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NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

ILISAVIK COLLEGE
DR. ALBERT CONFERENCE ROOM
Barrow, Alaska

August 26, 2008

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Harry Brower, Jr., Chairman
- Paul Bodfish, Sr.
- Gordon Brower, Sr.
- David Gunderson
- Regional Council Coordinator, Michelle Chivers (Acting)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Barrow, Alaska - 8/26/2008)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning everyone. I'll call the meeting of the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council to order at this time. It's going to be an informational meeting. We don't have a quorum and then we're not taking any actions on any of the items. I don't think we have any action items to cover anyway under this agenda.

At this time we'll have a moment of silence. We've had a couple of deaths in the community and there's others out beyond. We also need to keep in mind our people that are at war and if it continues. So just at this time maybe we all could stand and have a moment of silence, please.

Thank you.

(Moment of silence)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you everyone. This agenda we have a roll call and establishment of a quorum. Paul, do you want to just do a roll call.

MR. BODFISH: Harry Brower.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here.

MR. BODFISH: David Gunderson.

MR. GUNDERSON: Here.

MR. BODFISH: Paul Bodfish, here. Other Council members aren't here.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: The rest of the Council members that are absent are Lloyd Leavitt, Gordon Brower, John Hopson. That's three Regional Advisory Council members that are not present. Thank you, Paul.

MR. BODFISH: Uh-huh.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just to welcome you all for being here. I wish we had a quorum. We can't dictate where everybody else is at and they have prior

1 commitments. That could very well be as to what they're
2 doing. Again, thank you for taking time from your busy
3 schedules to be here with us this morning.

4

5 I'm Harry Brower, chairman of the
6 Regional Advisory Council. We'll do our introductions.
7 David.

8

9 MR. GUNDERSON: Hi, I'm David Gunderson
10 from Wainwright.

11

12 MR. BODFISH: Paul Bodfish representing
13 Atqasuk.

14

15 MR. KRON: Tom Kron from OSM.

16

17 MS. CHIVERS: Michelle Chivers, acting
18 coordinator from OSM. Thank you.

19

20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong. I'm
21 the anthropologist that assists this Council from OSM.

22

23 DR. YOKEL: Dave Yokel, Bureau of Land
24 Management, Fairbanks.

25

26 MS. BORBA: Bonnie Borba, Alaska
27 Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks Office.

28

29 MR. NAGEAK: Ben Nageak, BLM.

30

31 MR. PAPPAS: George Pappas, Alaska
32 Department of Fish and Game.

33

34 MS. BROWN: Wennona Brown, Fish and
35 Wildlife Service.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you everyone.
38 Again, welcome to Barrow. Another beautiful day in
39 Barrow. I wish we would be playing out, but we're
40 sitting inside the building.

41

42 Review and adoption of agenda for the
43 Council members. For informational purposes, we have a
44 proposal that's been withdrawn identified as FP09-01.
45 There's no action needed for that, so that proposal has
46 been withdrawn. Under 11(D), we have George Pappas. The
47 name could be changed. Take Carroll's name off and put
48 George Pappas under 11(D). Those are the changes I can
49 note for this agenda.

50

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Helen.
4
5 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Could we add perhaps
6 where you want to, but I have a special presentation of
7 a gift for a special person here today.
8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No.
10
11 (Laughter)
12
13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We should do it in the
14 beginning.
15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right at the beginning.
17 I guess once we're done with the review of the agenda and
18 then we could do that.
19
20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. That's fine.
21 Wherever suits you.
22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Make it 5.5.
24
25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So this is basically
28 all the information we're going to be covering this
29 morning.
30
31 MR. BODFISH: Mr. Chairman.
32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Paul.
34
35 MR. BODFISH: I'd like to approve the
36 agenda with the post changes on the agenda.
37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I don't think we can
39 take any action if we don't have a quorum, Paul.
40
41 MR. BODFISH: Okay.
42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: This is just going to
44 be informational stuff. We can't take any action without
45 a quorum. So, Helen, we're at 5.5.
46
47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
48 This gift is to recognize Mr. Harry Brower, Jr. for
49 serving for 15 years on the Council. He's been an active
50 member and has served diligently for 15 years. He was

1 born and raised in Barrow. He is a very traditional
2 hunter as taught by his parents and he is, therefore,
3 very knowledgeable of subsistence uses, customs and
4 traditions. He is also a successful whaling captain.

5

6 We at OSM and the Federal Subsistence
7 Management Program would like to thank Mr. Brower for his
8 admirable service, for being the point guard both in
9 English and Inupiaq so that all is clearly understood
10 regarding the fish and wildlife resources in the North
11 Slope.

12

13 We want to thank his wife Flora, make
14 sure you let her know this, and his family for their
15 patience and understanding during the many hours Mr.
16 Brower has devoted to the Council. Thank you, Harry.

17

18 (Microphone off)

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That was a surprise.
21 Speechless. Anyway, Helen and Barb and Michelle, it's
22 been a long time working. I think it was Ben when he was
23 the director for the North Slope Borough Wildlife
24 Management. I got started in monitoring the Federal
25 Subsistence Program under his directorship and I've been
26 in that position since we got started.

27

28 We've gone through a series of different
29 directors within our department and they continue to
30 appoint me to monitor the Federal Subsistence Program.
31 That's what I've been doing. It was divvied up at the
32 time, Taqulik and I were young, new employees of the
33 North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management at
34 the time, so we divvied up the programs in terms of who
35 should attend what and Taqulik was identified as the
36 person to monitor the State Subsistence Program and I was
37 given the Federal Subsistence Management Program. That's
38 where my beginnings started.

39

40 I remember some of the folks, Mr.
41 Stigletz and McVey. I don't see them or hear about them
42 anymore and they've since retired. I know they were very
43 instrumental in getting the start of the Federal
44 Subsistence Program ongoing and it's what it is today.
45 I mean it's something that we continue to look to in
46 regard to the subsistence management. Thank you for the
47 gift and the certificate of appreciation.

48

49 At this time we'll go ahead and review
50 the minutes. If there's any corrections, they need to be

1 noted. I guess that's something we'll look into.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Gordon.
4 Now we have a fourth person and maybe we could take
5 action.

6

7 MR. G. BROWER: I had an emergency.
8 Sorry I was late. I had a quick emergency. SKW, after
9 talking to them for two months to drill one piling,
10 decided to call me this morning, so I had to shovel the
11 dirt out of the way. So I made it.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Good. We'll
14 back up to the action items we need to cover. Gordon,
15 now that you're here we have a quorum. Everything has
16 been recorded. Now that you're here -- we had a moment
17 of silence. We called the roll call, not knowing who was
18 going to be here. Now that you're here we have a quorum
19 before us with four members of the seven members.

20

21 We were just reviewing the agenda. We
22 just got done reviewing the agenda, but then now that
23 you're here -- I started it off as an informational
24 meeting without a quorum, but now we have a quorum we
25 could go back and review the agenda. We had a couple
26 modifications. We have a 5.5, a presentation by Helen
27 Armstrong. This was in regards to a certificate of
28 appreciation for Harry Brower, Jr. As you just got in,
29 we just got done going over that presentation. Then
30 under 9, the Proposal FP09-01 has been withdrawn. Under
31 11(D) just a name change. It's not Geoff Carroll, it's
32 George Pappas. He's present here. We've gone through
33 introductions. So that was the review of the agenda and
34 those were the modifications noted.

35

36 Maybe at this time we could do an action
37 on the agenda now that we have a quorum.

38

39 MR. BODFISH: Mr. Chairman.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Paul.

42

43 MR. BODFISH: Again, I'll move to accept
44 the agenda with the changes.

45

46 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman. Second the
47 motion.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Gordon.

50 All those in favor of the motion say aye.

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 MR. GUNDERSON: Question.
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, you can ask the
6 question afterward. Thank you, David. I'm a little bit
7 ahead of myself this morning. Maybe I better get back
8 down to first gear. Anyway, thank you. Then we have
9 review and adoption of minutes from March 4, 2008.
10 Everyone take a minute to review the contents of the
11 minutes. That's what we were just getting into in terms
12 of reviewing or if there's any corrections needed to the
13 minutes of March 4, 2008.
14
15 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair, move to accept
16 the minutes.
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
19 Motion on the floor to accept the minutes.
20
21 MR. BODFISH: Second.
22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Paul. Any
24 further discussion.
25
26 MR. GUNDERSON: Question.
27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
29 called on the motion to adopt the minutes of March 4,
30 2008. Signify by saying aye.
31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.
33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed, same sign.
35
36 (No opposing votes)
37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank you.
39 Getting back to our agenda we have the village concerns
40 for the Council members. I think we'll start with you,
41 Paul. Do you have any village concerns for Atqasuk.
42
43 MR. BODFISH: Nothing much for concerns.
44 A polar bear was harvested just last week or was it this
45 week. Fishing is good, caribou is good. Everything else
46 is in place. Berries. That's all I have.
47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Paul. Any
49 questions or comments from Council members. We'll
50 continue with our village concerns. Gordon.

1 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.
2 Gordon Brower, for the record. I have several concerns.
3 One came from my dad. He's at Chipp 9 and that's about
4 90 miles southeast of here. One of his concerns was he
5 believes there are some grizzlies up there that are
6 either moved by other game managers or something like
7 that because they're unusually very aggressive. Last
8 week, after cleaning up Chipp 9 from a previous bear, it
9 was again entered, this time destroyed a warehouse,
10 chewed through the wall of the corner, opened all the
11 cellars and then dug underneath one of the other cabins
12 and it's now just teetering, ready to tip over. And just
13 debris everywhere.

14
15 But his concern was, he's had a lot of
16 bear incidents over the 60 years he's roaming that area,
17 but very unusual type of -- very aggressive situation.
18 Anyway, we're trying to address that. We talked to Geoff
19 Carroll about it and he said the best thing to do if it
20 comes around is just destroy the animal. It did probably
21 over \$10,000 worth of damage according to my dad.

22
23 I don't have to many concerns. There's
24 a lot of caribou moving around with the wind going south.
25 They were primarily going south when I was in Chipp 4.
26 That's right in NPRA area.

27
28 Another concern I had, I was down the
29 Haul Road and some of our inspectors on the Haul Road
30 said there was caribou roaming around with arrows stuck
31 on the rumps on some of them, just roaming around. I
32 don't know if they just couldn't harvest them or had a
33 bad shot, but it just didn't look nice, animals just with
34 arrows in them roaming around that corridor.

35
36 I stopped and talked with Ralph. He's
37 the owner of Deltana Outfitters. He had some concerns.
38 I told him I was going to come to a Federal Subsistence
39 Advisory Council meeting and he stated some concerns
40 about moose. He thought that maybe the State and Feds
41 were a little bit too liberal with allocating moose.
42 That they're just starting to come around and gain and he
43 thought maybe too many permits were being handed out. I
44 mean that came from an outfitter. The guy makes money to
45 take clients out there. I sat down and talked with him
46 and he's a pretty good guy. He thought the population
47 should have a better chance of increasing before
48 different allocations from different Federal lands are
49 handed out to other game management units. I think he
50 may have been talking about a little section of Unit 26-C

1 that I think we reviewed that several years ago
2 concerning moose. Anyway, that was one of his concerns
3 and his concern was just primarily the moose bounce back
4 up and we shouldn't be so easy just to hand out these
5 permits. Anyway, that was probably for big game hunters
6 and stuff like that.

7
8 Anyway, I had a sheep burger. They had
9 harvested a fresh sheep over there at one of their camps.
10 It was pretty good. Other than that I don't have too
11 much more concerns. But we are very concerned about
12 those bears. The old man thinks they've been
13 transplanted from areas that are being heavy predation on
14 musk ox and they move these bears around. That's his
15 perception. I told him I'd ask about it because they're
16 unusual and they're very aggressive. I don't know, maybe
17 they learn new tricks when they're hunting musk ox to be
18 very aggressive. I don't know. That was just a concern.

19
20 But fishing is real good and caribou was
21 pretty good. They're starting to get fat now and we see
22 that. Other than that I don't have too much other
23 concerns.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
26 David, anything from Wainwright.

27
28 MR. GUNDERSON: David Gunderson,
29 Wainwright. Not that I've heard over there. Fishing,
30 hunting, ocean mammals are nice, hunting is going good.
31 People are going out caribou hunting, harvesting. The
32 ocean is opening up, ice coming in and out, moving
33 around. Bird harvesting was good. We had a good year
34 this year. Beluga season was good. We got, I think, 19
35 belugas. They divided it up with the people around.
36 Everybody got a share. Everything is good. We don't got
37 berries yet or there's very little, but probably due to
38 less rain. Other than that everything is going pretty
39 good. Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, David. In
42 regards to village concerns, I've been traveling around
43 wherever our access is permitted to go and gone over the
44 Meade River delta and up the Topagoruk and to the Chipp,
45 going over to Teshekpuk Lake and coming back around.
46 There's a few resources out there. I concur with the
47 situation on the brown bears as Gordon reported. There's
48 been not just the one at Chipp 9. There's been several
49 other cabins that the brown bears have been entering and
50 destroying the cabins basically. A lot of repairs

1 needing to be made by the owners.

2

3 We've made the regulation changes in
4 trying to address that concern before in terms of one
5 bear every four years to one bear every year, but that
6 didn't make too much of a dent in terms of what continues
7 to happen. Regulations indicate that in defense of life
8 and property that these brown bears could be taken down
9 for that reasoning. I'm not sure if it's one bear or
10 several numbers of bear that are causing the damage to
11 these cabins.

12

13 I heard the concerns over at Cross Island
14 too in terms of polar bears damaging all their cabins
15 over there. The ones up here in these river area, the
16 brown bears are what's causing the problem. I continue
17 to hear about that at Chipp 9 and Meade River and
18 Teshekpuk, there's brown bears roaming around, quite a
19 few. A lot more than we've had in the past.

20

21 So there's a situation growing here in
22 the North Slope in terms of the number of brown bears and
23 the destruction of property. It hasn't been so much in
24 terms of life threatening situations. It could be if the
25 person was depending on the resources that were left for
26 him to come back, I think that's the case with Arnold
27 Brower at Chipp 9, he's making preparations to stay a
28 long period and when there's been destruction of the
29 property, that gets to be a very serious situation. I'm
30 glad I haven't been up to my camp yet. I don't even know
31 what my camp looks like. It's further up than Chipp.

32

33 Access has been a problem. We've had a
34 very cold, dry summer, hardly any rain. I don't think
35 I've even heard of the rivers having a tide surge or
36 anything like that over the course of the summer. I
37 think the tide surge I've been monitoring has just been
38 caused by the westerly wind and the river water rising
39 near the river deltas and that's basically what I've been
40 noticing.

41

42 There's been quite a few fishermen with
43 a lot of fish nets out here. There's all kinds of fish
44 being harvested. Seals. I've seen harbor porpoises and
45 all the different marine resources that we get out in the
46 ocean are being harvested over here. There was a
47 situation with one net and some seals, but that got
48 pulled out of the ocean. It had like 12 seals in the net
49 and the person that set the net out had left it out there
50 without getting somebody else to watch over it, so we

1 ended up pulling it out. We being the Department of
2 Wildlife Management, taking our boat out there and
3 pulling the net out of the ocean before it drifted away.
4 It had broken free from the shoreline. So we ended up
5 pulling the net out and taking the seals off the net.
6 Had a couple of fish in there. They were not even worth
7 salvaging, so we left them.

8
9 Other than that it's been a pretty good
10 season in Barrow. We have a lot of vessel traffic that's
11 going on from all the different activities that's
12 occurring. Coast Guard vessels are here. Oil industry
13 vessels out in the ocean. I just think that because of
14 all the changes that we're seeing because of the global
15 climate change and a lot of the research going on and a
16 lot of it coming near Barrow, some on shore, some off,
17 with a majority of them being offshore, so that's one of
18 the bigger changes that we're seeing in terms of research
19 coming up here on the North Slope.

20
21 I did have some concerns about our
22 representation from our North Slope. We have three
23 vacant seats and that continues to be a problem. If
24 somehow we could get that situated a little bit better,
25 I think that would make this program a little bit easier
26 on our parts because of different regional
27 representation. We'd go through the different resources
28 in each of these areas in the given time. When we don't
29 have the representation from the different areas, it
30 creates a problem for our own representation because we
31 need some involvement from these different commissions
32 and committees, councils that we're involved with. Their
33 interaction is not there and yet we have to address
34 proposals that reach into these different segments of the
35 management program.

36
37 So that's been a concern of mine and I'd
38 like to see at some point the rest of these vacant seats
39 filled. I'm not sure what approach the Federal
40 Subsistence Program is going to take in terms of meeting
41 that concern, filling these vacant seats. It's
42 continuously something that we've been struggling with
43 over the years, but if there's ways we could improve
44 that, it would be helpful in terms of trying to keep
45 people into taking time and committing themselves to the
46 North Slope Regional Advisory Council.

47
48 It's an important program. I think they
49 need to get their representation in place so that it will
50 help us with some of the issues like we have on our

1 agenda, is the SRC, Subsistence Resource Commission, with
2 the National Park Service and we don't even have a
3 representation from the user group of that area. It's
4 been something we've been without for many years and we
5 still have the issues of that continued communications
6 that we need in terms of what's happening in the national
7 park and then we don't have that interaction.

8
9 We had Paul identified as one of the key
10 people that occasionally go up into the Gates of the
11 Arctic and conduct his subsistence activities in that
12 different times of the year when the access is right. So
13 that's one of my concerns and I'd like to continue
14 voicing that and try to move forward in identifying,
15 hopefully in the near future, to get these vacant seats
16 filled.

17
18 Yes, Gordon. Go ahead.

19
20 MR. G. BROWER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
21 Gordon Brower for the record. Yeah, I continue to have
22 those types of concerns as well. I think maybe we ought
23 to look at filling the seat as a temporary basis until,
24 you know, a representative from Anaktuvuk or something
25 like that has been pointed out. It would be prudent for
26 us to have some way of interacting with those other
27 councils that demand a voice from this council just as a
28 temporary means until such time that an actual village
29 user of that area in the Gates of the Arctic is actually
30 appointed.

31
32 Some other things I had pointed out in
33 the past. When we're having a hard time recruiting for
34 representation from the village, maybe we ought to have
35 a Regional Advisory Council meeting in that village and
36 try to get nominations from the floor of that village.
37 We're always meeting here. I know Barrow is a central
38 focal point, but it's very important, I think, to get
39 representation from Kaktovik. There continues to be
40 issues over there. I don't know if the village has given
41 up if things never seem to go their way in terms of being
42 able to harvest other animals. I don't know what it is.
43 I'm just feeling these kinds of things.

44 Some other concerns I had, I just wanted
45 to point out there was issues surrounding caribou hunting
46 around Point Hope and I would just really like to
47 emphasize, you know, tradition, hunting, practices,
48 subsistence, is a way of life and when you encounter
49 something like that and it's publicized and there's a lot
50 of caribou strewn all over an area, that is not

1 tradition. That's not subsistence and that's not a way of
2 life. Those kind of things hurt us. It hurts me when I
3 even look and think about it. To me it's pretty
4 disgusting to see something like that in the newspaper
5 along with photograph and stuff that are good subsistence
6 resources.

7

8 When I harvest caribou, I harvest a lot
9 of it. I take internal organs and things like that,
10 traditional things. That guy on TV that tries strange
11 foods all the time, I think he'd like to try some of our
12 strange foods. We have candidates for strange foods too.
13 Anyway, I just see that as a concern.

14

15 One of the things I wanted to tie these
16 grizzly bears to, to these camps. Just the way of life
17 and how we do things is still the same. It's absolutely
18 the same. We don't have all the jobs for everybody and
19 we need to provide subsistence. The only way Eskimos
20 survive up here is they band together and hunt either
21 large animals or collect all their food during one time
22 to survive throughout the winter. That's what it means
23 at these subsistence camps. When they're destroyed
24 beyond use, that hurts the village. That hurts being
25 able to supply adequate food for a lot of people because
26 that's what we do as a whole. I mean when I get fish,
27 I'm hauling it all winter long back to the village so
28 Barrow residents have adequate amount of fish. That's
29 what it means. When we're trying to subsist and make
30 these kind of reports, it's very important when something
31 is drastically altering that.

32

33 Like I said, it's very unusual with these
34 bears. For the last three years or so, listening to some
35 of the elders, this is unusual. It's very unusual. He's
36 used to bears coming around and eating off the racks, but
37 coming around and destroying camps and stuff like that
38 beyond its usefulness is something different. Anyway,
39 that's about all I need to say.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
42 That pretty much covers village concerns unless we have
43 any questions or comments from the audience or Staff. Go
44 ahead, Michelle.

45

46 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. I was just
47 going to say, getting back to the nomination cycle, if
48 you know of somebody in those areas where you're lacking
49 representation, you, as individuals, each of you can
50 nominate somebody as well. When it gets to the point

1 where they're going through the process of talking to the
2 person who is nominated, they can at that point state
3 whether they want to actually continue with the process
4 and going through the interview and everything. But if
5 you know somebody, please let us know. We can send them
6 an application form or you can just submit their names
7 and we'll get it to them. Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Michelle.
10 Any other comments or questions.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll move on with our
15 agenda. Chair's report. We have an 805(c) letter, Page
16 10. We'll go over that real quick like. It was sent
17 June 17, 2008 to the Federal Subsistence Board. It
18 refers to our meetings we've had in the past year and the
19 proposed changes to the subsistence regulations. I think
20 we pretty much followed up with the concerns that we have
21 voiced during the past season and the regulation changes
22 we had noted in terms of our meetings that we held as the
23 Regional Advisory Council.

24

25 Any questions or comments in regards to
26 the 805(c) letter.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'd just like to ask
31 the staff, is there any improvements that we can make to
32 this letter in terms of the contents that reflects the
33 actions we've taken over the past year. Is there
34 something that we could improve on in terms of our
35 communications or representation to the meeting or to the
36 contents of the letter?

37

38 MS. CHIVERS: The 805(c) letter is
39 actually just letting you know what action the board took
40 on your proposals and then the letter that belongs to the
41 Council is the annual reports that you guys have
42 following that. I don't know what you mean by to improve
43 on it.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm not sure how the
46 concerns in terms of our brown bear management would be
47 addressed. It's something we continue to voice. We
48 noted that several years ago there's an increase in brown
49 bears. We listened to the restrictiveness of number of
50 bears that could be taken by a person, one every four

1 years. We lessened that to try to minimize the
2 interaction, but it continues to grow and be a problem
3 and increasingly more damage of property is being
4 acknowledged, not just in one site but different
5 locations where our subsistence activities are occurring.
6 I'm not sure if that could be enveloped into the comments
7 in terms of our discussions as village concerns in terms
8 of how the Board would see that or address it.

9
10 MS. CHIVERS: That could be addressed in
11 your annual report. That could be an item that you can
12 bring up and then it will be addressed. It will be
13 assigned to somebody in our office and there will be a
14 reply coming back.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Michelle.
17 The other agenda item is the 8(B) annual report reply on
18 Page 21. This letter is coming back from our Federal
19 Subsistence Board in reply to our letter that we
20 submitted earlier on. That letter is dated July 14,
21 2008. It starts on Page 20 and continues on 21.

22
23 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon, go ahead.

26
27 MR. G. BROWER: On the response
28 concerning -- I know just from memory we had concerns
29 about allocations of moose for the entire village of
30 Kaktovik and one of my little talks on transient moose,
31 it seemed to have been corroborated by area biologists
32 saying that these moose continue to re-establish
33 themselves in these areas and to acknowledge that. Just
34 to look at and review for the village of Kaktovik to be
35 able to have more than were allocated, three moose now.
36 If I was limited to three caribou, I think my village
37 would starve, you know, if my village was limited to that
38 much.

39
40 I know the moose is low in the area, but
41 also area biologists that say these moose move around and
42 they're transient and they re-establish themselves from
43 another game management unit in this area to me is highly
44 concerning when a sliver of Federal land is being added
45 onto an area known for sport hunting. I was just down the
46 Dalton Highway, I talked to several people about the
47 hunting pressure in those areas. There's a lot of people
48 from Montana, Idaho. Just stopping and talking as a land
49 manager to these people that come and enjoy ANWR and
50 they've got good hunting opportunities. I think we need

1 to look at these and re-evaluate, you know, and look at
2 the residents needs.

3

4 Moose is one of those things that we've
5 had a battle over many years based on population. I
6 think it would be prudent to at least look at the area
7 biologist's view of some of these animals when I've been
8 told they're transient population. They come in and re-
9 establish themselves maybe when the wind is blowing the
10 right way. Who knows. But that's my concern.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
13 It's something we continue to work with. Another thing
14 we have to be concerned about is the zoning that's been
15 subjected to Kaktovik in terms of where they can take
16 their moose. The comments that you identified, Gordon,
17 I think that's something we have to revisit sometime to
18 see if that zoning is being effective or just being more
19 restrictive in terms of where the animals could be taken,
20 so we'll keep it in mind in terms of when we're
21 discussing some of these proposals. I think it will be
22 during our winter meeting in December. I think it's in
23 December or November.

24

25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: You'll take proposals
26 at the winter council meeting, which will be -- I don't
27 know, it's in the calendar, but we'll talk about it at
28 the end of the meeting, but I think it's probably in
29 February.

30

31 MS. CHIVERS: February 25 and 26, I
32 think.

33

34 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's when we'll take
35 proposals for changes to wildlife regulations at that
36 meeting.

37

38 MS. CHIVERS: 17th and 18th of February.

39

40 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: 17th and 18th of
41 February if that date still works. We'll talk about that
42 at the end of the meeting.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: February now?

45

46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for that
49 clarification. Our winter meeting will be during the
50 month of February 2009. At that time we'll be revisiting

1 our wildlife proposals, so that will be our opportunity
2 to comment and present these concerns again at that time.

3

4 Any other comments in terms of the
5 Chair's report, the 805(c) letter or the annual report
6 reply.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If there are no other
11 concerns or comments, we'll continue with our agenda.
12 Statewide proposals. Tom.

13

14 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, the State has
15 withdrawn Proposal FP09-01. The Councils will not be
16 taking action on this proposal. Consistent with Federal
17 Subsistence Management Program procedures, a proponent
18 may withdraw a proposal before a Council takes action on
19 it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom. That
22 was the only proposal that was identified to be reviewed
23 by this Council and it's been withdrawn. We'll move on
24 to our next agenda item 10, Fisheries Resource Monitoring
25 Program. Helen Armstrong.

26

27 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 This is in the book that you have. It comes after the
29 calendar. It was actually an add-on because it was
30 submitted after this was printed up. It looks like this.
31 It's after Page 28.

32

33 This document is a draft and what we're
34 looking for from the Council is -- you don't have to vote
35 on anything. What we're looking for is input from you
36 for ideas of doing research. What we talk a lot about at
37 these meetings is changes to regulations for hunting and
38 fishing, but that's part of what we do at the Office of
39 Subsistence Management, but we also oversee fish
40 research. This program has been going on since we
41 started managing fish in 2000.

42

43 We haven't historically done studies up
44 on the North Slope much. There's not a huge amount of
45 money that's available. What's ended up happening is
46 other areas that had more competition, more issues, have
47 ended up having those projects funded, but we have had
48 projects that have been proposed from the North Slope.
49 Before they go out for the request for proposals we do
50 this information needs document and so we want to make

1 sure that anything you feel is really important goes into
2 what the information needs should be, so that's why we're
3 looking for your input.

4
5 As you see, it is a draft and it's going
6 to all of the Councils. The thing that we need to
7 remember is that projects need to be focused on having
8 some kind of inter-relationship with Federal public lands
9 and waters, that it can't be something that's happening
10 mostly on State because then it becomes difficult to
11 actually do the funding. So there has to be some sort of
12 nexus for Federal waters.

13
14 It can be a project that is either a
15 fishery biology type of research project that studies the
16 fish themselves or it could be a harvest monitoring
17 project; who harvests, where they're harvesting, what
18 they're harvesting, that type of thing. A traditional
19 ecological knowledge project where we're finding out more
20 information about how much a community depends on the
21 fish, some of the traditions surrounding the harvest,
22 that sort of thing. So there's a wide range of the type
23 of research that it could be.

24
25 We have about \$6 million for projects in
26 2010. This is the call for priority information needs for
27 2010. We're looking a little bit to the future. The
28 information that you see in here that is specific to the
29 northern region has been developed so far by Council
30 information. We've put out emails and talked to people
31 who work in the region, who live in the region, so we
32 spread a broad net trying to find out from people what
33 the issues are.

34
35 The document that's in your book has the
36 information needs for all six regions. The fish regions
37 are different from the hunting regions and there are six
38 regions. But we're only going to talk about the
39 information for the North Slope.

40
41 There's also an inter-regional category
42 that's sort of multi-regions or statewide and that one is
43 calling for projects that address climate change issues
44 and its effects on subsistence fisheries. There's a big
45 concern at the Fish and Wildlife Service and other
46 agencies now about what's happening particularly to the
47 arctic but throughout Alaska with changes -- and Harry
48 was talking about the researchers that have come up here.
49 So there is a new focus on our information needs with
50 climate change. So if you have an idea for a project or

1 information needs that somehow link to that as well, we
2 want to hear about them. We want you to think about not
3 just the effects of the climate change on the fish but
4 also on the subsistence uses on the fish.

5
6 While the Monitoring Program project
7 selections will not be limited to information needs
8 identified in the document, it does give them a priority.
9 What I'm saying is the review committee that looks at
10 proposals that come in, if it's a proposal from a project
11 that was listed in this document, then it has a higher
12 sort of ranking, but somebody could come in with an idea
13 for a project that could get funded that isn't on this
14 list, but it would have to really address how it's needed
15 in order to better manage subsistence fisheries. So it's
16 a good idea if there is something you want to see to make
17 sure it's on this list if at all possible.

18
19 We're also encouraging investigators to
20 conduct long-term projects to participate in standardized
21 air and water temperature monitoring programs to provide
22 more documentation of changes in temperature. So we're
23 really looking for collecting data that can be used in
24 some of the climate change issues.

25
26 We're specifically requesting proposals
27 that focus on the effects of climate change on
28 subsistence resources and uses and how management
29 practices can be better adapted to deal with those
30 effects. Climate change proposals can be specific to the
31 Northern Region or they can be statewide or inter-
32 regional as they're referred to in this document.

33
34 So, for the Northern Region priority
35 information needs there are three regional councils that
36 are covered; the Seward Peninsula, the Northwest Arctic
37 and the North Slope. Those three Councils in the past
38 have identified issues. Seward Peninsula and Northwest
39 Councils have identified salmon and char fisheries as
40 being the most important fisheries for their respective
41 areas. The North Slope has identified char, whitefish and
42 Arctic grayling fisheries as the most important for their
43 areas.

44
45 For the Northern Region, the 2010 request
46 is focused on priority information needs for baseline
47 harvest assessment and monitoring of subsistence
48 fisheries throughout the Northern Region, so we just need
49 it for the whole Northern Region. This sort of project
50 identifies what kind of fish are harvested, how much,

1 when, where, which communities, that sort of thing.

2

3 The Northwest Arctic, because it's in the
4 same region, you also would address the Selawik
5 whitefish. They have interest in knowing more about
6 spawning distribution and timing, stock structure of
7 Selawik River broad and humpback whitefish. So that's
8 one need that's been identified. And identify and
9 characterize critical factors affecting population
10 dynamics of Selawik River inconnu (sheefish).

11

12 In the Unalakleet River area, there's a
13 concern for chinook salmon and one of the information
14 needs is to obtain reliable estimates of chinook salmon
15 escapement over time, including collection of age, length
16 and sex information to determine spawning goals and
17 examine trends in relation to environmental changes in
18 harvest practices.

19

20 That proposed priority information need
21 is also being proposed with matching funds that would be
22 needed to obtain monitoring program funding and that's
23 because of the chinook salmon -- that area of the river
24 is primarily State and the up river is Federal. I
25 already talked a little bit about the inter-regional
26 priority information needs for climate change research.

27

28 So, in conclusion, what we're looking for
29 is thoughts from you of research that you think should be
30 conducted on fish in the North Slope or harvest
31 monitoring/traditional ecological knowledge projects. If
32 you have any ideas, you should give those to us today.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Questions or comments
35 to Helen from the Council.

36

37 MR. G. BROWER: Yes, Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

40

41 MR. G. BROWER: I always like to try to
42 give a lot of two cents when it comes to these kind of
43 things. I also work for the North Slope Borough in land
44 management and hear a lot of things from other villages
45 concerning the need to study. The need to study priority
46 development is also the need to study these resources.
47 They almost coincide with the needs for subsistence uses
48 and how it affects them. But there's a fine line there.
49 So sometimes when you look at the studies that are being
50 proposed in terms of an EIS or something like that, a lot

1 of those are good information you can capture in terms of
2 subsistence resources and how it's affecting the
3 subsistence users around here. So you start to get a lot
4 of ideas from these things.

5
6 I know for the longest time I've always
7 wanted to see cataloging of our subsistence lakes around
8 here and how they're doing in terms of -- when you look
9 at climate change, when the permafrost is thawing down
10 deeper, it creates much more susceptibility to drain.
11 Permafrost is like a bowl around these lakes and we're
12 seeing more and more of these lakes break through. Some
13 of our water lakes that we use for our camps, they
14 undermine themselves and come through underneath and then
15 they drain out. Some of the effects I think of climate
16 change.

17
18 Just by people talking about what effects
19 are effecting them, there's studies in them. They're in
20 between the lines. It's hard to, you know, try to point
21 out one thing when you want to create studies and you're
22 saying at the same time climate effects on these
23 resources. I think there's a lot of that. People see
24 it. I see it.

25
26 One of the things I'm always concerned
27 about is sustainability and then knowing other areas that
28 are like the Ikpikpuk River that we can use for
29 subsistence. Sakonowyak is one of those rivers right in
30 the Prudhoe Bay area. In the past it's a very good
31 subsistence harvest area from stories I've heard, from
32 traditional land use inventory that are archived. But I
33 don't see that much subsistence pressure on that anymore,
34 but I'd like to know the status of the harvestability and
35 the spawnings are pretty much the same as the fish we use
36 over here.

37
38 I have a tendency to go over there and
39 think about putting nets under the ice when I'm in that
40 Prudhoe Bay area but don't know what the authorities or
41 people are going to do if they see somebody harvesting in
42 the industrial area, putting nets under the ice and
43 things of that nature, but they're there.

44
45 I was rod and reeling in snake fish,
46 whitefish on the tail there's so many of them there. I'd
47 like to see some studies concerning areas that are good
48 for harvesting. Ikpikpuk has been harvested many, many
49 years and it continues to be a vital resource for Barrow
50 and other villages because people that harvest in those

1 areas tend to trade. The traditional subsistence economy
2 still exists. They thrive. You know, they're not
3 recognized by anybody except, I think, the Eskimos. Dare
4 not mix the word economy with subsistence. I hear that.
5 People say that sometimes. But there is a true
6 subsistence economy that's been around for thousands of
7 years and it's hard to recognize that.

8
9 So that's one thing I always want to
10 recognize. Our lakes, we need to catalogue them because
11 of changing times. I think one of the things that may
12 even reduce in the future of being able to harvest these
13 things, we've had an energy crisis in the Arctic for
14 maybe 12, 20 years. People are crying down in the States
15 for \$4 a gallon and we've had them at 6, 8, 9 dollars a
16 gallon in the villages. Short of putting away the iron
17 dog, we need to have capabilities of doing these if we're
18 going to return back, but we still need to identify where
19 all of these resources are so they know where they are
20 and continue to monitor them.

21
22 There's lakes around my camp that are
23 just in stories and I want to go over there and harvest
24 them. They're lakes full of northern pikes and these big
25 lake trouts. Very good areas to harvest fish. We should
26 have catalogues for those. It's good for subsistence
27 management, it's good for the residents to know where
28 these resources are instead of finding and testing them
29 on their own and trying to remember where they might be
30 from old stories.

31
32 At the same time it's good when you have
33 to protect it from industrial activities. To make sure
34 that when you're going to withdraw water from lakes you
35 have adequate protection. When you're going to do
36 seismic activities, you know which kind of fish this has.
37 Maybe it has a different kind of a lung that's more
38 susceptible to impact noise and pressure. People talk
39 about different types of fish. They might be more
40 susceptible than other types.

41
42 I always wondered at the mouth of Chipp
43 River and those areas because we've put nets in the dead
44 of winter to harvest Arctic cisco and which stock are
45 those coming from. Are those the ones that came from the
46 McKenzie or are those different types, are the genetics
47 the same. It's just opportunistically while I'm hauling
48 fish from my camp, the whitefish, we stop and put these
49 small nets to harvest the fish at the mouth. I always
50 wonder where these ones come from, if they're the same.

1 If they're the same as the ones that are harvested in
2 Nuiqsut and Nuiqsut is always having a concern with their
3 cisco. What kind of effects have been going on in terms
4 of -- I think that fish is pretty much studied by
5 industry and, you know, those guys doing biology work.
6

7 There's a lot of things I think we could
8 talk about in terms of research. A lot of times we get
9 these ideas from elders, what they've seen in terms of
10 their harvestability in the past and what we're seeing
11 today, the contemporary use versus the traditional
12 knowledge and the changes.
13

14 Anyway, I could talk forever probably
15 and never end. There's still a lot of other things
16 concerning caribou studies, migratory patterns in terms
17 of changes, the possible development in NPRA, the
18 migratory patterns that could change these animals and
19 the harvestability of them in areas where we're used to
20 getting them or are we going to have to move some other
21 place to harvest animals.
22

23 Well, I may have captured a lot, but I
24 need to let everybody else have a chance, too.
25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
27 That's good information to share with the rest of the
28 Council and Staff in terms of our fisheries. Any other
29 comments or concerns from Council members.
30

31 In terms of the recent observations doing
32 the ice fishing, that's been a problem over several years
33 when we've had these long, warm summers. The freeze up
34 was coming in late and it created an access problem for
35 some of the fishermen. Some enjoyed fishing without the
36 ice, but that practice gets kind of lost in a way that
37 you're not able to monitor what the ice conditions are.
38 You know, people falling in, not knowing what their
39 weight limitations are in terms of the ice conditions.
40 That has an impact to subsistence activities in terms of
41 number of people continuing to go out to fish under the
42 ice.
43

44 I know people make modifications trying
45 to meet within the time frame of the fish arriving or
46 before they're spawned out. That's one area where we do
47 a lot of our subsistence fishing here on the North Slope,
48 is trying to catch the fish, especially the broad
49 whitefish, before they spawn out. Sometimes when the
50 lake freeze-up occurs it creates a problem for the

1 fishermen trying to catch the fish at the colder time
2 frame, but sometimes it gets to be where the fish are
3 spawning out already.

4
5 The other problem was having to fish from
6 a boat when I should have been walking on top of ice. I
7 mean I see that as part of the climate change impact. In
8 a normal situation, in a given time frame right around
9 the end of September and first part of October we should
10 be walking on top of ice and setting nets underneath the
11 ice, but I've had to use my boat the past couple, three
12 years to catch the fish. I mean that was a big
13 difference I noticed just from my practices in terms of
14 climate change and how it's impacting my fishing along
15 the Ikpikpuk River. Trying to wait until it freezes up
16 has its problems. We end up taking fish when they've
17 been spawned out already.

18
19 Access has been a problem at times
20 because of the much dryer seasons that we have. Again,
21 that's fluctuating. It's been more present the last
22 three or four years that we've had dry summers. You
23 could tell along the lakes. The water level is much
24 lower, which creates a problem for access. That
25 continues even throughout the summer. We still have the
26 month of September to go through. Occasionally we have
27 a rainy season where a lot of snow coming down that tends
28 to elevate the water level some, but that remains to be
29 seen for what's coming for the next month and throughout
30 the summer it's been pretty much a dry season in
31 comparison to other years. It has its plus and minuses
32 in terms of how the summer is viewed. In terms of a cold
33 summer, we have a lot of good, healthy caribou, but then
34 our access is limited. We're pretty much hunting along
35 our coastline. Our access to other resources are
36 somewhat limited.

37
38 Those are just my observations I just
39 wanted to share with you. Gordon brought out a lot of
40 good comments in terms of his observations and what he'd
41 like to see in terms of research being conducted. I
42 think the outline, if we had a comparison of how the
43 research that went on in terms of the Arctic National
44 Wildlife Refuge and that Dolly Varden and genetics work
45 that was occurring, that's something I'd like to see.
46 I'm not sure if there's been a report that came out on
47 that. I don't recall it. I know we were getting updates
48 on some of that research in the Arctic National Wildlife
49 Refuge in terms of where the fish were occurring. So I'd
50 like to see a bit more on how that ended up.

1 There was this thing about the fish
2 carrying a parasite, ichthyophonous, and I don't hear much
3 of it anymore to see if it's continuing to be monitored
4 or it's just fallen under the radar sort of. That's
5 something that came about four or five years ago and we
6 don't hear so much about it anymore. Has it impacted the
7 fish species or if it, again, has fallen under the radar
8 screen.

9
10 Again, having no representation from
11 these other villages, the concerns were that the fish
12 they were harvesting up in Anaktuvuk they were catching
13 them in a different state than what they normally
14 harvested them. They're not as firm as what they used to
15 be. The muscle was much runnier and felt like jelly in
16 terms of what they were catching compared with the past.
17 I'm not sure what came about with that concern.

18
19 Again, without the representation and the
20 concerns being voiced from those other villages, we tend
21 to lose sight of some of the concerns that were voiced
22 before. It's difficult to try to follow up on when it's
23 not being restated as a concern. So I'd just voice that
24 in terms of our fisheries monitoring.

25
26 I'll just stop here. Paul.

27
28 MR. BODFISH: Yeah, just to back up what
29 you're saying. We see that change in the broad whitefish
30 that we catch on the meat, even in the grayling, the
31 texture is not as firm as they used to be. So just to
32 back up what you're saying. We've been trying to get
33 some kind of biologist up there to do some studies on the
34 whitefish and graylings and burbot and all the fish we
35 have in our rivers and lakes. There is a change in the
36 texture of the fish.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Paul.
39 Gordon.

40
41 MR. G. BROWER: I just wanted to add one
42 more thing, too, and that was concerning what you had
43 mentioned about very late freeze-ups. I do a lot of
44 fishing with my dad. I usually help him out, but he
45 don't like me to help him. He'll just tell me to put my
46 own nets out. That's been a concern being able to put
47 the nets under the ice. The timeframes are changing and
48 we're afraid we might not catch them when they're prime
49 and it is a delicacy for our culture to have fish with
50 roe in them and the right texture and the right color.

1 Bright yellow. It's just a delicacy. If you don't get
2 them in time or too early, they'll be orange, kind of red
3 bloody. There's a certain window of opportunity to get
4 these things, but those are starting to be very, very
5 hard to match.

6
7 At the same time, when you can't harvest
8 them under the ice and you try to do it with a boat, it's
9 different, and now you've got to freeze them. What I've
10 been doing maybe several years because of warming trends,
11 I make little lean-tos all over my camp. There's plywood
12 lean-tos everywhere. And then I put my fish in them so
13 that when the sun rises it's not going to touch the fish
14 and they'll stay colder. Before you could just leave
15 them on top of the ice or you could put them on the grass
16 and it's so cold they freeze and you can put them away in
17 gunnysacks in the warehouse. If it doesn't do that fast,
18 then the eggs turn red, orange, gooey. We do our best to
19 preserve them right there, right now so the eggs are
20 going to stay bright yellow and really good and people
21 like that.

22
23 We're having such a hard time this year,
24 we hauled a large freezer. We're going to try it with a
25 generator and see if we can flash freeze them in a big
26 freezer and then see if we can't store them in the cellar
27 or the warehouse to try to preserve. That's telling you
28 there's a problem. It's never been like that in the
29 past. When I was a younger man, we used to have nets
30 about September 25 under the ice. Two years ago we
31 finally put nets under the ice on October 10. We tried
32 to put the nets with boats and it's very, very difficult
33 and very unusual and then you're going to try to freeze
34 them.

35
36 But we're still trying because people
37 want food. They want these fish. And you see that in
38 our festivals. It is our law and our tradition, at least
39 that I learned from my folks. You feed the people and
40 feed them silly. You feed them as much as possible.
41 Give it all out. We do that to the best of our ability
42 so everybody, elder to the young child, has food.

43
44 We have to say it this way because that's
45 the only way we can say these things because it affects
46 how we distribute food and it can even affect the quality
47 of the food. Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
50 Tom.

1 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Gordon. I've
2 got a question. With the ice forming later in the fall,
3 are the whitefish coming into the rivers congregating at
4 the river mouths later too?

5
6 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. Fish
7 are not going to wait. I think it's easier for them when
8 there's no ice. Two years ago we had a 50-60 knot wind
9 and it was late again, but it made all these snowflakes
10 inside the water bunch up like an absorbent pad and bunch
11 up in the shallow sections and the only fish getting
12 through were the broad whitefish but there were cuts on
13 their face because they were pushing through this type of
14 snow that's in the water. That season we didn't even get
15 one grayling. The grayling were stopped up somewhere
16 else. I know certain things will affect the movement of
17 fish, but the broad whitefish power their way through
18 this kind of stuff and it's instinct to get there to
19 spawn is so strong they power through that type of snow
20 in the water. They're not going to wait. You've got to
21 be there or you're going to miss it.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments from
24 the Council or Staff members. Paul.

25
26 MR. BODFISH: Just to add on to what
27 Gordon was saying, like he was saying, the fish do not
28 wait. They still run at the same time and we miss out
29 because we tend to wait for the ice to form before we go
30 fishing, so we lose out a lot on the take of the fish.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Paul and
33 Gordon. These are some of the changes that we've been
34 observing over the past several years in terms of the
35 climate change. I'm not sure how we could address it in
36 terms of our fisheries information needs. The freeze-up
37 along the river, there's a lot of ice cakes that form,
38 icing that occurs and a lot of ice cakes start drifting
39 down as they break off and it creates a problem for later
40 freeze-up and trying to set nets with that ice-infested
41 water. Nets get taken away or they get jammed up with all
42 the ice. I make an attempt to find my nets and
43 occasionally I find one or two when it's been taken away.
44 The thing about leaving them in the river is it creates
45 a problem for the other fishermen if you're not able to
46 retrieve them. So having to wait until it freezes up,
47 that's the only trade-off that we have to deal with in
48 terms of trying to fish during the later freeze-ups that
49 we've been observing over the past several years.

50

1 I think that's just a start in terms of
2 priority needs and in terms of information. Ben, come on
3 up. Turn on the mike, please.

4
5 MR. NAGEAK: For the record, my name is
6 Ben Nageak. I'm from BLM. I was listening to you about
7 the fisheries and I just saw Karen poke her head in here,
8 but she's going to be doing a report. She did a report
9 on fisheries and she's going to be talking about it.
10 I'll have her talk to you a little bit about what she
11 talked to. This is a continuation. I guess there was a
12 study years ago and then she's gone back to see what has
13 changed over the years, so I'll let her talk to you a
14 little bit about it and she can invite you to her
15 presentation tomorrow.

16
17 MS. BREWSTER: For the record, my name is
18 Karen Brewster. I'm a research associate with the oral
19 history program at UAF Rasmuson Library. I've been
20 working with Craig George at the wildlife department on
21 a project about traditional knowledge about fish in the
22 Barrow area, particularly whitefish, but when you talk
23 with local fishermen about fish, you talk about all the
24 fish. We're just finishing up with that project and
25 tomorrow morning at 10:00 o'clock at the Heritage Center
26 Craig and I are going to be meeting with our elders who
27 have helped us on this project to present to them what
28 we've learned from them and get their review of the
29 project before it gets published as a report. So you
30 guys are all welcome to come to that presentation.

31
32 I'm an oral historian, so my role was to
33 help the oral history interviewing of the elders to try
34 to collect at least a little bit of what they know about
35 the fish. It is a short-term project. There's no way we
36 could get everything, so it's sort of ongoing. I've also
37 went back into archival recordings, oral history
38 recordings that were done in the early '80s for the
39 Chipp/Ikpikpuk oral history project that are at the
40 library, as well as in 1988 John Burns did a fisheries
41 project similar to this through the wildlife department
42 funding.

43
44 So it's compiling all that into one place
45 and to try and really give a sense of, one, how important
46 fish really is to the Inupiaq subsistence lifestyle.
47 It's a resource that's usually overlooked certainly by
48 anthropologists who have looked at traditional
49 lifestyles. And because it's so important, the Inupiaq
50 really do know a lot about the fish and what's going on

1 with the fish and their lifestyles and behaviors, so
2 that's what the report is all about and hopefully we will
3 have it as a published document for the public as well.
4 Thanks.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Karen.
7 Welcome back to Barrow. Thank you for sticking your head
8 into the door. Any other comments or questions in
9 regards to this priority information needs on Federal
10 subsistence fisheries?

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think that's it. I
15 just want to thank you for some really interesting
16 information and very valuable. The next step will be
17 we'll figure out a way to distill that into some priority
18 information needs and then hopefully some group, the
19 North Slope Borough or somebody from some agency or a
20 private consultant, somewhere somebody will then make a
21 proposal to do some research. I mean that's the next
22 step. Somebody has to want to do some research on it.
23 I found this discussion very interesting. I really
24 appreciate it.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe while we're under
27 this information needs, is the criteria identified in
28 this draft letter in terms of what the contents need to
29 be, in terms of a research proposal being submitted to
30 this research program?

31

32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I don't think the
33 criteria for the research proposal are in here because
34 right now it's just looking for ideas, but we can
35 certainly get it to you, Harry.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

38

39 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I will also follow up
40 and find out what's happened on that research on the
41 Dolly Varden and find out what's happening and see if
42 there is a report. I tend to think it's probably not out
43 final, but I'll follow up on that for you too as well.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. If there
46 are no other questions or comments I'll request a 10-
47 minute recess at this time. Thank you.

48

49 (Off record)

50

1 (On record)

2

3

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'll call the meeting
4 back to order after a brief recess. Under Agency
5 reports, agenda number 11, we have Office of Subsistence
6 Management, Tom Kron. Tom, status of the rural/nonrural
7 RFR. You have to help me with RFR. Request for
8 refurbishing?

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MR. KRON: Probably in another forum it
13 might be. In this venue, it's request for
14 reconsideration. Mr. Chairman, the briefing on the
15 request for reconsideration of the dicennial review of
16 rural/nonrural determinations is found on Page 27 in your
17 Council book. Again, it's a written briefing, but I'll
18 quickly touch on it.

19

20 The Federal Subsistence Board received
21 six requests for reconsideration of decisions made in
22 December 2006 in its review of rural/nonrural
23 determinations. Those RFRs were compiled in a booklet
24 and sent to all Council members in the fall of 2007.
25 Those requests for reconsideration were received from the
26 State of Alaska, Alaska Outdoor Council, Kenai River
27 Sportfishing Association, Alaska Fly Fishers, Ketchikan
28 Indian Community and the Organized Village of Saxman.

29

30 The threshold analyses of the claims in
31 the RFRs were reviewed by the Federal Subsistence Board
32 in July 2008, just a couple months ago or last month.
33 The Board rejected all claims in all six requests. The
34 requests, analyses, and recommendations used by the Board
35 in reaching its decisions can be found
36 under the Issues in Depth section of the Federal
37 Subsistence Management Program website. So we just
38 wanted to update you on this. You got a copy of the
39 original RFRs last fall, but basically the word is that
40 those requests have been rejected by the Federal
41 Subsistence Board.

42

43 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom. Any
46 questions or comments regarding this subject.

47

48 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

1 MR. G. BROWER: Were any of those
2 requests for reconsideration on the North Slope?

3
4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. Helen
5 Armstrong. I was actually just going to say that none of
6 those had anything to do with the North Slope. It was
7 almost entirely the Kenai Peninsula and Ketchikan and
8 Saxman.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Helen. Good
11 question, Gordon. Any other comments or questions.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If there are none,
16 we'll move on to 11(A)(2) predator management
17 implementation, written briefing. Tom.

18
19 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. This one is
20 going to be even quicker. We do not have a briefing on
21 predator management implementation for this meeting.
22 This is still a work in progress. We expect to be able
23 to update the Councils on predator management
24 implementation in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have a concern in
27 terms of that predator management implementation. I know
28 what's happening on the North Slope in terms of trying to
29 revive the Stellar Eiders and the Spectacled Eiders and
30 there's been fox predation going on introduced by the
31 resource managers and I questioned them as to what
32 criteria do they have to be exempt from that process in
33 terms of our Federal Subsistence Management Program and
34 the Endangered Species Act and I have not heard a
35 response coming from the researchers themselves, from
36 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in terms of that migratory
37 bird, that Stellar Eider and Spectacled Eider and the fox
38 predation, what they've been doing to enhance the bird
39 population on the North Slope. I've asked for comments
40 and follow-up as to what kind of exemption they have been
41 given for that process and I've still not heard anything
42 from the Agency themselves. I'd just share that with you
43 as something I'm concerned about. Thank you. Tom.

44
45 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. That's an issue
46 I'm not very familiar with. I've heard bits and pieces
47 about it, but I will check on that and get back to you
48 with a response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom.

1 Gordon.

2

3

MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I just wanted to
4 add, I know there's this section, predator management
5 implementation, and I don't know what all it means. In
6 the past, I know we've looked at relocating wolves on the
7 North Slope from 40 Mile area to help the population over
8 there. And then this aerial shooting initiative that
9 we've been hearing about, why can't you guys think about
10 things like that again because I'd like the opportunity
11 to trap those and hunt those wolves if you transplant
12 them up here. It might be good for down there. If you
13 do that again, I think it's good for our own subsistence
14 economy. And they'll eat the sick caribou too.

15

MR. BODFISH: Help bring the health back
16 to our caribou heard.

17

18

MR. G. BROWER: The other question I had,
19 I think a grizzly bear is a predator, man. I mean it's
20 eating off -- I've seen videos of them just killing off
21 musk ox. Don't even eat them. They just kill them
22 because they're ornery. Now they're trying to eat us,
23 you know, and trying to eat our camps and stuff. There
24 should be some kind of initiative. This is Federal land,
25 man, and we should be able to, you know, use hand
26 grenades on those guys. They're big.

27

28

(Laughter)

29

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MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, this issue came
out of the last Federal Subsistence Board meeting. We
had request from Councils to work more closely with the
State on this issue. As I recall, it was mainly a
discussion around wolves and bears. I don't remember
hearing any discussion about arctic foxes and Eiders.
Again, the intent was for the Office of Subsistence
Management to work with ADF&G. My understanding is there

1 were some initial discussions, but I'm guessing that
2 ADF&G wanted to wait and see what happened with the vote
3 today. I'm not sure. Anyway, there's going to be
4 follow-up and we'll keep you posted on that. There's
5 obviously a lot of interest in the Councils around this
6 issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom. Paul,
9 go ahead.

10

11 MR. BODFISH: Under that predator
12 management, I didn't voice out the brown bear getting
13 into the cabins on the Meade River also. There were
14 several cabins gotten into and made quite a mess. Just
15 to say that grizzly bears are numerous out there. Their
16 population has increased maybe twofold in the last 10
17 years in our area at least anyway. We have quite a few
18 sightings of brown bears in our area and polar bears.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Paul. I was
21 just going to comment on what Gordon mentioned in regards
22 to the predator management on brown bear in regards to
23 the musk ox. We used to have a musk ox hunt for our
24 community of Kaktovik. The population was dwindling,
25 dwindling, and now it's gone. The last few animals of
26 musk ox that were killed by the brown bear we tried
27 asking to see if the brown bear could be taken down but
28 it never came about and they ended up killing the musk ox
29 in that area anyway.

30

31 I raised the question about re-
32 introducing new musk ox into the area, but that still
33 hasn't been answered yet either. It was a re-introduced
34 species and now that the population is gone maybe a
35 introducing them again might be another start. I'm not
36 sure where the Federal Management Program is, if it's
37 considered that option at all.

38

39 I know of some in the Canadian North
40 Slope and the immigration and that continues to occur
41 with that small population there. I'm not sure how
42 that's working out. I haven't been up to part on the
43 research on the musk ox in that area, but it was another
44 situation where brown bears were involved and that's
45 something that was a predator/prey relationship that was
46 occurring in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I just
47 wanted to bring that up in terms of what Gordon mentioned
48 in regards to brown bears.

49

50 If there's no further discussion or

1 comments on this subject, we'll move on to the next
2 agenda item. Paul.

3

4 MR. BODFISH: I have just a short comment
5 on an email I got once that was a bear getting three
6 calves of musk ox. That brown bear was caught about 10
7 to 12 miles west of Atqasuk, so that brown bear had
8 traveled all the way from Prudhoe Bay to the west side
9 area, but then that brown bear was harvested. Had no
10 choice because it was going for my son, I guess, him and
11 his buddy while they were cutting caribou. They tried to
12 scare it off, but it came too close. It just kept
13 coming, so they finally had to shoot him down. That bear
14 had no fear of men.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Paul.
17 Gordon.

18

19 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, just along those
20 lines about musk ox and their relationship with these
21 bears, not a very good mix. You know, over the years we
22 see at Chipp 9 sometimes as much as 50 musk ox in a big
23 huddle in the big sandbars. I haven't seen those in a
24 long time, but we see a drastic increase in bears though.
25 A lot of bear interactions with us. You just try to put
26 two and two together. I always thought maybe when they
27 were disappearing in ANWR they must have went to NPRA or
28 something and migrated down this way and along came the
29 bears with them. Who knows. We were seeing a
30 considerable amount of musk ox in the NPRA in the
31 Ikpikpuk/Chipp River area, a lot of them, but we're not
32 seeing that anymore. I don't know if they moved away or
33 they've all been eaten by now.

34

35 I think these are good observations for
36 predator management schemes and stuff. There should be
37 some weight given to residents and the use of the land to
38 help balance things out. We only get them
39 opportunistically when we can. A lot of times they're
40 going to be around when you're not there. They're a
41 smart animal. A lot of times we leave the camp and
42 they've been watching us from afar and then come in.

43

44 Anyway, that's just my observation. I
45 won't add too much more.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon. If
48 there's no further comments or discussion on this agenda
49 item, we'll move on to our next subject, the National
50 Park Service SRC. How do we interpret this SRC? Do we

1 need to make something up again?

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Helen.

6

7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Dave Krupa from the
8 National Park Service was supposed to come and, for one,
9 they couldn't get a hotel room, but there was some
10 problem with their travel, so he called me in desperation
11 yesterday and said could you please do our presentation
12 for us. They would have had something in writing had
13 they known they weren't going to be able to make it. We
14 have this gov. trip thing we have to do now and it just
15 was in place and they had some problems with it. So I'm
16 going to do that for him.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's Dave's last
19 name?

20

21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It's Krupa, K-R-U-P-A.
22 He was at the last meeting. I think that's the first one
23 he's been to. So, with your permission, I'll go ahead.

24

25 The first thing he had to talk about was
26 the SRC, the Subsistence Resource Commission. The Gates
27 of the Arctic SRC has one slot, and we were talking about
28 this earlier in the meeting, that's currently vacant, to
29 be appointment by the North Slope Regional Council.
30 Raymond Paneak was the previous appointee for this slot.
31 He's no longer on the council from Anaktuvuk Pass. The
32 candidate has to either be a member of the North Slope
33 Council or a certified ADF&G local fish and game advisory
34 group and a user of the Gates of the Arctic Park.

35

36 The question had come up whether or not
37 the North Slope Borough Fish and Game Advisory Group was
38 officially sanctioned by the ADF&G and could be a pool
39 for recruits. He called me last week and asked me and I
40 told him I don't work for the State and I don't want to
41 say anything, but he did call Geoff Carroll and Mike
42 Pederson at the North Slope Borough and I guess it was
43 decided and endorsed at the State Board last year that
44 they would be the official local advisory committee, but
45 there hasn't been an official letter. So I think it's
46 official. Is that your understanding too, Harry, that
47 it's official but it just hasn't been officially -- a
48 letter hasn't been sent?

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm not able to comment

1 on it because I haven't been up to par on what's been
2 happening with that.

3

4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: But the State Board
5 did endorse it. So what Dave said is that one member of
6 the group who is also a subsistence users of resources in
7 Gates is Rachel Riley's son, Riley Sikvayugak.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sikvayugak. Gotta say
10 it in Inupiaq, say Sikvayugak.

11

12 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Sikvayugak. And he
13 may be an eligible candidate. So that was one person
14 that's in that group that could be a candidate. The Park
15 Service welcomes recommendations from other communities
16 as potential candidates, but they do have to be members
17 of the Council or of the local advisory group or of the
18 North Slope Borough Fish and Game Advisory Group. The
19 next meeting they're having is tentatively scheduled
20 during the week of November 10th, but they don't have the
21 official dates yet. They'll be determined in the next
22 two weeks.

23

24 I don't know if the Council wanted to go
25 ahead and make a recommendation. I don't even know if
26 you can recommend somebody who's not on your Council.
27 I'm not sure how that works.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon. Thank you,
30 Helen.

31

32 MR. G. BROWER: Helen, I think we should
33 be able to recommend from here. If Paul were so kind to
34 be able to represent, you know. I think he gets an
35 opportunity from time to time to be in the area to hunt
36 and at a minimum be able to represent us over there and
37 bring information to them in light of having no Anaktuvuk
38 representative. I think it's just for their benefit. I
39 think hunting and fishing are pretty much common. Maybe
40 a little bit different from Nunamiut, but I think Paul is
41 a Nunamiut as well, a little bit further north. I think
42 that can work. If he hunts over there and he also is a
43 member here, I think we can do that as an interim under
44 Anaktuvuk gets a member back on this Advisory Council.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon. I
47 think that's something we have done in the past,
48 identified Paul as one of our Council members and a user
49 of the region. I think we can accommodate that in the
50 event that we need to get a person identified.

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'll tell Dave since
2 this is a Park Service issue. Does it have to be a vote,
3 do you know, Harry, or just a recommendation?
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we'll make our
6 recommendation. That's what we did the last go around.
7
8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'll call Dave and
9 tell him.
10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If it needs to be
12 official, just get us a letter and we'll act on it.
13
14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Since they
15 usually handle it, I'm not sure, but I'll tell him.
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon, do you have a
17 comment.
18
19 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I just wanted to
20 make sure. Maybe that would be a standard operating
21 procedure. We don't have a representative from Anaktuvuk
22 and we have one from Atqasuk that hunts in the area we
23 should automatically look to so that we don't miss out on
24 what's going on over there. If they're having a meeting
25 in -- what did you say, October or something?
26
27 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: November 10th
28 tentatively.
29
30 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I think it would be
31 good to voice. We've heard a lot of representatives talk
32 from Anaktuvuk and get an idea and we're usually
33 supporting them and being able to understand their needs.
34 Anyway, I just wanted to point that out. So somebody
35 from here should go to the November one. Thank you.
36
37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'll tell Dave.
38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Helen.
40 Thank you, Gordon.
41
42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I had a couple more
43 things he wanted me to present, too.
44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is that on another
46 subject?
47
48 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It's another subject,
49 yeah.
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Before we move on, I
2 think in terms of the Subsistence Resource Commission
3 dealing with Gates of the Arctic, again not having a
4 representative on our Regional Advisory Council able to,
5 and then we forward that name to the National Park
6 Service. I'm not sure what the go around is in terms of
7 our annual cycle about nomination of names to our
8 Regional Advisory Council and what time frame does that
9 envelope?

10

11 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. We'll be
12 accepting nominations through January 9th.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: January 9th. Thank
15 you. I guess that's going to be after this meeting. So
16 maybe we could have Paul attend that meeting. The
17 concern I had was in terms of the sheep harvest, the
18 community harvest, and how that's been ongoing over the
19 years without our primary representative being there.
20 That's been ongoing without any information sharing in
21 terms of how that's been going on. Dr. Yokel, did you
22 have a comment you wanted to provide.

23

24 DR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Dave
25 Yokel with BLM. On the vacancies on your Council, I just
26 want to say that we did go through the nominations and
27 interview process last spring and although I can't
28 remember if we got anybody from Anaktuvuk Pass or not,
29 Wennona is looking it up, we did, I think, forward two or
30 three names on for this Council, so there will be
31 additional members that I think will come on next
32 February.

33

34 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

35

36 DR. YOKEL: Do you have the names? There
37 was somebody from Anaktuvuk Pass? I thought there was.
38 So hopefully some of those vacancies will be filled at
39 your next meeting.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dave.
42 Before we continue on, I'll like to stop for a second and
43 recognize this young man here. He's our new Native
44 Village of Barrow wildlife director for Barrow, Joe Sage.
45 He's been interested in subsistence programs, regardless
46 if it's State or Federal, and now working for the Native
47 Village of Barrow. I'd like to recognize him and
48 introduce him to you all this morning. Would you like
49 to say good morning to them?

50

1 MR. SAGE: Good morning. Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

4

5 MR. G. BROWER: It's very important, I
6 think, when we get local representatives and we welcome
7 you, Joe, to listen. I think there's some opportunities
8 here as well in terms of partnerships and when you're
9 going to conduct research and stuff. I think ICAS,
10 Native Village of Barrow and all the Native villages are
11 Federally recognized tribes, which you can have a good
12 government to government relationship in terms of doing
13 some of these wildlife studies and fish monitoring
14 studies and proposals. They should be a resource for you
15 as well. Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
18 Thank you, Joseph. Go ahead.

19

20 MR. SAGE: Yes, Gordon, thank you. There
21 is actually a work in process on getting local
22 researchers up and going. If the grant does go through,
23 the research project will pull through starting next
24 spring. It's a two-year grant and this grant will help
25 us build capacity for the program, so that it will be an
26 ongoing process throughout the years and years to come.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Joe. In
29 terms of our agenda items, we've just discussed the
30 Subsistence Resource Commission. I'm trying to think of
31 a different acronym for how to read that SRC.
32 Subsistence Restocking Committee. Subsistence Restocking
33 Committee. Anyway, I deal with that because I run into
34 that quite a bit in terms of acronyms and I have to try
35 to figure out what they mean, so I start thinking of new
36 titles for them so I can get their attention and maybe
37 they'll start spelling them out in the future.

38

39 Anyway, thank you, Helen. You mentioned
40 you had another issue you wanted to cover.

41

42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Dave had a couple of
43 other points and one of them was one you just brought up.
44 The North Slope Council had asked about the community
45 sheep harvest survey numbers for Anaktuvuk Pass. I guess
46 they figured out that the Park Service thought that the
47 Borough was doing it, the Borough though the Park Service
48 was doing it and so nobody did it. So they had a several
49 year data gap, but he said that they will -- at the
50 February meeting the Park Service is obligated to ensure

1 that the survey -- I'm sorry, not at the February
2 meeting. In the spring they're obligated to ensure that
3 the survey is done as required by the terms of the hunt
4 so that will start up again. I guess that's what
5 happened. I don't know anything further, but that's all
6 he put in here.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Helen. I
9 think that's something that I keep wondering about, not
10 knowing where all this has led. I just recall from the
11 proposal that there's going to be some monitoring of how
12 that hunt is being conducted or if it's meeting the
13 community needs or if it's not meeting the community
14 needs, then we need to keep monitoring that to try to
15 accommodate the need for the community as well. They
16 were faced with a few years of no caribou or other
17 resources available to them besides caribou and sheep was
18 another option that we tried to utilize to provide a
19 resource in times of hardship. If you recall some of
20 those discussions at the time when this community harvest
21 bag limit came about, that was part of that dilemma we
22 were dealing with at that time. That's why I kept
23 reminding Staff that we need to keep up on the numbers
24 and monitoring and whether the need is there or if it's
25 being exceeded or not being met. Without that
26 interaction we're not able to make any projections as to
27 how that regulation is progressing for that community.

28

29 Do you have any others?

30

31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I have one more point,
32 I guess, or issue. They have a new wildlife biologist,
33 Kyle Joly, was hired and he took the place of Jim Lawler
34 in May and he regrets not being able to come to the
35 meeting, but had a scheduling conflict. Jim Lawler is
36 now the Arctic Network -- and I was laughing when you
37 were talking about acronyms because it says the Arctic
38 Network I&M coordinator and I have no idea what I&M is.
39 Anyway, that's what Jim Lawler is doing.

40

41 DR. YOKEL: Inventory and monitoring.

42

43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay, inventory and
44 monitoring. Kyle has been and continues to work on the
45 Western Arctic Caribou Herd winter range studies and how
46 wildfire may affect it. The last photo census of the
47 Western Arctic Caribou Herd revealed a 20 percent decline
48 in the herd from 490,000 down to 377,000. The Gates of
49 the Arctic National Park and Preserve, Kanuti National
50 Wildlife Refuge and the Bureau of Land Management and

1 Alaska Department of Fish and Game worked together to
2 radio-collar 58 moose, 10 bulls and 48 cows, in March and
3 collaring efforts were concentrated in the Kanuti
4 National Wildlife Refuge and the middle fork Koyukuk
5 River Valley between Coldfoot and Wiseman.

6
7 They're also continuing their Dall sheep
8 surveys in the Brooks Range. This summer they were
9 continuing that and they said efforts in the central
10 portion of the range were hampered by poor weather. They
11 will present results of all these studies as they're
12 analyzed, probably at the next meeting.

13
14 That concludes the Park Service
15 presentation.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So do we have any of
18 that information you just read in terms of that letter?

19
20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: All I have is what he
21 gave me in his talking points, but I think they'll bring
22 their results to the next meeting, but I can give this to
23 you if you want.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, I'd like to make
26 sure we get copies for the Council members.

27
28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Maybe I'll ask Dave to
29 submit it. I just have these in talking points. But
30 send it to all the Council members.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, I think that would
33 be beneficial for the Council members in terms of the
34 numbers and resources that have been monitored through
35 the National Park Service. I also wanted to get Kyle's
36 last name.

37
38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: J-O-L-Y.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

41
42 MR. G. BROWER: I just had a question.
43 I don't know if you can answer it because you're probably
44 doing a report for somebody else. Did you say 470,000
45 and down to 390,000?

46
47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: He said 490,000 down
48 to 377,000.

49
50 MR. G. BROWER: That's about 90,000

1 animals?

2

3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: 120. It's a 20
4 percent decline.

5

6 MR. G. BROWER: Do you think that's based
7 on hunting pressure or is that predation or just die-off.

8

9 DR. YOKEL: I think it's a drop in
10 productivity.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Dave, if you could come
13 up to the mike. We're trying to get this recorded so it
14 would be helpful.

15

16 DR. YOKEL: Dave Yokel of BLM. It would
17 be better if Geoff could be here to talk about it or Jim
18 Dau, but I think that herd's numbers were well above any
19 effect by predators, either wildlife or human predators.
20 I think it was a matter of a drop in productivity. The
21 question, of course, is whether or not the habitat was
22 able to support that large a number of animals anymore.
23 That may have been a cause in the reduced calf
24 productivity of the herd. It's been expected for a long
25 time and it's too early to say if it's going to continue
26 or what.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

29

30 MR. G. BROWER: Just one follow-up
31 question. I don't know if you guys know. Maybe somebody
32 should try to find out, whether or not they had come into
33 contact with other herds? Traditional knowledge that I
34 know sometimes caribou herds will collide. Big herds
35 will come together, collide, mix and then they break off
36 again. Sometimes they take with them as much as half the
37 other herd's population sometimes. If you had seen an
38 increase in another population comparable to what may
39 have been thought about production rates declining.
40 Anyway, just putting a little bit of traditional
41 information as to some theories as to what animals do.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.

44

45 DR. YOKEL: I could comment on that if
46 you like, Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

49

50 DR. YOKEL: That's a very good point,

1 Gordon, and we have four caribou herds on the North
2 Slope. We've had trouble getting photo-censuses for
3 some of those herds in the last several years and it
4 would be very nice to get photo-censuses of all four in
5 the same year to see if that might be happening. At
6 present, it does not look like that could be a cause of
7 the decline in the Western Arctic Herd. Certainly the
8 Western Arctic -- and let me back up and say the herds
9 are defined by where the cows traditionally calve. Bull
10 caribou are not included in the herd definition that way
11 and we have a lot less information on bull movements
12 because it's harder to collar them since their necks
13 expand during the rut.

14
15 But we do see the Western Arctic Herd
16 overlapping a little bit with the Teshekpuk Herd in the
17 winter and some parts of late summer. We also see their
18 effects on the reindeer herders down in the Seward
19 Peninsula. There's some overlap with the Central Arctic
20 Herd in some years but very little. I'm not sure about
21 any herds in the winter down in Southwestern Alaska, how
22 much overlap. But from what information I know of right
23 now I would not suspect that is the cause of the Western
24 Arctic Herd decline. We haven't seen nowhere near any
25 proportion of increase in any of the other North Slope
26 herds and I haven't heard about anything in the
27 Southwest.

28
29 Jim Dau is the Western Arctic Herd
30 research biologist for Department of Fish and Game out in
31 Kotzebue and he would be the best person to answer that.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dr. Yokel.
34 Any other comments or questions. In regard to Gordon's
35 comment, the two groups coming together, it really
36 happens from Chipp 9 and further up. I've seen that
37 several times. One herd coming from the eastern side and
38 one herd coming from the western side and they meet up in
39 that area up along the rolling hills up there. It's an
40 amazing sight to see all those caribou coming in there.
41 I just sit there at the cabin and look at all the caribou
42 coming around. Oh, we'll let those 20 go by and maybe
43 we'll get that one. You know, sit there with my nephew.
44 We've taken up to 15 caribou in one day and then we
45 decided that was way too many for two of us. It was way
46 too much work. We were just overwhelmed with the number
47 of caribou. We were like, man, what's going on over
48 here. They're having a big caribou convention. It was
49 quite a bit of work for us to handle that 15 between the
50 two of us.

1 I just wanted to back up Gordon's comment
2 there. I've seen that happen several times sitting at my
3 camp during this time of the year and through September
4 as the caribou movements start heading south. Some stay
5 here and some just keep moving south. I just wanted to
6 make sure I provided that comment for you.

7
8 Again, thank you, Dave. I think we need
9 to see a little bit more information in terms of how the
10 National Park Service will be presenting in terms of the
11 caribou numbers and the decline and if there's additional
12 information that could be provided in terms of the
13 movement and the times the counts were being conducted.
14 That would help with our comments that we've provided.

15
16 Paul, did you have a comment.

17
18 MR. BODFISH: Yeah, just to back up what
19 you're saying. I've said this before. We do see the
20 eastern herd and the western herd at all the big rivers,
21 you know, you'll see them gather and mix with each other.
22 We always prefer the ones coming from the east because
23 they're the fatter ones and the ones from the west
24 they'll be traveling so much they won't have too much fat
25 on them. But we do see them mingle and coming in and
26 meeting in all the big rivers. I guess that happens.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Paul. Any
29 other issues under National Park Service?

30
31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: (Shakes head
32 negatively)

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None. We'll move down
35 to 11(C), BLM, Bureau of Land Management, Dave Yokel. No
36 wonder he didn't want to move. He's up. You've got the
37 floor, Dave.

38
39 DR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's
40 good to be back in Barrow. Before I got here yesterday
41 morning, I hadn't been here since Friday evening, so glad
42 to be back.

43
44 I only have two things I wanted to report
45 on at this meeting. The first of those is some work we
46 did in the area of the Anaktuvuk River fire in 2007.
47 There were a few lightening fires started on the North
48 Slope. A couple of them burned kind of like what
49 lightening fires usually do on the North Slope. They
50 burned a few acres and went out. But the one between --

1 the one that was named by the Alaska Fire Service, the
2 Anaktuvuk River Fire, was between the Anaktuvuk and
3 Itkillik Rivers out in the Statelands and the foothills
4 and a very small part of it on the selected lands still
5 managed by the BLM. Did you have a comment?

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Dave. I was going
8 to say how do we start a fire in the river?

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 DR. YOKEL: No, it burned between the
13 rivers. I don't know exactly where it started, but the
14 rivers defined the boundary of it eventually because
15 that's as far as it burned.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I just had to bring
18 that up.

19

20 DR. YOKEL: It was named the Anaktuvuk
21 River Fire because that was a good place name by it.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think maybe one more
24 word could be added, Anaktuvuk River Area Fire.

25

26 DR. YOKEL: I don't work for the Alaska
27 Fire Service, so I won't comment on how they name fires.
28 Anyway, that fire was exceptional. It did not go out.
29 It was discovered in mid July. It acted normal at first,
30 it burned slowly, crept along, and then in late summer,
31 in August, it started taking off and it really grew in
32 September and it wasn't declared out until about the
33 second week of October. By then it had covered 256,000
34 acres. It was the largest fire in the state of Alaska in
35 2007. It more than doubled the total acres of all fires
36 recorded north of 68 degrees latitude since 1956. So it
37 was truly a unique phenomenon.

38

39 But that brings up quite a few questions,
40 one of which is, is this an anomaly that we're not going
41 to see again in our lifetimes or is this a sign of things
42 to come with climate change. I don't have the answer to
43 that for you. There are some climate modelers that
44 suggest it might be more prevalent in the future.

45

46 From our standpoint, with wildlife, one
47 of our main concerns is how is this going to affect
48 winter forage for caribou because lichens are very slow
49 to recover. For that reason I initiated -- I should say
50 Randy Jant with my help initiated a study of the recovery

1 of the vegetation in that fire. Randy used to work for
2 our office. Now she works for the BLM's Alaska Fire
3 Service as a fire ecologist. We set out about 14 or 15
4 transects in that fire last July in the burned area that
5 we hope to follow over the long term and measure the
6 recovery of all the plants and especially the lichens
7 over that time. There's also some researchers from
8 universities across the country who are going to be
9 looking at some of the impacts of that burn on carbon
10 flux in the area with the interest in carbon dioxide
11 increase in the atmosphere. Obviously a big fire like
12 that releases a lot of carbon dioxide. It also provides
13 a potential for additional increases as the ground is
14 warmed up.

15
16 The North Slope Borough's Wildlife
17 Department did hire Jack Ahgook, Jr. from Anaktuvuk Pass
18 to work with us in that study last July. We were very
19 fortunate to get Jack. He was an excellent assistant in
20 that project and I want to thank the Department again for
21 that.

22
23 We'll have more to report on that in the
24 future. Are there any questions on that fire before I
25 move on?

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

28
29 MR. G. BROWER: I just wanted to, you
30 know, being working in planning for the North Slope
31 Borough, we have an interest in how recovery of lands
32 like this take. We usually cite old stuff like what the
33 Navy did to the tundra back in the
34 1940's to determine what the recovery rates and stuff to
35 be looked at. I think it would be real interesting to be
36 able to listen to you guys at the planning commission;
37 make efforts to inform and see what you're doing in terms
38 of the land to planning commissions and stuff like that
39 that have an interest in how these things affect the land
40 and the resources. I think it's very interesting. I
41 think the Planning Department would probably want to be
42 involved at some point to the monitoring aspect of some
43 of this stuff in terms of the fire.

44
45 We did get a call from a concerned
46 citizen on a satellite imagery that he received and he
47 was concerned how did we get a new lake up here. It was
48 showing like it was a new lake had formed. He thought a
49 meteor hit the ground and there was a new lake all of a
50 sudden. When I first saw it, I thought, boy, this guy's

1 got something on me. We took it to the GIS and it came
2 back as the area that burned. It looked like a small
3 state or something, you know.

4

5 Anyway, those are just my observations
6 and just my questions in terms of being able to be more
7 involved with what BLM does. A lot of times I have a
8 concern about what BLM does in terms of bringing
9 information to the North Slope, like planning commissions
10 and stuff. We should have a much more open working
11 relationship with each other. Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon. Any
14 other comments from Council members.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None. Continue, Dave.

19

20 DR. YOKEL: Okay, first just in quick
21 response to Gordon. We don't have any results to report
22 yet, but if you would like to invite Randy to a planning
23 commission meeting, we'll certainly try to come, I think,
24 if they want to hear about it. I forgot to say the
25 State's Department of Natural Resources was also in
26 concurrence of starting a study. They didn't have the
27 funding on short notice to help us out, but they were
28 also very interested.

29

30 The other thing I wanted to report to you
31 was our latest advance in land use planning for the
32 National Petroleum Reserve Alaska. We did have a record
33 of decision for the Northeast NPRA signed in mid July of
34 2008. I'm sorry, I don't have hard copies to give you.
35 I had to print this one out myself. We did get two or
36 three of them last week and gave one of them to Harry.
37 We will get more copies bound and sent up to us
38 eventually.

39

40 As you know, we began planning for oil
41 and gas development in the northeast part of the NPRA
42 back in 1997. We had a record of decision in 1998. With
43 the new presidential administration, we began more
44 planning. We had another record of decision for
45 Northeast NPRA in I think it was 2006 and we lost a court
46 case on that one, so we began this third effort for the
47 Northeast NPRA. This record of decision was signed on,
48 I think, July 16th and, to the best of my knowledge,
49 there's been no litigation on this one as yet.

50

1 I guess the main result of this to pass
2 on to you is the BLM and the Department of Interior did
3 decide to make available for leasing the lands north and
4 east of Teshekpuk Lake; however, to defer from leasing
5 those lands for at least 10 years, which means there will
6 be one or two more presidential administrations before
7 that time comes and there will probably be another
8 environmental impact statement process before that
9 occurs. So those lands up there north and east of
10 Teshekpuk Lake will not be offered for lease for at least
11 10 years. We will have a lease sale next month on
12 September 24th and it will also include parts of the
13 unleased lands in what we call the Northwest NPRA. We'll
14 wait until then to see what the oil companies interests
15 are in that area.

16
17 Also the lands under Teshekpuk Lake and
18 those large islands in the west end of Teshekpuk Lake
19 were not made available for leasing in this plan. I'm
20 sorry I didn't get it together to bring you some graphics
21 for this, but if you would like I could bring them later.
22 I'll take any questions on that right now.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any comments or
25 questions for Dr. Yokel. Gordon.

26
27 MR. G. BROWER: In terms of questions and
28 graphs and maps and whatnot, we often get very much
29 concerned about leasing an NPRA. Maybe a presentation to
30 the planning commission if you can get on an agenda to
31 interpret some of this would be important. I don't know
32 how long you're going to be here, but the planning
33 commission will meet tomorrow. If not -- oh, Thursday?
34 Thursday, sorry. But on the next one in September as
35 well.

36
37 It's very important, I think, to at least
38 do informational stuff on some of this stuff. It's
39 something that affects a lot of residents up here and
40 their psyche and how they view BLM. It's good to be
41 neighborly and be able to talk with the area residents
42 about these kinds of things. Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon. I
45 echo Gordon's comments in terms of providing information
46 to Council members. It's somewhat difficult to raise any
47 questions or concerns without having the material before
48 us. If it could be, you know, that we get provided some
49 of this information so that we could be able to interact
50 with what the contents are. Like Gordon indicated, there

1 may be concerns that we need to voice and get some
2 clarification as to how the wording may be interpreted in
3 the contents of the document. I struggle with it at
4 times and that could be something that we could make
5 improvements on to getting some of this information.

6
7 Knowing this is fairly recent, July, this
8 being the end of August, I think there could have been a
9 little bit more effort in getting additional copies made
10 of these materials for us to review. Maybe it could be
11 another agenda item at our next Regional Advisory Council
12 and going through the contents of this record of
13 decision. It would be helpful for the Council members.

14 Again, it's an ongoing learning process
15 with new information, new decisions being made and what
16 areas are going to be closed. Like you indicated,
17 without having the graphics, we're not able to really
18 visualize to get a better understanding of the
19 description you've given. Even though we're familiar
20 with the area, it's good to see what areas are really
21 being affected in terms of the decisions that have been
22 made by our Federal government.

23
24 I'll stop there. Maybe you'd like to
25 provide a response.

26
27 DR. YOKEL: I just want to apologize
28 again. I should have done better, but I've been just
29 about every place but my office since the decision came
30 out and I just did not get ready in time. I will make
31 sure that I provide you a better presentation at your
32 February meeting. I'm sure that Lon Kelly would be happy
33 to come up or send somebody else to make a presentation
34 to the planning commission if the planning department
35 would show their interest. I'll pass the word on myself,
36 but it wouldn't hurt to hear from the planning director
37 or from you, Gordon, on that interest.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

40
41 MR. G. BROWER: We'll pass that along,
42 too. We have an interest in it and we've been wanting to
43 hear more of the details from BLM. Instead of just read
44 about it, it would be good to see graphs and somebody
45 make a nice presentation. It's good to hear that they're
46 deferring it, but I don't know how long it's going to
47 hold up in terms of energy crisis.

48
49 DR. YOKEL: We are the federal government
50 and sometimes we do move slowly. We are trying to

1 improve our communications efforts up here. Harry knows
2 we were talking about that at another meeting last
3 Thursday. We did hire Ben Nageak here almost two years
4 ago. He and Lon Kelly hope to begin a more regular
5 program of traveling from village to village and visiting
6 with city councils or tribal councils or whatnot. At
7 least those villages that are affected by our management
8 of the NPRA. So hopefully we will continue to improve in
9 our communications efforts.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dave. I
12 could speak to some of the other points, but I'll refrain
13 from doing that in terms of our actions in response to
14 our Federal government. But, like I said, I'll refrain
15 from doing that. Is there any other topics you want to
16 cover under BLM?

17

18 MR. G. BROWER: I've got one question.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon, go ahead.

21

22 MR. G. BROWER: Just one last question
23 and these are just from observers out there. I don't
24 know what kind of situation this is, but I think it's
25 normal, but other people have been concerned about this
26 one man out there. I finally stopped and found out where
27 he's camped out. He lives inside the ground. In the
28 wintertime, it must have been about 50 below zero, I was
29 going up to my camp and run across his snow house. The
30 guy was seriously frostbit in his face, his nose was all
31 white and I asked him if he needed any help, if he needed
32 any fish because I was hauling fish from my camp, and
33 doesn't speak English very good. From what I can
34 recollect, I tried to ask him where he's from, somewhere
35 around maybe Manchuria or something like that. He
36 doesn't speak English very good. But he never wants any
37 help. I asked him if he wants help and go to town. Then
38 I run across him in the summer and he was living in a
39 plastic bag. Very resourceful guy if he can live out
40 there in 50 below zero and then in the summer live in a
41 plastic bag. But other people, when they try to talk to
42 him, he has a tendency to run away from them. Just very
43 strange. I encountered more than two people that say
44 they tried to come up to talk to him and he runs inland.
45 Anyway, just strange. It's on BLM land and he does
46 subsistence. I guess he -- I asked him if he wanted
47 fish. He said he's got his own fish. But different
48 nationality though.

49

50 DR. YOKEL: Gordon, that's the very first

1 time I've heard about this. It is interesting and I'll
2 agree it sounds strange. Was this the Chipp River area
3 where you ran into him?

4

5 MR. G. BROWER: He'll have a sod house
6 around that Pittalukruak Lake. I can show it to you.
7 When you go in the Dease Inlet, there's that Pittalukruak
8 going towards the mouth of Alaktak. He'll have a sod
9 house around that bend towards the mouth and then around
10 the right point area, he'll have a snow house around
11 there in the winter. I've been searching for him because
12 I hear about him more than once from other people saying
13 there's somebody running around here and thought maybe he
14 was a shaman or something like that. But he's just a
15 different nationality and he doesn't like to come out of
16 his snow house. I have to yell at him and talk to him.
17 Once he gets to know you he comes out. He doesn't like
18 people. He's not personable. Anyway.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think I've ridden
21 across the same guy several times traveling back and
22 forth between Alaktak and Chipp River. I've seen him
23 take a little toboggan and using it as a canoe going
24 across the rivers, hauling his materials across with a
25 light load going back and forth. I made those
26 observations when we were up at Alaktak cabin. I was
27 trying to figure out what was going on with this guy and
28 it was him. He was moving from the Alaktak area down
29 near where WW camp is. This was during the fall time and
30 just returning from our fishing trip and he happened to
31 be right there at the mouth of the Chipp River and I was
32 asking him if he needed a ride to town or if he needed
33 anything. He said, no, he's fine. Like Gordon stated,
34 he didn't want to communicate very much. He seemed to be
35 wanting to be on his own. I wasn't sure if he had an
36 issue with our State or Federal agencies, running away or
37 just wanting to be alone. I couldn't get that indication
38 one way or the other. He's been very quiet. When he
39 first came up here, I met with him and he came out here
40 asking questions about what it will take for him to be
41 able to use the resources we have on the North Slope. I
42 told him he just needed to have a residency and a hunting
43 license. Not knowing where he was from, that's all I
44 commented to him about and it's been four years and he's
45 still here. I thought he had left, but he's been hanging
46 around the North Slope throughout the winter season and
47 throughout the whole year. I'd just share that with you.

48

49 MR. G. BROWER: Just one.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

2

3 MR. G. BROWER: He doesn't have any
4 machinery, nothing. He walks everywhere or he uses a
5 little toboggan plastic sled to tow around and turned it
6 into a canoe, so he's very resourceful person. Just
7 strange. He had come into our office and wanted to know
8 about subsistence and wanted a permit for it and I said,
9 no, we don't issue a permit for subsistence. It's
10 exempt. You can hunt and do your stuff. I didn't know
11 he was going to start to live on the land. He'll be up
12 there, freeze in. I don't know what kind of regulation
13 or anything about making sod houses nowadays, but it's an
14 old traditional activity. But he does have one of those
15 now that he made into the ground. Anyway, that was
16 information and that was strange and people's
17 observation. People were getting fearful when he runs
18 away, you know, from other humans. That maybe something
19 was seriously wrong with the person.

20

21 DR. YOKEL: Well, as I think you know,
22 the BLM does have regulations for use of the land for
23 those purposes, but enforcing those regulations in NPRA
24 causes a lot of conflict with local subsistence users, so
25 we have taken a somewhat non-traditional, from BLM's
26 traditions anyway, view on that. I don't know that we
27 would do any different for him than we do for the other
28 local residents, but it is interesting that he's been
29 there for four years and I've never heard about him
30 before. But I'll certainly pass it on. I'll let Mike
31 Worley deal with it.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Dave, did you have any
34 other issues you want to bring up?

35

36 DR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's
37 it.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dave, for
40 providing your presentation. I know it's a little bit
41 after lunch hour. What's the wish of the Council. Want
42 to come back after lunch and finish up our agenda? We
43 have five more items. It shouldn't take long after
44 lunch.

45

46 MR. BODFISH: Yes.

47

48 MR. G. BROWER: Okay.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll take a lunch

1 break at this time and convene at 1:15.

2

3 (Off record)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'll call the meeting
8 back to order after our lunch recess. We're down to
9 11(D). We're done with BLM, so we have Alaska Department
10 of Fish & Game. George Pappas. George, you have the
11 floor.

12

13 MR. PAPPAS: Good afternoon. I thank you
14 for the invitation up here. My name is George Pappas.
15 I represent the commercial fisheries and sport fisheries
16 division of Fish and Game. I'm a subsistence liaison
17 team. I came up to answer any questions you had about
18 the different proposals around the state for fisheries,
19 but we didn't bring anything up earlier, so I really
20 don't have much to add.

21

22 You were talking about change earlier,
23 different research folks, different boats up here, what
24 have you. Well, I'm a good example of that. I think I'm
25 the first one from the liaison team to attend one of the
26 meetings up here. We've sent a lot of biologists and
27 other folks up. In the next 20 years, we might see a lot
28 more fish, we might see more different types of issues
29 arise and different projects, what have you, so I just
30 wanted to introduce myself.

31

32 Also, Bonnie Borba from Fish and Game
33 does have some updates on some projects and studies about
34 fish on the North Slope here. Thank you very much. It's
35 nice to meet everybody here.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: George, before you take
38 off, there might be some questions from the Council.
39 Gordon is not here. Do you have any projections of what
40 type of fisheries is going to continue? You say about
41 commercial fisheries. Do you think that's going to be on
42 the increase here in the near future or is it some five,
43 ten years away or what type of projections does the
44 Department see in terms of commercialization moving up to
45 the North Slope?

46

47 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. That's a tough
48 question to answer, but as I understand folks are seeing
49 more salmon come up around the corner heading in this
50 direction over time. Salmon do stray and they do fill in

1 the niches that are available as the weather provides, as
2 the environment changes. So is it going to be 10 years,
3 20 years, 30 years? We don't know, but the assumption is
4 if large numbers of fish do proliferate here, there will
5 be a surplus available for harvest. I would assume if
6 there's surplus available above subsistence and sport
7 needs, I would assume there would be available fish for
8 commercial harvest also.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So do you see that
11 increasing along the nearshore or further upshore in
12 terms of commercial fishing happening? I'm just trying
13 to figure out the ways where all this commercial fishing
14 would be occurring? Is it in the State waters or is it
15 going to be further offshore in terms of the deeper water
16 where the commercial fishing would be happening?

17

18 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. My assumption
19 for salmon would be nearshore, near the rivers, wherever
20 they entered in State waters. There's not too many deep-
21 water salmon boats. As I understand talking to some crab
22 boats, snow crab are moving up north. The ice pack is
23 receding a little bit. How far are they going to come up
24 around the corner? I don't know. Snow crab are on both
25 sides of North America and will they bridge over and
26 connect to one big population? Eventually, yes, I would
27 assume so. I don't know if it's 10 years or 1,000 years.
28 So you might see some bigger boats showing up here
29 sometime down the line if the climate continues to
30 change.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. To
33 elaborate a bit more. I know we're seeing increase of
34 vessel traffic coming up here mostly in terms of oil
35 industry operations offshore and their support vessels.
36 There's some tourists, you know, the cruise line vessels
37 occasionally coming up here. Now we have the Coast Guard
38 showing more of a presence here in the Arctic Ocean.
39 That's really recognizable, but I'm not sure how much
40 we're going to be able to address through this program in
41 terms of offshore, along State waters and how subsistence
42 fishers could be impacted from that type of activity
43 increasing.

44

45 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. Well, with the
46 salmon runs you'll need escapement goals to ensure that
47 there's plenty of fish in the future and a couple of
48 things. If salmon commercial fisheries develop, they're
49 going to have to be managed to allow plenty in-river, but
50 with those people showing up and the boats showing up

1 that puts more people onshore, more people fishing in the
2 rivers. That's where this program really kicks in, is
3 making sure there's a subsistence priority maintained.
4 If you imagine walking down the beach and seeing 500
5 people lined up casting at the same fish, something will
6 have to give for allocation at that point in time to make
7 sure everybody keeps their freezers full.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just to inform Gordon,
10 we're down on 11(D) Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
11 George Pappas is representing the commercial and sport
12 fish interest for that Department. I was just asking the
13 questions in terms of what the projections may be into
14 the future.

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

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Gordon.

19
20 MR. G. BROWER: You were talking about
21 crabs and whatnot coming up north. They're already here.
22 We've known them up here for a long time. If you look at
23 my own archives, my own photographs of my whale camps, I
24 put crab pots down there and get crabs all the time.
25 They may be a little different, but it's just the size of
26 a crab pot that I have that can put ones about that big
27 in there. And king crabs coming ashore. Sometimes they
28 pick them up on the beach. Paul Kaneak, Sr. had one a
29 couple years ago before he passed away and he got it
30 right down off the beach by the Napa store and it was a
31 big old king crab just walking up the shore. But they're
32 here. They've always talked about them. They're
33 subsistence food as well. You might not have them
34 documented, maybe you do, but we subsist off of these
35 crabs as well.

36
37 In terms of spawning salmon, that's kind
38 of harder to determine. Chipp River, we've seen salmon
39 in there many years, but we're not sure if they really do
40 spawn there or not. There's always these humpies and
41 kings and they look like they're doing their thing like
42 wanting to spawn and stuff, but our primary catch is
43 whitefish and the spawning around that. So I think
44 that's something maybe that might be worth studying
45 about, is whether or not these different fish are
46 preparing to use these arctic rivers in terms of global
47 climate change and using them for spawning. Further up
48 river that's the kind of area salmon like to spawn where
49 there's rocky bottoms and stuff. We get a whole slew of
50 those kind of humpies and different kind of fish.

1 In terms of commercial fishing, it seems
2 to me we had some kind of presentation to the planning
3 commission from the North Pacific something.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Fisheries Research.

6

7 MR. G. BROWER: Coming around and talking
8 about some of these things. It would be good to go to
9 individual villages and talk about these things to make
10 people more aware, maybe even those kind of things that
11 we might even get into in terms of our village
12 corporations trying to make more jobs up here. If big
13 fish processors are coming up here to take all the jobs
14 away, it seems like it's not going to be the right thing
15 to do when we need jobs up here as well.

16

17 Just my two cents into it, I guess. You
18 were talking about thinking they were going to come up
19 here. Those were already up here that I know of.

20

21 MR. PAPPAS: Through the Chair, Mr.
22 Brower. Clarification. Yes, you're right, the crabs
23 have been in the area, but the ice pack has kept the
24 boats out in the wintertime, so it's not the right season
25 in the spring to catch snow crab or the summer to catch
26 snow crab because the meat fill, et cetera. But as the
27 ice pack does recede, the boats can come further up. I'm
28 not sure how the populations are out here. I'm not sure
29 if National Marine Fisheries does surveys for populations
30 of crabs. Yes, sir, you're right, they're here, but the
31 actual boats have not been able to fish this far north.

32

33 MR. G. BROWER: Just one more
34 observation, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon, go ahead.

37

38 MR. G. BROWER: The same concerns that I
39 have that I expressed to that one North Pacific Fisheries
40 management scheme, whatever it is, talking about possible
41 future commercialized fishing in the Arctic. One big
42 concern I have, and I think it would be more concerning,
43 is these boats that sink, using these waters in the
44 Bering Sea as a dump, never trying to recover them. Lots
45 of these affect probably the bottom fish, including fish
46 with oil seepage. You know, they might have 20,000
47 gallons of fuel on board and their nets or whatnot.
48 Routinely we see whales -- not too long ago we saw a
49 bowhead whale with a piece of rope in its jaw and
50 dragging it. I don't know how long the rope was. An

1 extremely thick long rope these bowheads are getting in
2 contact with. These are from commercial fishing
3 operations. I think the waters are just becoming
4 polluted with gears and junk where these animals are
5 interacting with them.

6

7 Those are just some of my fears where
8 there need to be very, very stringent rules, especially
9 in ice-infested areas. Your boat better be unsinkable
10 out here and not litter the bottom. It's relatively
11 shallow anyway. Anyway, that's just my two cents. I
12 know you don't regulate the boats, somebody else does,
13 but somebody is going to ultimately have to talk about
14 it.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
17 Those are valid concerns. I think we need to keep
18 reminding ourselves and our constituents about the
19 activity out here. If that's being projected into the
20 future, maybe regulations about ocean dumping need to be
21 looked into and applied here in the near future and start
22 looking at citations to the fishing industry. Even
23 though they are a part of a resource, they need to be
24 monitored and start developing some practical regulations
25 that would minimize the impact to the resource and the
26 habitat itself.

27

28 I see that commercial fishing has its
29 impact down in the Pribilofs and all the gear and all the
30 trash that washes up because of the discharge that occurs
31 out in the ocean and it ends up in the very place where
32 the fishermen are going. If that's not going to be
33 something that's going to be addressed, we may not want
34 them up here in terms of if that's going to be a
35 continued practice. We call them our garden, you know,
36 because we take a lot of our food from the ocean, the
37 marine mammals, whales, seals, walrus, migratory birds.
38 If that's going to be on the increase and something that
39 we're going to be concerned about, I think the State
40 might want to look at coming up here and start looking
41 into the future about writing prescriptive regulations
42 that would be useable at a later time before the increase
43 occurs. Just a comment on my part.

44

45 MR. PAPPAS: I one hundred percent agree
46 with you. This is probably the most fragile ecosystem in
47 the world. Fortunately, as an example, they started
48 crabbing off of Antarctica 10 years ago and they made a
49 bunch of mistakes. It wasn't as regulated, they hit the
50 populations real hard, real fast. The cold waters,

1 nothing grows real fast. It takes a long time, it's very
2 sensitive. The remediation after an accident might take
3 years and years and years.

4
5 So I would assume that everybody is aware
6 of this and every approach up here will be seriously
7 calculated and have the rest of the world's mistakes to
8 consider before something goes forward here.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

11
12 MR. PAPPAS: So I would definitely
13 support that and I'll pass it along to my supervisors.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you very much,
16 Mr. Pappas. Any other comments or questions to George?

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Do you have any other
21 issues that you want to identify with us?

22
23 MR. PAPPAS: No. We have Bonnie here
24 from the Fairbanks staff of commercial fishery, so thank
25 you for your time.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, George.
28 Bonnie.

29
30 MS. BORBA: Thanks, Mr. Chair, for having
31 me be able to speak today. My name is Bonnie Borba. I
32 work for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Could you spell your
35 last name, please.

36
37 MS. BORBA: B-O-R-B-A.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Bonnie.

40
41 MS. BORBA: I'm a salmon biologist for
42 the Yukon/Northern area of the state and most of my work
43 has been done on the Yukon. Recently we got some funding
44 from Alaska State Legislature Capital Improvement funds
45 and it's called Assessment of Pacific Salmon Resources in
46 the AYK and the northern area.

47
48 So I just wanted to inform you what's
49 going on right now. We're working with the North Slope
50 Borough. We have personnel from the Division of Habitat

1 and Fish and Game and the Division of Subsistence, Sverre
2 Pederson and Bill Morse of Habitat. Since they already
3 have contacts and are working in this area, I'm working
4 with them to look into some issues of where the salmon
5 are.

6
7 So I was going to let you know about the
8 projects. Three main objectives are to document the
9 species present from like Point Hope all the way over to
10 the Canadian border and we're using some survey
11 techniques and interviews with local people through using
12 staff from the North Slope Borough that's working with
13 Sverre. Right now we're working at Point Hope, Point Lay
14 and Wainwright. Barrow is such a huge community there
15 will be some stuff in the future possibly working on some
16 projects when we get some additional funding because it's
17 a large area to cover to find out about the salmon.

18
19 As part of this, we're going to try to
20 estimate some abundance of the adults. We use aerial
21 survey techniques. Hopefully we would recommend some
22 index streams for monitoring in the future. We did some
23 surveys a couple of weeks ago from Point Hope up to
24 Barrow and we're counting the pink salmon right now
25 peaking and we had some chum salmon in some of those
26 areas. Typically we count them from there and get an
27 idea of how many in what area they're using and if they
28 are using them for spawning like you were mentioning.
29 We are working with Bill Morse on the Meade and Chipp
30 River on his project and harvest assessment over there.

31
32 Basically we're trying to collect some
33 baseline information of what fish are already here, how
34 many of them might be here and as far as sampling we're
35 going for genetic, it's a little fin clip to do the
36 genetics on the salmon. Pink salmon, I'm not sure how
37 much they have on the rim, but they have baseline
38 databases for chinook salmon all the way from Oregon all
39 the way over to Japan, Russia and all the way up the
40 Alaska coast.

41
42 So we would like to add the chinook
43 stocks you have here into that baseline, so we have to
44 work with you guys to get out to some of those areas and
45 try to -- a lot of times you can seine up the fish if you
46 can get them in enough numbers and clip 200 of them and
47 release them. Those would go to the lab and then we'd
48 find out if they're strays from the Yukon or some other
49 area or they would just be their own baseline, so in the
50 future fish that were caught in the seas could be told

1 that they were coming back to this area. So right now
2 we're just trying to get different rivers that have large
3 enough populations that are already existing to add to
4 that baseline.

5
6 Then the part you were talking about to
7 determine if the populations are sustaining, like you
8 said you don't know if they're really spawning and
9 juveniles are surviving the winter and making it back out
10 to sea. That one is going to be a little more difficult
11 of a component and we'll be working on that with some of
12 the communities to try to establish that.

13
14 A lot of this data, as far as the stream
15 surveys, are getting put into the Anadromous Waters
16 Catalog for the State. It helps protect the areas that
17 fish are using, any migrating fish, even whitefish are
18 included in the catalog. If somebody wants to
19 industrialize or use some area that they have to allow
20 for fish passage so that the fish can come and go and do
21 what they need to do in migrations. Some of the streams
22 that we surveyed just recently were already in the
23 catalog and some of them weren't and they will be added
24 for future.

25
26 Basically that's the information we're
27 working with right now. We want to get back to talking
28 with the fishermen where they know that there's fish,
29 where there's open water areas in the wintertime that
30 might be areas we could look at for the juveniles coming
31 out in the spring and Sverre, with Subsistence, is
32 working with the North Slope Borough as far as -- I know
33 they do harvest surveys for all the other species and
34 we're trying to add the salmon component. I know they do
35 some now, but we want to talk to them more about salmon
36 in particular for this particular project.

37
38 If you guys have any questions, feel free
39 to ask me. We'll also be coming back to the community
40 and letting you know what we found out this year and then
41 we supposedly have the project again next year and we
42 would come back to the community and let you know what's
43 happened on that. That's all I have, sir.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any
46 questions from Council members. Go ahead, Paul.

47
48 MR. BODFISH: Yeah, I've got a question
49 about seining nets around Icy Cape. I don't know if they
50 were washed up or put up on the beaches around Icy Cape.

1 Were there any fish studies being done over there? I
2 have heard that from Point Lay hunters and Wainwright
3 that there were real long seining nets right along the
4 beaches over there.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Paul.

7

8 MS. BORBA: Paul, I have not heard of the
9 seining nets over there at this time. We'll just be
10 talking to the people at Point Hope and Point Lay and if
11 they have any information for us on what's going on over
12 in that direction, we'll try and find out, but I don't
13 know anything about it.

14

15 MR. BODFISH: I think the person to
16 contact over in Point Lay would be Willard Neakok that
17 seen the seining nets. He said they were pretty long.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Paul.

20 Gordon, did you have a comment you wanted to make.

21

22 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Yeah, I think it's
23 a pretty interesting kind of work. I think you're not
24 going to see any problems with people like us that want
25 to try to understand more and probably want to try to be
26 helpful. One question I had is what size is a fish that
27 had spawned and come out of its egg sac like around -- I
28 would say maybe around December they would start coming
29 out of their egg sacs in these overwintering pools that
30 they spawn in. By the time it's break-up, I see these
31 little fish in the rivers in the summer, like in June and
32 July, and they're about that long. That's the normal
33 size for a six month, something like that?

34

35 MS. BORBA: Gordon, the fry, right now we
36 have pink and chum salmon spawning in most of these
37 systems and they go out right the first year. They're
38 only like an inch or so long. They go right out with the
39 spring waters. They do come up in December, whatever,
40 really late as elvins, but they're kind of like in the
41 gravel, surviving until the water starts coming up with
42 the spring runoff. The larger ones could be possibly if
43 you have chinook. They tend to spend two years in fresh
44 water before they go out. Them and coho salmon would
45 stay in the stream longer and you might see a larger
46 juvenile off that.

47

48 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman. The reason
49 I ask these things, because the fish can't go out in the
50 wintertime. All the rivers stops moving, but the

1 overwintering habitats where they hatch are good areas on
2 the river because when it's break-up season all that
3 stuff gets thrown out into the ocean and some of them
4 manage to hang around because I see them. They're like
5 little microcosms because they're so isolated. Down
6 river it's frozen solid in the shallow, up river it's
7 frozen solid and these big eddies where they spawn in are
8 good locations to sample and sample them all the way up
9 until probably May, see how that fish is doing.

10
11 I routinely make stipulations to avoid
12 these areas for seismic operators because it's real easy
13 to fall in them. They don't freeze. They'll have a bed
14 of snow over them and that snow is a fantastic insulator
15 for these eddies and the fish survive underneath. If you
16 remove that snow, it will freeze much further down. I
17 see pinks, kings just prior to freeze-up and they must
18 get stuck up there. When they spawn, they have to hang
19 out there until spring break-up, so it's a good area to
20 sample fish because they can't go anywhere after they
21 spawn, the little guys. The big guys may have taken off.
22 If you look at some radio tagged ones, whitefish will
23 spawn and then they go back down to major overwintering
24 habitats down river and they don't die after they spawn.
25 They do it every year. But for these salmon ones, they
26 need to understand that cycle over there. We think they
27 spawn up there because they come back every year. Just
28 some observations.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'll wait until you
31 provide a response, Bonnie.

32
33 MS. BORBA: Yes, Mr. Brower. That's the
34 perfect information we're trying to find, is where these
35 open water areas are that don't freeze all winter. We
36 have fall chum salmon on the Yukon River spawn clear up
37 on the river. It's 40 below, but the river stays open
38 all year. The babes are fine, they're down in the gravel
39 as long as there's oxygen moving through and water. When
40 they do hatch, they hatch up there the same time. Well,
41 ours are like December, January. They stay around in the
42 gravel until the ice melts and the water goes out. As
43 the water rises, even though it's still froze down river,
44 they hang out next to the shore and then, when the water
45 does eventually open all the way up, they go out.

46
47 Salmon typically go up and spawn and die,
48 the adults, but we are definitely interested in and part
49 of the project when Sverre is going around talking to the
50 locals that do fish or see these, we want to talk to

1 people that have been inland and know where these open
2 water areas are. It's going to be important to find
3 where the juveniles are coming out of the water.

4
5 Part of the project I was trying to work
6 with -- there's only a couple communities that you have
7 inland, Nuiqsut and Atqasuk. I would like to work with
8 them and we could do a fry trap type of project to try to
9 catch juveniles to see what time they're moving out into
10 the ocean and that kind of stuff. So hopefully I can
11 work with you guys on that. Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I need to comment on my
14 observations. I've seen a lot of -- not a lot, but a
15 couple times I've been up in the river near freeze up and
16 we find all the dead salmon that have already spawned out
17 along the river banks. It's pretty much shallow. We
18 can't travel up the river any further from where my cabin
19 is because the water table is that low. We've had dry
20 summers over the past couple, three years and the access
21 has been minimal. I'm assuming that some of the fish
22 migrating up the rivers are not having all that great a
23 success either. There may be some areas that have a
24 different channel where they can go up and get in the
25 river system, but along the Topagoruk the past couple
26 winters or fall seasons I've seen some of the spawned out
27 salmon.

28
29 I want to get back to the question about
30 when you're doing your aerial surveys. Are you looking
31 at fish out of the window in the aircraft or do you have
32 some kind of radio-telemetry that you're using? I didn't
33 catch that part. Maybe if you could clarify that a bit,
34 that would be helpful for me.

35
36 And in terms of the overwintering in open
37 waters, I think one of our biggest tributaries, the
38 Colville, and up those tributaries from the Colville, we
39 do see an occasional open spot in those areas and the
40 river otters hanging out in those areas. I know from
41 traveling up in those areas there's those overwintering
42 spots.

43
44 In terms of the Ikpikpuk and the
45 Topagoruk and Meade River, I don't think I've seen any
46 open water in areas, but it may occur. You know, if they
47 go with the deep eddies for their overwintering areas in
48 terms of brood whitefish, I know of several areas that I
49 know of from doing my own fishing up in those areas and
50 knowing of these deep eddies being in these rivers.

1 So those are some of the concerns. In
2 terms of an observation I want to share with you, what
3 occurred over the spring break-up there was a large die-
4 off of fish up along the lower part of the Meade River.
5 There was a couple thousand fish along the riverbank
6 there. I wasn't sure as to how the death of those fish
7 occurred. Just an assumption was there must have been an
8 overwintering area where the water table was real low and
9 the fish got heavily concentrated and trapped in there
10 and the carbon monoxide started building up because of
11 the air depleting in that area. That's just my personal
12 observation from what occurred there, the different sizes
13 of fish. There was some broad whitefish, there was some
14 ciscos, the majority of the fish I seen along that bank.

15
16 Greg George might have -- he went up and
17 made a closer observation. I just seen these from flying
18 over the course of the summer and had a report from a
19 couple of our hunters from Barrow traveling up to their
20 cabins. By the time the biologists got there the fish
21 pretty much had been eaten or turned into bone basically
22 by bugs that were living off of them over the course of
23 the summer.

24
25 I just wanted to share that with you. I
26 think there was a couple more things I wrote down, but
27 I'll wait until you provide a response.

28
29 MS. BORBA: Yes, Mr. Brower. On the
30 aerial surveys, sometimes we use Cub aircraft, this time
31 we used the 207 with a special bubble window on it. We
32 do look down at the ground. We fly at the slowest speed
33 that we can get the aircraft to fly. We start at the
34 bottom or the top of the stream and go until we run out
35 of fish. You can tell pink salmon from the air from chum
36 salmon and kings are much different with the bright red
37 and larger size. So we do count them from the air. We
38 do this all over the Yukon drainage and Kuskokwim and
39 Norton Sound, the different areas. We use it as a
40 technique to estimate the abundance of fish in those
41 areas. Up here you've got our pink and your chum. They
42 may peak at different times, so we have to fly surveys
43 early for pinks and later for the chum when they do get
44 up into the area.

45
46 We're working with Bill Morse on the
47 Colville River and the Itkillik over there. They have
48 chum salmon spawning grounds. We're trying to work with
49 his project. He's radio-telemetering chum salmon over
50 there and we're going to get some genetic clips on that

1 and we're going to make a special trip up the Itkillik to
2 try to get some of those salmon into the baseline this
3 year. Because of the flooding in Fairbanks Bill Morse
4 has been taken out of the picture this year working on
5 his house, so we will continue that next year when he
6 gets up there looking at those.

7

8 As far as the fish on your die-off, were
9 they salmon or were they whitefish?

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Salmon. We don't
12 really see any whitefish dying after spawning. We know
13 they continue to survive after they spawn. They stay in
14 the eddy for a while and some of them swimming back down
15 river. Just the movement pattern depending on the timing
16 and moving back and forth. I caught a few that had been
17 spawned out already and you could tell they were really
18 a lot thinner than the ones that still have the eggs in
19 them that haven't spawned out yet. I think it was the
20 dog salmon.

21

22 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I think they were
23 chum.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Don't we call the dog
26 salmon the chum salmon?

27

28 MS. BORBA: Yes.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So those are the ones
31 I found on the Topagoruk River.

32

33 MS. BORBA: They should be spawned out.
34 The best thing to do is cut them open and see. If
35 they're spawned out, they're going to die.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, they're all
38 spawned out. They're real thin and don't even bother
39 picking them up. We just kick them out of the water. I
40 know the sea gulls start picking them up and eating on
41 them as we're hanging out out there.

42

43 Sometimes we gather them just to put them
44 in the ice so we could use it for fox bait in a fox trap
45 later on. Sea gulls get at them before we do and then we
46 know there's something in the water dead because of the
47 sea gulls. They start accumulating in numbers there near
48 the dead resource, whether it's caribou or fish or
49 whatever it is.

50

1 I seen some around the Chipp River. I
2 haven't been up to the upper cabin for four years. I've
3 been fishing down in the lower part near the deltas, the
4 mouth of the rivers for the past three years. I'll just
5 wait until freeze-up and just head back home afterward.
6 Our access has been very limited. Gordon and his family
7 have different styles of boats, so they're able to get up
8 a little further, those flat-bottomed boats. I haven't
9 been up to my cabin, like I said, in the past five years.

10

11 Any other comments or questions. Paul.

12

13 MR. BODFISH: Yeah, you were speaking of
14 open waters, the Meade. They are open waters up the
15 river from the village of Atqasuk. The one that's about
16 19 miles south of Atqasuk was open all winter, but that's
17 a coal bed gas seep right in the river. I don't know
18 what effects that has on the fish because we got methane
19 gas seeps in the lakes. Now they're starting to show up
20 in the rivers. I think they were coal bed methane. We
21 do see quite a few open water. We're always watching out
22 up river, especially up river, for open water. They can
23 be open all the way through January till the colder
24 months. When the snow covers them up, you can drive over
25 them even though you don't have solid ice underneath, but
26 the snow will build up thick enough for you to drive over
27 them.

28

29 MR. G. BROWER: Add one more thing.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

32

33 MR. G. BROWER: Sometimes it's hard to
34 interpret a little bit what I mean by open water. To me,
35 open water is when I am able to put my nets under the ice
36 fairly easy all winter long. When snow insulates it, you
37 can walk on the surface. You try to run a Cat over it,
38 he sinks right away. Because it's so well insulated,
39 these eddies, because the eddies are deep and they're
40 along the riverbanks, cut banks, and when the wind blows
41 it covers the whole thing up with snow and that thing
42 doesn't freeze. At the bottom, the snow may be wet and
43 moist all winter, but it's still highly insulated and
44 easy to get in there.

45

46 So you can go from the shallow and dig
47 that way and get to a deep section and open it and it's
48 not going to be very thick. Maybe a foot maybe at the
49 most. You can put like you said some kind of fyke net or
50 something that you can go and put it under there and

1 monitor it and see what kind of fish fry are being
2 produced in that eddy.

3

4 In my view, just knowing my area, those
5 eddies get locked in for the winter. They get locked in.
6 The water quits running I would say maybe about December.
7 Water fish are going to be waking up from their egg sacs
8 are going to be staying there until about break-up
9 season. It would be nice to know what types if salmon
10 did spawn in those if there are little salmon fry in
11 there and if they're actually competing in these waters.
12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon. Any
15 other comments or do you have any more information,
16 Bonnie, you'd like to share? Any other questions or
17 comments from the Council members.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not, thank you,
22 Bonnie, for your presentation.

23

24 MS. BORBA: Thank you, sir.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Now we're down to 11(E)
27 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Wennona Brown, sheep
28 update.

29

30 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For
31 the record, Wennona Brown for Arctic National Wildlife
32 Refuge. I don't really have a full formal report this
33 year. Most of the biologists have not gotten in from the
34 field. I've got a few pieces of information and we
35 expect to have our full report for you at the winter
36 meeting and try and get those out in time that you'll be
37 able to review them prior to the meeting so that if you
38 have questions we can discuss them then.

39

40 I know in your annual report one of your
41 concerns was about moose and I think most of what was
42 there pretty much answers hopefully the questions, but
43 the one thing I will add, it is mentioned that the refuge
44 and Fish and Game plan to start a radio-telemetry study
45 on moose in the spring of 2009. So over the next two
46 years they plan to deploy probably about 25 GPS satellite
47 collars on moose to study their movements.

48

49 For the sheep in the Hula Hula River, the
50 2008 surveys, they counted 512 sheep in 46 groups. The

1 lamb to ewe ratio was 44.7 lambs per 100 ewes, which is
2 similar to the 2003 to 2007 average. In 2008, the ratio
3 of yearlings to ewes was 33.2 yearlings per 100 ewes,
4 which was a little bit greater than the five-year average
5 and it suggests there's a high overwinter survival of
6 last year's lambs.

7

8 For the Atigun Pass, this year they
9 observed 226 Dall sheep in 34 groups, which included 40
10 rams and 93 adult ewes. Group size averaged 6.6 sheep.
11 The range was 1 to 37 in a group. 49.5 lambs per 100
12 ewes, which is a little greater than the 20-year average.
13 The estimated lamb production in 2007 was 43.2 lambs per
14 100 ewes and estimated 17.2 yearlings per 100 ewes. It
15 was survival from June '07 to June '08.

16

17 Then for the Arctic Village sheep
18 management area, the studies of Dall sheep abundance and
19 distribution of movements in the vicinity were conducted
20 from 1990 to '95 in response to open the management area
21 to sport hunting. They conducted the surveys in June
22 2006 in the Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek drainages and
23 estimated the density was 1.7 sheep per square mile in
24 the area, which is slightly less than the '90 to '91
25 estimates of 1.9 to 2.2 sheep per square mile.

26

27 They surveyed the area in June of 2007,
28 but only the Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek drainages and
29 the results of that survey suggested a density of .81
30 sheep per square mile, which is less than half the
31 density of the estimated area for 2006. The two things
32 to remember there is that the change may reflect a
33 declining population and or redistribution of sheep, but
34 it's hard to differentiate between those two
35 possibilities because unlike 2006 they didn't survey the
36 adjacent areas. They just surveyed those two drainages.

37

38 In 2008 they did a ground base survey in
39 June in the headwaters of Cane Creek and Red Sheep Creek
40 to assess lamb production and age structure of the sheep
41 population. The sheep were concentrated around two
42 mineral licks. They observed 130 sheep primarily ewes,
43 lambs, yearlings and two-year-olds. For the progression
44 of vegetation, green-up and snow melt, we believe the ram
45 groups had dispersed from the river corridors and mineral
46 licks into higher elevations that were not surveyed.
47 They estimated 58.7 lambs per 100 adult ewes, which
48 represents excellent productivity. There were also 19.6
49 yearlings per 100 ewes in the sample and they plan to
50 repeat that in a survey in 2009 to estimate overwinter

1 survival.

2

3

4 For musk ox, the 2006 census count in
5 Unit 26(C) was one musk oxen sighted, 2007 there was five
6 musk oxen sighted at the pre-calving census. The 2008
7 census they counted 40 musk oxen in Unit 26(C). So,
8 according to the regulations, 3 percent of the
9 population, they issued one musk ox permit for Unit 26(C)
10 this year.

11

12 Then they're also doing studies on the
13 grizzly bears in 26(C) analyzing blood and hair samples,
14 doing that over the past 35 years to determine long-term
15 diet trends. Along with Fish and Game, they've been
16 monitoring grizzly bears in the coastal plain and
17 northern foothills of the Arctic Refuge since 2006 using
18 GPS satellite telemetry data. Hopefully we'll have a
19 full report of the results from that for the winter
20 meeting.

21

22 If there's any questions.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Wennona.
25 Any questions from the Council members.

26

27 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

30

31 MR. G. BROWER: Based on the surveys, the
32 lower density and couldn't differentiate between low
33 production or redistribution.....

34

35 MS. BROWN: For the sheep in Arctic
36 Village?

37

38 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. It seems to me a
39 question came up a few years ago concerning sheep in an
40 area and a proposal to open an area.

41

42 MS. BROWN: Correct.

43

44 MR. G. BROWER: And when you come across
45 something like this, whether it's low production or you
46 can't differentiate between redistribution, what's the
47 course of action to determine harvest rate in an area
48 with a similar situation I think with moose, whether it's
49 redistribution or low production in Unit 26(C) with
50 moose. It seems like that's kind of a trend I see in
51 other areas, whether it's low production or if it's

1 redistribution. If that's the case, would the harvest
2 information on that tend to err on the side of just to
3 harvest less? I don't know if you're catching my drift
4 or not, but I'm trying to make some comparison.

5
6 MS. BROWN: Uh-huh. Mr. Brower, I don't
7 have the harvest information from permits and that's
8 something we're still working on, so that piece of the
9 equation is missing at the moment as far as what the
10 harvest has been. I said when they did the last study,
11 they didn't survey as big an area as they did the year
12 before, so it's hard to say did they maybe not see some
13 that were in the adjoining areas, so it was really hard
14 to say what the cause of the lower number was for that
15 particular year. They do plan to repeat the study again
16 in 2009 to get an estimate of overwinter survival of the
17 lambs, which would give them a better estimate of
18 production.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

21
22 MR. G. BROWER: Maybe just rephrase it a
23 little bit. Did it have an effect on allocating the
24 amount of harvestable animals with that dilemma, whether
25 it's low production or if it's just redistribution or if
26 you make any differences in allocation using those
27 formulas.

28
29 MS. BROWN: I'd have to look back. I
30 don't think -- there's not any limits on -- well, I'd
31 have to look at State regulations to look -- I don't
32 think there was a limit on the number of permits issued.
33 I know on the Federal side for a subsistence hunt it's
34 two permits per -- two rams per permit. On the sport
35 harvest it's one full curl ram per permit, but I don't
36 think there's a limit on how many permits could be
37 issued. I think it's just green harvest tickets. Is
38 that correct, Tom?

39
40 MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. Again,
41 I'm looking at the State regs here and wasn't really
42 prepared for this question, but through Unit 26, we get
43 into 26(C) for example, there's a registration permit and
44 then there's a one ram full curl or larger. I think a
45 lot of these sheep populations the assumption is the full
46 curl or larger regulation caps the harvest because that's
47 a small portion of the total population. They're not
48 harvesting the females or the young. But, again, I think
49 based on that full curl regulation the assumption is it's
50 a self-regulating and self-maintaining thing. Thank you,

1 Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom. Did
4 that help with your concern, Gordon?

5

6 MR. G. BROWER: It's hard for me to
7 understand sometimes
8 because I try to raise as much questions about how you
9 allocate animals for certain sex, I guess, for sport
10 hunting and resident use and making sure that subsistence
11 is still a priority in an area where you're going to have
12 the mix. And being able to make sure that when you have
13 a customary and traditional determination to that animal
14 made, that subsistence is still the highest priority use
15 when you're going to allocate the animals.

16

17 It's the concern I have for Kaktovik and
18 will always maintain when it's low numbers, you know,
19 that the subsistence should be the only means to harvest
20 these things instead of providing opportunities for
21 people from the Lower 48 to experience a major hunt when
22 there's low numbers.

23

24 At the same time, to keep in mind the
25 redistribution of animals and how they work in the scheme
26 of things, as I've been led to understand by some area
27 biologists about transient populations. They move in and
28 out and being able to continue a much greater harvest
29 level for the village that is dependant upon these
30 resources. Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
33 Just to elaborate a little more. What he's trying to get
34 at is the criteria that's used to make these
35 determinations and regardless to low population or low
36 productivity for a given resource and then what's used
37 for the resources that are considered as redistribution.
38 Transient animals that are coming back and forth in an
39 area over the course of winter or the summer and the
40 usage of the area. Trying to address the concern for
41 Kaktovik has been a situation for us that we've been
42 trying to deal with without representation in the loss of
43 one resource and trying to get another resource to be
44 able to subsist, the musk ox and the moose. That's been
45 a concern.

46

47 They have the caribou, but they're so
48 unpredictable, we don't know what course of action
49 they're going to be having over the course of the winter.
50 The Porcupine Caribou Herd coming in early on in the

1 summer and then they move right back across the Canadian
2 border, which they're not so readily available. This
3 year was one of the first years I've heard in several
4 years that caribou were on the island. Some of the
5 hunters were able to get out. Probably half the
6 community was out is what I heard. During the North
7 Slope Assembly meeting that was being held nobody
8 attended the teleconference portion because a large
9 number of caribou came onto the island and they were able
10 to get the resource, so half the community went out and
11 took their caribou while they were available.

12
13 So that's been a blessing for them this
14 year in terms of the previous three years. We've had to
15 try to accommodate the sheep issue. We also have a
16 community bag limit for the Kaktovik including Anaktuvuk
17 Pass. Those two are the ones I know of that have the
18 community bag limit for a number of sheep that could be
19 taken by the community members of Kaktovik and Anaktuvuk
20 Pass.

21
22 So I mean those are the dilemmas that
23 we've been trying to deal with. The concern Gordon
24 identified in terms of the redistribution of resources,
25 like the transient moose coming in and out from one game
26 management unit to another. North Slope is divided into
27 three segments and two of them are under Fish and
28 Wildlife Service or BLM and then the other one is managed
29 by the State and we have to try to accommodate the need
30 for the community and that's something we've been
31 struggling with and dealing with, where they could take
32 the resource. I think that's a portion of the concern by
33 Gordon in terms of where the resources are being taken
34 and the numbers that are derived for the animals that
35 could be used for subsistence.

36
37 So those are the things that we continue
38 to voice concerns on in terms of how our interaction goes
39 and trying to make improvements for our residents on the
40 North Slope. Wennona.

41
42 MS. BROWN: Yes, I think -- well, kind of
43 back up a little bit to address Mr. Brower's concern
44 about the redistribution of the sheep in the Arctic
45 Village Sheep Management Area. They've only done surveys
46 in that area now for two years and they've not surveyed
47 the exact same area. So I think probably the answer to
48 the question is we don't have enough data yet to say
49 exactly whether it's redistribution or what. I think the
50 answer to the question is it remains to be seen.

1 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, just one more.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

4

5 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I'm always too
6 talkative sometimes when it comes to animals and I like
7 to hunt them, I like to eat them and sometimes, you know,
8 for some families it's the only food on the table. I
9 care about that in my heart to make sure that -- I know
10 some villages that's the only food on the table and if
11 you can't get it, you're going to have to get something
12 else. I look at this as an artificial line here, 26(B),
13 26(C). When you draw artificial lines and say there's
14 more in 26(B) and when the area biologists say, yeah,
15 there's more there and then they do move around and go
16 into 26(C), but because of an artificial line drawn
17 there, 26(C) is sort of like penalized and then 26(B)
18 gets to have more guide operations to do a little bit
19 more.

20

21 From what I've gathered from at least one
22 guide outfitter over there, it might even be too early to
23 start giving more of these opportunities because it's
24 just on its rebound according to some of these guides
25 that I talked to. I thought that was very interesting
26 just to hear something like that from Deltana Outfitters.

27

28

29 If Kaktovik wants to hunt in 26(B) and
30 which is available to do that just so that people can
31 think it's fair, I think it's still unfair because if
32 Kaktovik wants to go hunt there, they've got to travel 80
33 miles to go there to go hunting when the resource is
34 right there in 26(C). I believe they're transient
35 animals and they shouldn't be limiting that resource to
36 be able to share three moose for the entire village.

37

38 Anyway, it doesn't jive with me unless
39 you guys start putting more moose there. Like Harry
40 said, bring more musk ox. Well, bring some more moose
41 too.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon. Any
44 other comments. Are you done with your presentation,
45 Wennona?

46

47 MS. BROWN: Yes, unless there are other
48 questions I could try to answer.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions or

1 comments from Council members. David.

2

3 MR. GUNDERSON: I have just a comment.
4 It seems to me these charter services have less
5 restrictions than us people that live up here, you know.
6 They get to fly in at the prime time when the animal is
7 the healthiest and we have to wait and be here all year
8 round and get the most restrictions, which is unfair to
9 the people that live here. That's just my observation
10 and I'd like to voice it out. Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, David. If
13 there are no further questions, then I thank you,
14 Wennona, for your presentation.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MS. BROWN: Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. New business.
21 We're under agenda item 12, new business. Do we have any
22 new business?

23

24 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: (Shakes head
25 negatively)

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any old business?

28

29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: (Shakes head
30 negatively)

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're down to agenda
33 item 13. Heads have been nodding no. No new business,
34 no old business. We're down to next meetings. 13(A)
35 confirm February 17, 18, 2009 in Barrow. Any objections.
36 What part of the month is that?

37

38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: There's a calendar,
39 Mr. Chair, on Pages 28 and 29.

40

41 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

44

45 MR. G. BROWER: We always have this
46 meeting in Barrow. It seems to me a lot of the areas
47 that we have high concerns on we ought to go to the
48 village and hear some of their concerns right out. Maybe
49 it's a time for a Kaktovik or Point Hope meeting. I know
50 Kaktovik hasn't had a representative to be able to voice

1 their concern and maybe the village is boiling over with
2 concerns that we ought to go and have one of these in the
3 village.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

6

7 MR. G. BROWER: I think we should to be
8 more proactive in hearing issues and concerns that may
9 come from the floor, even maybe nominations if there
10 needed to be some. That's just my concern. It's one of
11 those things I've said more than once on several
12 different occasions.

13

14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Helen.

17

18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Maybe I can just
19 address that a little bit. There was a time when this
20 program had a lot more money and we did a lot more going
21 to villages for meetings. In more recent years our
22 budgets have been cut severely, which is why we no longer
23 send -- you know, there's not a wildlife biologist here,
24 there's not a fisheries biologist here. It depends on
25 what the issues are as to who we send to meetings. We're
26 even limited that way. So it's not that we can't have
27 meetings in the smaller villages, but what they're doing
28 -- because this comes up everywhere, not just the North
29 Slope. All of the regions have had these concerns.

30

31 For example, last time we had the moose
32 one for Kaktovik, when there's a recommendation being
33 made on a proposal that is concerning a particular
34 community, then the Council could make a request to meet
35 there. It's case by case and our management decides what
36 -- they look at what it would cost to go to Barrow, what
37 it would cost to go to Kaktovik or Wainwright or Point
38 Hope or wherever, and then they make a decision as to
39 whether or not they'll allow us to do that.

40

41 What they've asked is, if the Council
42 wants to do that, that they have an alternative place
43 too. We get this a lot in Kodiak/Aleutians. Michelle is
44 the coordinate there. And then there has to be a
45 justification. So more than likely management wouldn't
46 allow just having a meeting to have a meeting in a
47 community. There would need to be an issue that we had
48 to deal with.

49

50 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.
2
3 MR. G. BROWER: It seems to me there's
4 issues. They surround allocating resources in an area
5 where subsistence is a priority for Kaktovik and severe
6 limitations have been imposed and it's been going on for
7 at least five years now or maybe greater.
8
9 I would propose the February meeting be
10 in Kaktovik and then a secondary place in Barrow. Also
11 because of lack of representation from those villages.
12 I move.
13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
15 floor.
16
17 MR. BODFISH: Second.
18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Paul to
20 hold the winter 2009 meeting in Kaktovik February 17, 18.
21 Any further discussion.
22 (No comments)
23
24 MR. GUNDERSON: Question.
25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
27 called on the motion. All in favor signify by saying
28 aye.
29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.
31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed same sign.
33
34 (No opposing votes)
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank you.
37 We'll see how that works out. Give it a try. See you
38 all in Kaktovik this winter.
39
40 MR. G. BROWER: By snowmachine.
41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I want to fly. Okay,
43 13(B), establish date and place for fall 2009 meeting on
44 Page 28. I think our table of contents needs to be
45 reordered somehow. When you look at the pages, they're
46 not jiving with the information.
47
48 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'll tell Barb.
49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think they're a page

1 off. Anyway, Page 28, 2009 fall Regional Advisory
2 Council meeting window. What did we have identified?
3 August through October. Meeting window closed October
4 29. Opening window starts August 24.

5

6 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

9

10 MR. G. BROWER: This is a pretty good
11 time, you know. It's quiet, caribou is about September
12 15 for me and fall whaling and stuff going on and I'm
13 fishing under the ice latter part of September and first
14 week of October. But this is a good time, you know, like
15 the 25th of August. Thursday, August 27, for me that
16 would be a planning commission day.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's my anniversary.
19 In the middle of the week August 25 sounds good. If we
20 get stranded out on the tundra during the week. What I
21 was rushing back for, Monday morning I came here and just
22 parked the boat and said I'm going to my meeting and come
23 to find out it was the next day.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So I lucked out. I
28 ended up coming on Monday anyway. So August 25, Tuesday,
29 2009 is proposed.

30

31 MR. G. BROWER: So moved.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor to
34 set the date on August 25, 2009.

35

36 MR. BODFISH: Second.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Paul. Any
39 discussion.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MR. GUNDERSON: Question.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question has been
46 called on the motion. All in favor signify by saying
47 aye.

48

49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed same sign.
2
3 (No opposing votes)
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. So August
6 25, 2009. Man, we're planning way ahead of time.
7 Anyway, any further comments or agenda items. Did I miss
8 anything? Item 14, adjournment.
9
10 MR. BODFISH: So moved.
11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor to
13 adjourn the Regional Advisory Council meeting.
14
15 MR. G. BROWER: Second.
16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded. Any further
18 discussion.
19
20 (Cell phone ringing)
21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, Joseph has the
23 discussion on the floor. Listen, raise it up. It's an
24 Eskimo dance.
25
26 MR. G. BROWER: Ring tone.
27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's his ring tone for
29 his phone. If there's no further discussion, all in
30 favor signify by saying aye.
31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.
33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Meeting adjourned.
35 Thank you for taking the time from your busy schedule.
36
37 (Off record)
38
39 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC do hereby certify:

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THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 3rd day of September 2008.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/12