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SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

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Aurora Inn

8

Nome, Alaska

9

February 19, 2004

10

8:00 o'clock a.m.

11

12

13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

14

15 Grace Cross, Chairman

16 Peter Buck

17 Vance Grishkowski

18 Thomas Gray

19 Leonard Kobuk

20 Jake Olanna

21 Charles Saccheus

22 Elmer Seetot, Jr.

23 Myron Savetilik

24

25 Coordinator; Barbara Armstrong

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

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3 (Nome, Alaska - 2/19,2004)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Good morning. I'll  
8 call the meeting of the Seward Peninsula Subsistence  
9 Regional Advisory Council to order. It should be about  
10 8:15 now. I want to welcome everybody first of all and  
11 I'm glad we're all here today.

12

13 Leonard, will you call roll, please. And  
14 a reminder, please make sure you turn on your microphone  
15 when you're going to be speaking. And those of you who  
16 are going to be testifying -- we still have to fill out  
17 those papers, don't we, Barbara?

18

19 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Pardon?

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Don't we still fill  
22 out those papers if you want to testify?

23

24 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes, they're over  
25 there by the door. They're green cards.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: On the proposals?

28

29 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Right there, okay,  
32 thanks. Leonard.

33

34 MR. KOBUK: Grace Cross.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Here.

37

38 MR. KOBUK: Jake Olanna, Sr.

39

40 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: He's coming in, he's  
41 late.

42

43 MR. KOBUK: Leonard Kobuk, here. William  
44 Johnson.

45

46 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: He is absent.

47

48 MR. KOBUK: Absent.

49

50 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: He is on his way to

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1 New Zealand.

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MR. KOBUK: Peter Buck.

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5

MR. BUCK: Here.

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7

MR. KOBUK: Myron Savetilik.

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9

MR. SAVETILIK: Here.

10

11

MR. KOBUK: Elmer Seetot, Jr.

12

13

MR. SEETOT: Here.

14

15

MR. KOBUK: Charles Saccheus, Sr.

16

17

MR. SACCHEUS: Here.

18

19

MR. KOBUK: Thomas Gray.

20

21

MR. GRAY: Here.

22

23

MR. KOBUK: Vance Grishkowski.

24

25

MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Here.

26

27

MR. KOBUK: We're all here except William

28 Johnson, and Jake is coming later.

29

30

We have a quorum.

31

32

CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Leonard.

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Well, I guess I'll say welcome again and since there's not that many of us we'll start introducing ourselves. I want to welcome the new members of the RAC, Tom Gray, Mr. Grishkowski, and Mr. Saccheus. I'm glad you guys are all on board now and I'm glad to see the rest of us came, too, and thanks for all the people who are here to participate.

We'll start with introductions from Tom, please.

MR. GRAY: I'm Tom Gray. I'm from White Mountain. New to the Board, I guess, this is my first meeting so it should be interesting.

MR. SAVETILIK: Myron Savetilik from Shaktoolik. Good to see you all again.

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1 MR. SACCHEUS: Charles F. Saccheus, Elim.  
2 Representing Elim IRA Council.

3  
4 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: I'm Vance Grishkowski  
5 from Unalakleet, and I'm a new member.

6  
7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Grace Cross from Nome,  
8 Chair.

9  
10 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig  
11 Mission.

12  
13 MR. KOBUK: Leonard Kobuk. I represent  
14 St. Michael and Stebbins.

15  
16 MR. BUCK: Peter Buck, White Mountain.

17  
18 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Barb Armstrong,  
19 coordinator for Seward Penn and the North Slope.

20  
21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong.  
22 Anthropologist for this Council with the Office of  
23 Subsistence Management in Anchorage.

24  
25 MR. ARDIZZONE: Chuck Ardizzone, wildlife  
26 biologist for this Council, Office of Subsistence  
27 Management.

28  
29 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, Subsistence  
30 Program Manager for the National Park Service, Western  
31 Arctic National Park Lands.

32  
33 MR. TOCKTOO: Fred Tocktoo, National Park  
34 Service, Nome.

35  
36 MR. BERG: Jerry Berg. I serve as a fish  
37 biologist assigned to your region. And I also work as a  
38 fish biologist for the Yukon, so I serve the three  
39 Councils on the Yukon as well. Thanks.

40  
41 MR. KLEIN: Steve Klein. I'm with the  
42 Office of Subsistence Management. I'm the Chief of  
43 Fisheries Information Services.

44  
45 MR. WADE; My name is Mike Wade and I'm  
46 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of law  
47 enforcement.

48  
49 MR. SPARKS: Tom Sparks with BLM in Nome.  
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1 MR. COLE: Jeannie Cole with BLM in  
2 Fairbanks.

3  
4 MR. EASTLAND: Warren Eastland. Bureau  
5 of Indian Affairs, wildlife biologist, and I'm the Staff  
6 Committee member for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

7  
8 MR. BRELSFORD: Hi. I'm Taylor  
9 Brelsford. I'm a subsistence coordinator for the BLM in  
10 the state office in Anchorage. And I serve as the Staff  
11 Committee member for the BLM State Director.

12  
13 MS. DUNLAP: I'm Julia Dunlap. I'm from  
14 KNOM.

15  
16 MS. PERSONS: And Kate Persons, wildlife  
17 biologist from Fish and Game here in Nome.

18  
19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you for the  
20 introductions. Now, we'll go to review and adoption of  
21 the agenda. I want to add, on Chair's report under  
22 number B, I would like to have discussion on the Regional  
23 Council composition charter but not during the report  
24 times. It will not be long, so I think maybe we should  
25 put it under new business, maybe.

26  
27 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

28  
29 MR. SAVETILIK: Number 13, Madame Chair?

30  
31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Number 12.

32  
33 MR. SAVETILIK: Okay.

34  
35 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Regional Council  
36 composition and charter. And then under 7C, if we could  
37 put behind special action/Wales special action, and  
38 that's the one that was submitted by Raymond Seetot  
39 [sic].

40  
41 During our meeting we're going to be  
42 flexible with Proposal 04-71 on the muskoxen. Teller IRA  
43 will be hooked up at 1:45. Whatever we're doing at the  
44 time we'll stop so we can hear from them, and then go  
45 back to whatever subject we were on after we're done. So  
46 Proposal 04-71 is going to be kind of like a floater. If  
47 we haven't gotten to it at 1:45, we'll stop everything  
48 we're doing and deal with it at the time. There's going  
49 to be a teleconference with Teller IRA.

50

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1 Any more additions to the agenda.

2

3 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair, I would like  
4 to report on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, a meeting  
5 that we had in December.

6

7 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Do you want that under  
8 new business?

9

10 MR. SEETOT: Yes, please, thank you.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, report under new  
13 business.

14

15 Anybody else that has any reports that  
16 they would like to present to the rest of the RAC?

17

18 Any more additions or corrections to the  
19 agenda.

20

21 If not, I'll entertain a motion to accept  
22 the agenda as amended.

23

24 MR. KOBUK: I'll make that motion with  
25 the new additions and changes.

26

27 MR. SAVETILIK: Second it.

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion on  
30 the floor to accept the agenda as amended. All those in  
31 favor signify by stating aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,  
36 same sign.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries.  
41 Review and adoption of the minutes. Leonard, please,  
42 it's under Tab A.

43

44 MR. KOBUK: What?

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Review of the minutes,  
47 September 25th, 2003 minutes and adoption. We'll just go  
48 like page by page again.

49

50 MR. KOBUK: Okay, starting with Page 6,

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1 do you see any corrections or changes that need to be  
2 made on the minutes of September 25th, 2003?

3

4 (Pause)

5

6 MR. KOBUK: Same for Page 7.

7

8 (Pause)

9

10 MR. KOBUK: Same for Page 8.

11

12 (Pause)

13

14 MR. KOBUK: Same for Page 9.

15

16 (Pause)

17

18 MR. KOBUK: Let me know if I'm going too  
19 fast, please.

20

21 (Pause)

22

23 MR. KOBUK: Page 10.

24

25 (Pause)

26

27 MR. KOBUK: Page 11.

28

29 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair, going back to  
30 Page 10, the third and fourth line, is that supposed to  
31 be resident? There's a C in there instead of a T.

32

33 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Under agency reports?

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yeah, it should be  
36 residents, Line 4 from the top.

37

38 MR. KOBUK: Okay.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Instead of a dwelling,  
41 I guess we should change it to a person that lives.

42

43 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay, so it should be  
44 non-resident, okay.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, Leonard.

47

48 MR. KOBUK: Any more corrections for that  
49 page, Page 10.

50

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1 (Pause)

2

3 MR. KOBUK: Page 11.

4

5 (Pause)

6

7 MR. KOBUK: Hearing none, Page 12.

8

9 (Pause)

10

11 MR. KOBUK: Page 13.

12

13 (Pause)

14

15 MR. KOBUK: Hearing none, Page 14.

16

17 (Pause)

18

19 MR. KOBUK: Page 15.

20

21 (Pause)

22

23 MR. KOBUK: And last page, 16.

24

25 (Pause)

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Leonard.

28 Is there a motion to adopt the minutes as corrected by

29 Mr. Seetot.

30

31 MR. SAVETILIK: Move to accept the

32 minutes as presented.

33

34 MR. KOBUK: And I'll second that motion.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those in favor of

37 adopting the minutes -- all those in favor of the motion

38 signify by stating aye.

39

40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,

43 same sign.

44

45 (No opposing votes)

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. Now,

48 we're down to six, Council reports. And we could start

49 with Peter Buck. Do you have anything to report Peter?

50



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1 MR. BUCK: We have had pretty regular --  
2 I mean the weather had been okay in White Mountain. The  
3 moose population wasn't too bad. We're getting started  
4 on the spring activities now so we'll see how that goes.

5  
6 That's all I have.

7  
8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Peter.  
9 Leonard.

10  
11 MR. KOBUK: Well, it was good for a few  
12 caribous to show up this winter. There was -- whatever  
13 showed up was already taken. Tried looking for more but  
14 we couldn't find any. But it was also good to see some  
15 moose, both in Golsovia and a little bit south of  
16 Golsovia. Other than that it's been pretty windy and  
17 rough winter. Hopefully next year more caribou will come  
18 around.

19  
20 That's about all I have.

21  
22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Leonard.  
23 Elmer.

24  
25 MR. SEETOT: No report, muskox.

26  
27 MR. KOBUK: Yeah.

28  
29 MS. PERSONS: I just had a question for  
30 you, Leonard.

31  
32 MR. KOBUK: Yeah.

33  
34 MS. PERSONS: How far out did people go  
35 to get caribou?

36  
37 MR. KOBUK: We ran into some just a  
38 little bit south of Klikitarik. They came down from --  
39 well, the first one we caught we caught a little bit  
40 south of Golsovia. We just happened to run into the  
41 tracks so we just kept tracking for awhile and finally  
42 saw it on the other side of Klikitarik so got that. That  
43 was the first one, and then the next day we saw -- I  
44 don't know, there might have been eight, 10, maybe more.  
45 At first we thought they were St. Michael Reindeer Herd,  
46 we left them and decided to go a little farther to see if  
47 we see any but when we went past Klik -- just before we  
48 reached Klikitarik River we noticed it was foggy and so  
49 we decided to go back and check those ones that --  
50 because as soon as we started our snow -- they didn't

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1 hear us, I guess, when we came around the hill and they  
2 were just right there. But since we -- after we stopped  
3 our snowmachines and started them, they took off, we left  
4 them and went back to check them. I'm glad we did.

5

6 And I guess they're catching St. Michael  
7 and Stebbins reindeer are kind of mixed with those wild  
8 caribous so other than that that's where we caught them.  
9 And some were catching across St. Michael from what I  
10 heard, from the -- around the Sisters somewhere, near the  
11 lava rocks.

12

13 MS. PERSONS: Thanks.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Leonard, you also had  
16 a question about the beaver proposal you wanted --  
17 remember yesterday you were talking to me about it.  
18 Somebody was supposed to get in touch with you about  
19 proposal development on beaver study.

20

21 MR. KOBUK: Oh, yeah. St. Michael IRA  
22 was kind of -- one of the Council asked me whatever  
23 happened to the beaver proposal they had submitted for a  
24 study in Pikmiktalik, we didn't hear anything from both  
25 the Federal government and Kawerak, so if Kawerak shows  
26 up today for the meeting I was going to ask them about  
27 that.

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So maybe we can get  
30 answers when it's time for the fisheries monitoring  
31 projects when we get there, so please keep that in mind.

32

33 Elmer, was that, you had a report or not?

34

35 MR. SEETOT: No reported muskox harvest  
36 on Federal lands. Reported caribou sightings, I think,  
37 northwest of the lava beds by people that travel. Travel  
38 conditions are pretty rough right now.

39

40 I think the majority of the caribou with  
41 the collars are on the eastern part of the Seward  
42 Peninsula, and we haven't sighted caribou where they  
43 usually are. But I think there's been sightings toward  
44 the Nilik or the northern portion of the Seward  
45 Peninsula, small bands of caribou are traveling from west  
46 to east, by hunters that are around that area.

47

48 Unusual this year that many wolverine  
49 were taken the first part of the winter when the snow  
50 conditions came, but not at the furbearing harvest.

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1 Animals are slow in taking.

2

3 That's all I have.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. I don't  
6 have much to report because I have been kind of not  
7 keeping track of what's going on around Nome. I was  
8 hoping that Jake Olanna would be here to talk about it.

9

10 But I do know that, personally, I did get  
11 some fish, which was very good. And that we did go look  
12 for moose before we even got a tag and didn't see any so  
13 we figured, well. I understand, and, I think Kate will  
14 go into it, I'm not sure how much moose was taken out of  
15 the region. I didn't hear too many people talk about  
16 getting a moose, only a few. I think that's still an  
17 area that people are really concerned about, so we'll be  
18 talking about that later.

19

20 Most of my report I will talk about on  
21 the Chair's report, because I was quit busy with other  
22 communities in our region this year. It took a bit of  
23 time.

24

25 Vance.

26

27 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Yeah, I know in  
28 Unalakleet here, our moose season was really actually  
29 poor in comparison to what we've had in the past. I  
30 think everybody's pretty well aware of it and there's  
31 been some changes made and things.

32

33 The caribou came down. They always come  
34 from the north and come into Unalakleet on the north side  
35 going south and we had them around our village for about  
36 a week and then they just disappeared and went north  
37 again. I think a few went on by, but the majority of  
38 them did not come down like they have in the past.

39

40 That's about all I have for Unalakleet.

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Charles.

43

44 MR. SACCHEUS: The Elim report, we have a  
45 lot of concern about our northern Norton Sound  
46 subsistence, some salmon. They've been on a decline for,  
47 I don't know how long, and I don't know what -- how good  
48 our northern Norton Sound chum salmon are managed by  
49 ADF&G. But my people in Elim are really concerned about  
50 our declining chum salmon.

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1                   When you go down to closing the  
2 subsistence of our fisheries like the chum, it's pretty  
3 bad. I was in Anchorage for the testifying to trying to  
4 opposing the Area M fisheries for their by-catch, like,  
5 their fisheries to close, like, early in June but I don't  
6 know if the Board of Fish will listen to anybody from AYK  
7 region.

8  
9                   And another thing I'd like to see happen  
10 is I'd like to propose -- I know they issued some permits  
11 for muskoxen, and I'd like to see something happen with  
12 hunting by proxy for muskox. Because a lot of them old  
13 people in Elim, when they apply for a permit to hunt  
14 muskox they can't even go out and hunt. I called Fish  
15 and Game to go hunt for my mother-in-law but they say you  
16 can't hunt by proxy for muskox, and I'd like to see some  
17 kind of proposal introduced to Fish and Game or something  
18 so them people that are handicapped that submit their  
19 permits could be able to let their relatives hunt by  
20 proxy.

21  
22                   And our moose season was normal, as  
23 usual.

24  
25                   But the main thing we had our Northern  
26 Norton Sound was our chum salmon.

27  
28                   That's the only thing I got, thank you.

29  
30                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Myron.

31  
32                   MR. SAVETILIK: Our moose season was  
33 normal. The caribou, they're getting to where they're  
34 there over there too and everything, we're not going to  
35 go very far for the caribou.

36  
37                   The wolverine and the wolf have been on  
38 the rise, too. I mean there have been hunters that have  
39 been catching them.

40  
41                   Other than that, you know, it's a pretty  
42 normal year for the caribou and for the moose and all the  
43 furbearing animals.

44  
45                   That's it, thanks.

46  
47                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Tom.

48  
49                   MR. GRAY: Being last, I guess, I've made  
50 a bunch of notes. I probably wouldn't talk so much if I

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1 hadn't heard from everybody.

2

3                   But our fish -- I'll start with fish.  
4 Our fish numbers are definitely down. We have a fish  
5 counting tower in our area, right near our property, and  
6 10 years ago -- somebody talked about the chum salmon,  
7 the chum run 10 years ago was probably 80,000 fish, this  
8 year it was 20-some-thousand fish. So our numbers are  
9 declining in that sense.

10

11                   Our silver run was a disaster, 1,200  
12 silvers. It was really bad. So there needs to be some  
13 emphasis put on some of these runs to protect them and  
14 keep them from dying like Nome has.

15

16                   The caribou movement, we had a lot of  
17 caribou come into the area in Fish River Flats for a  
18 little while and they moved out, there were three or  
19 4,000 animals up there. Our guys got some caribou, the  
20 guys that went up and hunted. It wasn't an exceptional  
21 year like in the past. The wolves move with the caribou  
22 so there isn't too many wolves in our area this year.  
23 Although we do have a lot of resident wolves that are  
24 starting to set up and hammer the moose in our local  
25 population.

26

27                   The moose, we had a lot of moose taken, I  
28 think, in White Mountain, correct me if I'm wrong, Kate,  
29 we had a good year on locals catching moose.

30

31                   MS. PERSONS: Yep. The quota was almost  
32 reached, both in the summer and the winter hunts.

33

34                   MR. GRAY: Yeah. So, you know, I don't  
35 know if it was just the conditions or what it was but we  
36 did have a good hunt.

37

38                   Muskox, White Mountain is always very  
39 good at getting muskox, so, you know, I look forward to  
40 that staying in place and my people in the villages being  
41 able to capitalize on that.

42

43                   You know, overall I think we're going  
44 through cycles. Everything is in cycles. And we just  
45 need to manage and be careful of what we do. And like  
46 say, this fish cycle, really has me concerned because if  
47 you look at the caribou in the '70s, there was 75,000  
48 caribou, now, in this herd there's almost 500,000  
49 caribou. Thirty years from now there will probably be  
50 75,000 again. But we can't say that about fish stocks.

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1 Fish stocks come back very slowly and I don't know that  
2 I've ever seen an area that we've had fish stocks die out  
3 and come back. I know in my lifetime we haven't. So we  
4 have a real delicate system that maybe even the fish  
5 biologists don't understand and don't have all the  
6 answers. And it's going to take everybody in making it  
7 come -- making the fish come back. And a good example  
8 is, in the past, my community would go seining in the  
9 fall time and seine whitefish and trout and different  
10 things, we haven't had the trout in our rivers for years.  
11 We don't have a lot of trout anymore. We used to go  
12 seine sacks and sacks of trout, you're lucky to go up  
13 river and seine a half a sack of trout.

14

15 So things are changing. And I guess my  
16 big thing and I told some of the guys yesterday is I'm  
17 here because we need to manage the resource. And when  
18 you look at subsistence there's no lines. The Eskimos  
19 never had lines. And all of a sudden the bureaucracy  
20 brought lines and we can't go there because, we can't go  
21 here because, and it's important that as we manage these  
22 resources, let's forget about the lines, let's manage the  
23 resource.

24

25 So anyway, with that, I'm done.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Tom. Now,  
28 we'll go to number 7, Chair's Report. The Draft 2003  
29 Annual Report is in Tab B. I haven't signed it so I'm  
30 assuming it's still in a draft situation. Is there  
31 anything we want to add to it? Something that we might  
32 have missed from our last meeting that was of concern or  
33 an informational item. The annual report usually  
34 reflects our concerns and what information we'd like to  
35 present to the Federal Subsistence Board during our last  
36 meeting.

37

38 Are there any of you that weren't here in  
39 the last meeting that want to add anything to it, the one  
40 that's dated December 5, 2003.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, I guess hearing  
45 none, we don't have any additions to our annual report.

46

47 The Regional Council composition charter.  
48 I discussed that a little bit earlier. Our charter is  
49 going to be coming up 2005, instead of this year, because  
50 they changed the cycle, and as you're all aware the RAC

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1 has been trying to increase our number to 13, although  
2 there's decision that's been made by the courts which  
3 will be discussed later by somebody else, my feeling is  
4 that we will continue to ask that our RAC numbers be  
5 increased from 10 to 13 because we were kind of  
6 downgraded when they did that anyway and we will have a  
7 discussion on that, and I think I forgot where I stuck it  
8 on but we'll have some brief discussion on it.

9

10 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: It's under new  
11 business.

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Under new business?

14

15 MR. KOBUK: It's under new business.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We'll have some  
18 discussion on it this afternoon. And what I'd like to  
19 do, at the time, the discussion will involve making some  
20 recommendations on when the selection process is being  
21 done I'd like for us to make recommendations as to how we  
22 would like to see part of that done.

23

24 And then on Item C, we have 22 moose, a  
25 special action. I submitted a special action on 22(A)  
26 moose, St. Michael and Stebbins were hooked up on the  
27 line, there was nobody from Unalakleet, although we were  
28 expecting people and so the special action was granted;  
29 we will be talking about that special action later on  
30 because there is a proposal addressing that. And I had  
31 added Raymond Seetot's -- Sitook, sorry, special action  
32 request that was made by him to move their winter hunt,  
33 which was denied, and I had asked the land owners, work  
34 with the land owners to contact Mr. Sitook and talk to  
35 him about why the special action was denied. I want to  
36 be able to address that at a later time.

37

38 We're hoping to see a proposal coming  
39 from Wales. I think there was some communication  
40 problems that may have led to the denial. Unfortunately  
41 I think due to vacations and other things going on in  
42 people's lives, when that special action was heard by the  
43 Staff Committee, nobody from the region participated from  
44 what I understand. I didn't. I don't think nobody from  
45 Park Service did. And I don't think Raymond was on line  
46 either. So I think that there's been contact made with  
47 Mr. Sitook, I believe, by Park Service employees and  
48 we're hoping that a proposal will come out of there and  
49 there may be another request for special action before  
50 the next season regarding his proposal.

00016

1                   Then we have the .805 letter, is that in  
2 there?

3  
4                   MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That should be -- no,  
5 it's in your folder.

6  
7                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. And I think we  
8 can just read that and if anybody has any comments they  
9 can bring them up at a later time.

10  
11                   MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes, it's self-  
12 explanatory.

13  
14                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It's pretty much self-  
15 explanatory.

16  
17                   And I want to remind everybody again that  
18 the public testimony continues throughout the meeting.  
19 There's a form to complete over there, it's a little  
20 green one and you just sign in and Barb will give it to  
21 me if anybody needs to testify and we'll call upon you as  
22 each proposal comes in.

23  
24                   So now we'll move on -- unless somebody  
25 else has anything to add, we'll move on to wildlife  
26 proposals for Council review and recommendation to the  
27 Federal Subsistence Board, which begins under Tab C. And  
28 like I said, we'll have one that will be floating around  
29 today and that's the one on 22 muskox, Proposal 04-71.  
30 We will not be addressing that until we get Teller IRA on  
31 line this afternoon, and that's scheduled for 1:45, so  
32 that one's going to be floating around.

33  
34                   So I don't think we want a break at this  
35 time so we'll begin with Proposal 04-01, statewide  
36 proposal on brown bear, Chuck Ardizzone will be  
37 addressing that.

38  
39                   MR. ARDIZZONE: Good morning, Madame  
40 Chair. My name is Chuck Ardizzone, wildlife biologist,  
41 OSM. I have to apologize, I have a pretty good cold  
42 working, so if you don't understand what I have to say,  
43 please ask questions.

44  
45                   Proposal 04-01 is a statewide proposal is  
46 why it's being brought to the Council today. It was  
47 submitted by Sue Entsminger of Tok and requests the  
48 allowance of handicraft items made from the fur of brown  
49 bear. So basically handicrafts made from the fur of  
50 brown bear to be sold to the public.



00017

1                   There are some related proposals to this,  
2 04-53 and 04-78, which would legalize the sale of all  
3 bear parts from black and brown bear harvested in Units  
4 21(E) and 25 respectively.

5  
6                   I'm going to be brief on this proposal.  
7 There's a lot of regulatory language. I did not write  
8 this proposal so I'm not thoroughly familiar with it but  
9 I'll give you a brief understanding of where the author  
10 is coming from.

11  
12                   This proposal would allow the sale of  
13 handicraft items made from the fur of brown bear as a  
14 means for subsistence users to have additional cash flow  
15 from hides that are not normally utilized. The proponent  
16 notes that the use of brown bear hides is not available  
17 except for personal use items. This will benefit  
18 subsistence users by allowing them to fully use the bear  
19 hide.

20  
21                   Current regulations allow the sale of  
22 handicraft articles made from black bear, but not brown  
23 bear, so the change would just add; or brown bear, to the  
24 current regulations.

25  
26                   In 1993 there was a statewide estimate of  
27 brown bears, it was estimated between 25,000 and 39,000  
28 brown bears in the state. The average harvest for brown  
29 bears in the '60s was 630 brown bears per year and  
30 between 1991 and 2000 the average reported statewide  
31 brown bear mortality was 1,296 animals per year.

32  
33                   Federal and State regulations both  
34 require the sealing of brown bear taken in most areas of  
35 the state with the exception of some rural brown bear  
36 management areas. Any untanned bear hide or skulls  
37 transported or exported from Alaska must be sealed. Any  
38 hides, skulls, meat or products of brown bear and black  
39 bear shipped out of the United States must have  
40 accompanying Federal CITES export permit.

41  
42                   This proposal does go into a lot of  
43 discussion about, you know, brown bear and black bear  
44 parts being sold in other states and in Canada. And all  
45 of that was taken into consideration when the effects of  
46 this proposal were compiled.

47  
48                   Adopting the proposal to legalize the  
49 sale of handicraft articles from the fur of brown bear  
50 would increase economic opportunities available for rural

00018

1 residents, principally in the creation of handicrafts but  
2 the economic benefit is basically unknown. We're not  
3 sure how many people will take advantage of this.

4

5                   The proposed commercialization of  
6 handicrafts from the brown bear fur could lead to an  
7 increase and demand in the harvest of some bear  
8 populations possibly to the point of overharvest. Many  
9 portions of the Interior Alaska have naturally low but  
10 stable brown bear populations. The proposed regulation  
11 may threaten the viability of these smaller populations  
12 making them susceptible to overharvest. A sustainable  
13 yield of brown bear is low and under special  
14 circumstances in limited areas regulations could be  
15 conservative to avoid over-exploitation.

16

17                   Because of the large economic incentive  
18 involved in trade of some bear parts, this proposal has  
19 the potential to lead to an increased and illegal  
20 trafficking of brown bear hides from endangered  
21 populations outside of Alaska.

22

23                   Also of significance and concern is the  
24 fact that the sale of brown bear or handicrafts made from  
25 brown bear fur is culturally tabu for many Native peoples  
26 in portions of Alaska.

27

28                   Adopting this proposal would also further  
29 confuse the mixture of International, Federal, State and  
30 Provincial regulations creating enforcement difficulties  
31 along with administrative and legal challenges.

32

33                   A large legal market for bear parts does  
34 exist. A particular concern for law enforcement  
35 officials is the legal sale of bear gall bladders and  
36 paws. And then there are some regulations under Park  
37 Service jurisdiction that allows selling of handicrafts  
38 which is in the proposal.

39

40                   The preliminary conclusion for this is to  
41 oppose this proposal.

42

43                   Are there any questions?

44

45                   MR. GRAY: Is there a big cry from the  
46 public out there wanting to do this or is it just this  
47 gal has come forward?

48

49                   MR. ARDIZZONE: I don't believe there's a  
50 large number of people requesting this. I think the

00019

1 proponent, you know, requested it, and she may know some  
2 people that want to do it but we haven't heard large  
3 numbers of people saying they want to do this.

4

5 MR. GRAY: Well, and what I'm wondering  
6 is, where is this cry coming from? Where is this -- is  
7 this -- I would assume this girl here is probably  
8 somebody that owns a store and wants to sell some stuff  
9 or something; is the cry coming from subsistence users or  
10 is it just some Joe-Blow with a shop?

11

12 MR. ARDIZZONE: Well, she is a  
13 subsistence user, but I'm not sure the number of people  
14 that would take advantage of this regulation if it was  
15 adopted.

16

17 MR. GRAY: Okay, and then if it is  
18 adopted, would this just be for subsistence bear hides?

19

20 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yes.

21

22 MR. GRAY: That you could only keep the  
23 skin anyway and the claws and the head go to the --  
24 whoever or is this proposal looking at doing things with  
25 the claws and so on and so forth?

26

27 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'm not overly familiar  
28 with this proposal. I believe at this time it was just  
29 for the hide and not the claws or the skull.

30

31 MR. GRAY: And the State has nothing like  
32 what she's proposing in place at this time?

33

34 MR. ARDIZZONE: Correct. The State does  
35 not allow the sale of brown bear hide for handicrafts.

36

37 MR. GRAY: Okay. Do we know anything  
38 about the polar bear skins and what can be done with the  
39 polar bear? I mean this is kind of what -- I assume that  
40 polar bear skins could be turned into ruffs and so on and  
41 so on, so do we know what can be done with those?

42

43 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'm unfamiliar with the  
44 regulations.

45

46 MR. GRAY: Is this compatible to  
47 what.....

48

49 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: What did he say, for  
50 what?

00020

1 MR. ARDIZZONE: Polar bears.

2

3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Polar bear falls under  
4 a different management.

5

6 MR. GRAY: I understand that.

7

8 MR. ARDIZZONE: I understand what you're  
9 saying but I'm unaware of the regulation for polar bear.

10

11 MR. GRAY: What I'm trying to draw out of  
12 here is, is what is in place that there may be something  
13 for subsistence crafts, handicrafts, in some game, which  
14 I think polar bear is, and maybe she's trying to copy cat  
15 into brown bear and black bear or something.

16

17 MR. ARDIZZONE: Well, currently it's  
18 allowed for black bear, the use of handicrafts from black  
19 bear.

20

21 MR. GRAY: I see.

22

23 MR. ARDIZZONE: And I think she's just  
24 trying to add brown bears to that. But there's a big  
25 difference between black bear populations and brown bear  
26 populations in the state.

27

28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The other concern is  
29 that there is a pretty good black market for brown bears,  
30 you know, because of gall bladders being sold to Asia so  
31 that's why there are big concerns.

32

33 MR. GRAY: Yeah.

34

35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And there are parts of  
36 the state where it's a problem.

37

38 MR. GRAY: Well, the thing that we need  
39 to consider here is it's just addressing the fur here.  
40 And, you know, people, that's a whole different agency,  
41 the gall bladders. But, you know, I'll let other guys  
42 ask questions.

43

44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Are there any more  
45 questions or comments regarding this proposal.

46

47 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair, I notice that  
48 this proposal is from Tok. Did they request the regional  
49 areas, you know, to consider the use of subsistence  
50 caught bear, you know, like the fur, to be considered by

00021

1 the regional areas?

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It's a statewide  
4 proposal.

5

6 MR. SEETOT: It's a statewide proposal?

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It would affect -- my  
9 understanding is it's a statewide proposal and that's why  
10 we're hearing it.

11

12 MR. GRAY: I guess I'll throw in another  
13 comment. I'm real, I guess, a little bit reserved in  
14 doing like a blanket coverage thing when it brings in the  
15 whole state of Alaska. You know, I can understand -- it  
16 would be like muskox, for example, saying you can do  
17 things with muskox skins and there may be very few muskox  
18 other places that it would be impacted.

19

20 So this statewide thing kind of concerns  
21 me, though.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Anything further from  
24 you.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Alaska Department of  
29 Fish and Game comments.

30

31 MS. PERSONS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
32 Council. The Department of Fish and Game is also opposed  
33 to the sale of brown bear parts and there is the concern  
34 that brown bears are slow to reproduce.

35

36 And if the demand -- if bear parts were  
37 legal to sell, hunting would probably be driven by the  
38 market value of the parts and there might be times when  
39 bear parts were worth virtually nothing and not many  
40 people would hunt for them. But if parts were very  
41 valuable, it might really increase hunting pressure. And  
42 there are places in the state where brown bears are very  
43 carefully managed, they're highly valued as a trophy  
44 species in some places, in other places populations are  
45 at very low densities.

46

47 So there's just concern that having  
48 commercial value to brown bear parts could depress  
49 populations in parts of the state where that was not  
50 desired.



00023

1 very low numbers?

2

3

4 MS. PERSONS: Yeah. In some other  
5 places, now, say up in the Kobuk River Valley, in Unit  
6 23, there's a very high take for subsistence. People  
7 tend to go out and get their brown bear in the fall just  
8 the way people go out and get a moose. But it's just,  
9 you know, not the case in Unit 22.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any questions or  
11 comments for Kate.

12

13 MR. GRAY: I guess one last thing. You  
14 know, we're considering this using parts, bear parts as a  
15 part of subsistence, has this Board set some ball park  
16 parameters as far as what we consider subsistence?

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Explain your question  
19 again? I'm not clear.

20

21 MR. GRAY: Well, I guess in my eyes,  
22 subsistence to me is I go out and I get food and I put it  
23 on the table. Now, if we're going to change that or if,  
24 in another part of the world, subsistence is go out and  
25 shoot an animal and create something and sell it and put  
26 food on the table, I mean that's a different type of  
27 subsistence than I'm used to. And, you know, this Board,  
28 we're a subsistence Board we should have some parameters  
29 or whatever to justify decisions that we make here.

30

31 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, Jake Olanna.  
32 As Kate mentioned earlier, the brown bears in this region  
33 are currently harvested by the Brown Bear Management Plan  
34 in subsistence and the plan is specific on what you do  
35 with the hide and the claws. Basically in that proposal,  
36 I drafted that proposal as a matter of fact, when I  
37 worked for Kawerak. And the only reason the region being  
38 included in 23 Brown Bear Management plan was because, I  
39 don't know if anybody's here from Shishmaref, but up  
40 there in Shishmaref, we -- I don't know how much they do  
41 it now because I've been living here in Nome, but every  
42 year my father used to go out and hunt brown bear in the  
43 springtime and it was for the meat and the gall bladder  
44 because he was one of those traditional healers. And the  
45 hides we would generally dry it and he'd never consider  
46 selling it or anything, but it was good cloth for out in  
47 the country.

48

49 But I don't know, this proposal, I  
50 wouldn't support it. Because, you know, that's not the

00024

1 reason why we subsistence harvest bears, it's for the  
2 meat that I'm aware of.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Jake. Any  
7 further comments from the RAC members.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Other agency comments.  
12 Anything from Kawerak.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any other agency  
17 comments.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Inter-Agency Staff.

22

23 MR. BUCK: Grace, I'd just like to say  
24 that with the concerns of the bear population I support  
25 any proposal that will help the decline of the bear  
26 population for this reason, for my concerns.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Inter-  
29 Agency Staff Committee.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. Fish and Game  
34 Advisory Comments. I think they're all in Anchorage,  
35 aren't they -- yes.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Summary of written  
40 comments, Barb.

41

42 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair, there  
43 are no written comments.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any public testimony.

48

49 (No comments)

50



00025

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I don't see any  
2 requests for one. So we're now down to Regional Council  
3 deliberation, recommendation and justification.

4  
5 Jake.

6  
7 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, you heard my  
8 comments on this proposal so in keeping with the State  
9 current policies, I mean, procedures, I would -- I would  
10 propose non-support.

11  
12 Thank you.

13  
14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I go for non-support  
15 also. I think these are kind of the things that should  
16 not be a statewide coverage, namely because there may --  
17 like -- as testified before, there are some areas of our  
18 state that are low. The grizzly bear numbers are low and  
19 then there's parts of our state where the grizzly bear  
20 number is huge. So something like a blanket cover, I  
21 don't think would work very well in the state. I think  
22 it should be more like a regionalized proposal.

23  
24 It should be a proposal that is not  
25 statewide. I think I would be more inclined to support a  
26 proposal that would be for a specific region, then we  
27 would know what the number of the bears are and what they  
28 utilize the bears for and whether or not, you know, some  
29 of the items are -- they could make items that would be  
30 sellable for under customary and trade use. But at this  
31 point I would not -- I don't think I would support a  
32 statewide coverage of such a proposal.

33  
34 MR. SAVETILIK: Madame Chair.

35  
36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Myron.

37  
38 MR. SAVETILIK: Myron Savetilik. As you  
39 stated earlier, I know for our hide, you know, we -- for  
40 different regions they've always come up with proposals  
41 and I don't think being statewide I wouldn't support it  
42 either because we're from a district and usually if we  
43 get a proposal it's for our area.

44  
45 I don't think that it would be  
46 appropriate for this proposal to pass, too.

47  
48 Thanks.

49  
50 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair.

00026

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Leonard.

2

3 MR. KOBUK: That's exactly how I feel. I  
4 kind of -- since this proposal is from another region,  
5 it'd be very difficult for me to support or decline this  
6 proposal. And that's just my feeling.

7

8 \*\*: I highly oppose this proposal for  
9 traditional reasons. I don't like to see anything being  
10 sold or gain anything from -- on this proposal, like bear  
11 parts or anything. It sounds like greed or something for  
12 -- I don't know, that's all I have.

13

14 I oppose this proposal.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think I want to add  
17 one more comment, too, is we know that there are Alaska  
18 Native tribes that view a grizzly bear a little bit  
19 different than we do up here and I think that in not  
20 knowing -- if we supported this proposal without getting  
21 any input from the areas of the state where this practice  
22 would be considered culturally objectionable, I don't  
23 think it would be wise for our committee to support  
24 something we're not exactly sure as to why selling of  
25 bear parts would be culturally unacceptable to some parts  
26 of our Alaska Native culture. And I do believe this is a  
27 situation in, maybe the Interior, I'm not sure where  
28 because I'm not that familiar with the relationship of  
29 theirs with some of the other tribes.

30

31 But I think we should also keep that in  
32 mind and I just feel really uncomfortable supporting  
33 something that may be culturally unacceptable in another  
34 Alaska Native tribe.

35

36 MR. GRAY\*\*: I think Jake and Grace kind  
37 of hit it on the head, you know, a lot of what happens in  
38 subsistence comes from culture. Comes from our roots.  
39 And if money and financing is going to change that way of  
40 life that's not a good thing.

41

42 Like I said earlier, you know,  
43 subsistence to me is putting something on the table for  
44 my family to eat and when we weigh these issues, that's  
45 going to be the baseline for my vote. You know, anybody  
46 can make money, money is easy to get. So I also oppose  
47 this thing. But like I say, it's got to be individually  
48 weighed around the state on issues. And a good example  
49 is polar bear skins. Tradition has showed in the past  
50 that polar bear skins, when you go back in the history of

00027

1 the Eskimos, that was a bartering system, that was  
2 something they used. So in what a culture has done in  
3 the past should weigh heavy on where we're going to make  
4 our decisions.

5  
6 So anyway, that's my thoughts.

7  
8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any more comments.

9  
10 \*\*: Madame Chair, I'm in opposition to  
11 this and simply because we haven't really used it. I've  
12 been here 27 years and I haven't seen many garments or  
13 anything made out of bear skin while I've been here. And  
14 to make it a statewide proposal, I think it infringes on  
15 all of us. It should be limited to that area and those  
16 people should probably voice their concerns for that  
17 region and it be limited to that, possibly, the statewide  
18 is a little much.

19  
20 And, that's all I have.

21  
22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Anything  
23 further.

24  
25 (No comments)

26  
27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I'll entertain a  
28 motion then. Go ahead.

29  
30 MR. GRAY: I move we oppose it.

31  
32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion on  
33 the floor to oppose WP04-01. All those in favor signify  
34 by stating aye.

35  
36 MR. OLANNA: I second that motion, Madame  
37 Chair.

38  
39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm  
40 kind of rushing, I'm sorry. There's a motion on the  
41 floor and it's been seconded by Jake, the motion was made  
42 by Tom. Is there a question.

43  
44 \*\*: Question.

45  
46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those in favor  
47 signify by stating aye.

48  
49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

00028

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,  
2 same sign.

3  
4 (No opposing votes)

5  
6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. Okay,  
7 we'll get this straight after awhile.

8  
9 There's also an addition to our proposals  
10 which Barb just gave me and that's WP04-02, are they in  
11 our packets, Barb?

12  
13 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (Nods affirmatively)

14  
15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It's Wildlife Proposal  
16 WP04-02 submitted by Bristol Bay Federal Subsistence  
17 Advisory Council, and it's a cross-over proposal, it will  
18 affect Units 9(B), Unit 17 and 18(B), and I figure we can  
19 stick that under the last 04-52, general regulations,  
20 cross-over. Chuck, should we just stick it right  
21 underneath our other cross-over?

22  
23 MR. ARDIZZONE: (Nods affirmatively)

24  
25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, so we'll deal  
26 with that. It will give everybody an opportunity to  
27 review it if you have not reviewed it. It'll be right  
28 after 04-52.

29  
30 Okay, we'll move on to 04-69, Chuck,  
31 ceremonial take in Unit 22.

32  
33 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair, Chuck  
34 Ardizzone again. Proposal 04-69 was submitted by the  
35 Native Village of Wales and requests that the harvest  
36 dates for moose and muskoxen taken for their Dance  
37 Festival be changed from November 15th through December  
38 31st to January 1 through March 15th.

39  
40 This request is identical to the  
41 temporary special action request recently approved by the  
42 Federal Subsistence Board in October 2003. The temporary  
43 action which is currently in place will expire on the  
44 15th of March.

45  
46 The proponent is requesting a change in  
47 the timing of the moose and muskox harvest season and to  
48 lengthen the season by 28 days. This proposal would  
49 allow the Native Village of Wales to take bull moose and  
50 a muskox during optimal winter traveling conditions.

00029

1 There's generally more snow cover at this time of the  
2 year and increased daylight hours would make it safer for  
3 the hunter.

4

5                   The only village that this proposal would  
6 affect would be the Native Village of Wales.

7

8                   I already talked about some recent  
9 regulatory history. We've gone through this several times  
10 already with special actions and this change would make  
11 those special action changes permanent in the permanent  
12 regulations.

13

14                   An aerial census conducted in March of  
15 2000 showed that there was 461 muskox in Unit 22(E) and  
16 in March 2002 an aerial survey was conducted and based on  
17 those numbers there's an estimated 632 muskox in Unit  
18 22(E) so the population has increased.

19

20                   In March 2003 based on a moose census  
21 conducted in Unit 22(E) there has been a reversal in the  
22 long trend of declining moose numbers and low recruitment  
23 rates in Unit 22(E). The 2003 census used a -- well, the  
24 2003 census yielded an estimated of 504 moose in the  
25 unit. Based on the census there's an estimated 23 calves  
26 per 100 cows, and a recruitment rate of 19 percent, which  
27 is a significant increase from the 2000 population  
28 estimate of 152 moose and a recruitment rate of eight  
29 percent.

30

31                   I'm going to keep this brief since this  
32 has been hashed over several times already.

33

34                   Harvest for muskox in the Unit, there was  
35 27 muskox harvested in 2002, nine of which were cows and  
36 since 1994, for moose, there's been an average of 16  
37 moose per year harvested in the unit and 95 percent of  
38 those are reported taken by Unit 22(E) residents.

39

40                   I'll skip right to the effects of the  
41 proposal. If this proposal is adopted it will have  
42 minimal effects on the muskox herd in 22(E) as any  
43 harvest would be by permit, it would count against an  
44 established quota for the area. The change in the season  
45 would benefit the Native Village of Wales as residents  
46 have had difficulties harvesting muskox in past seasons  
47 due to a number of a factors, including short daylight  
48 hours and availability for hunting in November and  
49 December, and poor access due to weather conditions.

50

00030

1                   For moose, it would also have little  
2 effect on the overall moose population in 22. There's  
3 currently no harvest quota for moose in Unit 22(E),  
4 however, if one is established in the future this harvest  
5 would also count against that quota. There is some  
6 concern about cow harvest, but if great care is taken to  
7 assure only a bull moose is harvested, there should be  
8 little effect on the moose population.

9  
10                   And basically the preliminary conclusion  
11 would be to support this proposal.

12  
13                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Any  
14 comments or questions.

15  
16                   MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair, I got kind of  
17 confused. Is this muskox or is this moose or both?

18  
19                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It's both.

20  
21                   MR. GRAY: Is this a regulation of -- is  
22 it an issuing of a permit or is this a regulation that's  
23 going to be regulation in a regulation book or what is  
24 it?

25  
26                   MR. ARDIZZONE: This is currently in  
27 regulation already, it's just we're trying to change the  
28 dates because the Native Village of Wales has had a  
29 difficult time fulfilling their quota of one muskox and  
30 one moose. They just want to shift it later so that they  
31 have better access. So they're already allowed to do  
32 this, it's just changing the timing.

33  
34                   MR. GRAY: Has there been other issues,  
35 like other organizations -- the first thing that came to  
36 my mind is what happens if some Native organization in  
37 Anchorage says, hey, you're doing this for Wales, I want  
38 to have a potluck, I have a justification, you do for  
39 these guys, you got to do for somebody else. There seems  
40 like there could be a problem here.

41  
42                   MR. ARDIZZONE: That could happen. They  
43 would have to submit -- here, I'll let Helen talk to  
44 that.

45  
46                   MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It couldn't happen in  
47 Anchorage because Anchorage is not a rural community but  
48 it has happened elsewhere statewide, where, like, for  
49 example, Kaktovik asked for a ceremonial moose recently.  
50 There are ceremonial animals taken and it is allowed

00031

1 under our regulations. It's one thing that the Federal  
2 government does do. But you wouldn't have it in  
3 Anchorage.

4

5 MR. GRAY: Well, yeah, I guess if people  
6 are smart around the state and somebody wants to shoot a  
7 muskox in some community, they could force this issue and  
8 boom, bang, we got a lot of outsiders coming in to shoot  
9 animals and that wasn't the intent to begin with.

10

11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: In order to be able to  
12 do it, they'd have to first have customary and  
13 traditional use determinations made, so it couldn't be  
14 anybody from outside that area, it would only be the  
15 communities that were allowed to take it.

16

17 MR. GRAY: So it would have to come  
18 within Unit 22 or 23 then?

19

20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well.....

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: 22(E) only.

23

24 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: .....actually -- yeah.  
25 Actually, right now for Wales it's only 22(E).

26

27 MR. GRAY: Okay.

28

29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So that's what this  
30 C&T determination is so there is a safeguard there. It's  
31 a good question.

32

33 MR. GRAY: Yeah.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It's already in the  
36 regulations, they're just changing the dates because the  
37 time that they're trying to hunt is not the best time of  
38 the year for them. There was a special action that  
39 passed that changed their hunting period and I don't know  
40 if any of you -- many of you have seen this, it's  
41 subsistence wildlife harvest in four communities in  
42 Western Seward Peninsula for 2000 to 2001 and that's done  
43 by ADF&G and Kawerak, and there's moose harvest by sex  
44 and month for four Seward Peninsula communities that was  
45 done in the years 2000 to 2001, and if you go to Wales,  
46 there was one moose harvested in December, there was one  
47 moose harvested in February, but 11 in March. So they're  
48 predominately -- they're just trying to move that hunt  
49 for that one moose in the time that they could -- they're  
50 able to do it.

00032

1 Jake.

2

3 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair. Tom, having  
4 worked with Wales in the past on this issue, it's  
5 something that I experienced last year living in  
6 Shishmaref that there is a lot of people and the reason  
7 why they requested this particular extension was because  
8 the conditions up there are variable every year, you  
9 know, it depends on how much snow we get and how far the  
10 animals are. So having dealt with this issue before,  
11 having helped Wales get this proposal passed, I would  
12 support this proposal wholeheartedly.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair. Leonard.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Leonard.

19

20 MR. OLANNA: I would support this  
21 proposal, too.

22

23 MR. GRAY: Okay. And, you know, I'm not  
24 opposed to it. I support this issue, and I can  
25 sympathize with the dates because ever since this muskox  
26 thing has been happening, my family has shot a muskox  
27 every year. And we normally go the first week of March  
28 to do this because of the sunlight and the conditions, so  
29 I support it.

30

31 But the concern that I had was I don't  
32 want to see competition coming in and tapping our  
33 resource here from other parts of the state.

34

35 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, Jake Olanna.  
36 Tom, this proposal is specific only to Wales, and  
37 Shishmaref doesn't have a festival or anything because  
38 they all go to Wales. And since this is only for an  
39 area, I don't think we should worry about the other state  
40 getting on the bandwagon. But it's a practice that has  
41 been going on for generations, from my history, in Wales,  
42 there's always been a spring carnival there or some kind  
43 of festival. So it's something that is specific to Wales  
44 and Unit 22(E).

45

46 MR. GRAY: I would like to hear from the  
47 State on moose, what their concerns are, are you  
48 supporting this or where are we at with that?

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We're going to move



00033

1 along. I guess I was going to be calling the State on  
2 this.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MR. GRAY: I'm sorry.

7

8 MS. PERSONS: Thank you. The State does  
9 support this proposal. We supported the special action  
10 that changed the dates and we support putting the date  
11 change into permanent regulations and don't see this as a  
12 threat to either the moose or muskox population in Unit  
13 22(E).

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And, Kate, then that  
16 one moose would be counted as part of the quota?

17

18 MS. PERSONS: The one muskox.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, the one muskox.

21

22 MS. PERSONS: There's no quota for moose,  
23 currently.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Do we have other  
26 agency comments. Ken Adkisson, Park Service.

27

28 MR. ADKISSON: Yes, Madame Chair, Council  
29 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. Western  
30 Arctic National Park lands is the primary Federal land  
31 manager in Unit 22(E). In fact, the Park up there,  
32 Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, from where these  
33 animals would essentially come from comprises roughly  
34 50 percent of the subunit.

35

36 This proposal does not pose any  
37 biological problems. And adjusting the season would  
38 improve hunting opportunities and also the timing would  
39 be more compatible with the timing of the annual  
40 festival. So we fully support the proposal.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ken. Any  
45 other agency comments.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Inter-Agency Staff  
50 Committee.

00034

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Fish and Game Advisory  
4 Committee comments.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I don't see anybody  
9 from there, I guess they're in Anchorage. Summary of  
10 written public comments, Barb.

11

12 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair, there  
13 aren't any written comments. Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any public testimony.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So we'll move on down  
20 to Regional Council deliberation, recommendation and  
21 justification.

22

23 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, I see Tom  
24 Gray's here now and we've tackled this issue before,  
25 welcome aboard Tom. I was late this morning and  
26 yesterday I missed a meeting.

27

28 I would entertain a motion to accept the  
29 proposal as written.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MR. SAVETILIK: Madame Chair, I second  
34 that motion.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, there's a motion  
37 on the floor, seconded by Myron Savetilik to support the  
38 proposal. All those in favor of supporting the proposal  
39 signify by stating aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All opposed, same  
44 sign.

45

46 (No opposing votes)

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. And  
49 at this time I'll ask for a how many minute break do we  
50 want -- 10 minute break -- 10 minute break it is.

00035

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Let's get seated  
6 again, we're going to start in a few minutes. I'm going  
7 to call the meeting back to order, it is now 10:00  
8 o'clock, we had our 10 minutes of whatever we did in that  
9 10 minutes. And we'll move on along to Proposal 04-70,  
10 Unit 22 moose. Chuck.

11

12 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair, Chuck  
13 Ardizzone again. WP04-70 was submitted by Grace Cross,  
14 Chair of this Council and requests the following in Unit  
15 22(A).

16

17 1. To change the harvest from one  
18 bull to one antlered moose.

19

20 2. To shorten the moose season by 14  
21 days in some portions of the  
22 subunit.

23

24 3. To eliminate the winter season in  
25 some portions of the subunit.

26

27 4. To close the Federal public lands  
28 for moose hunting except by Unit  
29 22(A) residents during the entire  
30 harvest season.

31

32 This proposal is very similar to the  
33 special action that was discussed earlier in the day and  
34 was adopted, the special action which was adopted in  
35 December of 2003.

36

37 The proponent requests that the harvest  
38 limits for moose be changed to eliminate the winter  
39 harvest, and this is based on recent BLM and ADF&G moose  
40 surveys, which show a drastic reduction in the moose  
41 population. Kate was kind enough to provide a new map,  
42 which shows the areas much better than the map in our  
43 book.

44

45 Customary and traditional use. All rural  
46 residents of Unit 22 have a customary and traditional use  
47 determination for moose in Unit 22(A) thus all residents  
48 of Unit 22 are affected by this proposal. The winter  
49 season, December 1st through January 31st is limited to  
50 residents of Unit 22(A). Table 1 in your book provides a

00036

1 population estimate for communities that have a positive  
2 C&T use determination for moose in Unit 22(A).

3

4 To go over a little bit of recent  
5 regulatory history. In November 2003, the Board of Game  
6 made a number of changes to the regulations in Unit  
7 22(A). These changes included changing the description  
8 of the hunt areas, changes to the bag limit and open  
9 seasons for moose. The State season in the Unalakleet  
10 drainage area was shortened by five days to September  
11 25th. In November 2003 the State issued an emergency  
12 order shortening the moose season to 1 December through  
13 December 31st, and the bag limit from one bull to one  
14 antlered bull in the portion of 22(A) in the Golsovia  
15 River drainage and south and closing the winter season  
16 north of the Golsovia River drainage. In November 2003,  
17 Wildlife Special Action 03-14 was submitted by Grace  
18 Cross requesting the following changes to the moose  
19 season in Unit 22(A).

20

21 1. Unit 22(A) north of the Golsovia  
22 River drainage close the winter  
23 season.

24

25 2. Unit 22(A) remainder, the  
26 Golsovia River drainage and  
27 south, change the harvest from  
28 one bull to one antlered bull and  
29 shorten the season by 31 days.

30

31 In December 2003 Special Action WSA03-14  
32 was adopted by the Federal Subsistence Board.

33

34 Some biological background. For the  
35 first time since 1989 a moose census of the Unalakleet  
36 River drainage in Unit 22(A) was completed in March of  
37 2003. In previous years they were partially completed  
38 census in 1989 and there was one that was cancelled in  
39 1994. In 2000 a census was scheduled in Unit 22 but was  
40 cancelled due to poor weather and deteriorated snow  
41 conditions. Instead recruitment surveys of the major  
42 river drainages in Unit 22(A) were completed in March of  
43 2000. The 2003 estimate for Unalakleet River drainage  
44 was 75 moose and the calf/adult ratio was 15 calves to  
45 100 adults.

46

47 Based on a subjective evaluation of the  
48 results in the 1989 and 1994 census, moose density was  
49 probably stable between '89 and '94. The change from '94  
50 to 2003 is the cause for concern. It appears that there

00037

1 has been a substantial decline in moose numbers in the  
2 Unalakleet drainage.

3

4                   Following the census in 2003, recruitment  
5 surveys were flown in the Golsovia River drainage and on  
6 the main stems of the Unalakleet, Shaktoolik, Ungalik  
7 River drainages for comparison to similar surveys that  
8 were conducted in 2000. In every drainage except the  
9 Golsovia, considerably fewer moose were seen in 2003 than  
10 in 2000. And if you look at Table 2 you can see the  
11 numbers.

12

13                   Based on low numbers of moose in the  
14 Unalakleet River drainage and small numbers of moose  
15 found in recruitment surveys the Unit 22(A) moose  
16 population is substantially below the management goal of  
17 600 to 800 moose. In recent years the State Advisory  
18 Committee members from Unit 22(A) and other Unit 22(A)  
19 residents have commented that moose numbers seem to be  
20 declining and have mentioned the absence of calves and  
21 yearlings.

22

23                   Based on survey data, the population is  
24 very low and declining. The low and declining moose  
25 population warrants further closing of Federal public  
26 lands during the winter season in the area north of the  
27 Golsovia River drainage.

28

29                   And at this time Helen is going to cover  
30 some of the harvest history information.

31

32                   MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Madame  
33 Chair. Members of the Council. My name is Helen  
34 Armstrong and Chuck and I are doing a team effort on this  
35 one because of the .804 analysis that we're going to get  
36 to in a minute.

37

38                   The harvest data that we have was  
39 collected by ADF&G and Kawerak in 1999/2000 for  
40 Unalakleet and Stebbins and then in 2003, for Shaktoolik.  
41 Most of the Shaktoolik harvest occurs in August and  
42 there's a village harvest of 14 moose. Before 1999,  
43 there wasn't a whole lot of non-resident harvest in the  
44 area but in the last four years the non-harvest hunting  
45 activity has increased. In Unalakleet in 2002 there was a  
46 harvest survey done and there were 15 moose taken, 81  
47 percent of that harvest was in September. St. Michael  
48 and Stebbins in 22(A) south, they had a harvest in 2002  
49 of 20 moose and winter is the preferred harvest period  
50 because of access to moose habitat in the area is

00038

1 difficult before freeze-up. The harvest during the fall  
2 season is quite low.

3

4 Harvest outside of 22(A) by other Unit 22  
5 residents, this was taken from the ADF&G harvest database  
6 and it's actually known to be not probably particularly  
7 accurate except for maybe Nome because there is under  
8 reporting, but you can get a relative idea of where moose  
9 are taken. From 1980 to 2000, this is non-unit 22(A)  
10 residents, so other residents of Unit 22, they took 354  
11 moose in that time period and in that time period, only  
12 two communities reported taking moose in Unit 22(A) and  
13 that was Golovin -- or getting permits was Golovin and  
14 Nome. Golovin didn't take any moose. Nome only has  
15 recorded harvest of four moose between 1980 and 2000 in  
16 Unit 22(A), and that's out of a recorded harvest of  
17 2,451. So even if there's under reporting, we know that  
18 the relative importance of Nome getting moose in 22(A) is  
19 very, very small.

20

21 Outside of Unit 22, there were 72 moose  
22 taken from 1980 to 2000 so the number is relatively low.  
23 Of those 72, 25 were from out of the state and 30 were  
24 Alaskan residents from outside of Unit 22. So, again,  
25 only 25 from out of the state and 30 from other Alaskan  
26 residents. Most of the non-resident harvest occurs in the  
27 Golsovia drainage where currently there is little harvest  
28 by 22(A) residents. However, there's an expectation that  
29 Unalakleet residents might shift some hunting activity to  
30 this area if other areas are shut down.

31

32 This is a case where we're doing a  
33 Section .804 analysis, and we talked a little bit about  
34 that yesterday in the training. We haven't done very  
35 many of these around the state but you have done one in  
36 this area prior to this or a couple, I think.

37

38 We do a Section .804 whenever there is a  
39 shortage of a resource and you want to then limit who can  
40 hunt a resource, a subsistence user within the existing  
41 customary and traditional use determination. The first  
42 thing you would do is look at all of the users and you  
43 might, you know, choose to not allow any non-resident  
44 hunting. After that you start looking at then the users  
45 within the area.

46

47 You have to look at three factors when  
48 you do a Section .804 analysis; customary and direct  
49 dependence upon the populations as a mainstay of  
50 livelihood, the local residency, proximity to the

00039

1 resource, and availability of alternative resources.

2

3                   So when we looked at the customary and  
4 direct dependence upon the populations as a mainstay of  
5 livelihood, based on the harvest information I just  
6 cited, Shaktoolik, St. Michael, Stebbins and Unalakleet  
7 are dependent upon Unit 22(A) moose. Nome does get some  
8 moose but based on the fact that they get a few thousand  
9 more than what they get in a -- a couple thousand more  
10 than what they get in 22(A), I concluded that they're not  
11 dependent on 22(A) moose. And as far as I know from the  
12 harvest database nor are any of the other communities in  
13 Unit 22, 22(B), (C), (D) and (E). And if the Council has  
14 other information contrary to that, you know, I certainly  
15 appreciate you letting me know because we do know that  
16 the harvests are under reported. So if you know of a  
17 community outside of 22(A) that depends on 22(A) moose,  
18 you know, that would be good to hear that.

19

20                   Local residency proximity to the  
21 resource. Stebbins, St. Michael, Shaktoolik, and  
22 Unalakleet are all in Unit 22(A) and they are all in  
23 proximity to the resource. Nome is not in proximity to  
24 the resource, and although they take moose, they're a  
25 long distance away to take moose in Unit 22(A).

26

27                   Availability of alternative resources.  
28 Stebbins, St. Michael, Unalakleet, and Shaktoolik are all  
29 subsistence-based communities on a heavy reliance on  
30 subsistence resources. Moose are important in that they  
31 provide an alternate source of fresh meat. There are  
32 other resources to eat, but as you all know the variety  
33 of resources are good to have.

34

35                   So in conclusion the Section .804  
36 analysis says that Stebbins, St. Michael, Shaktoolik and  
37 Unalakleet are the communities who should be allowed to  
38 take moose in Unit 22(A).

39

40                   Go ahead. That's not the conclusion to  
41 the analysis, that's the conclusion to the Section .804  
42 analysis. Do you want me to do that, too?

43

44                   MR. ARDIZZONE: I can do it.

45

46                   MS. H. ARMSTRONG: You do it.

47

48                   MR. ARDIZZONE: Okay, now we'll go over  
49 the effects of the proposal.

50

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1                   This proposal is more restrictive than  
2 the current regulation and would shorten the harvest  
3 season by 14 days in some areas, would eliminate the  
4 winter season in some parts of 22(A) and it would only  
5 allow residents of 22(A) to harvest moose in 22(A) for  
6 both fall and winter seasons, thus, reducing the  
7 opportunities for Federally-qualified subsistence users  
8 in the remainder of Unit 22 to harvest moose.

9  
10                   Presently only the winter season is  
11 limited to Unit 22(A) residents. The fall season is open  
12 to all residents of Unit 22.

13  
14                   The area north of the Golsovia River  
15 drainage is proposed to be closed during the winter.  
16 Closing the winter season in this area would affect  
17 Shaktoolik, Unalakleet residents. Most of the harvest is  
18 believed to be in August and September, thus closing the  
19 winter season would have some impact but the majority of  
20 their harvest are in the fall so the effect would be  
21 lessened. Stebbins and St. Michaels do not hunt in the  
22 winter and their winter season is already closed.

23  
24                   Is that correct? That's not correct.  
25 No, that's not correct. Sorry about that, that's  
26 incorrect.

27  
28                   Okay, excuse me, they hunt in the winter  
29 but they would not be affected by the winter closure  
30 north of the Golsovia River drainage.

31  
32                   The moose population in Unit 22(A) has  
33 been declining and shortening the season in specific  
34 drainages and limiting the hunters for both the fall and  
35 winter seasons to individuals that live in 22(A) would  
36 help eliminate some of the hunting pressure on moose in  
37 the area hopefully allowing the population in the unit to  
38 increase.

39  
40                   Restricting harvest to bull only hunt as  
41 well as other restrictions are necessary to help the  
42 moose population recover.

43  
44                   Restricting the harvest to antlered bull  
45 only hunt will eliminate the possible harvest of cows  
46 which are vital for the recovery of the population.

47  
48                   And then the .804 analysis was already  
49 discussed by Helen. So the preliminary conclusion would  
50 be to support this proposal with modification to change



00041

1 the one antlered moose to one bull during the fall  
2 season, and to shorten the harvest season in 22(A), that  
3 portion of the Unalakleet drainage and all drainages  
4 flowing into Norton Sound north of the Golsovia drainage  
5 and south of the Tag and Shaktoolik River drainages by  
6 five days to September 25th.

7

8 Are there any questions.

9

10 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair, I just  
11 wanted to add one comment, actually, from the effects of  
12 the proposal.

13

14 There was discussion in our office about  
15 whether or not if we eliminated or if we only allowed  
16 people in Unit 22(A) to hunt in Unit 22(A), that if this  
17 would cause a problem for people, say, from Nome or any  
18 other villages who might be visiting in 22(A), if they  
19 wanted to go hunting. And I know a number of years ago  
20 we had this exact discussion about, I think, in that case  
21 it was people going from St. Lawrence Island over to  
22 22(A), but we wanted to hear from the Council to make  
23 sure that this wasn't going to be a hardship on people  
24 because we don't really want to make people illegal so  
25 that if they do go to visit relatives in 22(A) and go  
26 hunting, they would no longer have the right to take a  
27 moose and so we wanted to make sure that the Council was  
28 aware of that. Because we don't really want to make  
29 people into criminals, I guess.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair, Leonard.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Go ahead, Leonard.

36

37 MR. KOBUK: St. Michael, some residents  
38 were concerned about the proposal, but when I explained  
39 it to them, that -- because there are a few that do the  
40 moose hunting in fall time right across St. Michael.  
41 They bring their Honda's along in a boat and go get their  
42 moose. But some of the people like to do their hunting  
43 in winter when it's safe and it's easier to get to the  
44 moose.

45

46 As you all know caribou hasn't been  
47 coming for, what, four or five years now except for, like  
48 I said, just a few showed up and whatever showed up was  
49 already all taken. When I explained to the residents and  
50 when I read the proposal I told them that it would just

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1 be open to the residents of St. Michael and Stebbins for  
2 a winter hunt only and they seemed to agree with that and  
3 that's what I would support just for the residents of  
4 those two villages. That hunt south of Golsovia. And  
5 they also hunt in -- down towards Romanof Point in the  
6 Yukon-Delta Refuge but they don't go beyond that red line  
7 that's dotted.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: If there's no more  
10 comments, Alaska Department of Fish and  
11 Game comments.

12

13 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair, excuse me.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Leonard.

16

17 MR. KOBUK: I also forgot to mention that  
18 some residents do harvest moose whenever they run into  
19 one and I know it's not recorded but it is happening.  
20 Because like I said, since the caribou quit coming  
21 around, they do it for their family because their family  
22 needs the meat. As you all know, buying meat in the  
23 store is getting mighty expensive now.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Kate.

26

27 MS. PERSONS: Thank you. Kate Persons,  
28 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

29

30 Since 2000, the Department has increased  
31 our focus on Unit 22(A) and this last spring, for the  
32 first time, were able to complete a census of the entire  
33 Unalakleet drainage and we've done a number of  
34 recruitment and composition surveys in 22(A) and our  
35 conclusions from all these surveys is that there is a  
36 serious decline in the moose population, particularly in  
37 the portion of Unit 22(A) north of the Golsovia River  
38 drainage, but throughout Unit 22(A) the density of moose  
39 just seems to be very, very low. When you consider hours  
40 flown on these surveys to the number of moose seen it's  
41 just -- even when you compare it to Unit 22(B), where  
42 there's a much more closely monitored situation and well  
43 documented decline since 1990, I mean, they've got just  
44 moose coming out their ears compared to what we see in  
45 22(A).

46

47 And so the Department is really, you  
48 know, concerned. We feel that harvest does need to be  
49 reduced. And we worked with all of the villages,  
50 meetings were held in all of the villages in Unit 22(A)

00043

1 and several meetings were held in Unalakleet with the  
2 Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee and we really,  
3 you know, encouraged wide spread participation in the  
4 process, you know, to come up with a solution. And the  
5 proposal before you is very close to what the Southern  
6 Norton Sound Advisory Committee came up with.

7  
8                   They come up with that recommendation in  
9 August and the Department and BLM promised to fly fall  
10 composition surveys to look at how numbers of moose  
11 compare in the fall time to winter, because one of the  
12 concerns that people expressed was that our winter  
13 censuses and surveys don't reflect the number of moose in  
14 the fall and, you know, I'd have to agree with that.  
15 There certainly were more moose -- I mean we counted more  
16 than 75 moose in the Unalakleet drainage when we did our  
17 fall composition survey. But nonetheless, the density of  
18 moose was still very, very low.

19  
20                   And so as a result of that, at the Board  
21 meeting, the Department actually recommended a much  
22 shortened season in the Unalakleet drainage from what you  
23 see here. But the Board felt it was important to  
24 basically go along with the recommendations from the  
25 villages and the one -- well, they made a couple changes.

26  
27                   One thing is they did take five days off  
28 the September season so that it would end the 25th of  
29 September, rather than the 30th, which was what the  
30 Advisory Committee had originally proposed. And in the  
31 Golsovia drainage and areas to the west, they did not  
32 agree with closing the non-resident season and they have  
33 left a month there for non-residents to hunt, the month  
34 of September.

35  
36                   Anyway, the proposal that's before you,  
37 the Department supports and we feel that it is really  
38 important for the conservation of the resource that the  
39 seasons on State and Federal lands are as close together  
40 as they can be.

41  
42                   Thank you.

43  
44                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Questions for Kate.

45  
46                   MR. GRAY: Madame Chair. The numbers  
47 that you flew and surveyed, how much difference was there  
48 in the numbers that you thought you had when you put  
49 these proposals in to change where the Board and the  
50 actual numbers that they came up with last fall?

00044

1 Do you understand what I'm after?

2

3 MS. PERSONS: Maybe.

4

5 MR. GRAY: Well, let me.....

6

7 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, when we did our.....

8

9 MR. GRAY: .....well, let me.....

10

11 MS. PERSONS: .....when we did our  
12 census.....

13

14 MR. GRAY: Let me.....

15

16 MS. PERSONS: Okay.

17

18 MR. GRAY: Let me put it this way.

19 You're going to hear this time and time again, we need to  
20 manage the resource, manage the resource.

21

22 Now, I've heard different stories of  
23 Golsovia and the movements of moose in that area and I'm  
24 a little bit curious as to what you have -- you have  
25 numbers here somewhere that say 70 animals or 100  
26 animals, or whatever it is, was there 500 animals when  
27 you did this last survey, was there a dramatic  
28 difference? And a good example, as the caribou herd, the  
29 Northwest Arctic Herd moves hundreds of miles, and at one  
30 time of year there's nothing there and another time of  
31 year there's thousands of animals there, so is this  
32 happening in this area?

33

34 Anyway, I'll stop there.

35

36 MS. PERSONS: Okay, I'm with you now.

37 First of all, if you look at that map, the census was  
38 only conducted in this middle portion, it didn't include  
39 the Golsovia drainage. And so that number of 75 doesn't  
40 have anything to do with the Golsovia drainage, it only  
41 pertains to the central part of Unit 22(A). And our  
42 census estimate was 75 moose. In the fall, when we did  
43 composition surveys, we weren't trying to determine how  
44 many moose were in the Unalakleet drainage, but in 27  
45 hours of flying with two airplanes, we saw 78 moose, I  
46 believe, but we only flew a portion of the habitat. We  
47 didn't look everywhere, and so clearly we didn't see  
48 every moose even in the areas where we looked, but,  
49 clearly, there were more than 75 moose in the Unalakleet  
50 drainage. And in every moose population, you know, radio

00045

1 collar studies show that a portion of the population is  
2 resident and they move very little distance between  
3 winter and summer ranges, and then another portion of the  
4 population is migratory and they might move a hundred  
5 miles away to winter some place different from where they  
6 summer, and then sometimes they'll take a hundred mile  
7 migration, have a calf and go right back to where they  
8 were. So, you know, moose do a lot of different things.  
9

10 But we're really concerned about, first  
11 of all, the resident population in these northern  
12 drainages, which is what our census shows are declining.  
13 And we know from talking with the biologists that survey  
14 on the Yukon River, where these moose presumably migrate  
15 to, perhaps to winter on the Yukon, that there's concern  
16 over there, too.

17  
18 And the situation is different down in  
19 Golsovia, that's a whole different thing. But we're  
20 concerned there about a very low density moose  
21 population, although there's some indications that that  
22 situation is improving. But it just doesn't make a lot  
23 of sense to have, you know, one of the most liberal moose  
24 seasons in the entire state in an area where moose are  
25 this depressed. And in the areas where the migratory  
26 movement comes from, they have much more restrictive  
27 seasons than what are in place in Unit 22(A), which isn't  
28 to say, I mean if harvests were very low in Unit 22(A)  
29 there'd be no reason to have super restrictive seasons,  
30 but, in fact, you know, harvest is considerably more than  
31 what is shown in our harvest ticket reporting system.

32  
33 MR. GRAY: Okay. And I guess my next  
34 question would be, and I'm not sure if it's for you or  
35 you or you or who here, the -- we're talking about  
36 subsistence hunts and this change, it would be nice to be  
37 able to put a finger on numbers here, let's say in 2003  
38 there was 70 moose taken in January to February or  
39 December and January, and this change is going to -- what  
40 is this change going to do for that moose population?  
41 How many people, how many players, how many families are  
42 going to be impacted? How many people have utilized this  
43 subsistence thing before this change, and if this change  
44 goes into effect, what am I -- I'm trying to say  
45 something -- maybe there's 20 people that got moose in  
46 the past in this winter thing, you should have numbers  
47 that in January, out of the 20, there's 15 of them were  
48 taken in January, five of them were taken in December;  
49 has somebody done some homework here to see what the  
50 impacts are going to be?

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1           Because that's, you know, in my way of looking at  
2 this thing, I should be looking at the subsistence issues  
3 and looking -- I mean this is the base line for what our  
4 resource is out there, is subsistence, that's the rock  
5 bottom, anything above that, sporthunting, non-resident  
6 hunting, so on and so forth, is kind of gravy. So we  
7 should be very careful of what we're cutting here and  
8 understand what we're doing.

9

10           I'm real supportive. This proposal I'm  
11 supportive of it because I know moose populations are  
12 really hammered. But on the same token, we need to  
13 understand what we're doing. At least I do.

14

15           MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I don't know that we  
16 can answer it as well as you'd probably like, I'm sure,  
17 but one of the things we're doing is not allowing anyone  
18 except residents of Unit 22(A) on Federal public lands be  
19 able to hunt moose. So that may eliminate -- I mean  
20 probably because there aren't that many moose, I would  
21 imagine that not too many people are going over there  
22 right now, but it would eliminate the possibility of  
23 others outside of the area to be able to take moose.

24

25           As far as how many fewer moose would be  
26 taken, I don't know. I mean, you know.....

27

28           MR. GRAY: Well, we should know. We  
29 should have that answer then.

30

31           MS. PERSONS: I have some information  
32 that will shed some light on what you want and it comes  
33 from the surveys that Fish and Game and Kawerak cooperate  
34 on. And in Shaktoolik, 71 -- when we did our surveys in  
35 1999 and 2000, the majority and if -- and I don't have  
36 that written down here, I believe it was 71 percent of  
37 the harvest occurred in August, and we had the meetings  
38 in Shaktoolik, they were really adamant about not wanting  
39 to cut into their August season. And in Unalakleet it  
40 was different, 81 percent of Unalakleet's harvest occurs  
41 in September. And then you go down to Leonard's country  
42 and almost all the harvest happens in December and  
43 January. And so the reason why we have these different  
44 areas with different seasons is to accommodate, to try  
45 and accommodate as much as we can the traditional hunting  
46 patterns of these communities that really are so  
47 different. It's like, you know, one season doesn't fit  
48 all. But at the same time we have to, you know, worry  
49 about the moose population and to help the moose  
50 population we do have we do need to reduce harvest.

00047

1                   But as far as the winter hunt we were  
2 told the people that attended the meetings in Shaktoolik  
3 and Unalakleet, that virtually all of the moose harvest  
4 occurs during the fall months, and that losing, and their  
5 recommendation was to eliminate the winter hunt. Which  
6 right now doesn't do a lot for the moose population. If,  
7 in fact, hardly anybody hunts moose in the winter. But  
8 there has been a pattern in recent years, this year's an  
9 exception of caribou not going into the Unalakleet  
10 drainage. And people, thus far, have been traveling out  
11 to the base Seward Peninsula and the Koyuk drainage to  
12 hunt caribou but, you know, if caribou become less  
13 available then moose could be hit harder than they are  
14 now and our concern is that this resident moose  
15 population is really small, it's really vulnerable in the  
16 winter when it's just so easy to find them on a  
17 snowmachine and harvest them. And probably the most --  
18 the thing that we felt the strongest about as far as  
19 protecting this population was to do away with that  
20 winter season and protect them when they're so  
21 vulnerable.

22  
23                   Whereas down to the south we have better  
24 recruitment, we have a really rapidly growing moose  
25 population in the Yukon Delta where they had a moose  
26 moratorium there for a number of years and boy, moose are  
27 multiplying, the recruitment is really high, and lots of  
28 twins, and undoubtedly there are moose from that area  
29 moving into the Pikhiktalik and areas where these folks  
30 hunt. So, you know, it seemed reasonable to retain a  
31 large portion of the season that's so important to those  
32 folks.

33  
34                   MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair.

35  
36                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Leonard.

37  
38                   MR. KOBUK: It's like she said, ever  
39 since the caribou quit coming around a lot of moose has  
40 been harvested during the winter. And also the residents  
41 that do their fall hunt in August and September depending  
42 on if it don't freeze up so quick, they said they've been  
43 seeing a lot more moose than they usually see and that  
44 was one of the things that I forgot to mention.

45  
46                   And no matter where you go with a  
47 snowmachine you always run into a moose but it's like,  
48 one, two, or three, and it's in different areas around  
49 St. Michael Mountains and towards Klikitarik. So I know  
50 the moose are going to be impacted because of the caribou

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1 not coming around. But like I said this winter just a  
2 few showed up and all those caribou that showed up were  
3 all taken in such a short time when they found out they  
4 were around.

5  
6 MR. SACCHEUS: When you go out and survey  
7 on Unit 22(A) were there many predators out there that  
8 could be the cause of the decline on the moose on 22(A).  
9 I know the harvest levels was pretty low so there should  
10 be something behind it that make the decline of the  
11 moose. I know you mentioned about the migration, they go  
12 a hundred miles out but there's got to be some answers  
13 out there some place.

14  
15 Thank you.

16  
17 MS. PERSONS: Thank you, Charles. Yes,  
18 in this area we do believe that predation probably in  
19 large part by bears on moose calves is probably what's  
20 driving this. We don't believe that hunting is the cause  
21 of the problem. But when population levels get to as low  
22 as they are, hunting can certainly, you know, contribute  
23 to depressing the population further. And during our  
24 census there were a lot of wolf tracks, but -- and it may  
25 be -- but many of the wolves go where the caribou are,  
26 there are also certainly resident wolf populations that  
27 remain in the area and it's likely that they take their  
28 share of moose in the winter and a lot of people that I  
29 spoke to talked about observing just that.

30  
31 MR. SACCHEUS: I could kind of tell you  
32 that during the spring when the calves are born to the  
33 cow moose, when the snow is deep, you know, those bears  
34 are real bad on killing those little calves when the snow  
35 is deep. There is nothing much a female could do to save  
36 its little calves. Like they have two or three calves,  
37 them bears would go over there and kill all the calves  
38 and those bears really do a lot of damage on our moose  
39 population in our area because they got a lot of timber,  
40 deep snow and everything.

41  
42 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Kate, I have a  
43 question. On the December moose season, do you have  
44 records as to how many were harvested in that winter  
45 season for 2002?

46  
47 MS. PERSONS: For 2002 none is what we  
48 came up with when we did the harvest survey.

49  
50 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Okay. And how many did



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1 you have then for the fall season in 202?

2

3 MS. PERSONS: There were 14 that were  
4 reported by harvest ticket, and then when we did the  
5 harvest survey we learned about an additional 15 and so  
6 we've got a total of 29.

7

8 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: I'm just trying to put  
9 things together a little bit. If we eliminated that  
10 December season which we weren't taking any moose,  
11 apparently there wasn't any taken, so we really haven't  
12 done anything there, right?

13

14 MS. PERSONS: Not with the winter season,  
15 but by shortening -- August, there is about 30 percent of  
16 the harvest according to -- I mean we just have the one  
17 year of data from the subsistence household surveys  
18 because we can't really rely on the harvest ticket data  
19 because so little of the harvest is reported, well, about  
20 40 percent of the harvest is reported. But, you know, we  
21 do have harvest in August. We're cutting half of August  
22 off and then by eliminating the last five days of  
23 September we are eliminating some harvest also.

24

25 I guess you know, I would have liked to  
26 have seen more done, and that was the Department's  
27 recommendation to the Board of Game, but, you know, I  
28 think I agree with what they did. The community was  
29 ready to go this far, they supported this, and to force  
30 something more on them. It may or may not even be abided  
31 by, but we're not done there. We need to do more work  
32 there. We need to have more meetings in the villages.  
33 One thing that we've done in the Nome area is establish  
34 these registration hunts with harvest quotas and that's  
35 something that I think would be a really good idea down  
36 there but it's only going to work if people support it  
37 and buy into it. And a lot more work needs to be done  
38 with the public to get acceptance of that kind of harvest  
39 regime.

40

41 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: I don't mean to sound  
42 like I'm putting you on the spot, I'm glad that's being  
43 done. And I guess after talking with people in  
44 Unalakleet, it seems like everyone there is well aware  
45 there's a big shortage of the moose. And, you know, some  
46 people would want to hunt until there weren't any moose  
47 left at all, they would go to the end, and then there's  
48 other people who would be inclined to restricting the  
49 season even more. And what we have happening, you said  
50 we took one week off in September, which is good, that

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1 will help. But I think earlier we stated there was 81  
2 percent of the moose were taken in September. And early  
3 August is a little tougher, there's more leaves on the  
4 trees and everything and the moose when they go into rut,  
5 they're much more vulnerable, the bulls, because that's  
6 all we can hunt anyway down there and that usually  
7 happens probably around the 10th or 15th of September,  
8 something like that, and I think if you look at the  
9 harvest reports, that's when the majority of the moose  
10 are taken, when they're moving around and they're  
11 actively doing their thing there.

12

13 I guess, Unalakleet, I think, for the  
14 most part, there wouldn't be much resentment if there was  
15 more restriction. Because it seems to me that we want to  
16 have these moose later on for our kids and if there was  
17 only, seven or eight take last fall, is that -- do you  
18 know what it was for 2003?

19

20 MS. PERSONS: Well, that's what was  
21 reported by harvest ticket, but I don't know. Or  
22 actually, no, I don't think even that many were reported  
23 by harvest ticket, so I don't actually know. You know,  
24 without a harvest survey we don't really know what the  
25 harvest is.

26

27 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Yeah, okay. I guess  
28 we're all on the same wave length here, and I guess at  
29 this point I would say that I think even some more  
30 restrictions and we'll know after this fall what's  
31 happening. I mean it just happened kind of where we  
32 realized, all right, we got a danger zone here and we're  
33 looking at it and we're aware of it and we're trying to  
34 do what we can but I think after this fall if we see  
35 something very similar, maybe we even need to do more to  
36 preserve what we have, and when the numbers get back up,  
37 that's fine to increase whatever we can do on it. But I  
38 think we got to watch it real close.

39

40 That's my thoughts on it.

41

42 MR. GRAY: I had a guy come up to me and  
43 ask me is there a subsistence moose hunt and the first  
44 thing I thought of was the deals that you sent me, BLM  
45 had sent me a packet of moose tags some years ago. And I  
46 told the guy, I said, I don't know -- to be honest, I  
47 don't know. What -- you know, I know in my Unit, 22(B),  
48 the State mandates that there's going to be 42 moose out  
49 of that area and I'm not sure, you know, I tried to read  
50 in here 22(B), it talks about moose but it looks like

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1 they're working hand in hand. Is the State and the Feds  
2 working hand in hand in 22(B) and they offer X amount of  
3 moose -- okay, let's go to the Golsovia River thing. Are  
4 you guys -- there is no, quote, number, so can a guy --  
5 is there -- can a guy go take a Federal subsistence moose  
6 at any time down there? Can I run down to Golsovia and  
7 shoot a moose under a subsistence hunt at this time?

8

9 MR. ARDIZZONE: You could. You'd have to  
10 work under the current regulations which would be, let's  
11 see 22(A) one bull, December 1st through January 31st,  
12 and then, you know, whatever the current regulation is is  
13 what you'd have to follow right now.

14

15 MR. GRAY: I could do that?

16

17 MR. ARDIZZONE: What we're trying to do  
18 now is change.....

19

20 MR. GRAY: Yeah.

21

22 MR. ARDIZZONE: .....it to be a little  
23 more restrictive.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Actually there was a  
26 special action.....

27

28 MR. GRAY: Well, I'm going somewhere here  
29 and that is.....

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: .....to change that.

32

33 MR. ARDIZZONE: Oh, that's right, Grace  
34 is correct.

35

36 MR. GRAY: What's that?

37

38 MR. ARDIZZONE: We did have that special  
39 action change so the special action applies.....

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The special action  
42 changed.....

43

44 MR. GRAY: Okay, and that's fine, you  
45 know, that's great. But then I go shoot a -- let's say I  
46 shoot a State moose in the fall, can I also shoot a  
47 subsistence moose in the winter like a bear?

48

49 MS. PERSONS: No. No, the bag limit is  
50 one moose per regulatory year, period.

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1 MR. GRAY: State or Federal?

2

3 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.

4

5 MR. GRAY: State or Federal.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And the subsistence  
8 hunt -- the Federal hunt was, with the special action was  
9 shortened by 31 days.

10

11 MR. GRAY: Okay. Well, anyway, I think  
12 Vance put it a lot more tactfully than I did. I was  
13 trying to find out what this change is going to do and he  
14 got a better answer than I did. And I'm thinking the  
15 same way he is, that as this goes along we need to  
16 streamline this and make it a little bit more astringent  
17 and more -- tighten it up.

18

19 But the other thing that hasn't been  
20 thrown on the floor here is what about the game units  
21 next to the areas that were hampered? What's next to  
22 22(A) on the Yukon, how are their animals doing? Are  
23 they in the same kind of a problem that we are? Because  
24 their animals are going to impact our animals.

25

26 MS. PERSONS: Unit 22(A) is a really long  
27 area. And there are a lot of different game management  
28 units on the other side. And the area to the east of  
29 22(A) north and central is having the same sort of low  
30 recruitment, low population numbers that we're seeing in  
31 that part of Unit 22(A). But when you get down to the  
32 southern part of Unit 22(A) the Anvik River, the Yellow  
33 River and particularly that, as I mentioned before, the  
34 Yukon River Delta, has a really healthy growing moose  
35 population and you can expect to see some immigration  
36 from those areas.

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I was going to comment  
39 on 22(A) south, the State still has a non-resident 50-  
40 inch bull September 1 to September 30th when the  
41 recommendation by the communities that were surveyed in  
42 22(A), the recommendation was to even close the winter  
43 hunt but yet we still have a non-resident hunt on 22(A)  
44 south. Is there an explanation?

45

46 MS. PERSONS: Well, first of all, there  
47 wasn't a recommendation to close the winter hunt, only to  
48 shorten it. And it's just -- you know, the public  
49 comment, anybody can comment to the Board, and the guide  
50 who would have been affected by this change in the non-

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1 resident regulations was very effective in persuading the  
2 Board to maintain a month long season there. The  
3 Department didn't recommend it, we were opposed to that.  
4 But he personally phoned Board members and lobbied them  
5 and they were convinced.

6  
7 MR. KOBUK: Are we talking about the  
8 guide that runs out of Golsovia?

9  
10 MS. PERSONS: Yes.

11  
12 MR. KOBUK: The residents of St. Michael,  
13 and, again, I say some, their feeling is that just  
14 residents only, no sports or guiding. Because their  
15 concern is that since the caribou aren't showing up like  
16 they normally do in our area, the moose is going to be  
17 what they go after for their meat because -- and that's  
18 just how they feel, it's just residents of St. Michael  
19 and Stebbins for south of Golsovia. And they didn't want  
20 any guide or sports hunting included in that either.

21  
22 MR. GRAY: Well, I guess I need to  
23 intervene here because I sit on this Board in a guide  
24 position. And one thing we need to be careful of is  
25 there's other communities that have guides in them and  
26 hunting -- you take my community for example, we took  
27 some caribou from clients. The clients came back, they  
28 said, I don't want any of that meat so that meat went to  
29 my community to people that needed meat in that  
30 community. And I know that's happening in other parts of  
31 the Seward Peninsula with moose meat, with caribou meat,  
32 with other issues. So there is support in, maybe not in  
33 St. Michaels, but there is support for guides in  
34 distributing and helping elders get meat through hunting.

35  
36 But you know, the bottom line when it  
37 comes to this resource and managing these resources, the  
38 guides are going to be the first one out the door, and I  
39 mean that's going to come. You watch down the road Jerry  
40 Austin, and I'll throw his name on the table is going to  
41 be the first one out the door because of in-house  
42 politics. But on the same token I want it on the record  
43 that a lot of the meat, the majority of the meat that  
44 guides take does not leave that region. These hunters  
45 don't want that meat, it's too much to take out. So, you  
46 know, set that aside, we're still a subsistence Board and  
47 we deal with subsistence issues. And like I say, the  
48 guides, I'm a guide I'm going to be the first one to  
49 lose. I can't guide non-residents in my area. But if I  
50 had a moose hunter come into my area, I would dictate to

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1 that fellow that all that meat stays in my area just to  
2 please the community.

3

4                   So anyway, I needed to speak my peace.

5

6                   MR. KOBUK: No, I guess you misunderstood  
7 me. I guess I didn't put it in a way that I should have.  
8 The main concern the residents have was to protect their  
9 way of life. Subsistence is our way of life. And if  
10 something has to go I guess it's going to have to be,  
11 like I said, the sport, just to protect our way of life,  
12 the resource that we have there, we're talking about  
13 moose.

14

15                   And, yeah, he does give moose out to the  
16 residents, but again, when he gets there in the rutting  
17 season and a lot of the religious they won't take it  
18 because it smells kind of strong so that's just what I  
19 was told by residents, if we're going to protect our way  
20 of life then subsistence is our way of life.

21

22                   MS. PERSONS: I just wanted to clarify  
23 something I said. The Department didn't support the  
24 month long season for non-residents that was passed in  
25 that area, but the Department did actually support a two  
26 week season, during the first two weeks in September.  
27 And the reason that we did was that we didn't have any  
28 record of there really being much harvest by local  
29 people. Our harvest -- but we hadn't done a harvest  
30 survey in your village. We've done Unalakleet and we've  
31 done Stebbins, but nothing shows up in the harvest data  
32 base to indicate harvest in the Golsovia River drainage,  
33 hardly anything. And we had no data to show that that  
34 was an area that was used to any degree by subsistence  
35 hunters and the non-resident harvest by -- well, the non-  
36 resident harvest in that area, although it occurs, is  
37 really very small, and so we didn't -- the Department  
38 didn't feel like we could justify totally eliminating the  
39 non-residents from that area. But we didn't support a  
40 month long season there.

41

42                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I guess I should  
43 explain a little bit here. Originally when the State  
44 issued an emergency order, the winter hunts were totally  
45 cut off. There was dialogue with U.S. Fish and Wildlife,  
46 with the villages of Stebbins and St. Michael who  
47 predominately hunted in the winter, there was very little  
48 fall hunting, that's why the special action requested a  
49 limited hunt, which was -- a limited winter hunt was made  
50 for the entire Unit 22(A) by the special order.

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1                   We had hunters from Stebbins and St.  
2 Michael when that special action by the Federal  
3 government was heard, there were about 10 hunters from  
4 Stebbins and St. Michael who testified in favor of a  
5 winter hunt but that was cut down by one month.  
6 Otherwise originally there was none on the emergency  
7 order, if I can recall, and we were trying to mirror --  
8 and the Feds were going to be mirroring that. As far as  
9 I know there was no support for a winter hunt. From my  
10 understanding there was no support for a winter hunt from  
11 Shaktoolik and from Unalakleet and when the information  
12 that was gathered was they predominately hunted in the  
13 fall, the only two people that were -- the two villages  
14 that were going to be affected by no winter hunt was  
15 Stebbins and St. Michael. So when the special action was  
16 devised, St. Michael and Stebbins, the reason why there  
17 was a winter hunt, for subsistence, was on Federal lands,  
18 was because two communities within 22(A) hunted in the  
19 winter time.

20

21                   Kate.

22

23                   MS. PERSONS: The regulation passed by  
24 the Board of Game and our emergency order this winter  
25 closed the winter hunt in the northern and central part  
26 and in the southern part we had the month of December as  
27 requested by the communities. And your action mirrored  
28 that.

29

30                   MR. KOBUK: So in other words, on the  
31 State regs it's no winter hunt for residents of both  
32 villages, and then another thing I was going to suggest,  
33 a lot of people, the reason they don't report their take  
34 of moose is because they're afraid they're going to get  
35 arrested or their snowmachines or their guns will be  
36 taken away. And I would like to suggest that if we're  
37 going to get a good count, that Kawerak do a subsistence  
38 harvest for moose only in both villages. Because the  
39 villages tend to trust Kawerak more with -- because  
40 Kawerak has always helped us in our subsistence hunting  
41 and fishing, and if the State would help Kawerak do that,  
42 I guess you would get a better count of how much moose is  
43 taken.

44

45                   MS. PERSONS: We do have a project  
46 planned for this April, the last half of April and there  
47 will be Kawerak and Fish and Game will be cooperating on  
48 a survey in both Stebbins and St. Michael this spring,  
49 but I'm afraid I'm going to be there, too.

50

00056

1 MR. SEETOT: Moose is a relatively new  
2 species, you know, I think it came within 45 years ago.  
3 When you're talking about a population of a species  
4 within a certain subunit how do you know what the  
5 carrying capacity or what is the ideal population of that  
6 species? I know that the biologists use Western  
7 scientific, you know, formula information and stuff, to  
8 get population estimates or to say this is the ideal  
9 population, how, you take also into consideration maybe  
10 predation by the wolves, by bears, on that species, also  
11 by human harvest; what about national occurrences, too  
12 much smoke during the summer months, how much can they  
13 tolerate before they move out of that area? What about  
14 falling through the ice when it first -- when the lakes  
15 first freeze up? You won't find any evidence but, you  
16 know, they'll go where you don't see them, how much is  
17 that mortality on natural occurrences when it first  
18 breaks up, you know, spring break up, how many, you know,  
19 do not make it? Or during the rut season, you know,  
20 stuff like that, do you take that into consideration?  
21 Because I don't think we have historic numbers that go  
22 back a hundred years. It's probably been down more in  
23 the Lower 48 and Southeast than it is up here because  
24 when I was young, when I was growing up, I didn't hear of  
25 any moose being reported until probably I was in grade  
26 school, so this is pretty new.

27  
28 Biologists, you know, Federal and State  
29 agency biologists, you know, they use scientific methods,  
30 you know, okay, we'll fly by plane to get the number, you  
31 estimate. Do you also use traditional -- not  
32 traditional, but people on the ground to say there's  
33 certain amounts of moose, you know, in this area,  
34 personal sightings? There's also traditional knowledge,  
35 you might over an animal, you know, it won't be here.  
36 Maybe ADF&G tried to keep their numbers at an artificial  
37 high number and they argued for that against the wishes  
38 of a certain region, certain subunit, maybe we fought  
39 over that too much and the numbers are gone.

40  
41 Same way with caribou, you know, you  
42 tried to introduce a species, you know, within that area,  
43 but like I say I think you should use TEK when you're  
44 talking about animals. They tell me, you know, they  
45 learn, they listen, they know by instinct, pretty much  
46 food, predators, reproduction, you know, stuff like that.  
47 They do not quite think, you know, like humans do, they  
48 just pretty much either instinct, by the cycle, season  
49 cycles, that's how they go about their business.

50



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1                   Then also quite a bit of human  
2 disturbance for some of these species, you know, you can  
3 just tolerate so much noise, tolerate so much human  
4 intervention. You know, they just may decide to move out  
5 and then, you know, go where they're not disturbed.

6  
7                   These are some of the things you should  
8 look -- what you do on the biological sense, but, you  
9 know, you should look at other parameters that affect  
10 these species.

11  
12                   MS. PERSONS: Thanks, Elmer. You always  
13 have very insightful comments, they're hard to respond  
14 to.

15                   You're absolutely right, and with moose  
16 when they colonized the Seward Peninsula, they apparently  
17 did -- there became a lot more apparently than the  
18 habitat could support. And we don't know for any area on  
19 the Peninsula what the ideal number of moose would be.  
20 We don't know how many moose the habitat can support. We  
21 know that predators are now having a big impact on moose  
22 populations in many parts of the unit. But there are a  
23 lot of other things, too. It's just an incredibly  
24 complex system, and you're absolutely right that we go  
25 out in our airplanes and we count what moose we can find  
26 in a lot of different ways, but that's just only one  
27 very, very small piece of the puzzle. We do try to  
28 listen to what the people who are out in the country on  
29 the ground hunting these animals, observing these animals  
30 have to say but, yeah, we need to do a better job of  
31 incorporating their knowledge into the decisions -- well,  
32 the knowledge about the resources.

33  
34                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I heard you earlier say  
35 that there were some moose numbers in the Yukon Kuskokwim  
36 Delta area. I had originally asked for statistical  
37 information on that part where that's in 22(A) and I was  
38 told there were no statistics in moose numbers from that  
39 region. Are we talking about further back from the  
40 State, in Yukon Kuskokwim Delta area?

41  
42                   MS. PERSONS: Well, they census moose in  
43 the Lower Yukon Delta area and there is an estimate, they  
44 did a census last spring and so there is a census  
45 estimate and I just remember that it was just a dramatic  
46 increase from the previous estimate with recruitment  
47 rates of more than 50 percent. It was just incredible,  
48 but I don't on the tip of my tongue have the specifics.

49  
50                   But on the portion of the Yukon to the

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1 east say the Unalakleet drainage, there are no censuses,  
2 no censuses have taken place there. It's only, you know,  
3 the kind of recruitment surveys that we do and  
4 composition surveys that we do in the fall but no actual  
5 density estimates.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yeah, I think you  
8 answered my question when you said it was done in the  
9 spring. I think I asked for it earlier than that. Well,  
10 I asked for it at some point there wasn't and now there  
11 is.

12

13 Okay thanks.

14

15 MR. ARDIZZONE: I know I did talk to the  
16 Refuge about moose numbers and when we discussed it, the  
17 Refuge, we had discussed the area of the Refuge that  
18 falls within the unit, and when I discussed that with  
19 them they were unsure of harvest levels and moose numbers  
20 in this area right up here in our unit, but, like they  
21 have other estimates for lower south of there, but just  
22 the area that would be affected, our unit, they didn't  
23 have any good numbers.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think I'd like to  
26 hear -- Vance, you and I were talking earlier about how  
27 often do -- or in your perception anyway, how often do  
28 people from the central part go over here to hunt for  
29 moose in what's identified as 22(A) south.

30

31 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Yeah, as far as I  
32 know.....

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Specifically winter  
35 time we were talking about.

36

37 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Yeah. Well, primarily  
38 -- let me start with this fall season thing, the  
39 Unalakleet River is a corridor for moose hunting.  
40 Everybody uses their boats and goes up and down the river  
41 and I would say 90 percent probably, and I'm guessing off  
42 the top of my head, but 90 percent of the moose are  
43 probably taken by boat. There's a little bit of moose  
44 hunting done on four-wheelers, but it's fairly limited.  
45 The ground is pretty rough up there, there's a lot of  
46 high hills and there's places you can't get and it's just  
47 way easier and everybody hunts by boat.

48

49 Well, if the caribou don't come and the  
50 fall season's over, that winter season was a minimal

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1 usage, I think, in our area. I mean to my knowledge,  
2 there's been -- I don't think there was maybe five moose  
3 taken in the last five years, I think that's probably  
4 fairly accurate on that December season. But if the  
5 caribou don't show, and our moose season is restricted  
6 and one's open next door, it's possible that there'll be  
7 some influence of people traveling back and forth just to  
8 gather meat. And I think it's understandable, the  
9 distances we're looking at there would be possibly 20  
10 miles to the south would put you in the south unit, and I  
11 would guess looking at this probably 20 to 25 miles would  
12 put you in the north unit, which is only a couple hour  
13 drive on a snowmobile.

14

15                   So I mean I'm sure everyone has probably  
16 looked and seen this or maybe even thought about it, but  
17 it may sway things a little bit if there's an overharvest  
18 or who knows? I mean this is the first time now we've  
19 started to do these restrictions and we'll all know a lot  
20 more after next year's over.

21

22                   And I think it was a very good start to  
23 do what we're doing, and restrict these seasons, and  
24 after talking with some of the residents in Unalakleet,  
25 if the numbers are again as low as they were this year, I  
26 don't think we'd see a lot of opposition to even closing  
27 the season a little more. Because the ultimate thing  
28 would be to protect what we have for our children and the  
29 other people, you know, we want to have something at some  
30 point. We don't want to shoot the last moose on the  
31 river.

32

33                   And I hope -- did I answer your question?

34

35                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So we're also  
36 referring to the one that has the least restrictions when  
37 you're talking about, you know, if the moose numbers  
38 show.....

39

40                   MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Yeah, we have  
41 adequate.....

42

43                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: .....further decline  
44 or.....

45

46                   MR. GRISHKOWSKI: If we have good  
47 numbers, that's fine, we should take advantage of the  
48 resource, but when it's low, I guess we got to take care  
49 of what we have. And I think presently everybody's  
50 seeing good moose populations in the south side and the

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1 north side. But what we got to remember is Unalakleet is  
2 800 people hunting one little river in the middle of this  
3 unit, and at Stebbins and St. Michael, the combination  
4 population is probably half of what Unalakleet is, I'm  
5 guessing, or maybe not even 400 between the two, I'm not  
6 sure what it is, but I know it's a lot less. And I  
7 think, you know, population of people will play a big  
8 factor in this and I don't know, maybe some of these  
9 people will move one way or the other to get a moose,  
10 it's hard to say.

11

12 MR. GRAY: You know, these guys just  
13 brought out a good point on this issue and I can use our  
14 area as an example, and Kate straighten me out if I'm  
15 wrong, there was times in this region here that 22(D)  
16 would open up for example before 22(B) and you'd have a  
17 big influx of people out there just pounding that  
18 resource or 22(B) would open before another area. And  
19 another example is they shut down salmon fishing in the  
20 Nome district area here, well, we have had an influx of  
21 people that normally don't fish in our area come running  
22 down and they have the same opportunities, they can seine  
23 the same way they've been seining, generations so we have  
24 had an influx of people on that resource.

25

26 And I think you bring out a good issue  
27 here that either there needs to be consistency in the way  
28 you open up areas or there's a good system in place to  
29 close that door so that resource isn't just pounded.

30

31 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Madame Chair, did I  
32 answer your question the way you were expecting or  
33 did.....

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes, it did, thank  
36 you.

37

38 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Okay.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Kate.  
41 Other agency comments. Okay, go ahead.

42

43 MS. COLE: Jeannie Cole, Bureau of Land  
44 Management. I just wanted to say that as the major  
45 Federal land holder in this area, BLM is very concerned  
46 about the low numbers of moose in the area and we feel  
47 that some action needs to be taken to protect those  
48 populations, and it sounds like this proposal was  
49 developed with quite a bit of input from the local  
50 residents and I think it's a good start to start to

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1 address the problem, at least, and maybe it will take  
2 some refining later but I think it's a good place to  
3 start.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any questions for  
6 Jeannie.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Jeannie.

11

12 MR. GRAY: This proposal, that's on the  
13 table, an afterthought here is, if this proposal changes,  
14 will it only be for 22(A) people living in that unit?

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

17

18 MR. GRAY: Okay.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Go ahead.

21

22 MR. EASTLAND: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
23 Members of the Council. I'm Warren Eastland, the Inter-  
24 Agency Staff Committee member for the Bureau of Indian  
25 Affairs. I'm here to present some questions and concern  
26 that the Inter-Agency Staff Committee has with this  
27 proposal.

28

29 Before I get started, I'd like to take  
30 this opportunity to clarify just what the Staff Committee  
31 is and why we are making this change and presentation to  
32 the Council. There are two Staffs who are involved with  
33 the Federal Subsistence Program. The first is the  
34 technical staff of the Office of Subsistence Management,  
35 they're the ones who prepare these analysis, and present  
36 them to the Council. It's their recommendation, if there  
37 is one, that you find at the end of the analysis for  
38 these proposals. The second Staff, the one that I'm a  
39 member of, is the Inter-Agency Staff Committee, our job  
40 is to review the OSM Staff's analysis, the Council  
41 recommendations and then to advise the Federal  
42 Subsistence Board on the proposal after including in our  
43 deliberations agency specific concerns that we may have  
44 about any particular proposal as well as to incorporate  
45 the public testimony and Council deliberations that are  
46 going on right now.

47

48 The IAC is made up of one or two members  
49 from reach of the Federal agencies that constitutes the  
50 Federal Subsistence Board. Currently the IAC has two

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1 members each from the Fish and Wildlife Service, The  
2 National Park Service, and the BIA. The BLM and the  
3 Forest Service, and the Chairman of the Board are each  
4 represented by one member. It is up to the member of the  
5 Board how many Staff Committee people he will have.

6  
7           It's our job individually to advise our  
8 Board members and as a group, the entire Board, our  
9 evaluation of each proposal. In the past, this function  
10 of the Inter-Agency Staff Committee has not been well  
11 understood by the Councils. This misunderstanding of the  
12 role of the Inter-Agency Staff Committee has  
13 unfortunately caused confusion.

14  
15           We have two purposes in presenting Inter-  
16 Agency Staff Committee concerns to the Council. The  
17 first is to inform you of what our thoughts are on  
18 proposals that may have ramification beyond those  
19 normally considered by the Council. We hope that this  
20 may help clear up our function and allow us to work  
21 together better to make the entire Title VIII process go  
22 smoother and better benefit the individual subsistence  
23 user.

24  
25           The second function is to allow us to do  
26 our jobs better by getting more directed input from the  
27 Council aimed at our concerns and questions.

28  
29           With that, I would like to talk a little  
30 bit about Proposal 70. The primary concern that the  
31 Staff Committee has with moose in 22(A) is one of  
32 conservation concern. There are not enough moose to go  
33 around, the population is declining.

34  
35           Part of this proposal proposes to  
36 institute an .804 restriction, in other words, not all  
37 Federally-qualified subsistence users with customary and  
38 traditional qualifications are going to be allowed to  
39 hunt this herd if the proposal passes.

40  
41           Given the tiny, tiny harvest of moose by  
42 subsistence hunters who are not residents of 22(A) is the  
43 .804 restriction really necessary?

44  
45           Will the .804 restriction really help the  
46 decline in the moose population or are there other  
47 actions that might better halt the decline and more  
48 benefit to moose population?

49  
50           And with that, I thank you for allowing

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1 me to present this.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I guess what other  
4 actions would you be recommending?

5

6 MR. EASTLAND: Madame Chair, I'm not  
7 going to recommend any. I'm going to suggest that there  
8 are perhaps others such, and you've discussed many of  
9 them. The variations on the shortenings of the seasons  
10 or changing the seasons. Those -- from what I can tell  
11 that's presented here, with the small amount of harvest  
12 that's taken by non-residents of 22(A) to really help the  
13 moose population is going to be manipulation of the  
14 harvest by the residents of 22(A) that help the moose  
15 population.

16

17 And so with that.....

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any questions from the  
20 RAC.

21

22 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Madame Chair, I think  
23 over the years, the non-resident harvest, to my  
24 knowledge, has been very, very minimal in the Unalakleet  
25 area. I mean I don't believe that's the place to look to  
26 fix this problem. And I think Fish and Game has started  
27 and there's an awareness and apparently, you know,  
28 hindsight's always 20/20, it's always easier to look back  
29 and say we should have done this and this, but I think  
30 we're all going to be watching for this coming fall. And  
31 hopefully, if we see -- you know, the numbers are low and  
32 we still have a season then we better do some more. But  
33 I think it took until now to get the ball rolling and  
34 it's a start. And, you know, maybe it could have been a  
35 bigger start or something could have went in another  
36 direction, but hopefully like I said, after this fall  
37 maybe we'll all get a better idea and have more input and  
38 make better decisions.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Thank you.

41

42

43 MR. EASTLAND: Thank you, very much.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Fish and Game Advisory  
46 is not here. Barb, are there any written public  
47 comments, summary.

48

49 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair, there  
50 are no written comments for this proposal. Thank you.

00064

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Sandy Tahbone  
2 representing Kawerak.

3  
4 MS. TAHBONE: Good morning, Madame Chair,  
5 Council members. Kawerak supports this proposal,  
6 realizing the amount of deliberation that has gone on  
7 prior to the submission of this proposal through the  
8 State process with the Board of Game.

9  
10 As you're aware, Proposal 8, that was  
11 submitted by the Southern Regional Advisory Council  
12 through the State process, unfortunately wasn't supported  
13 in total with closing the non-resident hunt. There was  
14 considerable question as to the amount necessary for  
15 subsistence and unfortunately we're unable to complete  
16 the house to house surveys annually. As Kate mentioned  
17 we will be proposing to do these harvest assessments in  
18 both Stebbins and St. Michael as she also indicated, we  
19 do not have any data for St. Michael. And as the  
20 gentleman from St. Michael indicated, there seems to be a  
21 greater trust in providing harvest information when these  
22 household surveys are completed.

23  
24 And I would encourage the Council through  
25 the funding opportunities made available through the  
26 Federal process, through OSM Section .809 as well as the  
27 agencies that do, whether it's BLM or the Park Service,  
28 they do also have research dollars available through  
29 their budgets, I would encourage this Council to make it  
30 a need that annual subsistence harvest surveys are  
31 conducted.

32  
33 As you note, various questions were  
34 raised and unfortunately these harvest surveys that have  
35 been completed with cooperation with ADF&G and Kawerak  
36 are sporadic. There's not a real high priority from the  
37 State to conduct these surveys. But as we continue to  
38 see a decline in moose and possibly shifting effort from  
39 one subunit to another, I think it's necessary and very  
40 important that we receive as accurate harvest information  
41 as we can and through these, they're not just simply --  
42 we just don't simply gather numbers, we gather other  
43 information as well, we're able to ask additional  
44 questions if need be if there are species that's in  
45 decline or if there is concern, we're able to craft  
46 questions that would hopefully provide you with  
47 information in making your management decisions.

48  
49 We're very supportive of the Section .809  
50 analysis that was completed. And fortunately we do have



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1 that process in place with the Federal system which in  
2 times of shortage that the local residents have first  
3 opportunity to harvest. Unfortunately the State does not  
4 have that process in place, although subsistence is a  
5 priority, they do not -- they have the Tier I, Tier II,  
6 but they don't have a mechanism which, at what point,  
7 does that come into play, so they were able to maintain  
8 the non-resident hunt according to their current  
9 policies.

10

11                   There is some concern regarding the shift  
12 in hunting effort, residents of Unalakleet have indicated  
13 the Golsovia area is accessible by four-wheelers, that  
14 there's a possibility that that might impact the animals  
15 that Kate has indicated that the recruitment levels are  
16 high.

17

18                   Also with no, you know, with the non-  
19 resident hunt being maintained in that area, it doesn't  
20 limit -- although there is just the one guide that  
21 resides in Unit 22(A) that hunts in the Golsovia area,  
22 there's nothing that will limit other guides from  
23 entering that area. We would hope that whatever pressure  
24 that this Council could put, you know, how we've steadily  
25 -- how this system, the Federal system, has steadily  
26 aligned their regulations with the State regulations to  
27 try to keep for the sake of conservation, that I hope a  
28 similar message could be sent to the State side, that  
29 this is a conservation effort. Unfortunately the ADF&G  
30 Department of Conservation was not able to out forward  
31 that message to the Board of Game, and I would certainly  
32 hope that this Council could send that message to the  
33 Board of Game.

34

35                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Questions  
36 for Sandy.

37

38                   MR. KOBUK: Yes, I have a question. You  
39 mentioned 22(A), where you're talking about south that  
40 they were opposed to discluding non-residents from  
41 hunting in that area -- did I understand that right  
42 or.....

43

44                   MS. TAHBONE: The original proposal that  
45 the Southern Advisory Council had submitted had the  
46 restrictions on the subsistence time, the resident hunt,  
47 and they allowed for a non-resident hunt in the Golsovia  
48 area, the southern portion of 22(A), but then they  
49 further, after the last meeting, it was, I believe late  
50 summer when they had their final meeting, they amended

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1 their proposal to restrict all non-resident hunting, to  
2 close non-resident hunting to the entire unit.

3

4 MR. KOBUK: Okay. That answers my  
5 question then. All right.

6

7 MR. GRAY: When you do subsistence  
8 surveys in the villages, do you -- let's take my village,  
9 for example, do you -- let's say there's 10 moose shot on  
10 the State system and there's three moose shot on the  
11 Federal system, on a subsistence system, when you do your  
12 interviews, do you do it so some of these State permits  
13 can be a subsistence hunt, do you interpret it that way?

14

15 MS. TAHBONE: We haven't to this point.

16

17 MR. GRAY: And I'm bringing out this  
18 point because you look at White Mountain, probably 90  
19 percent of those State permits could be justified as a  
20 subsistence even though they're a State permit and not in  
21 the subsistence parameters. The people putting that meat  
22 on the table, that's subsistence to them in a sense.

23

24 So we need to keep that in mind,  
25 especially when we're doing regulations and trying to set  
26 quotas. You know, in reality, I think we should have a  
27 quota of 42 subsistence permits for moose hunts in my  
28 area and two State hunts and let them comp -- that's  
29 reality, let them compete for those State hunts. We need  
30 to protect that subsistence side of the issue. And if we  
31 don't document this, eventually it's going to catch up to  
32 us and we're going to have a problem.

33

34 MS. TAHBONE: Madame Chairman. Tom,  
35 fortunately we're able to do that under the Federal  
36 process. Under the State process they don't really  
37 recognize it as a subsistence hunt, it's a resident hunt.  
38 And that's, you know, they have where you're probably  
39 able to get to the point where you're talking about, you  
40 would be in a Tier II situation. In a Tier I, you know,  
41 we find that within the Nome, within 22(C), it may be a  
42 resident hunt but there's a lot of non-locals that come  
43 to Nome and hunt in our unit which affects our, quote,  
44 subsistence hunt.

45

46 MR. GRAY: And I guess the point I'm  
47 trying to throw on the table is let's say Joe Blow can  
48 come from Anchorage and hunt our area and maybe we have  
49 six of those moose hunters come in and take six moose out  
50 of this area, yet, there's 36 moose that are taken inside

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1 this area and 10 of them are subsistence and the other 26  
2 are not. If we don't start recognizing that some of that  
3 other 26 should or could be classified as subsistence  
4 we're going to be playing catch up down the road.

5  
6 MS. TAHBONE: We certainly could add  
7 that. You know, I never even thought about it until you  
8 brought it up to ask that question, are you -- which hunt  
9 you're hunting, or which hunt they believe they're  
10 hunting under, so we could consider adding that to our  
11 survey questionnaire.

12  
13 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Sandy, I have a  
14 question. On like this subsistence hunt, are all the  
15 people involved on this, aren't they still required by  
16 the State rules to have a harvest tag and go through all  
17 the formalities?

18  
19 MS. TAHBONE: They are required to have  
20 that but they necessarily do not do that. Kate, probably  
21 has some information. It's believed that, I just believe  
22 five percent of what's actually harvested is reported.

23  
24 MR. GRAY: And I'm trying to go  
25 somewhere. The reason I threw this on the table is you  
26 look at the fishing world, the first thing that goes is  
27 sportfishing, then subsistence and then in the end you  
28 have nothing. Now, we don't have anything in place for  
29 hunting from what I understand. Generally the guide  
30 goes, then sport hunting, then subsistence. But if we go  
31 along with the system as it is right now we're going to  
32 have no documentation down the road that if there was no  
33 sport hunting, the majority of those sport hunters will  
34 subsistence hunt. And I think that's important down the  
35 road when we start dealing with bureaucracies that we  
36 need to justify subsistence. And when you look at  
37 subsistence in this region, this Board here is talking  
38 about moose, how many moose are we talking about, 15, 20?  
39 How many moose come out of this area, hundreds of moose.  
40 So it's really important that you, at least, the very  
41 least recognize that in the villages, the majority of  
42 those animals are subsistence animals in reality.

43  
44 Do you see where I'm going here?

45  
46 MS. TAHBONE: Yeah. We do the -- they  
47 are subsistence harvest surveys. So every moose that we  
48 do record as harvested is a moose, does that answer your  
49 -- we don't -- Kawerak does not have the authority or  
50 necessarily is privy to the State system where they

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1 maintain the guiding and the sport, that aspect of it,  
2 they're able to gather those numbers, so I have no  
3 knowledge other than if I ask the State, how many non-  
4 resident moose were harvested.

5  
6 MR. GRAY: The point I'm trying to put on  
7 the table, and I don't know, maybe I'm doing a poor job  
8 of it is, let's take his river, for example. You know,  
9 there's subsistence users, there's sport hunter users and  
10 there's out -- people from out of his area,  
11 I mean eventually his river, if the resource is hammered  
12 is going to go through a process that the non-residents  
13 can't hunt and then it will be the non-local area people  
14 that we're talking about doing in St. Michael's can't  
15 hunt and then pretty soon sport hunting is out the door  
16 and all we have left is subsistence, and that's what  
17 happens with fish, exactly that process.

18  
19 What we have right now is we have a  
20 history of very few animals being hunted from the locals  
21 under subsistence but in reality the majority of the  
22 sport hunters are subsistence hunters. And that's what  
23 I'm trying to get at here, is we need to get a feel for  
24 what's out there.

25  
26 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, correct me if I'm  
27 wrong, Sandy, but I guess when we go into a village like  
28 White Mountain and do these surveys, we pretty much  
29 consider all of the harvest that we obtain from residents  
30 of White Mountain to be subsistence harvest and maybe  
31 that's not necessarily correct, but I think that's what  
32 we've assumed in the past.

33  
34 MS. TAHBONE: I see where Tom is coming  
35 from, though, because of the requirement of the State  
36 they do have that regulation which requires a subsistence  
37 user to have a license and so they're in the State side  
38 that could be considered a sport license, if you will, is  
39 that what you're driving at Tom, is that the.....

40  
41 MR. GRAY: It's a raw picture, but the  
42 bottom line is there's a resource out there and the  
43 subsistence user should be the last one using it and all  
44 of a sudden there's going to be a whole bunch of people  
45 that just change coats, or change hats from sport hunting  
46 to subsistence hunting all of a sudden. And the  
47 resource is going to get whacked because it's like in my  
48 area, they announced over the radio they're going to  
49 close sport fishing, okay, then so they close it. All of  
50 a sudden they announce that they're going to close

00069

1 subsistence fishing. Well, this was a Monday, Tuesday  
2 everybody's out seining, Thursday they closed it,  
3 everybody's sitting there, oh, that's fine, we've already  
4 got our fish and we don't care. But there was a big  
5 influx of subsistence users that just hammered the  
6 resource and that's what I'm trying to say here.

7  
8 This Board needs to know what it's  
9 subsistence users are. What do we have there? What is  
10 being utilized.

11  
12 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Grace, I wanted to  
13 make a comment because this issue has come up in other  
14 places, particularly where we've had somebody who's  
15 hunting under Federal regulations and they're hunting for  
16 trophy.

17  
18 MR. GRAY: Uh-huh.

19  
20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: But we've been told  
21 time and time again, anybody hunting who lives in a rural  
22 community who's hunting under Federal regulations, they  
23 are hunting for subsistence and that we're not allowed to  
24 make that differentiation. I mean understand what you're  
25 saying and I agree with you.....

26  
27 MR. GRAY: But.....

28  
29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: .....but we -- but our  
30 regs, if you're in a subsistence community and it's rural  
31 residents and you take something under Federal regs it's  
32 subsistence whether you're just taking it for the trophy  
33 or not.

34  
35 MR. GRAY: And that's great. I mean a  
36 wholeheartedly -- I understand that. But you don't have  
37 the information the State has -- you don't -- I mean  
38 she's got 70 percent more users on that resource than  
39 you're talking about and all of a sudden out of 70  
40 percent, 65 percent of those are going to be subsistence  
41 users when that door closes there.

42  
43 Do you see what I'm trying to bring to  
44 the table.

45  
46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think the problem we  
47 have there, Tom, is that under the State license, it  
48 doesn't distinguish between a subsistence or a non-  
49 subsistence user. And if I understand your  
50 recommendation, your recommendation would be when Kawerak

00070

1 does its subsistence survey, that they specifically ask,  
2 did you take a moose for subsistence or for sport.

3

4 MR. GRAY: That.....

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Under the Federal.....

7

8 MR. GRAY: Okay, go ahead.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: .....and restrict it  
11 to.....

12

13 MR. GRAY: What I'm after is if Kawerak  
14 is going to do a survey, you know, my suggestion is have  
15 a box on there that says, could this be classified as  
16 subsistence, boom, don't enter sport into it at all  
17 because.....

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: That's what I  
20 understand Kawerak to do when they do their surveys, they  
21 do a subsistence survey.

22

23 MR. GRAY: See, I don't.....

24

25 MS. TAHBONE: Maybe the question --  
26 excuse me.

27

28 MR. GRAY: See, I don't think you're  
29 surveying everybody? Are you surveying everybody?

30

31 MS. TAHBONE: Yeah, we survey each  
32 household. Maybe the question should be, could this be  
33 classified as sport because we are -- it is a subsistence  
34 survey and we specifically ask for subsistence.

35

36 MR. GRAY: Yeah.

37

38 MS. TAHBONE: We don't -- so we don't  
39 capture the data for sport.

40

41 MR. GRAY: Okay. I'll drop it. You  
42 know, maybe it's being done. I think -- maybe it's being  
43 done. I think she's got an idea of what I'm after and  
44 I'd be happy to talk to her later a little bit about  
45 that.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yeah, I appreciate  
48 that.

49

50 MR. GRAY: Yeah.

00071

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Ken, did you have  
2 something to add?

3  
4 MR. ADKISSON: Yes, Madame Chair, Council  
5 members. Tom, especially. Ken Adkisson, National Park  
6 Service. I mean the Park Service has been involved in  
7 these harvest surveys for a number of years.

8  
9 And I think to get at what Tom is asking,  
10 the basic approach to these is to document harvest in  
11 communities. And so the focus is on a community harvest.  
12 And the surveyors ask questions essentially aimed at  
13 documenting harvest first from a household and then that  
14 information is aggravated or added together for a  
15 community. And so the questions are like, did you or  
16 anybody in your household harvest a moose during a  
17 certain period of time? Then there are other questions  
18 that they can ask, you know, did share the moose, did you  
19 receive moose, et cetera, et cetera.

20  
21 But the focus is, is you come away with  
22 that with a pretty good idea of how many moose in that  
23 period of time were harvested by that community, and  
24 there's really no distinction on whether you're hunting  
25 under a Federal permit or you're hunting under a State  
26 permit. What you come up with -- or why you were really  
27 hunting. What you come up with is a picture of what that  
28 community took in relation to moose.

29  
30 And I think it's pretty safe to assume  
31 from what we know about subsistence that the bulk of that  
32 is subsistence. You could, yeah, if you got everybody in  
33 the community you might get a school teacher if it was  
34 included in your survey that was primarily hunting for a  
35 trophy purpose, but, you know, that's going to be so --  
36 you could eliminate that household if you really wanted  
37 to or it's not going to make much difference.

38  
39 I think the other question to Tom is.....

40  
41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Ken, I think that we  
42 really need to go back to our proposal, we're really  
43 swaying away from it.

44  
45 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, okay.

46  
47 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So, Tom, I would  
48 really appreciate it if you would talk to Ken and Sandy  
49 with further concerns a little bit later, but we do need  
50 to get back to our proposal. Are there any more

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1 questions related to our proposal to Sandy?

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Sandy.

6

7 MS. TAHBONE: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, now we come to  
10 Regional Council deliberation, recommendations and  
11 justification. Now, we can talk about the meat of our  
12 proposal.

13

14 What I hear is that there's support to  
15 have -- what I hear from some of the RAC members is to  
16 support the proposal as on Page 80, support with  
17 modification. And then I also hear one thing and that  
18 was from Leonard was to look at remainder of Unit 22(A)  
19 on the winter hunt to further restrict that to the  
20 residents of St. Michael and Stebbins, and I think we  
21 should discuss that a little bit before we actually make  
22 a decision on what we're going to do.

23

24 Is that what I understand you to be  
25 saying, Leonard, on that portion where it says the  
26 December 1 to December 31st, it says during the December  
27 1 to December 31st only antlered moose may be taken,  
28 Federal public lands are closed to taking of moose except  
29 by, right now, the proposal has it, as the residents of  
30 22(A); what I understand you to say, and correct me if  
31 I'm wrong is, instead of residents of 22(A), the desire  
32 of Stebbins and St. Michael is to restrict that further  
33 to the residents of St. Michael and Stebbins?

34

35 MR. KOBUK: What I was saying and what I  
36 could gather from the residents, those hunters from at  
37 home was they are in support of this proposal with the  
38 exception that they are allowed to hunt -- because like I  
39 said, some do, very few do it in August and September, a  
40 majority of them do it when there's enough snow and it's  
41 safe to travel, they want the winter hunt to just be the  
42 residents of St. Michael and Stebbins only.

43

44 And I would support it at that.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And I'm also hearing  
47 from Vance, Vance was saying, well, this is a beginning  
48 of a remedy because we don't -- what I'm hearing him to  
49 say is we don't have adequate information from the past  
50 to actually do anything more restrictive than what it is.



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1 So maybe you can expound on that a little bit and  
2 reiterate what you had to say earlier before we actually  
3 vote.

4

5 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Yeah, I think that is  
6 correct. This is a problem we've just been presented  
7 with and I'm new to this whole thing. I've just got on  
8 this Board and I'm trying to look at everything  
9 objectively and I want to be the eyes and ears for the  
10 people in Unalakleet and represent them here. And, you  
11 know, I think for the most part everybody gets along fine  
12 down there, between villages and things.

13

14 We haven't infringed, to my knowledge, we  
15 haven't had to go down to the southern unit to get our  
16 moose. Now, it may happen, hopefully if it does there  
17 wouldn't be any hard feelings over it. But as the way it  
18 is here now, that's what could take place. But if you  
19 put the wording in there and change it to those two  
20 villages on the south unit, why, then you eliminate that  
21 problem of Unalakleet possibly going down there. And  
22 it's however we want to look at it.

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, it's actually  
25 not just Unalakleet, we're also talking about Shaktoolik.

26

27 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Yeah. But I don't  
28 think Shaktoolik, and Myron could elaborate on that.

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Myron.

31

32 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: They probably would not  
33 go down that far as theirs will be open, too.

34

35 MR. SAVETILIK: Madame Chair, I'm trying  
36 to think, I was just looking at the proposal, too.  
37 There was a few individuals that were wondering if it  
38 would be possible to open the winter season also again,  
39 they were wondering why it was closed. I know a majority  
40 of the residents in Shaktoolik, they hunt in the fall  
41 time, and there's a few that are looking at their winter  
42 hunt for moose for their subsistence.

43

44 And I was just looking at this right here  
45 and it says no winter season for my area. In the past it  
46 has -- it was December 1 to December 31 for the winter  
47 season also.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think that we're  
50 really going to have a lot to think about and I would

00074

1 prefer that we make our comments to the proposal  
2 concerns, let's not make any -- let's not even move to  
3 accept or reject this until after lunch and we have time  
4 to kind of think about it, during lunch, before we make  
5 any decisions. That would be my recommendation. It's  
6 really getting close to lunch time anyway.

7  
8 I know this is -- when the special action  
9 was being worked on it was a really difficult time  
10 because we're restricting some of the subsistence users  
11 and not [sic] restricting by communities, which is  
12 unfortunately very hard to do.

13  
14 Unless somebody else has anything further  
15 to say about it for now, I think we should think about it  
16 during lunch time and come back and readdress it and if  
17 we need to talk about it more or actually deliberate or  
18 actually make a decision on the proposal as it is or  
19 amend it or whatever.

20  
21 So does everybody agree with me?

22  
23 (Council nods affirmatively)

24  
25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, so for now,  
26 let's take a lunch break. We'll shoot to be back at  
27 1:00.

28  
29 Thanks.

30  
31 (Off record)

32  
33 (On record)

34  
35 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I'll call the meeting  
36 back to order, it's about seven after 1:00, and we're  
37 still on 04-70. We're still on Unit 22(A) moose.

38  
39 Okay, we were down to Regional Council  
40 deliberation, recommendation and justification.

41  
42 MR. SAVETILIK: Madame Chair, would it be  
43 possible if we were to, for the winter hunt, limit it to  
44 the residents of Shaktoolik on this proposal on Federal  
45 lands?

46  
47 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I guess we're going to  
48 have to address two things. One is Stebbins and St.  
49 Michael were also requesting for the same thing, a  
50 limited winter hunt for the residents of St. Michael and

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1 Stebbins only, and now the question as to whether or not  
2 the residents of Shaktoolik only winter hunt would be  
3 allowed and we don't have any time period given at this  
4 time. I think Kate has a reason for sitting down so I'll  
5 ask her if she could, before we go any further, she can  
6 talk about what she needs to talk about.

7

8 MS. PERSONS: Thank you. Yeah, I wanted  
9 to explain a little bit about the way the regulation it  
10 is the way it is, or the proposed regulation is for the  
11 northern part of Unit 22(A).

12

13 We don't have census data for that area.  
14 We've never done a moose census there, but we have done a  
15 number of spring composition surveys there. And every  
16 time we've flown there we've found a very low number of  
17 moose and a very low calf/cow or short yearling adult  
18 ratio, very similar to what we've found in the Unalakleet  
19 drainage. And we don't have any reason to believe that  
20 the moose population in those northern drainages isn't  
21 experiencing the same sort of problems that are occurring  
22 in the Unalakleet drainage.

23

24 But you were away last summer, I think,  
25 at your Fish and Game job when all the meetings took  
26 place about this, but I went to Shaktoolik a couple weeks  
27 before the first Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee  
28 meeting and met with community members and discussed  
29 options for addressing the moose situation and the people  
30 that attended the meeting, you know, shared my concern.  
31 They believed that there was a decline in moose numbers  
32 from what they'd seen and they were concerned about it,  
33 and they talked about a number of different options. And  
34 there were only about six people, though, present at that  
35 meeting and they didn't make a final decision there about  
36 a recommendation but Harvey Sukiak, who is on the AC as  
37 you are, and if you'd been there you certainly would have  
38 been involved with it. But he said that the community  
39 would come up with a recommendation to present at the  
40 Advisory Committee meeting a couple weeks later. And he  
41 was not able to attend, Bill Tockok came in his place and  
42 he came with a written recommendation from the community,  
43 which is what you see on this proposal. And, at least,  
44 at that meeting, I don't know if any of you were present  
45 at it but he was very, you know, definitive, that this is  
46 what, you know, the people that they talked to in  
47 Shaktoolik, wanted. And then at the follow up meeting  
48 before the Board of Game, they continued to support that  
49 position.

50

00076

1 So anyway, that's how it came about.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Sandy, does Kawerak  
6 have anything, any communication with the Shaktoolik area  
7 regarding when they were discussing the moose situation,  
8 do you have anything to add?

9

10 MS. TAHBONE: No. We have not done any  
11 beaver -- beaver, I'm just reading about beaver.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MS. TAHBONE: We have not done any big  
16 game harvest surveys in Shaktoolik for a number of years  
17 and unfortunately we weren't able to participate with  
18 ADF&G at the summer meeting and we haven't received any  
19 communications from Shaktoolik regarding their position  
20 with moose.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, one of the  
23 concerns that was presented to me was the distance of  
24 travel for a winter hunt from Shaktoolik to the area  
25 which is open for the limited winter hunt. The Federal  
26 lands certainly are closer than having to go all the way  
27 down to where St. Michael and Stebbins are. That was one  
28 concern that was presented to me.

29

30 I realize there's no numbers and that's really  
31 unfortunate for us to make major decisions when we don't  
32 have the numbers for it. And it almost seems  
33 contradictory for the State to say, you know, close  
34 subsistence hunting for winter, however, keep resident  
35 [sic] hunting for two weeks, but, you know, that's my  
36 personal opinion.

37

38 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair. This is for  
39 Kate. The Unalakleet River and the Shaktoolik area, is  
40 that a registration hunt that the State does just like  
41 Fish River area, and if not is that in the works, is that  
42 coming down the pike, are you guys looking at something  
43 like this?

44

45 MS. PERSONS: Currently, no, it's just a  
46 general season hunt. There's no registration hunt, no  
47 quota or anything like that. It is something, at least  
48 for the Unalakleet drainage, that we've begun talking  
49 about but we need to work more with the community and get  
50 support for that before we implement anything like that.

00077

1 And we expect to try and go that direction before the  
2 next Board meeting.

3

4 MR. GRAY: And how far off is this Board  
5 meeting?

6

7 MS. PERSONS: The State Board meets once  
8 every two years to.....

9

10 MR. GRAY: And they just got done meeting  
11 so.....

12

13 MS. PERSONS: Right.

14

15 MR. GRAY: .....so it would be a two  
16 year.....

17

18 MS. PERSONS: That's correct. That's  
19 correct.

20

21 MR. GRAY: So I guess what I'm trying to  
22 think about here, it would be easy if it was a  
23 registration hunt to deal with because.....

24

25 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

26

27 MR. GRAY: .....it doesn't matter, we  
28 could have it open year-round.

29

30 MS. PERSONS: Right.

31

32 MR. GRAY: And if it's going to be two  
33 years before this is dealt with it sounds more serious  
34 than meets the eye here, and I think two years is going  
35 to really affect the resource. You know, the easy way  
36 out, I guess, is -- and this is why I wanted numbers on  
37 subsistence, how many subsistence users are we talking  
38 about? How many subsistence hunts? Is it five hunts  
39 that in his area that we're talking about, is it one  
40 hunt, how many hunts?

41

42 Because I guess I would support let's go  
43 to a one month in each of these units if it's not going  
44 to impact that resource that bad. Especially when we  
45 have two years to work with it. If we're only talking  
46 about 10 animals in each unit, 10 animals isn't a lot of  
47 animals. But if it's 20 or 30 animals a unit that will  
48 have a big impact.

49

50 You see what I'm leading up to here, is

00078

1 we've got two years to deal with this thing if the State  
2 is going to come in line with the registration hunt and  
3 he wants his area to be able to hunt and my bottom line  
4 is I want to protect subsistence users, but her  
5 obligation is to everybody, my obligation is to  
6 subsistence.

7

8                   So anyway, it's something to think about  
9 here.

10

11                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I always find it very  
12 difficult to restrict subsistence users more than non-  
13 subsistence users. I mean if you were to allow a non-  
14 resident hunt in an area which believes to be declining  
15 moose populations and then take out a winter hunt for  
16 subsistence users, that doesn't make any sense to me.

17

18                   It seems that all avenues -- subsistence  
19 should not be closed until all other avenues are closed.  
20 And, you know, personally, I -- the Golsovia area,  
21 there's the other request which the State has -- which is  
22 a majority of the State land, they're agreeing that there  
23 is a winter hunt for that area where -- for St. Michael  
24 and Stebbins, there's very little Federal lands over  
25 there. The area we're talking about cutting off the  
26 winter hunt around Shaktoolik has got a larger percentage  
27 of -- if you look at the map, the amount of Federal land  
28 is substantially more than the one we're allowing a  
29 winter hunt to be.

30

31                   It seems to me with inadequate numbers,  
32 there's still an allowance of a non-resident hunt, but,  
33 yet, you're taking out the winter hunt and people are  
34 starting to ask why, why is this so? So it just does not  
35 make -- the rationale -- I don't see the rationale behind  
36 it. It almost seems like for us to conserve moose, let's  
37 just cut off the subsistence users but we'll keep the  
38 others open; that doesn't make sense to me. And I don't  
39 know how the rest of you feel.

40

41                   My inclination would be to have limited  
42 winter hunts in both, restricted to St. Michael and  
43 Stebbins and restricted to Shaktoolik, but that's my  
44 inclination at this point. But restricted maybe for just  
45 a month. Until -- because these things are going to be  
46 looked at again and Kate's going to be doing some numbers  
47 and I hope BLM will be doing some number counting, too,  
48 because we do have some concerns that BLM really needs to  
49 pay attention to now, either through contribute some  
50 bucks or helping the State count numbers, but we're

00079

1 really in a situation, we have a dire situation and BLM,  
2 which this RAC has been asking for years to do counts  
3 around Unalakleet River for moose counts, is really time  
4 for them to click in and start working with the State in  
5 getting adequate numbers. We're in dire times now.

6  
7 I'm scolding from the past.

8  
9 But anyway, that's my inclination but I'd  
10 like to hear from the rest of the RAC, too.

11  
12 Kate.

13  
14 MS. PERSONS: Well, I'd just like to say  
15 that BLM has been wonderful about helping. They  
16 contributed, both financially and with personnel last  
17 year to the work that we've done in 22(A).

18  
19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yeah, I realize that.  
20 I'm talking about having to request over and over again  
21 from the previous years.

22  
23 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.

24  
25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So we'll just drop BLM  
26 for now and their contributions and go back to our  
27 subject.

28  
29 MS. COLE: Jeannie Cole with the Bureau  
30 of Land Management. I just wanted to make a comment.

31  
32 This proposal does include closure of  
33 Federal public lands and as Grace mentioned there is a  
34 lot of Federal land around Shaktoolik and I don't know  
35 what impact that would have on non-resident hunting, but  
36 it seems to me that that would probably reduce the amount  
37 of non-resident hunting, so you might also take that  
38 under consideration.

39  
40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. And  
41 somebody else had their hand raised over here, I think.  
42 No, my imagine.

43  
44 MR. GRAY: She brings up a good point  
45 that if BLM shuts down or the Feds say no non-resident  
46 hunting, and the majority of that land mass is Federal  
47 lands, does the State comply with that? What will happen  
48 there?

49  
50 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, non-residents can

00080

1 only hunt on the State managed land. They would not be  
2 able to hunt on the Federal lands.

3

4 MR. GRAY: Okay. So anyway, I'm in  
5 agreement with Grace and I don't really have a heartache  
6 with even Unalakleet coming on board and having an open  
7 season, a shorter season, go from one month to -- or two  
8 months to one months for all these units so we don't have  
9 overlapping of Unalakleet people going into Shaktoolik,  
10 back and forth, but, you know, I think the bottom line is  
11 and this will put these agencies on the line that we have  
12 two years to come up with a united plan of how we're  
13 going to deal with moose in these areas and everybody  
14 coming together on this plan.

15

16 I guess, the thing of it is and we're  
17 still dealing with the resource and whether it's her  
18 resource or her resource, whoever, it's the same  
19 resource, it sounds like there's a lot of different plans  
20 going out there and there isn't a lot of planning,  
21 internal planning going on. And I think over the next  
22 two years that needs to happen, especially in situations  
23 like this here.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Kate.

26

27 MS. PERSONS: There's actually been a lot  
28 of internal planning, inter-agency planning, work with  
29 all these communities. This last year that really has  
30 been our focus, and the reason for the disparity in these  
31 regulations is to try and accommodate very different  
32 hunting patterns in these different villages in Unit  
33 22(A), so it looks like this, you know, mish-mash of  
34 stuff that, you know, just didn't come together at all,  
35 but, in fact, it's in response to different traditions in  
36 different parts of the unit.

37

38 MR. GRAY: Okay. But still, you know,  
39 Grace keeps bringing up the non-resident issue over and  
40 over. I mean there could be a lot more planning in here,  
41 and that's what I'm trying to say, is to streamline this  
42 thing, you know, I'm ready to deal with this motion the  
43 way it is or whatever. You know, I think the main thing  
44 is we need to cut back on animals, how many animals we're  
45 taking. And, you know, in our area, the Fish and Game's  
46 attitude was we're not going to hunt during the rut and  
47 there was a lot of people pissed off in my village  
48 because they couldn't hunt during the rut period. But  
49 when it boils right down to it, it protected that  
50 resource.



00081

1                   One thing that isn't being weighed in all  
2 of this is our society now days has four-wheelers and  
3 equipment that puts us way back in the middle of nowhere,  
4 and I heard somebody bring up the issue of noise and just  
5 intervention from equipment and so on and so forth, and  
6 that's going to displace animals. So there's a lot of  
7 factors involved in this.

8  
9                   Airplanes. You got to Kotzebue,  
10 everybody's pissed off at airplanes.

11  
12                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think one of my most  
13 concerns is when I heard Myron say that there is people  
14 who were concerned about having no winter hunt. The  
15 thing we also have to think about is if we restrict the  
16 Federal lands to, for example, St. Michael and Stebbins  
17 only and Shaktoolik only for winter hunt, we have that  
18 middle section that has no place to go. So maybe -- I'm  
19 inclined to do -- at the same time you're leaving out the  
20 residents of Unalakleet to go where if they need to go?  
21 And maybe because we don't have any adequate numbers it  
22 might be wise for us to adopt the proposal as is, but  
23 make a strong recommendations that numbers be closely  
24 watched, and be looked at very quickly, maybe even on a  
25 cycle from the game cycle, when there's adequate numbers  
26 then readdress the issues about winter hunts if need be.

27  
28                   It's just that we don't have enough,  
29 other than the Unalakleet River drainage area, that area,  
30 that middle section, we don't have enough numbers to  
31 almost justify restricting it even further although I'd  
32 like to see that.

33  
34                   I don't know, I want somebody else to say  
35 something about it, like Jake.

36  
37                   MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, Jake Olanna.  
38 In looking at this proposal, you know, like Tom was  
39 saying and I've heard this many times before, the Federal  
40 public lands can be restricted to resident subsistence  
41 users only. Why don't we just modify that we restrict  
42 non-resident harvest of moose?

43  
44                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: That would be the  
45 residents of.....

46  
47                   MR. OLANNA: I know but I mean available  
48 to the residents of Unit 22. Are we going by regions,  
49 22(A)?

50

00082

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: No, this is Page.....

2

3 MR. OLANNA: I know, but this is  
4 confusing me here.

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: This is what we want,  
7 Page 68.

8

9 MR. OLANNA: Okay, yeah, I'm looking at  
10 that, but.....

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Maybe somebody should  
13 start identifying with the map and this might be a good  
14 map to go to and go through this -- beginning on Page 68.

15

16 (Pause)

17

18 MR. SEETOT: I think in the past, Unit  
19 22(D) we were restricted by low moose numbers, pretty  
20 much what is happening now in 22(A). We're arguing about  
21 that, however, I think the moose rebounded in our area.  
22 I think what ADF&G was saying last year is that it has  
23 good recruitment on calves.

24

25 Even though we were restricted or not  
26 allowed to hunt, you know, we survived. I think it's  
27 pretty much passed from generation to generation, that if  
28 you want the resource to still be in your area you have  
29 to make some sacrifices on your own part.

30

31 Even though I crave the moose, you know,  
32 I was able to forego moose in that area because, you  
33 know, there's -- like it says in the analysis, ADF&G, you  
34 know, did not report any green tickets, but there was  
35 still a lot of harvest that was being done that -- was  
36 found by other agencies. You know, you need the numbers  
37 to kind of forecast your numbers.

38

39 But people won't tell you, you know, I  
40 got moose last year, but I didn't tell ADF&G. Pretty  
41 much the same way in the Agiapuk region. Agiapuk  
42 drainage, a lot of moose is taken, but like I said, most  
43 of it is not reported. One is that there is a lot of  
44 young hunters. Would you turn in that person that  
45 provides you meat, you know, it just pretty much -- I  
46 wouldn't say illegal poaching, but, you know, just taking  
47 a resource without really reporting. Like someone said  
48 like we didn't have these restrictions placed on us, it  
49 was pretty much we go by the season, you know, we don't  
50 get them during the rut, we're restricted by weather,

00083

1 we're restricted by terrain or other circumstances.  
2 Sometimes we just don't know what factors play in the  
3 rebound of certain species.

4

5 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Chuck, oh, I'm sorry.

8

9 MR. ARDIZZONE: I was just give some  
10 clarification. The preliminary conclusion if you look on  
11 Page 80, the regulations that are on Page 80.

12

13 Say that Federal public lands are closed  
14 to the taking of moose except for residents of Unit 22(A)  
15 only. So basically Federal lands would preclude non-  
16 residents, State hunters from hunting on Federal lands.  
17 If that's what you're worried about in the northern  
18 portion.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I guess I was kind of  
21 worried about, you know, I have this inclination to  
22 restrict it more, at the same time there's just not  
23 enough information to do that. And it's just a very  
24 difficult decision for me.

25

26 MR. BUCK: Madame Chair.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Go ahead, Peter.

29

30 MR. BUCK: One question, I would take the  
31 Southern Norton Sound's recommendation for the proposal,  
32 the way that they wanted it because it's their region,  
33 and I think they made a pretty informed decision on their  
34 own part so I'd support their decision from the Southern  
35 Norton Sound.

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: In a sense the  
38 proposal that we're looking at now would basically do  
39 that on the Federal lands; am I correct, Kate?

40

41 MS. PERSONS: That's correct. Except for  
42 you have a different mechanism for dealing with non-  
43 resident harvest.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Restricting to  
46 residents in Unit 22(A) would do what was originally  
47 intended on the State lands, wouldn't it? They didn't  
48 want any non-resident hunting.

49

50 MS. PERSONS: Well, it's not quite that

00084

1 simple because, and I don't -- I don't fully understand  
2 it. There's Federal lands and then there's Federal  
3 lands, and there are Federal lands in this southern part  
4 that, although they're BLM lands, help me Jeannie, the  
5 State regulations apply, and so they're State selected.  
6 And so in that case non-resident hunters could still hunt  
7 on those Federal lands that are managed by the State.

8

9 But I don't -- Jeannie can talk to that.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Which portion are we  
12 talking about, the one you identify as south, north, we  
13 know not central.

14

15 MS. PERSONS: That was in the southern  
16 part, and I'm not sure what the situation is in the  
17 northern part. I mean it's not true everywhere in the  
18 southern part, but the lands where a lot of this moose  
19 harvest occurs are BLM lands but they're State selected  
20 so State regulations apply.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jeannie.

23

24 MS. COLE: If you look at the regulation  
25 book, all the yellow lands shown in the regulation book  
26 are the BLM lands where the Federal regulations apply.  
27 And the white lands are either the Native corporation  
28 lands, Native selected lands, State lands or State  
29 selected lands and then the State regulations would apply  
30 on all those lands except the Native corporations would  
31 have the option of requiring people to get permission to  
32 hunt on their lands.

33

34 So actually looking at the northern part  
35 of this, you're closing the lands that are the farthest  
36 away from the villages, actually, and the lands closer to  
37 Shaktoolik would be under the State regulations. And I  
38 don't know how the non-resident harvest is distributed  
39 over those lands. I don't know who much of it occurs  
40 right now on Federal land and would be eliminated versus  
41 how much of it is occurring on State or State selected  
42 lands and would not be eliminated by this proposal.

43

44 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Looking at the map like  
45 that, Jeannie, I think it would be a good idea if there  
46 would be a way to show which lands are Native lands and  
47 which ones are State selected lands for BLM. I know like  
48 for around Unalakleet all the coastal area would be  
49 Native lands, but the white in the other areas, we have  
50 no way of knowing what's a State selected land or Native

00085

1 lands without a color description on this map.

2

3 MS. COLE: Yeah, unfortunately, I mean,  
4 BLM does have maps that show that and so does the State  
5 but I don't believe we have any here with us right now.

6

7 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Yeah. But I think that  
8 would be a good idea because it would allow people to  
9 know which is which and where it's going.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think in just  
12 looking at the land, there's a lot of orange. I think  
13 we've kind of discussed this down to where we'll be  
14 repeating ourselves, so maybe we should look at taking an  
15 action on it now.

16

17 MR. GRAY: Well, I still think Shaktoolik  
18 has a request that hasn't really been answered. And, you  
19 know, this.....

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And so does St.  
22 Michael and Stebbins.

23

24 MR. GRAY: Well, St. Michael and Stebbins  
25 is in the proposal, but Shaktoolik is looking for an add-  
26 on to this proposal and I think we've kind of heard  
27 everything from the agencies. You know, I'd like to hear  
28 what he has to say after he's heard all this stuff and if  
29 he wants to push a change in this proposal. Because if  
30 he doesn't then let's act on the proposal. If he does,  
31 let's discuss it.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Myron.

34

35 MR. SAVETILIK: Madame Chair. Myron  
36 Savetilik, Shaktoolik. I know just looking at  
37 Shaktoolik, you were stating earlier that if we're to add  
38 Shaktoolik, I would also like to see the central part of  
39 it be added on, too, if it's not a problem with that.  
40 Because there are three units here and one is like St.  
41 Michael and Stebbins, they've got it, it's already been  
42 there. But looking at for us, you know, for the north  
43 and central, I think it would be appropriate for those to  
44 be added on.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, actually you can  
47 travel from Shaktoolik to the area where it's open and do  
48 a winter hunt there as it is by the proposal right now.  
49 You don't have a winter hunt closest to Shaktoolik,  
50 however, you can travel to the area that has a winter

00086

1 hunt.

2

3 MS. PERSONS: Grace.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Go ahead.

6

7 MS. PERSONS: I'd like to point out, too,  
8 that you could also travel to eastern 22(B) where there  
9 is a hunt through December -- in November and December.

10

11 MR. GRAY: I was going to ask a question  
12 awhile ago and I forgot what I was going to ask and I  
13 just realized, the date, December 1st through 31st, where  
14 did that number come from? Was that what the villages  
15 want?

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Actually St. Michael  
18 and Stebbins, there were 10 hunters on the line during  
19 the special action and that's where the dates came from.

20

21 MR. GRAY: So that date, the December  
22 hunt was requested by the hunters then? I just, in my  
23 mind, you know, I'm thinking that's Christmas, that's the  
24 shortest days of the year and goodness sakes that's kind  
25 of a tough time to hunt. But if that's what they want,  
26 you know, I'm backing it.

27

28 MR. KOBUK: Wasn't that a special action  
29 that they agreed to go -- it would just be for that time  
30 being, that they had to agreed to it, but they also told  
31 me -- I told them that this meeting was happening, and  
32 some of the residents, I know St. Michael wants and I  
33 know Stebbins is also going to want to have that winter  
34 hunt. Like I say, most of them don't do all their  
35 hunting in August and September, most of them it's when  
36 it's safe to travel with a snowmachine.

37

38 They want to be able to hunt in the Yukon  
39 Wildlife Refuge which is in our neighborhood, just to  
40 residents only during the winter.

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think maybe in  
43 determination, I don't know if we're going to be able to  
44 come up with any determination as to whether or not we're  
45 going to provide winter hunts for Shaktoolik or change  
46 the dates of hunts to St. Michael and Stebbins. It seems  
47 to me that one of the ways we can handle this is to go  
48 ahead and act on this proposal, as is, and then take the  
49 whole matter out of season and look at it again -- out of  
50 cycle and look at it in our spring meeting and see how

00087

1 things have done this winter. And by the fall,  
2 hopefully, somebody will have better numbers to give us  
3 and then we can really look at it again during the next  
4 fall meeting and make whatever changes we need to do at  
5 the time.

6  
7 For now I think we're just going to go  
8 around and around. But I really would recommend that we  
9 re-look at it and see where the State is with their  
10 counts and where BLM is with their counts for this  
11 spring, bring it up for discussion again, but then make  
12 another whack at it in the fall time when we have more  
13 adequate numbers.

14  
15 Kate.

16  
17 MS. PERSONS: Well, I just don't want to  
18 get your hopes up about numbers. We do these units in a  
19 cycle and a rotation and we're not -- this year all of  
20 our resources are going towards 22(B) and (C), so we're  
21 not going to be looking at Unit 22(A) again -- actually,  
22 though, we are going to be back there again a year from  
23 now. We will be doing another census again a year from  
24 now but it will be in the Unalakleet drainage again, and  
25 the other areas will probably just be surveyed, not  
26 censused. We just don't have the resources to do  
27 everywhere and so we focus on the areas where the hunting  
28 pressure is the heaviest.

29  
30 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, I'll just kind  
31 of leave it up to what the Council wants to do.

32  
33 MR. SAVETILIK: Madame Chair, I think we  
34 can go ahead with this proposal, and like you stated  
35 earlier, make some strong recommendations for our fall  
36 meeting for changes on our moose hunting season.

37  
38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And one of the tests,  
39 perhaps, you can have is to check with, you know,  
40 individuals in Shaktoolik as to whether or not there's a  
41 strong desire to have a winter hunt and what period are  
42 we talking about.

43  
44 MR. SAVETILIK: I'll do that.

45  
46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And then that's  
47 something that Leonard can do, is, what works for you in  
48 terms of time for a limited winter hunt from St. Michael  
49 and Stebbins. Something we can discuss, not today, but  
50 at a later date. Those are some of the things that we

00088

1 don't have answers to, I don't think, without having a  
2 proper look.

3

4 Tom.

5

6 MR. GRAY: Yeah, does the State -- I  
7 should know this answer by now, I guess, but I don't.  
8 Does the State have a winter hunt in Unalakleet River in  
9 Shaktoolik?

10

11 MS. PERSONS: There was a two month  
12 winter hunt until this year, and then after the Board  
13 made their decision in November to eliminate the winter  
14 hunt in the northern and central part of the unit and  
15 shorten it in Stebbins and St. Mike area. An emergency  
16 order took those actions for those winter. But from now  
17 on, until there's a regulatory change, there would not be  
18 a winter hunt in the northern and central part and there  
19 would be a one month hunt in December in the southern  
20 part.

21

22 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair.

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Leonard. In other  
25 words, we're going to support the proposal number on Page  
26 80 as is?

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: If there's going to be  
29 a motion for that.

30

31 MR. KOBUK: I'll make that motion.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Is there a second.

34

35 MR. SAVETILIK: I'll second that motion.

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. We got a motion  
38 on the floor as stated by Leonard, seconded by Myron, I  
39 think, right?

40

41 REPORTER: Right.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those in favor of  
44 the motion signify by stating aye.

45

46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,  
49 same sign.

50



00089

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. And I  
4 really think that during our spring meeting we should put  
5 this on for some discussion to begin looking at our next  
6 hunting season, which will not far from -- a few months  
7 later after that.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 Okay, I think -- what time is it now?  
12 It's time to get Teller on line so let's do that, and  
13 somebody can do that and if you guys want to take a  
14 little break, a five minute break, while we're doing  
15 that. Okay.

16

17 (Off record)

18

19 (On record)

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Let's everybody gather  
22 now, Teller's on line. We're going to move along. We'll  
23 be discussing Proposal 04-71, 22 muskoxen.

24

25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Madame  
26 Chair. It's Helen Armstrong from the Office of  
27 Subsistence Management.

28

29 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Helen, maybe it'd be  
30 better if you'd go over there, right, Nate, so they can  
31 hear you.

32

33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. All right.

34

35 (Pause)

36

37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Proposal 71. This is  
38 Helen Armstrong, in case, the people from Teller didn't  
39 hear. Since we're running short on time I will make this  
40 as streamlined as possible.

41

42 This proposal was made by Thomas Sparks,  
43 originally this was one that he submitted last year as a  
44 C&T, it was amended to open Federal public lands in 22(B)  
45 and (D) to State Tier II permit holders, and then that  
46 proposal was deferred until the Muskox Cooperator's  
47 meeting in September and then it was withdrawn. It's  
48 been resubmitted this year.

49

50 And it would expand existing C&T from

00090

1 residents of each of the 22(B) and (D) units to all  
2 residents of Unit 22 except St. Lawrence Island.

3

4 I think it's important for everybody to  
5 look at the map on Page 91 in your book so that you can  
6 see what we're talking about in terms of Federal public  
7 lands where this proposal would be in place.

8

9 In Unit 22(B) there's only two percent of  
10 -- of the land is Park Service and 19 percent is BLM  
11 land. In 22(D) 11 percent is Park Service and five  
12 percent is BLM.

13

14 I don't know if the Teller people have  
15 this proposal analysis in front of them, if they don't,  
16 I'm sorry.

17

18 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Everyone here has a  
19 copy of the proposal.

20

21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Oh, great, thanks. Do  
22 you have a copy of the proposal analysis as well or just  
23 the proposal?

24

25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: That as well.

26

27 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay, thank you. I  
28 don't think I need to go into history of muskox hunting  
29 in this area, I think everyone is probably all aware of  
30 that by now.

31

32 We did an analysis of the eight factors.  
33 I will focus on the question of where people go since  
34 that is the predominate question here of where the C&T  
35 analysis should be and I enter all the rest of this  
36 analysis into the record but I won't go through that.

37

38 Because when the C&T was originally done  
39 in 1995, we did it so that the C&T was for each subunit  
40 so that the people in 22(D) had C&T for 22(D), the people  
41 in 22(E) had 22(E), et cetera. And the reason we did  
42 that was because we didn't have any information at that  
43 point since it was a new hunt as to where people had  
44 hunted historically, and we were concerned about the Nome  
45 issue of where people would go and it was a compromise, I  
46 think, that people made in the region. And obviously  
47 that's become a bit of a problem since the people from  
48 22(C) and Nome, they are going up into 22(D).

49

50 So the question for this analysis really

00091

1 is, is who outside of 22(B) goes into 22(B) to take  
2 muskox and who outside of (D) would go into (D). Because  
3 we've only had muskox hunting since 1995 we really don't  
4 have full use patterns that have evolved, and in (B) it's  
5 even a shorter time period because they've only had  
6 hunting since 2001. In (D), there has been hunting under  
7 the State Tier II permits by Nome residents. Since the  
8 hunt has been opened, there were 53 permits that have  
9 been given out and 40 of those have been filled. They  
10 have a 75 percent success rate. All of the Nome harvest  
11 has been in the Kuzitrin drainage, despite it being valid  
12 throughout 22(D), except for 22(D) southwest, which they  
13 don't get the permits to go into there.

14

15           White Mountain also hunts in 22(D). They  
16 have gotten 15 permits in (D) and have taken 15 muskox.  
17 So far no other communities outside of (D) have ever  
18 applied for permits for (D) or have received them. And  
19 Brevig and Teller, of course, already have C&T and they  
20 do hunt in (D), but they're not part of the issue because  
21 they already have C&T.

22

23           Because we don't have muskox data, you  
24 know, long-term use patterns, they haven't been hunting  
25 that long, I looked at where Nome people hunt for other  
26 resources and there is a study done by ADF&G by Magdanz &  
27 Olanna in 1986, and that map is on Page 92 and that shows  
28 the Nome subsistence use area. Based on that, you know,  
29 in conversations with Ken Adkisson, we felt it was  
30 reasonable to assume that people might take muskox in the  
31 Kougarok, Kuzitrin and Pilgrim River drainages and I  
32 guess I need to hear from the Council today what you  
33 think -- what your thinking is on that, if that would be  
34 in agreement.

35

36           In 22(B), that hunt's only happened for a  
37 couple of years, so even less time. But White Mountain,  
38 Golovin, Elim, Koyuk are the villages in 22(B). Elim has  
39 gotten seven permits, six were successful. Golovin one,  
40 Koyuk three, White Mountain three. As far as I know  
41 there aren't any other communities that have gone into  
42 (B) have taken any muskox or would they or should there  
43 be anybody else who should be included.

44

45           There was -- I did look at 22(A) and  
46 Unalakleet and Stebbins have taken caribou in 22(B), and  
47 I think when they've been up there and taken caribou  
48 they've seen muskox so then last year a number of  
49 Unalakleet residents applied for permits and one got a  
50 permit but no muskox were taken. So, you know, I had a

00092

1 question, should either of those communities, Unalakleet  
2 or Shaktoolik, should they be included. I didn't include  
3 them, but I thought it would be something definitely  
4 worth discussing today.

5  
6 The conclusion then is on Page 96. The  
7 preliminary conclusion is that we would change the C&T  
8 for Unit 22(B), would be for 22(B) west of the Darby  
9 Mountains, residents of 22(B) and 22(C), and 22(B)  
10 remainder, residents of Unit 22 and 22(D), that portion  
11 within the Kougarok, Kuzitrin and Pilgrim River  
12 drainages, residents of Unit 22(D) excluding St. Lawrence  
13 Island, Unit 22(C) and White Mountain, Unit 22(D)  
14 remainder, residents of Unit 22(D) excluding St.  
15 Lawrence Island.

16  
17 That concludes my presentation if there  
18 are any questions.

19  
20 MR. GRAY: How many permits are we  
21 talking about.

22  
23 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Each year, you mean,  
24 how many permits?

25  
26 MR. GRAY: Yes.

27  
28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Nine.

29  
30 MR. ADKISSON: Now, for which subunit  
31 Tom?

32  
33 MR. GRAY: For the total permits that  
34 we're talking about.....

35  
36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: For Nome?

37  
38 MR. GRAY: .....that this regulation  
39 change will effect.

40  
41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, how many per  
42 year for Nome?

43  
44 MS. PERSONS: Well, it's different every  
45 year. For 22(D), the State issues 31 permits, or that's  
46 what we've issued in the past and for -- plus there's  
47 some issued with the Federal, there's six issued by the  
48 Federal system and in 22(B), the quota is seven and nine  
49 permits are issued and that's split between State and  
50 Federal permits.

00093

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And it would only be  
2 good on Federal lands, so that's why I wanted to point it  
3 out that so that.....

4  
5 MR. GRAY: Well, that's fine.

6  
7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: .....because there's  
8 not a lot of Federal land in that Kuzitrin, Kougarok and  
9 Pilgrim River drainage.

10  
11 MR. GRAY: So we're not talking about the  
12 State permits that the State issues then?

13  
14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No. What it would  
15 mean is that people who got Tier II permits from Nome  
16 could then hunt, either on Federal or State land and not  
17 have to be worrying and since there's a little bit of a  
18 patch work of Federal land, it's hard when you don't know  
19 exactly where you are. And so it's not a matter of  
20 increasing the number of permits, it's a matter of where  
21 you're allowed to hunt.

22  
23 MR. GRAY: Okay. I'm trying to  
24 understand what this -- why this is coming about and it  
25 sounds like if somebody gets a Federal permit they can  
26 hunt on State lands, if somebody gets a State permit they  
27 can hunt on Federal lands: is that -- maybe, is that the  
28 intent of this thing or what? Or is Nome going to be  
29 competing for the permits that are issued in my area?

30  
31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No. No.

32  
33 MR. GRAY: I don't understand what's  
34 going on here.

35  
36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No. They wouldn't be  
37 competing. It would mean that people were -- okay, so  
38 for example if you get a muskox permit to go into 22(D),  
39 right now you can only hunt on State land. It's not  
40 going to change the number of permits, but it means that  
41 you can hunt on Federal land as well because you'd have  
42 C&T for hunting on the Federal lands. Right now you  
43 don't have C&T so you can't hunt there in 22(D) on  
44 Federal lands or anywhere in 22(D) -- or I mean, no, on  
45 Federal lands.

46  
47 MR. OLANNA: Are you confused enough Tom?

48  
49 MR. GRAY: Well, I am -- well, so what  
50 this is opening up is Federal lands to people holding

00094

1 Tier II permits; is that right?

2

3 MR. OLANNA: Right.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Right.

6

7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right.

8

9 MR. GRAY: Okay. And we're not changing  
10 the process of awarding -- the State's process of how  
11 permits are awarded or evaluated.....

12

13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No.

14

15 MR. GRAY: .....or any of that stuff?

16

17 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No.

18

19 MR. GRAY: And we're not changing the way  
20 your permits are issued, the Federal permits?

21

22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No.

23

24 MR. GRAY: Okay. You got to protect what  
25 you got.

26

27 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's right.

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Is that clear now,  
30 Tom?

31

32 MR. GRAY: I think I'm cleared up now.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Elmer.

35

36 MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig Mission.  
37 I think units -- or the residents of Teller and Brevig  
38 have been very generous or very liberal with the harvest  
39 tickets that are available to the communities. Under  
40 State guidelines, I think that the people that applied  
41 for these permits would be selected first. When the  
42 program first got started many people signed up but I  
43 think the novelty of hunting muskox kind of wore out over  
44 the years.

45

46 One is that this is a new species that is  
47 being harvested by those residents.

48

49 And, two, is that it's new to the people  
50 but they're not quite, you know, familiar, you know,

00095

1 unlike moose or caribou or reindeer, they're comfortable  
2 with that. But with a new species I think that it's  
3 going to take them awhile before they get to like or to  
4 have the meat as a back up.

5  
6 Unit 22(D) is a big area. I think that  
7 sometimes we do not have the resources, we do not have  
8 the manpower to see or to kind of regulate everything  
9 that goes there. Years ago the people within these areas  
10 had traditional use areas, we, in Teller and Brevig  
11 pretty much do not use the Kougarok Road or very few  
12 people do, we do not go that far because of the distance  
13 involved. I think that when we do to harvest wildlife  
14 resources, we try to do it economically and, you know,  
15 and try to expend less energy. We know that the  
16 resources are there, if we want them to rebound, you  
17 know, in our area then we will go other places.

18  
19 But if we were to use resources exclusively,  
20 White Mountain, Nome, Golovin, areas that -- or other  
21 areas that use these resources in subunit 22(D) they  
22 would be left out completely. If I urged all the  
23 residents of Teller and Brevig fill all the permits, I  
24 would think that State Department of Fish and Game and  
25 the Federal government, or the National Park Service side  
26 would issue all these permits exclusively to Teller and  
27 Brevig. But we do not, you know, use all these  
28 resources. Like our ancestors say, you know, share and  
29 then if you share the resources they will be there for  
30 you. If you try to use them exclusively for your own  
31 self, you know, they won't be there for you.

32  
33 But let me say that also we, in Teller  
34 and Brevig, we are sovereign governments. We have not  
35 had any government to government talks with the Federal  
36 government. The State does not want to recognize the  
37 communities that are recognized as tribes by the Federal  
38 government, and I think therein lies the problem. That  
39 the State of Alaska tries to manage these resources for  
40 the good of all the people through the Constitution. We,  
41 as a people, you know, in these communities have had very  
42 little expertise in our people except in the larger  
43 populations where people fight for their rights. I think  
44 some communities are passive, some communities are very  
45 active in their dealings with the Federal government and  
46 with the State government, but subunit 22(D) is a large  
47 use area. Western portion is not used exclusively by the  
48 residents other than pretty much berry harvesting and  
49 probably fishing times during the spring to early fall  
50 months. However, they do use a portion of, the eastern

00096

1 portion of subunit 22(D) the lava beds area, the National  
2 Park land areas for caribou hunting if they have to go  
3 that far.

4

5                   But for someone from outside the subunit  
6 to say that they have customary and traditional use of  
7 that area, I guess it would need to be looked at on a  
8 case by case basis. Subunit 22(D) is a large use area,  
9 it's pretty much used by all people within the state. If  
10 we were to say that we have exclusive right, I don't  
11 think that was what our earlier ancestors had in mind.

12

13                   But to put it on record, I think that you  
14 should respect what these communities are trying to do,  
15 that certain areas be left for exclusive use by those  
16 communities within that certain subunit and then that  
17 other people that want to hunt, use these areas, continue  
18 to do so, but without any stipulation that they have  
19 customary and traditional use for, you know, these  
20 species, muskox is a new species. Like some people, I  
21 think it disappeared over the years, I don't know how but  
22 looking at the past history and then also reading  
23 reference materials make you think that these animals  
24 were there for the people and pretty much when you use  
25 these resources it's there for you to use. And if you  
26 use it wisely, it will be there for you.

27

28                   Thank you.

29

30                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Anybody else who has  
31 comment.

32

33                   (No comments)

34

35                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Anybody from Teller.  
36 Can you hear me Teller?

37

38                   (No comments)

39

40                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Do you have anything  
41 to add, any comments to add?

42

43                   (No comments)

44

45                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Nothing?

46

47                   (No comments)

48

49                   MR. BERG: Are there any comments from  
50 folks in Teller on any of the information presented or



00097

1 did you guys want to make any comments towards the  
2 proposal at this time?

3

4 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I do believe, does  
5 anybody got any questions or comments?

6

7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We're along with  
8 Brevig.

9

10 MR. BERG: We couldn't understand that,  
11 could you please repeat?

12

13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We're along with  
14 Brevig.

15

16 MR. BERG: Okay.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, they're along  
19 with Brevig.

20

21 MR. SEETOT: One other comment, Madame  
22 Chair.

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Elmer.

25

26 MR. SEETOT: One other comment I need to  
27 make also is I guess, too, I would like to hunt caribou  
28 in 22(D) when the animals first start coming down,  
29 however, for residents -- for me to hunt, I would have to  
30 be a resident of 23, I'm a Seward Peninsula person and  
31 there from up north, you know, that prevents me from  
32 hunting animals in their prime. However during later  
33 parts of the season, you know, I can be able to bag  
34 animals, but, you know, maybe of lesser quality, maybe  
35 only females because they're the only ones with the fat  
36 because the males or the bulls, you know, there during  
37 the rutting time, you know, I think that they really come  
38 close into -- muscle into their meat and it's not  
39 fattable for, you know, very many.

40

41 However, many would probably get the  
42 animals, you know, just for the antlers or for their  
43 trophy mounts. But like some people were saying, that we  
44 hunt exclusively meat for the table. I would like to go  
45 up there to -- during certain times but I'm not permitted  
46 to do so, and then I think that restriction should be  
47 replaced on certain areas during -- throughout the year.  
48 Like I said, subunit 22(D) is a heavy use area. The more  
49 use the resource, the more it's supposed to be there for  
50 you.

00098

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Charles.

2

3

4 MR. SACCHEUS: Madame Chair, I have a  
5 problem with the muskox permit system -- I mean not the  
6 system but what I'm thinking about is hunting muskox by  
7 proxy because I noticed that moose you could hunt by  
8 proxy but muskox like an elderly woman that don't have no  
9 snowmachine, she might fill out a form and go on a -- and  
10 I notice that in Koyuk, that some old lady fill out a  
11 form and they draw her name and she can't even go out  
12 hunt -- use her permit because she can't go out hunting.

12

13 I would like to see maybe, I don't know,  
14 but an amendment in the muskox regulation -- some kind of  
15 system that you hunt by proxy, muskox.

16

17

18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I guess what I'd like  
19 to suggest is that if you wanted to do that make a  
20 proposal for next year so we could analyze it probably  
21 would be better than adding it on here so that it gets  
22 analyzed and it's in public comment. But you certainly  
23 are entitled to ask for that.

23

24 They did make a statewide change last  
25 year allowing designated -- we call it designated hunter  
26 in the Federal program for a number of resources. And I  
27 was trying to -- but it doesn't apply to muskox. It  
28 applies to, I know moose and caribou but I'm -- I was  
29 just looking, it's on Page 20 of the Federal regulations.

30

31 In Units 1 through 8, 9(D), 10 through  
32 16, 18 to 26, if you are a Federally-qualified  
33 subsistence user, you may designate another Federally  
34 qualified subsistence user to take deer, moose and  
35 caribou on your behalf. So we do have it for everyone in  
36 those units for deer, moose and caribou and you can  
37 certainly ask for it for muskox as well.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And we'll connect you  
40 to the right -- and the right people will connect with  
41 you before you leave to help with the.....

42

43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It would be a proposal  
44 you'd make in the fall at our fall meeting and then it'd  
45 go through the process and we'd review it next year.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you.

48

49 MR. GRAY: And actually that would be a  
50 pretty easy proposal to push through I would imagine if

00099

1 there's a baseline set up already for other animals. I  
2 don't think it'd be that big of a deal.

3

4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, but let's go  
5 back to the proposal we have in hand right now.

6

7 MR. GRAY: Can I ask one question. I  
8 still have a gut feeling something -- I just can't put a  
9 finger on it, but this customary and traditional use  
10 determination, I guess it's being asked that residents of  
11 22(B) and 22(C) be put in this category, is that what  
12 this thing is doing?

13

14 I'm trying to put a finger on what -- you  
15 know, I can understand being able to go hunt on different  
16 lands and stuff like that but.....

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And Page 96 is the --  
19 if you go to Page 96.

20

21 MR. GRAY: I'm looking at that, and I  
22 read through this and aside from the being able to hunt  
23 animals, if I had a Federal permit and I could go shoot  
24 an animal on State lands, it seems like that -- is that  
25 what this customary and traditional use determination is?  
26 It means? You can -- certain users can go anywhere and  
27 shoot anywhere?

28

29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, no, not  
30 anywhere. But if you look in the reg booklet under Unit  
31 22 you'll see there are customary and traditional use  
32 determination for each resource and it will say there  
33 which villages, you know, like right now for moose it's  
34 all residents of Unit 22 can take moose in Unit 22 and  
35 that's what we were just looking at. So it varies  
36 according to the resource.

37

38 Those are determinations that this  
39 Council has worked on in the past and -- or they were  
40 adopted from the State, some of them have never been  
41 changed from what the State had, it was a system that was  
42 started by the State. It was a way to try to limit the  
43 user so that you didn't have people going from all over  
44 the state into a region to take a resource.

45

46 MR. GRAY: See where I'm having a  
47 failing, I guess, is these animals were brought in here,  
48 planted here 20 years, we've grown, we have something,  
49 but this isn't a customary use animal, it's not something  
50 that we've used. I mean generations ago maybe they used

00100

1 it, so I'm trying to put my finger on what are we after  
2 here? What's the ultimate thing?

3

4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, you're right.  
5 What the Federal Subsistence Board did when they first  
6 made that C&T determination is they -- you know, they  
7 have eight factors that they look at and, yes, they  
8 hadn't used it but I think it was with the idea that  
9 people are opportunistic, they take what's in their  
10 region and they couldn't have used it because they  
11 weren't there but they did at one time hunt them. You  
12 could very well assume that if there were muskox there  
13 200 years ago that people were taking them, I would  
14 think, because people take what's available. So based on  
15 that, you know, they gave them C&T.

16

17 MR. GRAY: But, now, for example, let's  
18 say Shaktoolik, if somebody in Shaktoolik applied for a  
19 State permit or a Federal permit in my area, they would  
20 have the same rights and same -- how can I say this?

21

22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Not right now,  
23 Shaktoolik doesn't have C&T for -- they only have  
24 C&T.....

25

26 MR. GRAY: See, this is what I'm after.  
27 Is I think the intent of this proposal is to give Nome  
28 the advantage over other areas, other communities within  
29 Unit 22 and we need to be careful about that because  
30 we're subsistence users. And if we're going to cut off  
31 some subsistence users by giving priority to certain  
32 users, that's not subsistence.

33

34 Do you see what I'm saying?

35

36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh. The way the  
37 recommendation is, I mean what was proposed was to give  
38 all of Unit 22 residents C&T.

39

40 MR. GRAY: Okay, and if that's.....

41

42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That was the proposal.  
43 But I looked at it and I said that's not reasonable to  
44 give everybody C&T for the whole unit so looked at it  
45 more narrowly, who has gone in there and under the Tier  
46 II State permit system, who has gone into 22(D), and so  
47 based on that Nome residents are going into 22(D) as are  
48 White Mountain, so I gave it only to residents of Unit  
49 22(C) and White Mountain.

50

00101

1 MR. GRAY: I guess my point is, as this  
2 thing has opened up and hunting has become broader and  
3 brighter -- broader -- for example, Golovin, never had an  
4 interest in hunting and now they're hunting them. Elim,  
5 how many permits came about in Elim. And as this thing  
6 evolves it's going to get bigger and better. And you  
7 know I believe that subsistence is for everybody. And we  
8 need to be very careful how we make regulations that  
9 eliminate some subsistence users. Because, you know,  
10 Elim is going to be pissed off at me if I cut him out of  
11 the pie.

12  
13 So that's why I'm trying to understand  
14 what this proposal and what this intent is going to do  
15 because we don't want to have our subsistence users  
16 fighting amongst ourselves just to satisfy one community  
17 when we have 10, 15, 30 communities that we're  
18 representing.

19  
20 So do you see what I'm after?

21  
22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I totally see what  
23 you're after and, you know, when we do these analysis, we  
24 have to base it on the information that we have from, you  
25 know, harvest data base or what, you know, what's been  
26 done in the literature, surveys that have been done.  
27 Sometimes we don't have all of that information and  
28 because this is a new hunt, we really don't know, you  
29 know, who should be allowed to go into those areas.

30  
31 And that's one reason why we have -- one  
32 of the many reasons why we have the Council to help us  
33 know, well, gee, that's not quite right and we're looking  
34 for exactly that information, should other people in  
35 22(B) be included. Should it be all of 22(B) rather than  
36 just White Mountain. Because like you said, people, they  
37 weren't hunting muskox. Somehow the people in White  
38 Mountain, they had gotten onto this thing early on and  
39 they've been very successful.

40  
41 So it would be good for the Council to  
42 discuss that issue, who else should be included that I  
43 haven't gotten in here.

44  
45 MR. GRAY: Yeah, and I agree, because  
46 like I say, I think this thing as -- as this hunt  
47 progresses, it's become -- and Kate can add to this, I  
48 think it's become a more and more further -- Koyuk is  
49 getting right on the ball on this hunting. And as it  
50 grows it's going to get bigger and better and, you know,

00102

1 it -- subsistence users are subsistence and we need to be  
2 careful how we start categorizing. A good example is the  
3 Tier II process they used on the fish here in Nome. They  
4 said you, you and you can go catch a hundred fish and the  
5 rest of you, kiss off, pissed everybody off.

6  
7 MR. BUCK: I'd like to say something, the  
8 species of the muskox. It just started, the only reason  
9 that White Mountain and Nome has customary and  
10 traditional use determination is because we started it --  
11 they started hunting it and then the record showed that  
12 White Mountain and Nome were getting it so they got the  
13 customary and traditional use because of that, and that's  
14 the only reason that it's that way.

15  
16 But to include the other regions, I'd  
17 gladly accommodate them if they can go ahead and apply  
18 for the permits and then get their customary and  
19 traditional uses, too. So.....

20  
21 MR. GRAY: Let me add one more thing, and  
22 I'll.....

23  
24 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Wait.....

25  
26 MR. GRAY: .....be quiet.

27  
28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: .....when you're done,  
29 Vance has had his arm up for awhile.

30  
31 MR. GRAY: I see that. And I'd like to  
32 point out that customary and traditional use in the  
33 recent future has been Brevig Mission. And those animals  
34 moved up to Shishmaref and those people are the ones for  
35 the last 15, 20 years that had to live with these  
36 animals. It's just been recently that White Mountain,  
37 that Nome, that other players have gotten on the  
38 bandwagon and done any of this muskox hunting.

39  
40 So we need to be careful of how we talk  
41 customary and traditional use here when, in reality, it's  
42 just in the near -- the latest days. I mean Brevig they  
43 -- they unloaded those animals in their yard. It started  
44 there.

45  
46 MR. OLANNA: And Shishmaref.

47  
48 (Laughter)

49  
50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Vance.

00103

1

2 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Yeah, I think you got a  
3 real valid point there and I'd like to make a statement,  
4 too. You know, I hate to see like Unalakleet in 22(A),  
5 for instance, be deprived of this, not that we're using  
6 it because it is so new, no one down there has. But I  
7 know a lot of people come down there fishing, they use  
8 that resource, I mean from Nome, and other places as well  
9 and it's okay. I mean for the most part I think it's  
10 welcomed, and it would be shared. But I would hate to  
11 see us taken off the list just because we're not there.  
12 I would still like to keep that option open for those  
13 people down there, you know, if we can.

14

15 I just can't see excluding them because  
16 of the distance.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Elmer.

19

20 MR. SEETOT: Yes, Elmer, Brevig Mission.  
21 I think what the Federal government, and the State  
22 government side agencies do is that when the species  
23 population is there then they will kind of open the  
24 determination, the C&T determination for that species and  
25 that's how it got started, C&T determination, because it  
26 was pretty much from the Muskox Cooperators that you  
27 reach a certain number and then after you reach that  
28 certain number the hunt will be there.

29

30 I think when it gets down to more eastern  
31 portion of Norton Sound, that's when you have the  
32 opportunity to look into muskox, whether it's C&T. When  
33 the population numbers are there, then pretty much that's  
34 how we got started.

35

36 The State of Alaska, I think they -- like  
37 Tom said, that they were unloaded there. When I was a  
38 young tyke, you know, our fathers or our leaders, you  
39 know, pretty much groomed us or they pretty much did not  
40 -- they weren't consulted by the State of Alaska, the  
41 State of Alaska decided, oh, I think well I'll get the  
42 species in a certain area and then they unloaded them off  
43 at Port Clarence, they brought them up, you know, without  
44 consultation. Now days it's pretty much different,  
45 tribal governments are being consulted, but, you know,  
46 sometimes they're not listened to too much. They can  
47 consult with them, but they're not quite taken seriously.

48

49 Pretty much that's the way Brevig Mission  
50 got started with the muskoxen because the numbers were

00104

1 there, the cooperators within Seward Peninsula along with  
2 Buckland and Deering agreed on a number and that pretty  
3 much started on the Federal side and then the State  
4 pretty much got into the hunt after the numbers were up.

5

6 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Madame Chair.

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Vance.

9

10 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: You know, I guess on  
11 that requisition that I had for Unalakleet, you know, it  
12 would be providing there's adequate numbers and such and  
13 then I think, you know, we wouldn't want to be left out.  
14 But if it's a limited a number and it's specific to that  
15 area, why that's understandable. But if there's an  
16 abundance of the resource and it's available, we should  
17 use it.

18

19 MR. GRAY: And that's the point I wanted  
20 to throw out here is, you know, just a few minutes ago we  
21 voted on whether or not to limit an area to hunters and  
22 we had long discussions about closing it just to those  
23 residents and in the end we voted that everybody that are  
24 residents in 22 can hunt in that area.

25

26 What we're talking about here is a  
27 growing herd that the surplus is being weaned off.  
28 Instead of a waning herd that the moose population is  
29 doing, so being we're -- we're talking about growing  
30 population and I know that the amount of permits that are  
31 being sent out, you know, the State and whoever is having  
32 a hard time filling that quota we need to make sure that  
33 our whole subsistence community has the same advantage at  
34 that. Because what's going to come down the road and  
35 it's starting is, all of a sudden the State's going to  
36 come in and they're going to implement hunting proposals  
37 which they already have up in Wales, they have seven  
38 hunts for residents and then it's going to get bigger.  
39 It's going to be 10 hunts, it's going to be non-  
40 residents, it's going to grow.

41

42 So we need to care for our subsistence  
43 people. And whether it's Unalakleet, whether it's  
44 Stebbins, whether it's who, that resource needs to take  
45 care of those people. And if we're going to limit who  
46 can go anywhere here and there, to 22(B), 22(C), it's  
47 going to restrict other subsistence users and I don't  
48 think any of us, sitting on this Board, wants to restrict  
49 anybody.

50



00105

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: This is more or less  
2 expanding too. Ken, you were going to say something, I  
3 think I saw your arm raised there?

4  
5 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National  
6 Park Service. Perhaps just a historical note to add to  
7 something Helen said since there's several new members to  
8 the Council.

9  
10 The original C&T determinations, while  
11 apparently looking fairly narrow, for example, residents  
12 of 22(E) have 22(E), residents of 22(D) have C&T for  
13 22(D), those original determinations were based largely  
14 on the age old traditional tribal territories, which  
15 happen to correspond at least on the Seward Peninsula  
16 fairly well with the game management units. So a lot of  
17 the logic was not just on the game management units but  
18 was on the tribal territories, and those overlapped  
19 fairly well with the thing, so it wasn't a precise  
20 exactly system. But it was pretty good based on  
21 longstanding traditional patterns of use and where people  
22 had their allotments, where they had their subsistence  
23 camps and where they basically carried out most of their  
24 range of subsistence activities on a generation after  
25 generational basis.

26  
27 One of the guiding principals of the  
28 Cooperator's Group for muskoxen was to encourage growth  
29 and expansion of the herd. So when the Federal C&T  
30 determinations were made, while they were very narrow,  
31 thus people in Nome had C&T for 22(C), the catch that  
32 hurt them was there really wasn't any Federal lands in  
33 22(C) that you could apply that on.

34  
35 Proposals have come up and discussions  
36 have taken place in the Cooperator's Group, for example,  
37 to restrict or limit the growth of the herd or even cap  
38 it or reduce the population. Some of those have been  
39 made in terms of compromises to continue one of the key  
40 goals of the Cooperator's Group and the Cooperative  
41 Management Plan is to still continue expansion and  
42 growth. So the idea is that as the population expands  
43 eastwards as it has into 22(B) and new hunts have taken  
44 place in 22(B) in very recent years, eventually as the  
45 animals move into 22(A), that a similar determination  
46 would be made for residents of 22(A) and they would then  
47 have customary and traditional use for muskoxen in 22(A).

48  
49 If the crashes came and it became  
50 necessary for the priorities to go into place, they would

00106

1 have that protection available to them, where, on a  
2 larger, broader based C&T they would not.

3

4 Thank you. And if there's any questions.

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ken. Jake.

7

8 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair. I see the  
9 sponsor of the proposal back there, Tom, is there  
10 anything you want to add? I mean it would be nice for  
11 the Board to question you directly, you know, because  
12 we're hearing these agency people; and is Teller still on  
13 line?

14

15 MR. BERG: Do we still have folks from  
16 Teller on line?

17

18 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes, we're still  
19 here.

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: They're on line?

22

23 MR. BERG: Do you guys have any more  
24 input that you'd like to provide at this time?

25

26 MR. NANALOOK: Norman Nanalook, Sr.  
27 You're going to have a regional concern on proposals,  
28 like WP04-71, I suggest that you hold a meeting with  
29 affected communities and have input from the residents.  
30 Because you're proposing to open all the lands in 22(D)  
31 for all the residents of (B), (C), (D), (ph), it would be  
32 more comfortable if you have a percentage of the muskox  
33 guaranteed to the local residents of both Teller and  
34 Brevig that would be affected first.

35

36 MR. OLANNA: Norman, Jake Olanna. Are  
37 you saying that you support or -- do you support the  
38 proposal or are you against it?

39

40 Are you still there, Norman?

41

42 MR. BERG: Did you hear that question  
43 from Jake Olanna, he was asking if the folks from Teller  
44 would support the proposal or if you would oppose the  
45 proposal, do you have a position?

46

47 MR. NANALOOK: That was a comment, you  
48 know, to have a meeting in affected communities before  
49 you have your regional conference. That would be more  
50 appropriate.

00107

1 MR. OLANNA: You will have a comment  
2 period, I believe, until the Federal Subsistence Board  
3 takes this proposal. So I would urge you, the community,  
4 to come up with written comments and forward them to  
5 subsistence.

6  
7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Perhaps one of the  
8 things that can be done is to -- somebody from Park  
9 Service want to volunteer to -- whatever we do with the  
10 proposal, somebody from Park Service should discuss this  
11 with Teller a little bit more, what area we're talking  
12 about.

13  
14 I guess I don't get any volunteers. Do I  
15 get any volunteers?

16  
17 MR. BERG: Folks from Teller are you  
18 still on line?

19  
20 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We're here.

21  
22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The area of land that  
23 we're talking about is the same as the same as the area  
24 of land that -- it's basically where residents of Unit  
25 22(C) were given C&T for moose when we were restricting  
26 moose harvest, and that's the portion within Kougarak,  
27 Kuzitrin and Pilgrim River drainages.

28  
29 The proposal on 22(D) says that portion  
30 within the Kougarak, Kuzitrin and Pilgrim River  
31 drainages, the residents of Unit 22(D) excluding St.  
32 Lawrence Island, Unit 22(C) and White Mountain.

33  
34 Do you want to say something, Tom?

35  
36 MR. GRAY: Well, I sure want to hear from  
37 Tom, because I'm still a little bit cloudy on what he's  
38 proposing here and I think he can clean me up.

39  
40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, Tom, you're in  
41 the hot spot now.

42  
43 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Hello, can you hear  
44 me, this is Helen calling in from Teller, and I'm here  
45 observing, but if I may ask for Norman to kind of  
46 reemphasize what he commented earlier. There's quite a  
47 few interest and concern here from Teller.

48  
49 MR. BERG: Yeah, go ahead.

50

00108

1 MR. NANALOOK: If we could just have  
2 somebody meet with the people of Teller before this is  
3 finalized, along with the Teller Native Corporation  
4 because the land in 22(D) southwest, that's what we're  
5 talking about, you'd have to get a permit from the  
6 corporation in order to hunt on the land.

7  
8 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Thank you.

9  
10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Do we understand what  
11 portion of land we're talking about?

12  
13 MR. BERG: If you're talking about land  
14 that's Native Corporation land, that would be under State  
15 jurisdiction and would not be affected by this proposal.

16  
17 MR. NANALOOK: If you look on the map,  
18 Unit 22(D), okay, Park Service -- Federal -- Federal land  
19 in 22(D) southwest, that's in our lands -- Teller Native  
20 Corporation's jurisdiction, and it's part of ours.

21  
22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The area of the land  
23 that I -- this is Grace. The area of the land that we're  
24 discussing in the proposal is that portion within the  
25 Kougarak, Kuzitrin and Pilgrim River drainages.

26  
27 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: The lands that you  
28 just stated is -- areas of the land where you would have  
29 to consult with them.

30  
31 MR. BERG: Well, it would actually only  
32 affect Federal lands within that area so if it's Native  
33 Corporation lands within that area it would not be  
34 affected, it's only going to affect Federal lands within  
35 those drainages. So the BLM lands.....

36  
37 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: For those lands, you  
38 might want to invite them to your next proposal meeting.

39  
40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, maybe the  
41 appropriate question is, are you in opposition with this  
42 proposal?

43  
44 Are you for or against the proposal?

45  
46 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We cannot do  
47 anything at this time because these lands, they do not  
48 belong to us, they belong to a different tribe.

49  
50 MR. BERG: Okay. And maybe we can --

00109

1 actually some of the Staff at the Federal Subsistence  
2 Office can set up a teleconference with you once we get  
3 back to the office and Barb Armstrong and Helen  
4 Armstrong, we'll try and work with the IRA to try to  
5 discuss some of these issues once we get back to the  
6 office; would that be all right?

7  
8 MR. NANALOOK: Well, it would be a lot  
9 better if you can come on up and hold a meeting with both  
10 Teller and Mary, since we're all residing here in Teller.

11  
12 MR. BERG: Yeah, I'm not sure if  
13 we'll.....

14  
15 MR. NANALOOK: That way we would have  
16 more input from all the individuals instead of just from  
17 the Council members.

18  
19 MR. BERG: Well, we'll certainly be in  
20 touch with you. I'm not sure if we can commit to a trip  
21 up there at this point or not. But we'll have to look  
22 into that and give you a call after the meeting and try  
23 to work something out.

24  
25 MR. NANALOOK: Okay. But we prefer that  
26 there be no action taken at this time on this proposal.

27  
28 MR. BERG: Well, the Regional Council  
29 here will make a recommendation. The final action won't  
30 be taken until the Federal Board meeting this May so you  
31 certainly have more time to comment on this proposal.  
32 But if you want to provide comments to the Council  
33 they're going to take action on their recommendation  
34 today, but it won't be the final action on the issue, but  
35 if you want to provide input to the Council, this would  
36 be the appropriate time to do that.

37  
38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think the  
39 recommendation was they wanted appropriate.....

40  
41 MR. NANALOOK: Well, with the short.....

42  
43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Go ahead.

44  
45 MR. BERG: I'm sorry, we didn't hear that  
46 last comment.

47  
48 MR. NANALOOK: Yeah, okay, with the short  
49 notice that we've gotten we didn't get a chance to  
50 contact all the residents of Teller about this

00110

1 conference.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, let's kind of  
4 move along and hear from Tom Sparks.

5

6 MR. BERG: Okay, well, we'll try and  
7 get.....

8

9 MR. NANALOOK: .....to make further  
10 comment and proposal and we'll go ahead and do that.

11

12 MR. BERG: Okay. And there'll be  
13 somebody from our office being in touch with you folks  
14 after this meeting as well. I think we're going to move  
15 on to some more testimony here in the meeting, if that's  
16 all right.

17

18 MR. NANALOOK: Okay.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And Tom Sparks is here  
21 to comment on this, so, please.

22

23 MR. SPARKS: Thank you, Madame Chair. I  
24 just want to make it clear to the Board that I'm taking  
25 off my BLM cap, removing my BLM shirt and that I'm  
26 speaking as an individual resident of Nome. What I was  
27 trying to address in the proposal, it's very focused, and  
28 basically if an individual from Nome obtains a Tier II  
29 permit, I would like that individual to be able to hunt  
30 on Federal public lands so that when that individual is  
31 hunting he doesn't have to differentiate between State or  
32 Federal land.

33

34 And under the State Tier II process, all  
35 the villages score higher than Nome residents. So my  
36 rationale is that if the village people want them they  
37 have that opportunity to score higher than the Nome  
38 individuals.

39

40 So that's all I was trying to do. I did  
41 not want, Mr. Gray, address any differentiation between  
42 numbers, you know, take away from villages for Nome,  
43 that's not my intent. It was just to eliminate those  
44 lines in the tundra when someone was hunting and that is  
45 all.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any more questions for  
50 Tom. Tom.

00111

1 MR. GRAY: I guess, and maybe it's for  
2 our Staff here is what he's talking about, I don't have a  
3 problem with that and let's say giving Nome preference to  
4 be able to hunt on other lands but let's set all that  
5 aside.

6  
7 If this customary and traditional use  
8 thing is implemented and gone forward, are there any  
9 other benefits that those communities are going to gain  
10 by getting that status?

11  
12 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No, they wouldn't,  
13 other than they have -- that's all they get is they get  
14 customary and traditional use determination so that they  
15 can hunt there.

16  
17 MR. GRAY: Okay. And what.....

18  
19 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: They don't get more  
20 permits. They don't get -- there's no other difference.

21  
22 MR. GRAY: Okay. The other question  
23 then, with that said, why can't we do a blanket coverage  
24 on Unit 22 and let all subsistence users have that same  
25 preference? I mean we're only talking.....

26  
27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tom.....

28  
29 MR. GRAY: .....about a little bit of  
30 land here.

31  
32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: .....the original  
33 proposal was like.....

34  
35 MR. GRAY: I understand that.

36  
37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So maybe we can  
38 discuss that with.....

39  
40 MR. GRAY: I understand that but I think  
41 we need to answer these questions.

42  
43 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Are we all done with  
44 everything?

45  
46 MR. GRAY: We're.....

47  
48 MR. BERG: I'm sorry, go ahead again.

49  
50 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Teller is going to

00112

1 sign off now, we don't need to be on for anything else,  
2 anything further?

3

4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Unless they have  
5 something further?

6

7 MR. BERG: Okay, thank you very much.

8

9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Okay, then.

10

11 MR. GRAY: Okay, the question, I guess,  
12 Tom, have you brought this other -- the initial proposal,  
13 did that come to this Board?

14

15 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It is before the Board  
16 now.

17

18 MR. GRAY: No. No. No, there was.....

19

20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It is.....

21

22 MR. GRAY: .....another proposal that  
23 talked about the whole area; is that right, you had a  
24 different proposal?

25

26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Tom. Tom, the way --  
27 let me explain the way this works. The proposal he made  
28 is before you. I have then modified it. But you have  
29 every right to say, nope, we don't accept the Staff  
30 conclusion, we go with the original proposal. So his  
31 proposal is before you today.

32

33 MR. GRAY: Okay.

34

35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And you can.....

36

37 MR. GRAY: Okay.

38

39 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: .....modify it in any  
40 way that you choose. You can say, we want to give it to  
41 all communities in Unit 22(B), you can say, White  
42 Mountain and Elim, you have the right to modify it as you  
43 see fit or you can say you liked his original proposal  
44 and go with that.

45

46 But as long as when you do that it would  
47 be good to put some justification as to why you do that  
48 so we.....

49

50 MR. GRAY: Okay.



00113

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: .....can take that to  
2 the Board.

3  
4 MR. GRAY: Okay. I would support the  
5 original proposal that gave everybody the opportunity to  
6 hunt on BLM lands no matter whose permit you're packing.  
7 And the justification I'm using is we are all subsistence  
8 users out there and if we start splitting and drawing  
9 lines in the snow of where you can and can't go and who  
10 can and can't, we're doing just like the bureaucracies  
11 and we're taking away from our subsistence lifestyles  
12 that we don't need to do.

13  
14 So, you know, I strongly support that if  
15 we're going to open up BLM lands to Tier II permits, it  
16 should be for people in Unalakleet, people in Elim,  
17 people wherever in our region.

18  
19 And anyway, I'll get off that.

20  
21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I even lost track of  
22 where we were. We need to hear from Alaska Department of  
23 Fish and Game, right, is that where we are, next?

24  
25 I guess it must be. So let's just move  
26 on along and hear from ADF&G.

27  
28 MS. PERSONS: Well, the Department came  
29 to the same conclusion that the Federal Staff came to,  
30 that there was justification for giving Unit 22(C)  
31 residents C&T for hunting muskox in western Unit 22(B) in  
32 the Kuzitrin drainage and 22(D). And the reason for that  
33 is the long history that we have of Unit 22(C) residents  
34 using those areas for hunting other game species, moose  
35 and caribou.

36  
37 Thank you.

38  
39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Other  
40 agency comments. Ken.

41  
42 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair, Council  
43 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service.

44  
45 Speaking directly to the proposal but I  
46 do have to insert a history, a quick history note. For  
47 those who can remember back to 1995 when the State Board  
48 of Game found that there was no customary and traditional  
49 use for muskox and the only hunt opportunity was a State  
50 managed drawing permit system for \$500 a whack. That

00114

1 propelled the thing into the Federal courts or into the  
2 Federal system and the Federal Subsistence Office made a  
3 positive customary and traditional use determination. At  
4 that point in time the Federal Board also sucked up all  
5 the allowable harvest under the Muskoxen Cooperative  
6 Management Plan. There was no State hunt. And the only  
7 place a Federally eligible user could hunt was on Federal  
8 lands, which was very difficult for access reasons.

9

10 Over the years, the State Board has made  
11 a -- has changed its position, made a customary and  
12 traditional use determination based largely on Federal  
13 usage, by the way, and it allowed us to manage the hunt  
14 jointly with the State Tier II and a Federal hunt.

15

16 Currently the State does not recognize  
17 Federal permits. So if you're a Federally eligible user  
18 with a Federal permit you can only use that on Federal  
19 public lands no matter how far you have to travel and how  
20 many animals you have to pass up to get to Federal land  
21 to use that permit. The Federal system has been much  
22 more liberal and the regulation reads, if you have  
23 Federal C&T and you have a State Tier II permit, you can  
24 use that on Federal lands.

25

26 So that's kind of where we're at right  
27 now, and the cooperators will probably be, in the next  
28 several months, taking up a large range of potential  
29 regulatory changes because very likely the State Tier II  
30 system is going to go away in a couple years and it's  
31 going to make some real changes. But there were real  
32 reasons why people, as I said, the original C&T  
33 determinations were based on traditional tribal  
34 territories and there were real concerns with communities  
35 like Buckland and Deering, that they did not want  
36 Kotzebue hunting in their back yard. And all the doctors  
37 and school teachers and the dentists from Kotzebue  
38 hunting in their back yard. And there were real concerns  
39 in some of the communities out here that they would be  
40 inundated by larger communities, and at the time, you  
41 know, we were dealing with a much smaller allowable  
42 harvest, I think the original hunt was something like  
43 only 13 or 15 or 18 animals, or something like that, you  
44 know, now we're well over probably 100 allowable animals.

45

46

47 So you know we're blessed with a growing  
48 resource, but I think we need to be careful in how we  
49 approach some of these issues and like I said, the  
50 original C&T determinations were very narrow but they

00115

1 were based on traditional tribal use territories.

2

3                   And if you go back into the literature  
4 and stuff there are good indications that people,  
5 generally, unless you exercise kinship prerogatives or  
6 you had political alliances, you generally stayed within  
7 your area and you waited for the resource to come to you  
8 and that you didn't wander all over the face of the globe  
9 and the Seward Peninsula and muskoxen are very sedentary  
10 animals. They don't travel long distances like the  
11 caribou and so, you know, the logic essentially was, give  
12 the resources to the communities where the resource are.  
13 And that's the way the C&T determinations kind of went  
14 down and the way they are now.

15

16                   And I think that you're faced with in  
17 this proposal is some pretty good rationale for refining  
18 it to recognize Nome's longstanding use areas in the  
19 Kuzitrin, Kougarok, Pilgrim drainages. And I think the  
20 proposal, you know, as recommended for amended is pretty  
21 realistic.

22

23                   To simply open it up to all residents of  
24 22, I think, goes against the original logic of the C&T,  
25 and not that we can't discuss that more and perhaps  
26 submit a new a proposal and take it under advisement, but  
27 I think from the Park Service's point of view and the  
28 proposal that you have before you, we would oppose the  
29 proposal, the original proposal and would support a  
30 proposal as recommended by the Staff Committee in the  
31 Staff analysis.

32

33                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ken.  
34 Comments.

35

36                   MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Ken, I'm curious on  
37 this. Like I know a number of people from Unalakleet go  
38 up towards Granite Mountain in the 22(B) area. Now,  
39 under this proposal would they -- they would not have  
40 customary and traditional use determination over the  
41 muskox that are in there at this time, would that be  
42 correct?

43

44                   MR. ADKISSON: That would be correct.  
45 But I think the thing that we'd have to look at, over  
46 time, as we've done with White Mountain, we would have to  
47 look -- and, again, this is not a perfect system, and you  
48 know, we're working with a couple different systems  
49 trying to patch them together and make it work. But I  
50 think it's just like with White Mountain, White Mountain

00116

1 was able to get into the Tier II system. Remember  
2 without the Tier II they wouldn't have been in at all  
3 except until the animals got to 22(B) but they were able  
4 to get Tier II permits and established over several years  
5 of time a pattern of hunting in eastern 22(D), which, I  
6 think people are willing to recognize that and fine-tune  
7 the C&T determination.

8

9 My guess would be that, yeah, I know  
10 people from Elim and stuff that hunt up by Granite  
11 Mountain. People go up there all the time for caribou.

12

13 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Yeah.

14

15 MR. ADKISSON: And I think what would  
16 happen in the case of the muskoxen, if people in 22(A)  
17 were able to get State Tier II permit hunts for muskoxen  
18 and were hunting up in areas of 23 southwest, or southern  
19 23 or 22(B).....

20

21 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Sure.

22

23 MR. ADKISSON: .....or wherever that --  
24 if that pattern of hunting developed, then it would be  
25 reasonable to come back and fine-tune the C&T some more.

26

27 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Okay.

28

29 MR. ADKISSON: I hope that answers your  
30 question.

31

32 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Yeah, and as you  
33 mentioned if they do move further east, which I think  
34 they are doing because we've spotted them several times  
35 in the Unalakleet River and things, you know, possibly  
36 we'll have our own herd down there some day, you never  
37 know.

38

39 MR. ADKISSON: Well, Vance, under the  
40 current system, and I think the current system may well  
41 change drastically in the next two years, but under the  
42 current system were that to happen and the population  
43 would grow and the cooperators would evaluate the numbers  
44 and suggest, as they have done in 22(B) that a new hunt  
45 be opened up in 22(A).

46

47 At that time two things would happen,  
48 one, of course, people from 22(A) could apply for State  
49 Tier II permits and would probably out compete most other  
50 communities. And secondly, the cooperators would

00117

1 probably look at an allocation system between the Federal  
2 and State systems that would allow some Federal permits  
3 in 22(A) and if the customary and traditional use  
4 determination was for residents of 22(A), those would be  
5 the only communities eligible for the Federal permits.

6

7 But like I say, a lot of that -- and, I  
8 mean that's the way it works now.

9

10 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Yeah.

11

12 MR. ADKISSON: But a lot of that's  
13 subject to, I think, change, depending upon on what the  
14 State Board of Game does in the next two years.

15

16 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ken.  
19 Inter-Agency Staff Committee comments.

20

21 MR. EASTLAND: Madame Chair. Members of  
22 the Council. Thank you. My name is Warren Eastland,  
23 member of the Inter-Agency Staff Committee for the BIA.  
24 In my original statement about the differences between  
25 the OSM Staff and the Staff Committee I mentioned that  
26 there are things beyond the immediate analysis that we  
27 have to take into account when we advise our Board  
28 members.

29

30 According to ANILCA, Title VIII, there  
31 are three reasons why the Federal Subsistence Office may  
32 override the decision of the Council. One of those  
33 reasons is insufficient evidence.

34

35 The Staff Committee in reading this  
36 analysis and not hearing from this Council that there are  
37 many other hunters from other villages who hunt muskox  
38 would have to say that the original proposal is not  
39 supported by sufficient evidence, but that the modified  
40 proposal is.

41

42 So our recommendation to the Board is  
43 that the modified proposal is supported by sufficient  
44 evidence.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Fish and  
49 Game Advisory Committee comments, we don't have anybody.  
50 Summary of written public comments.

00118

1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair, we don't  
2 have any written public comments at this moment. Thanks.

3  
4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Sandy Tahbone.

5  
6 MS. TAHBONE: I'm not like Tom Sparks,  
7 unlike Ken, I need to keep my shirt on. I'm speaking for  
8 myself. This is a pretty scary proposal in my personal  
9 opinion. We're talking about C&T to try to utilize the  
10 eight criteria to make it fit an animal that is recently  
11 back in our area.

12  
13 I'm not sure what the ramifications could  
14 be. I think you need to tread slowly. I think part of  
15 what's prompting this, although Tom didn't say it, but  
16 unfortunately the State has not opened up much of 22(C)  
17 to muskox hunting. I think if they would do that I don't  
18 think that this proposal would be sitting before you.

19  
20 So please treat lightly, look at the  
21 eight criteria, see how it's supposed to be applied and  
22 apply it to muskox.

23  
24 Thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Sandy.  
27 Okay, now we're down to Regional Council deliberation,  
28 recommendation and justification. Now, Tom.

29  
30 MR. GRAY: Okay. Well, you know, the  
31 irony of this whole discussion is I keep harping  
32 subsistence and talking about subsistence users, other  
33 people are talking about traditional uses of areas,  
34 whatever. The reality of this whole situation is is  
35 we're probably talking about a hundred or 150 permits  
36 that subsistence users are using. And the request is to  
37 take permits and go on Federal lands to hunt. That's the  
38 bottom line, can we take these permits and go on Federal  
39 lands and hunt.

40  
41 You know, the modified proposal is going  
42 to give White Mountain, I can go hunt anywhere. It's  
43 going to give Nome people, they can go hunt anywhere.  
44 Sure I'm going to vote for it. But like I say, the  
45 ironic part of this is is we're just talking about a few  
46 proposal -- a few permits that are subsistence user  
47 permits, and this is a Subsistence Board, we need to back  
48 that.

49  
50 It's well known history that agencies

00119

1 will pit each other and say, I can't do this, you can't  
2 do that, I can't, but subsistence is across the Board,  
3 there is no I can't, you can't, we can't, they can't if  
4 -- if the agencies and the bureaucracy wasn't here those  
5 animals would still be utilized by the people in this  
6 region, whether that person come from Unalakleet or  
7 Shishmaref or wherever, so like I say, I'm -- I'm very  
8 reserved when we start saying, Vance, you got a permit,  
9 you live in Unalakleet, you can't go on BLM land even  
10 though you got a State permit. I mean that's one permit  
11 in 100 permits that is issued. Why are we nitpicking  
12 here?

13

14                   Let's let every -- I mean let's do a  
15 blanket coverage thing. This -- and I do have a  
16 heartache with this traditional usage thing. You look in  
17 my history in my family there is nobody -- I was the one  
18 that started using muskox. You go back in my history, I  
19 bet you can't put a finger on it. Ain't none of these  
20 bureaucrats can put a finger on my family using it and,  
21 yet, I have preference. That doesn't make sense.

22

23                   So anyway.

24

25                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jake, were you going  
26 to say something.

27

28                   MR. OLANNA: I'll wait until the rest of  
29 the Council has a comment.

30

31                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any other Council  
32 members have comments.

33

34                   MR. SEETOT: I guess the subsistence  
35 priority in the communities, I guess it depends on where  
36 you want to live. Some of these communities are pretty  
37 well depressed, you know, we don't have economy. People  
38 move to other places to get better paying jobs, they have  
39 the money, the resources to do what they want to do.

40

41                   Many in the communities, even though some  
42 are well off, a majority, 70 to 90 percent, in some  
43 communities have a hard time trying to make ends meet.  
44 Cost of gasoline, cost of fuel, water and sewer,  
45 electricity, many of this is taken for granted by people  
46 in the hub areas, in well to do communities. Other  
47 communities because of their location, you know, do not  
48 have the technology, do not have the resources, do not  
49 have backings of Federal and State governments because  
50 their leaders are passive, they just pretty much go along

00120

1 with what is being put before them.

2

3           They have had no history of people  
4 saying, okay, this is what we're going to do. Many, you  
5 know, do not have these resources to continue, you know,  
6 with what the Federal and State government is doing. I  
7 think you need to look at these communities and say --  
8 they've been there because they -- they share whatever  
9 they have, they're having a hard time surviving and  
10 that's pretty much what has happened.

11

12           Like I said before, 22(D), subunit 22(D)  
13 is a heavy use area, the Kougarak River system have been  
14 there for a while. The mining camps that I find along  
15 the rivers, they have been in use by residents from all  
16 over. Through the Pilgrim River, there's a short cut  
17 from Koruck (ph) to the Fish River Flats, Nyakluk (ph)  
18 Fish River. Our ancestors, they pretty much, I think, the  
19 majority of them come from there. They move on to other  
20 places, White Mountain, Unalakleet, they have ties to  
21 Koruck, you know, they have use of these resources and  
22 then all of a sudden everything has been kind of  
23 depleted, exploited because of influx of miners, you  
24 know, other things that happened. But I think that if  
25 we're going to share the use of these resources, you  
26 know, you kind of do it slowly like what Sandy is saying,  
27 do it slowly, because muskoxen is a new thing.

28

29           I was the first person to bag muskox in  
30 the Seward Peninsula. We had two permits. Right before  
31 it closed, three days, five days before the Federal  
32 government -- or, you know, the Federal agency was on my  
33 back, you know, am I going to bag it. I was able to bag  
34 it within that area. So this is a -- I didn't even know  
35 how to skin it, you know, it took me a while to kind of  
36 figure things out. But you learn to use these resources,  
37 hopefully for the benefit of the communities, you know,  
38 that you stay in.

39

40           But the novelty of muskoxen in our  
41 community was, oh, boy, this is a new species, everybody  
42 felt pretty much exclusively that that was used by those  
43 communities. However, you know, it just kind of wore out  
44 and then there were more permits to be available, you  
45 know, to others. And that's pretty much how Nome, White  
46 Mountain, you know, these areas, mostly within the use of  
47 subunit 22(D) were able to get these permits. Now, you  
48 have a problem with trying to fill these permits in some  
49 of the communities because, you know, with the young  
50 people, you know, just pretty much it's fun to hunt but I



00121

1 guess they just don't know how to process the animals.  
2 It's too much hard work. Some of these techniques,  
3 hunting techniques, anywhere from the start of the hunt  
4 to the processing of game, it's not being passed on.  
5 Other communities, you know, are more active than other  
6 communities, they're able to get their foot inside these  
7 areas.

8  
9 I would be a little cautious of giving  
10 C&T, you know, to people outside the subunit, even though  
11 they have use of these areas, I think pretty much it was  
12 traditional use lands many years ago. They had wars over  
13 land, however, that was pretty much settled just by  
14 negotiation, just by living among themselves.

15  
16 And like I said before, I would like to  
17 hunt certain animals within certain areas but I cannot do  
18 so because;

19  
20 One, is that there might be a restriction  
21 by organizations, like NANA, in order to hunt caribou on  
22 their land you have to be a resident of Unit 22(C).

23  
24 Two, I do not have the resources to just  
25 say, okay, I'll get me a permit and then I'll go hunt  
26 that animal, that resource, because of the thrill it will  
27 bring me, wow, you know, I bagged a resource that is  
28 unique, you know, that I never bagged before.

29  
30 And that pretty much, I think that's --  
31 that's where I'm kind of coming from, that we still use  
32 these traditions passed on by our ancestors that I will  
33 kind of still carry, even though, you know, we might have  
34 modified our decisions in some of these decisions.

35  
36 Thank you.

37  
38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Elmer.  
39 Jake.

40  
41 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair. Members of  
42 the Council. I've been listening to all this discussion  
43 here and it brings back some pretty bad memories about  
44 muskox.

45  
46 When I first went to Kawerak I was the  
47 director of the Reindeer Herder's Association and when I  
48 was growing up in Shishmaref, my father, who was alive  
49 then told me one time when he came back from Nilik, he  
50 said, hey, son, there's some strange looking animals over

00122

1 there at Nilik because he was not aware of the transplant  
2 of the muskox and neither was I. And when I went to  
3 Kawerak is when I found out there was these muskox that  
4 were transplanted there, using Federal and State monies  
5 and that there was a Cooperator's Group, I don't recall  
6 if anybody was involved from Shishmaref, but I know that  
7 they were a surprise to my people and to me, myself. And  
8 so when I was working for Reindeer Herders, we saw that  
9 animal as what you call it, an adversary, because it was  
10 eating the same reindeer food that the reindeers were  
11 eating on. And then come to find out they like (In  
12 Native), which is the sourdocks that my parents grew up  
13 with. And the more the animals grew, the more they were  
14 hated by my people and by the Reindeer Herders, of  
15 course, and so when I went to work as a subsistence  
16 specialist at Kawerak I drafted the first proposal that  
17 Ken named earlier. I took it to the Board of Game in  
18 Kenai, which of all places to take a muskox proposal, it  
19 was bad. But the proposal was drafted in a way that  
20 there was no -- you know, what I was proposing was  
21 subsistence harvest only. But, no, it got modified and  
22 the Board, like Ken said, passed a proposal to have a  
23 registration-type hunt, I can't remember what it was  
24 called then, but they denied the C&T determination.  
25 After I had put many hours in Shishmaref and I called  
26 people in Wales and everywhere. With Jim Magdanz' help I  
27 thought we had a good proposal, so we took it to the --  
28 like I said, to Kenai, to the Board of Game and we were  
29 shot down, and I was upset, I was mad.

30

31           So I knew that the Federal Subsistence  
32 Board, which was fairly new to me at the time was coming  
33 up with a meeting at the Captain Cook Hotel, another bad  
34 place. But anyway, I took the same proposal, but this  
35 time I had an attorney from RuralCap with me and we were  
36 able to convince the Board that, you know, we had to have  
37 a C&T for muskox which my village, remember, has (In  
38 Native), the bearded one. And during all this time when  
39 -- it finally got passed and before it was finally passed  
40 I went to Shishmaref when my dad was still alive and I  
41 was at his spring camp -- summer camp up at the  
42 Serpentine and he said one morning, he said, son, take a  
43 look across the river, he said there's a muskox over  
44 there and he told me in Eskimo that he often wanted to  
45 see or taste that muskox but he said, when that darn  
46 thing came on to the -- when the wind was blowing towards  
47 it, in the direction of the muskox, he said that's a  
48 stink animal and he said it stunk because it was in the  
49 fall time. But anyway, he often wondered what it would  
50 taste like, but he died before I got the C&T -- I mean

00123

1 before there was a hunt for muskox.

2

3

4 Now, that animal today is seen all over  
5 my area, the northern side of the Seward Peninsula  
6 throughout the summer, and it's still a very rejected  
7 animal, although now people are starting to realize that  
8 animal tastes good, you know. And in the beginning,  
9 people, like everybody else were reluctant to go out and  
10 get one because they didn't know what to do with it.  
11 They didn't know where to shoot it. And like Junior was  
12 saying, you know, they didn't know how to skin them but  
13 now, man, up in Shishmaref they look forward to that time  
14 when the National Park Service goes up because they've  
15 found ways of using the animals.

15

16

17 One season when they had hardly any  
18 oogaluk and marine mammals, they were really anxious to  
19 go hunting because there was no caribou at the time, now  
20 there is caribou, and the Reindeer Herders were starting  
21 to lose their reindeer. Now, the moose are coming back  
22 slowly, caribou are coming, but there's still some people  
23 that prefer the muskox because they kind of, what you  
24 call it, compare it with beef, certain time of the year.  
25 For many years there -- a couple years anyway during --  
26 before they started a hunt the people that were lucky  
27 enough to get the permits shot some animals that were  
28 real hard and, you know, real old bulls and I remember  
29 going up there one year when I was doing a subsistence  
30 harvest survey with Kawerak I went to my uncle's house,  
31 who is gone, too, now, and he said -- and I was wondering  
32 what -- there was a half a carcass of muskox thawing out  
33 by his stove, by his wood stove, and I looked at it and  
34 it was nice and healthy, lots of fat, you know,  
35 everything else and his wife came in shortly before and I  
36 was chatting with my uncle and she kicked it, she kicked  
37 the muskox and asked my uncle, what the hell are you  
38 bringing this in for, you know, but my uncle said he's  
39 going to cook it. You know, he told me to come back,  
40 which I did. My aunt said that it was too tough, but,  
41 no, my uncle said, no, he'll cook it, you know, and it's  
42 just a matter of preparing it. He'd just boil it for a  
43 heck of a long time and let me tell you it tasted pretty  
44 good.

44

45

46 And then when I came back later, I saw  
47 that he was drying some, he had one of those oven racks  
48 in his kitchen and he was drying some of that muskox and  
49 he said next time you come I'll have some dried ones for  
50 you and by, golly, I had muskox jerky. It's not like  
beef jerky, it's a little stringy but let me tell you

00124

1 that was good.

2

3                   So anyway, after that time I continued to  
4 fight for subsistence of harvest of muskoxen and I  
5 drafted another proposal and went to Fairbanks and that's  
6 when Ken and I think it was, what's his name, Mendenhall,  
7 from this Board that came with me, and we were able to  
8 convince the Board of Game then, at that time, to be able  
9 to have a subsistence harvest and at the same time, you  
10 know, Tom, you were asking about C&T so they approved  
11 that proposal and so now we have this Tier II hunt. But  
12 during the time that, you know, that became a regulation  
13 I've kind of regretted why I was going for Tier II, but  
14 that was the only way for subsistence harvest of muskox.  
15 But now I wish that -- I don't know what the numbers are  
16 for moose in 22, how many there has to be before a  
17 registration hunt opens. I mean it seems like there's  
18 more muskox than there are moose and still we don't have  
19 a registration hunt.

20

21                   So what I've been envisioning for years  
22 is that I hope the time comes here soon where we don't  
23 have to mess with this by taking that muskox and having a  
24 registration permit like moose. I don't know what it  
25 would take to reach that level but it's something that --  
26 I've been members of both Boards, I've been Northern  
27 Norton Sound Advisory Council and now I'm sitting on this  
28 Board, but I certainly hope that before I die, that  
29 anyone that wants to get a muskox be able to get a muskox  
30 by permit, and that this fight, this wanting for this one  
31 particular animal, like, Junior says, you know, it's not  
32 good to fight over animals, otherwise they'll disappear  
33 and not come -- or they'll disappear for awhile. Like in  
34 the case of beluga up there in Buckland and lots of other  
35 examples.

36

37                   So anyway in reviewing this proposal, I  
38 would like to entertain a motion to accept the proposal  
39 with the modifications that are written in Page 96, that  
40 we pass this proposal.

41

42                   I make that motion, Madame Chairman.  
43 Madame Chair.

44

45                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Pardon?

46

47                   MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, I make that  
48 motion.

49

50                   MR. SAVETILIK: I'll second.

00125

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion on  
2 the floor and there's a second. Discussion.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 MR. KOBUK: Question.

7  
8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those in favor of  
9 the motion signify by stating aye.

10  
11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12  
13 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,  
14 same sign.

15  
16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17  
18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So we've got a one  
19 nay, well, actually two nay's and seven ayes. Motion  
20 carries.

21  
22 MR. GRAY: I would like to suggest to Tom  
23 Sparks, though, that not to drop this issue and if you're  
24 adamant about the whole region of 22, your initial  
25 proposal was for the whole Unit 22, wasn't it?

26  
27 MR. SPARKS: (Nods affirmatively)

28  
29 MR. GRAY: You know, I would suggest that  
30 you don't drop this and revisit this again.

31  
32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think one of the  
33 areas that we need to look is 22(C). I remember going to  
34 a muskox meeting, I'm just going to add this as a very  
35 fast comment, going to muskox meetings when there were  
36 issues with muskoxen in 22(C) was discussed. I guess  
37 tourism prevailed at the time while I was listening to  
38 those.

39  
40 Okay, let's move along.

41  
42 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, I would like  
43 to suggest, Tom, I don't know, Tom, are you still a  
44 member of the Cooperator's Group or is that your former  
45 organization, Bering Straits -- well, you are now,  
46 through BLM, aren't you, but this one issue that can be  
47 taken up before the Cooperator's Group, too, I think.

48  
49 Thank you.

50

00126

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think that the  
2 dialogue with Teller still should continue even though  
3 the motion has passed. So I'd really appreciate it if  
4 there were some dialogue with Teller, to at least make  
5 sure that their concerns are heard when this is heard by  
6 the Federal Subsistence Board.

7  
8 Thank you.

9  
10 And let's take a little break right now.  
11 I don't want to take too long of a break, how about less  
12 than 10 minutes.

13  
14 (Off record)

15  
16 (On record)

17  
18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I will call the  
19 meeting back to order. It is now 20 to 4:00. We are now  
20 going to go to the crossover proposals. We'll begin now.

21  
22 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair, my name is  
23 Chuck Ardizzone, wildlife biologist, OSM.

24  
25 Proposal WP04-50 was submitted by the  
26 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Council and would combine  
27 the regulatory hunt area descriptions for Unit 18  
28 caribou, add 15 days to the existing regulatory season,  
29 would extend the meat on the bone requirement to that  
30 portion of the Unit 18 north of the Yukon River, and the  
31 proposal would also remove the meat on the bone  
32 regulatory language for Unit 18 caribou from Subpart D.

33  
34 It would mirror what the Alaska Board of  
35 Game did for the caribou season in Unit 18. The reason  
36 we're looking at these three proposals are they affect  
37 St. Michaels and Stebbins because they have customary and  
38 traditional use in Unit 18.

39  
40 Currently the biological status of the  
41 Mulchatna Caribou Herd, which would be affected by this  
42 proposal, it's healthy. The herd size could sustain an  
43 increase in Federal harvest and basically this proposal  
44 should be adopted by the Board.

45  
46 Review of the harvest ticket data for  
47 Unit 18 reflects continued high success rates for Unit  
48 residents. The average success rate is 78 percent for  
49 rural residents in Unit 18 from 1983 to the year 2000.

50

00127

1 I'll quickly jump to the effects of this  
2 proposal.

3  
4 Adoption of the proposal would comply  
5 with current harvest regulations and guidelines and would  
6 provide additional opportunity to harvest caribou during  
7 the longer days of spring. Adoption of the proposed  
8 regulations would also favor reduction in meat spoilage  
9 during transport from the harvest site in Unit 18 north  
10 of the Yukon River.

11  
12 The unit-wide meat on the bone  
13 requirement would also comply with local harvest and  
14 transport methods that refrain from de-boning harvested  
15 meat. Local residents traditionally transport harvested  
16 meat on the bone from the harvest site and hang the front  
17 and hindquarters until processed for human consumption.  
18 Adoption of the proposed regulations would not adversely  
19 affect the caribou population or Federally-qualified  
20 subsistence users.

21  
22 The preliminary conclusion is to support  
23 this proposal.

24  
25 If you have any questions.

26  
27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Alaska Department of  
28 Fish and Game.

29  
30 MS. PERSONS: The Department supports  
31 this proposal. Adoption would align State and Federal  
32 caribou hunting regulations in Unit 18. If the provision  
33 for limiting the fall harvest to one bull specified in  
34 Proposal 04-42 also is adopted.

35  
36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Other  
37 agency comments.

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Inter-Agency Staff  
42 Committee.

43  
44 MR. EASTLAND: Madame Chair. Members of  
45 the Council. My sole comment will also apply to the next  
46 one and that is that we would like you to be aware that  
47 the meat on the bone regulation assumes that subsistence  
48 hunters don't know how to care for their meat. We just  
49 feel that it is entirely your decision but that it does  
50 constitute a restriction on subsistence hunters during

00128

1 the period up through October, whatever it is.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. We don't  
6 have Fish and Game Advisory Committee from that area.

7 Summary of written comments.

8

9 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: We don't have any  
10 public comments.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's no request for  
13 public testimony. Now, we'll go to Regional Council  
14 deliberation, recommendation and justification.

15

16 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, if the meat is  
17 left with the village and the community from which it's  
18 taken I would see no problem with that considering some  
19 of this meat is probably wasted a lot of the times. But  
20 I know in some villages that they look forward to these  
21 hunts so that, you know, those people that haven't had an  
22 opportunity to go out hunting will have a chance to eat  
23 the meat of these animals that are caught.

24

25 I support the proposal.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Is there a motion.

28

29 MR. SAVETILIK: Madame Chair, Myron  
30 Savetilik. I move to accept these proposals before us.

31

32 MR. OLANNA: Second.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There is a motion on  
35 the floor and been seconded.

36

37 MR. KOBUK: Question.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those in favor of  
40 the motion signify by stating aye.

41

42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43

44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,  
45 same sign.

46

47 (No opposing votes)

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. And  
50 we'll move on. We'll move on to Proposal 52 -- nope,



00129

1 excuse me, 42 -- is it 52 or 42?

2

3 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair, we have a  
4 52 and a 42.

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

7

8 MR. ARDIZZONE: 42's the one we handed  
9 out.

10

11 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Forty-two is the  
12 handout, it's in your blue folders.

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

15

16 MR. ARDIZZONE: So if I continue, it will  
17 be 52 in the book, okay?

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

20

21 MR. ARDIZZONE: WP04-52 is very similar  
22 to the last one and it was submitted by the Yukon-  
23 Kuskokwim Delta Regional Council and requests that the  
24 Federal Subsistence Board simplify the meat on the bone  
25 regulations for caribou and moose in Unit 18 south of the  
26 Yukon River.

27

28 The proponent requests the deletion of  
29 the south of the Yukon River section from the Federal  
30 Subsistence Regulations. The current salvage  
31 requirements for moose and caribou taken in Unit 18 south  
32 of the Yukon River are confusing for the user. The  
33 boundaries south of the Yukon River is awkward for users  
34 that hunt along the Yukon River and also for enforcement  
35 officers.

36

37 This proposal simplifies the hunting  
38 regulations for Unit 18 by extending the meat on the bone  
39 salvation requirement unit-wide. And once again it would  
40 affect St. Michaels and Stebbins because they have C&T in  
41 Unit 18 for caribou.

42

43 I'll just skip right to the effects.  
44 Adoption of this proposed regulation would simplify Unit  
45 18 regulations by eliminating south of the Yukon River  
46 from the current salvation requirements. Unit-wide  
47 salvage requirements for the caribou and moose would  
48 favor a reduction in meat spoilage during transport and  
49 harvest. And you've heard all this before.

50

00130

1                   Basically the adoption of this proposal  
2 would not adversely affect Unit 18 caribou and moose  
3 populations or caribou populations [sic] or limit  
4 opportunity for qualified users.

5  
6                   And basically the preliminary conclusion  
7 would be to support this proposal also.

8  
9                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Alaska Department of  
10 Fish and Game.

11  
12                   MS. PERSONS: The Department supports the  
13 proposal. It would align State and Federal regulations  
14 and simplify regulations as requested by the Yukon-  
15 Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council.

16  
17                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Kate.  
18 Other agency comments.

19  
20                   (No comments)

21  
22                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think that we heard  
23 from Inter-Agency Staff Committee, he said what he said  
24 before applied to this one. We don't have anybody from  
25 the Fish and Game Advisory Committee from that region.  
26 Summary of written comments.

27  
28                   (No comments)

29  
30                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It looks like there's  
31 none. There's no request for public testimony. Now,  
32 we'll go to Regional Council deliberation, recommendation  
33 and justification.

34  
35                   MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair, I have a  
36 question. It says south of the Yukon River. As far as I  
37 know St. Michaels and Stebbins doesn't go south of the  
38 Yukon River to do any hunting. It's mainly on the north  
39 side, like, on the Andraefsky or north and south  
40 Andraefsky or around the beginning of the Anvik River, so  
41 I don't know why we were included in this.

42  
43                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Leonard.

44  
45                   MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair.

46  
47                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jake.

48  
49                   MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, I move to  
50 support the proposal.

00131

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion on  
2 the floor to support the proposal. Is there a second.

3  
4 MR. GRAY: Second.

5  
6 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Question.

7  
8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those in favor of  
9 the motion signify by stating aye.

10  
11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12  
13 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,  
14 same sign.

15  
16 (No opposing votes)

17  
18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. 42.

19  
20 MR. ARDIZZONE: Wildlife Proposal WP04-42  
21 was submitted by the Bristol Bay Federal Subsistence  
22 Regional Advisory Council to reduce the bull caribou  
23 harvest limits and extend the seasons in Unit 9(B), Unit  
24 17 and Unit 18. And once again we're looking at this  
25 because Unit 18 would affect St. Michaels and Stebbins.

26  
27 What the proposed regulation for Unit 18  
28 would be to add the language that no more than one bull  
29 may be taken from August 1 through November 30th with a  
30 total limit of five caribou.

31  
32 This proposal was to limit the number of  
33 bull caribou taken to help the ratio in the herd so we  
34 can have more bulls in the herd. If we take less bulls,  
35 hopefully, in the future more bulls will be in the herd.

36  
37 Based on survey data for 2002 for both  
38 Units 17 and 18 there was an overall bull/cow ratio of  
39 25.7 bulls to 100 cows and based on last years numbers  
40 there's only 17.4 bulls per 100 cows, and, thus, the  
41 concern for harvesting bulls.

42  
43 The effects of the proposal. The  
44 proposal would reduce the harvest limit for bull caribou  
45 harvested in 9(B), 17(A) and (B) and (C) and also in Unit  
46 18 to one bull for a specific time period within each  
47 unit. The overall total harvest limit of five caribou in  
48 several subunits would remain unchanged and subsistence  
49 users would still be able to harvest up to five caribou  
50 in all units addressed by this proposal.

00132

1                   However, Unit 18, Federal Subsistence  
2 Regulations for harvest of caribou south of the Yukon  
3 River as proposed would be more restrictive than current  
4 State harvest regulations for the harvest of caribou in  
5 Unit 18 south of the Yukon River. With this proposal the  
6 Federal Subsistence season would be 15 days shorter and  
7 still divide Unit 18 into north and south parts, while  
8 State regulations are longer and have combined Unit 18  
9 into one regulation.

10  
11                   The preliminary conclusion would be to  
12 support this proposal with modification to extend the  
13 Federal season to July 1 in Unit 9(B) to April 15th in  
14 Unit 18 and to combine north and south parts of Unit 18  
15 as Unit 18 whole. So the proposed language for Unit 18  
16 which would affect St. Michaels and Stebbins would be  
17 five caribou August 1st through April 15th, however, no  
18 more than one bull may be taken from August 1st to  
19 November 30th.

20  
21                   Are there any questions.

22  
23                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Alaska Department of  
24 Fish and Game.

25  
26                   MS. PERSONS: I have no comment.

27  
28                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Other agency comments.

29  
30                   (No comments)

31  
32                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: IAC comments.

33  
34                   MR. EASTLAND: We have no comment.

35  
36                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We don't have Fish and  
37 Game Advisory Committee comments. Is there summary of  
38 written public comments.

39  
40                   MS. B. ARMSTRONG: No written comments,  
41 Madame Chair. Thank you.

42  
43                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's no request for  
44 public testimony. We'll move on to Regional Council  
45 deliberation, recommendations and justification.

46  
47                   MR. GRAY: This is addressing Federal  
48 lands. Is there a high percentage of Federal lands in  
49 this area -- is there a State hunt in this area and are  
50 we coming in line with a State regulation or where are we

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1 at on that?

2

3

4 MR. ARDIZZONE: I think what this  
5 proposal is doing is trying to align with the State. And  
6 let me see the amount of lands in Unit 18.....

6

7

8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It's almost entirely  
9 Fish and Wildlife Refuge.

9

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think Kate stood up,  
12 maybe she can.....

12

13

14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: This is the map of 18  
15 and you can see all the pink, that is Fish and Wildlife  
16 Service Refuge land, it's YK Delta, it's a lot of Refuge  
17 land.

17

18

19 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, I've never seen this  
20 before, but I think I've got it straight now. The  
21 Department would support the proposal as modified. The  
22 modification would align State and Federal regs.

22

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Any more  
25 questions or comments.

25

26

(No comments)

27

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It's a long distance  
30 from our territory except for.....

30

31

32 MR. GRAY: Well, I guess my concern was  
33 if there was a big difference I would want to know why  
34 but if we're going along the same lines I'll -- so I'll  
35 make a motion that we approve it.

35

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a -- Leonard,  
38 did you want to say something?

38

39

39 MR. KOBUK: (Shakes head negatively)

40

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion, is  
43 there a second?

43

44

44 MR. OLANNA: Second.

45

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion on  
48 the floor and seconded. All those in favor of the motion  
49 signify by stating aye.

49

50

50 IN UNISON: Aye.

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1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,  
2 same sign.

3  
4 (No opposing votes)

5  
6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. And  
7 if I'm correct, that concludes our proposals.

8  
9 Thank you, very much.

10  
11 So we'll move on down to Fisheries  
12 Information Service. Helen Armstrong.

13  
14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Actually Steve Klein  
15 is going to do that.

16  
17 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, Steve Klein.  
18 And I have -- is somebody from Kawerak going to -- did  
19 you want to sit with him so you can -- when it comes to  
20 appropriate Kawerak projects, we can give a report.

21  
22 MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Madame Chair and  
23 Council members. I'm Steve Klein in the Office of  
24 Subsistence Management in the Fisheries Information  
25 Services Division. I'm not Helen Armstrong. Jerry has  
26 got a handout that summarizes the Fisheries Resource  
27 Monitoring Program for the northern region.

28  
29 The first page there is a map. And as  
30 you recall the northern region actually includes three  
31 councils; the Seward Penn, as well as Northwest Arctic  
32 and North Slope. And within your region for this coming  
33 field season 2004 we're going to have three projects  
34 operating within your region and we're going to go into  
35 more detail in those in just a second. I'm not going to  
36 go through this entire handout, but I did want to orient  
37 you, this is packed full of a lot of useful information.

38  
39 After the map on the immediate following  
40 page, it summarizes all of the projects that we've funded  
41 within the northern region. And within the northern  
42 region we've funded 30 studies. Twelve of them are  
43 complete and those are identified. And then there's  
44 eight projects that are underway and then another 10  
45 studies that will be initiated this year. And there's  
46 summaries of those projects in the following pages.

47  
48 Today we're very fortunate to have two of  
49 our researchers in the Monitoring Program to do  
50 presentations. Tim Krockner with Kawerak has been doing a

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1 study on the Pikmiktalik River, which we've talked about  
2 on many occasions here today. And then we also have  
3 Randy Brown with the Fish and Wildlife Service Fairbanks  
4 Fisheries Office. And he's done some research on beaver  
5 whitefish interactions on the Yukon Flats, and Leonard, I  
6 think he'll be able to answer some of your questions and  
7 other Council members on that.

8

9 But first we'll have Tim Krockner  
10 summarize the Pikmiktalik study. We've funded it since  
11 2002 with the Monitoring Program. Kawerak is really a  
12 model example of what we're trying to do with the  
13 Monitoring Program. We're trying to get good information  
14 to conserve and manage important subsistence resources.  
15 Not only are they doing that they're doing it with a  
16 tribal organization. They run the project from start to  
17 finish, including data analysis and report writing as  
18 well as local hires. So they're really one of our best  
19 examples of capacity building and I'll turn it over to  
20 Tim.

21

22 MR. KROCKER: Hello. I am the Kawerak  
23 fisheries specialist in the Kawerak Fish Department and  
24 I've been here since May, and I have been working with  
25 Stebbins and St. Michael representatives and workers and  
26 we set up an enumeration project this summer with funding  
27 from the Fish and Wildlife Service. And I guess this all  
28 came about from concerns from Mr. Kobuk and a  
29 recommendation from this Council that we start looking at  
30 that river.

31

32 And we implemented a counting tower this  
33 year, and we installed it June 18th and it ran until  
34 August 4th. I guess everyone got a copy of the report,  
35 it's basically a summary of what's -- is the report of  
36 what happened this summer, and I'll briefly touch on a  
37 few quick things.

38

39 Overall this project was a great success.  
40 We got three great workers from Stebbins and St. Michael,  
41 and the Stebbins IRA also helped us with management of  
42 the camp and things went very well. We counted just over  
43 13,000 pink, 7,700 chum, 345 king, and 87 coho between  
44 June 24th and August 4th. And really the success of this  
45 project was due to the hard work of both Stebbins and St.  
46 Michael IRA and the workers we got.

47

48 Some of the recommendations for the  
49 future for this project is that we would love to see the  
50 enumeration study on the Pikmiktalik River continue for

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1 future years and continue to gain knowledge on this  
2 river. We would like, and this is what's going to happen  
3 this year is we're going to operate the counting tower  
4 through the coho season to get an understanding of the  
5 coho run as well, and to document that.

6  
7                   And also what we want to do and put  
8 additional efforts in are to gain more age, sex and  
9 length data from the salmon that are running up the  
10 Pikmiktalik River and sample more of the fish that are  
11 being caught for subsistence and get that information as  
12 well.

13  
14                   And in a nutshell the season went very  
15 well as I said, and we couldn't have done it without  
16 Stebbins and St. Michaels, and thank you for your time.

17  
18                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Any  
19 questions for him.

20  
21                   (No questions)

22  
23                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Comments.

24  
25                   MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair.

26  
27                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Leonard.

28  
29                   MR. KOBUK: I just want to thank the  
30 Federal government and Kawerak, the people were very  
31 happy that this was being done because we had some  
32 concerns that with three villages fishing in that small,  
33 they call it river, but it's more like a creek to me  
34 because when it gets low tide you can't even go up that  
35 river. And we're looking forward for another study and  
36 it was good to hear that they're going to start early and  
37 end a little later this time and try to get a count on  
38 the fall chums, silvers.

39  
40                   So I just want to pass on the word from  
41 both villages, thanks, very much to both entities, the  
42 Feds and Kawerak.

43  
44                   MR. KROCKER: You're welcome.

45  
46                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Good job. Okay.

47  
48                   MR. KLEIN: Madame Chair. Actually I  
49 think the Council deserves a pat on the back, too.  
50 Because the Council identified this as a very important



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1 information need and through the Monitoring Program we  
2 were able to fund it and I think they're doing some great  
3 monitoring up on the Pikmiktalik.

4

5 Real quickly, the other two projects that  
6 will be starting this year. One is a joint project with  
7 Kawerak and ADF&G and that will be on customary trade in  
8 the Seward Peninsula area. They'll be looking at  
9 customary trade in Nome, Unalakleet, Shaktoolik and  
10 Brevig Mission. And this is one of three projects we  
11 have within the state to look more closely at customary  
12 trade and we're trying to -- statewide, we're trying to  
13 understand better customary trade so that we can ensure  
14 that practice, and this is one of the studies that will  
15 compliment our knowledge on customary trade.

16

17 The third study within the region that  
18 will be launched this year is making a subsistence  
19 fisheries baseline, and it's Project 01-153. This is a  
20 traditional ecological knowledge study, which this  
21 Council is a big supporter of and they'll be looking at  
22 long-term trends and abundance in harvest as well as  
23 subsistence uses and practices. They'll be looking at  
24 ANCSA interviews. There's a gold mine of information,  
25 they have 162 interviews during the ANCSA days and the  
26 researcher there will be looking at all of those  
27 interviews and then compiling it to document the long-  
28 term changes, both in harvest and abundance of stocks.  
29 So we're looking forward to the results of that as well.

30

31 Those are the three projects that will be  
32 launched within your region this year.

33

34 And then next I wanted to address your  
35 concern about beaver fish interactions and we're very  
36 fortunate to have Randy Brown with us. Randy is with the  
37 Fish and Wildlife Service, Fairbanks Fisheries Office.  
38 He's one of the premier researchers in whitefish research  
39 and today he's going to summarize one of the projects he  
40 conducted in the Yukon Flats region that looks at  
41 interactions of beaver and whitefish, so I'll turn it  
42 over to Randy.

43

44 MR. BROWN: Madame Chair. Members of the  
45 Council. Thank you for your time here. My name is Randy  
46 Brown and I'm a fisheries biologist with the Fish and  
47 Wildlife Service in Fairbanks. And we've been doing a  
48 number of projects. I don't know if you folks over here  
49 want to move out to be able to see this. We, a lot of  
50 times present our data in this format, a power-point

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1 format.

2

3

4 We had some concerns voiced from the  
5 folks in the Yukon Flats that beaver were blocking water  
6 ways and affecting the fish. And so we decided to  
7 investigate with the Council of Athabascan Tribal  
8 Government, the CATG group up in the Yukon Flats, whether  
9 we could define what the problem was and come to grips  
10 with it and this is the results of that project.

11

12 First we wanted to find out the nature of  
13 the problem. I mean there's essentially two possible  
14 scenarios in a beaver fish interaction.

15

16 One is that they put a dam across the  
17 water way and fish are trapped inside when they want to  
18 come out. And the other is that the beavers put a dam up  
19 and fish are outside and want to go in. And sometimes  
20 that's a hard thing to determine, particularly because  
21 you don't know, we don't know right from the outside --  
22 just because there's fish outside that they want to go in  
23 or the other way around. And so our approach was first  
24 to look at other people's studies because this isn't a  
25 new issue and we're not the first ones that have looked  
26 at it. So we did research in the literature and  
27 essentially what other studies -- and there are dozens  
28 and dozens of them from the Appalachian Mountains in  
29 eastern U.S., from the Rocky Mountains, Canada, Southeast  
30 Alaska, beaver dams -- all of these studies found that  
31 beaver dams create habitat variability. In other words  
32 putting a pond in where there's a river, and there are a  
33 lot of fish species that prefer to be in ponds. So if  
34 you have ponds they're there and if you don't have ponds  
35 they aren't.

36

37 And juvenile fish really have a strong  
38 tendency towards ponds. And in many cases, like in  
39 Southeast Alaska they found that juvenile coho salmon are  
40 found in the ponds almost exclusively and they work  
41 through tagging of fish -- I mean some of these are  
42 pretty intensive studies, where they have to put weirs on  
43 the outlet streams and tag fish and monitor their  
44 movements in and out of ponds and things. It's quite a  
45 difficult thing to do.

46

47 One of the other things they found is  
48 that beaver dams are never permanent so you have high  
49 water events that provide opportunity for fish to move  
50 back and forth. And there was one study actually that  
51 documented winter kill in a particular pond where you had

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1 both adult fish and juvenile fish in the pond and they  
2 did experience some kill of the adult fish, not all of  
3 them, but they had no evidence that any of the juveniles  
4 were affected by it. And winter kill usually occurs  
5 because a pond becomes low oxygen, it gets blocked from  
6 the air and the fish use the oxygen in it down to a  
7 certain point and juveniles apparently are not as  
8 affected by it or are able to find oxygenated areas  
9 better than the adults.

10

11                   So we put out a study, not necessarily to  
12 identify whether a particular fish was harmed or not by  
13 beaver dams being there, but more to see how fish  
14 utilized the pond and the river habitat around beaver  
15 dams. And so we selected three lake systems in the Black  
16 River drainage which is in the upper region of the Yukon  
17 Flats and identified fish species present in the lakes  
18 and in the rivers through gillnet sampling, and we  
19 compared the sizes and the ages and the species  
20 composition of fish between these habitats and we  
21 actually put water height monitors in there so we could  
22 tell how frequently fish had access over the dams during  
23 this period.

24

25                   And so this is a map of the state and we  
26 worked up in upper part of the Yukon Flats and the Black  
27 River. I realize there's another Black River down in  
28 here but we worked in the one far up stream in the Yukon.  
29 And I know that all water systems are different so our  
30 findings aren't necessarily applicable to down here but  
31 maybe if you have an issue these might help you define a  
32 project to get answers for it.

33

34                   So anyway, we had three lake systems we  
35 worked with. The first one was, we called it Study Lake  
36 L. There's a big oxbow (ph) that had been cut off and  
37 was accessible only through a small channel to the Black  
38 River out here. And this is a one kilometer block here  
39 and so this lake is a mile and a half long or so from  
40 where it connects with the river all the way around to  
41 its end. This is a high altitude aerial photo of it.  
42 And this is the dam at reasonably low water and so it was  
43 the lowest dam of all three. But when the river went low  
44 this was -- it did create a fish blockage.

45

46                   The second lake was another oxbow that  
47 had been cut off and the entrance channel is quite long.  
48 It's about a mile long itself. And the beaver dam is  
49 down at the lower end of that channel and it's a pretty  
50 high dam and it actually holds water back. This stick

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1 right here is one meter tall and the bottom of it is  
2 sitting right about where river water level is at low  
3 water, so those fish are locked in there pretty  
4 effectively. But one thing you'll notice about this and  
5 the last one is there's no stream flowing into them so  
6 those lakes get snow melt into them, rain water just  
7 seeping through the tundra and then if the river goes  
8 high they get water coming from the river back into them.  
9

10                   The third lake was a little different, it  
11 also is an old river channel. But it has some flow, some  
12 streams coming down into it. Now, this is the outlet to  
13 the stream and so it's about two miles or so from the  
14 lake out to the river to the Black River and the dam is  
15 quite a ways up stream. And as you can see here it's a  
16 high dam also but it has flow over the top of it which  
17 the other two systems did not have. So it's actually  
18 more isolated but fish can go in and out because of high  
19 flow from within the lake or from flooding from the river  
20 in this case.

21  
22                   And so these were our test systems. We  
23 used two inch and four inch gillnets and so we were able  
24 to catch fish down to as small as about six inches which  
25 are one to two year old whitefish or grayling or northern  
26 pike. So we could catch some pretty young fish and also  
27 as large a fish as were in that area. We weren't really  
28 dealing with salmon. There are salmon runs in the Black  
29 River but they don't go into the side lakes. And we  
30 sampled both in the lakes and in the rivers besides the  
31 lake at three different time periods and we took all the  
32 fish that were captured, were identified, measured,  
33 weighed, aged and we also looked in their stomachs when  
34 we could identify food we did and we compared the fish  
35 populations back and forth. And we monitored the water  
36 level. And we had monitors actually in the lakes and  
37 also below so we could tell whether it was -- if the  
38 water came up whether it was from inside the lake flowing  
39 over the dam or from the river coming back in.

40  
41                   And essentially we caught 286 fish total  
42 and we divided the catch between lake and river.  
43 Northern pike were our most abundant fish in both  
44 habitats. Fifty-two in the river and 108 in the lake.  
45 So many more fish in the lakes and that actually helped  
46 for virtually all the species except for grayling which  
47 we only caught one of. 206 fish in the lake, 80 in the  
48 river and that's the total over all the sample periods.  
49 And I want to point out that we had 52 pike in the river,  
50 and pike as far as a fish biologist goes is a mobile fish

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1 sampling unit so we can actually tell what the juvenile  
2 fish, smaller fish are in the lake without actually  
3 catching them ourselves. And we identified the prey of  
4 the northern pike, based on the habitat of where we  
5 caught the pike and found out that pike in the river were  
6 mostly not eating at all, we only had three fish in the  
7 river that were eating, all the rest had empty stomachs  
8 the whole summer. And in the lakes we had 75 out of the  
9 108 or so were eating back in the lakes, and mostly they  
10 were eating smaller northern pike. But also, you know,  
11 we had 29 unidentified whitefish. They were far enough  
12 digested, we could tell they were whitefish but not what  
13 species. And also we had a small bald eagle in one of  
14 the pike's stomach. I thought that was -- that was kind  
15 of a shock to us when we saw that one. But unfortunately  
16 it fell out of the nest, I'm sure.

17

18                   So two of the more common species of the  
19 whitefish were the humpbacks and the broad whitefish up  
20 in that study area and also siscos. All the other fish  
21 really were just incidentals. And if we look at the  
22 distribution of fish between lake and river habitats for  
23 the three different sampling periods we find that we  
24 caught more fish in the lakes always, there was never a  
25 case where there were more in the river. If we look at  
26 by species, we always had more fish caught in the lakes  
27 than in the river. And if we look by sample site, notice  
28 Number Site L had that really low dam and so it was only  
29 isolated from the river during real low water. It  
30 essentially had the same catch rates. The CPUE, by the  
31 way is catch per unit effort and essentially we dealt  
32 with fish per hour per 50 foot net, that's how we  
33 calculated that. So the site with the low beaver dam  
34 really had no difference in catch rates with the river,  
35 whereas the two that were much more isolated, the lake  
36 habitat had many more fish in it.

37

38                   So from a water level perspective, we  
39 see, you know, a start day and a stop day, total days for  
40 about three months for each of these systems and the lake  
41 with the low dam was open 59 percent of the time, so fish  
42 could move from the river in or out more than half of the  
43 summer in that lake, whereas in the other two lakes it  
44 was much more restricted. Only 14 percent of the time  
45 during three open events in Lake M and 22 percent of the  
46 time in two open events. Now, one of those events there  
47 was when there was a big rain and water was coming over  
48 the dam. So it'd be easier for fish to get out than in  
49 but we think they could have done either at that point in  
50 time.

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1                   So we looked at habitat then of these  
2 different lake systems, and this was the one with the low  
3 dam, and as we get back into it since the water level was  
4 constantly changing with the river there never got to be  
5 stable pond aquatic shoreline vegetation. You know, in a  
6 normal pond you have what they call emergent vegetation  
7 which is stuff that's rooted in the bottom and then  
8 actually sticks up above the water level and as it gets  
9 deeper you get submergent vegetation, which actually just  
10 grows in the water or flattens on the surface like a lily  
11 pad. This pond didn't have either of those, it just had  
12 this big segmented grass. We had to pull our canoes  
13 across big stretches of this to get into there to sample  
14 fish. But we didn't have any juvenile fish at all in  
15 this lake, whereas the other lakes had lily pads and the  
16 shoreline vegetation so the beaver dams actually  
17 stabilized the water level and made it a completely  
18 different type of habitat than the pond that was always  
19 fluctuating in its water level.

20

21                   And so a summary of our findings agreed  
22 with many of the other studies that there were more fish  
23 in lake habitats than in river and that the juvenile  
24 fish, we only caught them in the lakes, we didn't catch  
25 them in the rivers. That's not to say they didn't travel  
26 the river at some point in time but never while we were  
27 out there and none of the pike had them in them. So we  
28 think they were very, very rare in the river habitat.

29

30                   And the fish had multiple opportunities  
31 to move across the dams. And so by staying in the lakes,  
32 by not going over the dams, it seemed to us that they  
33 chose to stay there. And the two beaver ponds that were  
34 most isolated from the river had the most diverse fish  
35 communities in them. And the pond that was open to the  
36 river most of the summer was the least unique. It was --  
37 there were adult fish and it was just like the river,  
38 essentially. And I think the message there is that if we  
39 take the beaver dams out, so in our perception, fish can  
40 move back and forth we may be compromising the juveniles,  
41 which are greatly more numerous than the adults for the  
42 sake of what we imagine the adults need. And I know you  
43 may see a dam and a whole bunch of salmon piled up below  
44 it and say, well, we know they want to go up there and so  
45 the beaver dam is bad, but it may actually be supporting  
46 tens of thousands of juvenile fish behind that dam. And  
47 so it's a mixed bag on whether the dam is a good thing  
48 for fish in general or a bad thing.

49

50

                  Thank you, very much.

00143

1                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Are there  
2 any questions for him.

3  
4                   MR. GRAY: You've worked around the state  
5 on beaver dam, that's all you've done all your years?

6  
7                   MR. BROWN: No, that's the project --  
8 that project was the only one where we were actually  
9 evaluating beaver dams and fish. I work on whitefish  
10 mostly.

11  
12                   MR. GRAY: Uh-huh. The reason, I'm a  
13 little bit curious, in my river system I'm a fishing  
14 guide and I take people fishing. And one of the hottest  
15 fishing holes I've ever had was in a mouth of a creek  
16 that fed into a river, all these trout would just pile up  
17 right at the mouth of that creek because there's a beaver  
18 dam and for three years those trout couldn't get in there  
19 and they'd pile up and spawn right below the mouth of  
20 that creek where it was flowing over the dam and they  
21 couldn't get in. And it was a good thing for me because  
22 I take my clients up there and bang, bang, bang all day  
23 long.

24  
25                   But you know there was a time, I think, a  
26 year ago, I dashed up there with these clients and, yep,  
27 we're going to fish right here and I looked over and that  
28 beaver dam was gone and no more fish, they all went in  
29 that creek.

30  
31                   So I guess what I'm saying is there's  
32 more fish, you know, in this scenario maybe there's pike  
33 that's involved in it, in my rivers, the silvers look for  
34 springs to spawn in on these tributaries, the trout go up  
35 in these tributaries, so, you know, I personally think  
36 that in some situations beaver dams can be detrimental to  
37 a system. And I think it's a case by case thing.

38  
39                   And, you know, in our lower system we  
40 have beaver dams that are -- or our water system will  
41 fluctuate and fish move back and forth and in most  
42 scenarios there that you're talking about where the  
43 juvenile fish can't get back out and they have a better  
44 rearing area, so to speak. You know I've heard Fish and  
45 Game quote that a lot, that's a good rearing area. But  
46 if the fish can't get in there nothings' going to rear in  
47 there.

48  
49                   So anyway, I just wanted to throw that  
50 in.

00144

1 MR. KLEIN: If the stream were  
2 permanently blocked, yeah, that would be a detrimental  
3 impact. I wanted to add that also on the Yukon Flats we  
4 funded a traditional, ecological knowledge study where we  
5 went and talked to -- or the researcher, Fish and Game,  
6 went and talked to 15 elders in the Yukon Flats region,  
7 and they had similar findings to Randy that, yes, you do  
8 have these blockages that prevent passage up streams but  
9 then you have the flooding events that let them pass and  
10 it's kind of interesting that through both study types  
11 they confirm the same thing. You do get the fish passage  
12 and, in fact, those flooding events they recharge the  
13 environment there.

14

15 But you're right, Tom, if there was  
16 permanent blockage you wouldn't have fish up that stream.  
17 I think you have flooding events that do recharge those  
18 systems in a lot of cases.

19

20 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Leonard.

23

24 MR. KOBUK: The reason I wanted a study  
25 done at Pikmiktalik River is because I went to a meeting  
26 that was held here in Nome and a lot of the villages were  
27 complaining that the rivers were being dammed and you  
28 couldn't drink any water from it because you'd get a  
29 beaver fever. Because our rivers are different than what  
30 is shown up there. It would be nice if he would do a  
31 study along the coastal lines where our rivers are a lot  
32 different than what is in the Yukon.

33

34 Is there a plan that this is going to be  
35 done or are we going to go by what we were just shown?

36

37 MR. KLEIN: Well, we need to hear from  
38 you, and, I think Kawerak is certainly open to looking at  
39 this and I bet you we could even get Randy up there and  
40 we can look at it. But I haven't seen the system and you  
41 have the most knowledge there and every system is  
42 different and we need to hear from you.

43

44 MR. GRAY: Well, I'd like to go on record  
45 then to invite you to my country and I'll take you  
46 personally around and show you beaver dams. I own a fish  
47 guiding business also so I have kind of a vested interest  
48 in making sure our fishery stays viable and up and  
49 running. But, you know, there's a lot of pro's and con's  
50 on whether beaver dams are beneficial to our area and we,



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1 in our own system, we have different types of beaver dams  
2 and different habitats.

3

4                   And, you know, the big -- or the question  
5 -- or the issue that needs to be addressed is fish need  
6 to make it to spawning grounds and that's what my people  
7 scream about is rivers and tributaries are being blocked  
8 off and fish can't get in there and is there anything  
9 being sacrificed here.

10

11                   So, anyway, I'll take you wherever you  
12 want to go.

13

14                   MR. BUCK: I'd like to say that when I  
15 was going up there was no beavers in the White Mountain  
16 area and since the beavers started moving in the salmon  
17 population has dropped really bad. So that's what I'd  
18 like to say that I believe beaver do affect the salmon,  
19 and I'm just talking about salmon, humpies.

20

21                   MR. GRAY: And for your information, I  
22 guess, Pete, is from the same village I am.

23

24                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you.

25

26                   MR. KLEIN: Okay, Madame Chair, Council  
27 members. I did have one other agenda topic on the  
28 Monitoring Program.

29

30                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Go ahead.

31

32                   MR. KLEIN: And my colleague, Jerry, is  
33 going to have one more hand out.

34

35                   We're going to change the process we use  
36 to identify issues and information needs.

37

38                   MR. GRAY: Already, I just invited you  
39 guys.

40

41                   MR. KLEIN: Well, we'll still be out  
42 there, though, we're going to make it better. On this  
43 hand out it has, I believe, eight slides that kind of  
44 document the new process we're proposing.

45

46                   And as background, for the Monitoring  
47 Program, in Title VIII of ANILCA, it's right there in  
48 ANILCA that we need to conduct cooperative research and  
49 this monitoring program was created to provide  
50 information for management of subsistence fisheries and

00146

1 in many cases we've got real time demands for fishery  
2 management, where we need that information and that's  
3 whether the State is managing it or the Federal  
4 government is managing it, you need that information.  
5 Kind of the no boundaries, Tom.

6  
7           And the program that we've implemented to  
8 date, it's collaborative, it's working together, it  
9 crosses many disciplines from anthropology to fish  
10 biology to statistics to database management. And we've  
11 been implementing it for five years. We're in our fifth  
12 year and the Councils have really been the basis for our  
13 information needs that we should be addressing by this  
14 program and we've looked at those information needs with  
15 you and in all 10 of the Councils. I think we can say  
16 that the Monitoring Program is hitting the mark, we're  
17 funding the priority studies that you've identified over  
18 the past five years. And each year we've kind of gone  
19 through those information needs and refined them with the  
20 Councils to make them -- well, to update them on an  
21 annual basis.

22  
23           I'm on the second page now. Now, after  
24 five years, what is becoming clear is that there isn't  
25 enough money to go around to fund all the projects that  
26 really need to be funded throughout the state. In 2005,  
27 which we're launching our planning process now, we  
28 received a total of 61 proposals for \$5 million and we're  
29 going to have \$2 million to fund new projects in 2005.  
30 So we need to be smart with the money and we need to fund  
31 the highest priorities. I get asked this very often, are  
32 we funding the highest priorities and I can say, yes,  
33 we're funding the highest priorities that the RACs have  
34 identified. But are those the highest priorities. And I  
35 think it will be very advantageous to include the RACs in  
36 a process where we get the RACs working with scientists  
37 and local experts to really take a hard look at what are  
38 the highest priorities in each region, and what we've  
39 identified is that we should -- we need to do three  
40 things.

41  
42           We need to look at what our goals are,  
43 our objectives and what the information needs are for  
44 each subsistence fishery. We need to do a gap analysis  
45 to see how those projects or how those information needs  
46 line up with what we're funding now and then what's left  
47 is the priorities that we should be addressing. And we  
48 can use that information when we do our call for  
49 proposals to say these are the highest priorities in the  
50 northern region or in the Yukon region, whatever region

00147

1 or all the regions statewide.

2

3

4                   Strategically identify what are the  
5 highest priorities where we're looking for proposals so  
6 that we can focus the program. And if the highest  
7 priority is looking at salmon migrations pass beaver  
8 dams, if we can rank that out as number 1, we will draw  
9 proposals targeted towards that.

9

10

11                   So the new process we're proposing is  
12 that my division will set up these facilitated workshops  
13 for each region and we'll convene the fishery managers,  
14 we'll get scientists together, we need Council members  
15 involved as well and get this diverse group, it will  
16 probably be 10 to 15 people is what we think for each of  
17 the regions. We'll develop those three products, get the  
18 goals, objectives and information needs, do a gap  
19 analysis and then prioritize the information needs that  
20 we should be directing the funding towards. And then  
21 develop draft plans as a result of those workshops, bring  
22 those back to the Councils so that the full Council can  
23 review the work that come out of these workshops and then  
24 develop final plans with prioritized information needs  
25 and then when we do our call for proposals we can say,  
26 yes, we are addressing the highest priorities.

26

27

28                   So we plan on doing this for all the  
29 regions. The last slide kind of highlights the schedule  
30 we've developed. We're going to start with Bristol Bay  
31 and Southcentral. It is going to be a big effort to do  
32 all seven of the regions that we have. But for the  
33 northern region, in November 2005 we plan to take that up  
34 so in the interim we'll continue to use the information  
35 needs that we have, but beginning in November 2005,  
36 perhaps sooner, we would like to develop a more  
37 formalized process where we're doing a gap analysis and  
38 actually prioritizing what our highest priorities are so  
39 that we can use the money most wisely. So we have a  
40 better part of a year to get ready for this for the  
41 northern region and we look forward to working with you  
42 on this.

42

43                   If you have any comments on the process  
44 we would like to hear those.

45

46

47                   I think we'll see the results from some  
48 of the other regions and we'll build upon that when we  
49 get to the northern region.

49

50

Madame Chair.

00148

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I have a question.  
2 You have different dates scheduled for completion with  
3 the different regions. At what point do you implement  
4 the new direction? Is it after you do your first meeting  
5 with the first RAC or do you wait until everybody's done  
6 and then you start implementing a new direction?

7  
8 MR. KLEIN: Madame Chair, we'll continue  
9 to use the existing information needs when -- when the  
10 results of this new process happen, which is the far  
11 right column, final plan, which, in your case will be  
12 November 2006, that would replace the current information  
13 needs and that's what we would use for the all call for  
14 proposals after that.

15  
16 I mean once this planning process is done  
17 for each of the regions we still need to look at it every  
18 year, at least every other year and make sure it's  
19 focused on -- that we are prioritizing the highest  
20 priority. So it will continue every year, this shouldn't  
21 stagnate.

22  
23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, I think my  
24 question was whether or not is there a two year gap  
25 between -- there is a two year gap. So if you develop a  
26 new direction, are you going to prioritize Bristol Bay  
27 two years ahead of our region, is probably my question?  
28 Is there more monies going to go to that region because  
29 our priorities have not been prioritized, in other words,  
30 are we going to be put in a back pocket because  
31 priorities in our region has not been done, not because  
32 of our choice but because there's a two year gap  
33 developed by somebody, or are you going to wait until all  
34 the regions are done and then you start your new  
35 prioritization project?

36  
37 MR. KLEIN: Our intent is to -- we can't  
38 do all seven plans at once but a region that doesn't have  
39 their information needs prioritized, say, Bristol Bay  
40 will be done first, that -- we're not going to divert  
41 more funds to those regions that have them prioritized  
42 before we complete all regions, and actually there isn't  
43 an intent to -- what we tried to do in each region is  
44 build the best plan and we have a specific money  
45 allocation go into each region and we fund the highest  
46 priorities within that region with the money available.

47  
48 And, no, this does not set up a disparity  
49 between regions where the money will go to the regions  
50 that have already completed their planning process. That

00149

1 would be a mistake, and that is a very good point, Grace.

2

3

4 MR. GRAY: This priority process, I'm  
5 ignorant of how this process works. We have three  
6 projects here that are going to happen, I guess, how did  
7 we get to that point and I guess I'm sitting here  
8 thinking that you've only got \$2 million, I want three-  
9 quarters of it.

9

10

11 MR. KLEIN: Another very good question.  
12 For each of the regions we do have information needs and  
13 for this region there's probably 15 -- well, just for  
14 this Council there's about 15 information needs that are  
15 documented as well as some statewide needs, and from  
16 that, like Pikmiktalik Rivers is one of the information  
17 needs, harvest assessment is one of the information needs  
18 as well as customary trade and there's about 10 others  
19 for this region. Those go out in our call for proposals  
20 and we have researchers like Kawerak, ADF&G put together  
21 proposals based upon those information needs and then  
22 those projects that we receive for funding consideration,  
23 that's the process where you say, all right, we got so  
24 much money, this is where we need to draw the line.

24

25

26 MR. GRAY: Okay. Do those proposals that  
27 come to you have to be put to you by somebody that's  
28 going to implement that program or can somebody bring an  
29 issue to you saying my river needs enhancement on salmon  
30 and you go out and set up a date and a time and  
31 eventually we get to fixing that problem?

31

32

33 MR. KLEIN: The information needs that we  
34 have, we update them every year. In fact, they can be  
35 updated at any time. So if there's an issue you would  
36 like placed on there, with the discussion of the Council,  
37 we would add that to the list of information needs. And  
38 actually this beaver dam, that was an addition last year  
39 that we added, so as issues come up we'll add those to  
40 the list until we get to this new planning process. And  
41 even after that's complete we will continue to update  
42 those on an annual or biannual basis.

42

43

44 MR. GRAY: Okay. But the actual projects  
45 that you guys are implementing, the projects with that \$2  
46 million; is that right? The \$2 million that you have  
47 you're doing those projects in-house?

47

48

49 MR. KLEIN: No, the money all goes out to  
50 other entities, whether it be Fish and Game.....

50

00150

1 MR. GRAY: That's what I'm after.

2

3 MR. KLEIN: .....Kawerak, and it's across  
4 the entire state for that two million. And for this  
5 region I believe it's like 15 percent of the funding is  
6 dedicated to the northern region which includes all three  
7 Councils in the northern region. And the Yukon has a set  
8 allocation as well as Southeast, all seven of the  
9 regions.

10

11 MR. GRAY: So they sit down and  
12 prioritize themselves. I guess if we have 15 percent for  
13 this region then the agencies, the people are getting  
14 together to set some priorities here or what?

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a call for  
17 proposal period for projects.

18

19 MR. GRAY: Okay. But who prioritizes it,  
20 we do? This Board?

21

22 MR. KLEIN: No, we have what we call a --  
23 well, I have a Staff that first looks at them and then we  
24 have a Technical Review Committee that is composed of  
25 about 10 scientists and then three local experts through  
26 our Partners Program, so there's a group of about 13  
27 scientists that look at it and identifies which are the  
28 highest priorities with the amount of funding and then we  
29 bring those to the Councils at your fall meeting so that  
30 you have a chance to review those and make your  
31 recommendations known so that the Board -- the Board has  
32 the final decisions on what projects are funded, but they  
33 do that with the scientific input as well as the input  
34 from the Councils.

35

36 So you might have six studies that are  
37 under consideration and there's enough funding to fund  
38 three of those, the scientists will make their  
39 recommendations in a draft plan that we bring to the  
40 Councils and then the Councils will approve.....

41

42 MR. GRAY: Now.....

43

44 MR. KLEIN: .....reject.....

45

46 MR. GRAY: .....now, do the.....

47

48 MR. KLEIN: .....juggle.....

49

50 MR. GRAY: Do the scientists put a number

00151

1 to that? Let's say somebody comes in and says I want all  
2 the raven shot on the Seward Peninsula because they're  
3 eating my fish and there's no numbers, do you guys put  
4 numbers to proposals so -- you know, the hardest part  
5 about getting funding is you need to have numbers. Do  
6 these scientists put numbers to these proposals that come  
7 in so let's say we get 15 percent of the \$2 million and  
8 realistically we fund this, this, this and this; do you  
9 see what I'm after?

10

11 MR. KLEIN: What the scientists do is  
12 prioritize.....

13

14 MR. GRAY: They don't put numbers.....

15

16 MR. KLEIN: .....the six projects.

17

18 MR. GRAY: Okay.

19

20 MR. KLEIN: There is a budget number  
21 associated with the.....

22

23 MR. GRAY: Yeah, I'm after who. Who? Do  
24 you guys work with budgets and help put budget numbers  
25 together for projects so.....

26

27 MR. KLEIN: Yes. Each of the projects  
28 would have a budget, we fund them up to three years and  
29 during the scientific review if the budget's too high  
30 we'll tell them to adjust that budget. If it has -- if  
31 it's expensive and there's other partners that we think  
32 they should be seeking funding from we'll ask them to do  
33 that. If there's objectives that we think shouldn't be  
34 covered by this program, we'll identify that. So the  
35 scientific review does take a look at the budget and make  
36 sure it's reasonable and appropriate.

37

38 MR. GRAY: And then let's say this \$2  
39 million, is there a lot of collaboration where there's  
40 other soft monies brought into different projects and  
41 this thing turns into \$15 million?

42

43 MR. KLEIN: Yes. In many of the regions  
44 there is additional funding that's combined with our  
45 funding. The Southeast region is a good example. Here  
46 there is the Norton Sound Initiative that jointly funds  
47 some projects. Kawerak and -- and most of the  
48 organizations, they bring in at least some in-kind  
49 funding as well as some dedicated funding.

50

00152

1 MR. GRAY: Uh-huh.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tom, in the operations  
4 manual on Page 49 there's the developing the Fisheries  
5 Resource Management Plan that you may want to read and  
6 then perhaps he can give you a number you can call and  
7 ask questions, and of course you can refer to Kawerak,  
8 too, Sandy is over there, they have done a number of  
9 projects that they have submitted proposals for.

10

11 A lot of them were issues that were  
12 identified by the RAC, and Kawerak took it upon  
13 themselves with IRAs or whatever entity is in the village  
14 and they do submit proposals.

15

16 MR. GRAY: But it's fun putting everybody  
17 on the spot, though, uh?

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yeah, it is but.....

20

21 MR. GRAY: You can't do that on the.....

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: .....let's move on.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Grace, I just want to  
28 add to make sure Tom knows, we have an 800-number in the  
29 operations manual so you can call for free.

30

31 MR. KLEIN: And we'll have some great  
32 discussions out on the river.

33

34 MR. GRAY: There you go.

35

36 MR. KLEIN: Madame Chair, that's all I  
37 have. As far as the Monitoring Program, any of the  
38 projects that we have, the process we use, I would be  
39 more than happy to have any further discussions as well  
40 as Steve Fried, our biologist for this region, or Polly  
41 Wheeler, the anthropologist, and we truly enjoy working  
42 with the Council to do the priority research in the  
43 regions.

44

45 Thank you, Madame Chair.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Okay,  
48 we'll go to agency reports now and I think we should  
49 finish even though we'll go after 5:00. Do you guys want  
50 to take a break now because I plan on going after 5:00



00153

1 until we finish instead of meeting -- we'll be on number  
2 11, we have agency reports and new business left over,  
3 and then we establish our time of the next meeting which  
4 is already established.

5

6 MR. GRAY: Go for it.

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, let's take a  
9 short break and then go until we finish after this.

10

11 (Off record)

12

13 (On record)

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, let's push on to  
16 finish our meeting. I'm calling the meeting back to  
17 order, it is now 5:00 o'clock.

18

19 MR. KLEIN: Madame Chair, first up under  
20 agency reports is Office of Subsistence Management, and  
21 there's five topics listed there. Most of them are  
22 informational only, in fact, the real up date is  
23 informational only although Helen could certainly address  
24 any questions on the rural determinations.

25

26 The second topic is the Governor's  
27 request which we have nothing to report there. You'll  
28 recall the Governor's request for a seat on the Board.  
29 There's been a recommendation from the Federal  
30 Subsistence Office but that's at the highest level of the  
31 Secretary's Office and that action is still pending so we  
32 have nothing to report there.

33

34 The third topic is the Staff Committee  
35 role, which Warren had covered earlier unless he had  
36 something more.

37

38 Fourth is Draft Predator Management  
39 Policy, which is informational only and you have a  
40 summary of that in your book.

41

42 Fifth is Council topics and we do need  
43 Barb to address that.

44

45 And then there is one other item on the  
46 Safari Club litigation, which I could speak to if the  
47 Council desires or we could go straight to Barb to cover  
48 your Council topics for the Board.

49

50 It's at the pleasure of the Chair.

00154

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Could you give a brief  
2 report on the Safari Club point.

3

4 MR. KLEIN: Certainly. I'll make it  
5 brief.

6

7 The Safari Club, actually that does have  
8 implications, I believe, for your desire to have a larger  
9 Council if we are going to represent commercial and  
10 sportfishing interests.

11

12 So real quickly, the Safari Club  
13 International had filed suit against the Federal  
14 government way back in 1998 and on January 16th Judge  
15 Holland ruled on that after five years of copying  
16 documents and many hearings and finally it is resolved.

17

18 Within the lawsuit that Safari Club  
19 filed, and there were several intervenors, they  
20 challenged basically two things. One was the C&T  
21 determinations. They said that we give too much  
22 deference to the Regional Advisory Councils and that the  
23 process for making C&T determinations is flawed. And  
24 Judge Holland ruled that the plaintiffs didn't show that  
25 they suffered injury and dismissed the claims regarding  
26 C&T. So that is behind us and, in fact, I think it's a  
27 strong affirmation for the Councils in your role in C&T  
28 determinations.

29

30 The second part of the lawsuit dealt with  
31 the composition of the Councils, and their claim was that  
32 the Councils are not balanced as required by the Federal  
33 Advisory Committee Act, or FACA. And Judge Holland did  
34 agree with the plaintiffs but recall that we are trying  
35 to add sport and commercial interest to the Councils.

36

37 Judge Holland did agree with the  
38 intervenors and specifically that we didn't comply with  
39 the Administrative Procedures Act when we began  
40 implementing the 70/30 split, 70 percent subsistence  
41 users and 30 percent sport/commercial. And he directed  
42 that the Board begin a rulemaking proceedings to adopt a  
43 Council members regulation that is consistent with FACA.

44

45 The ruling, I think it recognizes the  
46 importance of the Regional Advisory Councils and their  
47 role in providing recommendations. In terms of Council  
48 appointments it looks forward rather than backwards. So  
49 we're not going to change anything in the past, we're  
50 looking forward into the future.

00155

1 We are prohibited from implementing the  
2 70/30 policy but we're going to continue to look at  
3 appointments to represent all consumptive interests and  
4 the Board is initiating the rulemaking process  
5 immediately as directed by the court and we hope to have  
6 a Proposed Rule published this spring followed by a  
7 public comment period and then the final rule would be  
8 published later in the fall.

9  
10 And the process, it's our intent to  
11 complete that before the Secretary's appointments for  
12 2005. As a Council you can provide comments to the Board  
13 on the 70/30 concept during this meeting or you can  
14 comment as private citizens during the comment period  
15 after the Proposed Rule is published. And we're going to  
16 work with the Councils, through your coordinators to  
17 ensure that you're kept up to speed on this Proposed Rule  
18 and that you have the opportunity to comment on it.

19  
20 Madame Chair.

21  
22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: What timeframe were  
23 you talking about now?

24  
25 MR. KLEIN: The timeframe is to complete  
26 the rulemaking that would -- we have to make a Proposed  
27 Rule and go through a public comment period and what  
28 we're going to do is -- the Proposed Rule will have the  
29 70/30 policy, where 70 percent of the seats will be for  
30 subsistence users, 30 percent for commercial and sport  
31 and other uses.

32  
33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Timeframe?

34  
35 MR. KLEIN: The timeframe is to complete  
36 that this fall with the public comment period in the  
37 summer.

38  
39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Is that after the fall  
40 meeting or before?

41  
42 MR. KLEIN: Probably before.

43  
44 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
45 This is Taylor Brelsford from the BLM. I think the  
46 intention is to conclude it early in the fall but there's  
47 some review periods by various agencies in Washington.  
48 So it may be late in the fall. I think we can't predict  
49 precisely now whether it will be October, November or  
50 August, September.

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1                   The intention is to do this as quickly as  
2 possible. But rulemaking with all of the Federal agency  
3 reviews in Washington can get bogged down.

4  
5                   The critical point that Steve made is  
6 that it will be concluded before the Board makes --  
7 pardon me, before the Secretary makes the appointments at  
8 the end of 2004. So it has to be concluded by about  
9 November under any circumstance.

10  
11                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think what I was  
12 worried about is the comment period.

13  
14                   MR. KLEIN: Well, if the Draft Rule is  
15 published in the spring it would -- I think we're looking  
16 at April, May and -- I'm not sure, is that a 60 or a 90  
17 day comment period?

18  
19                   MR. BRELSFORD; Steve's right. And  
20 perhaps the question you were asking is whether the  
21 Regional Councils would meet during the comment period?

22  
23                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: (Nods affirmatively)

24  
25                   MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. And the answer to  
26 that is probably not. The comment period on the Proposed  
27 Rule will occur in late spring and early summer. I think  
28 what Steve's briefing statement said is that the Council  
29 members could comment -- the Council could comment today  
30 as a Council or individuals on the Councils could submit  
31 comments during the public comment period as individuals,  
32 but the schedule where we're trying to wrap all of this  
33 up in time for the Secretary's decisions at the end of  
34 2004 does not allow for a long comment period extending  
35 into the Council meeting period in the fall time.

36  
37                   So the window for Council input is now,  
38 for the Council as a whole, or in the next two months  
39 when the public comment period opens up.

40  
41                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The reason I had  
42 concerns -- the reason I'm having concerns about it is  
43 this Council has, from the beginning, been expressing the  
44 desires to have our Council increase. I know that will  
45 be addressed when our charters come through but we also,  
46 I think the Council should be given an opportunity to  
47 express why or is that not an appropriate time.

48  
49                   Should we do it when we're doing our  
50 charter or should we put in writing and -- or should we

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1 establish those now?

2

3 MR. KLEIN: Well, Madame Chair, your  
4 current charter does have this 70 percent subsistence  
5 users, 30 percent non-subsistence, that is the way your  
6 current charters are. But if -- I think what you're  
7 saying is to accommodate 30 percent non-subsistence  
8 users, you would prefer a Council size of 13 rather than  
9 the current 10.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And we have our  
12 reasons.

13

14 MR. KLEIN: I think you have some very  
15 good reasons.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I just want for us to  
18 go as a body, not as individuals is what I think I'm  
19 alluding to. I rather we go as a body on what our wishes  
20 are and have our comments be heard as a body, not as  
21 individual members.

22

23 It always seems like these things just  
24 kind of come in the very last minute and we have been,  
25 from the very beginning, when this was proposed, we have  
26 been making certain requests. So I don't know how the  
27 rest of you feel but I really think if we're going to be  
28 pushing for 13 members in our Council we should -- and  
29 our main reason is because we had 11 members at first and  
30 each one of our members right now, not all our  
31 communities are represented here, we have to kind of  
32 allocate everybody, like Wales and Shishmaref. Whenever  
33 there's a problem that involves 22(E) one person from  
34 that region is usually the spokesperson. Stebbins and  
35 St. Michael, usually Leonard does that. And, you know,  
36 Unalakleet, there's Shaktoolik. We have our -- some of  
37 our -- Brevig and Teller, we just don't have enough  
38 representation if three of the seats are taken away for  
39 other interests, we're losing village representation.  
40 However, if we go to 13 we'll still maintain, at least,  
41 10 of them would be village representation.

42

43 And I think that's the way we bring our  
44 Federal Subsistence Management back home. If we lose our  
45 village representation, that really concerns me.

46

47 I'm not comfortable with it. We've  
48 discussed it since the 70/30 rule has come in.

49

50 I don't know if you guys want to handle

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1 it now or we can do a teleconference, a special  
2 teleconference or something be accommodated for us  
3 because we have been pushing for this for a long time and  
4 I think we really need to go as a body. If you don't  
5 want to deal with it now because we have a time crunch,  
6 I'd rather see us do a teleconference so we can come up  
7 as a body to make our recommendations or state our  
8 reasons why.

9

10 If we go to 10 we're, you never know, at  
11 some point in time -- we're just getting -- the Federal  
12 Subsistence Program is, in my mind, would be going away  
13 from us instead of coming home.

14

15 MR. GRAY: It seems to me there's some  
16 advertising and recruitment going on right now for this  
17 Board isn't there?

18

19 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: It's closed.

20

21 MR. GRAY: It's closed already?

22

23 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: As of February.....

24

25 MR. GRAY: So the regular process of  
26 going to a bigger board is we have to submit and request  
27 to who?

28

29 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: To the Federal  
30 Subsistence Board.

31

32 MR. GRAY: To the Federal Board. And  
33 have we -- I thought -- we talked about this earlier and  
34 I thought we had done this.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We have done that,  
37 however, as you can see we're still 10.

38

39 MR. GRAY: Okay.

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I mean, we're  
42 still.....

43

44 MR. GRAY: Well.....

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: .....what number,  
47 we're 10.

48

49 MR. GRAY: Well, you know, the only way  
50 that some Boards are recognized, I guess or people are

00159

1 recognized is the squeaky wheel gets the recognition.  
2 And, you know, I guess my suggestion would be to resubmit  
3 whatever we submitted and say, hey, come on guys, wake  
4 up.

5  
6                   The saving grace to this thing, I think,  
7 is, you know, we talk about a 70/30 split, well, I'm the  
8 30, I'm one of the 30, I think Vance is one of the 30,  
9 but we're still villagers and we still -- I'd rather  
10 protect my subsistence lifestyle for my people than worry  
11 about Bush's campaign or SCI's campaign to get their foot  
12 in the door on shooting our animals so, you know, I think  
13 we're on everybody's side too. But at the same token, we  
14 got to keep pushing this 13 issue and the only way we're  
15 going to do that is just scream and holler.

16  
17                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think that we're  
18 really lucky that we have, you know, we now have two  
19 people from White Mountain. We have had -- currently we  
20 don't have anybody either from Shishmaref or Wales, so we  
21 have 22 representation empty.

22  
23                   MR. GRAY: But I guess, you know, in my  
24 mind I wouldn't worry too much about -- gosh, how can I  
25 say this and be nice, you could come.....

26  
27                   MR. GRISHKOWSKI: I think our goals are  
28 the same.

29  
30                   MR. GRAY: I think our goals are the same  
31 no matter where we come from. And we could have this  
32 whole Board made up of White Mountain people as long as  
33 have the same goals we'll be going the same place so be  
34 -- you know, I'm thinking, for example, the Kawerak  
35 Board, when they went to a representative from every  
36 village, I'm not sure that they did a good thing because  
37 you have people that will just ride the fence with  
38 everybody else and then you have people like me that are  
39 real vocal.

40  
41                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Ideally, you know,  
42 that's a really good notion. However, there's been  
43 situations where we really had to take issues within the  
44 home areas where they were occurring, like the reindeer  
45 issue. You being from White Mountain, you were a part of  
46 it because you're a reindeer herder, however, like the  
47 Pikmiktalik River issues.....

48  
49                   MR. GRAY: Uh-huh.  
50

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1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: .....we had Stebbins  
2 and St. Michael address that issue specifically. They  
3 didn't take -- because they were aware of what was going  
4 on, they utilize those rivers, so that's my concern, is  
5 that we really -- I'm not pushing for a representative  
6 from every community. What I want to see on the RAC, and  
7 talked about it, was we're not opposed to being  
8 inclusive, we just don't want our village representation,  
9 as it is now, to decrease.

10

11 There's not that many game guides, and  
12 there's not that many commercial people in our villages,  
13 the hub community may. There may be a time when things  
14 shift and then we don't get much village representation  
15 because the people that they're looking for did not apply  
16 or are not present in their communities. I mean if you  
17 take Teller, if you take Brevig or if you take some other  
18 communities that don't have anybody that's in the  
19 commercial area, who are you going to take to replace  
20 that RAC member that used to come from that community.

21

22 So that was my concern and we -- it seems  
23 to me that if we're going to do this we -- if we don't  
24 have the time to discuss it now, I think it's an  
25 important enough issue that we could request that we have  
26 a meeting about this where we have some dialogue about it  
27 at some point in time, even if it may be by  
28 teleconference, or individually talking to each other and  
29 then come up with certain things, it would be a  
30 recommendation or state our reasons why, reiterate our  
31 reasons and expound on them.

32

33 Jake.

34

35 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, could I  
36 introduce a recommendation, please. What I think would  
37 be appropriate would be for us to entertain a motion to  
38 have our president [sic] draft a letter, take that letter  
39 and we all got internet access and we've got fax machines  
40 and work on that draft that Grace will draft and work  
41 with it and come up with a letter and do a phone poll.

42

43 How would that work?

44

45 MR. GRAY: And that letter is going to  
46 address the.....

47

48 MR. OLANNA: Right.

49

50 MR. GRAY: .....13 Board.....



00161

1 MR. OLANNA: All the concerns that we  
2 have.

3  
4 MR. GRAY: I'll second that.

5  
6 MR. OLANNA: Right.

7  
8 MR. GRAY: Yeah.

9  
10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All our concerns as to  
11 why we want to be a 13.....

12  
13 MR. GRAY: I second it.

14  
15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

16  
17 MR. OLANNA: I'll reintroduce the motion.  
18 A motion to have the Chairman [sic] draft a letter and  
19 inform the village -- or the Council members and have an  
20 opportunity to voice or make changes to that letter and  
21 put it in a fashion that is acceptable to all and perhaps  
22 do a phone poll and the majority rules and we'll accept  
23 that letter and be signed by our Chairman.

24  
25 And Tom seconded it.

26  
27 MR. GRAY: Uh-huh.

28  
29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those in favor  
30 signify by stating aye.

31  
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33  
34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,  
35 same sign.

36  
37 (No opposing votes)

38  
39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: A letter will be  
40 drafted. Okay, I guess that kind of put things at ease.

41  
42 (Laughter)

43  
44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Barbara.

45  
46 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay, Grace, Council  
47 members, I have on this Council topics for discussion May  
48 2004. This is when your Chair sits before with the other  
49 10 Chairs statewide before the Federal Board and  
50 discusses topics with the Federal Board. And at this

00162

1 time, I think they're asking to see if there is any  
2 topics that you may want her to put forth before the  
3 Board for you on behalf of your region or your Council  
4 and this could be coming up until -- before May 2004.  
5 And if you should come up with any, discuss them with  
6 Grace or let me know, or send them to me by e-mail if you  
7 want.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Where are we at now?

12

13 MR. KLEIN: I believe that concludes the  
14 Office of Subsistence Management unless there is other  
15 questions. Next up would be the Bureau of Land  
16 Management. Are we ready for BLM, I guess, Jeannie.

17

18 MS. COLE: Jeannie Cole, Bureau of Land  
19 Management. And I have a short written report and I'll  
20 go over the first three topics quickly and then Tom will  
21 present the last topic.

22

23 The first issue is fisheries, and BLM is  
24 going to continue this summer with our Salmon Glacial  
25 Lake sockeye restoration project. This will be the fifth  
26 year, I believe. And Dave Parker should be here at the  
27 fall meeting and be able to give you a more complete  
28 report on what's happened over the past five years in  
29 Glacial and Salmon Lakes.

30

31 The second issue is the Unit 22 Federal  
32 Subsistence moose hunts. Last year BLM and the Park  
33 Service jointly administered three Federal moose hunts in  
34 Unit 22(D). The first hunt area was the Kougarok,  
35 Kuzitrin and Pilgrim River drainages. We issued one  
36 Federal permit for that area and no moose were reported  
37 harvested under the Federal permit. However, the hunt  
38 was closed early, about two weeks early because the quota  
39 was filled under the State permitting system. I believe  
40 the allowable harvest was 33 moose and the actual harvest  
41 was 37 moose. The second area was 22(D) remainder and we  
42 issued five Federal permits. One moose was reported  
43 harvested under the Federal system in this subunit and  
44 the third area was 22(D) southwest, and we issued three  
45 permits for that area and no moose were reported  
46 harvested under the Federal hunt.

47

48 The last topic I want to mention is land  
49 use planning. BLM has just started a new land use plan  
50 which will cover the Bering Straits and NANA regions.

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1 This will replace our current land use plan which is  
2 approximately 20-plus years old. The new plan will guide  
3 management on BLM lands for 10 to 15 years once it's  
4 approved. The timeframe for getting it done is about  
5 three years, we're just starting now, so we'd be done  
6 around the end of 2006. And it would address -- it's a  
7 general land use plan for BLM so it would address what  
8 types of activities would be allowed on BLM lands, which  
9 lands would be open to mineral entry, which lands would  
10 be available for disposal, where grazing would be  
11 allowed, that type of thing. It would also address  
12 management of resources on BLM fish and wildlife and  
13 vegetation.

14

15 Right now we're in what we call a scoping  
16 period, where we go to the public and ask for their input  
17 on what issues they think the land use plan needs to  
18 address and as part of that we have public meetings and  
19 there's a schedule here of the meetings that we have  
20 scheduled right now in Anchorage, Fairbanks. We're  
21 coming out to this area the week of the 23rd and we're  
22 planning on going to Shaktoolik, Nome and Koyuk and then  
23 the next week we would be going to the NANA region and  
24 visiting four communities there.

25

26 And that's all I have to report unless  
27 anybody has any questions.

28

29 MR. GRAY: When can I bring buffalo in?

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Thank you,  
34 Jeannie. Tom.

35

36 MR. SPARKS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
37 I'll keep it real short. Last fall this Board had  
38 request some information about the special recreation  
39 permits that are administrated out of the Northern Field  
40 Office and there's a short summary there for you in  
41 writing.

42

43 I added a guide in the Kauk River, his  
44 name is Mike Vanning, and although that's in Game  
45 Management Unit 23, I thought you might be interested in  
46 that. It's on the northeast tip of the Seward Peninsula.

47

48 There's a summary there as far as the  
49 number of animals harvested under those SRP permits and  
50 I'll just reiterate those numbers for you; 15 grizzly

00164

1 bear, 18 moose and 10 caribou, and one thing I didn't put  
2 down is there were 33 clients that those guides took out,  
3 and I was remiss in not putting that down so I thought  
4 I'd report that to you verbally.

5  
6 I just wanted to say one other thing that  
7 I've been involved in that I think is of interest to this  
8 Board. The Bureau of Land Management is undertaking an  
9 advanced scheduling of conveying the Native property in  
10 the Bering Straits region and they're moving very quickly  
11 on those issues and it may affect the land status in  
12 terms of the State over selections and ultimately what  
13 lands that this Board has purview on as far as the  
14 hunting regulations.

15  
16 That's all.

17  
18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Tom. So  
19 are we ready for Ken Adkisson, the Park Man.

20  
21 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair. Council  
22 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. I'll make  
23 this very quick and short.

24  
25 The only harvest of muskoxen we've had  
26 reported under the Federal system this year is two  
27 animals and those were taken by the village of Wales, one  
28 early in the season and one in January.

29  
30 The other item of interest is that we  
31 have a new manager for Bering Land Bridge National  
32 Preserve, a new superintendent, his name is Brad Bennett,  
33 he was here earlier today but had to leave on some other  
34 business, and I'm sure that you'll be seeing and hearing  
35 more from him in the future. And I'd welcome you to come  
36 by the office any time and visit with him, and he will be  
37 trying to get out to the communities but probably  
38 initially a lot of his focus will be on those communities  
39 adjacent and directly affiliated with the Preserve.

40  
41 That's it for now, thanks.

42  
43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ken. The  
44 next on the agenda is Elmer Seetot's report.

45  
46 MR. SEETOT: Okay.

47  
48 MS. PERSONS: What about me?

49  
50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Oh, wait a minute, I'm

00165

1 sorry, we were just going to ignore you.

2

3 MS. PERSONS: Okay.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: No, sorry. I missed  
6 you altogether, Kate Persons, I'm sorry.

7

8 MS. PERSONS: I've said enough today  
9 already. During the break I passed around a two page  
10 handout that you should find somewhere there at your  
11 place. And I'll try to make this quick.

12

13 On the first page there is a summary of  
14 the changes to Unit 22 wildlife regulations on State  
15 managed lands that the Board of Game passed in November.  
16 We've already been over the first thing about Unit 22(A)  
17 moose, changes to seasons and bag limits.

18

19 The second thing is over in Tom's area,  
20 the winter hunt in western 22(B) is now put into  
21 permanent regulation so it won't have to be announced by  
22 emergency order and at the same time the Board changed  
23 the bag limit for that winter hunt from one moose to one  
24 antlered moose, and that's something that next fall this  
25 Council might want to consider when it's time for  
26 proposals, whether they want to mirror that change or  
27 not. And the Board did that to prevent accidental  
28 harvest of cows, which has occurred over there in that  
29 winter hunt.

30

31 The third change is that Unit 22(C) moose  
32 hunting is now going to be by registration permit. In  
33 the past it's been a general season hunt. The Board  
34 changed it to simplify permit and harvest reporting  
35 requirements so that now people hunting along the Nome  
36 road system will just need one piece of paper, one  
37 permit, it will be good for hunting in western 22(B),  
38 22(C), the Kuzitrin drainage and 22(D) and 22(D)  
39 southwest.

40

41 The final action on moose was over there  
42 in Elmer's neck of the woods in 22(D) remainder and the  
43 American and Agiapuk River drainages, and they were  
44 concerned about the increase in harvest that's occurred  
45 in recent years and they put a non-residents on a  
46 registration hunt with a limited number of permits, only  
47 up to 10 permits can be issued for non-residents in that  
48 area.

49

50 And then the final change concerned

00166

1 beavers and there's now no closed season and no bag limit  
2 for beaver in all of Unit 22, well, beginning July 1, the  
3 next regulatory year, except between June 11th and  
4 October 31st, beaver can only be harvested with a  
5 firearm.

6  
7                   Okay. Last fall we did moose composition  
8 surveys in Unit 22(D) and we have two survey areas in  
9 22(D), one is in the Kuzitrin drainage and there we had  
10 pretty exciting results. This is the area that we  
11 implemented the registration hunt in in 2002 with a  
12 limited quota. And we had very low bull/cow ratios there  
13 since 2000, 15, 16 bulls per 100 cows. And this year the  
14 bull/cow ratio was up to 26 bulls per 100 cows, which is  
15 the highest we've seen there in well over 10 years, and  
16 they were mostly yearling and two year old bulls, which  
17 was exciting because it could be directly correlated with  
18 the reduced harvest on bulls in that registration hunt.

19  
20                   We'd hoped we would see an improved  
21 calf/cow ratio there because we'd had an easy, relatively  
22 easy winter and we'd seen some improvements in other  
23 areas but unfortunately it was just right in the ball  
24 park of what we've seen in the last four or five years,  
25 about 15 per 100 -- 15 calves per 100 cows.

26  
27                   And then we went over to the American  
28 Agiapuk drainage and there we found the highest calf/cow  
29 ratio that we've ever documented in fall surveys there,  
30 27 calves per 100 cows, lots of twins. Things really  
31 were looking good there. We didn't find as many bulls  
32 per 100 cows but we attribute that to fog in the upper  
33 part of the Agiapuk. In past surveys we found the  
34 largest concentration of bulls right up in the head  
35 waters in late November, and we just couldn't look there  
36 this time because of the fog and so we don't really think  
37 that -- at least, you know, we're not ready yet to assume  
38 that the bull/cow ratio has nosedived.

39  
40                   Caribou, we estimate there's about  
41 170,000 caribou wintering in the Nulato Hills and at the  
42 base of the Seward Peninsula this year. Most of the rest  
43 of the herd is spread out from Ambler in the Kobuk River  
44 Valley east to Bettles and there are even reports of --  
45 and some conventional radio collars that have gone east  
46 of the Dalton Highway. And caribou over in that area,  
47 there's concern that it may be a high mortality year --  
48 you know, one person's clapping, but the conditions over  
49 that way, there's been a lot of deep snow and ice  
50 conditions and they're reported to be in poor condition,

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1 and that is, you know, over half the herd.

2

3

4 Last summer, last July we completed a  
5 photo census of the Western Arctic Herd up on the North  
6 Slope and we expect to have the results for that  
7 available, hopefully by the end of March, but in any case  
8 from the photos that we have counted it appears the herd  
9 is still very, very large.

9

10

11 Muskox, a couple things. At the  
12 Cooperator's meeting last fall, I believe it was Sandy  
13 from Kawerak who initiated the request and other people  
14 supported it, asked if we couldn't do something with  
15 muskox such as what is done with chum salmon and look at  
16 harvest mid-season because we've had this problem of not  
17 reaching the quota and perhaps we could issue additional  
18 permits if it seems as though the quota is not going to  
19 be reached by current permit holders. And we are doing  
20 that now and we are in the process of issuing some  
21 additional permits in some of the hunt areas.

21

22

23 MR. BUCK: Is the quota now being met for  
24 the muskox for the hunts?

24

25

26 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, that's correct. In  
27 most hunt -- not at -- that's not true everywhere, but in  
28 most hunt areas, yeah, the quota is not being met by the  
29 people that get the permits. We're already issuing more  
30 permits than the quota. But it's hard, you know, when  
31 you apply in May, you don't really know what your  
32 circumstances are going to be and so, you know, there are  
33 people that just end up not using the permits for one  
34 reason or another. And so we have looked at the harvest  
35 that's occurred so far, we've looked at who has the  
36 permits, what their history is of success in the past.  
37 We've done a lot of phoning around talking to people  
38 about whether they're going to use their permits and in  
39 the end we've decided to issue, I think in all it's going  
40 to be 13 additional permits spread out around the  
41 Peninsula.

41

42

43 MR. GRAY: These permits are going to be  
44 issued after the closure?

44

45

46 MS. PERSONS: No.

46

47

48 MR. GRAY: They're just additional  
49 permits you're going to send out soon.

49

50

50 MS. PERSONS: I was supposed to do it

00168

1 today. So that's what I'll be doing tomorrow, yeah, so  
2 these people will have about three weeks to hunt before  
3 the close of the season.

4

5 MR. GRAY: Okay. Now, okay, go ahead and  
6 I'll ask it later.

7

8 MS. PERSONS: Okay. Also concerning  
9 muskox, we're planing to have a Muskox Cooperator's  
10 meeting sometime this summer or perhaps early fall. But  
11 we need a chance to develop proposals to have them in for  
12 the next Board of Game meeting, the proposals need to be  
13 in in early December even though the Board meeting  
14 doesn't occur until almost a year later. But there's  
15 this new schedule and that's what we're working with, so  
16 we need to -- proposals that are developed early can be  
17 modified but we need to at least get the Cooperators to  
18 -- if there are proposals that the Cooperators want to  
19 submit they need to get in there by early December.

20

21 Charles, in answer to your question about  
22 proxy hunting. On the State side of things the next time  
23 that proxy hunting is going to be addressed by the Board  
24 is unfortunately not until the winter meeting in 2006,  
25 but you keep reminding me and I've actually -- I had  
26 actually written a proposal asking to do exactly what you  
27 want. And the Department made me pull it and so it would  
28 be best if it comes from you or from the Advisory  
29 Committee which you're now on, so let's not just forget  
30 about it.

31

32 Then our field work plans for this spring  
33 are moose census in Unit 22(B) and (C) and BLM is helping  
34 with money, personnel, and lodging. We're doing moose  
35 recruitment surveys in Eastern Unit 22(B), muskox  
36 composition surveys in Units 22(B) and (C), moose habitat  
37 analysis in Unit 22(C) and then as we talked about  
38 earlier these harvest assessment surveys with Kawerak and  
39 Stebbins and St. Mike.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MR. GRAY: You talk about new proposals  
44 that are going in, are you guys proposing anything new or  
45 looking at anything for muskox for the Board of Game to  
46 look at?

47

48 MS. PERSONS: At the last Cooperators  
49 meeting there was a lot of interest from the people in  
50 Unit 22(E) in moving towards a registration muskox hunt.



00169

1 And so certainly that's something that has been brought  
2 forward and needs to be addressed. I'm sure there are  
3 other issues, I mean there are other issues out there  
4 too, but that will be a biggie.

5  
6 MR. GRAY: A registration hunt would open  
7 it up to non -- people from Anchorage and Fairbanks and  
8 such?

9  
10 MS. PERSONS: Potentially, but there are  
11 a lot of ways to structure it. Presumably, I mean, but  
12 you're right any Alaska resident would be able to  
13 participate but probably the trophy destruction  
14 requirement that we have now in the Tier II hunt would  
15 perhaps be made more stringent to ensure that this  
16 remains a, you know, a meat hunt.

17  
18 The permits could be made available only  
19 in Shishmaref and Wales. There are things that can be  
20 done to try and ensure that it, you know, continues to  
21 meet the needs of the people that live out there.

22  
23 MR. GRAY: Okay. The Tier II permits,  
24 how many Tier II muskox permits do you issue annually?

25  
26 MS. PERSONS: In all or in 22(E)?

27  
28 MR. GRAY: In Unit 22.

29  
30 MS. PERSONS: Ninety.

31  
32 MR. GRAY: And you said you're getting 70  
33 percent of that filled; is that right?

34  
35 MS. PERSONS: Well, it was different in  
36 every subunit, overall I don't think it's quite that  
37 high.

38  
39 MR. GRAY: Okay. And we're issuing  
40 Federal permits too, aren't we? Is that over and above  
41 the 90?

42  
43 MS. PERSONS: It says here 43.

44  
45 MR. GRAY: Forty-three Federal permits,  
46 plus 90 State permits?

47  
48 MS. PERSONS: That's correct.

49  
50 MR. GRAY: So that's a 130-some permits.

00170

1 MS. PERSONS: There can't be that many  
2 muskox taken. We're issuing permits up above the quota.  
3

4 MR. GRAY: Okay. I'm just trying to, in  
5 my mind, you know, I've never heard the actual --  
6 everybody's always talked about permits and I've never  
7 heard how many permits are being issued by who and the  
8 success rates and stuff like that. It intrigues me that  
9 it could go so long with out these numbers coming out on  
10 the table and actual people talking about them. Because  
11 this issue, especially in Nome, has been a real heartache  
12 to people.

13  
14 Now the question I'm trying to lead to  
15 here is, we do have State and Federal permits, is, how do  
16 we go from here, you know, Jake talked about a  
17 registration hunt, you've talked about sport hunts, yadda  
18 yadda yadda, how do we go from here to decide whether  
19 they're State or Federal permits, any increase?

20  
21 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair. Council  
22 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. Again,  
23 remember very quickly that in 1995 there was only a  
24 Federal hunt and there were only Federal permits.  
25 Following the establishment of the State Tier II hunt the  
26 basic mechanism for proposing regulation changes, setting  
27 harvest quotas and determining allocations for permits  
28 has generally been handled through the Muskoxen  
29 Cooperator's Group. So the allocation for example  
30 between Federal and State permits has shifted over time  
31 depending upon how people perceive the success and  
32 whether or not a form of hunt has been working for them,  
33 and that brings us basically up to where we are now.

34  
35 The State Board of Game when it just met  
36 in November 2003, made it very clear that they want to  
37 continue to see expanded opportunity to hunt muskoxen on  
38 a wider basis and they are fully expecting the  
39 Cooperator's Group to come back to them with some  
40 proposals to accomplish that. Just what that will look  
41 like, you know, I don't think anybody knows right now,  
42 but you know, I think it would be important for folks to  
43 follow this process, participate as much as possible and  
44 in the past because of budget constraints we've tried to  
45 use the Federal Regional Advisory Council members as  
46 participants in the Cooperator's Group. And we'll be  
47 looking at that again over the next few months, but it's  
48 been very difficult.

49  
50 MR. GRAY: The reason I'm asking these

00171

1 questions and I'm really scared of the State going to a  
2 statewide system. And a good example is the buffalo in  
3 Delta there's 16,000 people apply for that buffalo hunt  
4 and a very small percentage of people actually get it.  
5 There's many many residents in Delta that have applied  
6 for 20 years and never been drawn. So we need to be  
7 careful of how we proceed from here and it's a lot easier  
8 for us to manage the Federal side of things than the  
9 State side of things. So that's why I'm real interested  
10 what the mechanism is to do his registration hunt and  
11 protect his interest and make everybody happy here, but  
12 yet protect the subsistence integrity of this thing.

13

14 So with that I'm done.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jake.

17

18 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair. Tom. Like I  
19 said earlier, you know, the idea of having registration  
20 type hunt has been in my mind ever since I spoke to some  
21 people up in Barrow. And to minimize the influx of  
22 people from outside our villages, because I used  
23 Shishmaref as an example, how many people are going to  
24 spend -- when Kate was up there -- were you up there this  
25 summer when the people in Shishmaref actually asked when  
26 is there going to be guided hunts, get rid of these  
27 muskox. Because Tom, the majority of the muskox migrate  
28 to the northern Seward Peninsula to the, what do you call  
29 it, to the -- it just makes people angry in Shishmaref  
30 because that's the time that they want to go pick their  
31 berries and those darn things are stubborn, you know, and  
32 they won't move no matter how many times you fire a shot  
33 in the air, and you fire it and they won't move, they're  
34 stubborn animals.

35

36 So it's an animal that Shishmaref people  
37 and myself might say that is not very welcome there, but  
38 now that they are realizing how good it tastes and things  
39 like that, now, they're starting to look forward to that  
40 time when Ken and Kate go up there to issue tickets.

41

42 But the way I see muskox, Tom, is it's an  
43 animal that can prove important to the village itself  
44 because, you know, as an example if a guy goes from like  
45 Anchorage where would they go, to Shishmaref, where would  
46 they stay, in the Shishmaref local place like bed and  
47 breakfasts they have up there, and of course that person  
48 has to eat so it brings money to the economy of the  
49 village. But at the same time if these hunts are taken  
50 -- if these game are taken during the time when the meat

00172

1 is good then people in Shishmaref will be extra happy,  
2 and I feel the same way.

3

4 But that's just my village I don't know  
5 what's -- I know your concerns. I know what your  
6 concerns are but I'm just expressing what my people up  
7 there have been saying for years, they're not very  
8 popular but at the same time they like the meat.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Ken.

11

12 MR. ADKISSON: I guess one quick note  
13 again, Ken Adkisson. There's a lot of options out there  
14 and one of the things that has been discussed, for  
15 example, have been community bag limits and there's  
16 probably nothing to prevent us from, you know, almost  
17 moving in that direction now on the Federal side. There  
18 are legal problems with that on the State side, I  
19 understand and that they can't really do that under a  
20 Tier II system, but could under a general hunt.

21

22 So, again, I would just encourage you  
23 folks to talk to us as much as you can, try to follow the  
24 work of the Cooperators and participate and try to  
25 involve you communities in it. Because it is going to be  
26 very very important and things are going to change and  
27 hopefully, you know, you can control or influence some of  
28 the direction of the change.

29

30 In regarding the registration kind of  
31 permits, that was brought up in 1995 to the Federal Board  
32 by the State and as soon as Fenton Rexford described the  
33 fights that almost broke out in Kaktovik over it that was  
34 the end of the, you know, State's pitch to offer permits  
35 that way. So, you know, it's a complicated issue and  
36 just participate and participate and follow it.

37

38 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Madame Chair, can I ask  
39 one question there?

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Vance.

42

43 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Ken, on that muskox  
44 hunting, you know, when they were introduced down in  
45 Nunivak Island didn't -- wasn't there a positive side of  
46 that for the State hunts that were down there? Didn't  
47 the people get like a transporter's licenses or some type  
48 of thing and, I mean, I think it worked for them.

49

50 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, it's worked really

00173

1 well and there are quite a number of guides and quite a  
2 number of transporters. And down there what they've done  
3 is there -- since it's an island they actually have a  
4 pretty good idea, they want to have 500 muskox on Nunivak  
5 Island, they want to maintain that. There are no  
6 predators and so recruitment is very high, and they're  
7 able to, gosh, they take -- it's more than 10 percent of  
8 the population every year. And half of the quota goes to  
9 a drawing hunt and it's for bulls and the other half of  
10 the quota is for cows. And it's -- although it's open to  
11 everyone in the state, it's the local people who get the  
12 permits, I mean there have been a handful of people from  
13 other places who have come and harvested a cow but there  
14 has been very little interest in the cow hunt. And  
15 everybody seems very happy with how it works.

16

17 MR. ADKISSON: It is a little more  
18 complicated, though, in the sense that the whole island  
19 is a Federal Wildlife Refugee, and they've had tighter --  
20 been able to tighter control in the way the guiding  
21 process works and stuff. So to get guides, for example,  
22 from this area qualified to jump through the State hoops  
23 to qualify as guides are an issue, getting communities to  
24 support the idea of transporting is sometimes difficult,  
25 but, I think, you know, we have to look at that whole  
26 range of things and, again, encourage people to  
27 participate.

28

29 The other thing is as Kate here has  
30 mentioned, most of the bull harvest goes to these like  
31 drawing permits or these registration permits that they  
32 use. And there's a pretty heavy fee for that. Most of  
33 the allowable cow harvest goes to the local community,  
34 and that's kind of where we've taken the hunt in 22(E),  
35 to where the State Board of Game siphoned off a  
36 proportion of the bull harvest as really not really being  
37 relevant or not being the focus of the subsistence  
38 harvest and allocated those six permits, drawing permits  
39 in 22(E) and so that is another possibility.

40

41 MR. GRAY: The bulls that are taken on  
42 Nunivak, do we know what percentage of those bulls are  
43 going out of Nunivak?

44

45 MS. PERSONS: Well, I think all of them  
46 are.

47

48 MR. GRAY: Okay.

49

50 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, because that's a

00174

1 drawing hunt, I mean it's \$500 for a tag, it's really  
2 pricey and the people aren't interested in the bulls  
3 anyway.

4

5 MR. GRAY: Yeah, and I think there could  
6 be a good marriage there. But like I say -- like Sandy  
7 says walk slow and be careful and look at all your  
8 options. Because you know, when Jake started his program  
9 there wasn't much interest and now all of a sudden we're  
10 getting interest again and Jake may be back here next  
11 year saying bologna we don't want to a hunt because my  
12 people said I want them for myself, so, who knows. But  
13 let me put my SCI hat on and I want to go guide muskox  
14 hunters.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

17

18 MR. GRISHKOWSKI: Yeah, I was down there  
19 on one of them -- yeah, the sport hunters did take out  
20 the capes and hides and such, but the majority of the  
21 meat to my knowledge was left behind in the village and  
22 utilized. And it seemed like they kind of had the best  
23 of both worlds with it, you know, it worked.

24

25 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, most of the meat is  
26 left there and also most of the hunters bring the hides  
27 in and let the women comb the Qiviut out of the hides and  
28 they have quite a industry there of knitting or spinning  
29 and knitting Qiviut.

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Okay we'll  
32 go to Junior here.

33

34 MR. SEETOT: Thank you, Madame Chair. I  
35 do have a written report, pretty much simple plain  
36 English.

37

38 I do represent the Northern Norton Sound  
39 -- Northern Seward Peninsula communities Brevig, Teller,  
40 Shishmaref, Wales. Wales and Teller I don't think they  
41 have a -- they are not very active caribou hunters, the  
42 only caribou that they have is south of Teller caribou,  
43 you know, the marked, ear-tagged caribou, what they call  
44 that I guess that might be people owned. But Charles is  
45 one of the members from the Seward Peninsula and he was  
46 there.

47

48 I usually present a report or I usually  
49 make a report for the communities that I represent. And  
50 I mentioned that the caribou harvest was low in our area

00175

1 that was my personal observation or my personal  
2 experience, and pretty much everything starts with  
3 caribou round-table comments from people who are around  
4 the state that are voting chairs.

5  
6           A lot of information is passed on. They  
7 did a caribou collaring project at Onion Portage, there  
8 was 37 or I think the total number of collars at that  
9 time was 116. Thirty-three cows were put at Onion  
10 Portage. They do have 37 satellite collars at a cost of  
11 about \$2,000. The rest are conventional collars at \$300  
12 a pop. They wanted us to consider aligning the caribou  
13 limit. The Federal limit was 15 and the State limit was  
14 10, however, we did defer that action to Unit 23 because  
15 we felt that the people of that area or that region  
16 should decide for themselves how many caribou they should  
17 get.

18  
19           This was brought up at an earlier  
20 meeting, but at that time we kind of mentioned for them  
21 to get 15 caribou during their southward migration that  
22 that was kind of economical for them to get 15. At one  
23 time -- not all in one day but we kind of mentioned the  
24 cost of gasoline was kind of high at that time and that  
25 the caribou that they harvested were healthy or mostly  
26 bulls.

27  
28           We did have some guests from the NANA  
29 Region concerning caribou issues. We also had North  
30 Slope biologists talk about different caribou population  
31 of Porcupine Caribou Heard at a 121,000. Teshekpuk at  
32 45,000 and Western Arctic Caribou Heard at 450,000.

33  
34           Usually these are two day meetings that  
35 we kind of go to, we have speakers that talk about  
36 caribou or caribou issues or something that has to relate  
37 with caribou.

38  
39           We have had problems with, you know,  
40 trying to get funding for the meetings. Most of the  
41 meetings are kind of held at Anchorage, they do have a  
42 lot of staff -- they do have staff I think that it would  
43 be more economical for the staff to kind of stay in  
44 Anchorage and then support the Western Arctic Caribou  
45 Heard working group with that.

46  
47           I kind of mentioned, we did get a \$7 meal  
48 allowance for four days, you know, for people that are  
49 not working -- for people, you know, that come from the  
50 communities, you know, just with no entity backing them

00176

1 up and hoping that State would provide them with money  
2 for meals, you know, I thought, you know, wow, we have to  
3 kind of budget our meal allowance if you divide by four  
4 days \$17.50 dollars a day. You kind of wonder, hey, do I  
5 have to go out and beg or borrow or do I have to, you  
6 know, do something to keep myself, you know, fed.  
7 Because I think, we, in the Bush, you know, we have  
8 different metabolism rates and we prefer food that we  
9 caught and stuff like that. And the State should provide  
10 you know more for our welfare than, you know, pretty much  
11 arguing about, you know, wildlife issues, you know, that  
12 we've talked about over the years.

13

14 But pretty much I support what the  
15 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group is doing. They  
16 do have some polices in the Constitution that prohibits  
17 them from providing per diem and, you know, I think that  
18 that kind of creates a hardship for some people, but it  
19 does kind of work out in the end, you know, if you know  
20 the right people, you know, to hang out with.

21

22 But like I said my reports are pretty  
23 much written for the benefit of those communities that I  
24 kind of represent. I send out copies to the traditional  
25 and also to the city councils of those four communities.  
26 Because I cannot go to each community and say this is  
27 what was presented or this is what was discussed and that  
28 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group has been  
29 slow or I don't think I have seen any information trickle  
30 down to these communities concerning, you know, issues  
31 actions, minutes, at these Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
32 Working Group meetings.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Elmer. Now  
37 we've already got our time and place of the next meeting,  
38 will be held September 22 and 23 here in Nome, this  
39 coming fall. I don't know if it's a blessing any more to  
40 set out meetings two years ahead in advance. Because we  
41 seem to, some of us seem to miss some very important  
42 meetings because we plan two years ahead.

43

44 But Barbara we do set our winter meeting  
45 now right?

46

47 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes, we are setting  
48 our winter meeting.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The calendar is on the



00177

1 very last page, it should be the very last page of out  
2 booklet. Winter 2005 Regional Advisory Council meeting  
3 window goes from February 21st to March 25th. So it  
4 looks like it's our, we have the pick of any day.

5  
6 MR. GRAY: One thing I would suggest is  
7 that as you get into March you're going to find the  
8 Iditarod and people are going to be real busy.

9  
10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We've already  
11 encountered those so we make sure that we avoid that and  
12 we try to avoid Elders Conference, which planning two  
13 years in advance doesn't help us in that area.

14  
15 MR. GRAY: Yeah. The other thing is my  
16 schedule, for example, the first part of March is always  
17 dedicated to a muskox hunt so.....

18  
19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We'll send you a  
20 telegram. okay, what window are we looking at, should we  
21 do it early February? Which day do we want in early  
22 February, the 23rd, 24th of February, okay.

23  
24 MR. GRAY: Yep.

25  
26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. Well, maybe  
27 we'll get some participation then too if we have it on  
28 the 24th and 25th, and we can have it announced at the  
29 Regional Conference that we're meeting.

30  
31 SUSAN: Like, if it's going to be a one  
32 day, maybe you could have it the 25th.

33  
34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: No, lets do it on the  
35 24th. Let's allocate the 24th and 25th, okay, here in  
36 Nome.

37  
38 We're on item 14 guys.

39  
40 MR. SAVETILIK: Madame Chair. I move to  
41 adjourn.

42  
43 MR. KOBUK: I'll second.

44  
45 MR. BUCK: Question.

46  
47 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those in favor of  
48 adjourning, signify by stating aye.

49  
50 IN UNISON: Aye.

00178

1  
2 same sign.

CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,

3

(No opposing votes)

4

5

6  
7 adjourned.

CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Bye. Meeting

8

9

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

00179

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 178 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SEWARD-PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically by Nathaniel Hile on the 19th day of February 2004, beginning at the hour of 8:00 o'clock a.m. at the Aurora Inn, Nome, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 24th day of February 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph P. Kolasinski  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 4/17/04 \_

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