind of a western component
24 and an eastern component to the Central Arctic Herd. And
25 the dots there are actual calving locations based on cows
26 that had radio collars.

27
28 You can see that the Central Arctic Herd is
29 doing quite well. The herd has continued to increase since
30 the mid-70s and now is composed of almost 32,000 animals.

31
32 This is a similar simulation for the
33 Porcupine Herd. Starting in the winter again, the herds in
34 kind of two components, one on the south side of the Brooks
35 Range around Arctic Village kind of in the foothills and
36 then another component over in the Yukon Territory and
37 Northwest Territories and as we move into the spring you'll
38 see the animals move out onto the coastal plain again on
39 the Yukon Territory and then they move west onto the Arctic
40 Refuge. Again, first week of June they're calving and
41 during normal springs, when you do not have a late snow
42 melt most of the herd will be calving on the coastal plain
43 in the Arctic Refuge. In late snow melt springs animals
44 tend to calve over in Canada and when that occurs we tend
45 to have lower survival of those calves. One of the main
46 reasons is that even after calving they continue to move
47 west onto the Arctic Refuge and there's a couple of -- at

48 least a couple of major rivers for them to cross and so
49 there tends to be a lot of calves lost in those river
50 crossings.

00119

1 Continuing on with the summer then,
2 spending six to eight weeks on the coastal plain and then
3 they move back through the Brooks Range. Most of the
4 animals spend the fall on the south side of the Brooks
5 Range. Quite a bit of mixing in the early fall and then as
6 it continues they move back onto their winter range, kind
7 of in the two separate groups again.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Do you ever see the two
10 herds merge again at any point in time?

11

12 MR. WHEELER: The Central Herd and the
13 Porcupine Herd?

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The Central and the
16 Porcupine.

17

18 MR. WHEELER: Well, last -- at least the
19 last couple of years we've seen some of the Central Arctic
20 Herd animals wintering around Arctic Village there and
21 we've had some of the folks from Arctic Village harvesting
22 Central Arctic Herd animals in the winter time. So, yeah,
23 they do get together sometimes. But generally they're
24 calving in separate locations.

25

26 MR. WILLIAMS: You see that word up there,
27 V-U-N-T-U-E, that's -- in (In Native), that means lake,
28 lake, village people, born on a lake, that's (In Native).
29 Man, that's an old world.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: He's taking you back
32 home.

33

34 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, the old flats.

35

36 MR. WHEELER: And then, again, these are
37 basically 18 years worth of data here, calving locations of
38 radio collared Porcupine caribou cows. Again, like I said,
39 a normal year, most of the calving occurs on the Arctic
40 Refuge coastal plain. Late snow melt here, a lot of the
41 calving occurs in the Yukon Territory on the coastal plain.

42

43 As with most caribou herd populations,
44 populations, the Porcupine Herd do fluctuate. And the herd
45 built up during the 70s and 80s, peaked in 1989, at almost
46 180,000 animals and has declined since that time down to
47 123,000 animals in 2001. The rate of decline has slowed in
48 the last couple of years so that seems to be good news.
49 And we have another photo census scheduled for this summer
50 so we'll see if the herd has begun to increase again or

00120

1 not.

2

3 Now, moving into talking about dall sheep.
4 Virtually every year, Staff from the Arctic Refuge does a
5 foot census in the area of Atigan Gorge and you can see the
6 yellow line there, the number of sheep counted in this same
7 area that we count every year. The population was quite a
8 bit higher in the late 80s, there was some really harsh
9 winters in the early '90s and the population declined
10 somewhat and has stabilized in the last five years or so at
11 a lower level than what we had in the late 80s.

12
13 But the lamb count has been real steady and
14 good. So that's kind of an indicator that we use for the
15 eastern Brooks Range dall sheep population.

16
17 In terms of the number of guided sport
18 hunters on the Refuge, in the last 10 years or so we've had
19 mostly between 50 and 65 hunters per year. These are
20 hunters guided by commercial guides. And those hunters --
21 well, this is total sport harvest on the Refuge so it would
22 include guided hunters as well as unguided hunters, but the
23 take in the last five years or so has been on the order of
24 80 or 90 animals on the Refuge in total. Most of those on
25 the north side of the Brooks Range.

26
27 Now, in the HulaHula River drainage is an
28 area of concern to the people of Kaktovik because this is
29 where they take many of their sheep. And we can see in
30 recent years, anyway, we've had an average of about 30
31 hunters in there per year and they're harvesting in the
32 order of 15 to 20 sheep per year in that one drainage out
33 of the 80 or 90 total sheep taken on the Refuge.

34
35 Looking at moose, this is population
36 numbers from spring aerial surveys that we've done. The
37 white line there is the western portion of the Refuge,
38 basically from the Sag River to the Kavik area in Unit
39 26(B), that is kind of the major moose wintering area on
40 the Refuge. And again, just like sheep, the populations
41 were quite a bit higher in the late 80s and then the early
42 90s the population dropped off considerably and has kind of
43 stabilized at a lower level.

44
45 In Unit 26(C) the population is quite a bit
46 lower and I don't believe we've surveyed extensively on
47 except in the Canning River drainage so this spring in
48 April we plan on doing additional surveys in 26(C) and
49 getting a better handle on the moose population in that
50 area.

00121

1 Muskoxen has been a real hot topic of
2 discussion. And this shows the population of muskoxen on
3 the Refuge over the last 20 years. As you can see for a
4 lot of years the population was fairly stable at around 300
5 to 350 animals and then began declining around four years
6 ago. Declined a little bit and then just in the last two
7 years the population has really declined precipitously. We
8 counted about 64 animals this past spring and summer.

9
10 And as I mentioned earlier in the day, this
11 graph shows the population on the Refuge in the red line
12 there. And animals that are counted to the west of the
13 Refuge in Unit 26(B) is the blue dotted line and the
14 animals in Canada is the green dashed line there. So you
15 can see as the animals have declined on the Refuge, they've
16 increased west of the Refuge and east of the Refuge. If
17 you look at the top of the figure there it has the total
18 number of muskoxen in all the areas combined so it was
19 steady between '98 and '99, 2000 around 650 animals.
20 Started declining in 2001 and dropped about 100 animals
21 just last year.

22
23 The year 2000 and 2001 both were really
24 harsh winters. We had very little reproduction on the
25 Refuge, so that may be one of the reasons for the decline.
26 2002 was a better calving year and so we're hopeful that
27 the population will spring back a bit this year. We'll be
28 surveying animals in March.

29
30 This shows the calf production on the
31 Refuge for the same time period. And as you can see as the
32 animals populated the Refuge, gradually the calf production
33 dropped off. As you can see 200/2001, very low calf
34 production, but 2002, the last dot there to the right
35 jumped back up again, so it was a reasonably decent year
36 for calf production last year.

37
38 I'll talk about one more topic and that is
39 the fisheries subsistence study that we'll be starting up
40 in Kaktovik this summer as Polly had mentioned. The goal
41 is to compare the catches of Arctic cisco and dolly varden
42 for the next three years with those from 1988 to '91. We
43 had a study in the late 80s and early 90s there at
44 Kaktovik. We will be repeating that study in the same
45 locations to see if there's differences in the numbers of
46 fish caught and the size of those fish to try and get a
47 handle on -- see if there's changes in the population over
48 that period of time.

49
50 We'll be working out there from early July
00122
1 until early September. The fish are trapped in fyke nets.
2 These are trap-type nets so the fish will be removed from
3 the trap twice a day, measured and weighed and then
4 returned to the waters unharmed.

5
6 That concludes my presentation. I'll be
7 happy to answer any questions you might have.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions or comments
10 to Mr. Wheeler from the Council.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MR. WHEELER: Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I had a question in terms
17 of, you know, you were talking about this study for dolly
18 varden -- or upcoming research that's going to be
19 conducting in terms of the population with the fisheries,
20 if you find out that the population is declining, what
21 actions are you proposing or are you going to be proposing
22 in terms of fisheries management if the population is
23 declining?

24

25 MR. WHEELER: Well, I think that remains to
26 be seen. In terms of Arctic cisco, our agency would not be
27 responsible for the management of that species so we
28 wouldn't be necessarily proposing any actions there.

29

30 And in terms of dolly varden, I think we
31 really need to get some information on where those fish are
32 spawning. Because in the saltwater areas it seems to be
33 real mixed stocks. You've got fish migrating out of the
34 streams across the North Slope and then they're
35 intermingling in the saltwater so I think that all really
36 remains to be seen and I don't want to jump to any sort of
37 conclusions at this point in time.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. In terms of
40 the research, are you planning to inserting any radio
41 telemetry to monitor the fish as to where they're going or
42 spawning?

43

44 MR. WHEELER: That is not part of our study
45 here. It's possible that we might consider taking some fin
46 clips and doing some genetic analysis that way and that
47 might tell us where those fish are coming from.

48

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

00123

1 MR. BODFISH: Gary, Paul Bodfish. Have you
2 ever noticed between the Porcupine and the Central Arctic
3 Herd, caribou, the manmade boundaries playing a factor for
4 not them intermingling or the Porcupine Herd heading west
5 and the Central not heading east?

6

7 MR. WHEELER: No. We haven't observed
8 anything along those lines. And I guess I would defer to
9 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, they've done most of
10 the work on those herds so we've tried to cooperate with
11 them and -- but I wouldn't say that we've made any of those
12 observations at this point in time.

13

14 MR. BODFISH: It seems to me from the
15 pictures that we just seen that the Dalton Highway being a
16 barrier between the two herds.

17

18 MR. WHEELER: Well, it appears that some of
19 the past research has shown that at least during the
20 calving season the cows and the newborn calves tend to

21 avoid some of the oil development infrastructure. But at
22 other times of the year they seem to negotiate the
23 pipelines and so it's a pretty complex situation.

24

25 That's about all I can say at this point in
26 time.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments or
29 concerns from the Council. Rosemary.

30

31 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: One thing I also noted
32 was that it seems like your telemetry, the view of watching
33 everything was limited for the area that you're dealing
34 with. Are there points that would be outside of that not
35 utilized in this presentation because it's dealing with the
36 area you're in or are the migration truly just what you
37 presented?

38

39 MR. WHEELER: What I presented was data
40 that was received from animals that were collared with
41 satellite radio collars and so there are -- there would be
42 other animals in the herd that would not be included in
43 this presentation. I wouldn't say that what you saw
44 necessarily encompassed the movements of the entire herd
45 but this is sort of a sub-sample of the herd. So there
46 could be animals from those herds that are moving outside
47 of what you saw there.

48

49 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: And then the other
50 question I had was is there any relation with the
00124

1 progression of the movement with infrastructure in the
2 areas of the movement? There was -- especially near the
3 coast and the Prudhoe Bay area there wasn't much movement
4 in that area as well as towards Nuiqsut through the
5 pipeline, it seems the pipeline for Alpine probably created
6 some major migratory problems there with that presentation.

7

8 MR. WHEELER: That kind of goes beyond my
9 knowledge. I haven't studied the caribou movements over in
10 that area, so I think I would defer that to others to make
11 a judgment on that.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary, did you have
14 any other comments?

15

16 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: No. Just that that
17 should be something that's looked at.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Terry.

20

21 MR. TAGAROOK: Yes. Are there any hikers
22 in the area, any passes where the caribous or animals are
23 always crossing? Because if there's an increase in hikers
24 they should be aware of the caribous going through the
25 passes and not to interfere with the caribou that are
26 migrating. And make sure that there's no development or

27 anything happening near the passes where the migration
28 route of the caribous are, and that way they'll just keep
29 going back and forth using the same paths instead of going
30 to another pass.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MR. WHEELER: Yes, that's certainly
35 something that is on our mind and other people have brought
36 to our attention as well. There are people that float the
37 rivers on the Refuge and that hike on the Refuge. But we
38 have not been able to study the issue to determine whether
39 their presence is actually causing the caribou to alter
40 their migration patterns or not. Again, that's a pretty --
41 it's a complex issue and it needs further study.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not, thank you, Mr.
48 Wheeler. Tim.

49

50 MR. WHEELER: Thank you.

00125

1 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, Tim Jennings,
2 Office of Subsistence Management. I wanted to provide a
3 note of further clarification to respond to your question
4 about whether or not our agency has management authority
5 over, say dolly varden, Arctic char and Arctic cisco. The
6 answer Mr. Wheeler gave is correct, the Fish and Wildlife
7 Service, the Refuge doesn't have management authority over
8 those fish directly, but through the Federal program and
9 through the subsistence regulations we do collectively,
10 through the Federal Board have the ability to take
11 regulatory actions as appropriate if we have a resource
12 concern where it's on Federal lands and waters.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

15

16 MR. JENNINGS: So through the Federal
17 process, this process that we've been talking about,
18 through the Federal Subsistence regulations coupled with
19 the studies that Polly Wheeler and Sverre talked about, if
20 we see issues that are of concern for a fish population we
21 have the ability through the Federal Subsistence Board to
22 address some of those issues.

23

24 So I wanted to make that clarification.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Jennings.
27 Well, since the time we started the meeting this morning
28 we've had some introductions and we've had new people come
29 in. I think I'll give them the opportunity to introduce
30 themselves this afternoon. Geoff and Charlie.

31

32 MR. CARROLL: Geoff Carroll, area biologist

33 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you Geoff.

36

37 MR. C. BROWER: Charlie Brower. Director
38 of wildlife with the North Slope Borough.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Charlie.

41

42 MR. C. BROWER: Chairman of everything.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You have any problems let
47 him know.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

00126

1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Harry, you can say,
2 except this Council.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No, I'm not going to say
7 that because he has a lot of -- I have to work with Charlie
8 and work for him.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anyway, moving along on
13 our agenda we have now 12F.

14

15 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: 12 is done, 13 nothing.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: 12G.

18

19 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: There are no written
20 reports, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Barb. Come up
23 to the table Geoff so it would help the recorder for this.

24

25 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I thought you didn't
26 have anything. I thought you just introduced yourself and
27 that was it.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have Geoff Carroll
30 with Alaska Department of Fish and Game. You have the
31 floor Geoff.

32

33 MR. CARROLL: Thanks Harry.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Turn your mike on Geoff.

36

37 MR. CARROLL: Sorry. Yeah, I don't have a
38 written report today but I just thought I'd touch very

39 briefly on a couple of subjects and see if there were any
40 questions.

41

42 One issue I think that came up at your last
43 meeting was an incident where some moose were harvested at
44 Point Lay and that we don't have a season in Point Lay for
45 moose so it became an issue. In order to try to correct
46 that, we will be submitting a proposal to the Board of Game
47 this fall to have like a summer season for moose that
48 wander into the area in Point Lay. We have a season like
49 that for Point Hope and I think we can come up with
50 something similar for that. However, I think the same
00127

1 thing happens occasionally at Wainwright, a moose will make
2 a one way trip up towards Wainwright but that's more in --
3 you know, that's more surrounded with Federal land and also
4 Atkasuk and Wainwright, that probably happens and so you
5 might want to consider a Federal proposal, you know,
6 addressing the same thing to come up with a legal season
7 for harvesting moose in the summer that do wander up onto
8 the coastal plain.

9

10 You know, the Board of Game has always been
11 very helpful with us in the past with proposals. The
12 Governor has kind of appointed a whole new crew there now
13 and I don't know what they're going to be like to work with
14 so we'll just have to see how that goes.

15

16 Any questions on that.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions or comments
19 to Geoff from the Council.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MR. CARROLL: One other thing is we've been
24 working on counting the photographs for the photo census
25 for the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd and it's been counters from
26 the Borough Wildlife Department and myself and Lincoln
27 Peret (ph) and anyway it's a long slow process but we're
28 coming up with a count, it's probably going to be in the
29 range of 44,000 caribou for the Teshekpuk Herd which is
30 quite an increase over what we've had in the past. In '99
31 the count came out around 29,000 animals so I guess they've
32 been real productive in the last several years. I think a
33 lot of that is in '99 we didn't have great counting
34 conditions and probably undercounted and there's probably
35 been a fairly steady increase since about '96 but it's
36 getting to be a pretty sizeable herd.

37

38 I guess some of the first questions people
39 always ask when -- it's always kind of a tricky business
40 counting these animals, because, you know, they do mingle
41 and the herds kind of blend into each other sometimes but
42 during the time that we count them, we counted the Central
43 Arctic Herd the same day and so we pretty much had them all
44 accounted for them to the east of the Colville River, and

45 so we don't feel that we were counting many Central Arctic
46 Herd animals in that count. And the Western Arctic Caribou
47 Herd at that time were clear down in the -- all of the
48 satellite collared animals were down in the Brooks Range,
49 over 200 miles away and we radio-tracked for the next three
50 days trying to find Western Arctic Herd animals in the area
00128

1 and didn't find any so I think it's a pretty legitimate
2 count. And the Teshekpuk Herd seems to be doing quite
3 well.

4

5 So I think that's about all I had to report
6 on today unless there's any questions.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Geoff. Any
9 comments or questions to Geoff from the Council. Paul, did
10 you have your hand up? Just checking.

11

12 MR. BODFISH: No, but I did see that moose
13 that made that one way trip to Wainwright.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So you're suggesting that
18 we may want to submit a proposal in terms of to address the
19 issue for Wainwright on moose?

20

21 MR. CARROLL: Well, probably Wainwright and
22 Atqasuk.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And Atqasuk.

25

26 MR. CARROLL: I think moose get out there
27 occasionally and I think we can.....

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The portion for Point Lay
30 would be covered under the State regulations -- how much
31 area are we interested in or what area is the State
32 managing in terms of like a peripheral area?

33

34 MR. CARROLL: Well, according to the map,
35 you know, there's just a little area of what's usually
36 corporation land right around the villages and other than
37 that it's all Federal land beyond that.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

40

41 MR. CARROLL: There is a season that's
42 pretty much parallel to what we have for the State but
43 these moose generally show up a lot of times in July or
44 June so I guess the idea would be probably need to extend
45 that season.

46

47 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, if you look at
48 your regulation book on Page 156, this is the remainder of
49 Unit 26(A). Currently moose is one bull and the season is
50 September 1 through September 14.

00129

1 MR. BODFISH: August 1 to September 14.

2

3 MR. JENNINGS: Well, the first part there,
4 August 1 to September 14 is a portion of Unit 26(A) of the
5 Colville River drainage downstream from and including the
6 Chandler River and I think the area that Geoff is talking
7 about is further to the west.

8

9 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

10

11 MR. JENNINGS: So it would be part of that
12 remainder part, remainder of Unit 26(A), September 1 to 14.

13

14 MR. CARROLL: You know, we'd have to word
15 it fairly carefully because the idea of the August 1st to
16 September 14th season is to basically open up the area
17 that's upstream from Nuiqsut so that those people can hunt
18 during August but then the remainder, September 1st to
19 14th, you know, that's -- it kind of opens up the rest of
20 the Colville River basically and that's how we, you know,
21 keep the people from other areas from hunting all through
22 the month of August. So I don't know, I think we need to
23 kind of come up with a season or, you know, an area that
24 describes kind of the area around Atqasuk and Wainwright
25 and doesn't include all of 26(A).

26

27 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tim.

30

31 MR. JENNINGS: By way of follow-up, what we
32 could do is we could have Federal Staff work with Geoff and
33 with Council members from that area to try to come up with
34 a proposal that meets everybody's needs.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

37

38 MR. JENNINGS: And submit it, as
39 appropriate, through both the Federal system and if
40 appropriate, the State side as well.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. You need to
43 reflect that the seasons were a little bit -- or much
44 earlier than what's proposed in here. I think the harvest
45 in Atqasuk was in July, uh, the middle part of July?

46

47 MR. BODFISH: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's when the two were
50 reported at a later time and Terry had also mentioned that

00130

1 August that you were interested in?

2

3 MR. TAGAROOK: Uh-huh.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary, did you have a

6 comment?

7

8 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: I was just.....

9

10 MR. BODFISH: I think they need to coincide
11 with pretty much with Atqasuk and Wainwright first or the
12 last parts of August and -- I mean last parts of July and
13 first part of August that the moose usually show up around
14 those areas.

15

16 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: I was just going to say
17 that was the issue that I had brought up earlier in the
18 wrong time frame, was that issue about other areas,
19 September 1st through September 14th doesn't meet our needs
20 in Nuiqsut.

21

22 I also want to note that the thing we see
23 that affects when we see the moose come up is how much
24 fires are in the Fairbanks area. If there's early fires
25 down there then we'll see them earlier versus later fires.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The current regulations
28 for Unit 26 around the Nuiqsut area would be the August 1
29 to September 14 regulation are the dates, opening dates.

30

31 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: Yes, I understand that.
32 But there are usages that occur beyond that boundaries.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What is the time frame?

35

36 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: In the Fish Creek area
37 last year we had some of the guys notice two moose out that
38 way and that was in July and August. And that's on the
39 other side there.

40

41 MR. CARROLL: It seems like a fairly
42 successful moose hunting season in Nuiqsut last year. We
43 expanded the season and the hunt area and it seemed like
44 people took advantage of that pretty well.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. So your concern,
47 Rosemary, are you suggesting that we might want to change
48 the opening dates or maybe we should work with Geoff.....

49

50 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: Right.

00131

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER:in terms of how that
2 could be addressed because it's under the State management
3 regulations.

4

5 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: Right. The first part
6 of it meets that area well, it's just outside of that area.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

9

10 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: Because the usage has
11 gone up so much more that there is more traveling occurring

12 trying to attempt to harvest. So they're traveling outside
13 of just that area that's listed in the top portion. So the
14 remainder of Unit 26(A) needs to be considered in our
15 timeline when we're out there.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The August 1?

18

19 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: So working with them
20 for the proposed changes would be fine, communicating.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So at some point you
23 could communicate with Rosemary or a resident of Nuiqsut to
24 try to address the concern.

25

26 MR. CARROLL: Okay, sure, that's fine.
27 We'll be starting to work on the State proposal for the
28 Point Lay area pretty soon, too, and then I'll communicate
29 with you guys and we can get kind of parallel.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Because we need to keep
32 Barb in the loop to keep the communications flowing between
33 the State and the Regional Advisory Council, to help
34 facilitate in getting these proposals submitted and worded
35 in the right language, not language, wording, get the right
36 wording down to where it will be more effective for the
37 villages.

38

39 Do we have any other comments regarding
40 these moose issues?

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Geoff.

45

46 MR. CARROLL: Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did you have a comment,
49 Earl?

50

00132

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I was going to say
2 that -- Earl from Anaktuvuk. Anyway, last year people
3 caught some moose at home, I was surprised, and it wasn't
4 a few people, quite a few people caught a moose and some
5 people come around my house, hey, Earl, I got some moose,
6 you want some moose meat, Earl wouldn't say no, yeah, but,
7 you know, usually they don't bother with the moose but
8 they've been getting quite a few moose at home, so that was
9 a pretty good positive part there.

10

11 I just wanted to bring that up for good
12 comments.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Earl for
17 providing your comments. If we're done with 12F, do we

18 have any other issues that we need to consider under 12,
19 Barb?

20

21 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: No.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No. 13, new business.
24 Any new business to be brought before the Council? I had
25 written down BLM at 10:00 a.m., this morning.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just to recap some of the
30 proposals that we've gone through that we supported.
31 Proposal 2 we supported. Proposal 53 we supported.
32 Proposal 38 we supported. I think there was some modif --
33 Proposal 39 was with the modification and we supported that
34 proposal with a modification. Charlie, did you have a
35 comment.

36

37 MR. TAGAROOK: Your brother got his hand
38 up.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Charlie, did you have a
41 comment?

42

43 MR. C. BROWER: I just wanted to make a
44 comment. I heard it pass but I just have some mixed
45 reservations.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

48

49 MR. C. BROWER: Good afternoon. For the
50 record, Charlie Brower from Barrow.

00133

1 I notice on Proposal 53 with muskox issue
2 from Unit 26(C), and knowing that it's not the harvest that
3 it's making it decline it's just the migratory change. And
4 reading in some of your reports here that -- where was it,
5 that -- it passed though, right?

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The Council made
8 recommendation to support the proposal as presented.

9

10 MR. C. BROWER: Okay, where did I see it.
11 Where did I just read it.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Proposal 53 is on Page
14 77.

15

16 MR. C. BROWER: What?

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It starts at 75.

19

20 MR. C. BROWER: You know, the folks that
21 work on these muskox issues, Harry Reynolds and few other
22 folks, take advantage of the different migration that the
23 muskox have taken. It's not -- what I'm trying to say --

24 I think it's not the harvest that's making them decline
25 it's just they're moving into Canada, and they're just
26 vacationing here -- was for good management for -- or
27 something. Where did I read that -- if the muskox stays
28 low or continues to decline, Kaktovik residents will reduce
29 opportunities to hunt muskox as few or no permits may be
30 issued.

31

32 I don't think there's a decline in the
33 muskox in the Refuge they're just moving away, poor
34 management or whatever, from the Wildlife Service in
35 regards to these issues, or, you know, they're just
36 dispersing away. And for these guys, these biologists to
37 make these kinds of recommendations, I don't think it's
38 right.

39

40 So I just have some mixed feelings about
41 what these folks are trying to come up with. That, you
42 know, the management is somewhat -- it's hard to comprehend
43 what they're trying to do. Either they need biologists to
44 take control what the animals are there and keep them as
45 their pets or whatever, I just have some mis-feelings about
46 those folks.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Charlie. We

00134

1 did take action on this and we supported -- just for your
2 information, we did support recommendation and it also
3 includes a recommendation from the working group, Muskox
4 Working Group, so we're trying to address all parties that
5 are involved in the management of these muskox. Just to
6 let you know, Charlie, that's what we're trying to
7 accomplish here, is to provide an opportunity and continue
8 providing an opportunity for the residents of Kaktovik to
9 be able to harvest at least one or two muskox even though
10 there is a low population within the Refuge. So that's
11 where we are right now on this issue.

12

13 Thank you for your comments. Rosemary, did
14 you have some comments you wanted to add.

15

16 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: I just wanted to say
17 that we understand what you're saying and I think that was
18 also presented by the people that were putting the reports
19 in, that they felt that the decline was -- along with what
20 you're saying -- what you're saying is what was presented
21 to us.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other new business to
24 consider? Establish time and place of next meeting.
25 What's the wish of the Council.

26

27 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Under Tab D, if you go
28 back, you have your fall one set up already, if that's
29 still okay with you, I think it's September 9 and 10.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Under which tab?

32

33 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, you set it up at
34 your last meeting, under D, just before the last page in
35 the front, back side of that one, Paul. Yeah, September
36 9 and 10 (In Native).

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

39

40 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (In Native)

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You know we were asked to
43 try to submit times and places for our next meeting a year
44 in advance and this is what we had come up with at our last
45 meeting. There was a request to try and accommodate that
46 and that's where these dates came about, September 9 and
47 10.

48

49 I'm not sure how that is working out for
50 coordinating these meetings, you know, in terms of a year
00135

1 in advance in selecting dates.

2

3 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I think it's working out
4 better. It's easier to project to see what I need to
5 gather for you and pass on to you. It's working out better
6 because I know the dates and when they will happen. So the
7 only thing -- if that September 9 and 10 is okay with you,
8 then you need to project another date for your 2004 winter
9 meeting on the backside of that, what you're looking at.

10

11 (In Native)

12

13 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Jennings.

16

17 MR. JENNINGS: I just wanted to add to what
18 Barb said. You forecasted the September 9 and 10 meeting
19 at your last meeting. And now, at this meeting, you can
20 reassess that and you're not locked in to those dates, it's
21 a preliminary set of dates for your meetings and if you
22 want to modify those you can at this meeting. I just
23 wanted to make sure that you knew that you had the
24 flexibility to adjust those dates if you needed to.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have concerns from the
27 different villages for maybe fall whaling for community of
28 Nuiqsut. Is that about the time you're starting or is that
29 a little bit early yet?

30

31 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: No, they're usually out
32 to the island by that -- the weekend before that.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. So you should be
35 able to come to the meeting.

36
37 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: Yeah, I don't think
38 that will be such an issue for me but I know Barrow will be
39 addressing that, Kaktovik, so those are.....
40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we'll stand by our
42 dates of September 9 and 10.
43
44 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.
45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The next issue is for the
47 next winter's meeting, 2004?
48
49 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, winter 2004. If
50 you would project some dates for that meeting.
00136
1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The calendar starts
2 February 16th -- what happened to February 1 or 2?
3
4 MR. JENNINGS: Barb, mention the dates of
5 the Seward Penn meeting, it was 19 and 20.
6
7 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: February 19 and 20. (In
8 Native)
9 That's when Seward Penn, and I would have
10 to go to the Seward Penn, I have to work with two Councils,
11 and that's North Slope and Seward Penn, and Seward Penn had
12 picked out February 19 and 20.
13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If we were to recommend
15 an earlier date than February 16th, would that be possible?
16
17 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Tim, is that possible
18 for them to pick a date before February 16th?
19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The calendar starts
21 February 16. I'm questioning, is it possible if we -- why
22 is the starting date from 16 on down? I'm concerned that
23 maybe we might want to hold the meeting before that date.
24
25 MS. AHTUANAGARUAK: Yeah, the first couple
26 of weeks of February are better.
27
28 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I think I know why
29 because.....
30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, it starts getting
32 into our hunting activities the further away we get -- or
33 the middle part of February.
34
35 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair.
36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Jennings.
38
39 MR. JENNINGS: I can address the rationale
40 behind the window dates starting with February 16th. There
41 isn't a lot of time after the Federal Board meeting in

42 December. The Federal Board meets in December on the
43 fisheries regulatory proposals. Basically that time frame
44 between mid-December and mid-February gives Staff enough
45 time to work on the wildlife proposals and to get
46 preparations done for the meeting and to allow us to try to
47 mail the books out to you two weeks in advance. We have to
48 have all of our work done by, say, the third week of
49 January in order to mail the books out two weeks in
50 advance. And I'm hearing in some cases you're not getting
00137

1 your books even with our mailing two weeks in advance. So
2 that's another issue we're going to go back and discuss,
3 trying to move our process up even further so we might be
4 done earlier so we can mail your Council books out sooner.

5
6 So the ramification for us is if we move
7 our window earlier it just really scrunches this amount of
8 Staff time to less and less in order to put together a
9 quality product to bring to your meetings. So that's the
10 main reason behind starting the meetings February 16th or
11 thereafter.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, thank you. So the
14 dates for the Seward Penn are.....

15
16 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: It's 19 and 20.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: 19 and 20 has been
19 selected already.

20
21 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes, February 19 and 20,
22 2004. It's got to be either after that date or -- but not
23 just before.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just before sounds good.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I can't travel back to
30 back, going back and forth.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The first week of March
33 is what I'm hearing.

34
35 MR. BODFISH: 5 and 6.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What dates?

38
39 MR. BODFISH: 5 and 6.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, 5 and 6. Any
42 objections to those dates?

43
44 (No objection)

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, March 5 and
47 6, 2004.

48
49 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Barrow?
50
00138
1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: In Kona, Hawaii.
2
3 (Laughter)
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sounds good. In Barrow,
6 I suppose. Yes, Barrow will be fine. So March 5 and 6,
7 2004 in Barrow.
8
9 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.
10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Item 15, adjournment.
12
13 MR. BODFISH: I so move.
14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Second it.
16
17 MR. TAGAROOK: Second
18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All in favor signify by
20 saying aye.
21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.
23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We are now adjourned.
25 Thank you.

26
27 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)
00139
1 C E R T I F I C A T E
2
3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
4)ss.
5 STATE OF ALASKA)
6
7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for
8 the state of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix Court
9 Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:
10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 2 through 138
12 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH
13 SLOPE BOROUGH FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
14 MEETING, taken electronically by Nathaniel Hile on the 19th
15 day of February 2003, in Barrow, Alaska;
16
17 THAT the transcript is a true and correct
18 transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter
19 transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to
20 the best of our knowledge and ability;
21
22 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
23 interested in any way in this action.
24
25 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 1st day of March

26 2003.

27

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29

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31

32

33

Joseph P. Kolasinski

Notary Public in and for Alaska

My Commission Expires: 04/17/04 ☐