

1 SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6
7 VOLUME II

8
9 Aurora Inn
10 Nome, Alaska
11 September 22, 2011
12 8:30 a.m.

13
14 Members Present:

15
16 Michael Quinn, Chairman
17 Peter Buck
18 Fred Eningowuk
19 Thomas Gray
20 Louis Green
21 Anthony Keyes
22 Peter Martin
23 Elmer Seetot
24 Timothy Smith
25
26
27 Regional Council Coordinator - Alex Nick
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1 PROCEEDINGS
2
3 (Nome, Alaska - 9/22/2011)
4
5 (On record)

6
7 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right, call the
8 meeting to order at this particular time. And we're
9 going to start off with Alex wants to make a couple of
10 announcements for the council members.

11
12 MR. NICK: Good morning. Alex Nick for
13 the record. For those of you who are staying at a
14 hotel, Council members, when you check out make sure
15 you let me know. This morning, check out time is 11:00
16 o'clock, no later than 11:00, if you think you'll make
17 it out this afternoon. Assuming that the meeting will
18 conclude by noon today. I know I've talked with some
19 of the members who wanted to leave and try to return
20 this afternoon, if that's the case then you need to let
21 me know, I need to change your airline itinerary, and
22 if we don't change it then there may be some problems,
23 so I need to know because I'm the only one that you
24 could tell, you know, even Helen, too, but still tell
25 me or tell somebody in the office over there to change
26 your itinerary. There's been some change,
27 remember.....

28
29 (Cell phone ringing)

30
31 MR. NICK: Excuse me. There's been
32 some changes made in the travel policy that we talked
33 about in the winter meeting, last winter, so we need to
34 abide by the policies. And if you have any questions
35 let me know. And if you decide not to leave this
36 afternoon, for those of you who I talked to this
37 morning and last night, please let me know, too. But
38 make sure you let me know when you check out of the
39 hotel and stay with your airline, don't change to other
40 airline when you return because there's a possibility
41 that you might be liable for that airfare.
42

45 Any questions. Elmer.
46
47 MR. SEETOT: What if the airlines
48 you're traveling cancelled and then there is an extra --
49 or there's another airline coming in after that one
50 cancelled, we just notify you or just say I can't make

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1 it because my reservation, that certain airline, they
2 cancelled.

3
4 MR. NICK: If it's same airline we
5 don't have any problem with it, like ERA, Hageland.
6 It's the same airline. Hageland is same airline now
7 days I think.

8
9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Just let Alex know.

10
11 MR. SEETOT: We do have ERA and Bering
12 Air, they do come two times, pretty much two times a
13 day. So not that same time but kind of different
14 times.

15
16 MR. NICK: What I'm saying is if your
17 ticket is with ERA Aviation it's only good for ERA and
18 Hageland Aviation. It's not good for Bering Air or
19 whatever airline you may have, we can't switch to
20 another airline.

21
22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, you can but
23 you have to call, don't you or no?

24
25 MR. NICK: It might take a while to do
26 that.

27
28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: If you need to do

that's the

31 problem, is that you can't do it yourself, you'll have
32 to get our office to do it for you.

33

34 MR. NICK: And because these airline
35 tickets were already paid way in advance, I don't know
36 if they would want to change those.

37

38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

39

40 MR. GRAY: Elmer, they'll pay an extra
41 \$170 a night here for you to accommodate you.

42

43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: If that's the case,
44 Elmer, I mean, I'm serious let us know and we'll see
45 whether we can get it changed, especially during the
46 day it's a lot easier because the travel office is
47 open, but it's just that you guys can't change it
48 yourselves we're really worried that people will make
49 changes and then they'll be stuck with the extra
50 airfare. Okay. So we don't want that happening.

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1 MR. SEETOT: Okay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Well, what did
4 you say you wanted to start with, the.....

5

6 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The Tri-RAC
7 customary trade subcommittee status report, which is on
8 Page 162 and I think -- David, do we have you on the
9 line.

10

11 MR. JENKINS: I'm on the line, Helen,
12 yes.

13

16
17 REPORTER: Can you see who else is on
18 the line.
19
20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Is there anyone else
21 on the line? Could anybody speak up.
22
23 MR. MATHEWS: This is Vince Mathews in
24 Fairbanks.
25
26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Hi Vince. That was
27 Vince Mathews in Fairbanks on the line as well. So
28 we're going to start with the Tri-RAC customary trade
29 subcommittee status report on Page 162 and this
30 Council, as with all of those crossover proposals is
31 hearing this because of the Stebbins and St. Michaels
32 having C&T on the Yukon River for fish.
33
34 David Jenkins was the facilitator for
35 the meeting and, David, do you just want to go ahead
36 and do the whole briefing or do you want me to do it?
37
38 MR. JENKINS: Whatever's convenient for
39 the RAC there, I mean I can do the briefing if you'd
40 like.
41
42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think it would be
43 great if you did the briefing. So go ahead.
44
45 MR. JENKINS: Okay, the Tri-RAC
46 subcommittee is made up of members from the YK-RAC and
47 the Western Interior RAC and the
48 Eastern Interior RAC and they met first in May of 2011
49 and developed three proposals for customary trade,
50 changes to customary trade regulations. And those

0005

three

3 proposals.

4

5

And at the August meeting, the Tri-RAC subcommittee carefully reviewed those proposals and made changes to their initial proposal and came up with one preferred regulatory change for customary trade for Yukon River chinook salmon. And their preferred regulatory change was to limit customary trade of Yukon River chinook salmon to only between Federally-qualified rural residents with a current customary and traditional use determination.

14

15

This was the preferred option that this subcommittee came up with after these two meetings and considerable discussion. And their intention is in times of low chinook river runs to help give the fisheries managers additional tools to preserve those runs as best they can. And the thought was that by keeping chinook river -- customary trade -- chinook salmon -- pardon me, Yukon River chinook salmon customary trades within the Yukon River drainage, that would stop larger sales of chinook river -- or Yukon River chinook salmon in large urban areas. And they thought if they could preclude the sales in large urban areas then that would help preserve chinook salmon on the Yukon during times of low runs. So this is the primary justification that the subcommittee had with the proposal to keep Yukon River chinook salmon within the drainage. And as you can see in your books there were three or four other justifications, but this was the primary justification that they had.

34

35

They also presented an alternative proposal to preclude customary trade of Yukon River chinook salmon between rural residents and others and to establish a \$750 limit per calendar year per qualified households and also to require customary trade recordkeeping in receipt form. This was an alternative that they proposed for RAC discussion and they thought it was important for RACs to be able to discuss this proposal as well. Though, as I mentioned and as they pointed out, this was not their preferred option.

46

47

So those are the two major options that they brought to the RACs for your consideration and your debate. And if you have any questions I can fill in with more details as you think about these issues.

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. Just so
2 the Council knows, this is an item that just is for
3 discussion only. We're taking comments on any thoughts
4 you have on these proposals. Then the final proposal
5 that the Tri-RAC subcommittee will put together will
6 then be before you at the next fall -- yeah, for your
7 consideration and then your recommendation in the fall
8 of 2012. So you don't have to vote on anything today,
9 just provide some comments if you so choose.

10

People are reading, David.

11

MR. JENKINS: Yes, okay.

12

13 MR. SMITH: This is Tim Smith, who are
14 you addressing? Are you addressing the RAC?

15

MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

16

MR. SMITH: Okay.

17

18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: In terms of
19 comments?

20

MR. SMITH: Yes.

21

MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

22

MR. SMITH: Okay.

23

24 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, you don't need
25 to vote on it today, what your -- which one you prefer,
26 we're just taking comments so no motions need to be
27 made today.

28

29 MR. SMITH: Are you ready -- Mr.
30 Chairman, are we ready for comments?

31

CHAIRMAN QUINN: Certainly.

32

33 MR. SMITH: I've been following this
34 issue from a distance. I haven't been involved in
35 these meetings, I really think we should because we
36 have a real issue with customary trade here because our
37 salmon stocks are so depleted. People in lots of the
38 areas of Seward Peninsula are finding it impossible to
39 get salmon. I didn't catch a single salmon this
40 summer. And so customary trade is a way for people who
41 are still able to get some to help out the ones who
42 can't. And it's something that's been going on for

1 years, you know, we all know that. I mean Joe Garney
2 grew up processing and selling salmon, dry fish, that's
3 what his grandparents did and their family spent the
4 whole summer doing that.

5
6 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.
7 Smith. For the record, for David Jenkins on the line,
8 that was Tim Smith speaking.

9
10 I appreciate your comments and I just
11 wanted to make sure it was clear that these proposed
12 regulations are for the Yukon River.

13
14 MR. SMITH: Yes.

15
16 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And that what we've
17 done with customary trade is made things region
18 specific and so it would be entirely appropriate, you
19 know, at the next time we do proposals or at some later
20 point to do a proposal for the Seward Peninsula region
21 on customary trade.

22
23 MR. SMITH: I was just about to get
24 into that.

25
26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

27
28 MR. SMITH: I understand what's going
29 on.

30
31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And we would do that
32 call for proposals at the winter meeting.

33
34 MR. SMITH: No, I do understand that
35 and what's going on here.

36
37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Okay. Just
38 being clear, yeah.

39
40 MR. SMITH: Thanks for that
41 clarification, but my wife is from the Yukon and this
42 is why this is an important issue for me. And we don't
43 have a way to get salmon here. And under these
44 proposals, you know, one of the ways we do get dry fish
45 is we buy it from people down on the Yukon. And a
46 bucket -- we don't buy king salmon, they don't have
47 enough to sell, they don't have enough to share
48 anymore, and so we just do without king salmon, but we
49 do -- we buy chum salmon dry fish. A five gallon
50 bucket is \$400 now. This limit that they're talking

1 about, \$750, that's not even two five gallon buckets of
2 dry fish. That's really unrealistic. You know, \$750
3 is not a significant amount of money anymore. There
4 are enough chums, you know, and I realize, you know,
5 Helen's about to tell me that this only applies to
6 kings, but these things have a tendency to spread, you
7 know, and once you set something it becomes a monument
8 and then \$750 will become the perpetual amount for
9 customary trade.

10
11 Now, the other issue -- and under this
12 first proposal we wouldn't qualify anymore, we wouldn't
13 be able to get -- and I understand the issue the
14 chinook salmon, we would not be able to get chinook
15 salmon from our relatives and friends on the Yukon, and
16 I think there's something wrong there. You know, we're
17 not living in an urban utopia here, Nome is just a big
18 village and we have a real serious problem with salmon.
19 And so I think these solutions need to be thought out a
20 lot more than what they are. They don't -- the impacts
21 are not really being considered.

22
23 You know, the issue is really not trade
24 between people on the Yukon, you know, anybody who
25 lives on the Yukon is not -- is able to get -- for the
26 most part they're able to get fish, it's people who
27 live away from the Yukon, people who formerly lived on
28 the Yukon who don't live there now, they're the ones
29 who need the fish. And particularly in a place like
30 this where you can't get them, you can't get your own.
31 And so I think this needs a lot more thought and I'd
32 like to see this RAC involved in the discussions.

33
34 One more point, you know, if you'll
35 bear with me, this is fairly important to me. I find
36 it impossible to have any concern at all for the issue
37 of customary trade between people on the Yukon River
38 when the pollock trawlers are killing, you know,
39 they're up to about 900,000 king salmon now, killing
40 and wasting 900,000 king salmon and so that's over like
41 a 20 year period. How could it matter that somebody's
42 selling a few bags of strips at AFN, I mean I don't see
43 how that's an issue at all when at the same time we've
44 got the trawlers out there wasting the resource.

45
46 So I'll stop now.

47
48 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.

49
50 MR. GRAY: Hold on, let me get in here.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. GRAY: You know this -- the issue
4 of customary trade and people not qualifying, I'm going
5 to echo Tim, you know, I think that it's a farce that
6 bureaucracy is going to tell us how we can live our
7 subsistence lives. And it's happening. I mean it's
8 come to pass and we have customary trade and the lines
9 are drawn in the sand and we can't cross those lines
10 for some of the things. And so I think it's wrong in
11 some sense.

12

13 I'll give you an example.

14

15 I cut dry fish. I do a lot of stuff.
16 And we trade for bowhead muktuk. And we would not get,
17 that's part of my life, that's part of my lifestyle, we
18 would not get it if it wasn't for the ability to trade
19 some of our subsistence life for some of their
20 subsistence life. Subsistence is, you know, going out
21 and getting these foods and putting it on the table and
22 whether we trade for it or buy it or whatever, it is
23 part of our culture. And we need to be careful of how
24 we set up the bureaucracy to limit subsistence.
25 Subsistence is changing because of a bureaucracy and we
26 don't want that to happen.

27

28 So, you know, this -- what do you call
29 it, customary and traditional usage of an area, pretty
30 soon they're going to tell us you can't take the
31 bowhead whale off of St. Lawrence Island because of
32 customary trade. Well there's people that are
33 dependent on that -- part of that bowhead as their
34 meal, part of their meal and we've done it for
35 generations.

36

37 So, again, think it out. You know
38 Tim's right, you got to be careful where you're going
39 when you're setting up these rules and drawing lines in
40 the sand, we're changing subsistence to what it
41 shouldn't be, I feel. I think a little more thought
42 needs to be put into this thing. And, you know, I
43 agree that when it comes to subsistence the commercial
44 side of it should be gone, period, there shouldn't be a
45 dollar value anymore, and, yet you're letting a dollar
46 come into play; that's wrong. You know, just because I
47 have enough money to pay for \$400 buck of fish, that,
48 to me, isn't part of subsistence. You're flashing
49 money around. Money never was -- you can't eat money.
50 That's not subsistence. But the bartering system has

1 been used since the beginning of time, so you're
2 changing subsistence, is, I guess, my big thing, and we
3 need to be careful of how and where that goes because
4 it's going to set precedence. And what happens in the
5 Yukon is going to set precedence for what happens in
6 the future up here. And, you know, we can say, no,
7 it's only going to happen in the Yukon, well, for that
8 case it may be but it's going to set precedence for up
9 here.

10

11 MR. KEYES: This is Anthony. I will
12 back you two people up that just got through saying
13 what they were talking about because right now, at this
14 moment, when people wake up they're ready to go do
15 their bartering and their trading. Like I heard,
16 flashing this money around ain't going to do any -- you
17 know no qualificat -- for a bucket of black meat now
18 the price has risen on us completely. Everywhere else
19 for the -- for the amount, what they want, we have to
20 pay, because it's hard work and it takes time, it's a
21 consuming job and we are always willing to trade or
22 barter, but to show money like this, there's no limit
23 -- a price like this is going to -- they're always
24 going to change every year regardless, they will get
25 higher. If price of oil and gas climbs, the price of a
26 bucket of whatever you want to buy will follow that
27 price of oil and gas.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah.

34

35 MR. GREEN: Having heard all three of
36 these gentlemen here speak towards the importance of
37 subsistence, I wanted to -- I think I've got the number
38 right, on the North Slope, they're allowed \$10,000 in
39 sales for their -- to enhance their subsistence of
40 bowhead whale. And, you know, unfortunately this
41 summer the sockeye runs were bad in the Pilgrim. Now
42 if I wanted sockeye in one of the sockeye streams up
43 here, I couldn't get out of them there. I had a
44 wedding and we were going to have sockeye for dinner
45 and guess where I got my sockeye, I had somebody have
46 to pick it up in New Sagaya in Anchorage, you know, and
47 I found that very, very appalling. You know, this
48 river, according to Eugene Ausiksik, who was the
49 president CEO of NSEDC at the time, they had ordered a
50 survey, core sampling of the lake, a salmon lake, and

1 their numbers were 300,000 to 500,000 annually running
2 into that lake, so, you know, when you put restrictions
3 on where you can get your subsistence needs from, you
4 know, if I want to buy some dry fish from Joe Garney or
5 I want to buy some dry fish from the Yukon, people
6 related to Tim Smith, I think I ought to be able to do
7 that. It enhances their ability to go out and get
8 more.

9

10 The other one was Tom was talking about
11 bowhead whale. Culturally here in the Nome area, there
12 was a bowhead whaling community on Sledge Island and,
13 you know, it's known worldwide but there's a lot of
14 knowledge, locally, doesn't seem to know about it, so
15 bowhead whale's in our diet, 10, 20,000 years, so, you
16 know, like he made the point, you know, if it gets to
17 the point where St. Lawrence Island people can't trade
18 with folks from the mainland then there's a problem.

19

20 Mr. Tony here, he's talking about black
21 meat, I don't know, what is it, 250 a bucket now?

22

23 MR. KEYES: No.

24

25 MR. GREEN: Is it \$500 a bucket?

26

27 MR. KEYES: Just about.

28

29 MR. GREEN: Yeah. So, you know, and it
30 is hard work. I hunt marine mammals out here, it is a
31 lot of work. So putting a limit on what you can
32 compensate somebody for and taking away that ability to
33 go outside your area to get some of this food is kind
34 of -- I'm really having a hard time, just like Tommy
35 pointed out, I'm having a hard time swallowing the
36 government wants to do that to our people.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right.

41

42 MR. SMITH: I got one more comment.

43

44 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.

45

46 MR. SMITH: Like I said, this is a
47 pretty important issue to me. I think that the
48 concerns about using cash are really unwarranted. It's
49 nothing new, you know, the sale of dry fish has been
50 going on for well over 100 years here. It was like

1 gasoline in the past. People sold bundles of dry fish
2 for dog food. That's how you traveled, you know, it
3 was a -- dry fish was a medium of exchange, it was as
4 good as cash, it's nothing new. You know the Teller
5 Commercial Store would buy all the dry fish you brought
6 in. Bob Blodgett had a big business trading in dry
7 fish. US Merk sold it. Under the Marine Mammal
8 Protection Act, like Tony says, there's no real limits
9 on sale of marine mammal meat. You can sell black meat
10 all day long in a Native village and Nome's a Native
11 village. What kind of problems has that created? I
12 don't see anybody going out and overharvesting oogrucks
13 in order to make black meat, you know, you're not
14 really making much money at %500 a bucket, you know,
15 \$500 doesn't go very far anymore. You know I can fill
16 my truck three times for \$500, you know, how far could
17 your boat go for \$500. You know it's not -- you know,
18 nobody's going to make a killing off of selling Yukon
19 River dry fish or black meat. And, you know, let's not
20 -- the only reasonable medium of exchange that we have
21 is cash. I've got the cash, I don't have anything that
22 I can give them that they need, you know, they've got
23 everything else that they need and the shipping is
24 ridiculous, you know, if I had, you know, 800 pounds of
25 black muktuk to ship down to the Yukon I wouldn't be
26 able to get it down there, there's no way to ship it.
27 So cash is the only reasonable medium of exchange and
28 it's nothing new. I think we need to be careful to
29 close off that avenue.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Wait, wait, Tom.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right, let me just
38 kind of point something out. I ain't going to stop
39 anyone from speaking but, you know, we're talking about
40 something that could be talked about through each of
41 you submitting your own comments. We have an agenda
42 here we need to accomplish today. Several people have
43 asked me if we can get this agenda by noon. Now I
44 can't stop you guys from sitting here all day and
45 telling these people you don't like what they're doing,
46 that's within your right, and if you want to sit here
47 all day and do that, fine, but there are other issues
48 to address here. You can make your comments in writing
49 or on the phone to these same people. We're not
50 commenting on this apparently as a RAC today so, you

1 know, if you want to continue making comments, go
2 ahead, but we do need to get some things done.

3

4 All right, go ahead.

5

6 MR. GRAY: Okay. No. 1, I think it's
7 important while we got a guy on the line that he hears
8 our comments, and, you know, I don't care if it takes
9 us until midnight tonight, he needs to hear these
10 comments.

11

12 This money issue, that's here nor
13 there. I'm more worried about this commercial -- or
14 this customary traditional use trading issue.

15

16 You know, the lines are in the sand, so
17 to speak, that only certain people can hunt and catch
18 things in certain areas, and that's customary use and
19 traditional use or whatever. So, you know, we're
20 talking about this because of Stebbins and St. Michael
21 has the opportunity to go catch whatever. My concern
22 is now you're talking about limiting what you can do
23 with that and talking about not being able to send it
24 out of that customary use and traditional area into the
25 subsistence world, so to speak. Now you're monkeying
26 deeper, dwelling deeper into subsistence and what
27 subsistence is and you're changing the program. Be
28 careful. Don't change subsistence to what you want it
29 and what we have for generations and generations have
30 had it. I mean subsistence to us is one thing and
31 things are changing.

32

33 You know I guess the bottom line, too,
34 is you can create all the regulations and all the
35 whatevers but if you don't enforce those you've really
36 got a pile of paperwork that does nothing. So who's
37 going to enforce whatever you're building.

38

39 But what I want to leave you with is be
40 careful about monkeying with our subsistence rights,
41 you know, I think you're dwelling in an area you
42 shouldn't be. So with that.....

43

44 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

47

48 MR. MARTIN: Yeah, thank you, Tom.
49 Stebbins, St. Michael's have enjoyed customary and
50 traditional going to the Yukon for moose. So Quyaná.

1 I would not like to see any changes.
2
3 Thank you.
4
5 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Are you doing
6 the rest of this Helen?
7
8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I am. Thank you,
9 David.
10
11 MR. JENKINS: Helen, can I make a
12 couple of points before.....
13
14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's up to the
15 Chair.
16
17 (Laughter)
18
19 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It's not up to me.
20
21 (Laughter)
22
23 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Do you want to allow
24 him or not?
25
26 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Not particularly.
27
28 (Laughter)
29
30 CHAIRMAN QUINN: How about we hold off
31 on that and we'll continue on with our thing and I'm
32 sure everybody can get your phone number and speak with
33 you as necessary.
34
35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So could we just
36 give it to everybody now, David, what's your phone
37 number and people can call you if they want to.
38
39 MR. JENKINS: Sure. It's 907-786-3688.
40
41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: People wrote it down
42 so expect some phone calls.
43
44 MR. GRAY: What was his name?
45
46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Dave Jenkins. J-E-
47 N-K-I-N-S.
48
49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. So now you
50 got three to do, one, two and three there. Can you

1 kind of just go through them all?

2

3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I can go through
4 them all. I'll try to be brief.

5

6 The next one is the tribal consultation
7 on Page 151. We've already had some discussion
8 yesterday about tribal consultation.

9

10 This briefing brings you up to date,
11 and I think some of it we've talked about there. We
12 had a discussion at the winter meetings, if you may
13 remember, about tribal consultation and the tribes were
14 invited to participate at the Federal Board meeting in
15 January. And then at the May meeting, the Federal
16 Board reviewed comments on tribal consultation from the
17 January meeting and they directed a work group
18 comprised of Federal and tribal representatives to
19 draft a protocol, develop a draft protocol and
20 consultation for the Board's review. And they met
21 again in June. In July the Board approved two interim
22 protocols, one for tribes and one for ANCSA
23 corporations, and these are included in your books on
24 the next pages.

25

26 They're continuing to work on drafting
27 the final protocols and there will be multiple
28 opportunities for involvement and review of the draft
29 documents. They're hoping that the final protocols
30 will be ready in time for the Board to adopt at its May
31 2012 meeting.

32

33 There's some key dates and events in
34 the development of the final protocols. There will be
35 consultation with ANCSA corporations at AFN October
36 20th. And December 1st, 2011 there will be
37 consultation with Federally-recognized tribes at the
38 BIA Tribal Service Providers Conference. And then in
39 January 17-19th the Federal Board will be meeting in
40 Anchorage and they'll have discussion of the draft
41 protocols then as well. Those dates are all in your
42 book on Page 151. And then the draft protocols are
43 here in the book for you to look at. And I would, you
44 know, we weren't taking comments necessarily today but
45 any comments should be probably directed through one of
46 those other opportunities, you know, at AFN or at the
47 Provider's Conference. This is just a briefing to keep
48 you up to date on what's happening.

49

50 Any questions?

1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Should I move on?

4

5 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah.

6

7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. The next --
8 this is a little longer but want to keep you up to date
9 on what's happening with the Secretarial Review of the
10 Federal Subsistence Management Program, so this is on
11 Page 155. And as you know in 2009 they announced, the
12 Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture announced a
13 review of the program and so there are a number of
14 things that have happened and some things that are
15 going to happen and some things that are on hold.

16

17 So a final rule has been -- it's out
18 now, has been developed and it's been published. In
19 here it says it will be but it's been published. On
20 adding two new voting members to the Federal
21 Subsistence Board. They have to be representatives of
22 Alaska subsistence users, and they have to be, you
23 know, as with being on this Council, as a subsistence
24 user, you have to have knowledge and direct experience
25 with subsistence. And the goal is to have these two
26 positions seated by January of 2012, at our January
27 Board meeting. They are taking applications soon.
28 This just happened, where they published the rule, I
29 don't know what that process will be. If anybody's
30 interested in applying, you should just let me know and
31 I'll find out, get that information to you. So we'll
32 see how fast the government can move on getting these
33 two positions seated. They do need to be residents of
34 a rural area, which for all of you, of course, is not
35 an issue.

36

37 Any questions on that?

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So that will be a
42 new thing, to have two subsistence users on the Board
43 added to the mix of Federal bureaucrats.

44

45 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Helen, so an
46 individual needs to apply but are the applications
47 available?

48

49 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No, this just
50 happened. They're not right -- I don't have them here,

1 you know the final rule wasn't published, but if you're
2 interested let me know and I'll make sure you get an
3 application. It will be a similar application process
4 as the Chair of the Board is -- has been. They do do
5 background checks and they do -- you know, if you have
6 a wildlife or fisheries violation I wouldn't bother
7 applying, quite honestly, because I've heard that
8 people have been bumped out with that. And they do an
9 interview. I'm sure it will go to the Secretary's
10 office for final approval so -- so we're hoping we'll
11 get some good applicants. I'm sure we will. Actually
12 I'm positive we will.

13

14 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.

15

16 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We got a fair number
17 of applicants for the Chair of the Board as well so I
18 think some of those people will be applying.

19

20 All right, next point, No. 2, there was
21 a concern that was expressed in the Review about
22 expanding deference to Council recommendations in
23 addition to the takings that the Board already
24 provides. So there are three exceptions to deference.
25 One of those is on C&T, and the Board is generally
26 supportive of expanding deference, but they haven't yet
27 made a determination whether or not they are going to
28 change the policy on that. Deference on rural
29 determinations, the Board is still learning a lot about
30 the rural process. We have a lot of new Board members
31 and so they had a workshop on rural and they're still
32 exploring whether or not it's appropriate given court
33 decisions. And then there's deference on in-season
34 management decisions and the Board definitely
35 understands the concern but because often in-season
36 management decisions are usually fisheries decisions,
37 have to be made quickly in response to newly obtained
38 information, they can't always -- they don't always
39 have enough time to defer to the Council, but they will
40 do it when the time and conservation issues allow.

41

42 The third point was the MOU -- stop me
43 if anybody has questions. I should pause here, any
44 questions on any of that?

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. The MOU, you
49 all reviewed that at the last -- at the winter meeting
50 and based on those comments the Board has recommended

1 that there be a work group comprised of State and
2 Federal members and they're reviewing the MOU and
3 they're supposed to report back to the Board with final
4 action in December of 2011. So there will be changes
5 to the MOU based on Council input.

6
7 Then reviewing the C&T determination
8 process, we took comments in the winter of 2011 and
9 right now -- there weren't very many comments on it
10 right now because there are a lot of other issues being
11 dealt with, this one is being put on the back burner, I
12 believe, is the way to describe it.

13
14 Then No. 5 was rural/non-rural
15 determinations. And the Board held a work session in
16 April to learn about the rural process, . they're
17 continuing to learn about it. They're exploring
18 whether or not they can delay the implementation date
19 for communities or areas which were rural and were
20 determined to be non-rural during the 2000 process, and
21 they're still trying to figure out how they want to
22 proceed. This doesn't have any impact here since you
23 don't have any non-rural communities up here.

24
25 Then six was written policy on
26 executive sessions and minimize the use of executive
27 sessions to those cases specifically prescribed. And
28 the Board -- as a result of that the Board has revised
29 its executive session policy to reflect that it intends
30 to keep its business transparent and will provide a
31 summary of executive sessions as and when they occur.
32 And it doesn't say this here, but unless it's
33 concerning a personnel issue. The Board adopted and
34 revised its policy at its May 2011 meeting.

35
36 Our new Chair, I believe, has already
37 been really good about making sure there's more
38 transparency. So it's been a good change in the
39 process.

40
41 Then there were a number of issues and
42 all of these are -- almost all these are pending
43 waiting for additional funding. Our funding is
44 uncertain at this time, what's going to happen in 2013,
45 Federal systemwide, we're expecting really big hits to
46 our budgets. There's a lot of concern about that,
47 what's going to happen. So one of the requests was to
48 hold Federal Board meetings in rural areas, and this
49 means more -- well, all the Board meetings are always
50 in Anchorage and they want to have them in rural areas

1 and that will be pending additional funding, whether
2 they can do that.

3
4 Increase training and support to
5 Regional Advisory Councils. And we're looking at that.
6 We've had a lot of -- we have a lot of people acting in
7 a lot of positions right now and we're short on Staff
8 right now, we've been holding off on filling all the
9 positions because we don't know where our budget's
10 going but we will implement more training and more
11 support when we get more Staff and know what our
12 funding status is.

13
14 Implement the Wildlife Monitoring
15 Studies. We had a lot of comments about that. I know
16 a lot of people in our office feel like we need to have
17 wildlife monitoring, just like we do fisheries, but if
18 we don't get the funds we won't be able to implement
19 that. So we're waiting to hear on that.

20
21 Increase tribal consultation. You
22 already heard that that's in progress.

23
24 Increase capacity within Office of
25 Subsistence Management for research and implementation.
26 Again, pending additional funding.

27
28 And reinstate the annual regulatory
29 cycle. And the Board does see a value in that versus
30 the every other year cycle, and they are open to
31 reinstating it and we're just waiting to see what our
32 funding does to see whether that is something we can
33 do.

34
35 Then the Board has not began to work on
36 the following directives, but, you know, it's on the
37 list, is changes to Federal Subsistence procedural and
38 structural regulations adopted from the State to insure
39 that Federal authorities are fully reflected and in
40 accord with subsistence priorities provided for in
41 Title VIII.

42
43 Insure the Secretaries are informed
44 when non-department rulemaking entities develop
45 regulations that may adversely affect subsistence
46 users.

47
48 And to the extent practicable, utilize
49 contracting and use of ANILCA Section .809 cooperative
50 agreements with local tribes and other entities in the

1 Board's review and approval of proposals for fulfilling
2 subsistence program elements.

3

4 Right now we have Section .809
5 cooperative agreements that we do do but there's not
6 much money so we only get a few studies. We just did
7 one for large mammals harvest information on the Lower
8 Yukon, which was very successful, but we don't have
9 enough money to do very many of those.

10

11 And then the last one was budget
12 implications. And as I said funding in 2012 is likely
13 to be flat or reduced and it's going to affect how we
14 can implement all of these recommendations. So, we,
15 too, will suffer the consequences of what's happening
16 with the economy, so.....

17

18 Then we already did the Bering Sea
19 Bycatch, which was the next one. We did Tri -- I think
20 I'm done.

21

22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah.

23

24 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, I am done. So
25 thank you very much. Any questions?

26

27 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah, any questions
28 for any of this stuff?

29

30 MR. SMITH: Not a question but I have a
31 comment.

32

33 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yes.

34

35 MR. SMITH: In June the North Pacific
36 Fishery Management Council met here in Nome and they
37 had a lot of concerns about it, the expense and the
38 ability of Nome to handle the meeting and a lot of
39 things. And at the end of the meeting everybody was
40 really happy, I talked to quite a few of the Council
41 members and the Council Staff and they were happy that
42 they did it. And I can tell you that I've gone to a
43 lot of Council meetings and there is no comparison to
44 the ability to be heard in Anchorage and the ability to
45 be heard in Nome. You know, you could actually talk to
46 those people after the meetings and, you know, face to
47 face. You can't do that in Anchorage, they sneak off
48 into the industry someplace and you don't even see
49 them. And so it's worth it to have these groups meet
50 in the rural areas, even though it does cost more.

1 It's really worth it. And I think the Federal
2 Subsistence Board should meet in rural areas, it makes
3 a big difference. And sure it's going to cost more
4 but, you know, I mean you're talking about subsistence
5 it's kind of -- you know, it makes no sense to be
6 meeting in an urban area.

7

8 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

9

10 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair, a comment now.
11 Just to follow Tim, you know, you're talking about
12 subsistence and the expenses of subsistence, but when
13 you're talking subsistence in rural Alaska, you're
14 talking about the majority of the people out there and
15 then we're looking at pending on funding, pending on
16 funding. It seemed like if the government was really
17 going to be behind us then the funding wouldn't be
18 pending, it would be something that would be mandatory
19 on their side of the fence.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN QUINN: We certainly can all
24 write Lisa a letter.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I -- you can. You
29 need to say that you're speaking on your own -- as
30 yourself and not on behalf of the Council but you
31 certainly can do that as a concerned citizen. I think
32 it's -- write to Begich, too, for sure.

33

34 I will say that our -- that Pete
35 Probasco has been back to Washington to argue for more
36 money and he went with our Deputy Regional Director. I
37 don't think that will be the last time that they go.
38 They're doing their best. And they know, just like the
39 Board coming here, they know that they have to go there
40 and talk to people in person because Washington doesn't
41 understand the importance of subsistence, and we
42 occasionally have our whole budget wiped out on the
43 first run of the budget process and then they have to
44 say, oh, wait a minute, you can't wipe out subsistence,
45 you know, so and -- and it always gets reinstated, but
46 it is -- I mean it is a concern. And I agree with
47 those comments.

48

49 Yeah, we have the disadvantage of being
50 the only program in the whole country like this.

1 MR. MARTIN: Our tribal consultation in
2 our communities, we got to deal with your subsistence
3 way of life, and if you're going to have tribal
4 consultation I'd like to see fliers at least about a
5 month in advance to make sure that everybody's aware of
6 what's going on. So at the time you're having tribal
7 -- consultation with your tribal -- our tribal
8 governments, IRA, and they will be there.

9
10 Quayana.

11
12 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.
13 Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. We'll move on
16 to Park Service.

17
18 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council
19 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. I'll
20 make this really quick by just largely just touching on
21 a number of the projects or activities that we've been
22 involved in.

23
24 As I've indicated to you at other
25 meetings a lot of our efforts now are combined with the
26 efforts of other agencies for efficiency purposes in
27 dealing with some of the large expanses of areas. A
28 lot of the data that we collect gets compiled by
29 somebody else and gets presented through other
30 overviews, except, unless it's a project specific, you
31 know, to our area.

32
33 Anyway this last year we worked
34 cooperatively with ADF&G for the spring moose surveys
35 in the Northern Seward Peninsula. In the Kotzebue area
36 we worked with ADF&G and Fish and Wildlife Service for
37 fall and spring moose surveys up there.

38
39 And for muskoxen, we completed a number
40 of work down in the Northern Seward Peninsula as well
41 as in the Kotzebue area refining the distant sampling
42 method that we're moving towards for censusing muskoxen
43 for developing statistically valid population estimates
44 and that work was completed, and, I think, very
45 successfully and resulted in some revisions of some of
46 the population estimates for muskoxen and we'll likely
47 be continuing to use that method which allows us to
48 much more efficiently expand the area of survey
49 coverage.

50

1 In terms of muskoxen, also, we've -- we
2 were completing the last year of field work for
3 collaring for that three year study that we've
4 mentioned before that looks at Bering Land Bridge and
5 comparison to the Cape Krusenstern muskoxen
6 populations. Unfortunately due to a rather high
7 mortality on collared cows we're probably going to have
8 to extend that field work one more year to get a large
9 enough sample of collared cows for the project. But
10 other than that the project's moving along and we'll
11 have more to report on that in future meetings.

12
13 In terms of brown bears, I passed out a
14 resource brief, which kind of provides a status update
15 on brown bears. And as you know from other meetings
16 we've been moving towards a new method for developing
17 population estimates for brown bears. And I would like
18 to tell you that we're there now but all I can say at
19 this point I guess is we're a lot closer than we were a
20 few months ago and the draft protocol that we're going
21 to be using is near completion but it's not out yet.
22 But hopefully in the next few months that will be
23 completed and we'll get the reviews and stuff on that
24 and probably, hopefully move towards that method for
25 determining population estimates.

26
27 In terms of contaminants I provided you
28 with a resource brief on what we are doing in terms of
29 contaminants. Most of that work is featured in the Red
30 Dog area, but there's also a big focus on freshwater
31 fish. What I would say about that is that those
32 efforts are really set up to produce long-term data
33 sets and that they're not really set up to address kind
34 of the point issues that Elmer and others have brought
35 up so that means that what we're doing really isn't
36 compatible with some of these spot issues that are, you
37 know, occurring, and I guess we'll have to think of
38 other ways of addressing those contaminant issues.

39
40 And in terms of sheep we're now working
41 not only in the Northwest Alaska area, but throughout
42 the Brooks Range and the methods and stuff that we're
43 using have been now expanded down as far as Wrangell-
44 St.Elias and we're working cooperatively with their
45 Staff and, again, with the Arctic Network Inventory and
46 Monitoring Program and the Central Alaska Network
47 Inventory and Monitoring Program on the sheep and that
48 protocol's pretty well established and I provided you
49 with a resource brief on sheep at the last meeting and
50 we'll update that later probably with some of the

1 results of this year's surveys likely at the next
2 meeting.

3

4 A couple other highlights.

5

6 One is that we're moving forward on the
7 commercially guided sporthunting program for Bering
8 Land Bridge. We hope to have a draft EA out,
9 environmental analysis, out in the spring on that for
10 public review and comment and input on to that. So,
11 you know, we're making progress.

12

13 And, I guess, maybe that's about it in
14 view of the time.

15

16 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I'm interested in your
17 comment of high mortality on collared muskox cows,
18 which is exactly the same thing I've been hearing for
19 the last few months from the State. Is there -- it
20 almost starts to make me think that sticking a cow -- a
21 collar on a cow seals its fate. Is there any evidence
22 that these animals are dying more because they've got a
23 collar on them?

24

25 MR. ADKISSON: No.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 MR. ADKISSON: And we really don't know
30 why this is and I guess, you know, and I don't really
31 want to be speculative right now. But the scary part
32 of the thing, I guess, if you want to think about it in
33 that terms is something that might be of real concern
34 is that, of course, if that mortality is representative
35 of a larger population of cows, which we don't know yet
36 at this point either. So it's definitely something
37 that's out there on the radar screen.

38

39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Tim.

40

41 MR. SMITH: I could comment on that.
42 I've put a lot collars on cow muskox and I had one cow
43 that wore out three collars. And, so, if they're put
44 on properly the collar doesn't kill muskoxen -- cow
45 muskoxen, but bears do. You know we saw that in Unit
46 27B, they're talking about declaring muskoxen an
47 endangered species because of bear predation. And I
48 think that's more likely what's happening here is the
49 bears have figured out how to kill the muskoxen. They
50 didn't know how in the past but they do now.

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Anyone else?
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, thanks, Ken.
6
7 REPORTER: Mike.
8
9 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, I'm sorry, go
10 ahead.
11
12 MR. MARTIN: Yeah, this year we had
13 headlines on the muskoxen here in Nome, what known --
14 probably just the first time -- you know, what was
15 happening, you know, the same thing happened -- how do
16 you guys handle that?
17
18 MR. ADKISSON: Through the Chair. Are
19 you referring to the issues that are developing around
20 Nome in the community?
21
22 MR. MARTIN: Yeah.
23
24 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, you're probably
25 better.....
26
27 MR. MARTIN: Yeah, recent headlines in
28 the Nome Nugget.
29
30 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, you probably
31 better ask that question to ADF&G, you know, what the
32 policies and the procedures are for addressing that
33 around Nome. We really don't have any Federal lands
34 and no real jurisdiction.
35
36 All I can tell you on the issue of
37 human/muskoxen interactions is, is that, you know,
38 we've got problems, of course, around some of our other
39 communities on the Peninsula. We're having issues
40 showing up at Cape Krusenstern, especially with summer
41 campers out there on their allotments and so forth.
42 And that's one of the things that we're going to be
43 looking at, I think, down the road, too, is try to put
44 some more effort into looking at human/wildlife
45 interaction issues. Both for muskoxen and brown bears.
46 We've started working with the community of Noatak on
47 some ideas, including whether or not it's really
48 feasible to talk about some form of expanded electric
49 fencing and stuff for some of their issues. But we're
50 just getting some of those efforts off the ground. So,

1 you know, without suggesting other alternatives, I mean
2 you can follow the Nome Nugget articles and see what
3 people like Claudia Euel (ph), who has a lot of
4 muskoxen experience, what Tony Gorn and what Letty
5 Hughes, who spend a lot of their time, I guess, dealing
6 with the local Nome issues, have to say about, you
7 know, what works and what doesn't in dealing with
8 muskoxen. And, you know, yeah, you just better talk to
9 them. I mean we could talk about increasing harvest
10 rates around communities and stuff but that's a whole
11 'nother issue.

12

13 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.

14

15 MR. SMITH: I got a question. In our
16 last meeting the issue came up about collecting things
17 on the Bering Land Bridge lands, antlers and bones,
18 ivory, and even plants. Has there been anything new
19 that's developed since the last meeting on that? Sandy
20 said it's prohibited now. You know it was news to me
21 when that came up, I was wondering if anything has been
22 done to address that issue. I don't think very many
23 people are even aware of it.

24

25 MR. ADKISSON: Through the Chair.
26 Councilman Smith. Yes, actually it is -- there is a
27 draft EA, again, environmental analysis, that's
28 currently out for internal review. And when that's
29 completed it'll go out for public review and that will
30 present a number of alternatives for addressing those
31 kind of things through regulatory changes. As you're
32 probably aware of from previous discussions, maybe even
33 at some of these meetings, that the Park Service
34 basically has regulations in place that prohibit a lot
35 of that activity. And the purpose of the EA is to try
36 to address some concerns from some of our SRCs, or
37 Subsistence Resource Commissions to look at changing
38 the regulations to allow some of those practices to
39 occur.

40

41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, thanks, Ken.

42

43 There's nobody here from the BLM, so
44 I'll move on to the State ADF&G. Since you guys handed
45 this out, I'm just going to assume that everybody read
46 it and we'll ask you questions about it if need be, but
47 if it will save you time, I don't think you really need
48 to go over this. It's all self explanatory unless
49 there's any really important stuff in here that you
50 wanted to mention along with whatever you want to say.

1 I would like you to speak to the Council on Proposal 23
2 while you're there.

3

4 MS. HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 What I will do is I will go through and highlight some
6 of the changes in this wildlife report of some hunts or
7 kind of what we're going to be doing for fieldwork and
8 next spring. Since this is a Board of Game year for
9 the Department in November, I'll go through and just
10 give the preliminary and ours for the proposals for
11 Unit 22. Tony Gorn is out. He's the one that's been
12 dealing with Proposal 23. We're going to have Peter
13 Bente, our management coordinator, go over it.

14

15 Is there any questions on the moose
16 that we did? For this past spring we did a moose
17 census in cooperation with Park Service in 22D and 22E.
18 For 22D census estimate were about right at 1,600
19 moose. That puts us right at our population objective
20 of 1,600. In 22E the census estimate is 669 moose,
21 which compared to 2003 going back that's a 4 percent
22 increase.

23

24 Future moose work we'll be doing
25 composition work. Hopefully come this October if not
26 sooner as soon as we start getting some really good
27 frost or even some snow on the ground. Then we will be
28 censusing next spring 22A, the Unalakleet River
29 Drainage going north up to the Shaktoolik River and in
30 between to north of Gosolvia, so that's what we will be
31 doing.

32

33 For muskox work, we did some collaring
34 this past spring as well around the Nome area 22B and
35 C. We currently have 22 active collars. These are VHF
36 collars. What we've done between 2000 and 2008 our cow
37 mortality rates are anywhere between 4 and 23 percent.
38 What Ken was telling you as well, that correlates.
39 We're seeing high adult cow mortality as well as what
40 they're seeing up in Bella. We plan on collaring in
41 the fall of 2012 for muskox.

42

43 For composition surveys we did that in
44 the spring of 2011 also in cooperation with National
45 Park Service. We did 22C, D and E. I can just quickly
46 go through the bull:cow ratios for you. 22C is 21:100,
47 22D is 29:100 and 22E is 53:100 cows. Now that's the
48 spring.

49

50 Jim Waller is from the National Park

1 Service. We just did a fall composition up in the
2 Preserve area in August. What we got for bull:cow
3 ratio is 26 bulls per 100 cows. Remember in the fall
4 time they're moving around, they're starting to get
5 into the rut. I need to qualify as well that when I'm
6 talking about the bull:cow ratio, I'm talking about
7 mature bulls four years of age and older. In the fall
8 time they just have a tendency to just not be together
9 as much as they are in the spring.

10

11 So future spring muskox work will be
12 continuing with our composition surveys, 22C and 22B
13 west. Then right after we finish up with our moose
14 surveys in 22A we'll do a complete muskox census on the
15 Seward Peninsula.

16

17 MR. SMITH: Letty, I have a question.
18 I don't understand your comment about the animals being
19 segregated by sex in the fall. What difference does
20 that make? You're sampling a sample of the muskox,
21 aren't you? Would it matter whether they're aggregated
22 together or separated?

23

24 MR. HUGHES: Through the Chair to Mr.
25 Smith. You can see just from the spring composition
26 how we came across 53 bulls per 100 cows and in the
27 fall we came across 26. I should also say that was all
28 of Unit 20E for the spring, whereas with the fall that
29 was just within the Preserve area, but because they're
30 starting to get into the rut, we miss a lot of those
31 mature bulls just because they're kind of just
32 wandering off, they're kind of going by themselves at
33 times looking for those cows. So the groups that we
34 find mainly are just consisted of a lot of cows or
35 mixed age animals, maybe not necessarily those mature
36 bulls right away.

37

38 MR. SMITH: That's a problem any time
39 of the year. There's no sense doing composition counts
40 if you can't get a valid sample.

41

42 MS. HUGHES: We get a better sample for
43 22E if we want to look at our bulls, but the spring and
44 the fall also give us looks at calves as well of that
45 crop and kind of let's us know what they're doing over
46 in that area.

47

48 MR. SMITH: Yeah.

49

50 MR. MARTIN: 22A remainder. I have a

1 question for aerial surveys in our area. Still, the
2 Department does not have enough money to do any aerial
3 survey. I would like to get some kind of a report for
4 my area, for Stebbins and St. Michael, 22A, for the
5 fall and winter report.

6

7 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair to Mr.
8 Martin. Yes, and that has come up. I will bring it
9 again to our office and see what we can do. Right now
10 we're scheduled for the 22E or 22A, Unalakleet River
11 Drainage area. But I will bring it up and see what
12 other plans there could be.

13

14 MR. MARTIN: You know, the stock from
15 Yukon area and Lower Yukon, all them migrate to our
16 area too.

17

18 MS. HUGHES: So I also provided for the
19 harvest and quota for the regulatory year 2010, 2011
20 was last year. You can quickly take a look. The next
21 page. One of the differences for this current
22 regulatory year that we've done for the muskox and this
23 partially answers Mr. Martin's question is for the
24 previously included 22C, outside of the closed area.
25 Well, since muskox have decided to just kind of take
26 camp around the Nome area, to help with that we've --
27 and with the low bull:cow ratios we've taken away the
28 bull hunt and made it only a cow hunt.

29

30 So what was formerly the closes area we
31 have made it open to five cows and that's a weapons
32 restricted hunt, which opens up in January. Those
33 permits were issues July 26. Then outside of that
34 weapons restricted hunt we have a quota of three cows
35 and they can be taken with a firearm. There's no
36 weapons restrict or a bow out in the area. That also
37 opens up January 1st as well.

38

39 MR. GRAY: Can I jump in here?

40

41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Uh-huh.

42

43 MR. GRAY: All of a sudden we're
44 shooting a lot of cows in this muskox hunt. Does that
45 mean you guys have met your goals as far as the amount
46 of animals you want on that range and now you're going
47 to shoot cows?

48

49 The other issue I guess is 22C. I'm
50 one of the guys that had a problem with a muskox. My

1 son was home and all of a sudden the house started just
2 shaking. A bull muskox was trying to get at our dog
3 and this muskox was just beating the steps. I've got
4 steps made out of timbers on my house and here we've
5 got a muskox trying to get at my dog and it's pounding
6 away at the steps. Fortunately it didn't get it, but
7 we have a problem with bulls in this area and dominant.

8

9

10 Again, looking at this, all of a sudden
11 we're shooting a lot of cows and I'm not a real
12 believer in shooting cows if we're going to try and
13 develop a bigger herd. If you've met your objectives
14 and so on and so forth, maybe you're justified in doing
15 a cow hunt. It would be nice to see what your
16 objectives are on the Seward Peninsula for muskox for
17 moose. If you want 10,000 muskox here or 2,000 muskox
18 in the different areas how you justify what we're
19 hunting.

20

21 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair to Mr.
22 Gray. So concerning your question and so forth, that's
23 one we'll be taking up when we talk about Board of Game
24 Proposal 23, so Peter can go into more in depth on that
25 for you.

26

27 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Uh-huh.

30

31 MR. SMITH: Is that happening today?

32

33 MS. HUGHES: Yes, it is. It was
34 requested by the RAC to go over Proposal 23 as well.

35

36 MR. SMITH: I'd like to follow up on
37 what Tom said. I'd like to see goals established for
38 everything. I mean what are the goals for bears and
39 where are we going? It seems to me we're heading
40 without any real acknowledgement. We're heading for
41 very, very high bear numbers. Who knows what that
42 might be. There's a lot of bears out there now. We
43 don't have goals for anything. We don't really have
44 goals for anything at all. It seems to me that if you
45 don't do that, how can you manage if you don't know
46 where you're going. I think this increase in cow
47 harvest does look like a way to reduce the muskox
48 population. I'm not aware that anybody has ever
49 decided to do that, but I'm pretty sure that it will
50 have that effect. Why do we want to reduce the muskox

1 population at this point? I don't understand that.

2

3 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair to Mr.
4 Smith. As I said earlier, I'm going to actually have
5 Peter talk on that more when we get into Proposal 23.

6

7 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Letty, there hasn't
8 really been an increase in cow harvest or cow
9 opportunity. Several of these areas have had cows in
10 the quota since we went to a registration hunt. The
11 only really new thing for cows is the 22C, which they
12 got eight permits out there for eight cows. When you
13 consider the past harvest in 22C, that's a next to
14 nothing harvest even if it is eight cows in my opinion.

15

16 However, even though there's been cows
17 in the quota, your figures I guess just don't include
18 it because you're 2010-2011 harvest and quota figures,
19 the harvest doesn't show any cows, but I'm almost sure
20 there were some cows harvested in some of the various
21 hunts, is that correct?

22

23 MS. HUGHES: Mr. Chair. You are
24 correct. If my memory serves me right, 22D, I want to
25 say Kuzitrin where it had the cows, we did close that
26 by EO because we met that, but for the majority we have
27 cows available to harvest in that hunt, very little
28 cows are taken. It's mainly bulls that are taken.

29

30 CHAIRMAN QUINN: And then as far as
31 goals, at least for muskox, there is a muskox
32 management plan. Letty, does that plan vary from sub-
33 unit to sub-unit or is it just a total Unit 22 plan?

34

35 MS. HUGHES: I believe it's a total
36 Unit 22 plan, but Peter can correct me if I'm wrong on
37 that.

38

39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: And that plan is
40 currently being rewritten by the Department, correct,
41 Peter?

42

43 MR. BENTE: Agencies.

44

45 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, the word was
46 last spring that the new plan was going to be out and
47 the AC would get to look at it and blah, blah, blah,
48 and that didn't happen. At least in theory the plan is
49 being rewritten and will be available at some point for
50 comment by the public. So muskox has a plan. I'm not

1 that familiar with it, but it is there.

2

3 MR. MARTIN: Question.

4

5 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Peter.

6

7 MR. MARTIN: On 22A. I have a question
8 about that if we had to go to Unit 18 to do moose
9 hunting and we're in 22A, we're allowed one bull moose
10 antler. If we cross over to Unit 18, down there
11 everything is a go for, everything, antlers.....

12

13 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair to Mr.
14 Martin.

15

16 MR. MARTIN: Hold on. Unit 22A, if we
17 went down to Unit 18, if we got a moose that is
18 antlerless down that way, but in Unit 22A remainder we
19 are allowed only antlers, what's the situation on that?

20

21 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair to Mr.
22 Martin. From what I know, and they talked about it
23 yesterday with Unit 18 on that lower Yukon area, that
24 population has tremendous growth to the point where
25 they're having to try to reduce calf recruitment to
26 help stop before the population has a crash. As far as
27 we are aware in 22A remainder, we're not hearing about
28 this influx or this population growth going on, but
29 without having an updated number I can't say for
30 certain. But that's what's going on in Unit 18 in your
31 neighborhood.

32

33 MR. MARTIN: If we go down to Unit 18,
34 we can go ahead and take the antlerless moose or are we
35 still allowed to get only antlered?

36

37 MR. PAPPAS: Through the Chair, sir.
38 George Pappas, Fish and Game. I think your question is
39 you're allowed more liberal regulations for hunting
40 moose in Unit 18 than you are 22, so you're talking
41 about running across the line to 18, getting an
42 antlerless moose and bring it home and then wanting to
43 hunt an antlered moose in 22A, is that the question?

44

45 MR. MARTIN: I had a question and the
46 question was before I crossed over to Unit 18 and got
47 an antlerless will that be legal?

48

49 MR. PAPPAS: The way the regulations
50 work, sir, if you are planning on getting two moose in

1 a year, you want to harvest your animal in 22A first
2 and then go to Unit 18 and harvest a second animal
3 because if you went and hunted an animal in Unit 18
4 first and you came back to 22, you've already had your
5 limit for the year, so you can't -- you have to go the
6 other way. You have to harvest in 22 first and then
7 Unit 18.

8

9 MR. MARTIN: I know most of our hunters
10 don't do that and get only one moose. My question was
11 Unit 22A allowed a bull, then Unit 18 you can just
12 about get whatever. The question was if I crossed over
13 from 22A and went to Unit 18, am I allowed to get
14 antlerless moose from 22A, which I'm allowed only a
15 bull moose.

16

17 MS. HUGHES: Mr. Martin. Currently you
18 can go over to Unit 18, but as the regulations
19 currently read as of right now, it's open from December
20 20th through February 28th for one moose. So between
21 August 10th and September 30th that's for one antlered
22 bull and then from September 1st through September 30th
23 that's for one antlered bull, so same as in 22A
24 remainder. But if you wanted to go over December 20th
25 through February 28th, then you could take just one
26 moose. That's how the regulation reads right now.

27

28 MR. MARTIN: So you're saying that I
29 can go down there and get an antlerless right now until
30 September 30th?

31

32 MS. HUGHES: Until September 30th you
33 could go over to that area, crossing over into Unit 18
34 into that lower Yukon for one antlered bull.

35

36 MR. MARTIN: Quyana.

37

38 MR. ENINGOWUK: Letty, this is Fred.
39 While we're on the moose subject, just recently done a
40 survey on moose in 22E and with those figures would it
41 be possible with the survey of the moose to reopen the
42 cow in that area?

43

44 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair. That's
45 something I will bring up to Tony Gorn, the area
46 biologist, on that. We're right at our population
47 objective of 1,600 moose. What we don't want to see is
48 this fall below that population because 22E has
49 struggled with recruitment and population, so we're
50 right at that right now. So I will bring it up to him

1 and I can get back with you to see what he says.

2

3 MR. ENINGOWUK: Thank you. I just
4 didn't know what was the survey when the cow season was
5 closed up there versus this recent survey.

6

7 MS. HUGHES: We'll look into that.

8

9 MR. MARTIN: Another thing I'd like to
10 bring up too. Unit 22A was only an antlered bull moose
11 hunt in the winter season. By that time, maybe in
12 February, the horns drop off. One question that I
13 wanted to say and many of the subdistricts have an
14 antlerless moose season and Unit 22A mainly always had
15 only antlered bull season. I'd like to see if there's
16 a way maybe we can make a proposal that we can make an
17 antlerless moose season.

18

19 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair to Mr.
20 Martin. That is something we can look at and putting
21 in proposals has already passed, so that could be for
22 the next Board of Game cycle. If your community wanted
23 to put in requesting for an antlerless hunt. Right
24 now, as far as I know, it's been one antlered bull for
25 a while.

26

27 MR. MARTIN: I feel discriminated when
28 my surrounding units have an opportunity to go get
29 antlerless moose and my unit, Unit 22A, they get only
30 antlered moose. Equality and human nature we would be
31 equal to everyone. Quyana.

32

33 MS. HUGHES: Okay. I'm going to move
34 into some Board of Game. Board of Game this year for
35 Alaska Department of Fish and Game is November 11 to
36 14th. It's being held in Barrow at the Inupiat
37 Heritage Center. If the RAC wants to make comments or
38 any public comments, they're all due to Board Support
39 by October 28th.

40

41 I should also mention that the Northern
42 Norton Sound Advisory Committee, we will be meeting
43 October 11th.

44

45 CHAIRMAN QUINN: How do you know that?
46 I don't know that.

47

48 MS. HUGHES: Unless it's changed, it's
49 October 11th. Is that correct, Peter?

50

1 MR. BENTE: The recommended date is
2 October 11th.
3
4 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Huh. Okay.
5
6 MS. HUGHES: As far as I know, time and
7 meeting place is still in the works. Groups have been
8 invited, so we're just imagining that's going to be
9 fairly larger than past AC meetings. So we'll go
10 through a much more comprehensive review of these Unit
11 22 proposals at the AC meeting.
12
13 MR. GRAY: Do you guys have an idea
14 when the next AC meeting is?
15
16 CHAIRMAN QUINN: October 11th.
17
18 MR. GRAY: I'm just dealing with stuff.
19
20 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Me too. I'm irritated
21 because these guys know there's a meeting and I don't.
22
23 MS. HUGHES; Yes, October 11th as far --
24 unless something else changes.
25
26 MR. GRAY: I never got anything either.
27
28 MR. BENTE: It hasn't been announced by
29 the Board. It's a recommended date.
30
31 MS. HUGHES: Yeah, recommended date of
32 October 11th.
33
34 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Who made that
35 recommendation?
36
37 MR. BENTE: The chair.
38
39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.
40
41 MR. GRAY: I've got to admit that the
42 caribou thing has been very well put out to the Board
43 and that was well taken care of and I appreciate that,
44 but this RAC thing -- or not the RAC. The AC, I've
45 been on it for a long time and it's very hard to get a
46 handle on when the meeting is, so that's why I asked.
47
48 MR. SMITH: I've got a comment on that
49 too. I don't even go to the AC meetings anymore
50 because it's a waste of time. Nobody participates.

1 It's just a private little club and the Boards don't
2 pay any attention to the AC anymore anyway, so why
3 bother. Something needs to be changed. I remember in
4 the past there was a lot of public participation in the
5 Advisory Committee meetings and it's all gone now.
6 What's the point of doing it if it's just going to be a
7 handful of guys talking to each other.

8

9 MR. GRAY: We can talk about that in an
10 AC meeting. This isn't the place to talk about it.

11

12 MR. SMITH: Except there isn't going to
13 be anybody there to hear it, Tom. You can talk about
14 it.

15

16 CHAIRMAN QUINN: That's their choice,
17 Tim. There ain't anybody here at this meeting either.
18 Everybody here is either paid to be here or a Council
19 member. So that's just the way the public is right
20 now. That don't mean we shouldn't have meetings. We're
21 legally obligated to have these meetings, both these
22 RAC meetings and the State meetings. We're legally
23 obligated to have them. I appreciate the fact that the
24 State and the Feds go through the process to have these
25 meetings legally. If the public don't care to
26 participate, they've got no reason to come back and
27 complain.

28

29 MR. MARTIN: It's good to have AC
30 meetings before they have a Federal Subsistence AC
31 meeting.

32

33 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, Letty, continue
34 on.

35

36 MS. HUGHES: So these are preliminary
37 advice and recommendations. They can change, but for
38 now, for on the record, preliminary. Proposal 13 was
39 submitted by Science Now Project. The proposal would
40 establish a unit specific amount, reasonable and
41 necessary, for subsistence findings for wolf trapping
42 and separate findings for wolf hunting in Units 18, 22,
43 23 and 26A. That's an allocation issue. The
44 Department has no recommendations that's brought up by
45 the Board.

46

47 Proposal 14 is also submitted by
48 Project Science Now. This should be on the second page
49 of your second handout. The effects of this proposal
50 would close nonresident trapping seasons for beaver,

1 coyote, fox, lynx, marmot, martin, mink, muskrat, land
2 otter, squirrel, weasel, wolf and wolverine in Units
3 18, 22, 23 and 26A because the reasonable necessary
4 amount for subsistence ANS findings for these
5 furbearers and fur animals in these units states
6 harvestable portion in Code 99.025. Once again, this
7 is an allocation issue. The Department does not have a
8 recommendation.

9

10 Proposal 19, also submitted by Science
11 Now Project, would close nonresident hunting seasons
12 for beaver, coyote, fox, lynx, marmot, martin, mink,
13 muskrat, land otter, squirrel, weasel, wolf and
14 wolverines in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A because the ANS
15 findings for these furbearers and fur animals in the
16 units states
17 harvestable portion. Once again, this is an allocation
18 issue. We have no recommendation.

19

20 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Do you want water? Go
21 ahead.

22

23 MR. SMITH: Are you planning to have a
24 RAC recommendations on these proposals?

25

26 CHAIRMAN QUINN: The only one I
27 personally want this RAC to participate in is 23
28 because it has ramifications on to the Federal side.
29 The other ones, as I see it are pretty much State
30 issues and can be handled through the AC. If anybody
31 feels different, we can certainly take a motion and go
32 forward with it.

33

34 MS. HUGHES: Okay. Proposal 22 is
35 submitted by the Department. This reauthorizes the
36 antlerless moose seasons in Unit 22C and 22D. The
37 Department recommendation is adopt. I should mention
38 that, you know, for the antlerless moose seasons, in
39 order for us to have them they have to be reauthorized
40 every year by the Board or it just defaults back to
41 there's no longer an antlerless hunt.

42

43 MR. GRAY: Let me jump in here. 22D,
44 has there been an antlerless hunt in there? We're
45 talking cows. That's been in place for a while?

46

47 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: The remainder.

48

49 MR. GRAY: Oh, the remainder.

50

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah, over by Teller.

2

3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Kwethluk.

4

5 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah, that one has one
6 and then there's also in their registration hunt for
7 cows in D southwest. Oh, no, I'm wrong. I'm wrong.

8

9 MS. HUGHES: To answer Tom's question,
10 22D remainder for one moose during the season December
11 1st through December 31st and then 22C we have an
12 antlerless cow hunt that we hand out by registration
13 and we did that July 26th.

14

15 MR. GRAY: I guess my question is
16 you're asking the Board of Game to reauthorize this
17 thing. Have you gone out and done surveys and -- you
18 know, one thing I was looking for in the beginning of
19 this report was how many moose are in 22C because it
20 always comes before the AC board that we need to
21 rubberstamp this cow thing and I'm the only one that
22 votes against shooting cows. I don't believe in it. I
23 think maybe some areas need to be sacrificed to enhance
24 other areas.

25

26 So, anyway, I'm a little concerned here
27 that the surveys haven't been done. The structure may
28 have changed a little bit and yet we're rubberstamping
29 something that we really have no idea.

30

31 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair to Mr.
32 Gray. So when we did our 22D census estimate this past
33 spring, we've got calf to adult ratio is 12 calves per
34 100 adults, if I remember right. I want to say that
35 recruitment was about anywhere between 7 to 9 percent
36 on that. This is for 22C. You know, for our
37 population -- our population objective is 450 to 525
38 moose. When we did our census back in 2010, we had a
39 mid estimate point of 663. So we are above our
40 population objective. Our recruitment rate is like 10,
41 11 percent in that area. So that's why we had
42 suggested even too the Northern Norton Sound Advisory
43 Committee this is what we want to bring forward to the
44 book. That was recommended by the AC as well and the
45 AC can always meet on this and decide otherwise if they
46 so choose.

47

48 MR. GRAY: Again, my big concern was
49 whether there's a current census that you're basing
50 your decision from. It sounds like there is.

1 MS. HUGHES: Yes.
2
3 MR. GRAY: Thank you.
4
5 MR. SMITH: The RAC could take a
6 position on that, Tom, if you want to make a motion.
7
8 MR. GRAY: Let's get through all this
9 and we'll decide if we should talk about these after.
10
11 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Good idea.
12 Continue on, Letty.
13
14 MS. HUGHES: Proposal 27 was submitted
15 by Dan Reed. This proposal adds 22 days to the Unit 22
16 ptarmigan season by changing the season date from
17 September 1st through April 30th to August 10th through
18 April 30th. So this would not change the bag limit of
19 20 ptarmigan per day, 40 in possession. Our Department
20 recommendation is to adopt the September 1st through
21 April 30th dates of ptarmigan hunting.
22
23 Proposal 34 is a Department proposal.
24 It asks to reauthorize the resident tag exemption fee
25 for the general brown bear hunting season in Units 18,
26 22, 23, 26A and to reauthorize the tag fee exemption
27 for the subsistence brown bear hunt RB699 in Unit 18
28 along with RB700 in Unit 23 and what their permit
29 number is in Unit 18. Our Department recommendation is
30 to adopt. Once again it follows the same lines as with
31 the antlerless hunts. If this doesn't get authorized
32 by the Board every year, it just defaults back to a \$25
33 tag fee for both of those hunts.
34
35 Proposal 24 was submitted by the
36 Reindeer Herders Association, the Seward Peninsula RAC,
37 Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee and the Nome
38 Sportsman's Association. It's asking to lengthen the
39 Unit 22C brown bear season to August 1st through May
40 31st and increase the bag limit to one bear every
41 regulatory year. Our Department recommendation is to
42 amend and adopt.
43
44 So we recommend amending the proposal
45 to provide a split hunting season and not to change the
46 bag limit of one bear every four regulatory years. So
47 this amendment would retain the existing fall season of
48 August 1st through October 31st, but changing the
49 spring season from May 10th to May 25th to the end
50 dates of May 1st. So it would begin May 1st and May

1 31st, while still keeping the bag limit of one bear
2 every four regulatory years.

3

4 MR. MARTIN: Why is that August 1st to
5 May 31? What about in summer season when the bears are
6 out?

7

8 MS. HUGHES: I'm sorry. Could you
9 repeat that, please.

10

11 MR. MARTIN: That August 1st to May
12 31st, what about in summer season when the bears are
13 out, from August 1 to May 31? What about June and July
14 when the bears are out and giving them free time to get
15 the reindeer, you know?

16

17 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair to Mr.
18 Martin. It's a good question. Well, we considered it
19 and, you know, because what it was asking is just to
20 have the proposal be just like the rest of the units.
21 I'll just read the dates so I get it correct for you
22 guys.

23

24 CHAIRMAN QUINN: August 1st to May 31st
25 is the rest of the sub-units.

26

27 MS. HUGHES: Yeah. So however -- and
28 for Unit 22C for brown bear, you know, we already have
29 -- and what our moose population is for 22B west and
30 22D, those have been struggling populations in the
31 sense of like, you know -- especially 22B west
32 recruitment. We want to provide opportunity to still
33 hunt out here for 22C, so by adding two weeks earlier
34 for snow, travel conditions or so forth, it will still
35 harvest bears, but at the same time we still want
36 hunting pressure over in these areas where our moose
37 populations have still been struggling a little bit.

38

39 MR. MARTIN: You know, in Unit 22A we
40 have reindeer down there, Stebbins, St. Michael,
41 (indiscernible). We have a lot of bear down there and
42 when you close that season for hunting. We need to
43 protect our reindeer herd too in our community. Not
44 only that, also protect our community, our children and
45 community members in both Stebbins and St. Michael.

46

47 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Peter, you guys can
48 meet with that Southern Norton Sound AC and if you want
49 to submit a proposal in the future to open a hunting
50 season longer, you're certainly able to do it. You

1 might even receive some support from other members of
2 the Southern AC. You can certainly still use the DLP
3 option when you guys are worried about a bear harming
4 life and property.

5
6 MR. MARTIN: August 1st to May 31st,
7 bears are sleeping. By the time they wake up in June
8 and July, it's closed. Why is that?

9
10 MS. HUGHES: This action kind of goes
11 right along with Proposal 26 where it's asking to have
12 a no closed season on brown bear, so that's pretty much
13 -- I'll just go right into that. The Department does
14 not support that proposal mainly because we are not
15 with -- our ungulate population is doing fairly well.
16 We are not in an intensive management or predator
17 control situation where we need to take it to the
18 bears. We have -- like our management objective and
19 conservation issue is still to maintain at or near
20 where we're at with harvest numbers with bears in 22A
21 where it seems to be of the highest densities and we
22 seem to have really high harvest mainly through
23 nonresidents. Then what we have with the rest of Unit
24 22, we get approximately 92, 93 bears harvested a year.
25 So without having a real population estimate of
26 knowing, well, how much farther can we go before we're
27 actually seeing a really negative impact on the bear
28 population.

29
30 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Now wait a minute.
31 You've got no basis to say that, Letty. Here's your --
32 you submitted a chart showing 10 years of bear harvest.
33 That harvest has been stable. It's averaged 90 a year
34 for 10 years. You've got no data to say we're taking
35 it to the bears. Nothing. We're harvesting these
36 bears well within their carrying capacity. What your
37 graph doesn't show -- you know, I'd have left this
38 issue alone if you hadn't made that statement. What
39 this graph doesn't show is what happened in the '90s.
40 Before '95 the harvest was 60 bears a year. It jumped
41 to 90. The reason it jumped was because the seasons
42 and bag limits dampened harvest levels. Once the
43 restrictions were removed -- so up until '95 or
44 whenever the change was the harvest was way below
45 carrying capacity, way below. We increased the harvest
46 50 percent after '95 and it's remained that way for 15
47 years.

48
49 MS. HUGHES: To the Chair. To clarify,
50 I did not state that we were currently taking it to the

1 bears. Without having a current population estimate
2 and not knowing where we could go, we don't want to
3 just take it to the bears. That's what I meant. We
4 don't want to see a negative impact.

5
6 CHAIRMAN QUINN: This graph shows right
7 where we are. We're at a maintained long-term
8 sustainable harvest. I'm not going to get into the 22C
9 issue because that's a State issue. We have a long-
10 term stable harvest. The truth is, just like you said,
11 we don't have any bear population numbers, so we don't
12 even know if this is a low harvest. We very well could
13 harvest more bears and not change the overall
14 population numbers.

15
16 I'll point out the one thing you guys
17 refuse to accept. Most of the people in this unit want
18 less bears. Everybody in every village says it, and
19 including in this town. The Nome AC has consistently
20 approved or supported proposals to increase bear
21 harvest. Really, we can't do nothing else anywhere
22 else except like make the season open year round and
23 I'm not sure that will help that much. We've done
24 everything we can to give people the chance to harvest
25 bears.

26
27 So we're harvesting in everywhere else
28 as many as we possibly can without paying people to
29 harvest them. The only place where there's any
30 opportunity to find out if we can increase the harvest
31 is in 22C. You guys know doggone good and well you
32 ain't going to get any money to do bear population
33 things.

34
35 The Park Service is playing around with
36 something that's probably not going to produce anything
37 valid in my opinion, but you know what, if you'd go
38 along with the proposal to increase 22C you might find
39 out. You might find out how many bears we can continue
40 to harvest on a long-term basis and if we find out the
41 population starts to decrease and everybody except you
42 guys is happy with that, we can go back to the Board of
43 Game and change 22C back to its old self.

44
45 Louie.

46
47 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair, Letty. I sat on
48 the Advisory Committee for 13 years and it was very
49 frustrating when it come to dealing with bears. I grew
50 up in this community and I've been here for 50 years of

1 my 53 and I grew up at a time when there weren't any
2 bears here. It was very very few that we ever seen.
3 Then the Department got into this management scheme of
4 we've got to create more habitat for bears or have it
5 up there for everybody in the world to come here and
6 visit us and see. It can turn into a tourism
7 attraction. It's always been a very very contentious
8 issue.

9

10 Mike's right, people don't want bears
11 around the community. But against what we believe and
12 desire, the Department continues to keep this
13 population -- basically, I think it's increased. You
14 know, when you see four cubs to a sow, you know they're
15 doing pretty healthy -- they're living pretty healthy.
16 When you see muskox living in Icy View around my house,
17 when you see reindeer parked around there in the
18 springtime, you know the predation level has got to be
19 up outside the circle somewhere creating a problem. So
20 the Department in my opinion -- and my opinion is that
21 the Department has created a problem with the wildlife
22 here and they want to have Northern Exposure in Nome,
23 Alaska.

24

25 I think that, like Mike says, let's
26 open it up and let's see what happens in 22C when you
27 offer the opportunity out there for everybody to go out
28 and get a bear. One every four years, I don't buy
29 that. It should be one every year just like the rest
30 of them. Keep consistent.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MR. MARTIN: I agree with Mr. Green
35 there. He's right, nobody wants bears. They're in my
36 community too. We've got nothing to do with bears. We
37 leave them alone, but we have to protect our interests,
38 you know, in Stebbins area and Unit 22A remainder. We
39 have reindeer in Stebbins and St. Michael. We have to
40 protect -- even to go berry picking you have to take a
41 big gun to do the berry picking, but you have to have
42 that big rifle.

43

44 In the spring time, you know, after
45 they sleep all winter long the bears are hungry and
46 their food source is reindeer and we have to protect
47 them. After that in the summer all the games are out.
48 The bears can eat anything they want, but in springtime
49 too. The time when after the bears wake up they're
50 hungry and the only food source in our area is the

1 reindeers. But nobody wants bears is true. Mr. Green,
2 thank you for your comment.

3

4 MR. GRAY: I'd like to come back to
5 this proposal we're talking about. There's several
6 things about what's happened. Number one, you took
7 away the \$25 fee, so you have no idea of how many
8 people are interested in killing bears. I was very
9 opposed to taking that fee away. You say it creates
10 opportunity and people can shoot bears, but as managers
11 you have no idea how many people are interested in
12 killing a bear. So my suggestion is reinstate it.
13 Twenty-five dollars is nothing in this time and age and
14 you'll have an idea of what you're trying to manage.

15

16 Everybody wants to get rid of bears.
17 The reindeer industry. You know, we screamed and
18 hollered get rid of bears, get rid of bears. Now we
19 have wolves. Wolves are 10 times worse than bears. So
20 you start adding these factors in, you're not going to
21 have a moose population, you're not going to have a
22 reindeer population. Bears are learning to kill wolves
23 -- or kill wolves, I'm sorry. Bears are learning to
24 kill muskox. So the resources we're dependant on are
25 being hammered by other resources.

26

27 I think we need to step back and look
28 at this proposal to see what impacts it's going to do.
29 I personally think there's only a certain number of
30 people that are hunting bears in this area every year.
31 Opening up 22C is not going to mean that there's more
32 people hunting per the whole unit. I think you're
33 going to displace some of the hunters. Very few of
34 them. They're going to take advantage of this
35 opportunity to hunt in this area, but I don't think
36 you're going to displace a lot of hunting pressure.

37

38 I think that May 1st is kind of a slap
39 in the face to the public. The public has been
40 screaming to you guys to change these regulations for a
41 long time. At the very least I would say open it up
42 April 15th.

43

44 The other question I have is you guys
45 have a process that you go through to come up with
46 these recommendations for dealing with these things.
47 Is there time to convince you maybe through the AC
48 board or some other process to convince you to go to
49 April 15th versus May 1st?

50

1 I'm a hunting guide. I see a lot of
2 bears. I don't want to see the bear population wiped
3 out, but when you look at the people hunting these
4 bears, I don't think you're going to have a big
5 increase in killing. I think you're going to have --
6 what few bears get taken in 22C is going to enhance the
7 moose population, the reindeer hers, whatever the bears
8 are killing. Can you imagine what a bear eats in fish
9 alone, one bear, when they get on the river system? So
10 there's all kinds of resources that is going to get
11 enhanced here.

12
13 Anyway, my question is I would like to
14 see April 15th as an opening date as a compromise to
15 this thing. You know, we'd like to see it aligned with
16 the rest of them. I really don't care about the four
17 year or one year thing. It would be great to see a
18 one-year thing, but as a compromise to this whole big
19 worms, April 15th will give people opportunity and I
20 don't think you're going to see a big displacement of
21 hunters moving into 22C. I think it's going to be a
22 positive thing and resources are going to be a positive
23 thing.

24
25 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah, Tony.

26
27 MR. KEYES: I would like to back up Mr.
28 Gray on moving this date because bears now are coming
29 out much more earlier in April than they used to
30 because springtime warms up real quick and the bears
31 are out before May 1. They're out by at least the
32 second week of April. So I would back him up saying
33 that we should open that to April 15 instead of May
34 1st.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Louie and then Elmer.

41
42 MR. GREEN: Years ago when I was on the
43 AC we had a meeting and Elmer was on the phone from
44 Brevig attending. The question came up -- I think, I'm
45 not trying to put words in your mouth, but I kind of
46 recall you asking what's going to happen if the bear
47 population increases. My comment back was that people
48 are going to take it into their own hands and they'll
49 take care of them. What you've done is you've created
50 that. I know it happens around here in 22C. I've

1 heard of it. If everyone is telling the truth, that's
2 quite a bit. If half the stories are not truth, then
3 there's half the amount taken. It did happen like I
4 said it would when you asked that question. I think
5 you alluded to that on your own over there speaking
6 towards that yesterday.

7

8 So Fish and Game needs to take a real
9 close look at what they have created. If you take
10 something away from somebody and they're going to go
11 around the corner and take care of business. Thanks.

12

13 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, Peter. Oh,
14 wait, I'm sorry. Elmer, you wanted to say something.

15

16 MR. SEETOT: I was just going to -- I
17 think the bear season will not decrease the bear
18 population in nearby communities of Brevig and Teller.
19 One, bear population harvest is pretty much non-
20 existent. No one is interested in bears at least
21 around those communities other than in defense of life
22 and property they'll report to Fish and Game. If
23 there's no one watching them, they'll get it. Every
24 camp along the Toksook Channel, all these camps are
25 owned by residents of Teller, Mary's Igloo, have been
26 broken into by bears pretty much every year, so it's
27 become a problem. Even in camps around the Agiapuk
28 River.

29

30 Like I said before if you want to
31 decrease the bear population, you have to have hunters
32 in that area to take them out. Brevig Mission I don't
33 think would be able to handle the bear population.
34 Pretty much no history of bear harvest. Pretty much
35 like the muskox it just -- animals that are a part of
36 the ecosystem that are either beneficial or displacing
37 other animals that we have been so used to. So that's
38 what I'm just kind of saying again.

39

40 If you want to decrease the bear
41 population, instead of just lengthening the season like
42 other agencies want, recruit the hunters. I'm not
43 saying openly, but local people can -- oh, I think we
44 can go together and hunt a brown bear. Many people are
45 interested in hunting moose because that's their meat
46 on the table. Bears, it really doesn't provide
47 anything other than maybe I got a bear. That's about
48 it, at least for us. But for other regions or other
49 areas, you know, it's pretty much a hunt for them
50 because they have been doing it for so long that they

1 are part of management system that pretty much controls
2 the compilation in each area like 22.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Thank you. Peter.

7

8 MR. BENTE: To the Chair and to members
9 of the Council. My name is Peter Bente. I'm with
10 Department of Fish and Game. So there's been a lot of
11 questions that have been raised and a lot of comments.
12 I appreciate the information you've brought. I think
13 I'll take a couple of the questions that were brought
14 up first.

15

16 What you were presented with was a
17 preliminary analysis and recommendation. They can be
18 changed by the Department. They are preliminary until
19 the day or the time that the Board meets and they're
20 submitted then as final comments usually the morning of
21 when the Board meeting commences, sometimes the day
22 before. So that was one question, could they be
23 changed. They're preliminary at this point and there
24 could be further discussion that would change it.

25

26 Let's see. I'll go into the position
27 the Department has on bear harvest and bear
28 populations. We have harvest objectives, population
29 objectives and harvest objectives for ungulates; moose,
30 muskox, caribou and a variety of species. When we
31 don't meet either population objectives or harvest
32 objectives, then there's a law that gets implemented
33 and that's called intensive management law. When we
34 begin intensive management, that opens the door for
35 predator control. Predator control then is an
36 additional means to reduce the numbers of predators.
37 Wolves and bears are primarily the two species that are
38 covered in our predator control management plans.

39

40 Right now in Unit 22 we are meeting
41 population objectives, although we're at the low end,
42 and we're meeting harvest objectives. So there is no
43 requirement and there's been no action by the Board of
44 Game to start predator control. So in the absence of
45 that the Department's position is to maintain in this
46 case bear populations at a population level that allows
47 sustainable harvest.

48

49 Sustainable harvest is guidance the
50 Department receives from our bear specialist and we've

1 had a number of them on staff in past years. Depending
2 on the area and depending on a few things, there's a
3 range of what was considered sustainable harvest and
4 I'll ballpark it at 5 to 10 percent. So we took that
5 guidance information at the Department level and then
6 started to apply it to what we knew about bears in Unit
7 22 and maybe even more specifically Unit 22C. You can
8 go smaller and smaller in the areas.

9
10 Member Green talked about low numbers
11 of bears quite a long time ago and that was at a time
12 that the Department believes we were still experiencing
13 the effects of predator control prior to statehood in
14 the Federal program. That was a reduced population.
15 What the Department wants to consider is a sustainable
16 population at a natural level.

17
18 Okay. So we have one population
19 estimate or population census effort in Unit 22 and
20 that was what we call a mark recapture, MCR mark,
21 capture and recapture. It was a telemetry based,
22 radio-collar based program in the central part of the
23 Seward Peninsula started in 1988 and the final report
24 was in 1991. The summary estimate of bears, I don't
25 remember the number, but I remember the density is
26 approximately one bear per 30 square miles and that was
27 an area maybe it was 27.9 or whatever, but one bear per
28 30 square miles. We use that as a benchmark.

29
30 MR. SMITH: I think it was one bear per
31 34 kilometer square.

32 MR. BENTE: The question is what's the
33 unit of measurement, kilometers or miles. My memory in
34 reading the report was miles. That will impact what I
35 want to say further, but based on that density then we
36 calculated what could be an expected or an anticipated
37 or an extrapolated population for any of the subunits
38 or the whole of the Peninsula. Again, I don't have
39 that extrapolation number but I do know that the
40 harvest rates that we were experiencing at the time of
41 the '91 census report was in the 8 to 10 percent range
42 of harvest.

43
44 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Based on the census.

45
46 MR. BENTE: Based on the census, which
47 was a small area extrapolated to a larger area and then
48 you look at the total harvest for the unit. So at the
49 Department level we felt based on guidance from bear
50 biologists saying that we're at the upper level of

1 sustainable harvest and we've continued that stance or
2 that position on the population knowing full well that
3 we've responded to the public saying there's too many
4 bears, so we eliminated the tag fee or made the
5 recommendation and the Board took action. We
6 lengthened the seasons and such and we saw a
7 significant increase in harvest.

8

9 What we anticipate now is if we go to a
10 no close season or a longer season and a bear per year
11 in Unit 22C that we will be pushing that upper harvest
12 limit very high. At this point, without the mandate
13 for intensive management and predator control we've
14 recommended against it. That concludes my comments.
15 I'll take more questions.

16

17 CHAIRMAN QUINN: So you said in '91 you
18 thought you were at the upper limit of a harvest rate,
19 8 to 10 percent, and that was higher than what your
20 experts said a population could take. I think all the
21 changes happened the same year. You dropped the tag
22 fee, we increased the season and one of the really big
23 deals was -- the whole unit went from, except 22C, one
24 every four to one a year. That totally changed the
25 ball game.

26

27 MR. BENTE: My memory, and I don't have
28 the specific record, that they were incremental
29 changes. We started in '97 with no tag fee and the
30 next Board meeting in '99 we adjusted seasons. Anyhow,
31 they happened in a early part of the period we're
32 talking about, but it wasn't one fell swoop at one
33 meeting.

34

35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. I don't
36 remember either. But I want to say the same graph from
37 the '90s shows basically a one-year change of 60 to 90
38 bears and that 90 has held since that time. I know the
39 60 figure is right. From somewhere in the '90s back,
40 average harvest for quite a while was 60. So you tell
41 me whether you remember that or not.

42

43 MR. BENTE: It's close to that number,
44 but for the long-term average harvest prior to
45 regulation change in '97 the number we have averages 54
46 for the unit, 54 bears per year. So very close to 60.

47

48 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Then we
49 quickly went to 90. So your decision that we are
50 harvesting at the upper limit was totally off. Totally

1 wrong. And we've proved that through all these years
2 of a consistent harvest of 90 bears a year on average.
3 Is that figure acceptable, 90 a year on average?

4
5 MR. BENTE: I think since regulation
6 change in '97 the average harvest per year is 94. So a
7 little bit higher than your number.

8
9 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Great. That
10 makes my case even better. So you guys were totally
11 wrong before '97. If we increase our harvest by 50
12 percent of what it was, that's way of. So I've just
13 got to ask now if you aren't still off. We ain't there
14 yet. We don't know what this population will take. So
15 we either need a good census, which we ain't gonna get.
16 Sorry, but we ain't getting it. You know that. Or we
17 need to increase harvest and see if it's sustainable.
18 Where am I wrong, Tim?

19
20 MR. SMITH: I'm not really sure. Do
21 you agree with the Department's strategy on bear
22 management or not? I can't really tell.

23
24 CHAIRMAN QUINN: No, because they've
25 consistently been wrong.

26
27 MR. SMITH: Well, I do have to jump in
28 here. Going back to that, I was one of the principal
29 investigators on that bear census. It was from Nome
30 almost to Council. That was the area that was covered.
31 Very specifically we said that this cannot be
32 extrapolated. You can't extrapolate it. That's too
33 bad. There's no magic silver bullet for estimating
34 bear numbers.

35
36 I think Mike is absolutely right, that
37 what Park Service is trying to do to find an easier way
38 to get bear counts over a larger area is going to fail.
39 There's no way to do it. The only way to do it that we
40 found so far is this mark recapture program, which is
41 extremely expensive, it takes a number of years, you've
42 got to keep tagging bears, you try to tag all the bears
43 in the census area, you've got to keep going out with a
44 bunch of airplanes and at least one helicopter and just
45 plug away and plug away at it until you get as many as
46 you can marked. But you can't do that in a large area.
47 There's no way. You can't afford to do it even in a
48 small area anymore. We were lucky to have the funds to
49 do it and it can't be expanded to a larger area. All
50 it's good for is that little area that you covered.

1 What we did determine is that -- and we
2 did the census I think in 1989 was that bear densities
3 in that area, that portion from Nome to Council, were
4 higher than any place they've been estimated north of
5 the Alaska Range. That doesn't mean the whole
6 Peninsula is at that density. That area is good. One
7 of the reasons it was so good is because the Davis
8 Reindeer Herd was so large at that time. It's a damn
9 good source of food for them. The coast, the fish
10 runs. Well, all that's changed. There's a lot of
11 things changed. There used to be hundreds of walrus
12 carcasses on the beach out here. They're not there
13 anymore. The salmon runs are in the toilet. So a lot
14 of things have changed. I don't think you can apply
15 anything that we did in 1989 to today.

16
17 On the other hand, I've flown almost
18 8,000 hours of low level survey flights on the Seward
19 Peninsula and I think there's a lot of bears out there.
20 I see them all the time. In fact, a lot of times I go
21 out I see more bears than anything else.

22
23 The State's de facto position, the
24 State doesn't have objectives, doesn't have population
25 objectives for bears, but the de facto position since
26 Statehood without actually stating it is we're going
27 for maximum bear populations. The harvesting isn't
28 reducing bear numbers. If you go out and harvest males
29 or lone females, you're not reducing the bear
30 population. So we're going to find out how many bears
31 can live on the Seward Peninsula and I've got a feeling
32 it's quite a lot.

33
34 Your comments, Letty, definitely struck
35 a nerve with Mike. Well, the other comment that struck
36 a nerve is that the ungulate populations are healthy.
37 Well, they're not healthy. They're not healthy at all.
38 The first thing I did when I came out here is I studied
39 moose. We had some of the best moose population in the
40 state of Alaska then. Our harvest was over 400 moose.
41 I don't know exactly how many reindeer we were taking
42 then, but it was a lot. You may know, but there were
43 25,000 reindeer on the Seward Peninsula at that time.
44 I doubt if there's even 8,000 reindeer on the Seward
45 Peninsula right now and we're harvesting almost none.
46 The muskox populations are -- you know, this was the
47 most successful muskox transplant in the state of
48 Alaska here. It was doing great. Now all of a sudden
49 it's not doing good at all. I predict that in the
50 future we're going to be in deep trouble with muskoxen.

1
2 We've got a problem. I don't know
3 exactly what to do. I may be a minority. I like
4 seeing bears. I like seeing bears around, but at some
5 point you're going to have too many. Maybe we're there
6 now. There's a lot of bears. Every time I go out I'm
7 worried about them.

8
9 I don't know where I'm going with this,
10 but personally I want to see more ungulate populations
11 and I do think we need predator control. I really
12 think we need to reduce the numbers of wolves and bears
13 on the Seward Peninsula if we want to have more hunting
14 opportunity. Two weeks of moose hunting is not enough.
15 Most people not getting moose. It's just not enough.
16 We can do better than that.

17
18 MR. GRAY: I'd like to jump in. I
19 guess, Tim, there's two of us. I'm a hunting guide, so
20 I like to see bears too. But on the other side of the
21 coin I've been here like Louie all my life and I
22 remember the days when I would walk to the Giant. I
23 don't know how many of you guys know what the Giant is,
24 but we'd never take guns, we'd always go up there as
25 kids, a bunch of kids. Never think about bears. I
26 remember the first wolf that I saw was by Salmon Lake
27 and we thought it was a dog. I was just a little kid.
28 So this is 50-some years ago.

29
30 I don't know about predation management
31 and leftovers. I know that Erin Simon shot one of the
32 first moose that came into this area and he just died
33 recently. So, you know, the moose populations are
34 something new in the last 100 years. Bear populations
35 are in the last 50, 60 years. The reindeer industry
36 has been here forever. The wolf and bears have
37 decimated the reindeer population.

38
39 I remember when there was, I think,
40 8,000 moose on the Seward Peninsula. We'll be lucky to
41 have 3,000 now. You talk about meeting management
42 goals and yet in the White Mountain area in six days
43 they shut down the hunting for moose because all 16 or
44 15 moose were shot and there's tons of people running
45 around wanting to shoot moose still. So we've got a
46 management goal that is not meeting the needs of the
47 consumers so to speak, the people in the region.

48
49 If you look at the Seward Peninsula as
50 a whole, there's tons of people out here wanting to

1 shoot a moose yet, wanting to go get muskox and, boom,
2 the cut-off has happened and you can't go anymore.
3 You've got a 14-day moose hunt in 22B west. Seven
4 days, six days into that hunt you've met your goals.
5 You haven't met the goals of the people, but you've met
6 your goals.

7
8 So, you know, we talked about fish
9 populations yesterday and management goals for fish and
10 we kept crying they're too low, the goals are too low.
11 Look at the reindeer industry and what's happened in
12 the last 20 years. He talks about 25,000 animals. At
13 one point there was 600,000 reindeer on the Seward
14 Peninsula and it was a thriving industry. Now whether
15 it's caribou or whatever the factors were it crashed.

16
17 I guess the point where I'm going is we
18 have this proposal that we're talking about which will
19 tweak what's going to happen. I believe that the moose,
20 the ungulate population is being hammered. The fish
21 population is being hammered by these bears, by these
22 wolves and it's impacting what you can do as a manager
23 to manage the moose population. Your goals are too
24 low. They need to be higher.

25
26 You know, we shouldn't have a
27 registration hunt for moose. We shouldn't be having a
28 registration hunt for muskox. In a good world,
29 everything is pristine, everybody should be able to go
30 out and shoot a moose. We talked about the lower Yukon
31 yesterday and two moose per person. Something happened
32 in that management unit that is -- maybe they don't
33 have wolves or have bears, but who knows.

34
35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Thank you.

36
37 MR. GRAY: Okay. Let me see. I made
38 some notes here. You know, the reindeer industry is
39 going to eventually come back, but it's not going to
40 come back in a timely fashion without the help of
41 people like you guys as biologists trying to manage for
42 the best of the best. It's I guess being reactive to
43 an issue. It's like the fishing industry. If you have
44 a gold mine go in and kill off a river and then the
45 Fish and Game becomes reactive and deals with that
46 issue.

47
48 In a sense, we're talking about the
49 same thing here. We've got a moose population at one
50 time -- I remember when I counted 106 moose on a

1 hillside. One hillside. It was common to see 30 and
2 40 moose in bunches in the Fish River drainage. You're
3 lucky in the whole season of hunting to see 10 or 15
4 moose and that's in a hunting period two weeks.

5
6 So I guess my thoughts on this reactive
7 thing about reacting to a bear population messing up
8 your management goals for moose or muskox that's kind
9 of a backwards way of dealing with it. You need to fix
10 the bear population issue or the wolf population issue
11 to build your muskox or your moose population. It
12 can't be a it crashed so bad we're going to react and
13 fix this population. I don't know if I'm saying what
14 I'm trying to say right.

15
16 The other thing I heard was the
17 population was leftovers of a management whatever.
18 There was a predator management control sometime back
19 and my vision was somebody went out and got rid of --
20 they managed the bear population to nothing. Well, in
21 my lifetime, the bear population has come from nothing
22 to something. It came from no moose to thousands of
23 moose and the moose crashed. That's in the last 50
24 years.

25
26 I just think, again, going back to this
27 proposal, I don't think the impacts are going to change
28 your predation on the bears in the Seward Peninsula. I
29 think the same number of people are going to go after
30 it. You're going to still have 90 people killing
31 bears. It's just opportunity is going to happen in
32 different areas. You're going to enhance, you're going
33 to help moose population, the caribou, so on and so
34 forth and they need to be helped. If we don't manage
35 those and help those now, we're going to have nothing,
36 just like the fish.

37
38 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah.

41
42 MR. GREEN: You just made me think of
43 something there, Tommy. These folks are doing a really
44 good job raising bears. I wish they were taking care
45 of the fish.

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 MR. GREEN: I mean that's, you know, a
50 compliment so to speak. You've got fish populations.

1 You're listening to people talk about bears and eating
2 fish. I remember bringing that up and, no, we don't
3 know if they're eating fish or not. Well, okay. Well,
4 they're killing moose. Well, we don't know if they're
5 killing moose or not. Now we're talking about muskox
6 getting killed by bears and I think probably the
7 reaction maybe we're not sure if they're doing it or
8 not.

9

10 Reindeer. Okay. We've got fish in the
11 Nome subdistrict depleted to the point where we're at
12 odds with the Department there. Okay. The muskox, the
13 moose and the reindeer populations have moved closer to
14 the human population. We're dealing with muskox in the
15 backyard. I've had bears in my yard at Icy View.

16

17 If anybody thinks that a wolf can't
18 catch and eat a fish, I've got a videotape of a dog
19 that I had over in the Solomon River running into the
20 river and grabbing pinks out of the river and throwing
21 them up on the beach. So you've got to expect that our
22 wolf population is growing too, creating a problem
23 there. It's not just the bears.

24

25 I'm probably one of the only people
26 that you know besides a biologist that's had a muskox
27 in my arms, a reindeer in my arms, a bear in my arms,
28 and a moose in my arms, you know, trying to help them
29 out a little bit. You can just imagine what it's like
30 for a bear to have one in his arms. There isn't going
31 to be much left of it when it's done.

32

33 I seen a bear up on Nine Mile, Ten Mile
34 corner over there come all the way from the outside
35 across the tundra, working its way to that hill. I
36 knew there was a muskox herd up there, but when he got
37 to the road he dug something out of the shoulder of the
38 road and the willows and jumped away with it. He had a
39 carcass of muskox.

40

41 So, you know, we've screamed and
42 hollered about the bear population and the human
43 population being a bad thing. It's not a good
44 coexistence I don't think and it's creating problems
45 with the moose, the muskox and the fish. So what are
46 we going to do about it? What's the Department going
47 to do about it?

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: No, I'm next. Well,
2 okay, I'll talk and Tim can talk. I'm going to ask you
3 guys to let it go because we're making the rest of
4 these guys sit here and listen to Nome people's whining
5 and crying over what we're dissatisfied with and these
6 guys are going to hear some of the same stuff at the AC
7 meeting more than likely.

8
9 Just out of curiosity, Peter, all of us
10 are always telling you about the consumptive side of
11 the equation and meeting our goals and killing the
12 animals and providing food. Let's say you guys change
13 your stance, you support this proposal, I mean the one
14 that changes it to coincide with the rest of the unit,
15 which also was written to accommodate DPS so that their
16 lives were a little bit easier and hopefully would
17 reduce some of the costs DPS has in enforcing stuff
18 around here.

19
20 But, anyway, let's say this all comes
21 to happen. Will there be people in your offices and on
22 the phone complaining that you're ruining their
23 opportunity to see bears in your estimation?

24
25 MR. BENTE: To the Chair, members of
26 the Council. The question is if we adopt a liberal
27 bear season as proposed, will we receive public comment
28 that we're impinging on tourism or that type of thing
29 and I will say yes. We may not hear it so much from
30 the local users, but certainly at our headquarters
31 level or our Department level we'll receive that type
32 of comment.

33
34 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Now that confuses me.
35 Maybe these people pay more attention to outside their
36 area than I'm used to, but the consumptive users don't
37 seem to get too -- you know, the consumptive users are
38 worried about what's going on around them. I don't hear
39 people from Tok complain too much about what does or
40 does not go on out here and vice versa. I would
41 suspect it would be the local tourists, whatever kind
42 of people that would be in your office and on the phone
43 expressing dissatisfaction with increasing bear
44 harvest.

45
46 MR. BENTE: We could certainly have
47 that experience that you describe, local people being
48 dissatisfied. I recall a situation I was involved with
49 with a brown bear sow and two cubs that were
50 frequenting the area of Icy View and the school and the

1 edge of Nome on the north side. This may have been in
2 the late '90s. I'm not sure what year it was. I went
3 out and shot the three bears because they were
4 considered a nuisance and a public safety threat. Up
5 until the point of shooting we heard only from the
6 people who were worried about all the bears. After the
7 point of shooting we heard very much about the people
8 who said why did you go kill the bears, we need to have
9 them here, we want to see them. So there could be the
10 response from the local community that bear harvest
11 would be too high.

12

13 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, Tim.

14

15 MR. SMITH: We could go on about this
16 forever. That's my point, is that I've got a feeling
17 we are going to go on about this forever. That 10
18 years from now we'll be having these same exact
19 discussions that we're having now. There are no good
20 ways to study this issue. Whatever you do is darned
21 expensive.

22

23 What I'd like to see done that might
24 actually provide some useful information is choose an
25 area and I think the Kakarak Reindeer Herd would be a
26 good choice and eliminate predators there by
27 translocation. Trap and move the bears, kill the
28 wolves and see what happens. See what effect you've
29 got on recruitment. You've got very very low
30 recruitment in moose, you've got low recruitment with
31 muskoxen. We do have data on the impact of bears on
32 reindeer.

33

34 I was involved in a calf mortality
35 study or fawn mortality study on reindeer for a number
36 of years with the University of Alaska and most of the
37 fawns are killed by bears at that time. I think that
38 would be a useful experiment. Select that Kakarak
39 Reindeer range for intensive management, eliminate the
40 predators and see what impact it has on ungulates. I
41 think that would give us some definitive answers.
42 Otherwise we're going to be here 10 years from now
43 talking about the same thing.

44

45 The public believes that bears are a
46 problem, the Department doesn't, you know. Until you
47 get some data we're never going to be able to resolve
48 this dispute. I think this would be one way to maybe
49 put some closure on it.

50

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, Peter.

2

3 MR. BENTE: To the Chair and Member
4 Smith. The Department did do a bear removal and that
5 included brown bears and black bears in Unit 19D and
6 that was for a period of multiple years and it was
7 expensive, but it was a removal of live bears and moved
8 to a different area of the state and then moose
9 populations were monitored and the moose population was
10 successful. In other words, it increased in response
11 to that. So having that experience and your suggestion
12 to have a bear removal area is possible or a credible.
13 It will also be expensive.

14

15 MR. SMITH: Then one more comment since
16 I see Mike's walked away, but one more comment. I
17 don't believe that sport hunting is really going to
18 make a difference on the bear population. Number one,
19 you're just killing males and barren females. It
20 doesn't really affect bear recruitment that much. It
21 doesn't take very many males to breed the females
22 because of the biology of bears. So I don't think
23 sport hunting is really doing to do it no matter how
24 much -- you know, how much more can we liberalize the
25 seasons. They're pretty much wide open now. People
26 are taking all the bears they're going to.

27

28 Like Elmer says, most people don't want
29 to kill bears. I don't particularly want to be
30 bothered killing bears either. I have no use for them.
31 I just don't go out and kill things for nothing. I
32 think most people feel that way. So I think even if we
33 adopt this Proposal 26 to have no closed season and no
34 bag limit I don't think it's going to make a big
35 difference in the bear population.

36

37 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

38

39 MR. BENTE: To the Chair, Member Smith
40 and other Council members. There have been several
41 questions that have come up which relate to the most
42 recent comments. One is what is hunter effort. We
43 don't know that currently, but we are using a black
44 bear harvest ticket that was invoked and used in the
45 last two hunting seasons in some areas of the state and
46 there is a forecast, although it's still very tentative
47 that we would move into a brown bear harvest ticket.

48

49 The same way you get a moose harvest
50 ticket, a green harvest ticket for hunting moose in

1 this state, where it's allowable, you would get a brown
2 bear harvest ticket. The purpose of that would be to
3 allow an assessment of hunter effort because we don't
4 know that and Member Gray brought that up quite a while
5 ago saying we don't even have tag records anymore to
6 know how many people are trying to hunt bears.

7
8 To respond to Member Smith's comments
9 about hunters may or may not have an impact, that would
10 be one way that we could try to track at least the
11 number of hunters that are trying to find bears.

12
13 The other thing I wanted to bring up
14 because a couple points have been raised in the
15 discussion about the status of the moose population.
16 We know the moose population on the Peninsula is
17 depleted. It's not as big as it used to be, but we do
18 have -- and they were established in the late '90s and
19 I can't remember exactly which Board of Game. We do
20 have population objectives and harvest objectives.
21 Maybe those need to be revised based on comments we're
22 receiving.

23
24 We know that the population of moose
25 within our living history arrived on the peninsula and
26 expanded to a large number and then those population
27 objectives were based on in somewhat the crash that
28 followed due to heavy winter mortality and the fact
29 that often a colonizing population doesn't sustain
30 itself at the highest level. So we ratcheted them back
31 about one-third. So currently our objectives are two-
32 thirds of the highest numbers that we've had and then
33 there's a range. So we're at the lower end of the
34 range. Those could be revised and that's an action by
35 the Board of Game. It can be done independently by
36 them or it can be done based on a recommendation from
37 the Department or it can be done based on a proposal
38 from any user group or the public.

39
40 What we've tried to do in the 22C bear
41 regulations is to recognize that the moose population
42 that is depleted the most is 22B west of the Darbys.
43 It has very low numbers, it has very low recruitment,
44 it has low bull:cow ratios. So with adjusting a season
45 opening date for bears of May 1st in 22C we're trying
46 to redirect the hunting effort to 22B. It's an area
47 where there's council, there's a community there,
48 there's camps there, we know people hunt there. Our
49 plan in this revision or amendment to the season is to
50 continue high levels of harvest in 22B where moose need

1 the most help.

2

3 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Can I ask you guys to
4 hold off so that we can move on to the next issue and
5 get -- I'd like to get this Proposal 23 done before
6 lunch.

7

8 MR. KEYES: Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

11

12 MR. KEYES: This is Tony. Some of us
13 are having to check out from this hotel and some of us
14 are getting close to our airline check-in and this
15 subject has gotten way out of hand.

16

17 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman.

18

19 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah.

20

21 MR. SMITH: How about taking a break
22 and let those guys check out.

23

24 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Is that what needs to
25 happen so that they can check out and then we can try
26 and wrap this up.

27

28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Check out was at
29 11:00, so they probably should go check out. I also
30 wanted to make a note of Elmer's question. I did check
31 in the office and if anyone needs to change airlines,
32 it is possible. You just need to let Alex know and
33 we'll call Carlson and get that changed. So it is
34 possible to do and it shouldn't be too complicated.
35 Maybe let me know right now.

36

37 MR. MARTIN: Helen, do we have a
38 choice? Do we have to go today or can we travel
39 tomorrow?

40

41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm sorry, I didn't
42 understand the question.

43

44 MR. MARTIN: Do we definitely have to
45 travel today if we have to or can we wait until
46 tomorrow if we have to?

47

48 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Let me check on
49 that, okay. I'll call the office.

50

1 MR. MARTIN: The airline might be full
2 and I might not be able to get home today too.
3
4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Is there a
5 possibility that you could travel today?
6
7 MR. MARTIN: Yeah, the possibility, is
8 it possible.
9
10 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, it's depending
11 on this meeting getting over. So what I was going to
12 say is do you guys want to just take lunch now, come
13 back at 12:30 and try and wrap things up by about 2:00
14 o'clock. The only thing is I won't be here. Our Vice
15 Chair, Mr. Green, is going to have to finish off the
16 meeting for us. As long as everybody else shows up
17 there should still be a quorum to finish the business.
18
19 MR. GRAY: Well, we started the meeting
20 with a quorum, so it doesn't matter what we end up
21 with.
22
23 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, that's right.
24 You're right. Isn't it?
25
26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Actually you need a
27 quorum when you have things you're voting on, but
28 there's nothing more you're voting on.
29
30 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, adjournment and
31 next meeting, but we already did next meeting at the
32 last meeting. I see it's on the calendar.
33
34 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: You have to do then
35 the following meeting. You could do that right now,
36 Mr. Quinn.
37
38 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Let's do that real
39 quick, everybody. We're going to go to the back page.
40 There's a calendar. Actually we need to do two things,
41 don't we. So we need to confirm our February meeting.
42 Peter, Letty, sorry to make you sit through this.
43
44 MR. GRAY: I can tell you right now I'm
45 traveling to an outdoor show and I know I won't be back
46 by the 15th. I apologize if I'm not here.
47
48 MR. KEYES: Couldn't we move that
49 window?
50

1 MR. GRAY: The 21st I'd be here, 21st,
2 22nd.
3
4 MR. SMITH: That's better for me too.
5
6 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Make a motion
7 somebody.
8
9 MR. KEYES: I make a motion that we
10 have our next meeting February 21 and 22 because it's
11 an open date.
12
13 MR. MARTIN: I second.
14
15 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Second. Any
16 discussion.
17
18 (No comments)
19
20 MR. GRAY: Question.
21
22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: The question has been
23 called. The motion is to change our February meeting
24 to February 21 and 22. Helen, does that present any
25 problem for travel on the 20th, which is probably a
26 Federal holiday.
27
28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We've done it
29 before.
30
31 MR. GRAY: Double time.
32
33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No, we don't get
34 that. I was looking more at other meetings then and
35 you're fine.
36
37 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All those in favor of
38 the motion say aye.
39
40 IN UNISON: Aye.
41
42 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Those opposed.
43
44 (No opposing votes)
45
46 CHAIRMAN QUINN: There's our February
47 meeting. Now we need to start on a year from now.
48 Holy cow, how come the window opens so early?
49
50 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It opens early

1 because North Slope always wants to have it early
2 before whaling season, so we just try to accommodate
3 them, but you can meet -- it's a pretty wide window.
4 You're the first ones meeting. Actually
5 Kodiak/Aleutians has met and I don't know if you know
6 when their meeting is. Oh, you know. It's September
7 5th and 6th, is Kodiak/Aleutians. No one else has
8 picked any, so you have.....

9
10 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Carte blanche. You
11 guys make suggestions.

12
13 MR. GRAY: In my world, the first part
14 of October is probably the best. Right now, like after
15 this meeting I'm trying to set a beluga net and I have
16 things going on. From the 24th to 5th of October is
17 probably the best window for me.

18
19 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Anybody else. We seem
20 to like Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Wednesdays, Thursdays
21 in the past. October 2 and 3, how is that?

22
23 MR. GRAY: Sold. Make that motion.

24
25 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I can't. You've got
26 to.

27
28 MR. GRAY: I make it.

29
30 MR. GREEN: I second.

31
32 MR. GRAY: Question.

33
34 CHAIRMAN QUINN: The question has been
35 called. Tentatively schedule our next fall meeting for
36 October 2 and 3, that's a Tuesday and Wednesday. All
37 those in favor say aye.

38
39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40
41 MR. GRAY: Oh, October 2 is election
42 day if that might matter.

43
44 MR. SMITH: Doesn't matter to me.

45
46 CHAIRMAN QUINN: That's a local
47 election, isn't it?

48
49 MR. GRAY: Yeah. But if anybody wants
50 to vote, they won't be able to.

1 MR. SMITH: Why not?
2
3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. If it's
4 at all possible to do it -- I mean I think that's a
5 good point about election day. That also is the first
6 day of our fiscal year or the second day of our fiscal
7 year and sometimes we have travel limitations as to
8 what we can do. We should be able to deal with it, but
9 it's up to you.
10
11 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, so, does 3 and 4
12 make any.....
13
14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No, 3rd and 4th is
15 fine.
16
17 CHAIRMAN QUINN: We need a new motion.
18
19 MR. GRAY: I amend my motion.
20
21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I probably should
22 ask that we not have to -- if it's okay with the
23 Council, it's probably better if we don't travel on a
24 holiday because we do -- I'm just remembering we
25 actually are required to do overtime on a holiday when
26 we work.
27
28 MR. SMITH: The motion is to have the
29 meeting October 3rd and 4th, is that right?
30
31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's fine.
32
33 MR. SMITH: So I make that motion.
34
35 MR. GREEN: Second.
36
37 MR. GRAY: Question.
38
39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: The question has been
40 called. October 3 and 4, Wednesday, Thursday. All
41 those in favor.
42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.
44
45 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Any opposed.
46
47 (No opposing votes)
48
49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. So now
50 you're saying that -- what did we do?

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The February 21st
2 and 22, could we do it 22nd and 23rd instead? You
3 know, we can't do that because you're -- I'm sorry, I
4 neglected to notice.

5
6 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah, Alex has to be
7 at.....

8
9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: He's got to be at a
10 meeting on the 23rd in a month, so he can't -- we can't
11 do that. Is there another date that would work for you
12 guys.

13
14 MR. GRAY: 28th, 29th.

15
16 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That would be fine.

17
18 CHAIRMAN QUINN: And that won't
19 interfere with McGrath, with Western Interior?

20
21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No, that's fine.

22
23 MR. GRAY: So I move to change the
24 dates to 28th, 29th.

25
26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Hold on. I need to
27 ask Tina because she's our court reporter. That would
28 have two meetings the same time and then there's a
29 meeting on the weekend. That's three meetings in a
30 week. That's probably not going to work.

31
32 REPORTER: When is the third meeting?

33
34 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: March 2nd and 3rd in
35 Central.

36
37 REPORTER: And then there's two
38 meetings at the beginning of the week?

39
40 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And then the 28th
41 and 29th McGrath.

42
43 REPORTER: No, that's fine.

44
45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's fine? Okay.
46 We have to worry about our court reporter too. Okay.
47 28th and 29th is fine.

48
49 MR. GRAY: So moved.

50

1 MR. SEETOT: 28th and 29th of what,
2 August?
3
4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Of February for
5 2012.
6
7 MR. GRAY: Is there a second.
8
9 MR. KEYES: I'll second it.
10
11 MR. GRAY: I made a motion to change it
12 to 28th and 29th. I need a second.
13
14 MR. GREEN: Second.
15
16 MR. GRAY: Question.
17
18 CHAIRMAN QUINN: The question has been
19 called. All those in favor of meeting February 28 and
20 29, a Tuesday and Wednesday, say aye.
21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.
23
24 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Opposed.
25
26 (NO opposing votes)
27
28 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. So there's
29 our two meeting things. We're going to adjourn for
30 lunch.
31
32 MR. GRAY: Does Louie know you're not
33 coming back? Why is that?
34
35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I've got to go to
36 work.
37
38 MR. BENTE: Don't you want to deal with
39 this Proposal 23?
40
41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I'll just leave it in
42 your guys' capable hands. We're off the record.
43
44 (Off record)
45
46 (On record)
47
48 CHAIRMAN QUINN: We're back on the
49 record. There's a little bit of a new plan here.
50 We're going to try and keep going. We're not going to

1 break for lunch at noon. We're going to try and get
2 this thing done so that the appropriate people that can
3 leave can leave. Without further ado. I'll ask Mr.
4 Bente to work on Proposal 23. And thank you for
5 putting up with us on Proposal 24.
6

7 MR. BENTE: To the Chair and members of
8 the Council. What I want to do is present the
9 information the Department has about Proposal 23 that
10 will be part of the State Board meeting at Barrow. It
11 originated as a proposal for Wasilla meeting and it
12 asks for a review. There was no action proposed, but
13 it asks for a review of trophy nullification, so that's
14 horn cutting or antler cutting or anything that
15 destroys a trophy, for animals taken in a subsistence
16 permit.
17

18 Within the view of the Board it was a
19 proposal generated by the Board for Wasilla. There
20 were three areas of interest. Two places in the state
21 where there were moose in a subsistence hunt where
22 antlers were being cut and the Seward Peninsula muskox
23 hunt where the Department cuts horns in the subsistence
24 hunt.
25

26 They took action in Wasilla in March on
27 two moose issues and they retained antler cutting.
28 Koyukuk moose and Unit 16B moose and the Department
29 presented a lot of information to show that without
30 antler cutting that there potentially would be very
31 high harvest of targeted bull moose, large bulls.
32

33 We have a very similar argument for the
34 muskox hunt. Since it was deferred in Wasilla in
35 March, it now is before the Board for muskox only in
36 Units 22 and 23. So discretionary authority by the
37 Department gives us the option and the wording is we
38 may destroy the trophy value or may take trophy value
39 of an animal taken in a subsistence permit may be
40 nullified. In other words, we may do it. It's one of
41 the options we have for hunt management.
42

43 There's a lot of other discretions we
44 have. We could say that someone needs to take
45 orientation class. We could say that someone needs to
46 carry a radio to listen to announcements about harvest.
47 Those are not mandatory, they're options. So the horn
48 cutting is an option that we've had in the Seward
49 Peninsula muskox hunt since it started.
50

1 In the history of the population, you
2 know it was transplanted starting in 1970. There was
3 no hunting for a long period of time until 1995 and
4 then there were three years of Federal hunting. The
5 State started hunting in 1998. We did that through
6 Tier II permits, subsistence hunts. It was classed a
7 C&T positive species, muskox on the Seward Peninsula.
8 Because harvestable surplus was low we were in Tier II.
9 Everybody applied for a permit, gave their answer to
10 all the questions and then there were a limited number
11 of permits issued.

12
13 The Board took action in 2003 to revise
14 the ANS and by revising the ANS and the size of the
15 population meant that we went into Tier I, which is
16 also a subsistence hunt, but it was by registration
17 permit. Registration permit was a joint program with
18 the Federal managers because there's muskox on Federal
19 land, but actually through time there's been very
20 little Federal harvest. There's been a fair number of
21 permits issued, but there hasn't been that much harvest
22 of muskox on Federal land.

23
24 From the very beginning of the hunting
25 by subsistence permit in the state we have exempted the
26 tag fee, so there's no tag fee. If you hunt muskox but
27 not on a subsistence permit, a resident would be
28 charged \$500 or in Nelson Island near Unit 18 there's a
29 reduction of the tag to \$25 for resident hunting, but
30 that's non-subsistence hunting. So for the subsistence
31 hunt one thing the State did, the Board did right away
32 was to reduce or exempt the tag requirement and the tag
33 fee. We know that that probably helps dissuade some of
34 the hunting interest.

35
36 One thing I can bring to the discussion
37 is that if we look at the number of people, state
38 residents interested in hunting muskox and paying a tag
39 fee, that's a drawing hunt. We have those in several
40 places of the state. We have a little less than 900
41 applicants in the average year, 867 is the average.
42 For the Seward Peninsula hunts registration only by
43 residents including the horn cutting we have over 350,
44 less than half of those interested in hunting by
45 drawing permit.

46
47 We feel at the Department level that
48 that's a management plan that we have an objective by
49 using discretionary authority to letting the hunter
50 know in advance you don't get the trophy, you don't get

1 the horns, that they'd choose to hunt in the drawing
2 hunt where they pay a fee and they get their trophy.
3 There's always meat salvage requirements. That's
4 always required no matter how you hunt, but the choice
5 of getting to take your horns is possible if you pay
6 the tag fee. It's not possible the way we manage the
7 hunt if you get a subsistence permit.

8

9 So we think that removing the trophy,
10 horn cutting, would greatly increase the number of
11 applicants or the number of people that get
12 registration permits. Currently about 80 percent of
13 our permits and our harvest goal is 175 muskox out of
14 the population annually. A portion of those are
15 drawing, 20-some, so it's right at 150 for subsistence.
16 We're getting over 300 applicants for those 150
17 animals. We think if we remove horn cutting there will
18 be an increase in number of applicants.

19

20 We also have concerns at the Department
21 level about the impact of what we'll call selective
22 harvest. Right now, currently, the majority of animals
23 taken in the subsistence hunt are mature bulls.
24 Certainly in the road system area we've done the tally
25 because we look at all the horns that come in. Our
26 number right now is 88 percent of the harvest is mature
27 bulls.

28

29 There's a lot of reasons for that. One
30 is sometimes mature bulls are the easiest animal to
31 identify. In some places we have bull only bag limits,
32 so you want to be sure you're taking a bull and not
33 taking a cow. Sometimes the way the herds are
34 aggregated the bulls tend to separate themselves.
35 They'll be on the side, they'll be on the periphery if
36 they're not actually pushing a cow or maneuvering the
37 herd. So because they're somewhat isolated or on the
38 side of the herd there's a tendency for hunters to
39 select that animal because you won't have wounding loss
40 of a second animal that might be hit. So there's a lot
41 of reasons maybe why mature bulls are taken.

42

43 Also there's a lot of meat and some
44 people are looking at total meat and not necessarily
45 young bulls being maybe better quality meat. That's an
46 issue that the individual has to make as to what they
47 want.

48

49 Clearly in the subsistence hunt we see
50 right now there's a high harvest of mature bulls.

1 That's driven mature bull:cow ratios low in some areas.
2 Through time we've seen the closest most accessible
3 area on the road system go from between 70 and 80
4 mature bulls per 100 cows, this is 22C, to -- the last
5 count was in this season, was 21. So we're at one-
6 third or one-quarter of the level that we used to be.
7 That's very alarming to the department, depleted
8 bull:cow ratios. In some of the other areas accessible
9 in the hunt it's ranged from about 60 bulls per 100
10 cows down to 30, so a reduction of half.

11
12 Total harvest in recent years, since we
13 started registration hunts, has reached harvest quotas
14 in many places. In the Tier II hunt we often didn't
15 reach harvest quota, but now with registration permits
16 being more widely available, we're finding hunters that
17 are able to hunt at different -- you know, make sure
18 that they go hunting and they take an animal.

19
20 Because we've been at a position of
21 reaching harvest quota for the last four years and
22 that's how long we've been doing registration permits,
23 if we change the horn cutting rule, we think we'll
24 reach those quotas far earlier in the season. We'll
25 still have quota management, but instead of getting a
26 somewhat long period to hunt it may be very short.
27 We've already experienced that in a couple areas. It
28 would just get worse we feel at the Department level.

29
30 The last thing I want to say or one of
31 the other things is our population numbers. There were
32 questions this morning about what is the population
33 objective for the Seward Peninsula. There was a
34 cooperative management plan that was developed and
35 approved by a number of participating agencies in 1994
36 and that plan asked for growth and expansion of the
37 herd and it hasn't been revised since then.

38
39 There was suggestions from the Chair
40 that, well, the Department is revising the plan. Well,
41 we've looked at recent population increases and made
42 suggestions, which we want to bring back to the public
43 and bring back to the broader user groups to say this
44 is some suggestions that could be made for a management
45 plan, but currently we don't have a management plan
46 that really even covers much of a hunting effort that's
47 being done.

48
49 In 1994, that was pre-hunting. There
50 was no hunting being done. So we know it's very much

1 out of date, but currently we're at a plan that asks
2 for growth and expansion of the herd, harvest,
3 primarily of bulls at five to eight percent rates and
4 we know now that maintaining harvest at high rates --
5 what we've learned is that five to eight percent is
6 probably very high for a muskox population, especially
7 if you're targeting mature bulls.

8
9 The one other factor that I want to
10 bring to the discussion is a summary of the discussion
11 that the Board of Game made in March. When they
12 reviewed the muskox or heard our summary of muskox
13 information, the population status and the ratios of
14 bulls and cows and the same kind of information I'm
15 giving you now, their suggestion, which they wanted
16 further input on from the Department and now all the
17 user groups, and that's why the proposal was deferred
18 to November, they wanted further information and
19 comments on several ideas.

20
21 One was to have no horn cutting in the
22 Seward Peninsula muskox hunt. No trophy nullification.
23 That would be different than other subsistence hunts
24 the Department manages, but that could be a direction
25 from the Board that we would take. At the same time
26 there would be no horn cutting, there would be a change
27 of bag limit. The bag limit that the Board was
28 discussing was to remove mature bulls from the
29 subsistence harvest.

30
31 So that the subsistence hunt with no
32 horn cutting would include all animals except mature
33 bulls. They heard our information about the high
34 harvest of mature bulls that we're seeing in the
35 subsistence hunt and their explanation to us as
36 Department Staff was that, well, if you can control the
37 harvest of mature bulls say through a drawing hunt in a
38 non-subsistence hunt, you'll know exactly how many
39 permits can be issued and exactly what your harvest
40 would be.

41
42 Right now we have harvest quotas based
43 on total number and we don't target -- or we haven't
44 mandated or we haven't set limits within an age class
45 of that target. So if it's 34 bulls for 22C, which was
46 the harvest quota a number of years ago, we don't say a
47 certain number of them have to be young bulls,
48 two-year-olds, three-year-olds or four-year-olds, we
49 just say total bulls. The Board's logic and
50 explanation was if you take mature bulls out of the

1 subsistence harvest, then the Department can manage
2 that segment of the population very closely, very
3 tightly and that will give us flexibility in the
4 future.

5
6 So those were two aspects of the trophy
7 nullification proposal that the Board asked for further
8 comments on and then we presented our information in an
9 analysis and recommendation and said for reasons
10 related to hunter participation, high harvest rates and
11 actually the last thing I didn't say is that there's
12 relative stability in the population at this point, our
13 highest number was just shy of 2,700 a few years ago
14 and now we're right at 2,600 at the last census. We're
15 going to census again in March. We'll try to figure
16 out whether we're at a flat trend or whether we're in a
17 declining trend or maybe a little increase.
18 Anyhow, we've reached some sort of plateau level,
19 between 26 and 2,700 muskox.

20
21 So for all those reasons the Department
22 at this point is saying continue horn cutting, continue
23 trophy nullification in the State subsistence hunt.
24 That concludes the information I have at this point.

25
26 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. So the
27 reason I think this is important for us is -- the first
28 thing is I'm afraid the Feds are going to just drop
29 this ball. If the State does this and we do go to Tier
30 II, I'm afraid that the Federal side is going to back
31 away. We won't even have Federal permits anymore. I
32 guess I don't have any real basis for that, but I did
33 talk to -- I think I talked to Polly Wheeler and she
34 said they backed away recently down on the Kenai
35 Peninsula and the State did something there and the
36 Feds just dropped their system or something.

37
38 So as far as us representing Federal
39 subsistence users I'm worried we're going to lose
40 opportunity there, but also everybody who lives in this
41 region that we represent and who has harvested a muskox
42 even once in a while or regularly is a subsistence
43 hunter and as his statistics show they regularly
44 harvest mature bulls. So I don't want to see mature
45 bulls taken away from the people we represent.

46
47 I haven't been all that happy about
48 horn cutting. It ain't so much the horn cutting, it
49 was the fact that you upped the level. I think
50 everything would have stayed a lot better if you'd have

1 left that lower level. You haven't altered horn
2 cutting per subunit to move hunters around. 22C
3 certainly could have used the higher level of horn
4 cutting, but there certainly was no need to do it in
5 22E, but that's water under the bridge.

6
7 So anyway that's what I think is
8 important here, the potential for Federal subsistence
9 uses to lose opportunity to participate in this hunt
10 and choose the particular animal they can harvest. Now
11 certainly if biology starts to affect which particular
12 animal subsistence hunters can choose, that's
13 different. That's not the Board of Game taking it away
14 from us or whoever.

15
16 Tim.

17
18 MR. SMITH: My question, Peter, is
19 which segment of the population do they plan to use for
20 the amount needed for subsistence if they remove mature
21 bulls?

22
23 MR. BENTE: Through the Chair to Member
24 Smith. The amount necessary for subsistence in the
25 State rule right now is 100 to 150 animals. That would
26 come from the remainder of the population that's not
27 mature bulls. From our estimated calculations right
28 now that would put us directly back in Tier II because
29 you're removing the mature bulls out of the available
30 population for subsistence harvest and then you start
31 doing the math and we'll be below 100 animals. If
32 we're within the range of 100 to 150, we can offer a
33 Tier I permit, a registration permit. If we're below
34 that number, it would be Tier II.

35
36 But to answer the question as best I
37 can, the remainder of the population of animals would
38 be the basis for determining subsistence need or
39 available harvest to meet subsistence need.

40
41 MR. SMITH: A mature bull is defined as
42 what?

43
44 MR. BENTE: A mature bull in our
45 definition is a bull that's four years or older and has
46 a boss horn. So the boss is the mass of the horn that
47 builds on top of the head and it's no longer -- it
48 grows to the point where there's a cleavage on the top
49 of the skull. So a mature bull is four years and older
50 that has a boss horn.

1 MR. SMITH: Well, i'd just like to go
2 on the record to say that hunting animals three years
3 and younger and cows is in no way consistent with the
4 goal of having the population increase. It will
5 definitely hurt the growth of the population. There's
6 just no way you can do it. There's no biological way
7 you can do that.

8

9 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

10

11 MR. BENTE: Through the Chair to Member
12 Smith. Yes, we agree. We understand that if we take
13 mature bulls out of the available harvest, then we will
14 very likely be impacting mature cows at a very high
15 level because they're large-bodied animals. That, in
16 light of our population statistics is a very strong
17 warning flag or a red flag in population management.

18

19 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, try and project
20 forward if this were adopted. Currently we've got 18
21 drawing permits -- there's like 25 all together. Of
22 all the units that have drawing permits there's around
23 25 total. Would this proposal if adopted change that
24 figure noticeably?

25

26 MR. BENTE: I was trying to review a
27 chart of numbers of permits that we have. Yes, the
28 view would -- it would make more mature bulls available
29 for the drawing hunt calculation and so they're
30 anticipated at probably between 2 and 3 percent harvest
31 rate and we would have a low rate because of declining
32 ratios. We would still have an increased number of
33 drawing permits potentially.

34

35 Right now drawing permits are based on
36 three areas. 22C was removed from a draw recently, but
37 it was part of the calculation and 22E and 22D. So
38 some areas of the Peninsula have been calculated for
39 mature bull harvest by drawing permit. If we add in
40 the other sub-unit and all mature bulls anywhere in the
41 population, then that number of available permits would
42 potentially be much higher. The reason is because the
43 measuring stick of number of bulls is higher.

44

45 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah.

46

47 MR. GRAY: A couple of issues that come
48 to my mind are this muskox hunt that we locals
49 participate in has basically been a subsistence hunt.
50 Out of this subsistence hunt -- you know, the majority

1 of us aren't going to dig in our pockets and pay \$500
2 for going out and shooting an animal. But out of this
3 thing not only has meat been an asset to the people,
4 Qiviut has turned in -- there's a lot of people taking
5 the Qiviut out of the hides, the horns, there's people
6 carving horns. You know, up in Shishmaref I'm sure
7 people are carving horns. I've seen carvings from a
8 local artist here. So these bulls, these big bulls in
9 the subsistence world are being capitalized on.

10

11 If the Board of Game is talking about
12 pulling all these bulls out of the system, that's
13 stepping on our subsistence rights and it's stepping on
14 their own mission in life to make sure subsistence
15 users can capitalize their resources. They're taking a
16 product out of the subsistence world and giving it to
17 the big game or the drawing permits and saying, here,
18 you can have this and your subsistence has changed now,
19 you've got what's left over. I don't think that's
20 right.

21

22 I think the Board of Game needs to look
23 at subsistence itself and what they're doing here and
24 understanding -- they need to understand they're taking
25 part of the subsistence world that we dwell in and
26 giving it to somebody else, which they have no right to
27 do that. There's a State statute that states they have
28 to provide first for subsistence and then on and on and
29 on. So anyway.

30

31 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Wait, Peter. I want
32 to reiterate I want to hurry this up. Here's the two
33 things I see happening for us to do to impact this.
34 One is I'm hoping that they'll have money to send a RAC
35 member -- it's supposed to be the Chair, but I'll tell
36 you right now it won't be me, I ain't going. I
37 certainly will appoint someone else to go to the Board
38 of Game meeting so that one of us is there to testify.
39 That's happened in the past that OSM has sent RAC
40 members to Board of Game meetings.

41

42 The second thing is I want a motion
43 here today to accommodate that or to back it up, you
44 know, so at least there's a motion on the record that
45 we oppose this proposal. You guys make your own, but
46 that's my thought.

47

48 Helen, you're never there when I need
49 you.

50

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm right here.

2

3 CHAIRMAN QUINN: So I just told these
4 guys is I'm hoping there's going to be money to send
5 one of us to this Board of Game meeting in Barrow.

6

7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, I heard that.
8 I can't make any promises. I can take the request
9 forward.

10

11 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Well, you
12 guys can be assured I'll jump and scream if they don't
13 do it. Peter.

14

15 MR. BENTE: To the Chair and Member
16 Gray. I wanted to just point out I'm not a Staff
17 member of Division of Subsistence and I don't work with
18 Department of Law, but you did acknowledge and make
19 reference to a State law, which is State subsistence
20 law. In order for the Board of Game to make a decision
21 such as they're considering about bag limit, they would
22 need to follow State subsistence law to allow
23 reasonable opportunity for subsistence harvest and
24 that's an eight-step criteria that they have to walk
25 through and they'll get information from subsistence
26 Staff and probably advice from the attorney to say this
27 is legally possible.

28

29 Right now we've done our analysis based
30 on impact to the population and we haven't done it in
31 terms of subsistence law. That's not our division nor
32 our responsibility.

33

34 The second thing I wanted to bring to
35 the discussion was earlier in the meeting today there
36 was the preliminary date of an AC meeting that was
37 planned October 11. I agree that that hasn't been
38 finalized or noticed in a manner, but what has happened
39 on this muskox issue is that we would like to have an
40 expanded discussion if it's warranted or needed of the
41 muskox Proposal 23 in addition to the AC meeting and
42 that could continue either on October 11th or October
43 12th. So that's something that's being planned by the
44 Department and a whole bunch of other people, other
45 agencies, and we would try to make an announcement of
46 that soon.

47

48 CHAIRMAN QUINN: But you're not
49 necessarily calling that a muskox cooperators group
50 meeting.

1 MR. BENTE: The reference to muskox
2 Seward Peninsula Cooperators, it is not a group
3 meeting. We hope to include those people who have been
4 part of that cooperator's group in the past, but it
5 isn't -- they're not meeting officially and they're
6 planning to meet again sometime in the future,
7 primarily for management plan discussion.

8
9 MR. GRAY: Is that group weighing in on
10 this particular proposal? You would think that the
11 Board of Game would be not only looking to you guys,
12 but to this management group, just like the caribou
13 management group that they have and so on and so forth.
14 So there's that question.

15
16 The other question I have is this is a
17 subsistence issue. I don't know if we still have
18 Federal permits out there. We should have.

19
20 CHAIRMAN QUINN: There are.

21
22 MR. GRAY: So there's Federal permits.
23 I guess in my mind, Helen, why isn't our lawyer looking
24 at the subsistence side of this thing? You've heard a
25 lot of comments from this group saying tread carefully,
26 we need this to stay a subsistence hunt. Why can't you
27 guys be doing -- digging into this thing. Your lawyer
28 is looking at it, your Staff presenting something up
29 there on our behalf?

30
31 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Ken.

32
33 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council
34 members. Let me first just talk about the cooperators.
35 I'm well aware that the Board would like the
36 cooperators to weigh in on this issue. After a lot of
37 discussion with ADF&G and a few others that we don't
38 receive stable funding for the cooperators. It all
39 comes out of our base operating program, so it's not a
40 very stable thing that we can just keep meeting and
41 meeting and meeting. We've been there and actually
42 done that.

43
44 In the January 2008 meeting preparatory
45 to the Board of Game trophy destruction was one of the
46 questions and stuff that we posed to the smaller
47 groups. Basically we came back with sort of a mixed
48 result. Some areas, you know, thought that there were
49 too many animals and pretty much would favor anything
50 that would reduce the number of animals. Other areas

1 that were feeling the pinch of competition were just
2 the other. We really saw nothing that would change
3 that.

4
5 And then we're now faced with a whole
6 new set of information on the biology and the status
7 and trend in the population. So when we put all this
8 stuff together we felt that it was better to use the
9 cooperators to take a tackle at overhauling the
10 management plan sometime this next year following the
11 spring count when we get the newest, latest population
12 estimates and composition data in. So that's kind of
13 where we've put the effort to the cooperators.

14
15 ADF&G is sending out questionnaires to
16 the villages regarding individual preferences for like
17 hunting bulls and cows and so forth and it's a pretty
18 good questionnaire. On the Federal side we can't do
19 that thing without going through OMB for clearance, so
20 we're not part of that effort, but I think it's a good
21 effort. From some of the questionnaire responses that
22 I've seen it looks to me like a very good way to canvas
23 a broader spectrum of people's input into the issue, so
24 I think it will work.

25
26 As Peter mentioned to you, we're also
27 trying to plan on bringing in some of the other people
28 that were part of the cooperators group to add some
29 depth and variety to the discussions at the AC.
30 Basically we've decided to use the AC process as a
31 better and more practical vehicle for addressing this
32 single proposal issue rather than sometimes the range
33 of issues that we've dealt with in the cooperators in
34 the past.

35
36 The other reason for not going with the
37 cooperators, there weren't really any other muskox
38 proposals for the Seward Peninsula, so there wasn't any
39 other real reason for them to meet and we'd rather do
40 it because the plan really is the original plan that
41 was done in '94, '95 and it really is outdated and it
42 needs a major overhaul and we want to get as much broad
43 input into that plan as possible. That's the story on
44 the cooperators.

45
46 I think in regard to the Federal
47 program, and Helen can supplement this, I'm not going
48 to get into the legal aspect and what the lawyers can
49 do, but we do have Federal permits out there that are
50 only good on Federal public lands. Basically, and I've

1 told this to ADF&G, if the Board was to adopt this
2 proposal, I very strongly think that the Federal Board
3 would fail to follow suit. I see no way that it could,
4 frankly, but I could be mystified, I guess, but I would
5 doubt it.

6

7 That means you would have this State
8 thing being run on State-managed lands and the Federal
9 program thing being run on Federal public lands.
10 Frankly throughout most of the areas the Federal
11 harvest is low enough that it probably wouldn't impact
12 the State program at this point in time. However, if
13 the Federal harvest were to grow, then it could
14 definitely have an impact on the State's side of the
15 equation.

16

17 The other thing to keep in mind about
18 this is throughout most of the Peninsula Federal public
19 lands are currently closed to non-subsistence muskoxen
20 hunting with one exception, which you'll recall about
21 the last cycle the RAC supported opening up 22E, which
22 means it's now under State regulation and were this
23 proposal adopted it would apply on that unless there
24 was a reinstatement of the closure.

25

26 So that's kind of an overview of the
27 thing. As far as the State Subsistence Division and
28 the State lawyers, the State will work that out, but I
29 think the Federal regulations are pretty clear and what
30 the mandates are and Helen can amplify that if you
31 want. Like I said, I personally don't think there's
32 any -- see any way that the Federal Board would buy
33 into that scheme because of two things, I think.

34

35 One is there's definitely an allocation
36 issue involved that the Board of Game could solve maybe
37 by lowering the ANS figure for a while. That would
38 free up more animals and keep it in maybe some Tier I
39 or whatever longer. Once they go to things like taking
40 a class of animals and calling that the only available
41 group of animals for subsistence harvest, that defies
42 anything anybody has ever learned about the way these
43 subsistence economies work and I just see no way that
44 the Federal program could buy off on that.

45

46 The second one, and Peter has already
47 mentioned that, is by forcing the subsistence harvest
48 essentially on maybe and having it focus on these
49 mature cows, it's only going to make worse the
50 population situation that we see. Beyond that it would

1 get into other options that I don't think I'd want to
2 consider right now, but the most practical one would be
3 to -- from the Federal point of view would be to
4 maintain closures and maybe reinstate them if we need
5 to, but that doesn't solve the overall population
6 problems and impacts of other hunting regimes on
7 animals that cross boundaries and things. It's better
8 if we can maintain sort of a common unified sort of
9 management scheme.

10

11 That's my comments for right now.

12

13 MR. GRAY: I guess what I was fishing
14 for is Mike has talked about making sure one of the
15 Board members are up there testifying and I mean that's
16 the best of the best, is having somebody there sitting
17 there telling people I live in this area and I'm being
18 impacted. I've seen it happen at these Board of Game
19 meetings.

20

21 What I'm after, Helen, is our program
22 is going to be impacted because we have permits and at
23 the very least, in my mind, we should have a biologist
24 up there saying you can do this but we're going to do
25 this and we're going to live -- this is our life.
26 Again, you know, I talked about the State has a walk of
27 life and the Feds have a walk of life. We have two
28 different roles in this world. This is a world that we
29 almost come together and we have to manage together on
30 and yet we have two different roles and there's tools
31 in our boxes that we can use.

32

33 More importantly, we don't want this
34 muskox herd to crash. We don't want subsistence to
35 change. The more people we have up there backing up
36 subsistence the better off we're going to be. That's
37 why I'm kind of dwelling on this issue.

38

39 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. Mr.
40 Gray. Helen Armstrong. We do have a wildlife liaison
41 to the Board of Game and it's currently Chuck
42 Ardizzone. I think most of you know Chuck. He's
43 actually acting in Polly's place right now, so I don't
44 know if it will be Chuck, but it will be a wildlife
45 biologist. Our process in the office is we look at all
46 the wildlife proposals that are going forward to the
47 Board of Game and we make comments on them. I will
48 guarantee you that I'll make sure that this portion of
49 the transcript is given to whoever is going to that
50 meeting and make sure that your comments are reflected

1 in our comments to the Board of Game so that they will
2 hear what the Council said. So we do have that process
3 in place.

4

5 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Peter.

6

7 MR. BENTE: Through the Chair to Member
8 Gray. The reason the Board of Game deferred the
9 proposal to November of this year was to gain comment
10 on their ideas. They wanted feedback. They said
11 clearly they wanted the Department to further analyze
12 it, they wanted the muskox cooperators group to weigh
13 in if they could, they wanted other comments. So I
14 think any comments you can make as an individual or as
15 a group will meet the needs of the Board. That's what
16 they wanted. That's why it was deferred.

17

18 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Tim.

19

20 MR. SMITH: I think I know the answer
21 to this question, but we've discussed this before, but
22 I just want a clarification. I'm really having a hard
23 time wrapping my mind around how the Board thinks that
24 they can accommodate the State subsistence law through
25 this proposal. Is it legally possible to have a
26 subsistence drawing permit hunt? I think we decided in
27 the past you couldn't.

28

29 MR. BENTE: Through the Chair to Member
30 Smith. The Board of Game has designated segments of
31 population. They did it for muskox in 22E. They've
32 designated segments, meaning either a bull portion or
33 the cow portion of moose populations for subsistence
34 harvest and portions for non-subsistence harvest, but
35 they haven't crossed the boundary to say that that
36 segment is then not available for subsistence.

37

38 That's the difference between what we
39 currently have going on in 22E where we can offer
40 drawing permits because in 2003 the Board said the
41 mature bull component is a separate population. By
42 identifying it as a separate population we were able to
43 calculate a harvest rate and offer drawing permits.
44 Currently right now if you hunt with subsistence
45 permit, there's no prohibition that says you can't --
46 in 22E that you can't take a mature bull.

47

48 What the Board is considering now is
49 changing the bag limit such that you would not be able
50 to take a mature bull that hasn't been challenged or

1 hasn't received advice from law and it hasn't been
2 challenged by the public, but from our knowledge of the
3 way populations have been identified by the Board of
4 Game, it's novel, it's unique, it's the first time.

5
6 MR. SMITH: That's not exactly an
7 answer to my question. I was just thinking, you know,
8 how are they going to work around this because there is
9 no way to meet the amount needed for subsistence and
10 not damage the population if you remove all the mature
11 bulls from subsistence harvesting. I'm just wondering
12 is there a work-around where they could call a drawing
13 permit hunt a Tier I subsistence hunt? Is that even
14 possible?

15
16 MR. BENTE: Through the Chair to Member
17 Smith. I would say that that's not possible.
18 Currently, right now, there is no lottery system or
19 selection system once you're in Tier I. It is
20 available through Tier II and that's defined in law
21 that multiple applicants with the same score they get
22 drawn in the lottery, but once you move out of that
23 system to Tier I there's no more lottery. There's
24 harvest quotas and we can manage a season to close the
25 season if we reach quota, but we can't select members
26 or applicants to say you get the Tier I permit and the
27 other person doesn't. I hope that answers the
28 question.

29
30 MR. SMITH: That does answer my
31 question and I just don't see how this is going to
32 work. I don't see any way they can make this work.

33
34 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Just out of curiosity
35 is anybody special going to be at this October 12th
36 meeting besides Nome people. What's your lawyer's
37 name?

38
39 MR. BENTE: Our wildlife district --
40 special assistant from the Department of Law is Kevin
41 Saxby.

42
43 CHAIRMAN QUINN: That's it. Bring him
44 up.

45
46 MR. BENTE: He'll be there.

47
48 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, cool. All right.
49 Well, I sure want to move on so we can try to get this
50 whole thing done by 1:00. You guys can make a motion

1 for whatever. I'm certainly willing to work with Alex
2 or Helen or somebody to have some sort of a letter and
3 then in the meantime we can oppose or do not adopt this
4 proposal. Like I said, I'll do whatever I can to get
5 somebody there. I guess normally isn't Pete or Polly
6 at Board of Game meetings too?

7

8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Polly will no longer
9 be with us. Usually when they're out of town I don't
10 think they normally attend. We are under travel
11 restrictions to cut our travel budget by 20 percent and
12 that's nationwide with Fish and Wildlife Service and
13 because we can't cut Council travel, we've had more
14 restrictions on Staff travel. The likelihood of Pete
15 being there, I don't know how great that would be. I
16 just don't know who will be attending. I have no idea.
17 I don't want to commit to anything. We will have our
18 wildlife liaison there.

19

20 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Can I go ahead and
21 entertain a motion on this proposal.

22

23 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman. This is Tim
24 Smith. I move to support Proposal 23, Board of Game
25 Proposal 23 on muskox trophy destruction/elimination.

26

27 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I'm debating whether
28 we've got to do that support thing for this particular
29 item. I'm thinking oppose thing.

30

31 MR. GRAY: I don't think we have to and
32 that's why I didn't second it.

33

34 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Do you want to
35 try again?

36

37 MR. SMITH: Well, if I understand our
38 parliamentarian here.....

39

40 REPORTER: No, I'm not.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MR. SMITH: Well, if I understand our
45 parliamentarian here.....

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MR. SMITH:that if I make a
50 motion to support and we vote against it, that's

1 opposition. We are supposed to make positive motions
2 and we can vote against it. I'm going to vote against
3 it.

4

5 MR. GRAY: I think the point should be
6 is that we should write a letter, take a stance,
7 whatever the stance is. It should be in a letter form,
8 not so much a motion form. A letter form or a
9 resolution or something of a different nature.

10

11 MR. SMITH: Okay. Let me revise my
12 motion then. I move that we support Proposal 23 and
13 that we write a letter explaining our discussion of
14 this motion to the Board of Game explaining why we
15 decided to vote the way we did. I'm going to vote
16 against it.

17 Okay. Start over again. My motion is
18 to oppose Proposal 23 and that we write a letter of
19 opposition explaining our rationale for opposing it.

20

21 MR. GRAY: I second that.

22

23 MR. GREEN: I third it.

24

25 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Any discussion.

26

27 MR. GRAY: Question.

28

29 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. The
30 question has been called on the motion to oppose and
31 write a letter. All those in favor say aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Any opposed.

36

37 (No opposing votes)

38

39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right.

40

41 MR. GRAY: Just for the record I think
42 it's important that we, Helen, or whoever make sure
43 that somebody is there to represent this organization
44 and that this train of thought goes to that meeting and
45 is put before that Board. I'm not interested in going
46 up there, but I've seen these guys in action before and
47 if you could get somebody that done these things since
48 day one, that's the type of person you want up there
49 talking. Food for thought.

50

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Peter, we're
2 going to let you go.
3
4 Rose, did you -- I'm going to ask you
5 to be brief.
6
7 MR. GREEN: Talk for a long time, Rose,
8 so Tom won't have to.
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Thank you, Peter.
13
14 MS. FOSDICK: Afternoon. I'm Rose
15 Fosdick. I'm the VP for Natural Resources Division at
16 Kawerak. I'm also the program director for Kawerak
17 Reindeer Herders Association.
18
19 I wanted to make two comments. One in
20 regards to the bear proposal or bear discussion. Of
21 course, reindeer herders have been real supportive of
22 liberal harvest of bears and April 15th sounds very
23 reasonable to me.
24
25 In regards to muskox, Kawerak is going
26 to be very opposed to the proposal of separating out
27 two populations of muskox, one for sports and one for
28 subsistence, especially because when the cooperative
29 was formed in 1994 the Reindeer Herders Association
30 were part of the discussion and many comments were
31 brought up by the executive committee of the RHA
32 stating that they approached ADF&G a number of times to
33 ask whether they could hunt, hill, harvest muskox and
34 the response was always, no, not yet. We're saving --
35 let's just husband them, let's just keep them and keep
36 that population safe, don't hunt them. Let's just save
37 them and you will have an opportunity to do subsistence
38 hunting of muskox.
39
40 I just received a copy of a letter that
41 was addressed to Kawerak from the Shishmaref Elders
42 Advisory Group and two of their comments addressed to
43 our committee were both in regards to bear and muskox
44 saying that we needed to do something. They didn't
45 suggest what, but some action needed to be taken in
46 regards to great number of bear and great number of
47 muskox that were not benefitting them.
48
49 I look forward to the revision of the
50 management plan for muskox and I hope that RHA will

1 have a voice again. That plan was written before
2 opportunities for harvest.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Can we count on you to
7 be at this October 11th and 12th AC and other meeting?

8

9 MS. FOSDICK: Yes, I will be at that
10 meeting and I will be at the Board of Game meeting in
11 Barrow along with others that will be willing to speak.
12 Thanks.

13

14 MR. SMITH: Did they provide any
15 rationale for saying why we needed to do something
16 about the large numbers of muskox?

17

18 MS. FOSDICK: Who are you referring?

19

20 MR. SMITH: Whoever it was.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Shishmaref elders.

23

24 MS. FOSDICK: Oh. For muskox they were
25 saying destruction of the land in regards to the
26 berries and also the reluctance by women and others who
27 were picking out in the country to be in the area where
28 muskox were. We had been told a number of times
29 through various meetings that muskox were not
30 aggressive and we're finding out they are very
31 aggressive. My dog was gored by a muskox this summer
32 and I know of two others that were too. They will
33 protect their area, they will protect their young. So
34 they're real aggressive and the people out in the
35 country they're learning that too. So habitat
36 destruction and fear of the animals who are aggressive.

37

38 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Thanks.

39

40 MR. ENINGOWUK: This is Fred from
41 Shishmaref. They are having the same problem as Nome
42 is having where we are hanging around camps and we had
43 some experience with muskox following us while we were
44 picking berries and staying real close to where we were
45 picking berries. I had an encounter with them with
46 another group too and I just picked and walked toward
47 it and the other pickers, they just kind of gathered up
48 like muskox, and they hollered to me you got a gun. I
49 told them, no, I got my heart. I got closer to it and
50 I talked to that muskox. Tradition is you can talk to

1 animals. I talked to it in Eskimo and told it to go
2 away, which it did.

3

4 But, you know, a lot of people don't
5 have that in them to do that and they're scared of the
6 muskox and staying away from them and keeping their one
7 eye on the muskox, other eye on the berries if they're
8 even picking at all. So they're having encounters with
9 the muskox while they're picking berries and when
10 they're drying fish up past Serpentine.

11

12 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Let's move on.
13 Thanks, Rose.

14

15 MS. FOSDICK: Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN QUINN: What do we got left
18 here, Helen. I assume there's no other organizations
19 here that want to say anything. So we've got our 2010
20 and 2011 annual reports.

21

22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. Those
23 are in your blue folders. They were just distributed.
24 You didn't have them in advance. Our apologies. Like I
25 said, we had a lot of missing Staff this summer. They
26 got a little bit behind schedule. The annual report
27 reply letter is in there and this is in response to the
28 annual report that you sent to the Federal Subsistence
29 Board.

30

31 I don't know how you want to address
32 this, if you want to take the time and read it and talk
33 about it later. I mean it's a response. There's no
34 action needed. It's just informational that it's here
35 and people can read it at their leisure or make
36 comments on it.

37

38 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, this is the
39 response from the Chair.

40

41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right.

42

43 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Each of us can
44 look it over at our leisure and give some comments
45 outside of this meeting. Hopefully everybody is okay
46 with that. What's our annual report topics?

47

48 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And that's for this
49 next annual report, so this is where we write the
50 letter to the Board with comments that we want to make.

1 Whatever you want to address with the Board. It's your
2 pleasure. And Alex will take them down and take them
3 forward.

4

5 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I'm going to ask that
6 each of us do that on our own, on our own time, to Alex
7 through emails, letters, phone calls in the hope of
8 keeping things going here.

9

10 MR. GRAY: The other thing is you guys
11 can pull stuff out of the meeting, whoever puts this
12 meeting together. You know, those topic items, like
13 that C&T and issue of trading stuff with Barrow and C&T
14 stuff that can't be traded across certain lines. That
15 should be a topic that somebody talks about. Those
16 kind of things should be able to be pulled out of the
17 transcripts or whatever we've got here and then that be
18 broached to our Chairman and the Chairman gives his
19 blessing.

20

21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's exactly how
22 we do it in some cases. It varies according to the
23 Council, but whatever the Council's pleasure is, we can
24 come up with ideas and run it by the Chair or you can
25 present them here. It's your wish.

26

27 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Alex.

28

29 MR. NICK: One of the things that the
30 Council could do is -- you know, you've talked to Fish
31 and Game and other Staff about resource issues up here,
32 the problem with subsistence issues that have not been
33 resolved in the past. Those are some of the examples
34 for your annual report topics.

35

36 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. We already did
37 our next meeting date, so we're here to closing
38 comments. I'll give everybody 60 seconds.

39

40 MR. GREEN: Just let Tommy talk and
41 we'll all be done.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MR. GRAY: I'll start. I really think
46 this was one of the better meetings I've been to. I
47 think a lot of people touched on certain areas and did
48 it in a tactful way. I really think it was a good
49 meeting. You know, our subsistence lives are going to
50 go on. I'm leaving this meeting to set a beluga net.

1 Change comes slowly. If it comes too fast, it's not
2 going to stay long. Subsistence is a long-term thing.
3 Anyway, I'm going to cut it off.

4
5 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Anybody else. Elmer,
6 you want to comment.

7
8 MR. SEETOT: I'd like to thank everyone
9 for coming here. Even though our issues might have
10 been polarized in one area or another. Just that
11 harvesting wildlife we have to kind of adapt now that
12 the weather has changed, the timing of certain things
13 in nature have changed over the course of years, so
14 that's what we need to just kind of look at along with
15 what is going on with climate change. We're seeing
16 quite a few changes that we haven't seen before in our
17 area, so that needs to be looked at very closely.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MR. BUCK: Thank you for this meeting.
22 Our subsistence lifestyle really puts it to us. Also
23 I'd like to mention that the Native Village of White
24 Mountain discussed some of the issues and the one thing
25 that they told me to tell you is that they oppose
26 Pebble Mine and that's going to be my standing that
27 anything dealing with Pebble Mine we tear it up.

28
29 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Helen.

30
31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I just want to thank
32 all the Council members. I agree with Tom Gray that
33 this has been a really good meeting, very informative
34 and good participation by the Council members. Just
35 from me personally I appreciate all the time that you
36 all give to the Council. I know it's a volunteer job
37 and we really do appreciate your participation.
38 Without you this program would be non-existent. The
39 Board does listen to the Councils and they give
40 deference to the Councils on proposals.

41
42 Thank you very much.

43
44 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Anthony, do you want
45 to close.

46
47 MR. KEYES: (Shakes head no).

48
49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Fred.

50

1 MR. ENINGOWUK: Just a comment on
2 Shishmaref here. I think this summer we had an
3 invasion of species or a reintroduction of beaver.
4 They were up at Serpentine Hot Springs I think the last
5 couple years and they are migrating downriver. In my
6 lifetime I've never seen beaver in our area. So they
7 are migrating downriver. We don't hunt or trap them.
8 If somebody can go up there and help us teach our
9 younger generation how to trap them, maybe that would
10 help. We can make beaver hats with them. Otherwise
11 that's all I have to say.

12
13 CHAIRMAN QUINN: George.

14
15 MR. PAPPAS: I just spoke with Peter
16 Bente on the issue of potentially the outreach programs
17 they have with the Department to teach the next
18 generation or the current generation trapping
19 practices, wolf, beaver, fox, what have you. They've
20 done it at Kotzebue and had very good success. I asked
21 him to consider it in his mix because they only have
22 enough money to send folks rotated around. He really
23 liked the idea. So if you don't mind contacting Peter
24 Bente and talk to him a bit more about it, he was very
25 supportive.

26
27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 MR. ENINGOWUK: Okay, thank you. I do
30 have tags for beavers. Just to think of it. I'm
31 tagger up there.

32
33 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Tim.

34
35 MR. SMITH: I think this was a really
36 productive meeting. I've been here -- I spent most of
37 my life in Western Alaska, but I've lived in Nome for
38 more than 30 years now. I've seen some tremendous
39 changes in subsistence and the resources available for
40 subsistence harvesting over that time. We've got a lot
41 less than we used to have.

42
43 Like I said earlier, we used to harvest
44 over 400 moose every year and reindeer produced a lot
45 of meat for people. That's all gone now. I don't know
46 anybody who is eating reindeer regularly. Walrus
47 hunting is a fraction of what it used to be, a tiny
48 fraction of what it used to be. The fish harvest,
49 everybody knows what's happening there.

50

1 Part of the problem is ours. There are
2 things that can be done about this. There are things
3 that can be done. Fish and Wildlife management
4 techniques, it's a well-developed science. We're not
5 doing anything. All we're doing is monitoring how few
6 animals we've got. We have counts on how few fish
7 we've got now, but we're not doing anything to change
8 that. In other parts of the state they are.

9
10 Just one example what can be done is
11 down in Unit 18. They've got moose coming out their
12 ears now. In the past they had none. That was a
13 result of good management. All those moose needed was
14 protection and they got it and now they're hunting two
15 moose a year. I'm hunting no moose. Well, I'm
16 hunting, I'm just not getting any. There are things we
17 can do, that can be done. There's things that could be
18 done about our fish stocks too. There's things that
19 could be done to increase the numbers of reindeer.

20
21 We need to get active and we need to
22 start having more of these meetings. We need to get
23 the Advisory Committee working again where it actually
24 has some clout and some participation. We need to
25 start doing our work or we're going to be sitting here
26 with nothing.

27
28 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Louie, did you want to
29 say anything in closing comments.

30
31 MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd
32 just like to say that this was actually an excellent
33 meeting as far as I was concerned. Everybody brought
34 their comments to the table. It didn't sound like
35 anybody really held back, but when they made comments,
36 strong comments, they were sort of gentle.

37
38 I also would like to thank you this
39 Council for the confidence in me to serve as your Vice
40 Chair. Realizing that this is a Regional Council, when
41 I talk about things, possibly I hone in on Nome a
42 little bit. I think overall that if things are taken
43 care of here, it takes a lot of pressure off of your
44 folks out there in the villages on your resources,
45 meaning that if we've got good resource here, then
46 we'll be less apt to be out running around your
47 campgrounds. Not that we're a separate group of
48 people, just that people have territorial attitudes and
49 that's okay by me.

50

1 Again, I would like to thank the Staff.
2 They did a good job. Thank you very much.

3
4 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. I'll just echo
5 Louie's comments. Thanks to everybody. Thanks to the
6 Staff. I think maybe you had to handle some things
7 here that aren't on the normal agenda and I'm glad you
8 did. I think we have a good crew. That's part of the
9 reason why we have good meetings.

10
11 I try and pay attention as I harped
12 about the legal aspect of us meeting and the AC meeting
13 and I try to pay attention to the legal aspect of what
14 we're supposed to do here, what we can and what we
15 can't do, and that's kind of the way I want to conduct
16 things as long as I'm the Chair, is make sure
17 everything done here complies with the regs that we're
18 supposed to comply with.

19
20 Anyway, we'll see you all next
21 February. I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

22
23 MR. SEETOT: So moved.

24
25 MR. KEYES: I second.

26
27 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Question.

28
29 MR. SEETOT: Question.

30
31 MR. GRAY: You don't have to have a
32 question.

33
34 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All those in favor say
35 aye.

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. We're
40 done.

41
42 (Off record)

43
44 (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, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing transcript contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically by our firm on the 22nd day of September 2011, beginning at the hour of 8:30 o'clock a.m. at Nome, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 5th day of October 2011.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires:9/16/2014