

**SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING**

October 15, 1997  
Nome Eskimo Community Center  
Nome, Alaska

**VOLUME I**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Theodore Katcheak, Chairman  
Ms. Grace Cross  
Mr. Fred A. Katchatag, Sr.  
Mr. Elmer K. Seetot, Jr.  
Mr. Peter G. Buck  
Mr. Perry T. Mendenhall

**Regional Council Coordinator:**

Mr. Cliff Edenshaw

0002

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

1  
2

3 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Call the meeting to order at 9:17.  
4 And I'd like roll call at this time.

5

6 MS. CROSS: Sheldon Katchatag.

7

8 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Excused.

9

10 MS. CROSS: Grace Cross, here. Theodore Katcheak.

11

12 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Here.

13

14 MS. CROSS: Fred Katchatag, Sr.

15

16 MR. KATCHATAG SR: Here.

17

18 MS. CROSS: Elmer Seetot, Jr.

19

20 MR. SEETOT: Here.

21

22 MS. CROSS: Peter Buck.

23

24 MR. BUCK: Here.

25

26 MS. CROSS: Joe Garnie. Perry Mendenhall.

27

28 MR. MENDENHALL: Here.

29

30 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Excuse Joe Garnie or he's supposed  
31 to be here this morning, I understand, but I guess we'll find  
32 out later if he's coming or not. We have a quorum. At this  
33 time I'd like to ask Fred Katchatag for a prayer for Edgar  
34 Ningeulook.

35

36 MR. KATCHATAG SR: May we all stand. Everyone pray in  
37 his own way. Lord Jesus we thank you this morning. We pray  
38 Lord that you -- that we would invite your spirit to guide us  
39 in this meeting. We thank you Lord for the good meeting we had  
40 yesterday. And now we pray that might we practice this way of  
41 meetings from here on. We pray Lord, that you would make it  
42 possible for us to solve all our problems from here on. And  
43 Lord, we thank you, that State government and Federal  
44 government will be willing to help us along in these matters.  
45 We are looking at our way of life as Natives of Alaska. We are  
46 satisfied how the meeting went on yesterday. We thank you  
47 Jesus for many prayers that you have answered in the year. We

48 pray Lord that you will guide us and lead us throughout this  
49 meeting, in Jesus name we ask, amen.  
50

0003

1 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: At this time I'd like to ask  
2 Clifford if he could say something about our dear friend Edgar,  
3 if he's got anything to say.

4  
5 MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to  
6 express my -- inside our booklet, I think maybe Helen can touch  
7 on that a little bit, but there were some articles that were --  
8 you know, once we received notice of Edgar's death, they did a  
9 real nice write-up, I felt, in the Alaska Anthropological paper  
10 and that's what I've included in the booklet, and I'll  
11 certainly miss Edgar. Thank you.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Does any of the Council members  
14 have anything to say about our dear friend Edgar?

15  
16 MR. KATCHATAG SR: Mr. Chairman.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Fred.

19  
20 MR. KATCHATAG SR: Can we just have a silent prayer for  
21 Edgar Ningeulook, who was one of our members and has passed  
22 away. Silence of prayer for a short time.

23  
24 (Moment of silence)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Edgar was a very good friend of  
27 mine. I've known him when I went to Nome/Bettles, beginning  
28 1966/1967. And off and on I've associated with him on several  
29 different organizations and he'll be a big loss to myself and  
30 I'm sure some of you have -- that knew him. Any other Council  
31 members have anything else to say? If not, I'd like to have  
32 Clifford Edenshaw clarify our agenda.

33  
34 MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If we'd just go  
35 down number four here, to review and adoption of agenda. The  
36 next one is the review and adoption of minutes from our meeting  
37 in Unalakleet. Election of officers. Seven, open floor to  
38 public comments on Federal Subsistence Management Program.  
39 Under old business, National Park Service, we went over  
40 yesterday at yesterday's meeting, and I think that will be  
41 touched upon later this afternoon when we -- what I included in  
42 -- plus Ken Adkisson passed out here in front of your name  
43 plates, a status report on the musk oxen hunt here on the  
44 Seward Penn. So Ken Adkisson will give a brief discussion of  
45 that. And maybe, if anything, we'll have to add regarding Park  
46 Service, and also, I think, I'll cover that under the latter  
47 portion of the agenda, which I think if any of the Council

48 members or yourself, Ted, want to add anything in regards to  
49 yesterday's meeting so that it will be formally on the record,  
50 that's why I included the Park Service in the deal at the end

0004

1 regarding the draft review of Park Service Subsistence  
2 Regulations.

3  
4 Number three, we'll go into that a little bit. It's  
5 included in your booklets regarding the request for  
6 reconsideration for some proposals that were submitted last  
7 year by the Council. Number four, you can just omit that, it  
8 was a clerical error on my part. Number five, the annual  
9 report. The Council submitted the final annual report last  
10 year and the Board responded to that, so that's what that is.  
11 And then I wanted to get some clarification from the Council  
12 here in regards to companion subsistence resource data because  
13 of some of the requests in last years annual report that was  
14 submitted. And then number six is just when the Board met in  
15 April addressing proposals, I'll touch on that a little bit.  
16 The next page, musk ox C&T for Unit 22(A). You have a proposal  
17 in front of you that I've put on your tables in front of you.  
18 And then number eight, call for proposals. And then 10,  
19 family. I know last year at our meeting in Unalakleet we  
20 addressed -- I think it was Unalakleet or -- yes, I think it  
21 was, there was one proposal, #62 regarding moose in Unit 22(A),  
22 and we brought up this topic of family. And that there was a  
23 proposal submitted in Unit 22(A) to include family and  
24 relatives in Unit 22(A) for a positive C&T for moose, and that  
25 was rejected by the Board. But when the Board met, they asked  
26 for clarification for more further discussion regarding the  
27 issues of -- so inside your booklets there's an article that  
28 was taken from the history of ANILCA and it's in your books,  
29 and Helen will discuss that. And Rosa Meehan, from our Staff  
30 will do number three on the implementation, just an update on  
31 fisheries. I think when you received your booklets, for number  
32 four, training for new Council members -- did you receive that  
33 Perry? Perry? Perry, did you receive this?

34  
35 MR. MENDENHALL: Yes.

36  
37 MR. EDENSHAW: Okay. So we've been developing the new  
38 training in regards to some of the other regions wanted -- in  
39 the past we've sent out these big binders, thick binders with  
40 lots of information and we've condensed that. And then  
41 Regional Council charters, they're always up for renewal every  
42 two years. And the rest is pretty.....

43  
44 MR. MENDENHALL: Did they provide a parka for me?

45  
46 MR. EDENSHAW: No. But anyway, that's it. Thank you.  
47

48           CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: One thing, I'd like to apologize  
49 that I should have looked at my agenda; I'd like to welcome the  
50 people that come into here for our meeting, and I'd like to ask

0005

1 Rosa to introduce her staff.

2

3 MS. MEEHAN: I'll just have everybody introduce  
4 themselves.

5

6 MS. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong with Fish and Wildlife  
7 Services. I'm the anthropologist on this team for the Seward  
8 Peninsula Regional Council.

9

10 MS. MEEHAN: Rosa Meehan with the Office of Subsistence  
11 Management.

12

13 MS. DEWHURST: Donna Dewhurst with the Office of  
14 Subsistence Management. I'm the biologist on your team.

15

16 MS. MEEHAN: And I think that's all of us from Fish and  
17 Wildlife. Would you like to have the rest of the folks  
18 introduce themselves.

19

20 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: I'd like to have you introduce  
21 yourselves.

22

23 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson with the Bering Land Bridge  
24 National Preserve here in Nome.

25

26 MR. GERHARDT: I'm Bob Gerhardt with the National Park  
27 Service in Anchorage.

28

29 MR. MAGDANZ: Hi, I'm Jim Magdanz. I work with the  
30 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence.

31

32 MR. SANDERS: I'm Gary Sanders. I'm with the Alaska  
33 Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish out of  
34 Juneau. I'm a member of the State subsistence liaison team.

35

36 MS. PERSONS: Kate Persons, Fish and Game, wildlife  
37 biologist here in Nome.

38

39 MR. LEAN: Charlie Lean. I'm the commercial fisheries  
40 area biologist for Kotzebue and Norton Sound.

41

42 MR. DENTON: I'm Jeff Denton. I'm with the BLM,  
43 Anchorage District, out of Anchorage.

44

45 MR. TOCKTOO: I'm Fred Tocktoo. I work for the  
46 National Park Service in Nome.

47

48                   MR. OLANNA: Jack Olanna of Kawerak Natural Resources  
49 Subsistence specialist.  
50

0006

1 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA, Staff Committee  
2 member to the Federal Subsistence Board.

3  
4 MS. FOSDICK: Rose Fosdick. I work for Kawerak for the  
5 Reindeer Herders Association.

6  
7 MS. GEORGETTE: I'm Susan Georgette. I work at the  
8 Fish and Game Department here in Nome.

9  
10 MR. BENTE: I'm Peter Bente, Alaska Department of Fish  
11 and Game. I'm a game biologist from Nome.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: The Council members could introduce  
14 themselves also and we'll start with Clifford, our staff.

15  
16 MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you, Ted. Cliff Edenshaw,  
17 coordinator.

18  
19 MR. BUCK: Peter Buck from White Mountain.

20  
21 MS. CROSS: Grace Cross from Nome.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Ted Katcheak, Stebbins.

24  
25 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Jr., of Brevig Mission.

26  
27 MR. KATCHATAG SR: Fred Katchatag, Sr, Unalakleet.

28  
29 MR. MENDENHALL: Provraduk. Perry Mendenhall from  
30 Nome.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Thank you. At this time I'd like  
33 to adopt the agenda. Do we have any additions or corrections  
34 or deletions? I will entertain that motion.

35  
36 MS. MEEHAN: This is Rosa Meehan with the Subsistence  
37 Office. There was some discussion of how you want to handle  
38 the election of officers and that's placed early on in the  
39 agenda. And I'll just share with you, there's some different  
40 options you could do with that, and Cliff, do you want to go  
41 over those or do you want me to?

42  
43 MR. EDENSHAW: No, go ahead.

44  
45 MS. MEEHAN: If you like, you can go ahead and hold the  
46 elections early in the agenda the way they're scheduled or you  
47 could move that agenda item to the end of the meeting, or the

48 third thing you could do is you could put off the elections  
49 until the next meeting, 'til the winter meeting. And so that  
50 would be -- whichever way you're most comfortable handling

0007

1 that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: At this time I'd like to table the  
4 election of officers until we have full Council present. Is  
5 that okay with the Council members.

6

7 MR. BUCK: Second it.

8

9 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: So Peter you made the motion? You  
10 moved?

11

12 MR. BUCK: Yes.

13

14 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Peter moved to table the election  
15 until our next scheduled meeting and we have a full Council  
16 present, second?

17

18 MR. KATCHATAG SR: Second.

19

20 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Seconded by Fred Katchatag. All in  
21 favor, signify by saying aye.

22

23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24

25 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Those opposed no.

26

27 MR. MENDENHALL: No.

28

29 MS. CROSS: No.

30

31 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: There's two no's. And four aye's.

32

33 MR. MENDENHALL: The reason I voted no on that is  
34 because you did have it on the agenda for a period of time and  
35 then that's why.

36

37 MS. CROSS: Instead of scheduling it for the next  
38 meeting, can we just move it along and then decide on our last  
39 day whether we should -- in case we get more Council members  
40 present?

41

42 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: That's okay with me if that's all  
43 right with the Council members.

44

45 MS. CROSS: So Peter needs to amend the motion to say  
46 that.....

47

48 MR. MENDENHALL: Well.....

49

50 MS. CROSS: Just move it to the end, on the last day,

0008

1 and then make a decision then.

2

3 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Is that okay with you Peter?

4

5 MR. BUCK: Yeah. As long as it's either today or  
6 tomorrow.

7

8 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay.

9

10 MR. BUCK: I think that gives enough time for everybody  
11 to get back to the meeting if they're going to be here.

12

13 MS. CROSS: We can move it to tomorrow.

14

15 MR. BUCK: Yeah.

16

17 MS. CROSS: Towards the end of the day and then decide  
18 then whether we should do elections. Maybe we'll have a full  
19 Council by then because we don't know.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Well, with that suggestion, if the  
22 motion.....

23

24 MS. CROSS: Amend your motion to.....

25

26 MR. BUCK: I'll amend it.

27

28 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Peter amended his motion to read as  
29 the election of officers will be conducted whenever the full  
30 Council is present, sometime later on, either today or  
31 tomorrow; is that okay with you Fred?

32

33 MR. KATCHATAG SR: It's okay with me.

34

35 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: All in favor say aye.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Those opposed no.

40

41 (No opposing responses)

42

43 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Motion carries.

44

45 MR. MENDENHALL: Usually, you know, when you don't hear  
46 somebody say aye or not, I mean that's kind of like a yes.

47

48           CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Yes. At this time if there's no  
49 other addition to the agenda, I'll entertain the motion to  
50 adopt the agenda with some corrections or additions.

0009

1 MR. KATCHATAG SR: I move. I make a motion to accept  
2 the agenda as corrected with the election of officers be  
3 delayed until full Council is present.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Do I hear a second?

6  
7 MR. SEETOT: Second.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Second by Elmer. Motion by Fred  
10 Katchatag, second by Elmer. All in favor say aye.

11  
12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: And those opposed no.

15  
16 (No opposing responses)

17  
18 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Motion carried. At this time can  
19 our secretary read the minutes of our last meeting.

20  
21 MS. CROSS: Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council,  
22 Kattimivak Center, Unalakleet, February 5 to 6, 1997. February  
23 5, 1997, called to order. The meeting was called to order at  
24 9:14 a.m. in Unalakleet at the Kattimivak Center Building.

25  
26 Roll call/confirmation of quorum. Roll call was called  
27 by secretary Grace Cross. Present, Sheldon Katchatag, Chair.  
28 Grace Cross, Secretary, Joe Garnie, Peter Buck, Fred Katchatag,  
29 Sr., Edgar Ningeulook, there is a quorum. Ted Katcheak, vice  
30 chair, excused. Elmer Seetot, Jr., late due to missed flight,  
31 will be in, Abraham Anasogak, Sr, has resigned.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: My last name is Katcheak.

34  
35 MS. CROSS: Katcheak, sorry. Invocation was conducted  
36 by Fred Katchatag, Sr. Chairman Katchatag welcomed everyone  
37 and the Council members introduced themselves and shared their  
38 relationship of a subsistence lifestyle and their desire to  
39 serve on the Regional Advisory Council.

40  
41 Welcome and introductions. Donna Dewhurst, new  
42 biologist for U.S. Fish and Wildlife, USF&W was introduced.  
43 Federal and State agency personnel and visitors present; Ann  
44 Morkill-BLM, Jeff Denton-BLM, Sandy Rabinowitch, Ken Adkisson  
45 and Fred Tocktoo-NPS, Jake Olanna-Kawerak, Jim Magdanz-ADF&G  
46 subsistence, Charlie Lean-ADF&G Fisheries, Tim VieVenna-ADF&G  
47 sport fish in Fairbanks, Stanton Katchatag, Henry Ivanoff and

48 students, Fran Degnan, Charles Degnan, Helen Armstrong, Rose  
49 Meehan and Cliff Edenshaw-USF&WS.  
50

0010

1 Review and adoption of agenda. The agenda was reviewed  
2 and adopted with the Park Service presentation moved from 7.A.5  
3 to 7.A.1, February 5th. Added to the agenda were, presentation  
4 to George Lockwood who served as a Council member to 8.B.3,  
5 February 6. Discussion of RuralCap roundtable, 8.B.5, February  
6 6, report of an extension of the musk ox hunt added to 8.B.4a  
7 and Jeff Denton requested BLM's agency presentation be moved to  
8 8.C.2.

9  
10 Review of minutes from October 1, 1996 meeting in Nome.  
11 The minutes were read and reviewed by Council members and  
12 adopted.

13  
14 The floor was opened to public comment on the Federal  
15 Subsistence Program.

16  
17 Old business. Presentation of Federal subsistence  
18 fisheries program. Rosa Meehan, Staff for USF&WS provided the  
19 update on the draft proposed rule for implementation of Federal  
20 subsistence fisheries management. The Federal subsistence  
21 program is preparing and creating an environmental assessment  
22 and a proposed rule and regulations for pending takeover of  
23 subsistence fisheries by the Federal government. Presently, a  
24 moratorium is in place that will expire on October 1, 1997,  
25 which prevents the final proposed rule from being implemented.

26  
27 Within the EA, the State is divided into six regions.  
28 Seward Peninsula is combined with the Arctic region and the  
29 entirety is broken into three regions. There are three  
30 alternatives being proposed. The first is status quo, continue  
31 with the State's program. Alternative two is 51 percent of the  
32 56,000 rivers and streams would be under Federal jurisdiction  
33 if this alternative is chosen. Alternative three would include  
34 selected lands, 57 percent of the streams and rivers would be  
35 under Federal jurisdiction, this is the DOI's preferred  
36 alternative.

37  
38 BLM lands are excluded and only navigable waters within  
39 conservation units are included. BLM does not have reserved  
40 water rights with the exception being, National Petroleum  
41 Reserve and Steese River National Recreation area.

42  
43 There was lengthy discussion regarding commercial  
44 fisheries. Charlie Lean discussed commercial fisheries in the  
45 Nome area. Most of the fishing problems are centered around  
46 Nome. Nome's harvest of salmon has been 10 percent of what it  
47 was in the past and is probably attributed to over harvest.

48 Habitat, stream flows and weather do not appear to be  
49 contributing factors regarding Nome's declining harvest of  
50 salmon. Grace Cross mentioned that the routes salmon have

0011

1 traditionally taken may have changed. Charlie surmised the  
2 increase of salmon catches on St. Lawrence Island may be  
3 attributed to salmon from Russia changing return routes.

4

5 The agency was heavily criticized for not having the  
6 fishing regulations to Council members ahead of time.

7

8 Joint Federal Subsistence Board/Council meeting. The  
9 Council Chairs met in Anchorage November 19-20, 1996 and  
10 organized into an informal group called, Council of Chairs,  
11 Sheldon Katchatag was elected as Chair. The group will meet  
12 the first week in April to continue their research into  
13 restructuring of the Federal Subsistence Board, the Board to be  
14 made up of the Council Chairs. After discussion (sic) was the  
15 lack of an Alaska Native Policy pertaining to subsistence  
16 management that is lacking with the Federal subsistence  
17 management program.

18

19 Regional Council update on rural status and  
20 alternatives for the Regional Councils. On Alternatives, six  
21 Councils desired alternates, three do not, one took no action.  
22 On rural status as a requirement to serve on the Council, the  
23 solicitor from Washington, D.C., stated it would be illegal  
24 from his/her interpretation of ANILCA that in the charters,  
25 rural, be a requirement when applying to the Regional Council.  
26 The charters are not up for renewal until 1998, that is when  
27 those issues can be revisited.

28

29 Annual report 1996. The present draft was reviewed by  
30 Council members and the Chair asked Council members what other  
31 issues they would like included. The Chair requested that an  
32 annual report list all subsistence species utilized by Seward  
33 Peninsula residents to be included in a future annual report.  
34 Also, included in the annual report, notice to the Federal  
35 Subsistence Board that the SPSRAC will handle fisheries until  
36 the workload becomes too much. A list of all motions and/or  
37 recommendations to the Board be included in the report. The  
38 Council voted unanimously to accept the annual report as  
39 amended.

40

41 National Park Service review of Park Service laws and  
42 regulations. Under Sandy Rabinowitch and Chairman Katchatag's  
43 consent, the RAC and NPS will have an informal discussion prior  
44 to the start of the regularly scheduled RAC meeting to discuss  
45 the Park Service review of subsistence laws and regulations in  
46 Nome on October 14, 1997.

47

48           There was discussion by Chuck Degnan about local hires  
49 and what opportunities there are for individuals in the  
50 community. Information presented by Donna Dewhurst centered

0012

1 around co-op students in college, RAPS program sponsored by BLM  
2 and the YCC program. There are also ANILCA hires.

3

4 There was a brief discussion about caribou on Seward  
5 Peninsula. Jim Magdanz provided a paper Peter Bente had  
6 prepared in October of 1996. Attempts to radio collar caribou  
7 in Game Management Units 22(B) and 22(D) were not possible due  
8 to fog. The number of animals was estimated at 30,000. Jim  
9 Magdanz, ADF&G biologist stated there was caribou present as  
10 far as Wales during the calendar month. There was a motion  
11 requesting a special action for a caribou hunt in 22(E) from  
12 February 6, 1997 until March 30, 1997 for a bag limit of five a  
13 day. Sheldon also requested an open season in 22(E) from the  
14 State as well. The motion passed unanimously.

15

16 The meeting then went back to Joint/Chairs Federal  
17 Board meeting. During lunch Sheldon had not been able to get  
18 his letter printed off. The letter in question is one  
19 communicating restructuring of the Federal Subsistence Board.  
20 There was a motion put on the floor stating the letter be sent  
21 to the Secretary(s) of the Interior/Agriculture requesting an  
22 Alaska Native policy. There was lengthy discussion as to why  
23 Seward Peninsula Council would send the letter to the  
24 Secretary, after all, Sheldon is the Chair of Chairs and the  
25 letter should be sent to those individuals Chairs for review  
26 prior to being sent to the Secretary. The motion was voted on  
27 and five in favor of sending the letter as written to the  
28 Secretary and two opposed. Council members Grace Cross and Joe  
29 Garnie dissented.

30

31 New business. Proposal analysis. Proposal 61.  
32 Present regulation, black bear, all rural residents. Motion  
33 for positive C&T for residents of 22(A), including Koyuk,  
34 positive C&T for Units 22(B) and 22(A) (sic); Subunits (C) and  
35 (E) would be revisited if black bear are found to have migrated  
36 to the area. Motion passed unanimously.

37

38 Proposal 62. Moose, present regulation, all residents  
39 of Unit 22(A). Motion for residents of Unit 22(A), Koyuk and  
40 family as defined in Section 803 of ANILCA. Motion passes  
41 unanimously.

42

43 Proposal 63. Wolf, proposed regulation, rural  
44 residents of Unit 21(D) west of Yukon River, Unit 22 and Unit  
45 23 south of Arctic Circle. Motion to include Kotlik in above  
46 proposed regulation. Motion passes unanimously.

47

48            Proposal 54. Caribou, proposed regulation, to include  
49 the residents of Chevak, Scammon Bay and Hooper Bay for C&T  
50 determination use as they utilize Unit 22(A) for caribou

0013

1 hunting. Motion passes unanimously.

2

3 Proposal 66. Caribou, all residents of Unit 22 be  
4 given positive C&T and all residents of Unit 22 be given  
5 positive C&T use for Unit 23, south of the Arctic Circle.

6

7 Regional Council nominations. There weren't any  
8 applications received to date for the Seward Peninsula. The  
9 two incumbents were reminded to reapply if they so desire and  
10 to remember that the deadline for receiving applications is  
11 February 28, 1997.

12

13 Motion, recommendation/nomination from Koyuk IRA to  
14 replace Abraham Anasogak's chair as he has submitted his  
15 resignation. Motion passes unanimously.

16

17 Motion that Council recommend and send a letter of  
18 recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board asking that  
19 Elmer Seetot, Jr., be reappointed by the Seward Peninsula  
20 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. Motion passed  
21 unanimously with one abstention.

22

23 Motion to recommend reappointing Sheldon I. Katchatag  
24 to Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and  
25 send letter of recommendation. Motion passes unanimously with  
26 one abstention.

27

28 Presentation of George Lockwood Certificate of  
29 Appreciation is delayed, Sheldon said he forgot the certificate  
30 and would do so next time he's in town.

31

32 Report from January 28, 1997 Cooperative Musk Ox  
33 meeting in Nome. Musk ox compete with locals when picking  
34 berries and green. Habitat destruction is long and research is  
35 unclear of how long flora and fauna take to regenerate. ADF&G  
36 suggest targeting bachelor bulls during hunt instead of mixed  
37 sex groups. Other comments, there isn't enough room for musk  
38 ox, reindeer, caribou and local residents. Motion made to  
39 maintain harvest based on yearly birth. Motion passed  
40 unanimously.

41

42 Special action regarding musk ox hunt. Donna Dewhurst,  
43 USF&WS biologist stated the Federal Subsistence Board voted to  
44 extend the musk ox hunt in Units 22(D), (E) and Unit 23 from  
45 February 1st to February 22. The reason stated is there is  
46 very little snow to access Federal public lands by snowmachine  
47 to where the animals are.

48

49 RuralCap Roundtable Subsistence Meeting in Anchorage.

50 Sheldon requested Council Chairs' airfare and per diem to

0014

1 attend roundtable. Deputy Director, Tom Boyd responded in a  
2 letter that as representatives of the Federal subsistence  
3 program, we could not influence any particular legislation that  
4 is in place. Sheldon stated that he and his uncle were  
5 attending and would report back to the Regional Council.

6  
7 Leghold trap issue on refuge land. A friends of fur  
8 group is trying to ban the use of leghold traps on USF&WS  
9 refuge lands. Legislation was utilized in the way of a rider  
10 on a budget appropriations bill. It was later changed to  
11 conducting a study rather than changing a regulation. February  
12 15, 1997 is the final day for receiving public comment, I have  
13 since faxed in a letter Sheldon submitted on February 12, 1997.

14  
15 Agency reports. BLM, Ann Morkill. Ann pointed out on  
16 maps which lands were under jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land  
17 Management. Ann also reported some information on the Western  
18 Caribou herd, over a 14 year study research displayed a  
19 reduction in lichen not only from grazing by caribou as well as  
20 wildland fire. Final analysis, lichen takes a long time to  
21 regenerate which may have ramifications for the Western Arctic  
22 herd. In the summer of 1997, research was done on musk ox in  
23 Unit 22(D), a sex study determining how many bulls versus cows  
24 are in the unit. Questions asked were, are there any plans to  
25 do habitat studies with regard to the caribou? How far have  
26 the caribou moved southwards? How many reindeer have been  
27 taken with the caribou? Deer herders are finding reindeer  
28 close to the coast.

29  
30 No other business. Prepared and respectfully submitted  
31 this day.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: At this time I'd like to take a  
34 five minute recess. I understand I have a phone call from our  
35 Chair, Sheldon.

36  
37 (Off record)

38 (On record)

39  
40 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Call the meeting back to order. At  
41 this time I'd like to know if there's corrections to our  
42 minutes. One of the corrections that I see that needs to be  
43 changed is Koyuk should be read as Unit 22(B) instead of 22(A).  
44 I think it was just a typographical error. Is that correct?

45  
46 MR. EDENSHAW: Excuse me, Mr. Chair, where are you at?

47

48                   CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: On top of the second page of our  
49 minutes under Proposal 62. It says motion for residents of  
50 Unit 22(A), Koyuk and family. I think it needs to be

0015

1 corrected.

2

3 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, I believe that is 22(A).

4

5 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Looking at the arbitrary line here.  
6 This is 22(A).

7

8 MR. EDENSHAW: That's correct. The proposal was for  
9 22(A), for moose in 22(A).

10

11 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Oh, it's right then? So it's  
12 correct as written 22(A)?

13

14 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes.

15

16 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: On RuralCap roundtable subsistence  
17 meeting in Anchorage. I understand our Chair, Sheldon, was  
18 going to make this report, but I would just like to make a  
19 brief statement or brief report. I did attend it also. I was  
20 sent to attend the meeting by Stebbins IRA Council. And there  
21 was kind of confusion -- I was confused because there was no  
22 consensus, everybody had their own proposals on how to address  
23 the subsistence. But the RuralCap/AFN and AITC, all, the  
24 consensus on their part was to, I guess, wait and see,  
25 Governor's task force will be coming up with. So looking at  
26 the proposals, by different organizations, there's no consensus  
27 right now. I guess we'll have to wait and see what's going to  
28 come with -- what's going to be agreeable by everybody.

29

30 Do you have anything you'd like to add on that Fred or  
31 any other Council members? If not, that's just kind of a --  
32 it's not a very long report, it's kind of a wait and see  
33 situation right now. So I'll stop there and, do we have any  
34 other corrections to our meeting?

35

36 MR. MENDENHALL: I make a motion for approval as  
37 corrected?

38

39 MR. KATCHATAG SR: I second the motion.

40

41 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Motion by Perry to adopt the  
42 minutes as corrected, second by Fred. All in favor say aye.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Those opposed no.

47

48 (No opposing responses)

49

50 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Motion passed. At this time I'd

0016

1 like to address the election of officers if any of the Council  
2 members have any recommendations of how we could handle this.  
3 I understand that with talking with Sheldon, he said that he's  
4 going to be staying at home, didn't want to leave his wife  
5 because his father-in-law is not very well, and very sick, so  
6 he felt that he wanted to stay with his wife.

7

8 MR. MENDENHALL: That's been moved to tomorrow.

9

10 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay. I'll go ahead and continue  
11 on to Item 7; open floor for public comment on Federal  
12 Subsistence Management Program. Does any of the public or  
13 guests have any comments? Yes, could you state your name for  
14 the record.

15

16 MS. HILDEBRAND: My name is Ida Hildebrand. I'm the  
17 Staff Committee member from the BIA. I have a question that  
18 was presented to me to be raised at this meeting by some of the  
19 local people. They wanted someone from the Department of Fish  
20 and Game to answer what exactly, defense of life, taking of  
21 bear, is and what are the regulations, the procedures of  
22 defense of life.

23

24 MR. MENDENHALL: Did we leave the agenda open or, you  
25 know, I'm just asking? Because usually when you adopt an  
26 agenda it's kind of closed unless you want to have it open.  
27 That's my understanding of Roberts Rules of Order. So if they  
28 want to have that addressed, they could be addressed under  
29 number three anyway, it's old business. You could probably add  
30 that to that, that question, their bear question, if you want  
31 to put it to there. I'm just trying to put some order into the  
32 process on that question there to the agenda.

33

34 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Clifford, do you have anything you  
35 want to add?

36

37 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes. Perry, in regards to number seven,  
38 we usually leave this open for any of the public who wish to  
39 make comments or questions regarding the Federal Subsistence  
40 Program. So Ida's Staff Committee with BIA, Bureau of Indian  
41 Affairs, so she was asking the question on behalf of some of  
42 the public here in the Nome area. So, I would feel free to  
43 request or let one of the ADF&G personnel come up and answer  
44 that question. This portion of the agenda is open for the  
45 public to comment.

46

47 MR. MENDENHALL: You know, I was just trying to find a

48 place to put it that's all. I'm not trying to not have them  
49 have any input, but where it can be addressed in the process.  
50 But unless you have it opened throughout the meeting, then it

0017

1 should -- the Chair needs to say this will -- that they could  
2 interject throughout during the meeting, he said at this point.  
3 I'm just trying to -- because it's been put on, I'm trying to  
4 fit it into the agenda. They do have a slot, number three,  
5 that's all I'm trying to point out for more input from the  
6 public.

7

8 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: I'm not an expert on solving bear  
9 problems. I'm inclined to think that the game biologists have  
10 better experience than I have. The only way that we could take  
11 care of the bear problem was, in the early days, my childhood,  
12 we had reindeer herders all the time and they're the ones that  
13 got rid of the bears so we had little bear problem. But now, I  
14 guess we don't have any herders anymore to take care of those  
15 problems. And I understand we have.....

16

17 MR. MENDENHALL: So where do you want to put this  
18 request, that's all I'm asking on the agenda?

19

20 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay.

21

22 MS. CROSS: Mr. Chair, may I make a suggestion. Maybe  
23 we could have somebody from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife answer  
24 that question and also from the State Fish and Wildlife now.

25

26 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay.

27

28 MS. CROSS: So somebody from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
29 can come up and answer that question and from the State,  
30 please.

31

32 MR. BENTE: My name is Peter Bente, a game biologist  
33 with the Department of Fish and Game. I'd like to answer -- or  
34 clarify the question on defense of life and property. In our  
35 game regulation book, defense of life and property allows a  
36 person to kill an animal in defense of their life or property  
37 as long as the animal is not attracted to that situation by  
38 garbage or -- oh, let's see, food that would be accessible to  
39 the wildlife. But if you are threatened, if your life is  
40 threatened or if your property is threatened you may kill the  
41 animal.

42

43 And it isn't solely restricted to bears. The list of  
44 animals may include any animal. We have defense of life and  
45 property for moose or wolves or bear. Once the animal is  
46 killed, the animal becomes property of the State. Fur animals,  
47 including bears, the hide must be salvaged if it's in good

48 condition. The food becomes part of the person who killed the  
49 animal in defense of life and property. After the animal is  
50 taken you should report it to the Department of Fish and Game,

0018

1 either to a Staff biologist like myself or a Fish and Wildlife  
2 trooper, and then there's a report written on the reason or the  
3 circumstances on why the animal was taken or killed.

4

5 MR. KATCHATAG SR: What's the telephone number for  
6 that?

7

8 MR. BENTE: There's an 800 number for Nome. 1-800-560-  
9 2271.

10

11 MR. KATCHATAG SR: 560?

12

13 MR. BENTE: 560-2271.

14

15 MR. KATCHATAG SR: 2271, thank you.

16

17 MR. BENTE: Any further questions?

18

19 MS. MEEHAN: I have a question. And this is a  
20 clarification for a situation that may be found if folks who  
21 camp out in the field, and that is, what about fish drying on a  
22 fish rack; is that considered an entrapment or is that  
23 considered part of the property that can be defended?

24

25 MR. BENTE: I would say that fish taken for food and  
26 drying in a fish rack becomes part of property. And I would  
27 read some of the definition of property means or dwelling, your  
28 means of dwelling, your pets, your livestock or other valuable  
29 property necessary for your livelihood for survival. So my  
30 interpretation of the fish drying in a fish rack is necessary  
31 for your livelihood.

32

33 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: I think there are several different  
34 problems associated with the bear presence out there and one of  
35 them I've seen quite often is that beached whale or beached  
36 seal attracts the bears near the village or near the fish camp  
37 and I don't think nobody wants to drag that whale or seal  
38 that's beached around so it won't attract the bear. And it's a  
39 situation that occurs quite often, and how do you define what  
40 is safe and what is bad or dangerous.

41

42 MR. BENTE: I don't have an answer for the definition  
43 of what is safe or what is a threat to a person in this case  
44 where we have a natural event or a beached marine mammal comes  
45 and lodges right in front of your camp or in front of your home  
46 and because it's sitting there and rotting it attracts bears.  
47 It would come down to a situation where you have to make your

48 personal judgment to whether the bear is a threat to you  
49 personally or your family or your livelihood.  
50

0019

1 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: In a situation last -- all summer  
2 we had six or seven bears around and near the village -- well,  
3 near the village. We have a dump site that attracts bears. We  
4 also have a beached whale that's south of the village that  
5 bears come down to feed on. And it's kind of hard to ignore  
6 the bear was around or -- or just I don't know how to -- we  
7 don't know how to handle that situation. The only way we could  
8 solve that bear situation is to get rid of it. But even if we  
9 did move that bear away or relocate it, I understand bears,  
10 they travel 50 to 100 miles, it's no problem with them. They  
11 could swim out into the ocean seven or eight miles, they're  
12 good and fast swimmers. So to me they're just a threat and  
13 nuisance. If I had a preference of what kind of animal I would  
14 like to see around me, it's reindeer and caribou and there's no  
15 threat there. They're safe -- fairly safe to be around.

16  
17 So any questions to.....

18  
19 MR. BUCK: Yes, I have one question. They're saying  
20 once a bear is taken with defense of life and property, the  
21 meat goes to whoever kills it, but the hide is taken by the  
22 Fish and Game?

23  
24 MR. BENTE: The hide becomes property of the State,  
25 yes.

26  
27 MR. BUCK: Okay. Wouldn't the customary and  
28 traditional use of the hide -- wouldn't that be considered for  
29 the using? If you took the hide, you know, the hide is pretty  
30 valuable for the person, and to use that as customary and  
31 traditional trading, I don't know why, if they give the meat  
32 away, they have to take the hide too, so.....

33  
34 MR. MENDENHALL: To tie it in with subsistence, that's  
35 the question of if we want bear on subsistence, and then if  
36 everybody shoots that for defense of their fish camp or a moose  
37 hunt, and that bear's skin can be used for sleeping rug or some  
38 -- that traditionally was used in the home; that's the question  
39 I think that he's coming up with?

40  
41 MR. BUCK: Yeah.

42  
43 MR. BENTE: Yeah, I think I understand the question; if  
44 the bear is taken during a hunting season or with a tag, then  
45 you're -- and we have a registration permit system for some  
46 brown bear management areas where there's no tag fee, then that  
47 becomes a subsistence hunt bear and you keep the hide, as well

48 as, the meat. Under a DLP, Defense of Life and Property, the  
49 bear is not taken during normal season, so right now the  
50 interpretation is the hide becomes property of the State. It

0020

1 would.....

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: But with subsistence that became a  
4 subsistence game meat in lieu of protecting their camp or  
5 moose; there's questions about traditional hunts of bears, like  
6 Kotzebue, Kivalina that used to be done here and the reason  
7 that was done is because of a slightly change over that and  
8 lifestyle -- and now everybody's saying we need to get back to  
9 our subsistence way of life and that was the way it used to be,  
10 for a sleeping rug and use of that bear, rather than giving it  
11 away after all that work of skinning and everything else, and  
12 that provides some meat, bacon in a lot of cases. In other  
13 words, the subsistence question is, why, after all that work of  
14 harvesting that animal, why should that rug go to the State  
15 when it can be used in the home or at camp?

16

17 MR. BENTE: I think I understand the question, I'm  
18 going to ask Jim Magdanz from Subsistence Division help answer  
19 the question.

20

21 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chairman, my name is Jim Magdanz. I  
22 work for the Division of Subsistence, Alaska Department of Fish  
23 and Game. There are subsistence regulations for taking bear,  
24 both under State and Federal rules right now. But in this  
25 unit, 22, the bag limit is still one bear every four years and  
26 there's a tag fee requirement. There's a proposal before the  
27 Board of Game, which will be meeting here in Nome beginning  
28 October 24th to expand the subsistence hunt, change the bag  
29 limit to one bear every year, and to waive that tag fee. It's  
30 the same set of regulations that have been in place in the  
31 Nenana region for about six years now and are working pretty  
32 well up there.

33

34 The Department's aware that bear populations have been  
35 high and we have heard a lot of reports from people in this  
36 region and north about bear predation. There is also a  
37 tradition, as Mr. Mendenhall mentions, of bear being used for  
38 food. Our surveys show reports of that from Shishmaref and  
39 Deering and White Mountain and Golovin. And so what we would  
40 like to do with these proposed regulations is accommodate some  
41 of that food uses of bear. There wouldn't be a sealing  
42 requirement so long as that hide didn't leave the units. The  
43 subunits that are being considered for this are (A), (B), (D)  
44 and (E), but not (C) here in Nome at this time. So the idea is  
45 that it would liberalize bear harvest regulations considerably  
46 for people who wanted to harvest bear for food and there'd be  
47 no sealing requirements. You could use it for a rug and what

48 have you.

49

50           There are also proposals that would change some of the

0021

1 non-resident hunting rules and the number of drawing permits  
2 that are being issued. So if you're interested in that issue  
3 and the Board of Game meeting here in Nome a week from now  
4 would be a good opportunity to bring it before the State.

5

6 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: I do have a question. Does the  
7 same rule apply to guided hunts? How does the guided bear  
8 hunts, what are the regulations on guided bear hunts?

9

10 MR. BENTE: Guided bear hunts are non-resident hunters.  
11 Usually non-resident hunting is limited to drawing permits in  
12 Units 22(B) and (C), (D) and (E), and also Unit 23. The  
13 drawing is held in May. A drawing winner then may hunt with  
14 next of kin or with a guide and they cannot hunt unless they  
15 have a permit.

16

17 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Do they keep the bear hide or is  
18 that given to the State?

19

20 MR. BENTE: That's regular season hunting. They keep  
21 the hide. They pay a \$500 brown bear tag fee and an \$85, non-  
22 resident license fee. And those seasons are established  
23 September 1 through October 31 and also April 15 to May 20th or  
24 May 25th, depending on area.

25

26 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Isn't that kind of discriminatory  
27 or the State doesn't view that as discrimination? Guided bear  
28 hunts keep their bear skin and hide and then other people can't  
29 keep their bear hide.

30

31 MR. BENTE: No. The difference is the times when a  
32 bear hide is taken is when the bear is taken in defense of life  
33 and property without a hunting license, without a tag fee  
34 possibly when the season is closed.

35

36 MS. CROSS: Mr. Chairman, may I ask a question?

37

38 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Yes, go ahead.

39

40 MS. CROSS: I think what the actual question was, I  
41 think, an explanation or rationale, why the hide is not given  
42 to the individual that killed it when the bear was killed  
43 during some kind of subsistence activity? For example, if I'm  
44 at camp and I'm putting up fish and the bear -- and I have to  
45 defend myself and my family and I kill the bear and it's July,  
46 and I'm doing a subsistence activity, you give me the meat, but  
47 I don't get to keep the skin; I think the original question

48 was, what is the rationale in that? I mean why can't I keep  
49 the bear skin because I was protecting my subsistence activity?  
50

0022 JONES:

1 MR. BENTE: I think I understand your question and I'm  
2 not sure of the answer of what the rationale is. I think the  
3 rationale is that the animal is taken out of season potentially  
4 when there's not a normal hunting season and potentially taken  
5 when there is no license and that under those conditions or  
6 those circumstances, it becomes a defense of life and property  
7 and the State owns the animal or at least the furs. They're  
8 willing to allow the meat to be used for food. Right now the  
9 furs are taken by the State and they go to auction. That's the  
10 procedure that goes on.

11  
12 MR. MENDENHALL: In the same line as that is, we're  
13 doing subsistence activity with our salmon or moose hunt and  
14 we're on subsistence, you know, providing food and a bear gets  
15 in the way and wants to take it away. But we have a right to  
16 protect and shoot it if it's getting into our fish camp, we  
17 have a right to protect it if it gets into our moose and then  
18 all that work in our subsistence and then we have to give the  
19 bear hide to you after that. That's a lot of work to -- when  
20 -- how we prevent a lot of hunters from reporting kills if  
21 there are any.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: There's a question back there.

24  
25 MS. GEORGETTE: Well, I just.....

26  
27 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Could you please give us your.....

28  
29 MS. GEORGETTE: My name is Susan Georgette and I work  
30 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. And I just have a  
31 little bit to add I guess, which is, my understanding is the  
32 reason they make you give away the hide is to prevent abuse of  
33 it. Because it's a State wide regulation and even though it  
34 doesn't apply to subsistence people like you're talking about,  
35 there's a lot of people in the State who would probably say  
36 they shot it in defense of life and property, but they really  
37 just wanted the hide. So for a lot of sport hunters, they just  
38 want to prevent people from saying they shot it in defense of  
39 life and property when, in fact, they might have shot it  
40 because they wanted the hide. And if these regulations pass  
41 that Jim was talking about for a subsistence hunt, that would  
42 solve it. So if you were at your fish camp and shot a bear and  
43 it was within that season, you could just keep the meat and  
44 keep the hide, you'd have to have a registration; there'd be a  
45 couple of things. But it would really help that problem I  
46 think.

47

48           But I think the rule isn't really made with subsistence  
49 in mind, it's made with kind of sport hunting in mind.  
50

0023

1 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: I have another question then.  
2 What's the bear population in this region and probably the  
3 State; what's the population like? Do you have any statistics  
4 or studies on the bear?

5  
6 MR. BENTE: For Unit 22, we do not have a population  
7 estimate of the number of bears in Unit 22. The last work that  
8 was done was 1993, when Bob Nelson was area biologist here, and  
9 that was a portion of Unit 22(C) and 22(D) and they generated a  
10 population estimate for that area, and that was approximately,  
11 I think, 1,200 bears.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: The Chair will recognize Jake. Can  
14 you please state your name.

15  
16 MR. OLANNA: Jake Olanna with Kawerak. I've got a  
17 question, this issue has come up a lot of times and in having  
18 worked for reindeer herders in the past, I wanted to get one  
19 point clear. If you shoot a bear, DLP, you have to go through  
20 the trouble of skinning it so you can give up the hide to the  
21 Fish and Game, is it possible if you shoot it DLP to just call  
22 Fish and Game and say, hey, I got a bear up here, why don't you  
23 come up here and take the hide for yourself. Because it takes  
24 a lot of time to skin a bear. And a lot of those reindeer  
25 herders or a lot of people don't have the time to do it even  
26 though it's in defense of life and property.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Bear, it's very heavy, the hide is  
29 heavy and it's cumbersome and usually in summer when the bears  
30 take and it's warm and right away the skin is starting to  
31 deteriorate if it's raw. If it's dry they -- it's resilient  
32 and it's very warm, comfortable. It would be okay -- I  
33 wouldn't mind the bears if they had no teeth and claws and  
34 they're cuddly. But being the way they are, there's always a  
35 scary story about the bears and it's.....

36  
37 MR. MENDENHALL: I would like to hear their response to  
38 Jake's concern that he just brought up.

39  
40 MR. MAGDANZ: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think I want to  
41 echo what Susan said. The DLP provision dates from long ago  
42 and was -- there's a lot of demand for trophy bears and the  
43 State has always been concerned about people, trophy hunters  
44 looking for a way around the regulation. One of the things  
45 that has happened, certainly, out here in this region is  
46 reindeer herding has declined, and just as management has  
47 become more intensive, we've seen the bear population increase,

48 and that there's more conflict than there has been before. I  
49 think the State is nervous, the Board of Game is nervous about  
50 relaxing the DLP regulations because of this trophy concern

0024

1 that it has. But that the Department is and has been, over the  
2 last seven or eight years, gradually liberalizing its bear  
3 regulations in northwest Alaska, maybe not fast enough to keep  
4 up with the population, but I think the Department is slowly  
5 moving in a direction that will solve some of these problems.

6  
7 This body may want to consider working within the  
8 Federal system to address some of these problems on Federal  
9 lands and show the way for the State because I think the State  
10 is concerned about how this might effect bear populations.  
11 But, you, on the Federal lands, don't have the problem that the  
12 State has where all of this bear hunting is open to all  
13 residents of Alaska as qualified subsistence users. You can  
14 have subsistence regulations that apply only to rural  
15 residents. And I think this situation is, that Jake and Grace  
16 and Perry describe, are faced, really by local residents and  
17 not by the sport hunters from Anchorage, and that you may have  
18 tools to deal with liberalizing your regulations or making a  
19 Federal provision for this situation and show the State that,  
20 in fact, this is working and the State may, in the future,  
21 follow your needs as it has in some other areas. And there's  
22 also the option that's certainly open now and has been in the  
23 past of submitting proposals to the Board of Game. Kawerak has  
24 submitted some proposals for liberalization. They, until  
25 recently, haven't had success in that, but now, at this Board  
26 meeting coming up, I think some of the proposals on the table  
27 will speak to some of these concerns.

28  
29 So it's a slow process and I -- there may be  
30 opportunities for this Council to show us how to deal with the  
31 problem.

32  
33 MR. BUCK: I think if a person takes a bear for defense  
34 of life and property and he is a member of that unit, I don't  
35 see why that person shouldn't keep the hide, and especially if  
36 he has subsistence activities. One elder said if you don't  
37 want me to shoot the bear, go tie it up. So because there's no  
38 circumstances if a bear is taken in defense of life and  
39 property, you can't tell when they're going to come. They're  
40 not going to come when you expect them.

41  
42 MS. CROSS: Mr. Chair, can I make a suggestion?

43  
44 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Yes.

45  
46 MS. CROSS: If this is something that we would like to  
47 explore, could we put it under new business tomorrow, about

48 exploring the issue we're talking about?

49

50 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: In this Item 8 on call for

0025

1 proposals.....

2

3 MS. CROSS: If we're going to.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: .....for discussion?

6

7 MS. CROSS: .....if we could make a proposal?

8

9 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay.

10

11 MS. CROSS: Could we stick it under new business

12 tomorrow?

13

14 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: I don't have any problem with that.

15

16 MS. CROSS: Anyone else? We can talk about it  
17 tomorrow, what they were talking about? Maybe we can come up  
18 with some sort of proposal.

19

20 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: I think if it's all right with Fish  
21 and Game -- the Board of Fish and Game and Department of U.S.  
22 Fish and Wildlife Service, we'll try to come up with a good  
23 proposal that will be agreeable to all parties and we could  
24 address it tomorrow under new business. Is that all right with  
25 you gentlemen?

26

27 MR. BENTE: Mr. Chairman, yes, I would be willing to  
28 try to work with you to develop proposal language that would  
29 meet your needs. I would just help remind you as you're  
30 thinking now about proposals, that there are two mechanisms to  
31 propose to the State. One is public testimony next week --  
32 beginning next week for the Board of Game meeting in Nome. The  
33 Board of Game is here starting Friday, the 23rd, is that when  
34 it is?

35

36 MR. MAGDANZ: The 24th.

37

38 MR. BENTE: Friday, the 24th for public testimony.  
39 There is also a State wide meeting and that's in January. DLP  
40 regulations would come under the State wide meeting if we were  
41 to modify DLP regulation. And you could also be considering  
42 preparing a proposal for the State wide meeting that's going to  
43 be held in Bethel. So I just wanted to remind you, there's two  
44 opportunities to make comments or develop proposals.

45

46 MR. MENDENHALL: Mr. Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Yes, Perry.

49

50 MR. MENDENHALL: With that in mind, maybe we should

0026

1 wait and see what the State results are from their hearings and  
2 meetings and then we could review it and see if it's our  
3 criteria on Federal lands. Because subsistence is tending to  
4 begin the process of change at this moment.

5

6 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: I'm inclined to think that we  
7 should draft a proposal and then the State Fish and Game Board  
8 probably will address our concern.

9

10 MR. KATCHATAG SR: Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Yes, Mr. Katchatag.

13

14 MR. KATCHATAG SR: We have law of protection in every  
15 village now. And I don't see why, if the bear is harassing the  
16 community, why can't our law and order in the village take care  
17 of that sufficiently, you know, the police department in each  
18 village. They should be able to work along with you folks.

19

20 MR. BENTE: We have tried to work with other village  
21 VPSO's when we're aware of a nuisance bear problem, to  
22 authorize the VPSO to go out and kill the bear. So that is a  
23 working relationship which we'd try to maintain or to continue.

24

25 With respect to Mr. Mendenhall's comment about delaying  
26 the proposal, I would encourage this Council to develop  
27 comments to prepare for the Board of Game meeting next week.  
28 Because we are visiting -- we're reviewing regulations for  
29 subsistence bear management areas and Unit 22 is part of the  
30 proposal package. And by defining exactly what are the  
31 criteria for subsistence hunting and season and tag fees, we  
32 might be able to allow the take of bears relating to  
33 subsistence activities which have been described here a lot and  
34 not have hides surrendered to the State. That would be an  
35 action that the Board of Game would have to make to change  
36 those rules. Some of those rules are open next week.

37

38 MR. MENDENHALL: So that would mean that comments from  
39 this Seward Peninsula Subsistence Advisory Council would be  
40 added to your testimony if we made comments?

41

42 MR. BENTE: There would be an opportunity for public  
43 testimony during our Board of Game meeting next week where this  
44 Council or a representative from this Council could make their  
45 statement and recommendation and then the Board of Game would  
46 listen to that and then make an action. It looks like we have  
47 another comment here.

48  
49  
50

CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Mr. Olanna.

0027

1 MR. OLANNA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to  
2 point out again, like I said earlier, yesterday, that this  
3 issue is coming up next week at the Board of Game hearing and  
4 there is a proposal to include 22 -- all of 22 in that  
5 Northwest Brown Bear management plan, which will allow a  
6 subsistence harvest of bears, one a year and Kawerak supports  
7 that proposal and I'm hoping that you'll be there, in person,  
8 as individuals from your communities to testify in support of  
9 that proposal. Thank you.

10

11 MR. MENDENHALL: And I would be in favor of Grace's  
12 proposal to add it to tomorrow's list on bears.

13

14 MS. CROSS: I'd like to make a request, too, Mr. Chair.  
15 Could each one of us be provided what Mr. Seetot has by this  
16 afternoon, please? I think some of us don't -- I don't have  
17 one -- does everybody else have this?

18

19 MR. BENTE: I have one.

20

21 MR. OLANNA: I gave four out yesterday, that's the only  
22 -- I was able to come up with four from Fish and Game  
23 yesterday.

24

25 MS. CROSS: So maybe you could get three more?

26

27 MR. BENTE: Yes, I could provide more proposal  
28 packages. We came with more booklets today.

29

30 MS. CROSS: Okay, thank you. So we move that -- so  
31 we're sort of amending our agenda to add under 8B, number four  
32 and entitle it bear or something?

33

34 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Do you make that a motion -- or how  
35 do we -- Mr. Mendenhall, parliamentarian?

36

37 MR. MENDENHALL: I second the motion by Grace.

38

39 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay, a second to the motion to  
40 add.....

41

42 MS. CROSS: To include under new business B, number  
43 four, bear management, I guess.

44

45 MR. MENDENHALL: It's Proposal 5 in this booklet.

46

47 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Motion by Grace to amend agenda to

48 add under new business four, bear management, second by Perry.

49 All in favor signify by saying aye.

50

0028

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Those opposed same sign.

4

5 (No opposing responses)

6

7 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Motion carried.

8

9 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, I might just make one comment  
10 in regards to Jake's comments and Perry's in regarding brown  
11 bear here in the region. Last year, you know, I work with the  
12 Kodiak/Aleutians and on Kodiak Island, they have a big brown  
13 bear harvest with guided sport hunts and they take about 240  
14 each year. What the Kodiak/Aleutians Council did was put forth  
15 a proposal to address and have a community subsistence bear  
16 harvest. And you know, looking in Unit 22, that would probably  
17 -- probably in 22(E) also, because the hunt pertains to only  
18 Federal public lands, and so they were able to do a good  
19 proposal where they were given an allocation each year. And  
20 the individuals who went out and hunted in the four  
21 communities, they weren't, because of their involvement with  
22 the subsistence brown bear, they were still able to be eligible  
23 with the State hunting permits also. So they weren't excluded,  
24 you know, just by being allowed to hunt on Federal public lands  
25 for the community subsistence bear harvest. They were also  
26 able to put in their names for drawings on the permits. So  
27 there are some options you can do when you look at the map in  
28 22 on Federal public lands for this Council to do some unique  
29 things in regards to allocation of brown bears for subsistence  
30 harvest.

31

32 MR. MENDENHALL: It inadvertently got on the agenda  
33 anyway, the question, the original?

34

35 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Any questions to the public from  
36 the Council? Anything else that anybody else that would like  
37 to make comments?

38

39 MR. EDENSHAW: Well, I'm just curious if Jim or Peter  
40 would answer Jake's original question. If someone shot a bear  
41 in DLP, could they call up and ask the State to come over and  
42 skin it? That's what Jake was asking.

43

44 MR. MAGDANZ: State Trooper.

45

46 MR. OLANNA: Mr. Chairman, I would like to just make  
47 one more comment. The Board of Game will be taking up the

48 issue of positive C&T and you know, musk ox have been pretty  
49 much in the minds of people up here. And the increasing  
50 numbers that we see here, I think, there's some people that

0029

1 have reported musk ox, as far as Unalakleet, so there's going  
2 to be a C&T determination proposal. And I would just like to  
3 urge you, as members, to support that proposal, too. So that  
4 the other villages will have an opportunity to perhaps hunt  
5 musk ox because like I told you yesterday, I just came back  
6 from Shishmaref and I had the opportunity to taste musk ox and  
7 it's really good. And as a matter-of-fact, I liked it better  
8 than moose meat.

9

10 So because the Federal subsistence hunt has supplied  
11 most of the villages up in our region here with some  
12 opportunity to hunt musk ox and we kind of leave out the other  
13 villages, like White Mountain and Point South, they don't have  
14 an opportunity to hunt. So the proposal, as before the Board  
15 of Game, I would ask for your support. Thank you.

16

17 MS. CROSS: Mr. Chair, in order to request Mr. Olanna's  
18 request, could we stick that under Section 7, musk ox C&T for  
19 Unit 22(E) and put it number one, C&T proposal to the State?  
20 Jake's request for our support for that proposal?

21

22 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Do we need to make a motion to  
23 attend our agenda?

24

25 MR. MENDENHALL: Second that.

26

27 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Motion by Grace.

28

29 MS. CROSS: I move that we address Jake Olanna's  
30 request for support of C&T proposals to the State under Section  
31 7 on October 16th's agenda and put one C&T proposal with the  
32 State, under musk ox C&T.

33

34 MR. MENDENHALL: We'll have Jake do that proposal.

35

36 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Motion by Grace, second by Perry to  
37 amend our bylaw (sic) under Section 7 to add Jake's request for  
38 a C&T proposal on musk ox. So all in favor signify by saying  
39 aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Those opposed no.

44

45 (No opposing responses)

46

47 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Motion passed. I'd like to thank

48 Jim and Jake and what is your name again, sir?

49

50 MR. BENTE: I am Peter.

0030

1 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: And Peter, thank you. At this time  
2 I'll go on and if there's no other business on Item 7 for the  
3 public comment, I'll go on to old business, Item 8, and A,  
4 reports. Do we have any?

5  
6 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, on this portion here, Ken  
7 Adkisson is going to give a -- I passed out earlier this  
8 morning, a handout regarding some musk ox permits and stuff and  
9 Ken will come up and address that.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Mr. Adkisson.

12  
13 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair and fellow Board members,  
14 Council members, my name is Ken Adkisson. I work for the  
15 National Park Service here in Nome. And this will be just a  
16 brief status report on the 1997/98 Seward Peninsula Federal  
17 subsistence musk oxen hunt. I've provided you all with copies  
18 of the summary reports so that I'll just make this very quick  
19 and provide you an opportunity to ask questions if you'd like.

20  
21 There are 23 permits available this year for  
22 distribution as follows; three each of Buckland and Deering in  
23 Unit 23. Six for Shishmaref and three for Wales in 22(E). And  
24 four each for Brevig Mission and Teller in 22(D). The big  
25 change in the hunt this year from the last two years hunt is  
26 the requirement in 22(D) that four of the animals are harvested  
27 off of National Park Service lands in the eastern portion of  
28 22(D) and four of the animals come off of Bureau of Land  
29 Management lands closer to the communities of Brevig Mission  
30 and Teller.

31  
32 The season opened September 1st and currently runs  
33 through January 31st. Permit distribution began in the  
34 villages the 18th of August and currently 13 permits --  
35 roughly, let's see, we've issued roughly half of the permits,  
36 just under half of the permits to date. Six permits have been  
37 issued in Shishmaref and one in animal has already been  
38 reported harvested. Two permits have been issued in Wales with  
39 no reported harvest. And two permits have been issued in  
40 Teller, one for the eastern part of the unit and one for the  
41 western part of the unit and no reported harvest there.

42  
43 Generally speaking, the procedure was initially similar  
44 to the last two hunts. In this case, Park Service and Fish and  
45 Wildlife Service employees traveled to each of the villages on  
46 a prearranged meeting schedule. Basically the permits were to  
47 be distributed by random drawing in the communities, unless the

48 communities specified that they would like a different way of  
49 handling it. Generally speaking, turnout at the meetings this  
50 year were basically very poor. Attendance could be

0031

1 characterized by a general absence in most cases of adult male  
2 hunters. Most of the people who came were elders, women and  
3 younger boys. Even though advanced notice and everything went  
4 out about the meetings and the permit distributions, still  
5 attendance was very, very poor. Many people didn't know why we  
6 were there. And I think in talking, making observations and in  
7 talking with villagers, I think there are two basic reasons for  
8 that. I think part of it is the way we issue permits, what I  
9 would say is sort of the bureaucratic hurdles in the process.  
10 And we're going to be looking and talking to the villagers  
11 about ways to change the permit distribution process to better  
12 meet their needs and situations, and I could go into that in  
13 some detail if you'd like.

14  
15 But I think also pretty evident is that there is some  
16 limitations in the Federal hunt itself and reality is sort of  
17 sinking in and there just is not a whole lot of interest right  
18 now in some cases in the musk oxen hunt. And I think that  
19 basically is that there is so few permits and it's really  
20 almost too much effort for too little return and I'll kind of  
21 amplify that. If you live in the village of Shishmaref and  
22 caribou were reported over in the Buckland area, you can travel  
23 over to the Buckland area with a high chance of harvesting your  
24 caribou. On the other hand, if you live in Buckland and you  
25 have to travel all the way over to Unit -- to the Bering Land  
26 Bridge National Preserve to look for a bull musk oxen on  
27 Federal public lands, you have very little, in some cases,  
28 assurance, of completing a successfully legal hunt. And that,  
29 really, I think is contrary to the efficiency in most  
30 subsistence efforts. To require somebody to come into and sit  
31 in a meeting for an hour or two or sometimes longer, for a  
32 drawing that may be chance of one or two permits in a village,  
33 to ask them to stop, say subsistence fishing several miles up  
34 river to travel into a community to get a permit, I think also  
35 is contrary to general subsistence practices and works against  
36 the villages. That's the case of a bureaucratic hurdle though  
37 that I think we can work out and overcome.

38  
39 What we're currently doing with the rest of the permits  
40 that are still outstanding is we're basically working with the  
41 community IRA's and in many cases several of the villages, the  
42 IRA's are actually selecting the hunters and we'll be working  
43 and processing the permits largely through the mail working  
44 closely with the IRA's in those communities. Once freeze-up  
45 comes and travel's easier, I think we'll see the rest of the  
46 permits go out pretty quickly.

47

48           MR. MENDENHALL: What time of the year were you meeting  
49 with the community about these permits?  
50

0032

1 MR. ADKISSON: To distribute the permits?

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: Right.

4

5 MR. ADKISSON: We started the week of the 18th of  
6 August. In the past we issued them the last week in August  
7 right before the hunt. We tried to make it a little -- because  
8 of weather and stuff, for example, this year we really ran into  
9 some bum weather and we weren't really able to get to Buckland  
10 and Deering at all and so we tried to start a little early, a  
11 week earlier this year. And I think that that selection of  
12 timing really isn't very good.

13

14 One of the things that we talked to the IRA about, for  
15 example, would be working with them to hold -- to create a  
16 window in which people could, if they were interested, could  
17 apply for a permit, perhaps submit their name to the IRA, over  
18 say a several month permit at their convenience. Then we could  
19 some way, maybe the IRA or we could or whatever, hold a drawing  
20 of those names and then work the process from there.

21

22 MR. MENDENHALL: August is -- the summer activities are  
23 always detrimental to meetings anyway.

24

25 MR. ADKISSON: We recognize that.

26

27 MR. MENDENHALL: A lot of our Native organizations tend  
28 to meet those times other than the summer times.

29

30 MR. ADKISSON: We recognize.....

31

32 MR. MENDENHALL: That's probably why you had less  
33 adults. I just want to make a comment about male hunters.  
34 Male hunters don't want to be around when it's August.

35

36 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah. I mean, like I said.....

37

38 MR. MENDENHALL: They need to upkeep their camps and  
39 boats and hunting as well during that time.

40

41 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah. When I say, we recognize that and  
42 we're working on ways to get around that. On the other hand, I  
43 mean, it became very clear, like in Teller, when people were  
44 told that they had to travel over to Bering Land Bridge to look  
45 for a musk ox and they weren't very thrilled with that. Not  
46 when they can go up to the American and Agiapuk River area and  
47 see musk oxen and see them closer to home.

48

49

MS. CROSS: I have a question. In this -- in your  
50 report you said hunter orientation. Just out of curiosity,

0033

1 what does that consist of?

2

3 MR. ADKISSON: Basically of three things. It's a  
4 bull's only musk oxen hunt. So we spend a fair amount of time  
5 talking to hunters about age and sex identification. How to  
6 make sure they can harvest a legal animal. A lot of people  
7 don't have that much experience with musk oxen and so, you  
8 know, we spend a bunch of time with that.

9

10 Naturally, because the hunt is confined to Federal  
11 public lands and like around Brevig and Teller, land  
12 jurisdictions are scattered and broken up into different  
13 parcels. We try to spend a fair amount of time on  
14 identification of the Federal lands and explanations of where  
15 people can hunt and then general guidelines and recommendations  
16 for actually conducting the hunt. Because a lot of people  
17 don't have experience, you know, actually hunting musk oxen.

18

19 The whole idea is to try to, you know, produce a legal  
20 and effective hunt.

21

22 MR. SEETOT: Can I make a comment on the Brevig  
23 Mission; you sent this notice well ahead of time that you were  
24 going to meet with Brevig Mission in August, however other  
25 circumstances prevented a majority of the interested hunters to  
26 meet together. They did put names for a drawing. I then  
27 talked with Mr. Adkisson, that the meeting by hunters should be  
28 held to -- for them to put out information that two animals  
29 were supposed to be taken from BLM lands and too, from National  
30 Park Service lands, and that was for my part, that if the  
31 hunters do get -- or do not follow regulations, then I would  
32 think that National Park Service would try and look at it from  
33 their standpoint that how hunters do not just follow  
34 regulation, you know, they just go out and, you know, get the  
35 animals. So I informed Mr. Adkisson that he should have a  
36 meeting with the local community organizations, the Brevig  
37 Mission Council, the traditional council and with the Native  
38 corporation, that was arranged for him to put out this  
39 information at one of their joint meetings. He did come here  
40 at an unfortunate time. And this was pretty much left to the  
41 traditional councils for them to decide. They did select their  
42 hunters October at a joint meeting, the traditional council,  
43 the city council with a random drawing. The mayor of the  
44 traditional council wanted me to -- or they selected me to be  
45 one of the primary hunters in the NPS land and I said that they  
46 should just treat me as any hunter, you know, put my name in  
47 the can and I'll take my chances. Mr. Fred Tocktoo, National

48 Park Service, gave me information about other communities, I  
49 did put out that information at the other -- or at the joint  
50 meetings concerning selection by the Native organizations. You

0034

1 know, that is my duty to inform the public of what National  
2 Park Service informed me through letters or through phone  
3 calls. And I guess that was pretty much the way that the  
4 situation was at Brevig Mission, that it was done through the  
5 random drawing system. And that I think a little bit more  
6 information needs to be taken from some of the permit holders  
7 and that the -- the people that were selected will be given  
8 orientations, you know, on which areas to hunt and then -- and  
9 then the remaining two will be given no choice but to go to NPS  
10 land, which is the Bering Land Bridge. I told whoever the  
11 hunters were that I would be able to -- I would be happy to  
12 guide or follow them, you know, to those areas.

13  
14 And then that's pretty much how the selection went for  
15 Brevig. It was announced in August. Mr. Adkisson and Mr.  
16 Tocktoo went to Brevig during that time. People did put in  
17 their names for a drawing and just kind of due to work or other  
18 circumstances, I contacted -- I talked with Mr. Adkisson and  
19 said that he should come out and talk to the organizations, no  
20 action was taken at that meeting and then at the last joint  
21 meeting, which was in the early part of this month, hunters  
22 were selected.

23  
24 And I think that I would like to put in a proposal  
25 during the later part of our agenda for another season or a  
26 different season. And that's pretty much an update on Brevig  
27 musk ox.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: I have a question for Ken. What's  
30 the musk ox population and.....

31  
32 MR. ADKISSON: Right now it's -- well, in the past --  
33 the count's based on every two years they do a count of  
34 combined agencies. And because the musk oxen were originally  
35 introduced in the western part of the Seward Peninsula and  
36 gradually expanded northwards and eastwards, and because of  
37 staffing and budget restrictions, most of the emphasis in the  
38 case has been from like western 22(B) out towards Wales. And  
39 so when we talk about numbers, we're largely talking about  
40 numbers within that area. And right now it's probably more  
41 than 950 animals.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: I ask that question because the  
44 letter to Mitch Demientieff, Chairman for Federal Subsistence  
45 Board from Mr. Robert Bosworth, the deputy commissioner was  
46 critical about C&T determinations and why such large numbers of  
47 musk oxen were taken. And that it was, according to the

48 letter, it says, majority of RFR's pertain to customary and  
49 traditional use determinations for which there was inadequate  
50 information to justify the Board's action. The Department has

0035

1 continued concerns about the basis used for making many C&T use  
2 determinations including adequate demonstrations for existing  
3 patterns of use, narrow or reasonable accessible to the  
4 community at issue. Sweeping C&T use determinations made  
5 without careful analysis of such information is not only  
6 contrary principals of sound rulemaking, but is also contrary  
7 to the long-term interest of subsistence users themselves. And  
8 it goes on and continues, the subsistence uses for communities  
9 that depend on certain wildlife populations.

10

11 I'm thinking the musk ox harvest, is that taking an  
12 adverse impact on the population?

13

14 MR. ADKISSON: I guess there are two things there. One  
15 is the letter from that gentleman. Basically, he questions the  
16 original C&T determination made by the Federal Board, and I  
17 guess that's his choice to do so. I mean it went through  
18 several hearings and went through, you know, several RAC  
19 meetings and went through public hearings at the Federal Board  
20 meeting in 1995 and the Federal Board made a decision for  
21 positive customary and traditional usage of musk ox by some of  
22 the residents of the Seward Peninsula. That decision is still  
23 on the books and that's why we're in the business of working  
24 with the villages trying to conduct an effective hunt.

25

26 As to the impacts on the animals, we're all still  
27 operating basically within the guidelines of the musk oxen  
28 cooperative management plan that was developed in the early  
29 1990s, basically of which the Alaska Department of Fish and  
30 Game, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Soil  
31 Conservation Service, several Native organizations all were a  
32 part of that group and the cooperative management plan  
33 recognized hunting of the animals as a legitimate use of the  
34 population. It also established several other goals and  
35 objectives. One of the key ones, of course, was to allow for  
36 continued natural expansion of the herd, both in numbers and  
37 range. And the goals for the hunt were established with that  
38 other goal of expansion in mind, and it was the -- the hunt  
39 level was established very conservatively as bulls only at a  
40 figure roughly around three percent of the total population.  
41 And it was felt that that was not going to be detrimental to  
42 the continued growth and expansion of the herd. And that's  
43 what we're still all operating under.

44

45 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: So how many animals are we talking  
46 yearly, the musk oxen increasing?

47

48 MR. ADKISSON: How many are harvested?

49

50 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: How many are -- no, how many are

0036

1 born each year, the estimate?

2

3 MR. ADKISSON: Oh, boy, I dont know, maybe Peter Dente  
4 might have some better figures on that. I've got a report of  
5 some recent composition work that was done by Bureau of Land  
6 Management and Park Service in parts of the area, not all of  
7 the area. I don't really have it here at the table, but I  
8 could get it. I thought what I might do is try to summarize  
9 that on behalf of the BLM, Ann Morkill is not going to be able  
10 to be here today and she was one of the people that  
11 participated in conducting the composition count, and it does  
12 have some age, sex composition information that you might find  
13 useful. You've also got copies of that report, by the way, I  
14 gave that to Cliff this morning. And I'd have to refer to it  
15 to give you an answer, and that's just based on that.

16

17 But there is some information there on the animals that  
18 were studied at that time, this summer, how many calves per  
19 cows and so forth.

20

21 MR. MENDENHALL: I heard the.....

22

23 MR. ADKISSON: I guess the best way to put it is  
24 though, whatever it's doing, for several years, you know, the  
25 growth rate was fairly high and probably in excess of 12 and 14  
26 percent a year average. It does seem to have tapered off,  
27 perhaps and plateaued within the last few years. And so that  
28 may merit a rather conservative approach to it.

29

30 MR. BUCK: I'd like to mention something that, you  
31 mentioned you're protecting the growth and expansion of the  
32 musk oxen. I received testimony from elders saying that they  
33 don't want the growth and expansion of the musk ox, they don't  
34 want the musk oxen in their area because they disturb the land  
35 too much. And with your regulations, you're determining --  
36 you're saying, you want the musk ox to grow and expand and  
37 that's kind of what -- against the testimony that I get from  
38 the elders.

39

40 MR. MENDENHALL: When I was living around the Nome  
41 area, my grandparents and them, they said that there used to be  
42 lots of musk ox around here. And the reason the decline was  
43 because the gold miners killed them all off because they didn't  
44 run away. And that's probably why we never -- when we were  
45 growing up they weren't around. But they used to be plentiful  
46 on the Peninsula and they were easy meat and easy to eat than  
47 caribou and reindeer and plus there was no moose at that time.

48 And I see musk ox as -- for C&T, you know, traditional uses  
49 coming back, it doesn't have to be -- you know, it's a rebirth.  
50 It's an attempt to right some wrong about taking game that used

0037

1 to be here. It's like the buffalo used to be on the plains.  
2 So I look at this project, you know, with heavy heart that it  
3 was killed off and now it's coming back and now we're trying to  
4 live with it. Although we have reports from some people that  
5 are not used to them, you know, but among my -- when I was  
6 growing up in Nome area and relatives from elsewhere, they said  
7 there was musk ox around and that we did depend upon it, our  
8 people did. But we only use them when we have to because  
9 they're -- and that's the comment that I would like to make on  
10 traditional history, one I heard from my parents.

11

12 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Elmer.

13

14 MR. SEETOT: Yeah. Concerning the report for the  
15 Regional Advisory Council, October 14, the musk ox population  
16 survey in portions of Game Management Unit 22(D) and (E) during  
17 July 24 and August 2, 1997. This was done for the BLM  
18 administer plan then for the National Park Service lands.....

19

20 MR. ADKISSON: Yes, it was.

21

22 MR. SEETOT: .....am I correct? And did they, after  
23 making the population estimate in these lands, did the Federal  
24 government come up with what those fixed figures or did that  
25 quota come from FSB deliberations then?

26

27 MR. ADKISSON: I'm sorry.....

28

29 MR. SEETOT: Federal Subsistence Board, was it under  
30 Federal Subsistence Board deliberations and actions for that  
31 four animals for Brevig and four animals for Teller?

32

33 MR. ADKISSON: No, not at this time. The work was  
34 undertaken by Bureau of Land Management and National Park  
35 Service has indicated there this summer. What you see in that  
36 summary report from Ann is very quick information for you. She  
37 and Mark Schroeder, the Park Service biologist basically were  
38 working on or preparing a report, it was intended that that  
39 report would be provided to the musk oxen cooperator group the  
40 next time they met. And from that point, the information would  
41 get into the Federal system for future deliberations on musk  
42 oxen, but it has no bearing on the hunt that's currently going  
43 on. What's going on right now, the hunt that's currently under  
44 way is based on the 1996 musk oxen count.

45

46 MR. SEETOT: There was a bad fire up around Natspyla  
47 (ph) area and that area was pretty smokey for a number of days.

48 That was one of the good dry weathers we had and after the fire  
49 it was just all rain and, you know, wet. And if they just had  
50 an estimate due to visibility or due to poor weather and in

0038

1 order to maximize, you know, the number -- maximize the number  
2 of animals to be taken from NPS or from BLM administered lands,  
3 no other surveys were taken after August 2?

4

5 MR. ADKISSON: Well, no, that was just an age and sex  
6 composition study. The next full count or census for musk oxen  
7 will be spring of 1998. So it would be next year, that's when  
8 it's regularly scheduled.

9

10 MR. SEETOT: I just went to the Aiyiak River where it's  
11 pretty much BLM administered land. I see musk ox have moved  
12 into these areas, you know, where they can be eligible for  
13 harvest. You know, we didn't drive them or anything, it's just  
14 that they prefer that habitat. And you know, they -- whoever  
15 does the survey looking -- look into it more often. The moose  
16 tend to stay away from areas inhabited by musk ox, one, they  
17 look like brown bear and it's just that -- the moose, you know,  
18 just kind of shy away of concentrations of musk ox there. And  
19 from first hand observation, I think BLM administered land,  
20 there was an increase of musk ox, you know, from other areas.  
21 So I just wanted to mention that to these organizations.

22

23 MR. BUCK: I'd like to mention that when you're saying  
24 the growth and expansion from the musk oxen, you're watching  
25 the growth and expansion from the musk ox. And then in the  
26 last meeting in -- on February 6th and the report on the  
27 January 28th, 1997 musk ox meeting, we made the motion to  
28 maintain the harvest based on the yearly birth that's to  
29 maintain the musk ox and they are now not expanding the musk  
30 ox, that was our motion in the last meeting.

31

32 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, there is a conflict there. And I  
33 would suggest that the best forum for bringing that conflict up  
34 and dealing with it is within the Musk Oxen Cooperators  
35 Management Group. The next meeting is scheduled for here in  
36 Nome December 17th and 18th and we're going to be making every  
37 effort to, you know, see that villagers get participation in  
38 those meetings. What you're hearing from your elders and so  
39 forth in this area, you know, are shared by a lot of other  
40 people in this State. They're going through a similar process  
41 on the North Slope asking about musk oxen and raising  
42 questions. But at the time that the Musk Oxen Cooperative  
43 Management Group came together and developed the cooperative  
44 management plan, the basic guidelines had already been laid out  
45 in a State wide management plan that basically, and Peter or  
46 other people from the State can correct me if I'm wrong, but  
47 the recollection of that recognized the idea of trying to allow

48 musk oxen to expand naturally to basically fill up, you know,  
49 available and suitable habitat in the State, recognizing that  
50 they had once been widely distributed, but had been basically

0039

1 exterminated from most of their original habitat.

2

3           With guidelines like that, the cooperators met,  
4 assessed what they knew about the animals at the time and what  
5 the population was doing and established several goals and  
6 objectives. At the time it was recognized that the animals had  
7 increased to the point that a hunt was probably practical.  
8 Most of the efforts though, I suppose in public outreach and  
9 things, were concentrated in those villages where hunts would  
10 likely, you know, take place in the very near future. I know  
11 ADF&G conducted meetings in places like Buckland and Brevig  
12 Mission and, you know, Deering and Wales and Shishmaref. I  
13 know we participated in a radio call-in show here in Nome on  
14 the musk oxen issue. So I think a fair amount of work went  
15 into trying to publicize it. The Musk Oxen Cooperators plan  
16 was the topic of at least a couple, I suppose, local fish and  
17 game advisory committees. That's one reason there's no hunt in  
18 22(C) right now. Most of the public opinion -- there's two  
19 reasons, one is there's no Federal hunt because we don't really  
20 have much Federal land in 22(C) and secondly, there's no State  
21 hunt in 22(C) because most of the public opinion that was  
22 presented to the local fish and game advisory committees felt  
23 that there was a higher value to the animals in terms of  
24 tourism value and economic value than there was hunting. So  
25 that's why there's no musk oxen hunt of any kind right now in  
26 22(C). And it was felt like the animals were still expanding  
27 northwards and eastwards and so probably were not present in  
28 like 22(B) in sufficient numbers to warrant a hunt under the  
29 rough guidelines of approximately three percent that were  
30 identified in the plan. But it was recognized that the animals  
31 would continue to grow and expand and that future hunts in  
32 those areas would be, you know, would be possible.

33

34           And like I say, Bering Straits Native Corporation,  
35 Kawerak Reindeer Herders were part of the Cooperative  
36 Management Group and continue to be. You know, clearly there's  
37 growing opinion, perhaps in the Seward Peninsula area that the  
38 cooperative management plan may be dated and may need revision.  
39 Things have happened since the plan was first put together.  
40 There was no musk oxen hunt when the plan was first drafted and  
41 put out for public comment. And then in 1995, early '95, the  
42 State considered a musk oxen hunt followed by the Federal  
43 decisions regarding musk oxen. So now we have at least a  
44 Federal subsistence hunt that we have to factor into the  
45 planning for musk oxen. And so, you know, clearly it's time  
46 to, I think, rethink the Musk Oxen Management Plan, and  
47 hopefully we'll start down that road in December when we get

48 the musk oxen cooperators back together and start taking a hard  
49 look at some of these issues. But you know, right now, as far  
50 as what have been passed -- for example, Kawerak, in the past

0040

1 has produced resolutions to cap the musk oxen population. At  
2 the same time I should point out that they're a signatory to  
3 the cooperative management plan that calls for expansion.

4  
5 So you know, we do need to resolve these issues and  
6 these conflicts. But right now, ADF&G, the Park Service, BLM,  
7 we signed off and agreed to abide essentially by the  
8 cooperative management plans and the goals therein and that's  
9 what we're still trying to do to the best of our ability in the  
10 agencies. And until that plan changes, you know, that's what  
11 we intend to do is agree to what we set out essentially in the  
12 plan. But everybody recognizes that harvest rates can change.  
13 That hunt areas can change. And the place to really do that is  
14 working within, I think, the frame work of the cooperators and  
15 get some consensus and bring that consensus back to groups like  
16 the Regional Advisory Council here, the Federal Board, the  
17 State local Fish and Game Advisory Committees and the State  
18 Board of Game.

19  
20 MR. BUCK: Elmer's comment on the moose not being  
21 around where the musk ox. I think with your expansion, I think  
22 you're trying to change the ecosystem. That's what the elders  
23 don't want. I guess that's their reason that they -- every  
24 time somebody's trying to change the ecosystem, then everything  
25 goes haywire.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Any other questions to Ken?

28  
29 MR. SEETOT: Another comment, what he said, the State  
30 -- he said that the State would perceive the musk ox as more of  
31 a tourist attraction animal than to kill.

32  
33 MR. ADKISSON: No, that.....

34  
35 MR. SEETOT: Or is that there is no Federal lands  
36 within 22(C)?

37  
38 MR. ADKISSON: No, the State, and it's a State wide  
39 plan recognizes hunting, I believe, as a legitimate use of the  
40 animals. What happened was, was in the planning for the Nome  
41 area, for the Seward Peninsula, public opinion in the Nome area  
42 seemed to favor using the animals for something other than  
43 hunting. And so that's what was reflected in the plan and  
44 that's essentially what went to the State Board of Game for  
45 their initial deliberations in early '95 when they took up the  
46 musk oxen question.

47

48           The original, I believe the originals -- I believe the  
49 original State -- first of all in early '95, the State dealt  
50 with the C&T issue and the State Board of Game found that there

0041  
1 wasn't customary and traditional usage. That left the State  
2 with the option of conducting a general hunt. And that's what  
3 they basically were proceeding to lay the ground work for, was  
4 the general hunt. And at the time, I recall it seemed to me, I  
5 could be wrong a little bit here, but it was approximately 24,  
6 25 animals to be harvested out of southern 23, Unit 22(E) and  
7 Unit 22(D), and the call on that one was 50 percent of those  
8 animals would be allocated to a drawing hunt with a \$500 fee  
9 and 50 percent of the animals would be allocated to a  
10 registration hunt, first come, first serve registration hunt in  
11 several of the villages right around the hunt area. I think  
12 there was a \$25 fee on that. And before the State could  
13 actually implement that hunt, the Federal Subsistence Board  
14 met, found a positive C&T for musk oxen and that's kind of what  
15 that reference letter is about, disagreeing with that call, but  
16 they did make that determination and they basically implemented  
17 -- proceeded with a hunt, that within the cooperative  
18 management plans, sucked up all of the available harvest for  
19 the Federal hunt. So essentially it left nothing for the State  
20 to conduct a hunt with.

21  
22 MR. MENDENHALL: To make comment, we have musk ox  
23 around the Cape Nome area and there is moose and bear still  
24 around with the musk ox. And you go anywhere else on the  
25 coolrock and road systems, you'll find that they have musk  
26 oxen, moose and bear at the same area. So it doesn't really --  
27 I think they add to ecosystem and, in fact, they're bull headed  
28 anyway, they won't move. So I feel -- I feel that they add to  
29 different variety of game meat and I feel that they used to be  
30 customary and traditional use of them and in our case mostly  
31 for emergency type. And we never did try to over harvest them  
32 except when there was famine. They're good when that's around.  
33 We do have that famine around in the cycle, seven year cycle,  
34 and I think they fit into the system and I see that around  
35 Nome. That's my comment on the musk ox project. And I do have  
36 a camp up around Deering and I do have -- your scientist stay  
37 at my camp once in awhile while I'm not there, and they leave a  
38 note and say they're doing musk ox study. And I do have  
39 relatives in Buckland and Deering and I know that they don't  
40 like to be around the villages in August. So that's probably  
41 why you had not too many male hunters showing up.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: I'm sure we'll have more discussion  
44 on the musk ox tomorrow. I'd like to go on and I'd like to  
45 thank Ken for his presentation.

46  
47 MR. ADKISSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

48

49

50 speed up our meeting, it's kind of slow right now. BLM, a

0042

1 report from.....

2

3 MR. DENTON: My name is Jeff Denton. I basically  
4 represent the Anchorage district office of BLM which in your  
5 region 22(A) is really only the area that falls within our  
6 district. So I'm probably relatively ignorant of BLM affairs  
7 outside of that, which would be the northern districts.

8

9 The only thing that BLM -- major project BLM had  
10 ongoing last year was a major effort to satellite and map all  
11 the land cover for habitat mapping through the Unalakleet  
12 drainage as part of a two year project which would extend and  
13 do all of the Nulato Hills. That particular project was  
14 canceled this year due to the major fires in Interior Alaska  
15 and available of helicopters and also the smoke situation. We  
16 had to deal with another portion of that project area. That  
17 doesn't have a lot to do with existence except down the road  
18 when it comes to habitat management, prescribed burning for  
19 various species habitat, these sorts of things, it will become  
20 probably a much greater role. BLM is looking in the future to  
21 put a great deal more fire on the ground in terms of habitat  
22 development and try to reestablish the natural role of fire in  
23 ecosystems in Alaska. This is the Secretary of Interior's  
24 basically order to us and they're following it up with funds  
25 and manpower and so on and so forth, so this may be a factor of  
26 everybody's life here in the next few years.

27

28 I have not -- I just received the harvest reports from  
29 Unalakleet, the subsistence harvest reports in the last few  
30 weeks so I haven't had the opportunity to write-up the last  
31 year's annual report for the last regulatory year. When that  
32 is done I will send copies to all the agencies as well as this  
33 body, so you'll have that for reference. And that is primarily  
34 all that we have going on in your region, except for fisheries.  
35 I believe we're in a cooperative agreement situation with Fish  
36 and Game relative to a weir on the North River on the  
37 Unalakleet drainage, and I think Fish and Game fisheries folks  
38 could probably tell you more about that than I can. I'm not a  
39 fisheries biologist, that's another person in our office. If  
40 you have any questions, I'd be glad to try to answer them if  
41 there are concerns that you have, at least, relative to the  
42 Anchorage district.

43

44 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: I have a question, what kind of  
45 harvest on what kind of animal?

46

47 MR. DENTON: The report that Unalakleet folks are

48 giving us is moose, caribou, brown bear, black bear and  
49 wolverine.  
50

0043

1 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Could you send us a copy of that  
2 report?

3  
4 MR. DENTON: Yes. You're body's on the mailing list.  
5 I normally send a bunch of these to the Fish and Wildlife  
6 Service, subsistence personnel and I'll have to work out with  
7 them whether they want to distribute it to you or I will. One  
8 way or the other you will get copies of it.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Thank you. Any questions for, what  
11 was your name again, Sir?

12  
13 MR. DENTON: Jeff Denton.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Jeff Denton.

16  
17 MR. MENDENHALL: How long have you been in Alaska,  
18 that's one question?

19  
20 MR. DENTON: I've been in Alaska for seven years.

21  
22 MR. KATCHATAG SR: And your name?

23  
24 MR. DENTON: And I work from Ketchikan to the  
25 Unalakleet drainage. I cover the entire southern half of  
26 Alaska, so I'm in the field at least six months of the year,  
27 and I do most all the wildlife surveys relative to that.

28  
29 MR. MENDENHALL: He never caught your name.

30  
31 MR. DENTON: Jeff Denton.

32  
33 MR. MENDENHALL: Denton.

34  
35 MR. KATCHATAG SR: Jeff who?

36  
37 MR. DENTON: Denton, D-E-N-T-O-N.

38  
39 MR. KATCHATAG SR: All right.

40  
41 MR. EDENSHAW: Jeff, on this report from Ann Morkill,  
42 could you clarify, what are NRCS?

43  
44 MR. DENTON: What's it in reference to?

45  
46 MR. EDENSHAW: Caribou and reindeer utilization  
47 surveys.

48

49

MR. DENTON: To tell you the truth, I do not know  
50 everything that's going on in the northern district, so I can't

0044

1 clarify that for you. I know they are entertaining doing some  
2 reindeer range work with the research branch, which is now the  
3 BRD, relative to fire. The BRD is the biological survey of --  
4 geologic survey, it's the field research arm of the Fish and  
5 Wildlife Service. That may be what they're referring to there,  
6 but I can't tell you right off the top of my head, I can find  
7 out for you.

8

9 MR. MENDENHALL: I do have one, you're doing a lichen  
10 study there, because it's kind of hard to embody Ann in you,  
11 you're doing lichen studies -- the State and also in the UAF  
12 program had these fenced in areas on Seward Peninsula. I just  
13 wondered if you have been given information regarding those,  
14 that's the square things.

15

16 MR. DENTON: I believe those are part of their overall  
17 study. Those are enclosures, kind of control areas that they  
18 use relative to all the other, you know, the actual grazed  
19 areas. So those are kind of -- they're comparison plots. And  
20 in the State -- what used to be the old Soil Conservation  
21 Service ran those for years and the range surveys up here. And  
22 so all that data is included in these studies that are ongoing.

23

24 MR. MENDENHALL: But you do utilize that.....

25

26 MR. DENTON: Yes, they are.

27

28 MR. MENDENHALL: .....data?

29

30 MR. DENTON: Yes.

31

32 MR. MENDENHALL: And I wanted to ask the State if they  
33 still utilize those enclosures. Because when you're out snow  
34 machining and you see something stuck up and I don't know if  
35 anybody from the State would answer that or Rose Fosdick.  
36 Anyway, that's my question if you're doing interagency studies  
37 on those lichens?

38

39 MR. DENTON: Yes, I believe that you know, the studies  
40 that Ann and several folks are involved in, it's all a  
41 coordinated type of effort.

42

43 MR. MENDENHALL: You do have some on the Park and BLM  
44 land?

45

46 MR. DENTON: I know there's some on BLM. I don't know  
47 about the Park, I can't speak to that.

48  
49 MR. MENDENHALL: Um-hum. (Affirmative)  
50

0045

1 MR. BENTE: This is Peter Bente, Fish and Game. You  
2 were asking about enclosures or fences on landscape. I'm not  
3 aware of any current programs used by the State where we are  
4 studying the lichen range. It is a cooperative at UAF,  
5 University of Alaska at Fairbanks and BLM, and also parts of  
6 the report that you just heard. But there's no action that I'm  
7 aware of by State personnel to study range in the enclosures.

8  
9 MR. OLANNA: Those enclosures, most of them.....

10  
11 COURT REPORTER: Wait, wait, wait.

12  
13 MR. OLANNA: .....were put in by the Soil Conservation  
14 Service.

15  
16 COURT REPORTER: I can hear you, but you need to be at  
17 the microphone for the record.

18  
19 MR. OLANNA: Well, Perry, you know, these enclosures  
20 we're talking about, I know SCS has installed most of those  
21 with help from co-ops extension service and the reindeer  
22 herders, okay.

23  
24 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay. Just out of curiosity because  
25 it did mention lichen and I know we have these things all over  
26 our Seward Peninsula.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Thank you, Jeff and Peter. Number  
29 three, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, request for  
30 reconsideration.

31  
32 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, may I clarify this portion  
33 here. I want to keep the ADF&G separate. They'll give likely  
34 some harvest report data. What I included under RFR's is Rosa  
35 Meehan, our Staff person will address those. And then the  
36 Governor's task force on subsistence, that portion right there,  
37 that's for information only. As you stated earlier, you  
38 attended that yourself and I know Sheldon and his father were  
39 in attendance. So that portion there, the task force report,  
40 that's -- we have a matrix over there and some information, the  
41 resolution, that they passed that at that meeting, so that's  
42 mainly for informational so you can -- they're included on a  
43 table over there. And then the RFR's, as I said, Rosa will  
44 handle those. So the first portion of this ADF&G, that will be  
45 just, I see, Gary Sanders up here and I think -- I'm not sure  
46 if Charlie and Jim or Susan or Kay have any reports they'd like  
47 to present to the council, but that will be their portion and

48 the RFR's are totally separate. Those were submitted earlier  
49 this year and Rosa will handle that portion of this topic here.  
50

0046

1 MR. MENDENHALL: Mr. Chairman.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Yes.

4  
5 MR. MENDENHALL: It's almost noon and I was just  
6 wondering if we are going to go on with this, why don't we take  
7 a break because we haven't had a break for a while.

8  
9 MS. CROSS: Yes.

10  
11 MR. MENDENHALL: Or break for lunch and then come back  
12 early?

13  
14 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay, is that all right with you?

15  
16 MR. MENDENHALL: It's up to you, but it's a matter  
17 of.....

18  
19 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Well, I guess the consensus is we  
20 need a break. Call for a break at this time. I guess we could  
21 get to you after lunch, and what time are we talking, 1:15,  
22 okay. Well, what did you say your name was, Sir?

23  
24 MR. SANDERS: Gary Sanders with Fish and Game.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Gary, okay. If it's all right with  
27 you, we'll come back, sorry to cut you off. But at this time,  
28 I'll call for a lunch break and reconvene at 1:15.

29  
30 (Off record)

31 (On record)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: I will call the meeting to order at  
34 1:25 and ask Mr. Sanders to give his presentation. Go ahead,  
35 you have the floor, Gary.

36  
37 MR. SANDERS: Okay. My name's Gary Sanders. I'm with  
38 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Our Staff has three  
39 brief presentations they would like to give. Jim Magdanz,  
40 Susan Georgette from subsistence. Charlie Lean from commercial  
41 fisheries. And Kate Persons from wildlife conservation. And  
42 Jim and Susan will start.

43  
44 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chairman, my name is Jim Magdanz and  
45 with me is Susan Georgette. We work for the Alaska Department  
46 of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence. And conduct  
47 research in the Norton Sound/Bering Straits region as well as

48 in the Northwest Arctic region around Kotzebue. What we're  
49 going to do today is briefly talk about five different projects  
50 that we've been working on in the last year.

0047

1           During lunch I handed out a yellow sheet. I'd like to  
2 explain what that's about. Last year at the Council meeting in  
3 Unalakleet, I handed out some harvest estimates for Shishmaref  
4 and Wales and Noatak and Deering. We did baseline surveys in  
5 those communities with funding from the National Park Service  
6 starting in 1994. The surveys also asked some questions about  
7 who harvested which fish and game and plants in the  
8 communities. So not only do we ask, how much did you get, but  
9 we asked who harvested for your household. And last winter we  
10 worked on analyzing this part of that survey data. We were  
11 interested in understanding more about how people work together  
12 in subsistence communities to harvest wild resources. Sharing  
13 is a really important part of subsistence. But it is usually  
14 described in the very general way, everybody shares or we  
15 share. We were interested in looking at the specifics of how  
16 foods are harvested and how they're processed, how they move  
17 through the community. So there's a report that's in draft  
18 form right now that hopefully by the next Council meeting I'll  
19 have ready for distribution. But this is probably the best  
20 single presentation of the analysis we have.

21  
22           In this diagram, each little grey box represents one  
23 house. They're different kinds of houses in Wales; this is for  
24 Wales. There are houses that have only a single person in them  
25 and they're represented by circles. And there are houses that  
26 have a mother and a father and children and those are  
27 represented by rectangles and so on, they're keyed down at the  
28 bottom. The lines between the households represent instances  
29 where people worked together to harvest subsistence foods.  
30 Now, sometimes it will be someone from -- let's look at Group A  
31 in the upper left-hand corner. Sometimes it looks like there's  
32 some production by the single individual in the circle there,  
33 he's been named as having harvested about eight different kinds  
34 of food by the household in the rectangle in the upper right.  
35 So as an example, I don't know exactly what that household  
36 harvested, but I can -- let's assume that he may have harvested  
37 salmon and seals and walrus and plants for the household in the  
38 rectangle. So each of those lines in this diagram represents  
39 some cooperation between the two households that are connected.  
40 The darker the line, the more the cooperation. An absence of a  
41 line means that there was only one instance of cooperation or  
42 less. But for me, the lesson from this diagram is first of all  
43 there's a lot of cooperation in Wales, but also that that  
44 cooperation follows a pattern that certain households are  
45 working together with other households in groups of households  
46 that produce resources together. And it's our expectation that  
47 those groups are very traditionally structured, that they're

48 organized by families. And this winter we'll be going back to  
49 Wales and sitting down with people in Wales and going over the  
50 results of these analysis and asking them for a read, what do

0048

1 they see when they look at these results and how would they  
2 interpret them.

3

4 We also think that if you were to do a study like this  
5 in some other parts of Alaska, perhaps in the Kenai Peninsula  
6 and in some of the communities with shorter histories that you  
7 would find some very different patterns of cooperation. So if  
8 there's interest in that project, I'd be glad to talk to the  
9 Committee.

10

11 At this time, I think, what I'd like to do is pass the  
12 mic to Susan and she can talk about some of the harvest survey  
13 projects that we've been doing in the region.

14

15 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: One question here, would you title  
16 this a food survey or a food distribution?

17

18 MR. MAGDANZ: That's certainly one way to look at it,  
19 yes, sir.

20

21 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay. Yes, go ahead.

22

23 MS. GEORGETTE: Hi, my name is Susan Georgette and Jim  
24 and I work together for the subsistence division. Jim's passed  
25 out a couple of things, one of the projects we have done for  
26 the last three or four years, which we're doing again right now  
27 is the subsistence salmon harvest project. And a lot of you  
28 might be familiar with that because people come around every  
29 year to -- we do all the villages from Stebbins up to Brevig,  
30 except for Nome, and we do some communities in the Kotzebue  
31 Sound area. This yellow sheet is the one page summary we send  
32 out to everybody, we sent them out this spring, that summarizes  
33 how many fish were caught in the different districts. In  
34 Norton Sound district last year it was 134,000 salmon for  
35 subsistence and about 11,000 in the Port Clarence district,  
36 which is Brevig and Teller. We also collect information on the  
37 kind of gear people use and how much salmon is used for dog  
38 food and how the fishing was, you know, was it good or poor.  
39 And I don't put that on this one page summary, but we have a  
40 longer report that includes all those different things. And  
41 this information is useful in managing salmon fisheries since  
42 the law provides for subsistence having the priority. And this  
43 is some concrete information about how many fish people are  
44 catching in the villages.

45

46 The second project I worked on last year, it's a  
47 cooperative project with Kawerak, Jake and I worked on this.

48 It's continuing migratory bird harvest project. It's funded by  
49 the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the reason we work on this  
50 is because of the efforts to get a legal spring hunting season

0049

1 for rural Alaska. We've gone to, I think, almost all the  
2 villages in the Norton Sound region over the last two or three  
3 years. Kawerak hires a local resident to do some surveys with  
4 people on the kinds of birds they caught in the last year and  
5 then we also interview bird hunters about the kinds of birds  
6 they catch and how it's changed over the years and what they  
7 see, when. This past year we worked in Gambell and Savoonga.  
8 And there's a -- I don't know, I just had a couple of these  
9 somewhere, there's a one page summary, too, of the birds. I  
10 think in Gambell and Savoonga, combined, they took about 22,000  
11 birds and about 14,000 eggs and out there, it's mostly mires  
12 and ocklets and then some sea birds, like eiders and oldsquaws.  
13 That's a pink one, the St. Lawrence Island bird one, there  
14 weren't very many of those, so you might have to share those.  
15 And the ones you're looking at are the one page summaries that  
16 we send out to all the box holders in the villages.

17  
18 The third project I wanted to mention was another  
19 project that Jake and I worked on together, it's a cooperative  
20 project between Fish and Game and Kawerak, and it's funded by  
21 the National Marine Fisheries Service, and it was on seals and  
22 sea lions. And that's these brown ones, there's a summary for  
23 each village we worked in. And I think for people here,  
24 there's one on Brevig and there's one on Stebbins, and then we  
25 also worked in Shaktoolik, Gambell, Savoonga and Golovin. And  
26 this was like the bird project where Kawerak hired a person in  
27 each village to do some harvest surveys on seals and sea lions  
28 and we also interviewed hunters about seals and sea lions in  
29 their area. For the region, the results showed 4,200 seals  
30 taken in 1996. That's for those six villages. And it was kind  
31 of equally divided between bearded, ringed and spotted seals,  
32 with a handful of ribbon seals. That isn't true for each  
33 village, but overall that was about how it broke down. And the  
34 reason we were working on this was because of the decline in  
35 harbor seals and sea lions in the southern part of the State,  
36 in the Aleutians, Gulf of Alaska and Kodiak area, I guess,  
37 they've really declined a lot, seals and sea lions and the  
38 scientists are working to try to figure out why. And the  
39 National Marine Fisheries Service was curious about how seals  
40 were doing further north in the Bering Sea. So part of what we  
41 were asking hunters was how seals were doing around their area.  
42 And overall, for the most part, hunters seemed to feel that  
43 there were plenty of seals. I mean there were little things  
44 like where some hunters in some villages thought some seals  
45 were a little less than other years, but overall it seemed that  
46 most hunters felt that there were lots of seals. And so  
47 whatever might be effecting the seals further south doesn't

48 really seem to be effecting the seals here right now. And  
49 they're different seal species, some of them, and so -- and so  
50 these brown ones are just a one page summary for each village.

0050

1 We're also writing a longer report on it.

2

3 But that's all I had to say then.

4

5 MR. BUCK: The seals and sea lions for Golovin, you  
6 didn't include White Mountain?

7

8 MS. GEORGETTE: No, we didn't. We had only -- we kind  
9 of just picked villages around the area to get a geographical  
10 area. But you're right, it was just Golovin.

11

12 MR. BUCK: And on the yellow one, this was done for '96  
13 and that was when they had their pink run, and I think the one  
14 in the -- for '97 is going to be a lot different.

15

16 MS. GEORGETTE: That's right. You know, you see that a  
17 lot with the years with the pink runs have really different  
18 results than the other years. And we're doing these for '97  
19 now, too, so I think Bones is going to do White Mountain area  
20 and Golovin, so.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Any questions from the Council for  
23 either Sue or Jim? If not, thank you both for presenting your  
24 study, your survey.

25

26 MR. MAGDANZ: Thank you. Susan and I will be taking  
27 turns attending the remainder of your meeting, so feel free at  
28 any time to stop us if you've got questions. If you've had a  
29 chance to read this and you see something you'd like to ask us  
30 about, just stop us at a break and we'll be glad to work on it  
31 with you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: This one, do you have any more of  
34 these pink bird.....

35

36 MR. MAGDANZ: We can make some more copies. I didn't  
37 realize we were short on those.

38

39 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Just one.

40

41 MR. LEAN: Mr. Chair, Council members, my name is  
42 Charles Lean. I'm the area management biologist for commercial  
43 fisheries. I also manage some of the subsistence fisheries in  
44 the Norton Sound and Kotzebue areas. I'm the lead biologist  
45 for Fish and Game in regard to most fisheries in this area, and  
46 as a consequence, I'm going to run through quite a list of  
47 projects and then if you have questions I could try to answer

48 those.

49

50 My season, if you will, starts out at the beginning of

0051

1 the year with the winter king crab fishery. We basically do  
2 our research during that time period. This is a fishery that's  
3 been ongoing since a long time before my contact. And there is  
4 a small amount of king crab that are sold commercially, but  
5 primarily it's a subsistence fishery. Because the crab are so  
6 close to the beach, it's the best time for the Department to do  
7 research regarding disease or age structure, so we run some  
8 pots of our own here in Nome and occasionally as far east as  
9 Bluff or Topkok. And what we do is we collect crab, tag them,  
10 return them to the water alive and keep track of the various  
11 sizes and ages of crab that we catch. This helps us make  
12 judgments about what the population of crab is doing, is it  
13 increasing or decreasing and are we going to have a period of  
14 low abundance if there's an age class missing. We spend from  
15 February/March, part of April with sort of a project.

16  
17 From there we go into herring. The herring fishery is  
18 usually in late May, early June. I'm the primary manager of  
19 that fishery. This past season was a moderately successful  
20 season, we took about 4,000 tons of herring commercially.  
21 That's a little bit below average. Going into this past  
22 summer, we knew that we had a weak five year old age class, we  
23 were concerned about the lack of herring and it turned out that  
24 our projection was correct in that respect, but the four year  
25 olds came in extremely strong. And so after the season our  
26 estimate is that they composed roughly a fifth of the total  
27 run, four year old herring by themselves. Our biomass estimate  
28 this past season was the second highest ever. We have nearly  
29 50,000 tons of estimated herring to return next year. This  
30 places us right up there in the top two or three fisheries in  
31 the State as far as a biomass and good quality. The price was  
32 poor, but the harvest was the highest quality we've ever seen.  
33 And we think that that's -- that was good for the fishermen and  
34 that's probably good for the future of the fishery. We had a  
35 really high roe quality.

36  
37 From there we went into the salmon fishery. The king  
38 salmon return this year and throughout Norton Sound was about  
39 two and a half times normal or a record in many locations. An  
40 excellent king salmon return.

41  
42 Chum salmon run was not nearly so good, it was slightly  
43 below average in eastern Norton Sound and western. The pink  
44 salmon return this year was varied, it was an odd year return,  
45 so the pink salmon weren't as numerous as they would be on an  
46 even year. But in eastern Norton Sound, particularly the  
47 Shaktoolik River, we had an excellent pink salmon return. That

48 wasn't so here in the Nome or Golovin Bay drainages. The pink  
49 salmon return there was quite weak. It was somewhere in  
50 between those two extremes.

0052

1           The silver salmon return this year was very poor. The  
2 worst area being the Fish River system. But the Nome area was  
3 not good either. As a matter-of-fact, we enacted some closures  
4 with subsistence, commercial and sport fishing and with the  
5 most wide-reaching and extreme measures we've ever taken with  
6 any salmon fishery in this region. We closed subsistence  
7 fishing for roughly a two week period from Cape Wales to Cape  
8 Darby and that was not a very popular decision, but it was one  
9 that I think was necessary and well timed. The end result was  
10 that instead of having about a quarter of normal escapement on  
11 the Fish River, we came in with about 60 percent or a little  
12 bit better than half of normal. And in the Nome subdistrict, a  
13 similar result. We tried to adjust the closures, an area to  
14 fit the situation or the severity of the poor return, but it  
15 was a controversial decision and it was something that I felt  
16 we needed to do. Silver salmon basically all return at a  
17 single age, four years old, and so there's not much overlap  
18 from year class to year class as there is with chum salmon. So  
19 to break this cycle, instead of four years down the road having  
20 a really poor return again, I was trying to put a few more fish  
21 into the river and hopefully offset the next return a little  
22 bit to something better.

23  
24           Then finally the king crab fishery in the summer. You  
25 may remember that in the past our king crab harvests were  
26 considerably larger. We used to aim at a 340,000 pound  
27 harvest, this year we downgraded our harvest goal to 80,000  
28 pounds. When it was all said and done, our harvest was 92,000  
29 pounds. We went over our mark a little bit and that was due to  
30 a storm a couple of days before the closure and we were fooled,  
31 if you will, by the poor catch rate at the end of the fishery  
32 and then suddenly they hit it big time on the last few days.  
33 So I guess on an encouraging note on king crab was that the age  
34 structure in the commercial fishery and the last winter's  
35 fishery agreed almost exactly with what we predicted from the  
36 trawl survey a year ago. And so we feel relatively confident  
37 that our population nearly doubled this past summer or in this  
38 past year with new crab reaching legal size. And we had  
39 roughly a five percent harvest and probably a 15 percent  
40 natural mortality. So our population grew by 30 plus percent  
41 this past year, that's a considerable gain in the population.  
42 Our best information indicates that we'll see a similar  
43 recruitment and growth in the population next year. So we are  
44 happy to report that we think the crab population is recovering  
45 and in a few years we'll be back to where we were five years  
46 ago. And as a consequence we would be able to up the harvest a  
47 little bit.

48  
49           King crab are interesting in that they've changed their  
50 distribution pattern in recent years. They've moved further

0053

1 east into Norton Sound than they used to be. I believe that's  
2 a result of the salt water and fresh water mix in Norton Sound.  
3 We haven't had much of a spring flood from the Yukon in the  
4 last several years, two or three years. And I think that's  
5 allowed king crab to move into eastern Norton Sound where  
6 essentially they haven't grazed the food of the bottom of the  
7 ocean there, so they're taking full advantage of an unutilized  
8 area. And this will probably give the area to the west of Nome  
9 and south of Nome a break and maybe the creatures will recover  
10 somewhat there and we'll see good feed when they do move back  
11 out into our western part of our district.

12

13 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Charlie, because of large  
14 concentration of crabs that they're being commercially fished  
15 in Nome or because what's -- what's the reason why only Nome is  
16 open for commercial crab fishing? Or is it open all through  
17 the Sound?

18

19 MR. LEAN: It's open through much of the Sound. The  
20 closure line in eastern Norton Sound runs basically due south  
21 from Elim to Egg Island, if you draw a line north and south.  
22 Draw a line south from Elim and it should strike the beach near  
23 Egg Island. And so then everything west of that line is open  
24 and, in fact, this year the bulk of the commercial harvest  
25 occurred due south from Cape Darby. And Nome is the port of  
26 delivery, but the fishery really occurred due south of Golovin,  
27 and that's where the concentration of crab is in the summer.  
28 During the winter months, the concentration is closer to Elim  
29 and Shaktoolik. Yes.

30

31 MR. MENDENHALL: The tonnage you had targeted for this  
32 year was over almost in record time, and I was just wondering --  
33 a lot of people that tend to do the commercial crab there,  
34 they're kind of left out because they didn't have the other  
35 gear like the other boats had that came from outside the region  
36 and it's not benefitting the local people as much.

37

38 MR. LEAN: The Norton Sound crab district runs from Tin  
39 City south to Cape Romanzof and everything inside of that line.  
40 And so this year, if I remember right, we had three boats --  
41 three or four boats from Norton Sound participating in the  
42 fishery and roughly 12 boats participating from the Lower  
43 Yukon, and we did not have any boats from outside what Fish and  
44 Game termed local communities. And about 80 percent of the  
45 harvest came from the Yukon vessels. But keep in mind, the  
46 Lower Yukon communities are right on the ocean's edge, as is  
47 most of Norton Sound communities. So in my way of thinking,

48 they, too, are local fishers.

49

50 MR. MENDENHALL: The other thing, too, when I was at

0054

1 that subsistence summit in Anchorage, there was closure of  
2 salmon. There was comments made by people from the region that  
3 if subsistence fishing is closed, therefore, sport fishing  
4 should be closed as well for the simple fact that some of the  
5 old folks and the subsistence users question having sport  
6 fishermen have those salmon that's kind of off limits for  
7 subsistence use. Because you had that catch and release, some  
8 arguments about that the fish don't feel anything when they're  
9 hooked and all that, but.....

10

11 MR. LEAN: Yeah.

12

13 MR. MENDENHALL: .....it's not what the fish feel, it's  
14 what the subsistence users feel.

15

16 MR. LEAN: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

17

18 MR. MENDENHALL: That if the salmon is being caught and  
19 we know through experience that some salmon don't get released  
20 regardless of being caught, even if they're supposed to be  
21 released. So subsistence old folks timers, they tend to make  
22 the comment, if they close subsistence, therefore, sport  
23 fishing of salmon should be closed as well, and that's from old  
24 folks.

25

26 MR. LEAN: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

27

28 MR. MENDENHALL: And I think that other people might  
29 feel the same way. I mean due to the depletion of the salmon  
30 that in order to help what's going out on the high sea's, we're  
31 -- I mean in other words, they're willing to bend over  
32 backwards here.....

33

34 MR. LEAN: Right.

35

36 MR. MENDENHALL: .....where the fish spawn. And they  
37 wanted that same thing, too, that the closures should be  
38 combined both -- not separately.

39

40 MR. LEAN: There was quite a discussion on that exact  
41 point within Fish and Game at the time of the silver salmon  
42 closure. And whether or not catch and release mortality was  
43 significant or enough to warrant a complete closure.

44

45 MR. MENDENHALL: If they have off limits for  
46 subsistence use of salmon versus sport fishing of use of  
47 salmon, it should be together.

48

49 MR. LEAN: Well, there's different interpretations of  
50 the law. I will bring that up with the sport fish biologist,

0055

1 and again.....

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: The ones that are questioning are the  
4 subsistence users because they're very dependent upon it for  
5 livelihood, and they've been using it all their life.

6

7 MR. LEAN: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

8

9 MR. MENDENHALL: Which the sportsmen, they're in and  
10 out. They're guided and they don't really depend upon it for --  
11 but some sportsmen do not release them anyway when they do  
12 catch them.

13

14 MR. LEAN: Well, I understand your comment and I will  
15 carry it into the Department. In regards to those that don't  
16 release fish when they should, they're breaking the law and  
17 there's potential to break the law by all user groups and it's  
18 not right and I don't want to make excuses for them, it  
19 shouldn't occur. So.....

20

21 MR. MENDENHALL: But the largest voice is from the  
22 subsistence user.

23

24 MR. LEAN: Mr. Chair, I would also like to acknowledge  
25 the numerous cooperative projects that my agency is involved  
26 with, and you already heard mention of the North River counting  
27 tower in Unalakleet, that's a BLM/Kawerak and Fish and Game  
28 cooperative project with Kawerak taking the lead on that. BLM  
29 provided the counting, the weir, the fence that goes across the  
30 river. Fish and Game, the tower, and some of the equipment,  
31 but Kawerak provided the staffing, the payroll, the food, all  
32 the consumable items. Likewise, Kawerak has a counting tower  
33 on the Eldorado River, the Pilgrim River and the Snake River  
34 with varying degrees of participation from the Fish and Game,  
35 we provide some boats, some tents, some towers and so forth.  
36 But again, Kawerak is the lead agency there.

37

38 Those projects that I've just mentioned are to help us  
39 evaluate the number of salmon that make it into the rivers to  
40 spawn. We call that escapement projects and they're -- some of  
41 those are quite useful, and you'll never know when you're going  
42 to need a specific project in a specific location. With  
43 Kawerak's assistance, we've been able to place an escapement  
44 project in nearly every sub-district of the Sound and that's  
45 helped me a great deal and my staff make decisions about how we  
46 should open fisheries and so forth. And it's nice to have  
47 personnel that are experienced.

48  
49           In addition to that, we have an enhancement project  
50 going on at Salmon Lake. And we are fertilizing the lake.

0056

1 We've dumped 30 some tons of fertilizer in Salmon Lake this  
2 year and what we're trying to do is create a plankton bloom,  
3 more plants to feed small invertebrates or bugs, if you will,  
4 that in turn feed baby salmon. And the red salmon cooperated  
5 very nicely this year and we had a record return, at least, a  
6 record in the respect for at least 40 years we had the most red  
7 salmons adults return to that lake and so they're still  
8 spawning today up there. There's a lot of red salmon in the  
9 lake. Their offspring next year should benefit from this  
10 fertilization that we did this year and we hope that in five  
11 years time we'll see quite a return. So that's a cooperative  
12 project, again with BLM, Kawerak and Fish and Game.

13

14 And that's in addition to the projects that Fish and  
15 Game normally conducts. So -- Peter.

16

17 MR. BUCK: Do you have any theories on why the silver  
18 run was so low this year?

19

20 MR. LEAN: I do. I don't -- people have asked me that  
21 and I don't think it's the same cause and effect with chum  
22 salmon runs. I think this is a one year only problem. If you  
23 look at the footprint of the poor silver salmon returns this  
24 year and the footprint of that big flood we had in 19 -- what  
25 was it three years ago, 1993 or four, we had a flood in August  
26 that was a 100 year event, we had all sorts of places get in  
27 trouble with high water. These fish that came back this year  
28 were one year old, they were about an inch and a quarter long  
29 when that flood hit, and I think the small salmon got swept off  
30 into the tundra or out to sea at a time when they couldn't  
31 survive and I think that was one of the major causes of this  
32 poor return. Another factor in that poor return was that this  
33 was the weak year in the four year cycle. The escapement four  
34 years ago was not very good. And so the two things compounded  
35 themselves and created this poor return.

36

37 And the evidence for this is kind of circumstantial.  
38 The Yukon River didn't have nearly as poor a return on silver  
39 salmon as say, Norton Sound did. They weren't nearly so  
40 effected by that flood because the Yukon goes so far back into  
41 the Interior. So it's kind of circumstantial evidence, if you  
42 will, but in my mind it helps support the idea that it was a  
43 flood related problem.

44

45 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: I have a question, the fish farm --  
46 fish that were raised in the aquaculture, are they having some  
47 effect on the population -- on the chum population or silver?

48 I heard from Fred that some of those fish that were caught have  
49 that sores -- look like sores on their skin like blotches  
50 of.....

0057

1 MR. LEAN: Bumps and sores?

2

3 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: .....rashes or -- are they.....

4

5 MR. LEAN: I can't comment on the spread of disease.  
6 There are so few salmon raised in western Alaska from  
7 hatcheries or from aquaculture, that it seems unlikely to me.  
8 Silver salmon are only at sea for a year, and so they travel  
9 maybe down to the Aleutians or so and then back, so they don't  
10 have that much opportunity to mix with hatchery raised fish.  
11 The fish that we raise in incubation boxes at Nome, at least,  
12 at Solomon River, probably go to feed more silvers than they  
13 harm. We have the misfortune of having only useable spring on  
14 that stream, also happen to be a prime spot for silver salmon  
15 to spawn and so the little chums when they come out of the box,  
16 many of them are dinner for silver salmon. But we do think  
17 we're having a positive effect there even so. The only silvers  
18 that we raise in Norton Sound from artificial means are done at  
19 the high school and it's relative -- it's just a couple hundred  
20 smoltz that are released. It's a tiny number in comparison to  
21 what Mother Nature produces.

22

23 MR. KATCHATAG SR: This summer there's been an unusual  
24 report on some of the -- mostly -- some fish were not edible at  
25 all to use.

26

27 MR. LEAN: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

28

29 MR. KATCHATAG SR: And I didn't know what phone number  
30 to call; maybe if I could get your phone number. I like just  
31 before I came one of the hunters came in and told me that he  
32 seen a lot of tomcod, not very big tomcods, but a lot of them  
33 dead on the beach with a lot of small crafts get on the beach  
34 in one area. And I thought to myself, I was going to call you,  
35 but I got interested on my whale (indiscernible), you know, it  
36 got a real bad storm there, and that's what caused me to get  
37 away from calling you.

38

39 MR. LEAN: Well, the phone number to call me is the  
40 same as Peter Bente read to you, it's 1-800-56.....

41

42 MR. KATCHATAG SR: I have it right there, your's right?

43

44 MR. LEAN: Right.

45

46 MR. KATCHATAG SR: Yeah.

47

48           MR. LEAN: You know, years ago, maybe 10 years ago we  
49 had a big die-off on tomcod, one year it was in the Unalakleet  
50 area and the next year it came to Nome. And that turned out to

0058

1 be an epidemic of a fungus that grew in tomcod's gills and  
2 basically it caused them to smother. And it was at this time  
3 of year, right when the lagoon started to freeze. We had quite  
4 a die-off and it caused the population to really drop and it  
5 took years for it to recover. So that's a possible  
6 explanation. If you do find a diseased fish that you want me  
7 to check on, but it in a plastic bag or something and put it in  
8 your refrigerator, not your freezer, if you freeze it, you'll  
9 ruin the tissue for examination. And so it has to be  
10 relatively fresh but it can't be frozen. And what I will do is  
11 I will try to get that to Anchorage so that -- we have a person  
12 called a fish pathologist that examines diseased fish and he  
13 will try to give me a read out on what the problem is.

14

15 MR. MENDENHALL: Send it COD?

16

17 MR. LEAN: If you could call me before you do that, I  
18 would try to arrange, you know, maybe it's better from  
19 Unalakleet to go directly to Anchorage then to Nome.

20

21 MR. KATCHATAG SR: Yeah.

22

23 MR. LEAN: But call me if you get a sample as soon as  
24 you can. Because the freshness really makes a difference in  
25 the determination.

26

27 MR. KATCHATAG SR: Yeah, I'll do that next time.

28

29 MR. LEAN: Okay.

30

31 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: That's it?

32

33 MR. LEAN: I think so.

34

35 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Thank you, Charlie. Kay.

36

37 MS. PERSONS: Mr. Chairman, my name is Kate Persons.  
38 I'm a wildlife biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and  
39 Game. A lot of people have been asking, what happened to Steve  
40 Machida, he transferred to Anchorage this summer and I'm  
41 filling in on a temporary basis until his position is  
42 permanently filled.

43

44 There were just a couple things more I wanted to  
45 mention about the Board of Game meeting that starts next week.  
46 There are four days that have portions, at least, set aside for  
47 public testimony. Public testimony will be taken Friday

48 afternoon, all day Saturday, all day Sunday and Monday morning.  
49 And there is a deadline for sign-up for public testimony at  
50 10:00 a.m., on Monday morning, that's the 27th.

0059

1 Fish and Game does not have a current population  
2 estimate for brown bear, however, clearly we have a really  
3 healthy brown bear population in the entire unit. And we  
4 believe that in recent years, the population has grown and can  
5 withstand an increase in harvest in all units except for 22(C).  
6 And at this upcoming board meeting we're going to be  
7 recommending a couple changes to the brown bear hunting  
8 regulations that will liberalize bear hunting. The first  
9 proposal is to include Unit 22, except for Unit 22(C) in the  
10 northwest brown bear management area and this will enable  
11 subsistence hunters to harvest one bear a year for food between  
12 September 1st and May 31st, and this could be done by  
13 registration permit, there would be no tag fee.

14  
15 The hides from these subsistence bears, though, if they  
16 were to be removed from the management unit or presented for  
17 commercial tanning would have to be sealed. And at the time  
18 that they're sealed, the trophy value of the hide would be  
19 destroyed; the head and the claws would be removed. The second  
20 change that we are proposing is to create one long brown bear  
21 season for the sport and trophy hunt from September 1st until  
22 May 31st, it would be the same dates as for the subsistence  
23 bear season. Last year, during the '96/97 bear season, we had  
24 a reported harvest of 61 bears killed. Three of those were  
25 killed in defense of life and property. This current fall '97  
26 season has seen a reported harvest of 15 bears. Since August  
27 we've had four bears killed in defense of life and property.

28  
29 Before I move on to caribou, does anybody have any  
30 questions concerning bears?

31  
32 MR. MENDENHALL: Why is the.....

33  
34 COURT REPORTER: Perry, microphone.

35  
36 MR. MENDENHALL: Why is 22(C) excluded?

37  
38 MS. PERSONS: Looking at our harvest statistics, we  
39 feel that already there is a high harvest in (C), and since it  
40 is so accessible to the community of Nome where there's a lot  
41 of interest in bear hunting, that the population just can't  
42 support it. It's possible we might want to consider it in the  
43 future. We'd like to see what effect these changes that we are  
44 proposing, if they are adopted, have before we make any other  
45 liberalization on the bear season.

46  
47 MR. MENDENHALL: Just comments from some people in my

48 Nome area.

49

50 MS. PERSONS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

0060

1 MR. MENDENHALL: They said they wish it was open more.

2

3 MS. PERSONS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

4

5 MR. MENDENHALL: Because of the influx of bears has  
6 increased over the years.

7

8 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, I know a lot of people feel that  
9 way.

10

11 MR. MENDENHALL: Since the military, you know, and  
12 that.

13

14 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.

15

16 MR. MENDENHALL: And there's concern about life, grand  
17 kids and kids and camps.

18

19 MS. PERSONS: Yep.

20

21 MR. MENDENHALL: So that's the concern that we have in  
22 22(C).

23

24 MS. PERSONS: Um-hum. And you should voice those  
25 concerns during the public testimony next week.

26

27 MR. MENDENHALL: That's why I asked why 22(C) was not  
28 included, and it should.....

29

30 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.

31

32 MR. MENDENHALL: .....like you said, you want to wait  
33 to see what the impact is, right.

34

35 MS. PERSONS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

36

37 MR. MENDENHALL: But our people, our elders are the  
38 ones in Nome that have -- we have elders serve on some of our  
39 subsistence committees and they ask, we need to get rid of some  
40 bears at certain localities.

41

42 MS. PERSONS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

43

44 MR. MENDENHALL: So that's a concern that we hear at  
45 our meetings.....

46

47 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, we hear it, too.

48  
49  
50

MR. MENDENHALL: .....outside of Fish and Game.

0061

1 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.

2

3 MS. CROSS: One question. You said there was a lot of  
4 interest in hunting bears in 22(C), is that coming from sports  
5 hunters?

6

7 MS. PERSONS: Yes. Mostly the interest I was referring  
8 to was on the part of the sport hunters.

9

10 MR. MENDENHALL: If there was a lot of interest in Nome  
11 for subsistence bears, could it be reconsidered?

12

13 MS. PERSONS: Well, all this will be up to the Board.

14

15 MR. MENDENHALL: Right.

16

17 MR. BUCK: I had a lot of persons that say, if a bear  
18 is taken during our -- or in defense of life and property,  
19 during a bear season, during subsistence and -- would that  
20 person be able to have that bear canned commercially to keep  
21 and you're saying they'd have to cut out the claws and they'd  
22 have to cut off the head; is it possible.....

23

24 MS. PERSONS: Now, wait a minute, back up a second.  
25 You're saying this bear was harvested during open bear season?

26

27 MR. BUCK: Yeah.

28

29 MS. PERSONS: Then if you had a tag and a hunting  
30 license it would qualify as a sport.....

31

32 MR. BUCK: Okay.

33

34 MS. PERSONS: .....hunted animal and you could have it  
35 tanned and none of these restrictions would apply.

36

37 MR. BUCK: Okay.

38

39 MR. MENDENHALL: Make sure that somebody in your camp  
40 that has one though.

41

42 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, a lot of people do that. Okay,  
43 something else about bears?

44

45 MR. MENDENHALL: No, it will be on tomorrow again.

46

47 MS. PERSONS: Okay. This last year for the first time

48 in many, many years, there was a large influx of caribou into  
49 historic caribou ranges on the central and western Seward  
50 Peninsula. October 31st of last year, caribou season was open

0062

1 by emergency order in 22(D). So far this year we haven't seen  
2 a movement of caribou into 22(D). It will be open again by  
3 emergency order if that happens. It can happen a little bit  
4 quicker and more efficiently this year. In January of last  
5 year, the Board gave Fish and Game the authority to open the  
6 season by emergency order without any Board action. And last  
7 year the opening was kind of frustrating to a lot of people and  
8 delayed because board action was required before it could be  
9 open and hopefully, that won't happen this year.

10

11 Last year, all these caribou were pretty devastating to  
12 the reindeer industry. They lost a lot of animals when the  
13 caribou mixed in with their herds. Last year and again this  
14 year, the Department is making frequent flights to track radio  
15 collared caribou and low altitude flights just to look at  
16 caribou locations, numbers and movements, and this information  
17 is provided to the Reindeer Herder's Association so the herders  
18 can be forewarned before the animals approach too closely to  
19 their reindeer ranges. We have 144 radio collars on caribou,  
20 11 of those are satellite collars. In 1996, we did a photo  
21 census of the Western Arctic herd, the final population  
22 estimate for that census is going to be released in just a  
23 couple of days. So we've been still working off the '93  
24 estimate which is 450,000 animals. And Jim Dau, who is working  
25 up the estimate did tell me that I could say that it's -- this  
26 latest estimate is very close to the 1993 estimate.

27

28 And we're continuing to work with Native organizations  
29 and Federal agencies towards some sort of a cooperative  
30 management agreement dealing with the Western Arctic herd. Any  
31 questions on caribou?

32

33 Okay, I'll move on to moose. Every year the Department  
34 conducts a moose census in one subunit of Unit 22. Last year a  
35 census of 22(D) was conducted. The population estimate was not  
36 significantly different from that that was found in 1993. And  
37 it is 35 percent below the management goal of 2,500 to 3,000  
38 moose in 22(D). We had a harvest last year -- a reported  
39 harvest, that is, of 198 moose, 456 people reported harvesting  
40 moose in Unit 22 and the success rate was 43 percent.

41

42 We have an ongoing study over in the Fish and Nukluk  
43 River with radio collared cow caribou. And the purpose of the  
44 study was to try and figure out why so many of the calves are  
45 not surviving their first year of life. And we've been looking  
46 at when and how many of the cows have their calves and when the  
47 mortality is occurring. We've found, so far, a couple

48 interesting things. Only about half of the cows in this study  
49 group are producing calves every year, and that's lower in  
50 what's seen in similar studies in other parts of the State,

0063

1 where like 70 to 80 percent of the cows produce calves each  
2 year. And we found that most of the calves are dying during  
3 the summer months and most of those actually during the first  
4 month of life. And this is likely largely due to predation,  
5 but it looks like really there are some other factors involved,  
6 too. In 1995 and '96, the calving didn't begin until the first  
7 or second week of June, and that's later than what is seen  
8 both in other parts of the unit and other parts of the State.  
9 And it's a common occurrence among cows that are in poor  
10 condition. This last winter was unusually mild and in the  
11 study area there was less than a normal amount of snow. And  
12 this last spring, the cows began calving at the end of May. So  
13 we're thinking that winter range conditions are a limiting  
14 factor in this area and that it's possible that cows simply are  
15 not routinely able to produce as many, really healthy, vigorous  
16 calves as in other parts of the unit or in other places in  
17 Alaska.

18

19 Questions?

20

21 MR. MENDENHALL: When you do your study do you put a  
22 cow moose suit on?

23

24 MS. PERSONS: Yeah. And fly around in an airplane.

25

26 MR. MENDENHALL: I just heard of that one in Canada  
27 where the lady that was doing moose study in a suit, horns and  
28 everything, couldn't get away.

29

30 MS. PERSONS: Okay. And lastly, I'd just like to  
31 comment briefly on musk ox, that every other year we  
32 participate in an interagency musk ox census and '97 was not a  
33 census year. There was no census done. But we are continuing  
34 to participate in the development and implementation of the  
35 Seward Peninsula Cooperative Musk Ox Management plan and we're  
36 hoping to be able to resolve the difference of regulations on  
37 that -- difference in State and Federal regulations for musk ox  
38 hunting.

39

40 MR. MENDENHALL: There's no real estimate you can  
41 really give on musk ox population, can you?

42

43 MS. PERSONS: The most recent one is for last year.....

44

45 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah.

46

47 MS. PERSONS: .....in '96, and it's what, 947?

48  
49  
50

MR. ADKISSON: About 950 animals.

0064

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Do you have any info on black  
2 bears?

3  
4 MS. PERSONS: No, I don't.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: There's a request for  
7 reconsideration, C&T for caribou, Unit 22 by Chevak, Hooper Bay  
8 and Scammon Bay, is that.....

9  
10 MS. PERSONS: I'll let someone else address that.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay, thank you.

13  
14 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chairman, that was going to be  
15 covered by Rosa Meehan, Staff here. That's in regards to  
16 proposals that the Council submitted last year and the Board  
17 took action and the RFR's were just in response by the State to  
18 the action the Board took. So Rosa said she would address the  
19 RFR's that are in the book.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay. Next? Who do we have next,  
22 Fish and Wildlife Service?

23  
24 MR. EDENSHAW: No, that was a clerical error, I said.  
25 What you can do, Mr. Chair, is Rosa will come up here and  
26 address the RFR's that were included in your booklets.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay.

29  
30 MS. MEEHAN: Good afternoon. Rosa Meehan with the  
31 Office of Subsistence Management. And in your book under Tab D  
32 there is a letter that we received from the Department of Fish  
33 and Game in regards to RFR's. And as Cliff mentioned, this is  
34 a part of the process whereby anyone who has a question about  
35 an action taken by the Federal Subsistence Board can submit  
36 what's called, a request for reconsideration. It's basically  
37 an opportunity for someone, in this case, it was Department of  
38 Fish and Game, question an action taken by the Board. And I  
39 hope that you all have received the letter that was mailed out  
40 October 3rd from our office, it was -- I have a copy of it for  
41 anybody who didn't receive it, but it was signed by Tom Boyd  
42 and it explains the purpose of this agenda item. And basically  
43 when we receive these requests for reconsideration, this is a  
44 request that's sent to the Board and it requires action back  
45 from the Board. It does not necessarily require action by the  
46 Councils. So we have included this in the book so that you can  
47 see the correspondence we received on proposals that pertain to

48 your area, but it's for your information, it's not meant as an  
49 action item. And just to let you know the status of the  
50 response on this, I just talked to the office and found out

0065

1 that Mitch Demientieff, who's Chair of the Federal Board, has  
2 had a chance to review this issue and review correspondence and  
3 he has now signed, as of yesterday, signed a letter that will  
4 be going back to the State and so I don't have a copy of that  
5 letter for you, but we will mail it out to you when we get back  
6 to the office and have a chance to do that.

7  
8 But as far as a specific follow-up on this, the one RFR  
9 that you mentioned, about the caribou hunting by Chevak,  
10 Scammon Bay and Hooper Bay, we are going to look into that  
11 issue a little bit further. So what is included in your  
12 packet, somewhere towards the end of it, it's sort of in the  
13 middle of it, there's a very preliminary draft Staff analysis.  
14 It's included just so you can see some of the very preliminary  
15 work we're doing, and it's sort of a head's up to let you know  
16 that in the winter meeting we will be coming back and asking if  
17 you have any additional information on that topic. And so it's  
18 something for you to take home and look at. So if you've got  
19 additional information, come time of the winter Council  
20 meetings, we will be looking to hear from you on that.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Any questions for Rose of the  
23 Council?

24  
25 MR. MENDENHALL: Just a matter for our review anyway,  
26 just our information.

27  
28 MS. MEEHAN: Yes, it's just this is for your  
29 information. After you've had a chance to look at it, if  
30 you've got any specific questions I will be here through the  
31 rest of the meeting and please feel free to catch me and I'll  
32 be glad to chat about it.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Thank you. Moving along, next  
35 item. Are we done with Fish and Game, Alaska Department of  
36 Fish and Game, Mr. Edenshaw?

37  
38 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: We'll go on to Item 4, U.S. Fish  
41 and Wildlife Service.

42  
43 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, that was just a clerical  
44 error because under old reports, those pertain to agencies  
45 within Unit 22 where there are Federal public lands and Fish  
46 and Wildlife doesn't have any Federal public lands in the  
47 region. So it was a clerical error when I was preparing the

48 agenda.

49

50 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: So we'll strike that out?

0066

1 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay. We'll move forward, Item 4  
4 is deleted. Item 5, 1996 annual report.

5

6 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Yes.

9

10 MR. EDENSHAW: I have a copy here. When we met in  
11 Unalakleet, the Council prepared an annual report and I don't  
12 know if you guys recall so I'll just refreshen your memory, but  
13 here is the two page report that was submitted this past year  
14 regarding Seward Penn's 1996 annual report. And on the second  
15 page, they -- I'll just continue some of the language in here  
16 and address the issues that the Council wished to have included  
17 in their report.

18

19 Subsistence issues which concerned the Seward Peninsula  
20 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council are, one, again, the  
21 Council requested the Alaska Native policy should be a priority  
22 developed in consultation with nine other Regional Councils.  
23 Number two, continued requests that the Regional Council have  
24 independent legal counsel as adequate technical staff. Number,  
25 three, concerns about habitat destructions, ATV's and region  
26 wide, especially along the road system in Unit 22(D). The  
27 fourth concern, to develop a standardized reporting form  
28 regarding subsistence resources in the region as well as a  
29 comprehensive list of the subsistence resources which we have  
30 jurisdiction over. We should be able to graph out the  
31 resources over a five year period. Five, acquire companion  
32 subsistence resources data. Six, include subsistence fisheries  
33 management as our responsibilities as a Regional Advisory  
34 Council. And seven, pass a motion unanimously to support the  
35 10 Regional Council Chairs in their efforts to restructure the  
36 Federal Subsistence Board to be made up of the 10 Regional  
37 Council Chairs.

38

39 And so that was the report that was submitted to the  
40 Federal Subsistence Board, and inside your books in Tab E is  
41 the response from the Board. So if you'll look under Tab E,  
42 those are the responses in regards to the concerns that the  
43 Seward Penn Regional Council had in their annual report that  
44 was submitted to the report.

45

46 MR. MENDENHALL: Where?

47

48 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes, Tab E.

49

50 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: So what's your recommendation?

0067

1 MR. EDENSHAW: I just wanted to provide some background  
2 from the annual report that you guy's submitted last year as  
3 well as the Board's response to the annual report to the  
4 concerns that the Seward Penn Regional Council submitted to the  
5 Board this past year.

6  
7 MR. MENDENHALL: We just have to accept the response  
8 that Mitch gave to us because we, as an Advisory Council, just  
9 say thank you. And I make that motion to that effect saying,  
10 thank you, Mitch, for your response to our concerns as a  
11 Subsistence Advisory Board.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay, motion by Perry to accept the  
14 Federal Subsistence Board's report. Is there a second?

15  
16 MR. KATCHATAG SR: Second.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Second by Fred Katchatag. All in  
19 favor say aye.

20  
21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Those opposed no.

24  
25 (No opposing responses)

26  
27 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Motion carried. Item 6, what's  
28 Item 6, it says, Federal Subsistence Board meeting?

29  
30 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, normally -- when the Board  
31 met in April, Sheldon attended the Board meeting on behalf of  
32 the Council as Chair. If you go back into your -- I'll go  
33 ahead and just touch upon.....

34  
35 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Under what tab?

36  
37 MR. EDENSHAW: .....I'll touch upon Board action on  
38 proposals because we addressed proposals last year and the  
39 Board met in April to address those. So if you look back in  
40 your secretary, Grace, was reading the minutes from the  
41 meeting, the Council submitted in February in Unalakleet,  
42 Proposal 61 and the Board took an action for C&T for black  
43 bear. And they accepted the Regional Advisory Council's  
44 recommendation for C&T with the exception of 22(C) and (E).  
45 Those two subunits were rejected in the proposal.

46  
47 MR. MENDENHALL: Where's that at?

48  
49  
50

MR. EDENSHAW: I'm looking inside the minutes.

0068

1 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay.

2

3 MR. EDENSHAW: See, I'm just looking at the minutes  
4 from -- that's in sub-Tab C. And I'm just recalling from my  
5 attendance at the Board meeting in April when the Board met in  
6 Anchorage and I'm just conveying to the Council here, what  
7 action the Board took on these proposals that were submitted  
8 last year in Unalakleet on C&T. And Perry, normally on the  
9 agenda for the Federal Subsistence Board meeting, Sheldon's the  
10 Chair and all the Chairs of the nine other Regional Councils  
11 attend the meeting in Anchorage. It's usually a week long, but  
12 it was four days. So if Sheldon were here, he'd probably give  
13 a report on the action the Board took. But seeing's he's not  
14 here and Ted's acting Chair today, I'll just go ahead and gloss  
15 over what action the Board took in regards to these proposals.  
16 And if you look on -- I see some of you have your maps in front  
17 of you of the region and Proposal 61 covers back bear and the  
18 Council requested a positive C&T that said for residents in  
19 Unit 22(A), including Koyuk, Units 22(B), (D) and subunits (C)  
20 and (E) would be revisited if black bear are found to have  
21 migrated in the area. They went ahead and the Board took the  
22 action and they rejected 22(C) and (E) were also rejected. So  
23 in terms of the C&T proposal that the council submitted, those  
24 two subunits were rejected based on recent use. They said  
25 there wasn't any recent use of black bear in those subunits, so  
26 that's the basis or the justification for their reasoning on  
27 the action they took regarding black bear on Proposal 61.

28

29 62, we're going to discuss a portion of that this  
30 afternoon regarding the Council requested all residents of  
31 22(A) a positive C&T for moose for Koyuk and family as defined  
32 in Section 803 of ANILCA. The Council went ahead and put that  
33 proposal before the Board and when the Board met in April to  
34 address these proposals, they rejected that one. And we'll go  
35 into that in more detail when Helen gives -- she has a paper  
36 that is also, I believe, included inside your books. So we'll  
37 discuss that at length later this afternoon.

38

39 Proposal 63, for wolves, they said rural residents -- a  
40 positive C&T for rural residents of 21(D) west of the Yukon  
41 River and Units 22 and Unit 23 south of the Arctic Circle. And  
42 there was a motion to include Kotlik in the above proposed  
43 regulation and the Board passed that proposal unanimously so  
44 there wasn't any difficulty with that one.

45

46 Number 54, that is the one we just discussed earlier  
47 and that will be taken up at the winter meetings in February.

48 And they were talking about the caribou, a proposed C&T to  
49 include the residents of Chevak, Scammon Bay and Hooper Bay for  
50 a positive C&T in Unit 22(A). And I think portions of the C&T

0069

1 or the RFR that the State submitted, their concern that there  
2 wasn't enough oral history or testimony regarding use by those  
3 three communities that are coming up from down in their regions  
4 up into Unit 22(A). And so that was a.....

5

6 MS. MEEHAN: I just want to put in a clarification on  
7 this, this was passed, Proposal 54 was passed by the Board.

8

9 MR. EDENSHAW: It was.

10

11 MS. MEEHAN: And what will happen in the future is  
12 because we received an RFR on it, we'll look at that decision  
13 again. But while that decision is being looked at again, it  
14 still remains in effect, okay, so you can treat it as the  
15 change in regulation that this Council requested is in effect.

16

17 MR. EDENSHAW: So what that would mean is those three  
18 communities have positive C&T for caribou in Unit 22(A).

19

20 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Question. Would that change the  
21 harvest limit or it wouldn't?

22

23 MS. ARMSTRONG: No.

24

25 MR. EDENSHAW: No.

26

27 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Wouldn't effect the harvest limit?

28

29 MS. ARMSTRONG: It's just for C&T.

30

31 MR. EDENSHAW: It's just for C&T. That's just  
32 recognizing that those three villages or communities do have a  
33 positive customary and traditional use in 22(A).

34

35 And then 66, for caribou, for all residents in Unit 22  
36 be given positive C&T, and for all residents in Unit 22 for a  
37 positive C&T in Unit 23 south of the Arctic Circle. That  
38 proposal passed unanimously also.

39

40 And unless -- I think that covers the proposals that  
41 were covered by the Board at their April meeting.

42

43 MR. KATCHATAG SR: Did you go through all of them or  
44 did you go through which are.....

45

46 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes.

47

48           MR. MENDENHALL: The acoustics in the place are kind of  
49 hard on deciphering what you're saying.  
50

0070

1 MR. EDENSHAW: Proposal 54 was passed.

2

3 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Going along, is that the end of  
4 that?

5

6 MR. EDENSHAW: That covered the Board meeting in April,  
7 yes.

8

9 MS. MEEHAN: This is Rosa Meehan with the Office of  
10 Subsistence Management. Just a couple of other points that  
11 were covered at the Board meeting in April is just prior to the  
12 Board meeting, there was an opportunity for the Chairs to meet  
13 with the Board in executive session and it's a chance for the  
14 Chairs to discuss some of the issues that they have with the  
15 Board. And two issues of concern that were discussed, one was  
16 the restructuring of the Federal Subsistence Board, and that's  
17 an agenda item that we will talk about in greater detail a  
18 little later on. But just to share with you what happened at  
19 that joint Chair Board meeting was that all present agreed to  
20 the recommendation of adding one subsistence user to the  
21 Federal Subsistence Board. Now, this is different than the  
22 recommendation that came out of this Council, which was to  
23 restructure the Board to be all Chairs of the Regional Advisory  
24 Councils. So just to let you know that that discussion took  
25 place at that meeting.

26

27 The other thing that happened at the meeting was again,  
28 a request that had come out of this Council was for an Alaska  
29 Native policy to be developed. And at that meeting, again this  
30 is the joint Chairs Board meeting, that proposal was discussed  
31 and it was dropped. And just so that you know why that  
32 happened -- perhaps, in part, why that happened, Sheldon was  
33 not at the joint Chair meeting. The joint Chair meeting  
34 occurred right at the time where his niece and nephew were lost  
35 and they had a big search effort going on, they finally found  
36 the children a little ways away from the village, but for that  
37 reason, Sheldon was not at that joint meeting. So that whole  
38 issue was tabled at that time.

39

40 Again, if you have any questions on this, I will be  
41 here.

42

43 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Thank you, Rose. Thank you,  
44 Clifford. Do you have anything.

45

46 MS. CROSS: Yes, let's take a break.

47

48                   CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: At this time I'll call for a break  
49 for five or 10 minutes.  
50

0071

1 (Off record)

2 (On record)

3

4 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: I'll call the meeting to order.  
5 And we have musk ox C&T for Unit 22(A). Helen or Ann? Helen,  
6 I'm sorry.

7

8 MS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Helen Armstrong  
9 from the Subsistence Office. You have a piece of paper, I  
10 think that was just passed around to you that looks like this  
11 that says proposal on the top. In 1995, this Council made a  
12 proposal for creating a customary and traditional determination  
13 for musk ox in 22(A), you already have it for the remainder of  
14 22, we did not do it for 22(A) because there weren't enough and  
15 there aren't enough musk ox that are -- a high enough  
16 population to harvest them. At that time, we deferred the  
17 proposal because there were other things that had a prior  
18 priority for us to do so we made a choice to do those first.  
19 And our office is going back and trying to make sure we take  
20 care of all the things that have been deferred. Since we're a  
21 young program, I can't say new anymore, but we had a lot of  
22 proposals in the beginning and so we were trying to take the  
23 things with the highest priority. This one had been put on the  
24 back burner. So the question today is, do you still want this  
25 to come forward? If you would like it to come forward this  
26 year, we can turn it into a proposal and it would come out in  
27 the proposal booklet for public comment and then we would  
28 review the analysis at the winter meeting.

29

30 As it is right now, the only information we have --  
31 when we put out or proposal booklet we have a number of  
32 questions that can be answered that are in here. And the only  
33 information we have right now to put in there is what's here.  
34 So there are two things we need to do. Decide today, do you  
35 want this to be a proposal to go forward in our proposal  
36 booklet this year and then do you want anymore information to  
37 go into this document to go out to the public? Just because we  
38 have it -- if the Board decides to give C&T for musk ox in  
39 22(A), that would not mean they would be allowed to hunt it, it  
40 would only mean they would have C&T for it. They would have to  
41 wait until they had high enough numbers to be able to hunt it  
42 and that would be according to the musk ox plan. And right now  
43 I don't think the musk ox -- I don't think the plan even  
44 addresses Unit 22(A). So it's something that's done the pike a  
45 little bit in the future, so it doesn't mean that you'd have  
46 it.

47

48           But anyway, that's all I have to say. So it's up to  
49 the Council to decide if they want to keep this on the back  
50 burner or bring it forward.

0072

1 MS. CROSS: I have a question. You mentioned  
2 population size?

3  
4 MS. ARMSTRONG: I don't believe -- I have to refer to  
5 the biologist -- population size of musk ox in 22(A)?

6  
7 MS. DEWHURST: There is no surveys done.....

8  
9 MS. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. I mean if there are any they're  
10 just a few strays wandering around, if there are any at all, I  
11 don't know.

12  
13 MS. CROSS: So there's no study or documentation of C&T  
14 either?

15  
16 MS. ARMSTRONG: I'm sorry, I couldn't hear you?

17  
18 MS. CROSS: Documentation of C&T use?

19  
20 MS. ARMSTRONG: Well, what we did in the rest of 22  
21 when we did the C&T was, because there's nothing in living  
22 memory of people here, we based it on historical information  
23 and the idea that if there were musk ox, then they would be  
24 hunted because that's what people customarily and traditionally  
25 did. It would be a very similar analysis as to what was in the  
26 rest of Unit 22 when we did the C&T for that.

27  
28 The other issue is if the musk ox plan, this  
29 cooperative planning group that's going on right now, if they  
30 make the decision that they don't want -- they want -- excuse  
31 me, that they want the population to be maintained and they  
32 don't want it to expand, then this would be a non-issue because  
33 it won't be expanding into 22(A). So some of this is -- in a  
34 way this is a little premature. But it was in our books and so  
35 we felt we needed to bring it forward so that the Council  
36 wouldn't think that we had totally forgotten about it since it  
37 had been deferred in 1995.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: There's been a population of one  
40 musk ox last summer and it became extinct. He didn't live very  
41 long. When it went down to Kotlik, somebody shot it down. So  
42 we don't have any population I could think of. I'd like to  
43 leave -- what's the wish of the Council, to go ahead and  
44 resubmit the proposal?

45  
46 MS. CROSS: I don't think we got enough information  
47 right now. We don't have the population size and -- I don't

48 think we have enough documentation for it to be passed or am I  
49 getting this all wrong?  
50

0073

1 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Fred, do you have.....

2

3 MR. BUCK: And we also made -- and the motion we made  
4 on February 6, was that we maintain the harvest under this, not  
5 increase the musk ox.

6

7 MS. CROSS: We're talking about 22(A) only.

8

9 MR. BUCK: Okay.

10

11 MS. CROSS: This is the question, which was excluded  
12 before.

13

14 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: In your experience, Fred, have you  
15 seen any musk oxen around Unalakleet or south of Unalakleet?

16

17 MR. KATCHATAG SR: They have sighted one once in a  
18 while, that one is still alive, I think. He goes in to town  
19 once in a while and away he goes again. And they hardly ever  
20 talk about him anymore. Even when they see him, they don't  
21 tell nobody no more. He's the only one though.

22

23 MR. MENDENHALL: There's a little confusion though on  
24 the written proposal on this, one, two, three, four, five, way  
25 down, it says, effected proposed change on subsistence users.  
26 We will provide for the customary uses in time of population  
27 shortages, is that the musk ox population or the users  
28 population? At AFN we would through this out.

29

30 MR. KATCHATAG SR: You got no problem.

31

32 MR. MENDENHALL: I mean so we should get some  
33 clarification on this of whether you want to because.....

34

35 MR. KATCHATAG SR: They ain't no problem.

36

37 MR. MENDENHALL: I know you only saw one. They can't  
38 reproduce that way.

39

40 MS. ARMSTRONG: We can clarify that if you go forward  
41 with it.

42

43 MR. MENDENHALL: If you're going to adopt this it  
44 should be clarified, that language.

45

46 MS. ARMSTRONG: We can do that.

47

48 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: So what's your suggestion?

49

50 MS. ARMSTRONG: In the time of other resource shortage,

0074

1 it should probably say.

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: Resources?

4

5 MS. ARMSTRONG: Other resources. If you have a  
6 shortage of other resources and then people are saying, well,  
7 we didn't get caribou this year, can we maybe, you know, I mean  
8 that's usually what people have talked about, is they look at  
9 musk ox as being something that supplements.

10

11 MR. MENDENHALL: Because it's easy to get.

12

13 MS. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

14

15 MS. CROSS: If this proposal is submitted the way it  
16 is, what do you think the chances of it ever passing without  
17 much information?

18

19 MS. ARMSTRONG: You want my honest opinion? It will  
20 pass.

21

22 MS. CROSS: It will pass.

23

24 MS. ARMSTRONG: Given the way our Board is today. And  
25 the reason I say that is that they gave C&T for Unit 22(A) -- I  
26 mean 26(A) on the North Slope when there weren't enough musk ox  
27 to hunt them. So right now they have a C&T for 26(A) when they  
28 have -- although there are fewer musk ox in 22(A), I believe,  
29 than probably 26(A), but I think they probably would pass it, I  
30 don't know. But the problem is, it won't do you any good. I  
31 mean it -- sure, you might have C&T but you're not going to  
32 have a hunt perhaps ever. If the musk ox aren't allowed to  
33 expand into 22(A), if they keep the population stable and  
34 maintain it the way it is.

35

36 MS. CROSS: So it's just for C&T.

37

38 MS. ARMSTRONG: You can wait. You can just say, let's  
39 defer this until there's a harvestable population and just wait  
40 until that time.

41

42 MR. MENDENHALL: That would be more prudent and shall  
43 reflect on this Council as to their recommendation to follow  
44 her recommendation. Until they establish documentation that  
45 there is a solid population to draw from and that it can  
46 substitute for other foods if the other foods aren't around.  
47 It would probably be best, you know, because it's a resource

48 that's on the park and it would be prudent to take her  
49 recommendation to table it until there's more data on this.  
50 Unless you feel you folks need it down that way.

0075

1 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Is that your motion?

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: To adopt her recommendation, yes,  
4 until there's more data -- to such time that it comes back to  
5 us for passage, a similar proposal.

6

7 MS. CROSS: And who knows if we might get a request at  
8 some point if people needed it. At this point it doesn't seem  
9 to, nobody's requesting it.

10

11 MR. MENDENHALL: And in the mean time, an agreement  
12 between State and Federal could be worked out, too.

13

14 MS. CROSS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

15

16 MR. MENDENHALL: So there's some internal actions being  
17 done on musk ox anyway.

18

19 MS. CROSS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

20

21 MR. MENDENHALL: Once that is clarified more, then we  
22 could probably take a look at 22(A). Unless you feel, from  
23 22(A), Unalakleet and your area.....

24

25 MS. CROSS: Well, we know there's two musk ox around  
26 there.

27

28 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: There was two musk ox and one went  
29 somewhere just up there to.....

30

31 MR. MENDENHALL: Anyway that's my recommendation to  
32 table it until there's more hard data.

33

34 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay. The motion is to table  
35 proposal for musk oxen for Unit 22(A) until population is  
36 increased and there's written adequate chance of harvest.

37

38 MS. CROSS: Adequate information is received.

39

40 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay. Adequate information is  
41 made. Do I have a second? Is that clear, the motion? Is that  
42 understandable? Okay. Okay, motion made by Perry, seconded  
43 by.....

44

45 MR. KATCHATAG SR: (Second by motion of hand)

46

47 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: .....Fred. All in favor signify by

48 saying aye.

49

50 IN UNISON: Aye.

0076

1 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Those opposed no.

2  
3 (No opposing responses)

4  
5 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Motion carried. Thank you, Helen.

6  
7 MS. DEWHURST: I'm Donna Dewhurst, the biologist on the  
8 team with Helen. I'm with Fish and Wildlife Service. This  
9 proposal is just for your information only, you don't need to  
10 make any action on it at this time. This is a proposal we have  
11 already received. It will go into the process so you will make  
12 action on it at the winter meeting. But we just wanted to let  
13 you know that this has already been received and we're starting  
14 the process of doing analysis. So this is just a for your  
15 information only kind of thing. And this is proposed for a  
16 hunt for 22(B) on Federal lands. So that's -- just like I say,  
17 you don't need to make any action at this time, you just look  
18 at it and then you'll get the full analysis and discuss it and  
19 have to make action at the winter meeting.

20  
21 MS. CROSS: Can I ask a question?

22  
23 MS. DEWHURST: Sure.

24  
25 MS. CROSS: It's kind of like the same musk oxen that  
26 travels between these two, right, (A) and (B)?

27  
28 MS. DEWHURST: I'm sorry, I don't understand your  
29 question.

30  
31 MS. CROSS: The musk oxen between (A) and (B), they go  
32 back and forth?

33  
34 MS. DEWHURST: They're -- yeah, there's -- the fringe  
35 of the population basically.

36  
37 MS. CROSS: Okay.

38  
39 MS. DEWHURST: There's more in (B) than there are in  
40 (A), but it's a relative thing, there's still not very many.  
41 But we'll have all that information for you, hopefully, for the  
42 winter meeting. The next census will hopefully include more of  
43 22(B) than it has in the past, so we're hopefully going to have  
44 some more solid counts to be able to base opinion or decisions  
45 on.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Thank you. Helen.

48  
49 MS. ARMSTRONG: This is the time when we're calling for  
50 proposals to change the regulations. And do you all have a

0077

1 regulation book or not, I don't know. What I would suggest  
2 that you might want to do is look at the book on Page -- you  
3 don't have them do you? Are there more? Do we have these  
4 here? Do we have more than that?

5  
6 (Off record comments)

7  
8 MS. ARMSTRONG: Could we delay this so someone could  
9 run to Park Service and get some more books and move on to  
10 something else and then we can come back to it.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Yes.

13  
14 MS. ARMSTRONG: Because you really need to have these  
15 to look at.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: At this time I'll recognize Jake  
18 Olanna, Kawerak, request for C&T proposal on -- I have you  
19 written down here.

20  
21 MR. MENDENHALL: This is tomorrow we got Jake.

22  
23 MR. OLANNA: I don't know which C&T you're -- or this  
24 is the first I ever heard of this one.

25  
26 MS. CROSS: Kawerak's proposal, you were asking.....

27  
28 MR. OLANNA: Oh, yes, we're just asking for your  
29 support in the Board of Game's C&T request for musk ox for the  
30 rest of 22. And at this time we will -- you know, I basically  
31 told you the same thing earlier, that we ask for your support  
32 in the brown bear management plan proposal.

33  
34 MR. MENDENHALL: We're not on the bear section yet,  
35 just musk ox.

36  
37 MR. OLANNA: Just musk ox, yes. There is a proposal  
38 that has been resubmitted to the Board of Game to provide a C&T  
39 determination for musk ox, whereas, we would propose a  
40 subsistence Tier II hunt in those units that are currently  
41 closed. I mean we -- I believe it's in fairness of everyone  
42 that everybody should be able to harvest musk ox when the  
43 numbers are there. Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: I will entertain a motion to  
46 support Kawerak on their proposal for a positive customary and  
47 traditional use.

48  
49  
50

MR. MENDENHALL: So moved.

0078

1 MS. CROSS: Second.

2

3 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Motion by Perry, seconded by Grace.  
4 All in favor signify by saying aye.

5

6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7

8 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Those opposed no.

9

10 (No opposing responses)

11

12 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Motion.....

13

14 MR. MENDENHALL: Point of order, you always have to ask  
15 question first before you vote.

16

17 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Oh.

18

19 MR. MENDENHALL: Call for the question.

20

21 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Do you have any questions before we  
22 vote? I'm not very good in my parliamentary procedures or  
23 Robert's Rules of Order.

24

25 MR. KATCHATAG SR: You're doing all right.

26

27 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Well, thank you.

28

29 MR. MENDENHALL: You could go on down to number eight  
30 until that lady comes back with her books.

31

32 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay, Jake. Next item, new  
33 business.

34

35 MS. ARMSTRONG: What I needed to do is 8.1 and that's  
36 what we're waiting for, we could go to 8.2, which I can  
37 address. And by the time we get done with that, they should be  
38 back.

39

40 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay. Item 2 on.....

41

42 MS. ARMSTRONG: It's Item 8.2.

43

44 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: .....Section 2 rather.

45

46 MS. ARMSTRONG: Item 8.2 is regarding, it says, family  
47 as defined in ANILCA. If you turn to Tab F in your book

48 there's a briefing statement which was in -- it was -- is an  
49 internal document within Fish and Wildlife Service. Last year,  
50 you may recall that we had a proposal for changing the C&T for

0079

1 22(A) moose. And there was a lot of discussion that we had in  
2 Unalakleet about this where it became apparent that if you only  
3 allowed people in Unit 22(A) to get moose in 22(A), that you  
4 would be cutting out other people who go into 22(A) and I think  
5 Grace had an example of relatives of hers who go from St.  
6 Lawrence Island over to 22(A) to go moose hunting, and when it  
7 became apparent that we had a problem, this Council then  
8 requested that as part of their proposal, that family be  
9 allowed to hunt moose and the Board was quite receptive to the  
10 idea. But they were inhibited or restricted by the fact that  
11 the regulations didn't allow that. So they made a promise to  
12 your chair at the Board meeting that they would then address  
13 this issue and look into it further and see what we could do to  
14 change the regulations. Our solicitor spoke at the Board  
15 meeting about it and his feeling was that there -- that it  
16 should be something that we could find some way to allow.

17  
18 So as a result, people on our Staff, we formed a  
19 committee to talk about this issue. We worked on this briefing  
20 statement. And what is most likely going to happen will be  
21 that a proposal will coming before the Board, and I'm saying  
22 most likely, because the Board has not -- the Board is still  
23 reviewing this issue. Most likely there will be a proposal  
24 that will come before you to discuss at the next meeting, and  
25 this will be a State wide proposal covering the entire State,  
26 not just in this region, allowing for people who are going to  
27 visit other family members, as long as they're not urban, that  
28 they're rural residents -- that was one thing that the  
29 solicitor said is that we would have to keep it to rural  
30 residents to have it comply with ANILCA, and would allow them  
31 to go hunting or fishing when they went to visit their  
32 relatives.

33  
34 MS. CROSS: Well, I have a question of visiting -- when  
35 people go to another region to subsist with family?

36  
37 MS. ARMSTRONG: Right, right. So that when your -- I  
38 think it was your brother who goes over to 22(A) to go moose  
39 hunting, was it?

40  
41 MS. CROSS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

42  
43 MS. ARMSTRONG: So when he goes to do that -- I mean  
44 right now he is legal actually because we didn't pass that.  
45 But let's say, for example, if you went to visit a relative in  
46 Barrow, you know, then you could go hunting with them.

47

48 MS. CROSS: The need was when for -- like, for example,  
49 the only reason my brother would go is because a family member  
50 is not able to -- that lives in that community is not able to

0080

1 hunt for a particular family.

2

3 MS. ARMSTRONG: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

4

5 MS. CROSS: They're asked to go.

6

7 MS. ARMSTRONG: Right.

8

9 MS. CROSS: It's always been like that.

10

11 MS. ARMSTRONG: Right.

12

13 MS. CROSS: Always.

14

15 MS. ARMSTRONG: And what we're trying to do is, right  
16 now -- I mean in that case, it is legal because he's in the  
17 same region. But say he was going to Bethel and the same thing  
18 was happening.....

19

20 MS. CROSS: Oh, okay.

21

22 MS. ARMSTRONG: .....he wouldn't be legal to do that  
23 and it is something people have always done. So we're looking  
24 at a way to do that. Now, it's possible that some Regional  
25 Council or some member of the public may want to make a  
26 proposal to this but if it doesn't come out as a proposal then  
27 I think -- I was looking to Rosa for her confirmation but she's  
28 not there. I think that the Fish and Wildlife Service will  
29 make this as a proposal or it will come from the Federal  
30 Subsistence Staff. I'm not sure how it's going to -- they're a  
31 little bit unsure of how they're going to develop this exactly.  
32 But it will -- if it does go through it will provide this  
33 information that is here in the briefing statement.

34

35 And mainly what we're looking for is how, exactly,  
36 would we do this? Would we make it -- I mean I think that  
37 there are a few things that we've been told would have to be  
38 there, that it would have to be a rural resident, not somebody  
39 from an urban area. It seems that ANILCA clearly defines for  
40 family in the regulations and we talked a lot about that last  
41 winter at the Board meeting. And some of the issues are, would  
42 you have to be with the family member or would you have to just  
43 be visiting them and then go hunting? You know, those are the  
44 things that haven't been really worked out.

45

46 MR. MENDENHALL: Mr. Chair. Like with Nome  
47 shareholders, we allow our shareholders to come back and hunt

48 and we allow them to have campsites.

49

50 MS. ARMSTRONG: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

0081

1 MR. MENDENHALL: Because of customary lifestyle and  
2 traditional foods are here, they're not in Anchorage.

3  
4 MS. ARMSTRONG: Right.

5  
6 MR. MENDENHALL: And a lot of the other factors is that  
7 they have the cash for gas. They know how much it costs for  
8 available gas and allow \$200 in the village.

9  
10 MS. ARMSTRONG: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

11  
12 MR. MENDENHALL: And it costs a lot just to go out. So  
13 those are some of the factors. Plus for teaching your kids how  
14 to hunt and fish as we do, that's the other thing that we want  
15 to keep alive and that's -- I think was the purpose of land  
16 claims for traditional lifestyles to go on. And yet, here  
17 you're saying if they live in a urban area, that's different.  
18 We had this issue come up, too, August, you know, when we had  
19 the subsistence summit meeting. We addressed it as such, that  
20 we won't -- as long as they are -- have ties to this region or  
21 our village, then we would allow them to hunt and fish, we  
22 won't say no to them. We can't. Because it's our way of life,  
23 it's sharing.

24  
25 MS. ARMSTRONG: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

26  
27 MR. MENDENHALL: But here you prohibit us from sharing  
28 that lifestyle when they take time and they might be the best  
29 shooters and the hunters of the group, too.

30  
31 MS. ARMSTRONG: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

32  
33 MR. MENDENHALL: And they know how to tell weather,  
34 they know when to come back and where the game is. There's  
35 skill that's involved that are allocated that we trust to each  
36 other in the boat.

37  
38 MS. ARMSTRONG: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

39  
40 MR. MENDENHALL: Or wherever our camps are. And that's  
41 how we impart our knowledge and our way of life. And I think  
42 to put a restriction on family, urban versus rural, would be  
43 detrimental to our way of life and using the resources too.

44  
45 MS. ARMSTRONG: If those does, in fact, come as a  
46 proposal -- if we do do a proposal on this -- and Rosa's back  
47 now, is it definite that we will present -- we will have one --

48 it's not -- there is a chance we won't have a proposal on this  
49 family, but if we do you'd have the opportunity to comment on  
50 it just as you've just told me. Your other choice would be to

0082

1 make your own proposal. You could make a proposal on family to  
2 the Federal Subsistence Board to change the regulation as it  
3 exists. That would be an option you would have as well. And  
4 in that proposal you have the choice to say -- to request it in  
5 any way that you want and then see how it goes before the  
6 Board.

7  
8 MR. BUCK: I think that's where an amendment should be  
9 -- like if a person comes through and wanted to go to White  
10 Mountain and hunt for moose then he can hunt. But also for  
11 urban and rural, are they -- and if you look at the White  
12 Mountain enrollment that there's subsistence on -- you'll find  
13 out in that enrollment we have people in New York, we have  
14 people in Miami, we have people in California, all the way down  
15 there and if they do come up -- they're from -- and we took  
16 them up here, they -- since they're enrolled to White Mountain,  
17 they're allowed to -- should be allowed to subsist while  
18 they're here with the family they're staying with essentially.

19  
20 MR. MENDENHALL: And our people never say no to our own  
21 people.

22  
23 MR. BUCK: Yeah.

24  
25 MS. CROSS: Can I make a suggestion, Mr. Chair.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Grave.

28  
29 MS. CROSS: I think this is something that we should  
30 discuss at length in our next meeting, in our fall (sic)  
31 meeting. The Board doesn't meet until May and we meet in  
32 February. I think we should think about it and probably come  
33 up with a proposal and give it an agenda for us to discuss and  
34 come up with proposals at that time.

35  
36 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.....

37  
38 MR. MENDENHALL: This February.....

39  
40 MS. ARMSTRONG: .....that won't be possible if you want  
41 it to be a decision for the Board in May. Because what happens  
42 after this meeting and I haven't done this talk yet because  
43 we're sort of jumping ahead, we didn't have the books -- but  
44 proposals -- our call for proposals ends on October the 24th.  
45 And so a proposal would have to come in before October 24th in  
46 order for it to be dealt with when the Board meets in the  
47 spring. And at the Feb -- what happens in the -- call for

48 proposals goes out, proposals come in, we put together a book  
49 of all the proposals, it goes out to the public for people to  
50 give us comment on. The comments come in, we analyze the

0083

1 proposals, put together our analysis, bring it back to you in  
2 February. So at the February meeting, we're discussing the  
3 proposal at that point. Now, what you could do is make a --  
4 just go ahead and make a proposal and then we can discuss it  
5 then. You can also modify it at that point if you choose, you  
6 can withdraw it if you choose, but you can't add a proposal  
7 after October 24th, so you'd have to do it now. And you could  
8 then work on it more in the February meeting or you could put  
9 it off until next year. I mean you have a lot of choices.

10

11 MR. MENDENHALL: I think it could also be addressed  
12 this month, both at the -- some meetings that are coming up  
13 this month. I can't say exactly, but it's being addressed. If  
14 you want to address it here and get it on the books, that's  
15 what -- the time constraints -- I hear conflicting.

16

17 MR. BUCK: I think this is a really, really complicated  
18 situation. Because you got so many variations. You'll  
19 probably have special cases, because if I went to Point Hope,  
20 my first cousin's up there, and if I want to I can -- they  
21 invited me to go out hunting with them, you know, so even  
22 though I am not part of that district area, but I think we're  
23 going to have to look at all the special cases that we have.

24

25 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: I have a similar situation that  
26 happened to me a few years back. I went to Hooper Bay and my  
27 cousins took me out hunting. And when that happened, a fellow  
28 -- I guess, he didn't think of whether I was from Stebbins or  
29 Hooper Bay, it didn't matter, but I went out anyway. I think --  
30 if we could go ahead and make a proposal to allow our  
31 relatives to hunt in our area when they come and visit. I  
32 think a proposal would help us.

33

34 MS. CROSS: Perry, explain what you were saying earlier  
35 about other things in the work right now.

36

37 MR. MENDENHALL: I was told to keep my mouth shut on  
38 that.

39

40 MS. CROSS: Oh, you were told to keep your mouth shut  
41 on that?

42

43 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah.

44

45 MS. CROSS: So maybe we should just kind of wait and  
46 see.....

47

48 MR. MENDENHALL: Until we find out.....

49

50 MS. CROSS: Maybe what we should do is.....

0084

1 MR. MENDENHALL: Folks are unhappy now. We're going to  
2 have a meeting on it next week.

3  
4 MS. CROSS: So maybe what we should do is to wait and  
5 then just look at it in our February meeting and see what has  
6 been developed in between.....

7  
8 MR. MENDENHALL: It's going to be addressed on a larger  
9 scale than this. The fear is, I think, from my village and  
10 from some regions is that opening up ANILCA, and I don't think  
11 anybody would like to do that.

12  
13 MS. CROSS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

14  
15 MR. MENDENHALL: To have it reopened, that's the other  
16 danger. I think we need to be aware of -- impact the opening  
17 of ANILCA for sake of changes. Because once you open that,  
18 then other people could add to ANILCA and take away from ANILCA  
19 what we gained through land claims.

20  
21 MS. CROSS: So we'll just kind of wait and revisit it  
22 and see what has happened at our next meeting and then just to  
23 revisit it. What do you think, Mr. Chair?

24  
25 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Yes. I.....

26  
27 MS. CROSS: You put it on the agenda to see what's gone  
28 on in our next meeting, how it was addressed by other groups.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay. That's fine with me. I  
31 don't have any problem with that. I think we'll go ahead and  
32 put it off until next year since we won't be able to.....

33  
34 MR. MENDENHALL: The proposal's on right now, I mean  
35 the families do come up and hunt -- elders can't hunt so they  
36 do have their designated hunters.

37  
38 MR. KATCHATAG SR: Yeah. We should wait until we get  
39 the full board and discuss this matter.

40  
41 MS. CROSS: So we'll pick it up in February.

42  
43 MR. KATCHATAG SR: That's what they mean by moratorium,  
44 they'll keep waiting, and we'll just keep waiting ourselves  
45 here.

46  
47 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, the fact that it touches ANILCA

48 and that's the other thing.

49

50 MS. ARMSTRONG: This wouldn't effect ANILCA. This

0085

1 wouldn't change anything in ANILCA. There's no proposal to do  
2 anything to ANILCA at all. All it was saying is that ANILCA  
3 already defines family as all persons related by blood,  
4 marriage or adoption or any person living within the household  
5 on a permanent basis.

6  
7 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, if that's the case, then lets  
8 follow the letter of ANILCA and say we'd like to have family,  
9 as defined in ANILCA, for customary and traditional hunting and  
10 gathering. That would be my recommendation if we're -- since  
11 it's going to be on Federal lands only.

12  
13 MS. CROSS: A person living within the household on a  
14 permanent basis is what ANILCA says.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: I'm pretty confused right now.

17  
18 MS. ARMSTRONG: Maybe I can restate it. ANILCA  
19 currently says that family is recognized as part of the  
20 subsistence way of life. And the report of the committee of  
21 Energy and Natural Resources said was, the definition of family  
22 recognizes extended family patterns common to all of Alaska  
23 Native cultures. Family includes any person living in a  
24 household on a permanent basis as well as those persons living  
25 outside the household who are related by blood, marriage or  
26 adoption. And what happened was that was ANILCA, but it did  
27 not get put into our regulations. And our solicitor, our  
28 lawyer, has told us that there would be room in the law that it  
29 would be -- that we could do this, we could change our  
30 regulations. But in order to change the regulations, we need a  
31 proposal. The proposal can come from the public. It can come  
32 from the Council. It can come from any agency. Right now, no  
33 one has made that proposal. So we're discussing in the Federal  
34 subsistence program what to do about this. And there is a  
35 possibility that Fish and Wildlife Service may, I'm  
36 emphasizing, may, put forward a proposal, but that is not  
37 guaranteed.

38  
39 So you can wait and see if a proposal comes forward,  
40 and then you can comment on it in February or you could choose  
41 to make a proposal yourselves. You can choose to wait. This  
42 doesn't have to happen this year. As Perry said, people do it  
43 anyway. What we're trying to do is make it legal for people to  
44 do it. Because right now, it is illegal. When Peter goes to  
45 Point Hope and he hunts with them, if he hunts with them, it's  
46 actually illegal for him to do that if it's under subsistence  
47 regulations on Federal public lands.

48

49

CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: So what's the wish of the Council?

50 Should we go ahead and submit a proposal anyway?

0086

1 MR. KATCHATAG SR: Yeah, we could table this until our  
2 next meeting. We'll have more understanding with everyone  
3 concerned anyway.

4  
5 MS. ARMSTRONG: That's fine.

6  
7 MR. MENDENHALL: It's coming from the Staff, it's not  
8 coming from Board -- I mean this Council.

9  
10 MS. ARMSTRONG: It originally came from this Council.  
11 Last winter it was part of a proposal that this Council made  
12 for Unit 22(A). This Council wanted to limit the people who  
13 could hunt moose in 22(A). Right now it's all the -- and it  
14 was then, all the residents of 22, and they wanted to make it  
15 only those people in 22(A). But then when they tried to do  
16 that, they realized they were cutting out family members who  
17 come into 22(A), so they added to their proposal, only  
18 residents of 22(A) and family members as defined by ANILCA.  
19 But the Board wouldn't except it because it wasn't part of the  
20 regulations. So the Board made a promise to look at that  
21 issue, which we've done and are still in the process of doing.  
22 So we can certainly just wait and see what the Staff comes up  
23 with and what the Board decides to move forward with, and then  
24 look at it in February. That's not a problem at all.

25  
26 I mostly just wanted you to be aware of what we were  
27 doing since we did make a promise to this Council to address  
28 it.

29  
30 MR. MENDENHALL: I would prefer it, since there's a lot  
31 of dark questions regarding this, I would like to recommend  
32 that, with Fred -- I'll second Fred's motion.

33  
34 MR. KATCHATAG SR: I'll move.

35  
36 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, you did already. To table it  
37 until there's more data and information to work on.

38  
39 MS. ARMSTRONG: That's fine.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Motion made. Seconded by -- or  
42 motion made by Fred, second by Perry.

43  
44 MS. CROSS: Question.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Question's called, all in favor  
47 signify by saying aye.

48  
49  
50

IN UNISON: Aye.

0087

1 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Those opposed no.

2  
3 (No opposing responses)

4  
5 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: And.....

6  
7 MR. MENDENHALL: Because it does touch ANILCA. It  
8 might force them to go into it.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Now, back to Helen.

11  
12 MS. ARMSTRONG: Call for proposals, okay. If you look  
13 in the blue book on Page 121, between Pages 121 and 124, that's  
14 where we have the regulations for Unit 22. And what I'd like  
15 to suggest to you look at these and see if there's anything you  
16 need -- think needs changing. It can be either a C&T  
17 determination or it can be changes in the seasons in the bag  
18 and harvest limits.

19  
20 Also because people from Unit 22 go into Unit 23, you  
21 would want to look at Unit 23's regulations as well, and that  
22 starts at the very next section, it's Page 127. And then  
23 probably Unit 18. I think some people may go down into Unit  
24 18 to go hunting. And then next to -- let's see, I think it's  
25 21, I think is next to it on the right side of the unit.

26  
27 Shall we start with Unit 22 and see if there's anything  
28 that you want changed?

29  
30 MR. MENDENHALL: On Page 121, I think we made a motion  
31 earlier to back Kawerak's proposal on the brown bear for all of  
32 22?

33  
34 MS. ARMSTRONG: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

35  
36 MR. MENDENHALL: We passed that a while ago.

37  
38 MS. ARMSTRONG: Um-hum. You might -- this is where  
39 it's hard, when the State makes their decisions and you know,  
40 our call for proposals is already over, but if that goes  
41 through you would want to make sure that what passes is  
42 consistent with what our regulations say as well. And I'm not  
43 familiar enough off the top of my head to know if that's the  
44 case.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Elmer.

47

48           MR. SEETOT: I would like to know when Mr. Tocktoo went  
49 to Brevig for the musk ox permit drawing, I did raise a  
50 question on the season date, September 1 to January 31. That

0088

1 that would be ideal for musk ox being taken in BLM administered  
2 lands along the Aiyiak River. And National Park Service wanted  
3 two musk ox taken from NPS lands during the -- 150 miles to 200  
4 miles. I was proposing that and another date be open or it be  
5 extended to March 31, that would reflect like the moose season,  
6 what's in that year. One of the reasons is that the day lights  
7 are short. That the terrain is unforgiving on both machine and  
8 rider. And two, that -- two would be that the interior is 10  
9 to 20 degrees colder than the coastline. And the bulls -- or  
10 the male animals in any species, their meat is better tasting  
11 when they go into the next -- or after their antlers drop then  
12 they start building up reserves for the next cycle, and that's  
13 when their meat is more favorable to the people that, you know,  
14 that use them. For example, caribou male animals are better in  
15 the spring when they're building a pad reserves because the  
16 female animals are, you know, either pregnant or expecting  
17 young ones. And we tend to stay away from animals that produce  
18 these flavors that we don't go to. You know, the animal might  
19 be there, but the meat might not taste, you know, that  
20 favorable, you know, to Natives. And that's what has kept us  
21 going, that we -- we have, you know, tried to go for the test  
22 without depleting the resource and sometimes that -- when we go  
23 after these animals, weather doesn't cooperate and you know,  
24 other circumstances come into play.

25  
26           There are a couple of open seasons, like for moose,  
27 like for black bear or for brown bear. And then instead of  
28 just having September 1 through January 31 for musk ox, I would  
29 recommend that the season be extended for musk ox since one,  
30 during the rutting season, the meat changes due to their  
31 hormones or whatever biological thing that they do. And two,  
32 you know, it's -- the meat, even though the meat is there, you  
33 know, it's not in or you know, it doesn't taste very good. I  
34 don't think that is the reason why we hunt, you know, we hunt  
35 to sustain, subsist, not just because the animal is there. Not  
36 for a trophy type of animal. Those are the toughest parts, you  
37 know, you probably just have to marinate and make jerky and  
38 that's not going to sustain, you know, the community. And I  
39 guess that's -- that's one of the reasons that the season be  
40 extended. Unit 22(D) season was extended once in the past.  
41 Unit 23, I think that they have extended their seasons on  
42 emergency orders. One, due to the lack of snow, two, is other  
43 circumstances. And I think that instead of waiting until the  
44 last time -- waiting for the 11th hour to hunt your animal, you  
45 know, you can just make it to where you have a certain time  
46 period or extended season to get your animal. And that would,  
47 one, work better for the hunter and two, you know, that

48 wouldn't quite give, you know, give a person the reputation of  
49 hunting meat just for the trophy, you know. And I think that  
50 was the main intent for rural preference that we have subsisted

0089

1 on any type of animal as long as it was in season. And that  
2 was one of the main concerns that I would want to bring up that  
3 it be part of regulations instead of just by emergency order  
4 every time, you know, that they go to the deadline and they  
5 don't bag their animal.

6  
7 MS. DEWHURST: Would you want this extension to be for  
8 the whole hunt area, 22(D), (E) and 23 or is it just one part  
9 of it or would you want to just go ahead and make the extension  
10 for the hunt?

11  
12 MR. SEETOT: I would think that you would have to look  
13 at it on a case by case basis. 22(D), I don't think that you  
14 had too many extensions for a hunt within the BLM administered  
15 lands. However, going into NPS lands, that's a distance of 150  
16 to 200 miles if you could find animals there. And that would  
17 just mostly pertain to NPS land for the two animals to be  
18 bagged, you know, for the next season.

19  
20 MS. DEWHURST: But as far as your proposal? Are you  
21 proposing it for just one part of that or are you proposing the  
22 extension to be for the whole hunt area?

23  
24 MR. SEETOT: I wouldn't extend it for the whole season.

25  
26 MS. DEWHURST: Okay.

27  
28 MR. SEETOT: Because they -- you know, the meat tastes  
29 a lot better after they drop their antlers or something like  
30 that. They go through another cycle.

31  
32 That would help the community a lot more in planning  
33 their hunt. Because I don't think many of us, you know, would  
34 get a male moose right now because, you know, they're in their  
35 rutting stage, you know, their meat just tastes -- you know,  
36 it's 180 degrees from what they're supposed to taste, and it's  
37 pretty much the same with all species, you know, that go  
38 through that process.

39  
40 MS. DEWHURST: I'm sorry, maybe I'm just not catching  
41 it. I guess my question was, for your proposal, do you want  
42 the season extension -- I understand you want the extension  
43 clear to the 31st.

44  
45 MR. SEETOT: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

46  
47 MS. DEWHURST: I guess what I'm trying to clarify, do

48 you want the proposal that you're submitting to include all of  
49 22(D), (E) and 23 or do you only want your proposal to include  
50 some portion of that?

0090

1 MR. SEETOT: I would think that you have different --  
2 like for moose, August 1 through September 30 and December 1 to  
3 January 31. Some of them do have different dates, you know,  
4 for different subunits. I'm not -- I am just only talking for  
5 subunit 22(D), we have to go to a couple of areas, one being in  
6 a close proximity of 50 miles, other at the extreme 200 miles  
7 for the other two or you know, to fill the quota. And that  
8 terrain is -- it is a lot colder out there. A lot of river  
9 systems within the eastern portion of 22(D) due to all the  
10 rivers breaking open and then creating, you know, steam or --  
11 from the water, it creates a steam and it's pretty cold.

12  
13 It would pretty much go for 22(D) and (E), one, that  
14 the meat is more tastier than maybe during a different times of  
15 the year. Because I -- if I had a chance to get -- to bag a  
16 musk ox, then I would not get it during the rutting season,  
17 whether it be a young two, three year old or a trophy type  
18 bull.

19  
20 MS. ARMSTRONG: What you can do is if you want that  
21 proposal -- if you want to make a proposal by the Council, just  
22 put that in the form of a motion and have the Council discuss  
23 it and then it can be a proposal from the Council. If you want  
24 to do it that way. Or you can personally just do one on your  
25 own as well.

26  
27 MR. SEETOT: I would personally -- my own, it's just  
28 that, you know, I would like to include all the subunits but I  
29 don't know what their comments would be on it. I just gave my  
30 opinion on that.

31  
32 MR. OLANNA: Mr. Chairman, Jake Olanna with Kawerak.  
33 Since you're talking about the seasons of musk ox, I would like  
34 to make a recommendation that in times -- the time that up in  
35 Shishmaref we start seeing musk ox, it's generally in August.  
36 And my recommendation, you know, from myself would be to open  
37 the season as early as August 1st, because that's when the  
38 moose season is open. And I recall hunting for moose and  
39 seeing musk ox and wishing I could drop one of those, so I  
40 would like to make that recommendation. And I support your  
41 extending the hunting period because there's a lot of times  
42 there's not enough snow until later on and the hunting  
43 condition can change to where you can't harvest that animal  
44 until, you know, the meat generally is -- when they're out to  
45 rut, they're generally pretty lean.

46  
47 MR. MENDENHALL: You wouldn't eat the meat.

48  
49 MR. OLANNA: Right. So I would -- if you're  
50 considering changing the seasons, I would recommend you change

0091

1 it as early as August 1. Thank you.

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: Like adverse conditions, too. Like  
4 now, there's hardly any snow for people.

5

6 MR. SEETOT: I think that that -- in response to Jake's  
7 request, I think that an animal before rut tastes a lot better  
8 too, you know, before they give all their time to -- you know,  
9 and then I think that's where the majority of moose are taken,  
10 you know, is before they go into rut full-time. After that it  
11 would be kind of open for trophy hunters or for the ones that  
12 look for the largest animals, that's when they really start  
13 walking around. But I think the majority -- the major hunting  
14 for one species, like for moose is during the month of August,  
15 the first three weeks. Because they're not really into full  
16 rut at that time and their meat, you know, is tastier.

17

18 MR. MENDENHALL: So that's the motion?

19

20 MR. SEETOT: I was just elaborating on what Jake was  
21 talking about. It's not in the motion, I'm just answering to  
22 what.....

23

24 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, that's what they're here for to  
25 hear what your proposal is.

26

27 MR. SEETOT: Oh, okay.

28

29 MR. MENDENHALL: So is that a form of a motion?

30

31 MR. SEETOT: I'll form a motion from August 1 to March  
32 31 for the musk ox in Units 22(D) and (E).

33

34 MR. MENDENHALL: I will second that.

35

36 MR. BUCK: Question.

37

38 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Motion by Mr. Olanna -- Elmer.....

39

40 MR. OLANNA: Mr. Chairman, before you go any further,  
41 don't forget the southern portion of 22 -- 23 is open for musk  
42 ox, too, so you might want to consider to include 23, the lower  
43 part of 23 if you are going to change the season. I would  
44 recommend that. Thank you.

45

46 MR. MENDENHALL: Do you want to amend that to reflect  
47 that Elmer? I'll concur if you make it. The second would.

48  
49 MR. SEETOT: Sure, along with 23, yeah.  
50

0092

1 MR. OLANNA: Right, includes 23.

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: I'll concur if you agree to that  
4 change.

5

6 MR. SEETOT: Yes.

7

8 MR. MENDENHALL: Call for the question then.

9

10 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Motion's been made by Mr. Elmer  
11 Seetot and seconded by Perry. All in favor signify by saying  
12 aye.

13

14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15

16 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Those opposed no.

17

18 (No opposing responses)

19

20 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Motion passes.

21

22 MR. MENDENHALL: I have another concern I think about  
23 between hunting, Page 123, trapping -- or 124. On State regs  
24 on trapping, they don't have no limit on fur bearing animals,  
25 plus you can't always get them anyway, not all of them. So --  
26 and then when you're hunting some, like wolverine, you got one.  
27 But I'd like to see that increased to three; wolverine to three  
28 instead of one if you're hunting with a rifle. Because some  
29 people don't always trap and you got to be very lucky to get  
30 them anyway, they're hard to go after.

31

32 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: So is that your motion, Perry?

33

34 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, that's my motion.

35

36 MS. CROSS: What are we -- you lost me.

37

38 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: To increase.....

39

40 MS. CROSS: Page 124, right?

41

42 MR. MENDENHALL: Right. I was comparing like the  
43 wolverine to one and then over at trapping there's no limits.

44

45 MS. CROSS: Oh, I see.

46

47 MR. MENDENHALL: All I'm asking is the increase to

48 three by hunting with rifle. And it's already in prime time  
49 anyways, September 1 through March 31, winter time.  
50

0093

1 MS. CROSS: Okay. I see what you mean. I was looking  
2 at the wrong page.

3  
4 MR. MENDENHALL: So that's my motion.

5  
6 MS. ARMSTRONG: You want it to be no limit as with  
7 trapping; is that correct?

8  
9 MS. DEWHURST: No, to three.

10  
11 MR. MENDENHALL: For hunting.

12  
13 MS. DEWHURST: For hunting it'd be three.

14  
15 MS. ARMSTRONG: Hunting, the limit would be three?

16  
17 MR. MENDENHALL: From one to three.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Motion to -- Perry made a move to  
20 increase harvest limit of one to three wolverines.

21  
22 MR. BUCK: Seconded.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Second by Peter, Mr. Buck. All in  
25 favor signify by saying aye.

26  
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Those opposed no.

30  
31 (No opposing responses)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: I forgot to call for the question.

34  
35 MS. CROSS: In the caribou section, on Page 122.

36  
37 COURT REPORTER: Grace, the mic, please.

38  
39 MS. CROSS: Caribou section on Page 122 in Units 22(D)  
40 and (E), which is Bering Land Bridge, there's no Federal season  
41 open. Was it last year when the caribou came we had to ask  
42 them to do an emergency opening because it was closer to the  
43 villages of -- I know one of them was Shishmaref and they were  
44 -- there were regions closer to -- so instead of them having to  
45 travel so far away, the Bering Land Bridge would open to  
46 caribou taking if caribou is there. Right now, the way this  
47 has it (D) and (E) there is no Federal season open.

48  
49 MS. DEWHURST: Grace, to give you a little history on  
50 that. Yeah, there was -- it never became a formal request for

0094

1 a special action, but we did get some contact about possibly  
2 opening -- emergency opening the Federal season mainly for (E),  
3 which is that, Shishmaref/Wales area. But by the time we got  
4 the request, the animals that had moved into there had already  
5 moved out. They had been in there for a real short period of  
6 time, I think, like less than a week or two weeks. And by the  
7 time somebody formally made the request to the Federal side,  
8 the animals had already moved.

9  
10 I did some looking into it at that time to see how the  
11 system works. And the State can correct me if I'm wrong, but  
12 the way it was explained to me is the State currently has the  
13 power to emergency open 22(D) and (E) if caribou were in that  
14 area. The advantage you have there, and they have that power  
15 right now, all they would need is somebody to contact them  
16 saying there's caribou there, we'd like to hunt them and then  
17 it's up to the State to open it up. The one advantage you have  
18 going through the State system is it would open all the lands  
19 in 22(D) and (E) versus just Federal lands.

20  
21 MS. CROSS: So the State can open the Preserve?  
22

23 MS. DEWHURST: They can open it at any time with  
24 emergency -- they have the power, I guess, to open it at any  
25 time with an emergency opening. So if they would get the  
26 information, somebody calls them up, Peter can correct that if  
27 I'm wrong.

28  
29 MR. BENTE: This is Peter Bente, Department of Fish and  
30 Game. The only correction I would make is that we have  
31 authority for 22(C), (D) and (E) for emergency order openings.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: So do you make that motion?  
34

35 MS. CROSS: No. I just wanted to -- I don't think it's  
36 an issue if the State can do an emergency hunt.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: If I understand correctly.....  
39

40 MS. CROSS: My concern was that Bering -- when the  
41 caribou -- a large portion of 22(E) is Bering Land Bridge, it's  
42 almost half of it. So if the Feds say, no, you can't hunt  
43 caribou when the caribou is there, I didn't realize the State  
44 can open the whole area on an emergency basis. So I think that  
45 covers it.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: So what you're.....

48

49

MS. CROSS: If the State is able to do that, then maybe  
50 we don't need to put in -- we don't need to add that there

0095

1 should be five caribou per day for 22(D) and (E), they're the  
2 only ones that are effected by Federal lands. I don't know,  
3 you live over there.

4

5 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: So what you're.....

6

7 MR. BENTE: Mr. Chairman, I could explain, we have the  
8 authority to open the entire subunit, either (C), (D) or (E) or  
9 we may open a portion of the subunit. If we wanted to say, the  
10 northern half of 22(E), if that's where caribou were, we could  
11 say that. We have that authority or ability to open a season  
12 for the entire subunit or a portion of a subunit.

13

14 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: So what you're asking is we  
15 authorize you to do that?

16

17 MR. SEETOT: They already have that authority.

18

19 MS. DEWHURST: They already have that.

20

21 MR. BENTE: We have that authority.

22

23 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay.

24

25 MR. BENTE: What is being discussed here, as I  
26 understand it, is bringing your regulations into alignment or  
27 having the same kind of language as the State does.

28

29 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

30

31 MR. BENTE: With the exception that when the State  
32 makes a rule for 22(D), it would apply to all lands. Whereas,  
33 any rule or regulation in the Federal subsistence rule book  
34 would apply only to Federal lands, and that is the difference I  
35 hear being discussed right now.

36

37 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay.

38

39 MS. CROSS: I just.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Grace.

42

43 MS. CROSS: I have concerns over that because I think  
44 that 22(D) and (E) should be included with (A) and (B), and  
45 then only Unit 22(C) would have no Federal open season because  
46 there's no land to open in 22(C) to begin with. But there is  
47 land in 22(D) and (E), a substantial portion, a large portion

48 in 22(E) is Bering Land Bridge, and I think it should be just  
49 part of the hunting regulations that five caribou per day  
50 however -- just add them on to 22(A), (B), (C) and -- (A), (B),

0096

1 (D) and (E) on the top portion. And then 22(C) would be the  
2 only area that has no Federal open season because it doesn't  
3 have any Federal land to begin with.

4  
5 MS. DEWHURST: You can make the proposal, but just to  
6 let you know from my end of it. When I would do the analysis,  
7 the problem I would have with supporting a proposal like that  
8 is I have to base the Staff analysis on biological information,  
9 and because there are no consistent caribou in those areas --  
10 now, there have been movement recently with the Western Arctic  
11 herd, but because it isn't consistent, it would be difficult to  
12 support a consistent season year after year after year.

13  
14 We have -- basically there's two functions to open it.  
15 You can do like you say and propose it and it be in the books  
16 and it be open and if no caribou show up there nobody hunts  
17 anyway in the bottom line and if the Federal Board would  
18 approve it. The other system we do have is just like the  
19 State, in that, we can do an emergency opening which we call  
20 special action at any time. The State can do it faster  
21 probably because we have to go through the Board, and I think  
22 the State's system is a little bit cleaner, in that, they could  
23 probably open it through the State a little bit faster than we  
24 can. But we also have the power at any time that if -- let's  
25 say the State decides not to for some reason, I don't know why,  
26 but if they would decide not to open 22(E), but there's caribou  
27 in Bering Land Bridge, we could be approached to say, will you  
28 open up Federal lands on an emergency order or special action  
29 and we could open up the Bering Land Bridge, Federal lands, as  
30 an emergency order, if the caribou were there. So that is  
31 possible.

32  
33 MS. CROSS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

34  
35 MS. DEWHURST: I'm just trying to let you know the  
36 different possibilities.

37  
38 MS. CROSS: Well, if the caribou had been coming back  
39 here in the past 150 years, like they used to in the past, it  
40 would still be open. I mean it seems to me that you said it  
41 was only for two weeks, the caribou was only there for two  
42 weeks, however, if it was already opened this year and the  
43 caribou happened to pass there, go into the Bering Land Bridge  
44 and you only have two weeks to get your one or two caribou and  
45 your regulation is already there, then we don't have to ask for  
46 emergency opening.

47

48 MS. DEWHURST: No, I understand that. I understand  
49 that.  
50

0097

1 MS. CROSS: Somebody from the region can address it  
2 better, I think.

3  
4 MR. OLANNA: Jake Olanna with Kawerak. When we  
5 considered the proposal to open up and keep 22 open for  
6 caribou, there was concern by the Reindeer Herder's  
7 Association, whereas, if there's an open season for caribou and  
8 there's no caribou in that region the hunters will go out and  
9 for sure, and it's happened in the past, they'll be harvesting  
10 reindeer. And with that in mind, I would prefer the emergency  
11 opening when the caribou are present. And there is, you know,  
12 I spoke to some people in Shishmaref that I know for a fact  
13 were frustrated last year because they thought there was  
14 caribou in 22(E). And I believe there was a few, but not many.  
15 But there was a reindeer herder that had reindeer close to that  
16 area and he was really concerned. So based on past experience  
17 with reindeer herders, I would prefer an emergency opening, not  
18 keeping the season open. Because, you know, like Peter says,  
19 he's got the authority to open up all of 22 basically. Thank  
20 you.

21  
22 MR. MENDENHALL: The concern that I have is that we had  
23 a big burn up that way so maybe the caribou will move down this  
24 way anyway this winter. And then probably not just winter, but  
25 it's going to take a while for that to grow back.

26  
27 MS. CROSS: Yeah, I was just bringing it out because  
28 they were left out. But if there's no problem with the people  
29 that live in the region, I see no problem with it.

30  
31 MR. SEETOT: I think last time when they opened 22(B)  
32 for emergency order, pretty much the whole population of Nome  
33 went on the road system. Teller and Brevig, you know, we just  
34 let them go because we did not have any form of transportation,  
35 you know, to intercept. By the time they got on the road  
36 system, I guess the hunters were kind of lined up along the  
37 road system, you know, just taking their fine pick and we did  
38 not harvest any caribou until snow conditions were right. And  
39 then very, very few Teller residents did bag some caribou, but  
40 I think the majority were from around the road system.

41  
42 Caribou is very new to Brevig, Teller. I think  
43 Shishmaref had caribou from a long time. There is evidence  
44 that caribou was the main food when they roamed that area. I  
45 still -- pictures of one spot where a pile of antlers is -- at  
46 the end of one river system there is a pile of antlers that is  
47 within the Agiapuk drainage and I need to get some pictures

48 for, you know, just to show that people in the past used  
49 caribou. But pretty much when they opened, emergency, October  
50 31st, I don't think any residents from Brevig participated in

0098

1 the hunt; one, no form of transportation, two, Teller did have  
2 very few residents get caribou because, you know, they had a  
3 form of transportation from Teller, Nome and then up towards  
4 the Kuzitrin or even the road up that way.

5  
6 That was pretty much my comment. And also Seward  
7 Peninsula is divided into about 16/17 sections for reindeer  
8 herders for them to graze their animals. They stay within a  
9 specific area to graze their reindeer and they have to get  
10 permits from agencies that govern reindeer herding, mostly from  
11 BLM and other land owners. And I think that that's the concern  
12 that Jake had that our residents will shoot at anything, you  
13 know, that moves on four legs as long as they can see them --  
14 as long as people don't know about it. You know, they prefer  
15 these game animals because, you know, they have had them in the  
16 past. But they will do it without anyone knowing. That was  
17 the end of my comments.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: So any change on the -- going on.

20  
21 MS. ARMSTRONG: If you don't have any other things in  
22 Unit 22, I might suggest you look in 23 or 18 or maybe you  
23 already have and see if there's anything you would like to  
24 change in any of those regions or 21, I think.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: On 22(A), I would like to see -- is  
27 it possible to change the one antlered bull to one moose  
28 because it's -- we have a lot of -- I don't know what the  
29 population is anymore. What the population of the female -- or  
30 the cows and bulls because I've seen quite a bit of cow moose  
31 and I don't see very many bull moose.

32  
33 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chairman, you have the freedom and  
34 the liberty to make any proposal you'd like. So if you'd like  
35 to make that into a proposal, that's certainly all right.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Mr. Fred Katchatag, do you have any  
38 concerns, any problem with that to change Unit 22(A), which  
39 would include your area and my area to one moose instead of one  
40 antlered bull?

41  
42 MS. DEWHURST: Is that for both seasons?

43  
44 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Yes.

45  
46 MR. KATCHATAG SR: No. I never heard of any counts of  
47 these.

48  
49           CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: I'm asking you if you have any  
50 problem with.....

0099  
1 MR. MENDENHALL: Do you have any problems with it?  
2  
3 MR. KATCHATAG SR: No.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: .....to change it?  
6  
7 MR. MENDENHALL: Do you want a motion on.....  
8  
9 MR. KATCHATAG SR: No, we don't have no problem.  
10  
11 MR. MENDENHALL: To changing this to.....  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: It's on 122.  
14  
15 MR. MENDENHALL: .....one moose instead of one antlered  
16 -- it's in your area in 22(A).  
17  
18 MR. KATCHATAG SR: Oh, an antlered bull?  
19  
20 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, he wants to change it to one  
21 moose.  
22  
23 MR. KATCHATAG SR: I don't think I want to change  
24 anything on it. It would be up to the people down there if  
25 they -- it competes the proposal anyway, so it'll probably come  
26 out at the AFN meeting. And I have a lot of delicates down at  
27 AFN and they will make them known.  
28  
29 MR. MENDENHALL: But he's saying for his village.  
30  
31 MR. KATCHATAG SR: Oh, you can go -- I'll go along with  
32 you if you want to make any recommendations.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay. Yeah, the proposal to change  
35 one antlered bull into one moose, because we have a -- I'm not  
36 really sure what the population is. What I want to do is -- if  
37 there's no antlered bull, there's a cow and let them get a cow  
38 if -- instead of not getting any moose.  
39  
40 MR. KATCHATAG SR: I know there was a lot of moose  
41 there this year down there.  
42  
43 MR. MENDENHALL: So you make the motion?  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: I.....  
46  
47 MR. KATCHATAG SR: Let him make the motion.

48  
49 MR. MENDENHALL: He can't, he's the share.  
50

0100

1 MS. CROSS: Would you consider, no person may take a  
2 cow accompanied by a calf in there?

3  
4 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Yeah.

5  
6 MR. KATCHATAG SR: And you already made the motion,  
7 I'll take the Chair.

8  
9 MS. CROSS: So they don't take a cow and the baby.....

10  
11 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

12  
13 MR. MENDENHALL: I so move for purpose of discussion on  
14 that motion, to change it to one moose.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: And also if it's okay with you,  
17 that no person may take a cow accompanied by a calf.

18  
19 MS. CROSS: Add it to the regulation.

20  
21 MR. MENDENHALL: That's correct. You know, we don't --  
22 you want that in there.

23  
24 MR. BUCK: Second Perry's motion.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: What I want to do is get a moose,  
27 but one that's not accompanied by a calf.

28  
29 MR. MENDENHALL: You still want that -- you want that  
30 one in there?

31  
32 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Yeah.

33  
34 MS. CROSS: Yes.

35  
36 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay, move that section up to that,  
37 22(A), I make that motion, too, to move, no person may take a  
38 cow accompanied by a calf to 22(A). That way they won't be  
39 killing cows with a calf.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Motion made by Perry, second by  
42 Peter to.....

43  
44 MR. MENDENHALL: We got two motions on there. One to  
45 change to one moose for 22(A).

46  
47 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Yes.

48  
49 MR. MENDENHALL: Second motion is on that. We have to  
50 act on the first motion first.

0101  
1 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay.  
2  
3 MR. MENDENHALL: Call for the question on the first  
4 motion.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Motion, all in favor say aye.  
7  
8 IN UNISON: Aye.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Those opposed no.  
11  
12 (No opposing responses)  
13  
14 MS. CROSS: Now, the amended motion.  
15  
16 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay.  
19  
20 MR. MENDENHALL: The one to move that.  
21  
22 MS. CROSS: The first motion to be amended to include  
23 that no person may take a cow occupied by a calf.  
24  
25 MR. MENDENHALL: That's the second motion.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Could you make that motion or do  
28 you.....  
29  
30 MS. CROSS: Somebody made it already.  
31  
32 MR. MENDENHALL: We already did that.  
33  
34 MS. CROSS: Yeah, they already did that.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay.  
37  
38 MS. CROSS: We just need to.....  
39  
40 MR. MENDENHALL: Now we need to call for the question  
41 on that motion.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay. Question's been called. Who  
44 made the motion?  
45  
46 MR. MENDENHALL: I did and Peter seconded it. We never  
47 called it amendment to the motion, that's why there was two

48 motions.

49

50 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay. The question's called, all

0102

1 in favor signify by saying aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Opposed no.

6

7 (No opposing responses)

8

9 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Motion carried.

10

11 MR. MENDENHALL: That takes care of 22(A).

12

13 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Yes. And how do we handle that?

14 Do we need to write up a proposal or.....

15

16 MS. DEWHURST: Once it's on the record, we can write it  
17 up.

18

19 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay.

20

21 MS. ARMSTRONG: What we need to do is write it up and  
22 then fax it to Sheldon and make sure he's approving of how it's  
23 read and he'll have the minutes -- the transcript to read from.  
24 So we'll make sure it's the way you want it to be. Or we can  
25 fax it to you, Ted, maybe that would be better since you were  
26 here.

27

28 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: What you could do is go ahead and  
29 fax one to Sheldon and one to me.

30

31 MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

32

33 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Thank you.

34

35 MR. MENDENHALL: Are we done with all the other ones so  
36 far? I have a concern with the beavers. Beavers coming  
37 into.....

38

39 COURT REPORTER: Perry, microphone.

40

41 MR. MENDENHALL: Beaver's been coming into the region  
42 and also been damming up a lot of the creeks and rivers and  
43 they also kind of reflective of the loss of salmon, you know,  
44 spawning grounds and that's a concern I have. And I don't know  
45 how to address that. I know Peter's -- Fish River and we have  
46 Nome River, we have Pilgrim River and we have beavers all of a  
47 sudden doing a lot of damming and they may be hindering a lot

48 of the spawning grounds of the salmon and that's what I'm  
49 worried -- I don't know how to address this on beaver. Their  
50 effect on the ecosystem.

0103

1 My concern is how can we increase a little bit more for  
2 hunting the beaver and also trapping the beaver.

3  
4 MS. DEWHURST: The limit for 22(A), (B) and (D) right  
5 now is 50 animals. There is no open season in 22(C), but there  
6 wouldn't be a lot of point in making a proposal for it because  
7 we don't have any Federal lands in 22(C). So on the Federal  
8 side you really wouldn't gain anything to try to propose an  
9 opening for that unit.

10  
11 MS. ARMSTRONG: There's not a season in (E).

12  
13 MS. DEWHURST: And there's not a season in (E). That  
14 would be the only gain, would be, if there's a problem around  
15 in the Bering Land Bridge, then you could -- there currently is  
16 no season for beaver in 22(E), which would just be that portion  
17 of Bering Land Bridge. I don't know if that's -- there's a  
18 problem up there. But otherwise the limit's 50 animals.

19  
20 MS. ARMSTRONG: There's no beaver up there.

21  
22 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, Ken was saying there's no beaver  
23 up there yet, so it's probably not a problem up there. So  
24 unless you want to up the limit from 50, which is what it is  
25 currently for under hunting. Under trapping it's also 50.

26  
27 MR. MENDENHALL: I'd like to look at it from the  
28 State's side, too.

29  
30 MR. BENTE: Mr. Chairman, Board of Game -- State Board  
31 of Game will be entertaining a proposal to change the beaver  
32 season dates for Unit 22. And that would be the season dates,  
33 November 1st to June 10th, with a bag limit of 50 per season.  
34 That would be for all of Unit 22. Currently there is a shorter  
35 season for Unit 22(C).

36  
37 MR. MENDENHALL: What's the limit on it now?

38  
39 MR. BENTE: The limit right now is 50 per season. So  
40 the bag limit does not change, but the season dates would  
41 change.

42  
43 MR. MENDENHALL: And that would help because.....

44  
45 MR. BENTE: And that is a proposal before our Board of  
46 Game and our Department has no objection to that proposal.

47

48           MR. MENDENHALL: Is there a way to make it concurrent  
49 with the State as they propose on -- or are we okay on that?  
50

0104

1 MS. DEWHURST: That's what we were just talking about,  
2 is there are no Federal lands in 22(C), so there's not a lot of  
3 point to making a proposal for 22(C). That's where he was  
4 talking about, that would be the biggest impact, would be,  
5 either changing the dates, if I understood Peter right for  
6 22(C).

7  
8 MR. MENDENHALL: I think most of my question was on  
9 State land anyway.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: So there's no need to change beaver  
12 harvest limits?

13  
14 MR. BENTE: Mr. Chairman, I do see one difference in  
15 the proposal between the State proposal and the current Federal  
16 regulation and that is for 22(D). The proposal before our  
17 Board of Game would extend the season in 22(D) to June 10th and  
18 currently the Federal regulation has an earlier closing date.

19  
20 MS. DEWHURST: 15 April.

21  
22 MR. MENDENHALL: I make a motion to extend that for  
23 22(D) to be concurrent with State to June 10th.

24  
25 MR. BUCK: Seconded.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Motion by Perry, second by  
28 Peter.....

29  
30 MS. CROSS: Question.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: .....to change the open season.....

33  
34 MR. MENDENHALL: That's also for trapping.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: .....for 22(D).....

37  
38 MR. MENDENHALL: Right 22(D).

39  
40 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: And.....

41  
42 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah. You should make it for both  
43 hunting and trapping to be consistent.

44  
45 MR. MENDENHALL: Both hunting and trapping.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: .....both hunting and trapping.....

48  
49  
50

MR. MENDENHALL: To June 10th.

0105

1 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: .....to June 10th.....

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: Instead of April 15th.

4

5 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: .....instead of April 15th.

6 Discussion.

7

8 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair. I think when we made the April  
9 15th date, was that I don't think the pelts are prime after a  
10 certain date. I'm not a beaver hunter, I don't intend to  
11 become one, but I guess that was the intent.

12

13 MR. KATCHATAG SR: The pelts are pretty poor. See the  
14 longer with the beaver stays out in the sun, the fur is not  
15 suitable for anyone. It's just like an old -- I tell you, one  
16 time my friend John, traded me.....

17

18 MR. MENDENHALL: A beaver hat.....

19

20 MR. KATCHATAG SR: .....permanent for my head and I was  
21 very active in the church, so he told his wife to work on my  
22 hair and I let her work on my hair. And that evening I went to  
23 bed with nice pillow, sound asleep, I woke up in the morning, I  
24 looked at my pillow and it was all black. I went over to  
25 mirror, I was all red, just like an old fox, I never go to  
26 church for two months. He said it was beaver.

27

28 MR. SEETOT: I agree with the extension even if the  
29 plans -- I think the pelts are not prime because the testimony  
30 from the elders in White Mountain -- Unit 22(B) is that we  
31 don't want the beaver in there. They say, even if you just  
32 kill a beaver and leave it there, that's -- because they do a  
33 lot of damage for the environment in 22(B) and they said if we  
34 want beaver we can get it from the Yukon River, with them down  
35 there.

36

37 MS. DEWHURST: One of the advantages to making the  
38 change is to have all the dates consistent between all the  
39 units and the State to keep it simple.

40

41 MR. BUCK: I like that extension even though.....

42

43 MR. MENDENHALL: I think the trappers will be smart  
44 enough to know when the prime is out of season. And I don't  
45 have any reason.....

46

47 MR. KATCHATAG SR: That's when they have

48 (indiscernible), in June.

49

50 MR. MENDENHALL: Right.

0106

1 MR. KATCHATAG SR: They don't -- our elders tell us not  
2 to -- not the meal beaver, it's awkward to have.....

3  
4 MR. MENDENHALL: But would this become in current with  
5 State regs, that's what they have? That's all I'm concerned so  
6 we won't be doing State and then all of a sudden end up on  
7 Federal violation on one and then happy in the other.

8  
9 MS. CROSS: True.

10  
11 MR. MENDENHALL: That's all I'm concerned about here  
12 about our people. And I think our people will know enough.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Question's been called, all in  
15 favor say aye.

16  
17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Those opposed no.

20  
21 (No opposing responses)

22  
23 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Motion carried.

24  
25 MR. BENTE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask, that I  
26 wasn't sure that we were moving off moose regulations or  
27 seasons so quickly. There are differences still between the  
28 State and Federal rules on moose in 22(B) and 22(D). I could  
29 explain the differences if you would like to hear them.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Did you say 22(B) and 22(D)?

32  
33 MR. BENTE: Yes. 22(B) for moose, I'm talking about.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay.

36  
37 MR. BENTE: And 22(D). Currently we have regulations  
38 that have a closed area in 22(B) and (D) for the hunting of cow  
39 moose. There's a cow moose closure. And for Unit 22(B), that  
40 is, all waters draining from the west side of Fish River and  
41 for Unit 22(D), it's the Kuzitrin, Pilgrim and Kugruk River  
42 drainages. And the reason why we have enacted that regulation  
43 is because of low moose numbers and poor calf survival and with  
44 poor numbers of calves, we wanted to protect all the cows in  
45 those drainages. Currently the regulations, as I read them in  
46 the Federal book, do not have those closures.

47

48           MR. BUCK: I have no objection on that 22(B) because  
49 White Mountain is on the west side of that and it doesn't  
50 effect us. I don't know about Perry.

0107

1 MR. MENDENHALL: I'd like to stay confused and.....

2

3 MS. CROSS: I think though is, when there's two  
4 different regulations going on, it gives a person, like you  
5 said earlier, somebody's going to get a violation of some sort  
6 sometime or another because of two different -- and you don't  
7 always know when you're out there what is Federal land and what  
8 is State land.

9

10 MR. MENDENHALL: The moose doesn't know either whether  
11 it's State or Federal.

12

13 MS. CROSS: So I would think it would be just safer  
14 just to have them uniform.

15

16 MR. MENDENHALL: To be consistent now. Was that a  
17 motion Peter?

18

19 MR. BUCK: To keep it as -- I didn't make a motion  
20 because I'm not objecting to it. I'm not objecting to the  
21 regulations to clear up to 22(B) into sections from the Fish  
22 River, that was no problem with me. So I have nothing to say  
23 about it.

24

25 MS. CROSS: Well, I could move that.....

26

27 MR. MENDENHALL: Change?

28

29 MS. CROSS: Yeah. Unit 22(B) and 22(D) be made so it's  
30 consistent with the State regulation regarding moose.

31

32 MR. MENDENHALL: So you second that?

33

34 MR. BUCK: Uh-huh. (Negative)

35

36 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: A motion by Grace.....

37

38 MS. CROSS: He didn't want to.

39

40 MR. BUCK: I have no motion.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Motion by Grace.....

43

44 MR. MENDENHALL: I'll second it.

45

46 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Seconded by Perry to change the  
47 seasons for 22(B) and (D) to reflect a State open season and

48 close. How do I state that's the motion? The motion was to  
49 change the date, what dates are those Mr. Denton -- what dates  
50 are those that would change the -- we would change to comply

0108

1 with State; what are the dates?

2

3 MR. EDENSHAW: Could you repeat the area of the closure  
4 please?

5

6 MR. BENTE: I thought he was asking Mr. Denton, I'm  
7 sorry.

8

9 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Yes, I forgot your last name.

10

11 MR. BENTE: I'm Peter Bente.

12

13 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Bente.

14

15 MR. BENTE: Yes. I'm sorry I thought the question was  
16 going to somebody else. The moose closure areas, I can read  
17 the language from the State book. It includes the Nukluk River  
18 drainage and that portion of the Fish River drainage north and  
19 west of the Fish River. That's the area for 22(B). And the  
20 area of 22(D), that would be closed to cow hunting is that  
21 portion within the Kugruk, Kuzitrin, and Pilgrim River  
22 drainages.

23

24 MR. MENDENHALL: What periods?

25

26 MS. DEWHURST: Both seasons.

27

28 MR. BENTE: The period of time is both seasons,  
29 December 1 to December 31st.

30

31 MR. MENDENHALL: December 1 through December 31st.

32

33 MS. DEWHURST: Okay. Just to make you guys work  
34 because I just realized it. If you pass this motion, you will  
35 have two opposing proposals. Under the current regulations, if  
36 I'm reading this right -- oh, wait a minute -- 22(A) -- oh, I'm  
37 sorry, I read this wrong, you're okay.

38

39 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay. Mr.....

40

41 MR. BENTE: Bente.

42

43 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: I must be getting tired. Jake --  
44 Mr. Olanna.

45

46 MR. OLANNA: You clarified that. Because I was  
47 wondering if you were talking about 22(E) also. I would not

48 recommend any changes on 22(E). So you're just talking about  
49 22(B) and (D).  
50

0109

1 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: (B) and (D).

2  
3 MR. OLANNA: Thank you.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: So motion made by Grace, seconded  
6 by Perry. All in favor or.....

7  
8 MR. BUCK: Question.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: .....call for the question. The  
11 question's been called all in favor say aye.

12  
13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Those opposed no.

16  
17 (No opposing responses)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Okay.

20  
21 MR. BENTE: Mr. Chairman, I would also point out that  
22 there are differences between the Federal rules and the  
23 proposed regulations for brown bear.

24  
25 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay.

26  
27 COURT REPORTER: Perry, microphone.

28  
29 MR. BENTE: He's asking me to state the differences.  
30 Right now, as I understand it the regulations are similar. But  
31 we have a proposal before the Board of Game which will be acted  
32 on next week which will change resident and non-resident  
33 seasons and also establish a subsistence bear hunting season  
34 for Units 22(A), (B) and (E). And if that -- and our  
35 department will recommend favorably to act on that proposal.  
36 If that is passed by our Board of Game, there will be  
37 significant differences between the Federal regs and the State  
38 regulations. We're at a difficult situation here as to what to  
39 recommend for a Federal proposal because we don't know exactly  
40 what the State season will be. But I could explain the seasons  
41 as they're proposed and you could make some actions.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Um-hum.

44  
45 MR. BENTE: Would you like to hear them?

46  
47 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Yes, go ahead, please.

48  
49 MR. BENTE: For a general hunting season, we would have  
50 residents and non-residents hunting brown bears in Units 22(A),

0110

1 (B), (D) and (E), from September 1 to May 25. That took the  
2 starting date of the fall season and it extended it through the  
3 closing date of the spring season and it was one continuous  
4 season. That hunting is by brown bear tag, a \$25 resident tag  
5 and one bear every four regulatory years. Also the State will  
6 endorse a season, part of our recommendation, a subsistence  
7 brown bear season for residents only, September 1, the  
8 beginning of the fall season to the closing of the May season,  
9 May 25, one bear by registration permit.....

10

11 MS. DEWHURST: Thirty-one.

12

13 MR. BENTE: Oh, excuse me, May 31st, I was just  
14 corrected, May 31st. May 31st on the subsistence bear season  
15 by registration permit in lieu of tag fees. So there is no  
16 brown bear tag fee, there's a registration permit. There is no  
17 non-resident hunting for the subsistence bear season.

18

19 MS. DEWHURST: Is that only for 22(B) though?

20

21 MR. BENTE: That is proposed for 22(A), (B), (D) and  
22 (E), and it is one bear every regulatory year.

23

24 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I think that once the  
25 regulation is changed, then we can act on them to make our  
26 regulations consistent with the State.

27

28 MR. OLANNA: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Bente, are you talking  
29 about the inclusion of this unit in brown bear -- Northwest  
30 Brown Bear management plan?

31

32 MR. BENTE: Yeah. The second season I described,  
33 subsistence bear season, is having Unit 22, except Unit 22(C)  
34 included in the Northwest Brown Bear management area.

35

36 MR. OLANNA: We talked about this earlier and I was  
37 telling you that you -- I believe you took action on this  
38 earlier to include -- to draft a proposal to include all 22 in  
39 the Northwest area bear management plan.

40

41 MR. MENDENHALL: The proposals.

42

43 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Oh, yes.

44

45 MR. OLANNA: Yes.

46

47 MR. MENDENHALL: The proposal was approved.

48  
49  
50

MR. OLANNA: How about 22?

0111

1 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Unit 22.

2

3 MR. OLANNA: Even if the State does not -- if the  
4 proposal fails and this -- the Federal.....

5

6 MR. MENDENHALL: Board.

7

8 MR. OLANNA: .....Board, I mean this -- the Council  
9 would support the proposal to include all of Unit 22 in the  
10 Northwest Bear management plan which allows for what Peter just  
11 said, one bear, subsistence talk and Kawerak supports that  
12 proposal. Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: So you recommend that no change?

15

16 MR. OLANNA: No, I would recommend that you include a  
17 proposal to include all of 22 in the Northwest Bear management  
18 plan. I just gave that proposal to Rosa Meehan and.....

19

20 MR. MENDENHALL: We already voted for it.

21

22 MR. OLANNA: .....and you voted earlier. It was in the  
23 form of a motion that you would support that proposal or you  
24 would draft a similar proposal; isn't that right?

25

26 MR. MENDENHALL: Right.

27

28 MS. CROSS: Yeah.

29

30 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, what you can do is just  
31 support that proposal. Because if you come up with the same --  
32 unless you want to come up with a different proposal.  
33 Otherwise we'd have two proposals that are the same thing and  
34 we would end up combining them anyway. And even if they're  
35 similar, we would probably analyze them together and just have  
36 different -- decide which one we supported. So I would suggest  
37 actually that if you're in agreement with that proposal, just  
38 go ahead and support it and we can put on the proposal that  
39 it's been proposed by Kawerak and the Seward Peninsula Regional  
40 Council, you can do it that way.

41

42 MR. OLANNA: Mr. Chairman, to further the discussion  
43 here, Kawerak was included in drafting this proposal to include  
44 this region in that brown bear management plan, which is the  
45 Northwest Brown Bear management plan. It's currently Kotzebue  
46 and I believe Kotzebue is the only one that is in the plan  
47 right now, right?

48  
49  
50

MS. ARMSTRONG: Unit 23 and 26(A), I think.

112

1 MR. OLANNA: Right.

2

3 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, I think that's right.

4

5 MR. BENTE: The Northwest Brown Bear management area  
6 includes Unit 23, Unit 21(D), Unit 24 and Unit 26(A), Northwest  
7 Alaska.

8

9 MR. OLANNA: What I'm asking is you support the  
10 proposal that is before the Board of Game and that you draft a  
11 similar proposal.

12

13 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, we did that by action.

14

15 MR. OLANNA: Right.

16

17 MS. CROSS: And that's proposing the area that we don't  
18 have jurisdiction in which is 22(C).

19

20 MR. OLANNA: Right -- rest of 22.

21

22 MS. CROSS: The rest of 22 besides C.

23

24 MR. OLANNA: All right.

25

26 MR. MENDENHALL: We're friends of the maker of that  
27 proposal.

28

29 MR. OLANNA: Thank you.

30

31 MR. MENDENHALL: Maybe our name could be added to it.

32

33 MS. CROSS: We'll support a similar proposal as Kawerak  
34 except 22(C), which we don't have jurisdiction over.

35

36 MR. EDENSHAW: Let me clarify it. So what you're  
37 asking of the Council -- well, Peter -- what I understand, and  
38 correct me, that Seward Penn would send a letter of support or  
39 just a letter to the Board of Game requesting that Unit 22 be  
40 included in the Northwest management plan?

41

42 MR. OLANNA: What we're saying is, yes, that would be  
43 good, but I would like a proposal to come from this Council to  
44 -- a similar draft proposal that was drafted for the State for  
45 you to consider our proposal as a.....

46

47 MS. CROSS: A Federal proposal.....

48  
49  
50

MR. OLANNA: .....proposal from this committee.

0113

1 MS. ARMSTRONG: He said he's already given it to Rosa;  
2 is that right?

3  
4 MR. OLANNA: Yeah.

5  
6 MS. ARMSTRONG: He's already submitted the proposal.

7  
8 MR. OLANNA: But yeah, you've already okayed it earlier  
9 and it's in the record.

10  
11 MR. MENDENHALL: Right Rosa?

12  
13 MS. MEEHAN: Yes, got it.

14  
15 MR. OLANNA: Thank you.

16  
17 MR. BENTE: The difference I understood was that  
18 initially Jake was including 22(C), that that was not in our  
19 State proposal, but now, just the discussion here said that  
20 there is no Federal land in 22(C), so.....

21  
22 MR. OLANNA: Right, right.

23  
24 MR. BENTE: .....it would be removed, so.....

25  
26 MR. MENDENHALL: But we supported as a Council,  
27 subsistence bear hunt in 22 period.

28  
29 MS. ARMSTRONG: Right.

30  
31 MR. MENDENHALL: Regardless of.....

32  
33 COURT REPORTER: Perry, microphone.

34  
35 MR. MENDENHALL: Regardless of (A), (B), (C), for the  
36 record.

37  
38 COURT REPORTER: You have to talk in the microphone.

39  
40 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, I'm sorry.

41  
42 MS. CROSS: Mr. Chair.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: Yes.

45  
46 MS. CROSS: Earlier we made a motion we must give  
47 support to Kawerak on their proposals to the State.

48  
49  
50

MR. MENDENHALL: Right.

0114

1 MS. CROSS: And then we will make a proposal similar to  
2 what Kawerak made to the Feds, but we don't touch 22(C) because  
3 we have no jurisdiction, that's my understanding. So it's kind  
4 of like two things.

5  
6 MS. DEWHURST: Mine too.

7  
8 MS. CROSS: When the State meeting comes, the Kawerak  
9 will have -- we will support Kawerak's proposal.

10  
11 MR. MENDENHALL: So 22(C) will.....

12  
13 MR. OLANNA: Yeah. I'd like to correct that, it's not  
14 a Kawerak proposal, it's a proposal by the Alaska Department of  
15 Fish and Game with input from Kawerak.

16  
17 MS. CROSS: Okay.

18  
19 MR. OLANNA: Thank you. Right, Peter?

20  
21 MR. BENTE: Correct, yes.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: So do we need any action? No. Any  
24 other changes from the Council or proposals? If not, I'd like  
25 to thank Mr. Bente and Helen Armstrong. Are we done with that?

26  
27 MS. ARMSTRONG: I believe that. We can offer you night  
28 time reading, just look at those other regions and then  
29 tomorrow you can -- I mean not regions, those other units, Unit  
30 18 and 21 and 23 and see if there's anything you'd like to  
31 change. If you see areas where you know you go hunting and  
32 it's not -- you don't have C&T, for example, or something like  
33 that, I would just suggest to everybody, maybe take a few  
34 minutes tonight to look at it, and then if they want to they  
35 can bring it up tomorrow.

36  
37 MR. MENDENHALL: Mr. Chairman, I would recommend that  
38 we recess tomorrow, but to leave this section open for the  
39 morning in case something shakes out during the night on these  
40 proposals.

41  
42 MS. ARMSTRONG: Put it under your pillow.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN KATCHEAK: At this time I'll call for a recess  
45 until tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. and we'll continue on with our  
46 agenda.

47

48 (Hearing recessed)

49

\* \* \* \* \*

50