

1 SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
3 PUBLIC MEETING
4 BERING STRAITS BOARDROOM, NOME ALASKA
5 OCTOBER 27, 1995, 9:00 a.m.

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BOARD MEMBERS:

6

SHELDON KATCHATAG, CHAIR

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LORETTA MUKTOYUK

ELMER SEETOT, JR.

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FRED KATCHATAG, SR.

PETER BUCK

9

ZACCHEUS BARR

THEODORE KATCHEAK

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BARB ARMSTRONG

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

2 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Good morning,
3 ladies and gentlemen. It's 9:13 in the morning.
4 We'll get the session back in order. We are on
5 agenda item number 8, new business A, information
6 exchange, council staff and public. We'll start
7 with staff.

8 Before I do that, I'd like to
9 introduce Dave Spirtes with the National Park
10 Service and have him say a few words. Dave.

11 MR. SPIRTEs: Thank you. As
12 superintendent of Bering Land Bridge, I'm really
13 happy to be here today, and I don't have a lot to
14 say, Ken and Fred represent us so well. I would
15 like to just express a willingness to change the
16 way we do business a little bit, and I hope the
17 meetings we had on musk oxen last year were
18 representative of that, that we can get more local
19 involvement in all the decisions and that we can
20 work very closely with this board. And I
21 appreciate luckily going out with Sheldon to four
22 villages. I feel like we got to the bottom of that
23 issue a little bit and we got to know each other a
24 little better. And I look forward to working with
25 you more closely.

We did one little thing, we got a
1-800 number so that if anybody has any concerns
with Bering Land Bridge, you can call us, and it's
1-800-471-BELA, which is our abbreviation, and
we've got some cards. I think Fred has some cards
with that number on it on how to get a hold of us,
and so Fred can give those out, or see Fred at a
break and we can do that. And I've still got a lot
to learn up here, so I came to listen rather than
talk.

MR. BARR: What's the four last
digits?

MR. SPIRTEs: 2352. And I can
remember BELA easier than I can 2352. If you got
those old fashioned phones with the letters on
them, either way.

SHELTON KATCHATAG: Thank you,
Dave. And Barb, before you disappear out the door,
Barb?

BARB ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

SHELTON KATCHATAG: On behalf of the
council I would like you to address an official
letter of correspondence to Dave Spirtes of the
National Park Service Bering Land Bridge here in
Nome thanking him for his gracious kindness in

1 allowing me to accompany them to four informational
2 village meetings this summer on the musk ox hunt.
3 Great appreciation, it was a learning experience
4 for us both, and like I said, we did get to know
5 each other and a very interesting two days.

BARB ARMSTRONG: Okay, thanks.

4 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Appreciate it,
5 Barb.

5 MR. SPIRITES: Just one other thing
6 in response to that. We will be flying a survey
7 this spring, and I would hope that we can get a
8 representative from the nearest village, or from
9 the RAC to accompany the biologist on that count.
10 If we can get both the numbers and the composition,
11 and we feel like if we can get a wildlife biologist
12 along with a local person, that that's the best
13 combination. So we'll be contacting you when the
14 dates get closer as to who we should get to go up
15 with us.

11 SHELDON KATCHATAG: I'd be glad to
12 go up. I'm sure we'll come to some agreement on
13 somebody. I appreciate the offer and look forward
14 to working with you, Dave.

13 Getting back to business, we're on
14 new business, item A, information exchange, and
15 before I introduced Dave I said I'd hear from
16 staff, first. So I guess you're lead staff there,
17 Bill.

15 MR. KNAUER: Two things of
16 interest. First off, the Fish & Wildlife Service
17 here in Alaska has a new deputy regional director,
18 a lady by the name of Robyn, R-o-b-y-n, Thorsen
19 T-h-o-r-s-e-n. She has been in Alaska before.
20 After leaving Alaska a number of years ago, she was
21 back in Washington D.C. and then up in the Region
22 V, which is Boston area, as an assistant regional
23 director, so she's back here as deputy.

20 As one of her duties she has assumed
21 the role as Native liaison coordinator for the
22 region. She has been intermittently involved in
23 that process and also in the arena of Indian Self
24 Governance and Indian Self Determination Act
25 activities.

23 Also along the lines of Native
24 liaison there is a new national coordinator,
25 national Native liaison coordinator, a man by the
26 name of Duncan Brown in Washington, D.C. For the
27 past five years or so he has worked in refuges in
28 Washington, D.C. with the Fish & Wildlife Service.
29 Prior to that he worked for the Seminole Nation as

1 their attorney general, he is a lawyer. As he
2 described himself to us on a recent visit to
3 Alaska, he said I'm part Seminole, part Irish, a
4 lawyer and Jewish by upbringing.

5 SHELTON KATCHATAG: That's a mixed
6 up dude.

7 MR. KNAUER: He just assumed the
8 function about three weeks ago, a month ago,
9 something like that. So I think everyone looks
10 forward to working quite closely with Duncan. He's
11 a very enjoyable individual to associate with, very
12 astute individual. And that's all I have right
13 now.

14 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Anybody else on
15 staff? Fish & Wildlife? Coordinator? Park
16 Service? Kawerak? Fish & Game?

17 MR. MORRISON: Might add that the
18 new director of the wildlife conservation division
19 Wayne Reglan is part of a new thrust on his ideas
20 to upgrade the wildlife conservation division's
21 information management arm.

22 We have a statistic section in
23 Anchorage that regularly analyzes harvest reports
24 and does other analyses, for example, of public
25 opinion on hunting and fishing issues, and Mr.
26 Reglan has organized that and upgraded it into a
27 broader information exchange arm. It will probably
28 take on some of the ideas that came out of the
29 harvest symposium last spring and use that as a
30 vehicle for better communication to work with local
31 communities in various ways of analyzing and
32 working with the subsistence issues. So whatever
33 way we can improve communications and information
34 transfer, we would.

35 The extent and success of it, how
36 far we go with this program will depend much on the
37 funding level that we'll get for the next year or
38 two.

39 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Thank you, John.

40 MR. MORRISON: That's all.

41 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Anybody else
42 from Fish & Game? BLM.

43 MS. MORKILL: Just for your
44 information, in the Fairbanks office, the BLM, like
45 many agencies, has gone through a reorganization,
46 so there is some new faces, new names that are
47 involved in management of the northern district,
48 which is a combination of what used to be three
49 districts in northern Alaska. The new district
50 manager is Dee Ritchie, D-e-e, his last name is

1 Ritchie, and the associate district manager is Dick
2 Bouts, B-o-u-t-s. And we also have a 1-800 number
3 in Fairbanks if you're interested in any issues
4 that deal with Bureau of Land Management, and
5 that's 1-800-437-7021, and most of you probably
6 know we have a local person here in Nome and also
7 in Kotzebue.

8 MR. DENTON: As an update also on
9 personnel change, we're going to be, in our
10 district, undergoing reorganization right now, but
11 we don't know what that's finally going to look
12 like, but we have a new district manager that's
13 been on board for about six months, his name is
14 Nick Douglas.

15 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Is that it?

16 MR. DENTON: That's it.

17 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Mr.
18 Denton. Anybody else?

19 MR. BARR: Mr. Chairman, the
20 Fairbanks 800 number again?

21 MS. MORKILL: 1-800-437-7021.

22 MR. BARR: 7021?

23 MS. MORKILL: That's correct.

24 MR. BARR: 437?

25 MS. MORKILL: That's correct.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Any information
to exchange from the public? Jake do you have
anything?

MR. OLANNA: I just want to thank
you guys for the work you did on musk ox, and we're
just waiting for samples, actually. We haven't
heard any harvested, so I imagine we'll be hearing
more from Ken on that, but I want to thank you for
addressing the subsistence side of this hunt, and
we appreciate your concerns. And hopefully in the
future we will work towards including some of the
people that are being felt, like they are being
left out like Gambell, Sovoonga and King Island and
Diomedes. So in the future I think that the numbers
will grow and perhaps accommodate those people, so
thank you.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Mr.
Olanna.

From the council's side, one thing
that's been sticking in my mind ever since I heard
it yesterday, and I would like some clarification
from anybody here that has any information on it,
and that's the, not only the amendments and the
process of amending the Migratory Bird Treaty Act,

but also there was talk yesterday and very

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1 pleadingly of a legal spring hunt for migratory
2 birds, and I would like some clarification on that
3 from whoever might have that information.

4 MR. KNAUER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The
5 Migratory Bird Treaty Act actually encompasses a
6 number of treaties with various countries, and the
7 treaty with Canada, as you're probably aware, does
8 not provide for spring hunting or the taking of
9 eggs, and there has been, over the years,
10 discussion in various arenas about possibly
11 amending that to provide for the subsistence take.
12 Some of the other treaties do provide for that.
13 The climate has changed, there have been
14 negotiations with Canada, and a new protocol is
15 being developed. There is a brochure --

16 MR. KOVACH: It's in the back of
17 your binders.

18 MR. KNAUER: -- over on the table,
19 but I think there is also a brochure in your
20 binders in it.

21 MR. KOVACH: Under tab 4.

22 MR. KNAUER: Under tab 4, and things
23 do appear to be proceeding with that. It will
24 still take some time for this to be accomplished,
and it's not something that we're going to see next
spring, but there is significant progress being
made at the present time now. It had stalled for a
number of years, but it looks like it's proceeding
in a normal manner now.

And then after the protocol has been
completely fleshed out and signed by each of the
countries, then it will also need to be ratified.
And after that there will need to be regulations
put in place to provide for that. But it is on
track now.

25 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Any sort of a
26 timetable?

27 MR. KNAUER: I have no idea. Like
28 somebody said, the wheels of government move
29 slowly, but they are moving.

30 SHELDON KATCHATAG: If they move at
31 all.

32 MR. KNAUER: But they are moving in
33 this case.

34 MR. KOVACH: In this case they are.

35 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Who is
36 negotiating on behalf of the Native people.

MR. KOVACH: Myron Nanning.

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MR. KNAUER: Charlie Brower.

BARB ARMSTRONG: What about Charlie

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1 Johnson?

2 MR. OLANNA: Mr. Chairman, there is
3 a counsel made up by, actually it's spearheaded by
4 RuralCAP, RARA, one of those two. The Native
5 migratory bird working group is the one that worked
6 closely with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife on that
7 migratory bird. Like I say, RuralCAP has been
8 sending these people to -- they went to Vancouver
9 and they negotiated the treaty there. Jonathan
10 Solomon and Myron Nanning.

11 SHELTON KATCHATAG: I think Charlie
12 had some business up in Barrow, whaling.

13 MR. OLANNA: Charlie unfortunately
14 was gone at the time. I believe the next round is
15 some time in December to meet with someone in
16 Washington, D.C.

17 MR. KOVACH: Mr. Chair?

18 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Mr. Kovach.

19 MR. KOVACH: On both sides, both for
20 the Canadian side as well as the U.S. side, there
21 was Natives involved in helping with the
22 negotiations, whether they were involved directly
23 or as advisors to those direct people involved in
24 talks, they varied from side to side, but Natives
25 from both sides were participating within the
26 overall framework of the thing.

27 As you can well imagine, when you
28 got two different countries talking, the department
29 of states are involved, and it gets complicated
30 very quickly. But it was recognized early on
31 because Natives from both sides wanted spring
32 taking when they were involved from the early
33 point.

34 SHELTON KATCHATAG: I appreciate
35 efforts, and I appreciate efforts of the Fish &
36 Wildlife Service to make sure that those directly
37 affected by those negotiations, these being the
38 indigenous people on both sides of the border, have
39 at least some say in the matter. But it does
40 continue to disturb me that so called non-profit
41 state and/or federal charters, that being RuralCAP,
42 that's, to my understanding of proper
43 representation, that's not the proper way to
44 represent yourself in the international arena. I
45 don't appreciate that.

46 I appreciate their efforts on trying
47 to make sure that Native people have a say in the

25 matter, don't get me wrong. But I don't appreciate
their -- the way that they are basically
sidestepping the Native people and their

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1 governments by creating these so-called political
2 action groups such as RARA and others that are not
3 in any way, shape or form Native organizations
4 under international or national definition. Having
5 said that I'll let it go at that. I'm just glad
6 that we have at least two able people in Myron
7 Nanning and Jonathan Solomon at least in an
8 advisory capacity in negotiations, and hopefully
9 those two, and with Charlie Brower taking part
10 hopefully in the next round, the three major areas
11 state that we do, in fact, harvest migratory birds
12 in the spring and also eggs, they will at least
13 have some say in the matter.

14 But as I said earlier yesterday, we
15 might -- we might not attain perfection in our
16 actions and our deeds at this time, but in the
17 future it would be a lot more comforting to people
18 like me that aren't involved in the negotiations to
19 know that not only is my tribal government in on
20 the negotiations, but also indirectly that those of
21 other Native peoples is involved also. And
22 hopefully in the future we'll get these protocols
23 straightened around to where they are more
acceptable to the Native indigenous people.

24 Having said that, I appreciate the
25 information on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and
look forward to legal spring hunt and fresh eggs
this spring. Any other information on the
Migratory Bird Treaty Act? Thank you, Mr. Knauer.

26 Anybody else on council with any
27 information for our meeting here?

28 One thing I would like to do before
29 we get too far along, I was looking through the
30 musk ox report provided by Ms. Morkill from BLM,
31 and I'd like to congratulate Mr. Seetot on his
32 selection for the hunter of Brevig Mission, and I'd
33 like to wish him good luck and may they have a very
34 good Christmas feast. He's indicated to me that
35 his intent was going out before Christmas and
36 getting an animal for their Christmas feast.
37 That's a very pleasant note, congratulations.

38 MR. SEETOT: Thank you.

39 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Back on musk ox,
40 since we're back on that, I was pretty disappointed
41 with the RFR submitted by the State given that
42 subsistence is an important part of not only the

24 life-styles but also the diets of village people.
But given the politics of the situation, I
25 understand where they are coming from. And please
convey to both Brevig and Teller our

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1 disappointment, I'm sure which they share, on
having their quota reduced from six per village to
2 one per village, and they can thank the Fish & Game
for that.

3 But musk oxen, it's the one, I
should say success, but I'll say partial success,
4 that we as a council have accomplished over this
last cycle. As Steve pointed out in his brief
5 yesterday, that we had nine proposals for change of
regulations go before the Federal Subsistence
6 Board, eight were passed outright, and one was
subsequently changed due to another RFR, but I can
7 understand that one also based on biological
concerns again. So we're bound by not only
8 substantial evidence and sound conservation and
wildlife management principles, but one thing that
9 has not been considered properly is that of the
subsistence needs of the individuals, and that is
10 the one sticking point that everybody seems to
forget about.

11 It will be -- it is and will
continue to be, my perspective as chair, that we
12 have an unquantified subsistence need for musk ox
on the Seward Peninsula, and until such time as
13 that need is quantified and met, I do not foresee a
time at all in the future when sport and/or trophy
14 hunting of musk ox should be allowed, and that is
and will continue to be my stance, as I said, until
15 such time as the villagers have come forward and
told me that their subsistence needs for musk oxen
16 has been met, and the animals are maintained in a
healthy sustained yield population.

17 But I do credit the musk ox program
to the efforts of one of our late colleagues who
18 was taken from us in December of last year, Roy P.
Otten, and he is sorely missed. And every time I
19 think of musk ox I think of him, and I hope the
villagers do the same thing, because he was
20 instrumental in bringing this to our attention and
making sure that we did something about it. So
21 having said that, any other information from the
council?

22 MR. KATCHEAK: I have a couple
comments. The first one is musk oxen. I'm
23 wondering if the village that is going to be

24 harvesting musk ox would be kind enough to send us
a pound or two of musk ox, because I don't know if
I'll ever get to eat or taste musk ox. I'm very
25 happy about the villages getting their musk ox as a
subsistence take, and I never seen -- or I have

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1 seen musk ox, but never tasted one, so I hope
people who are going to be hunting musk ox take
2 that into consideration and take that into heart.

And the other one is if the RuralCAP
3 is going to represent the people, the Native people
of Alaska, they should have consent given to them
4 by the leaders of the Native -- Alaska Natives that
we had given something like -- that we have given
5 them consent to speak for us.

A lot of times like someone would
6 say there was no -- we didn't sanction those
people, we never knew that there was such a council
7 exist, so it is kind of a -- they walked over us
and they did something that we didn't know about.
8 And I think in the future they should -- RuralCAP
should inform us first how things are going to be
9 done or what's going to happen. I think it's, like
I said, we need some type of protocol, some type of
10 standard for someone to represent us.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Mr.
11 Katcheak, I appreciate that. Don't give up on the
musk ox too early there, Ted. They are a highly
12 migratory species, and I just wanted to let you
know that we have about 30 of them within 15 miles
13 of Elim, and that's a new wrinkle in the musk ox,
because that's something that's developed over the
14 summer. So there is a sizeable herd of them there
by Elim that wasn't there last year, and they are
15 on an eastward swing. So maybe by the year 2000
you'll have 30 down in your backyard.

16 MR. KATCHEAK: I'd be herding them.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Those are
17 amazing animals. They do migrate, and wherever
they find forage they do stick around.

18 Any news from Shishmaref there, Mr.
Barr?

19 MR. BARR: Well, I wasn't there for
the drawing of the musk ox, I had another meeting
20 that I was committed to, and that's the reason why
I didn't attend that drawing of permits there, you
21 know. But I see some material here what had
transpired there. And people up there are kind of
22 hesitant to hunt musk ox because they haven't
hunted musk ox there before. It's a different

23 breed of animal. I told them it's just like a
24 moose. They said you want to go hunt for me, I
25 said no, I don't have a permit. So they are kind
of up in the air about it, but maybe they will go
if the snow comes. But hopefully they will utilize
their permits for '95. So that's all I have, thank

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1 you.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Mr.
2 Barr. Ms. Muktoyuk, how are things in beautiful
downtown Nome?

3 MS. MUKTOYUK: Same old. For a King
Island community we were kind of disappointed that
4 we were not put on the list for hunting musk ox,
because we do have some on our King Island
5 Corporation land, and we felt like we were kind of
left out from the process. And that's all I have.

6 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you,
Loretta. You know, I think in the future, and this
7 is -- and it all depends, and I hate to put it this
way, but it all depends on an interpretation by an
8 attorney or court as to whether or not Title 8
applies to the whole state, and that's one thing
9 that I would be working on over this next year as
chair of this council, and in my advisor capacity
10 to the Federal Subsistence Board.

I had not seen and I had not read
11 this legislative history that was sent to me by the
regional solicitor's office in Anchorage, and after
12 looking it over, I think, to my understanding of
federal law, and looking at the congressional
13 intent behind Title 8, that it was the intent of
congress that they were setting subsistence
14 management and use regulations for the entire
state.

15 And if you look at the policies, the
policies behind Title 8 and the legislative
16 history, that that, in fact, is the intent of
congress, that they wanted to set up one overall
17 subsistence management program for the entire
state, regardless of whether it was federally
18 funded or state funded. And that will be the
thrust of my activities over the coming year of
19 seeking some resolution of that, and hopefully by
this time next year, and, you know, as Mr. Knauer
20 said, the wheels of government and probably the
court system turns too slow to have it changed by
21 then, but that will be the direction that I will be
pushing, because I really think that subsistence
22 management is so crucial, as I said earlier, not

23 only to the life-style but the nutrition of village
24 people, that it doesn't make sense to have more
25 than one management system for subsistence, it just
does not. And it goes against the policy of Title
8 of ANILCA, which mandates the least possible
adverse impact on subsistence users.

So that will be the thrust of my

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1 activities over the coming year or so, along with
2 our C & T change proposals and our regular
3 regulatory change proposals. And thanks to the
4 Federal Subsistence Board meeting, I'll have a
chance to go to Anchorage here in about three weeks
and I'll definitely talk to the regional
solicitor's office then.

5 So having said that, I don't want to
6 offer any false hope, I'm just telling you my
7 opinion as to what Title 8 encompasses and the
8 possibilities for it in the future, and I would
9 just like to iterate that even if the State falls
10 into compliance with Title 8, they still have to
11 have a regional council system.

12 So regional councils will be here
13 whether we're sitting on it or not, but there will
14 be a regional council system in place, and the same
15 three conditions will apply as to whether or not
16 the recommendations to the regulating authority are
17 abided by or not, and they are the same thing. You
18 have to have substantial evidence, you have to have
19 sound management conservation principles, and you
20 have to satisfy the subsistence needs of those
21 affected.

22 Those are the -- regardless of who
23 is in charge, those are going to be the same three
24 conditions under which a regional council cannot
25 have their recommendations adhered to. So
hopefully we can get this thing smoothed out in the
future. Mr. Seetot, how are things in Brevig
Mission?

MR. SEETOT: They are fine. I'll
reserve my comments until later.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Katchatag,
how are things in the eastern Norton Sound?

FRED KATCHATAG: What's that?

SHELDON KATCHATAG: How are things
in the eastern Norton Sound?

FRED KATCHATAG: I think they are in
the same condition as they were in 1971. I think
it would be better to delay this subsistence issue
as long as we can, because in future, if you look

22 up the history of Native people, before the
23 immigrants come around here, before white man come
24 to our villages, we have never had no problem with
25 subsistence. We never tried to raise any money for
anything like subsistence board. Everybody in the
community worked together and make sure that no one
waste any fish or any kind of an animal. Everybody
worked together with the proper understanding.

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1 There was no confusions involved in
2 the way Native people lived. They help each other,
3 they share with each other. They take the widows,
4 and when they -- when there is an animal to be
5 caught, they catch more than what they can use and
6 give the rest to the widows because the widows
7 cannot go out and hunt. We take care of our widows
8 that way. And there was no issue of
9 misunderstandings.

10 You see this way, the way you was
11 born out in the Lower 48 and the way I was raised
12 up here in Alaska for the last 70 years or more, I
13 know exactly what to take and what not to take.
14 For instance, in springtime I don't take no beaver
15 at all because that's the wrong time to shoot at
16 beaver. Of course, I'm not saying all the Natives
17 are like me, there are some that will go ahead and
18 shoot, they are not excused from being an outlaw.
19 You find an outlaw in any kind of a race of
20 people.

21 And when our forefathers catch
22 somebody like that, they warned him. And then if
23 he don't listen, they let him go out in the country
24 and stay by himself out there until he got enough
25 of that kind of life. And then he comes back to
the community and meet with the council of five
people and promise that he will change his ways.
That he will live like -- he won't be any more
troublemaker in the community. If he don't change
after he promised, there is a way that they get rid
of him. They don't fool around. And that way,
whatever they say in the council, is respected by
each member of the families.

 And when I think about the
subsistence issue, I think who is going to put up
the money for all of this. Right now nobody wants
to put up the money, and I don't blame them. We
don't need no subsistence board if we understand
each other. I wouldn't do anything to hurt you
deliberately, and I expect that of you to me. If
we respect each other and have a proper

understanding, we do not need no lawyers at all.
22 You know, the Native corporation,
23 when we first formed our board, we were told that
24 we weren't qualified to run our corporation and we
25 hired somebody that knows about corporations, but
we kept losing money. Finally it dawned on me, why
don't we try our own shareholder. We tried our own
shareholder and we pay off our sports fishing up
here at Silver Tip, and I understand that when we

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1 get our own shareholder we did a lot better because
all of us know him, and he knows that we know him,
2 and he's born and raised with us and he won't
deliberately take our money.

3 So I think if we delayed the
subsistence issue and not got excited over how we
4 are going to deal with our 20 some villages in our
region, I think it would be a lot better to delay
5 it. But if you delay something it's not going to
get into enforcement agencies to enforce some of
6 the laws that would not really make the Natives
happy anyway. It's better to table it. We can
7 meet anytime. It don't make any difference how
many times a year we meet. If we continue to table
8 it, nobody is going to get hurt. You won't get
hurt and we won't get hurt.

9 See, our history tells you that we
have never taken any moose, any caribou, any fish
10 more than we need. And that bag limits here does
not go for the minority groups in our villages,
11 they don't have equipment to go out, much less they
can't go out when the weather doesn't permit
12 anyway. See, when you look at the subsistence,
you've got to think about our cold winter days,
13 seven or nine months out of the year does not make
minority people to go out and hunt every day. So
14 when our forefathers showed us, we have no history
in writing, but we have the history up here
15 (indicating). When weather permits, that's when we
go out and try to gather up for the rainy day. And
16 when the weather doesn't permit we have some
relief. And that way we don't bother no one. We
17 don't have to go to the -- to someone to help us to
buy groceries, we have something else to eat. And
18 that way it's easier for us when we go out on our
own without being looked from here, the government
19 will get up here and look at us and see what we do
down here.

20 It's no good to hunt when you know
that somebody is monitoring you, that's not a happy

21 life, you're not free, you're under that power all
the time. And even if you look at the person that
22 has authority, he's not a Native, you're not going
the tell him anything. It brings real bad mixture
23 of mind in you. "I wonder what he's going to do to
me?" And most minority people cannot defend
24 themselves in a court anyway, they are not used to
that kind of life.

25 Maybe in time to come, you give them
another 40 years or so, maybe the school system

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1 will change their way of life to where they can
protect themselves and talk for themselves.

2 Remember what Jews did to Paul. He
did not do anything wrong at all, but still he was
3 chained and treated real bad by the people who are
jealous, and this was all a misunderstanding.
4 That's the same way with Native people today. They
don't know what's going on, and it's hard to say.

5 You know, we don't like to be mad at
you people, it's not nice to be mad. There is no
6 harmony in being mad. So if you learn the way we
did, and we learn the way you live, we can have
7 communication in years to come, maybe we can settle
these subsistence to where nobody is being hurt by
8 it. Thank you.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Mr.
9 Katchatag. You point out, or you bring to our
council the wisdom, the wisdom of years, years of
10 experience, and that's one reason why I, as chair,
will always work toward having at least a couple
11 elders like you and Mr. Barr on the council. I
know at times it gets hard to get around, you're a
12 tough man and you can take it, right. Appreciate
your insight and the wisdom that you bring. Mr.
13 Buck, how is things in White Mountain?

MR. BUCK: Okay. I think that in
14 White Mountain area, like the thing he was talking
about, there was -- I think there was at least two
15 people that were taken away and didn't come back,
and that was because of the elders, the elders of
16 the council decided what was going to happen. And
that council of elders was more than a subsistence
17 board, it was more than that, it was a whole
operation of the village, and my -- a couple from
18 Nome traveled from Kiana to Golovin back and forth
just to subsist, and that's a lot of ground to
19 cover in the subsistence area.

But the concern that I have is about
20 RuralCAP, is whether RuralCAP is getting their

21 direction from the local governments, IRA
22 governments. And I'd like to get more an update on
23 the co-management agreement. I know the funding
24 hasn't come through, I don't think the funding is
25 complete, but I'd like to get more information on
the co-managing agreement that is coming up and
make sure that the tribal council are represented
in that, and that this board knows about the
co-managing agreement that is coming up.
And I'd also like to learn more
about -- well, get a clarification on the water

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1 rights. I didn't realize when I got on this board
2 that we were limited to be land based, and
3 subsistence doesn't end when you reach water. So
4 I'd like to know more on the clarification of the
5 water rights. That's just about all.
6 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Mr.
7 Buck. Subsistence wise it's been a different year
8 over in Elim. We've been fortunate to have the
9 caribou come down the Darby Mountains this year,
10 and last I recall there was three hunters from Elim
11 that got four caribou, I think it was late August
12 or early September, which is totally unheard of in
13 our neck of the woods, and hopefully those caribou
14 will continue to stick around those mountains and
15 continue to feed us properly.
16 Salmon wise we had restrictions on
17 our Moses Point, Kwiniuk and Tubutulik Rivers this
18 year at the beginning of the season, but luckily we
19 had enough of escapement of our threatened chum
stocks there this year, and it looks that our chum
salmon in that river are on the rebound. Our
villagers have been very cooperative with Fish &
Game on trying to help rebuild that stock by
minimizing their hunting and fishing pressure on
those stocks.
And I was very pleased to hear from
the fish counting tower people this year that by
the time they got done with their work this year
there was escapement, I think they were
projecting -- it was pretty healthy anyway. The
last time, the last number I heard was like 15,000,
and I'm not sure what their projected escapement
was for that Kwiniuk River, but that's an
improvement over where it has been in the last five
years. We've had it as low as somewhere between 8-
and 12,000, which is anywhere from a third to a
half. Normal historical escapement used to be kept
at 25,000 plus, even in times of heavy commercial

20 use we still had that escapement, so it's good to
see our salmon on the rebound.
21 Beluga Whales have been very elusive
this year. So far as I know there has only been
22 three Beluga caught in the Norton Bay this year,
all three of them by net that I know of. One out
23 of Shaktoolik and two out of Elim, so we're going
to have some very muktuk hungry people around the
24 bay this year. Maybe we'll luck out and get a few
before it freezes up.
25 That's kind of a strange freeze-up
this year. This is the first time I've seen the

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1 land area above the beach frozen up completely and
not get any slush in the bay, that's real
2 different. Where normally the normal scope of
things is the river start freezing, and as the
3 tides go in and out they take these chunks of ice
out and you have chunks of ice floating in the bay
4 going back and forth, but this year the river froze
solid, and we didn't have any slush going out, but
5 we'll have to wait for the bay to cool before it
freezes.

6 And the weather has been pretty. I
guess you would call it Indian summer this year.
7 Other than one big snowfall on the 12th and 13th,
we haven't seen anything this month, and overall I
8 think we've had some economic development projects
go forth in the village. We repaired
9 three-and-a-half miles of road between Elim and
Moses Point. It was originally a nine week
10 project, we got it done in five.

Indian Health Service is building a
11 new water house for us, so updating that portion of
our water and sewer system, and things are overall
12 looking up. Dividends are coming out, looks to be
a good winter. Hopefully we'll be able to stay
13 healthy on caribou and moose. And the young boys
are out getting sea mammals right now, and
14 everybody appreciates that, a good changed diet.

Other than that, I don't have
15 anything from the Norton Bay/Elim area. We're
looking forward to a good winter. We've had a good
16 freeze-up, now we're waiting for more snow.

Any other information exchange.
17 Hearing none, let us move on to a coffee break
recess for about ten minutes.

18 (Off the record.)

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Call the session
19 back to order. Got to get away from Indian time

here.

20 We are now on the annual report,
1995 and '96. Says here, number 1, basically what
21 to focus on, staff. Let us find out what our focus
is, staff. While we're waiting for Barb, in
22 December at our informal chairs -- well, I
shouldn't say informal, kind of a formal chairs
23 meeting that we had in Kotzebue, the three regional
council chairs from the Arctic, and we had agreed
24 that because we are all Inupiat people from the
three regions, that we could probably cooperate on
25 an annual report that combines the annual report
for all three regions.

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1 At our July meeting, special meeting
on musk ox, we also discussed the annual report,
2 and I gave copies to the North Slope and the
Northwest Arctic chairs on what I had drafted on
3 the computer provided by Fish & Wildlife Service,
and it was a basic outline for the annual report
4 and my understanding of why it is necessary that we
submit one to the Secretary of the Interior, and
5 also why we need to have each year's annual report
in hand while we consider the regulation change
6 proposals for the next regulatory year. And
hopefully down the road we'll get all the bumps in
7 the road smoothed out and the process streamlined
to where it shouldn't be a belabored thing, to
8 where it should be just a matter of filling in
blanks and providing the information based on
9 hopefully annual surveys, if not annual, bi-annual,
and also annual harvest reports from all affected
10 communities. And we can probably, given my
understanding of wildlife management, that's
11 basically how I think it should be done.

 You should have a base population,
12 best estimate of base population at the beginning
of each season, and you go ahead and deduct all
13 subsistence harvests, all personal use harvests and
all commercial or trophy harvests that you know of,
14 and then you should have a factor in there for
predation and other things that might pop up, such
15 as hard winter kills, and that would give you
the -- after you take all those deductions, then
16 you add on your recruitment rate for the year's
reproductive cycle, and hopefully that should give
17 you a base population that is, if not the same, it
should be more than what you started with,
18 depending on your carrying capacity of the
habitat. That's my understanding of how wildlife

19 management should operate, and until I'm told
20 differently and given sound conservation and
wildlife management principles to back it up, then
hopefully that's how we shall proceed.

21 Barb, our agenda says that under
22 annual report 8 B basically what to focus on, it
says staff.

23 BARB ARMSTRONG: And I think that
24 goes to Helen. On annual report, you asked me to
25 put staff on that annual report '95/'96, basically
what to focus on. That's why I put it there when
you said basically what to focus on. And that
would be in regards to the animals or what? How
did you guys do that with the other council members

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1 there, at the other councils?

MR. KNAUER: I'll save you.

2 MR. KOVACH: You always do.

3 MR. KNAUER: At the other councils
4 what they have elected to focus on are issues of
concern in their particular regions. Not trying to
5 address all resources within the region, but to
6 address the issues or the particular resources that
7 might be of concern to them, whether it be one
particular species or one particular process in the
8 federal subsistence management program. When I say
one process, it might be two or three items, it
9 might be two or three species or populations that
are of concern where there are significant declines
or there are concerns about habitat loss that are
or could result in population declines.

10 They have -- in some of the councils
11 they are querying each council member as to what
12 might be a concern in their area of knowledge, and
13 some of them they are meeting as a subgroup within
14 the council to put their thoughts together, so each
15 council is a little different, but for the most
16 part they are trying to focus on the issues and
concerns rather than everything within the region.

17 And, again, we need to emphasize
18 that the reports do go to the chair of the Federal
Subsistence Board. The chair and the board have
been delegated the authority for the program by the
Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture, and as a
result they are the ones that are responsible for
the program.

19 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Mr.
20 Knauer. Any questions from Mr. Knauer from the
council? Hearing none -- Mr. Seetot.

21 MR. SEETOT: Has the council made

any reports to date?

19 SHELDON KATCHATAG: The original one
20 we started with in 1993, the council agreed that I,
21 as chair, would submit that, and that was
22 submitted. The one for last year and this year we
23 had agreed would be combined, is that not true,
24 Barb?

25 BARB ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Didn't we agree
we were going to be combining '94 and '95?

 BARB ARMSTRONG: That's what was --
that's what the plan was, and I haven't heard
nothing else. And then I found your one from my
desk as I was coming down here, the one that you
left at my desk, it got piled on top.

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1 SHELDON KATCHATAG: The one Lois
left at your desk?

2 BARB ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

3 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Was that the one
on the disk.

4 BARB ARMSTRONG: No, this hadn't
been typed out, and I was in the process of
retyping it for you. It has the whole report, and
then it just came from the SPSRAC council, so I
don't know if that's the one you're going to
proceed on or not, and then I -- that's all I have
is the one you had there.

7 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Yeah, okay.

8 BARB ARMSTRONG: That I found on my
desk from the summer while I was gone. This is a
draft.

9 SHELDON KATCHATAG: This was a draft
that I finally got a copy of when I went to
Kotzebue. So that's a draft, and I did give a copy
of it to Northwest Council and also to the Arctic
Slope Council, so they do have copies of that.
Basically just an outline of what I said earlier
about how I thought that the resources should be
managed, and the council will like me to continue
with that. They are upgrading my computer system,
so I will not only have better capabilities to work
on it, but also they are sending me a fax modem and
I will be able to communicate directly with Fish &
Wildlife staff on this report and we can flesh it
out.

16 What is the wish of the council of
the annual report?

17 MS. MUKTOYUK: Mr. Chairman, when
you said a combined report, would that be with

18 Northwest Arctic and North Slope?
SHELDON KATCHATAG: If they still
19 wish to do so. If not, then ours will be a
combined '94/'95. It says '95/'96 here, but it
20 will be a '94/'95 one. What is the wish of the
council of the annual report?
21 BARB ARMSTRONG: What I could do is
type this over in another print and then send it
22 out to you before I send it out to the council and
then they can review it.
23 SHELDON KATCHATAG: What I'll do is
go ahead and revise it on the computer. It's a lot
24 easier to do that, I have it on file rather than
you typing it up.
25 BARB ARMSTRONG: Okay.
SHELDON KATCHATAG: And then I'll

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1 fax it to you directly.
BARB ARMSTRONG: I can distribute?
2 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Right. I'm
looking forward to setting up the computer system
3 not only to be faster but more efficient.
Anything else on the annual report?
4 What is the wish of the council? Would you like me
to continue working with the regional coordinator
5 and staff on this? Can I have a motion to that
effect.
6 MR. BARR: Motion.
SHELDON KATCHATAG: We have a motion
7 for the chair to continue working with the regional
coordinator and staff on the annual report for
8 '94/'95. And do I hear a second.
MR. BARR: Second.
9 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Discussion?
MR. BUCK: Question.
10 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Question has
been called. All those in favor signify by saying
11 aye. All those opposed, nay. Motion passes.
(Unanimous)
12 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Moving on to
item 8 C, regional council recruitment. Barb.
13 BARB ARMSTRONG: Okay. You have
three council seats coming up this year, opening
14 up. And the terms going out are Bill Barr,
Zaccheus Barr. Loretta Muktoyuk and Theodore
15 Katcheak. You have the option to re-apply if you
wish to run for your seat again on this -- on this
16 council. The application period should be on your
folder, it has this, the regional council member
17 appointment process, 1996. The application period

18 begins December 1st, '95 and ends on February 29th,
19 '96, and it gives you the process from that time
20 on. And then there will be a panel review, and
21 then from the panel it goes back to me, then it
22 goes before the staff committee, and then after the
23 staff committee, the recommendations go to the
24 Federal Board, and then after the Federal Board
25 meets, their recommendations are sent to the
Secretary of Interior. And it takes like, well, we
got the appointments done early this year. The
appointments, new appointments will be like about
August or September of '96 for those three seats.

So anyone who is interested to sit
on this council has that whole period to re-apply,
and then I will send some applications to all the
villages, 16 villages who is in the Seward
Peninsula, to the mayor or probably the IRA

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1 councils, too, and anyone who wishes to apply will
2 at that time apply for the seats.

3 SHELTON KATCHATAG: I would
4 respectfully ask, too, Barb, that you mark in your
5 letter there that they post these in the post
6 office at least, hopefully three or four places.

7 BARB ARMSTRONG: Yes. Any comments
8 on the council on recruitment?

9 FRED KATCHATAG: I would like to
10 have the names of those who are expired from the
11 council here.

12 BARB ARMSTRONG: You have them on
13 your --

14 SHELTON KATCHATAG: The top three on
15 the list.

16 FRED KATCHATAG: I got them here.

17 SHELTON KATCHATAG: You have them in
18 your packet also. Any further comment from the
19 council on regional council recruitment? Hearing
20 none, thank you, Barb.

21 We can now move on to 8 D,
22 development of regulations, the meat of the
23 matter. Giving us the bone to hang the meat on, we
24 have Steve and Helen, proposal form review. Steve
25 and Helen.

HELEN ARMSTRONG: I'm going to start
out -- we're going to start with C & T and go over
that before we get into doing proposal forms.

Just for the benefit of those people
who are new on the council, I'll give you a little
bit of history on C & T and where we've been and
where we're heading finally.

17 When we took over this program we
18 adopted the State's existing C & T determinations
19 with the promise that at some point we would
20 develop our own process and a schedule for doing
21 it. We did accept proposals and have been keeping
22 those in a backlog, but we didn't address most of
23 them, maybe with the exception of musk ox.

 We have done C & T for sheep in
21 26(C) and musk ox up on the North Slope, caribou
22 down in Unit 18, rainbow trout and I think that
23 covers it. We haven't really done a whole lot
24 of C & T determinations.

 We did begin a process that was
23 outlined in July of 1994 in the Federal Register
24 Notice by addressing C & T on an area wide basis,
25 and we started with the Kenai C & T as well as the
upper Tanana.

 The experience we had with that was

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1 that it was too lengthy and wasn't going to be
2 meeting the needs of the people, and so based on
3 the comments from the regional councils, we then,
4 once again, changed our process of doing this. So
5 even though we had this type of thing you've seen
6 with the Kenai, we won't be doing that with any
7 other region.

 So the Federal Register Notice came
5 out in August of this year, and now we'll be doing
6 the C & T along with the proposals for seasons and
7 bag limits every fall. So in the fall we'll come
8 out with a request for proposals, which we've done,
9 and then we'll come to these meetings, we'll
10 develop proposals on C & T, and then based on those
11 proposals we'll pursue the process just as we have
12 with the seasons and bags.

 You'll sometimes hear people
10 referring to subpart D and C. Subpart C
11 regulations is where C & T comes under. Subpart D
12 is where seasons and bags come under. So don't let
13 those confuse you when people talk about subpart D
14 in the regulations.

 The other thing we're doing is
12 looking at the backlog of proposals, and we were
13 asking each of the councils to give us -- to
14 prioritize those proposals. In this region it's
15 actually very simple. The backlog proposals are
16 under the tab 2 in your book and they look like
this. It's this paper that's out. And if you look
at that list you'll see that -- well, first on the
list is -- I'll introduce wildlife and fish. The

17 name of the requester was unknown, and it was a
18 statewide request. We're not -- it was such a
19 general request that we're not even addressing that
20 particular one, and also when the requester was
21 unknown we're not addressing it.

22 The next one is caribou, and we are
23 planning on redoing the caribou C & Ts in all of
24 the regions, and in most regions it's been a very
25 high priority.

Other than that, the rest of these
proposals that have come in have been dealt with or
being deferred. The moose one has been dealt with,
and then all of the musk ox we have dealt with, as
you know, and then the last two are salmon, and
those are being deferred, we're not taking any fish
proposals at this time until we have -- know where
we're going on the fish.

So the only thing on here is the
caribou that's a backlogged proposal. So we don't

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1 need to worry too much about this. I'm sure if you
2 look at the caribou proposals then we'll probably
3 want to address that as a C & T.

4 So what I'd like you to do, before
5 we get into actually doing proposals, is I'd like
6 you to turn to your regulation book and look at
7 page 121, and in the book under the regulations for
8 each one of those, on the left hand column on the
9 side you'll see species/customary and traditional
10 use determination. And what I'd like to have you
11 do is look at these for Unit 22 and see if there
12 are ones that at this point you feel are high
13 priorities and urgently need to be addressed this
14 year.

15 And I say that because we're a
fairly limited staff, and it may not be that we can
do every single one of these, but if we can
prioritize which ones are of most importance to
you. The other thing I wanted to alert you to is I
have concerns that some of these C & T
determinations may not be as far reaching as they
need to be into other regions. We can, after we're
done looking at Unit 22, I'd like to look at 18, 21
and 23 to see whether --

SHELDON KATCHATAG: The neighboring
ones?

HELEN ARMSTRONG: Yes. Because when
I look at them I see there may be some gaps. I
don't know. So but we'll start with 22.

Black bear there is a no

16 determination, and what this means is that any
17 federally qualified rural subsistence resident in
18 the state can hunt black bear in Unit 22. This is
19 generally the determination in every unit for black
20 bear, is no determination. And the reason for that
21 is the State only did determinations on those
22 species where there was issues. If there wasn't an
23 issue, they hadn't gotten to doing them. So you'll
24 see basically the State only did determinations for
25 the large game with some exceptions.

21 So I don't know, I mean, in a sense
22 it's not limiting, because you can -- anybody in
23 Unit 22 can hunt black bear, and I know in the
24 North Slope they didn't want to change it because
25 they felt that it was -- it gives them a little bit
more flexibility, and since there are lots of black
bears around, people won't usually travel a long
distance to go get black bear from somewhere else.
So shall I go on, Mr. Chair, to the next one? Do
you want to say anything about black bear?

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1 SHELDON KATCHATAG: We'll get to
2 them species by species. Go ahead.

3 HELEN ARMSTRONG: Brown bear. Right
4 now all rural residents of Unit 22 have C & T for
5 brown bear. So that's all inclusive.

6 Caribou, the Western Arctic herd,
7 and these were done by herd, and in the State
8 program, we're doing them by unit under our program
9 because we had the comment that people don't, when
10 they hunt caribou, they don't hunt according to
11 what herd they are, they hunt because they are
12 there, they don't know what herd they are. And
13 there is -- so for the Western Arctic herd they
14 have the determination of rural residents of Unit
15 21(D) west of the Koyukuk and Yukon Rivers and
rural residents of 22(A), 22(B), 23, 24 and 26(A),
because that herd goes over all that region. And
then there is no determination for all other
caribou.

11 Then for moose, rural residents of
12 Unit 22 --

13 MS. MUKTOYUK: Helen, I have a
14 question on the caribou. What about for the people
15 that live here in Nome and go to, like in
Unalakleet area, Koyuk area to hunt caribou and
bring it back, is there -- if people wanted to do
that, do they need a C & T?

HELEN ARMSTRONG: Well, all
residents -- there is no determination for Unit

22. It depends.

16 MR. KOVACH: Well, except for the
Western Arctic herd.

17 SHELDON KATCHATAG: We'll work them
18 out when we get to them species by species. I have
19 some problems with that, because there are a number
20 of people not only from Nome but also Brevig and
21 all the way up the coast to Shishmaref that do
22 regularly hunt the Western Arctic caribou herd. So
23 when we get to that, we'll get into it in more
24 detail and hopefully we'll come to some
25 resolution. But go ahead and continue and then
once --

22 HELEN ARMSTRONG: Once we go through
them --

23 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Then we'll go
species by species and subunit by subunit.

24 HELEN ARMSTRONG: Moose, rural
25 residents of Unit 22, that's all inclusive. Musk
ox, which you're all probably familiar with, 22(A)
has a no determination. 22(B), rural residents of

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1 22(B). 22(C) is the rural residents of that
subunit. 22(D) is rural residents except for St.
2 Lawrence Island. And 22(E) is rural residents of
22(E) except Little Diomede.

3 And then after we leave musk ox
4 there are no determinations for the remaining fur
5 bearers except for wolf, which has a really
6 peculiar C & T determination. And apparently what
7 happened with the State was the intention had
8 been -- I think it should have read rural residents
9 of Unit 22, but somehow they did this sort of in a
10 lump C & T. So what these are, all the units where
11 they have wolf, then those people have C & T. So
12 that needs to be clarified. Obviously people from,
13 you know, Unit 6 aren't coming up here to hunt
14 wolf.

9 And then the same thing I think
10 happened with grouse and ptarmigan. So those need
11 to be clarified. And then the trapping C & T, all
12 of the -- it's the same thing, there is no
13 determinations except for wolf. So as you wish, we
14 can decide how to go through these.

12 What I kind of -- well, what we have
13 done with other councils is try to get priorities,
14 because we were concerned that there might be
proposals that came in after the council meeting,
and we wouldn't be able to go back to them and say
how do you feel about this. In this case, today is

15 the last day proposals can come in, so we don't
16 have that problem.

17 MR. KNAUER: Well, we do, because we
18 don't know what has come in, we're not in the
19 office.

20 HELEN ARMSTRONG: That's true. And
21 there may be State proposals that have come in and
22 there may be other federal agency proposals that
23 have come in. So I need some sense of
24 prioritization of what's the -- maybe as we go
25 through these you can let me know what's the most
important to you.

MR. KNAUER: One thing, especially
for any of the new members, I was pointing out the
C & T determination is not a complete designation
of what has been a customary and traditional
practice for a community, but in regulatory terms,
it identifies what species has been taken by what
community and in what area, that is the only thing
that the C & T use determination does in our
regulations. The how it was taken, how many taken,
and what the season of take is is under the right

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1 column, the harvest limits, so there is a little
2 bit of separation.

3 SHELDON KATCHATAG: That's a subpart
4 D determination?

5 HELEN ARMSTRONG: Who, what, where.

6 MR. KNAUER: That's the easy way to
7 try to keep it straight as we're dealing with how
8 to make the changes in the regulations to make it a
9 little easier for folks to accommodate their past
10 practices.

11 SHELDON KATCHATAG: So is that it?

12 HELEN ARMSTRONG: Yeah, if you want
13 to -- do you want to --

14 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Go over the
15 proposal form.

HELEN ARMSTRONG: That is in your
book, also, under tab 2. There is a yellow page
that gives you instructions, some of them are
white, I guess, but it says instructions for
completing of proposal form. That's the first --
second page, I think on here.

And then if you turn the page after
you have that C & T form, and then there is a
sample C & T. And the form is basically the same
for C & T and for seasons and bags, seasons and
harvest limits. We just ask more questions for the
C & T. So you'll want to list your name,

15 organization, mailing address. Then the first
16 question, what proposal do you want, proposed
17 regulation do you want changed. You would list the
18 species, the harvest limit, the C & T, whatever it
19 is that you're asking to be changed. How would you
20 like to see it changed. If you can give us as much
21 information as possible, in other words not just
22 saying give a positive C & T determination, but
23 saying which communities you want to have it, and
24 where. Why should this regulation change, as much
25 information as you can give us on what the problems
are with the current regulation. How will this
change affect wildlife populations. This affects
more seasons and bags than it does C & T, but it
could have an effect from C & T, for example, with
the musk ox, which is our example here.

How will this change affect
subsistence users, anything you can give us on
that. And those questions are the same for the
seasons and harvest limits as well as for C & T.

Then after that, the questions
remaining are only for C & T, and these are the
questions that essentially will be used to answer

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1 the questions about the eight factors that we have
2 in our regulations, and we're still at this point
3 required to address in our C & T analysis. Which
4 communities have used this resource. As Bill said,
5 this is the who, and if you have time references,
6 that's helpful, time periods as to when, you know,
7 how long it's been used.

Number 7 was where was the resource
harvested, that's the where. In what months has
the resources been harvested. And then the last
question, if there is any additional information
you can give us, there are other factors in the
eight factors that would support it, like how it's
processed, the extent of sharing, other resources
that are harvested in your community, how knowledge
of this hunting practice is passed down from
generation to generation. Anything else you can
tell us will be useful; so we can use your local
knowledge in answering the eight factors.

I'm not going to go through this,
the sample form for seasons and harvest limits
because it's basically the same, they just give
different examples in there based on it being a
harvest limit change. These proposals are due
today in our office. This is the last day. This
meeting was held rather late in our meeting cycle,

14 and I hope that's not a problem in terms of people
15 creating proposals, but we will have to do them
today, and we can help you in filling out those
forms and take them back with us.

16 The other councils were able to
17 leave and go back if they wanted to and file a
proposal as an individual, they could have done
that, but we'll have to do them today.

18 So my suggestion would be to decide
19 what proposals at this point we want to do and
maybe focus on -- I don't know if you want to focus
20 on seasons and bags first if there are any
proposals, or C & T, it's your wish, and then we
can work through these and help guide you in the
21 process.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Before we get
22 too far along in that, I would like to point out to
staff here that not only the staff committee
23 recommendations but also the Federal Subsistence
Board accommodation of all the sport hunters with
24 regard to Kenai C & T determination was in
violation of the intent of congress by bowing to
25 the pressure over there provided by the sport
hunters.

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1 You have allowed those people, which
2 are specifically excluded by Title 8 of ANILCA, to
influence customary and traditional use of
3 subsistence resource. If you look on page 270 of
the legislative history it says: It is the intent
4 of the committee that number and boundaries of the
regions be established in a manner which does not
5 permit the large urban population centers to
dominate the regional council system and exercise
6 control over the regulation of subsistence
resources in the rural areas. The intent of
7 congress is for the regional advisory councils to
provide the best interest and the subsistence needs
of those that depend on it.

8 And it specifically says in the
9 intent that the design of the system is to not
allow large populations to determine the
10 subsistence takes of the minorities, and that's
basically what was happening. So I would
11 appreciate you bringing that to the attention of
the board, and I will bring it to their attention
at my first opportunity.

12 HELEN ARMSTRONG: Which will be in a
few weeks.

13 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Hu?

14 HELEN ARMSTRONG: In a few weeks.
SHELDON KATCHATAG: Yes.
So having said that, I appreciate
15 the streamlining of the C & T process, and this is
our -- basically other than musk ox, this is our
16 first opportunity to propose changes to the
regulations on C & T use of these species which our
17 people depend on.
So having said that, I think we'll
18 go ahead and start, just go down the list species
by species and review what's there and put together
19 a C & T proposal for each species for each
subdistrict.
20 In the interest of time, I think it
would probably be easier, and I'm sure all the
21 villagers would agree, that if we make a finding
for one community, that other than those areas like
22 on the islands where they do not have the species,
that they would be amenable to C & T
23 determination.
So if you see any spots where we
24 might be going far afield, then bring it to my
attention and we'll try to get back on track. So
25 we now go to page 118 of the subsistence management
regulations on the hunting black bear, and we're

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1 just looking at the left side of the page.
MR. KNAUER: 121.
2 SHELDON KATCHATAG: I'm sorry, thank
you for correcting me. Page 121 under hunting
3 regulations, black bear, it says no determination.
Let me see my sample form here.
4 HELEN ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, Bill
will be writing these down as we go through them,
5 and after he's done -- after we're all done we can
make sure what he's written down agrees with what
6 you want in there, I guess. Is that right, Bill,
you're going to be writing them down?
7 MR. KNAUER: Yes. One thing, some
of the our councils have, because of the workload,
8 established some semblance of priority. First off,
the board is not entertaining any regulatory
9 changes to fish or shellfish currently, so all of
the councils thus far have elected to not make any
10 proposals related to fish because of that.
Secondly, most of the councils have
11 elected not to do anything with furbearers, because
currently it's a no determination status, which
12 means that the rural residents already have a
priority in there, and for most units there is not

13 a significant resource problem or competition.
14 Most of the councils have concentrated on the large
15 mammals and those of major importance to their
16 communities. You may do however you wish.

17 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Yes. As I said
18 earlier we're starting with black bear. My
19 understanding, and anybody on the council or here
20 on staff correct me if I'm wrong, I know black bear
21 is plentiful in 22(A). I'm not sure of their
22 availability anywhere else other than the eastern
23 portion of 22(B). I have not heard of any black
24 bear west of Isaak's Point (ph), so that's
25 basically what I'm looking at. Do you have any
black bear, Bill, up towards Shishmaref?

MR. BARR: No, we don't, but we have
a lot of brown bear.

SHELTON KATCHATAG: And have you
heard of any black bear over this way?

MS. MUKTOYUK: Brown bears.

SHELTON KATCHATAG: Over toward
Brevig?

MR. SEETOT: Not that I know of.

SHELTON KATCHATAG: Okay. So this
would be basically then just for 22(A) that we're
looking at now. And if you look on page 116 it
shows a map which shows 22(A) as being that

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1 district from just east of Kotlik all the way up to
2 and including the Ungalik River. And I know there
3 are black bear there because my brother just got
4 one last September.

5 Name of the -- name is the
6 federal -- Seward Peninsula Subsistence Advisory
7 Council. Do you have our mailing address? What
8 proposed regulation do you want to change? Do we
9 have to list chapter and verse of the regulations?
10 I know it's listed in here somewhere.

HELEN ARMSTRONG: We can fill all
the details in.

SHELTON KATCHATAG: Just for the
record, it would be black bear for Unit 22(A) under
hunting regulations. I would like customary and
traditional use determination. One of the things
that we had discussed with the board, the chairs
had discussed with the board, was that what we
would like to do with the C & T regulation is to
set them up so that in the future the C & T
regulation can be looked upon as a tool for use in
times of shortage.

I know Title 8 specifically states

13 that given proper management that we should never
reach that point, but we're all human, therefore we
cannot assume that that is what we can expect.

14 So I had told the board, and they
were amenable to it, correct me if I'm wrong, Bill,
15 was that what we wanted to do is C & T, was to list
customary and traditional users from the longest to
16 the shortest, and as a group of people, the
indigenous people who are members of the federally
17 recognized tribes are the longest customary and
traditional users. So I would like the C & T to
18 reflect that.

In 22(A), customary and traditional
19 use, those having the longest customary and
traditional use of black bear would be the members
20 of the federally recognized tribes of Shaktoolik,
Unalakleet, St. Michael and Stebbins. The next
21 longest group would be --

MR. KNAUER: Can you go a little
22 slower there and repeat those, please.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Shaktoolik,
23 Unalakleet, St. Michael, Stebbins. Each and every
one has an IRA council, is that not true, Ted?

MR. KATCHEAK: Yes.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: And they are all
24 Native villages.

MR. KATCHEAK: With one problem, I

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1 haven't seen a black bear yet, however we have many
brown bears. I guess for some reason they don't
2 like to come down.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Black bear don't
3 like to live where brown bears live because the
brown bears eat the black bear.

MR. DENTON: Black bear are
4 primarily restricted to areas that have timber,
because that's the only place -- if brown bears and
5 black bears compete with each other, that's the
only survival technique they have to escape from
6 brown bears is to climb a tree. That's where you
7 see where the large tundra area isn't black bear
habitat and timbered areas are. And that's
8 definitely how the distribution of black bear is in
22.

MR. KATCHEAK: Does that mean that
9 Stebbins would be excluded?

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Well --

MR. KATCHEAK: I know my wife's from
10 Holy Cross, and I see black bears in Holy Cross and
11 Anvik and Grayling because I travel all over that

12 area quite often, so I know what areas have black
13 bears.

13 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Let me ask the
14 staff. I don't think we're authorized to
15 sub-differentiate a subunit, are we, a
16 subdistrict? In other words, he's asking that we
17 split 22(A) and exclude St. Michael and Stebbins
18 because they don't have any black bear there.

16 HELEN ARMSTRONG: With C & T you can
17 do that because it's strictly going to be by
18 community.

18 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Do your people
19 have a history of using black bear in the past?

19 MR. KATCHEAK: Some have.
20 Occasionally one wanders, I guess, near Stebbins.

20 SHELTON KATCHATAG: I wouldn't want
21 to exclude them just as a matter of course. My
22 feeling would be, since they are already included
23 under the regulation as it stands now, I don't see
24 a problem with including them since they do have a
25 history of harvesting it in the past at some time.

23 You know, musk oxen they were saying
24 that we did not have C & T because we had not
25 harvested them in the recorded history portion of
26 time, so it all depends on who is recording.
27 That's why I wouldn't want to exclude Stebbins and
28 St. Michael arbitrarily. So if you don't have any
29 objection, I would rather leave them in the

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1 regulation.

2 MR. KATCHEAK: Yes, I have no
3 objection.

3 SHELTON KATCHATAG: As being a part
4 of 22(A). The regulations are very liberal
5 anyway. So we'll leave it that all the residents
6 of 22(A), first of all, being the membership of the
7 Native villages as listed. And would it be proper
8 to also include in the next group of people, and
9 you know, this is just a question for you, I would
10 like to include them as the next list, and those
11 are those that have been married or are married,
12 not have been, but those that are married to
13 members that are non-Natives or non-members.

8 HELEN ARMSTRONG: I think what we
9 need to do is remember that there are two processes
10 that happen. First there is C & T, which is much
11 more inclusive. And then if there is a shortage of
12 the resource then we do an 804 determination, and
13 at that point that's when the decisions get made as
14 to who has longest use of it, and so we don't

really need to put that in here at this point.

12 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay. One of
13 the things that I would like to point out that was
14 in the intent of congress but that didn't make it
15 in the definition of customary and traditional use,
16 if you look on page 269 of the legislative history,
17 congressional intent was that customary and
18 traditional is intended to place particular
19 emphasis on the protection and continuation of
20 taking of fish, wildlife and other renewable
21 resources in areas of, and by persons both Natives
and non-Natives resident in areas of Alaska in
which such uses have played a long-established and
important role in the economy and culture of the
community, and in which such uses incorporate
beliefs and customs which have been handed down by
word of mouth or example from generation to
generation. So this requires at least two
generations to qualify as a customary and
traditional use.

 HELEN ARMSTRONG: But we're not
22 doing it by individual, we're doing it by community
23 at this level. At this level we're doing it by
community.

 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Right. But
24 further down it also states: Sections 803 to 805
25 are intended to establish a dynamic process for the
regulation of subsistence resources and uses which
will enable rural people to participate in the

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1 decision-making process of the State rulemaking
2 authority in the inclusion of the local residency,
3 economic dependence and availability of alternative
4 resources factors into the definition of
5 subsistence uses on a case-by-case basis.

 HELEN ARMSTRONG: That's section
6 804.

 SHELDON KATCHATAG: That did not
7 make it into Title 8, but that is the intent.

 HELEN ARMSTRONG: It is, in Section
8 804, it is there in Title 8. It does become then
9 on a case-by-case basis for an 804 determination.
10 And so -- and we haven't -- we have not yet done a
true 804. I think you've heard some of those
discussions before, because every time we've had
that situation like with musk ox, there is a
limited amount available to people, and the
communities have chosen generally to do drawings
for those resources, but were we ever to truly
apply 804, that's the way we would do it. You're

11 absolutely right.
MR. KNAUER: What Helen is saying is
12 that currently we're not looking at the longest
resident, that would come out in a situation where
13 there would be a resource shortage, but what we're
looking at now is for you to identify the
14 communities or subunits as a whole where there has
been a history of C & T.
15 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay.
HELEN ARMSTRONG: And then if there
16 is a shortage, then we'll address those questions.
SHELDON KATCHATAG: Where are we?
17 We're looking at black bear for 22(A).
HELEN ARMSTRONG: Now I had a
18 question, did you want to do 22(B)?
MR. KOVACH: Because there are black
19 bear in 22(B).
HELEN ARMSTRONG: You mentioned
20 that.
SHELDON KATCHATAG: I think we
21 should include that portion of 22(B) wherever there
are black bear.
22 HELEN ARMSTRONG: Which is where, we
need to name the communities, I think.
23 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Do you have
black bear in White Mountain?
24 MR. BUCK: I haven't seen any.
SHELDON KATCHATAG: Have your people
25 ever talked about it?
MR. BUCK: Yeah, we have got one, I

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1 think. I don't know about Koyuk area.
MR. KOVACH: Koyuk would be the
2 closest black bears.
MR. BARR: Unalakleet?
3 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Unalakleet they
definitely have black bear.
4 HELEN ARMSTRONG: How about Elim?
SHELDON KATCHATAG: Elim. If they
5 have, it hasn't been in the recent past, but they
are opportunistic people. I'm sure if there was
6 some available they definitely would. But as far
as I know -- why don't we -- boy, I think we're
7 getting nitpicky.
FRED KATCHATAG: Why don't we forget
8 about black bear and talk about brown bear.
SHELDON KATCHATAG: We'll get to
9 them next.
FRED KATCHATAG: Nobody wants black
10 bear anyway.

11 MR. KOVACH: Mr. Chair, if I might
12 suggest. Some possible language might be for Unit
13 22(A), residents of Unit 22(A) and Unit 22(B)
14 residents, residents of 22(B), would that get us to
15 where you think we need to go.

16 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Yes. So we'll
17 do 22(A) and 22(B).

18 MR. SEETOT: I have traveled from
19 Brevig in the top portion of 22(B), and I think
20 that is potential habitat for black bear because of
21 the timber resources. Even though they might be
22 scattered just along the river banks, there is
23 potential for black bears to move westward if and
24 when something that needs to be -- or that needs to
25 happen. You have heard of musk ox migrating, and I
would think that any animal will migrate to forage
for food.

SHELTON KATCHATAG: Right, I agree
with you. So you would like residents of 22(D)
also?

MR. SEETOT: 22(B).

SHELTON KATCHATAG: 22(B)?

MR. SEETOT: Yes.

SHELTON KATCHATAG: So residents of
22(A) and 22(B) should have customary and
23 traditional use of black bear.

MR. KNAUER: For clarification
24 purposes then, for 22(C), (D) and (E), because
25 there are no black bear there, would you wish it to
read no subsistence?

SHELTON KATCHATAG: For the time

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1 being, and if in the future that resource shows up
2 in those areas, we can entertain a change proposal.

MR. KNAUER: Thank you.

SHELTON KATCHATAG: Any objection
3 from the council? Hearing none, it is so ordered.

Moving on to brown bear, and again
4 you will fill in the chapter and verse. We are on
5 still page 121, brown bear, rural residents of Unit
6 22 and, let's see, again, the name of the
7 regulation change proposers will be the SPSRAC.
8 The regulation we want to change is brown bear --
9 okay, that's already there. So brown bear, all
rural residents of Unit 22 have customary and
traditional use of brown bear.

When we get to subpart D we shall
look at changing the harvest limit on them. Moving
on to page 122 caribou.

MR. BARR: This is all we're going

10 to say about the brown bear.

11 SHELTON KATCHATAG: There is a
12 customary and traditional use. We'll get to
13 seasons and bag limits when we get to subpart D.
14 We're just on customary and traditional use.

15 Western Arctic caribou herd. It
16 shows that only residents, rural residents of Unit
17 22(A) and 22(B) have customary and traditional
18 use. Ms. Muktoyuk had brought up concerns with
19 regard to not only King Island Eskimos, but the
20 other residents of Nome and other communities in
21 Unit 22(C) hunting the Western Arctic caribou herd
22 over in the Granite Mountain/Kiwalik and monument
23 areas, and I would entertain a motion to include
24 residents of Unit 22(C), (D) and (E) as long as the
25 Western Arctic caribou herd remains in a healthy
population.

MS. MUKTOYUK: Mr. Chairman, I make
a motion to include 22(C), (D) and (E) as long as
there is a healthy population of Western Arctic
caribou.

SHELTON KATCHATAG: We have a motion
before us to include Units 22(C), (D) and (E) as
long as the Western Arctic caribou herd remains
healthy. Do I hear a second?

MR. SEETOT: Second.

SHELTON KATCHATAG: Discussion.

MR. KOVACH: Chair?

SHELTON KATCHATAG: Mr. Kovach.

MR. KOVACH: Just a quick reminder
to the council that we're no longer going to be
doing caribou by herd but by area, it will just be

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1 caribou in Unit 22, it won't be Western Arctic
2 or --

3 SHELTON KATCHATAG: If such time as
4 the Western Arctic caribou herd declines and does
5 not migrate into the area, then we shall revisit
6 the issue. This population is presently, in my
7 estimates, in excess of 500,000 animals, and they
8 are now in the process of migrating south past
9 Unalakleet, so they are healthy so -- Ms.
Armstrong.

HELEN ARMSTRONG: I have a question
for my information. Where are people hunting
caribou in Unit 22, especially for the (D), (C) and
(E)?

SHELTON KATCHATAG: They generally
go over here north and anywhere from due north of
Elim all the way to the Koyuk River, I believe.

10 MR. KOVACH: Is there any activities
in Unit 23 or Unit 21 by people?

11 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Not 21, I don't
12 think, that's a long haul. There is some really
steep mountainous areas in the hills, and there is
13 no need to go that far because the western portion
of the Western Arctic herd gets all the way between
Elim and Candle, Elim and Deering almost.

14 HELEN ARMSTRONG: People from 23
coming down into 22?

15 SHELTON KATCHATAG: They don't have
to. The herd migrate right through their backyard
so they don't have to travel down to 22 to hunt.

16 MR. KOVACH: Is anybody from 22
going into that piece of 23 that's on the north
17 half of the peninsula?

18 SHELTON KATCHATAG: I'm sure. I
have been in the headwaters of the Kiwalik River
myself. So we do migrate over that area to hunt
19 depending on where the animals are. The last two
years I've only had to go due north of Elim in the
20 Cape Darby Mountains and the eastern Bendeleben
Mountains to hunt. But I have been over as far as
21 Granite Mountain going through the Kiwalik River
area getting over into Bear Creek on, I believe
22 it's the Buckland River that has a Bear Creek.

23 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chairman, doing
our survey work in Deering this past spring there
was hunters from Shishmaref on their way back from
24 the Buckland River.

25 SHELTON KATCHATAG: There is a
history of customary and traditional use by
residents of 22(C), (D) and (E) of the caribou herd

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1 on the eastern peninsula.

2 HELEN ARMSTRONG: I have another
question for Ted. Do the people from Stebbins and
St. Mary go into 18 to hunt caribou?

3 MR. KATCHEAK: Ten, 15 miles from
Stebbins, so anywhere all the way down Kotlik.

4 HELEN ARMSTRONG: You do have an
existing C & T.

5 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Any further
discussions on the motion before us?

6 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Seetot. When you
tried to determine C & T, do you require
7 documentation of past use, because at the first
meeting I went to in Unalakleet I mentioned
8 something about caribou being used by our
ancestors, there is a huge pile of antler bones up

9 within our area, and I need to document that to
present to the regional advisory council.

10 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Yeah, we had
asked you.

11 MR. SEETOT: And I haven't been able
to get to that part of the country.

12 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Well, I don't
think -- we have not required paper documentation
13 of this, but if it is in the oral history of your
people and you have knowledge of where that harvest
14 occurs, I think that will suffice, correct me if
I'm wrong.

15 HELEN ARMSTRONG: It's been an issue
for something like musk ox when they haven't been
16 around, but for something like caribou, it's well
documented in the literature.

17 MR. SEETOT: Well, I think that
during the gold rush that people kind of depleted
18 the resource, or the animals moved away because of
the disturbance within that area, because there is
19 some good feed areas within Unit 22(D). We do have
to go into 22(B) and 23 to hunt caribou. This is a
20 one way trip hunt of 200 miles, and we have just
started hunting caribou within the past five
21 years. We know that Shishmaref goes all the way up
to and around Buckland to hunt caribou, so Brevig
22 might be a little closer to our areas that we hunt,
but this was a first time about three, four, five
23 years ago that we have started to hunt caribou.

24 HELEN ARMSTRONG: Thanks for that
information.

25 SHELTON KATCHATAG: A note for the
future, when ANWR funds start coming into the state
and federal government we will be petitioning for

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1 transplant of caribou into the western Seward
Peninsula.

2 MR. SEETOT: I think they
re-introduce reindeer at around Brevig Mission,
3 that they re-introduced musk ox around Brevig
Mission, and I'm not too sure what else they will
4 re-introduce into the Seward Peninsula via Brevig
Mission. We're open for suggestion.

5 SHELTON KATCHATAG: So at the moment
we are including Units 22(C) and (D) in this
6 motion, (C), (D) and (E) for customary and
traditional use of caribou. Any further discussion
7 on the motion before us?

8 MR. BUCK: Question.

8 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Has been

9 called. All those in favor of the motion to extend
10 customary and traditional use, or recognize
11 customary and traditional use of residents of Units
12 22(C) and (D) -- (C), (D) and (E) signify by saying
13 aye. All those opposed, nay.

14 (Unanimous)

15 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Motion passes
16 unanimously. We now move on to moose. Customary
17 and traditional use of rural residents of 22.

18 HELEN ARMSTRONG: Can I ask him a
19 question?

20 SHELDON KATCHATAG: We are in a
21 minute's recess.

22 (Off the record.)

23 HELEN ARMSTRONG: We'll do 23
24 later. I wanted to make sure that parts of Unit 22
25 that go up to 23, we get that in the record as
well, and maybe want to make a proposal because
we're going to be changing those determinations on
caribou, too. So that people who go from 22 to 23
still have C & T there.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Well, you know,
it's pretty hard to differentiate between
boundaries when you're out there hunting. We're
not there looking for boundaries we're looking for
caribou.

MR. KOVACH: We are just making sure
we are trying to cover all the areas that are used.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: I don't like to
step on the Northwest Arctic people's toes, so I
generally try to stay out of their official
backyard. Any further discussion on caribou?
Hearing none, we have adopted a recognized
customary and traditional use for 22(C), (D) and
(E). And at this time I'd like to welcome Mr.

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1 Darril Trigg to our council session. Mr. Darril
2 Trigg, do you have a word or two?

3 MR. TRIGG: Well, I don't know, the
4 only word I have is we need more advertisement
5 because I didn't know anything about this meeting
6 until the day it happened.

7 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Well, I don't
know how much bigger an advertisement we can have.
Our coordinator has been putting us in the Nugget.

MR. TRIGG: The Nugget came out
yesterday.

MR. TRIGG: It was there
before.

MR. TRIGG: I didn't see it.

8 Somebody told me they heard it on the radio, but I
9 don't listen to the radio. I go to church, and
10 don't listen to the radio. Is there any way to get
11 on a mailing list what's happening here?

12 BARB ARMSTRONG: Yes, what's your
13 box number?

14 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Speak to the
15 regional coordinator and please sign in on the sign
16 in sheet which Ms. Morkill is handing you. Welcome
17 to our meeting, Mr. Trigg.

18 Moving on to moose. Present
19 customary and traditional use shows -- recognizes
20 the customary and traditional uses of rural
21 residents of Unit 22. Personally I have no desire
22 to change that. Any comment from the council? Ask
23 unanimous consent to leave moose the way it is.
24 Hearing no action, so moved.

25 We now move on to musk ox. Even
26 though there is not a population large enough to
27 provide a sustained yield at the present time in
28 Unit 22(A), by an oversight we left them from the
29 customary and traditional use, that determination
30 which we had sought last year for residents of Unit
31 22(B), (C), (D) and (E). At this time I would like
32 to remedy that issue and seek positive customary
33 and traditional use determinations for Units 22(A)
34 for future harvest, and I would entertain a motion
35 to that effect.

MR. SEETOT: So moved.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: We have a motion
before us to recognize customary and traditional
use of residents of Unit of 22(A) for future
reference. Do I hear a second?

MR. BUCK: Second.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Discussion.

MR. BUCK: Question.

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1 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Question has
2 been called. All those in favor of recognizing the
3 customary and traditional use of musk ox by the
4 residents of Unit 22(A) signify by saying aye. All
5 those opposed, nay.

(Unanimous)

6 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Motion passes
7 unanimously.

8 We now move on to coyote, and it has
9 no determination. So anybody, any rural resident
10 in the state is allowed to hunt coyote in Unit 22,
11 even though there is no -- even though the federal
12 public lands aren't closed to taking of coyotes and

8 there is no open season? What is the wish of the
9 council with respect to coyote, customary and
10 traditional use determination? Shall we leave as
11 is?

FRED KATCHATAG: Leave it as it is.

12 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Seek and ask
13 unanimous consent to leave coyote as is. Hearing
14 no objection, so ruled.

15 Now move on to fox, Arctic fox,
16 red. I would entertain a motion to consider both
17 at this time. The Arctic fox includes the blue and
18 white phase, the red fox includes the cross, black
19 and silver phase. At present time we have no
20 determination. What is the wish of the council?

21 You know and I know that our
22 ancestors have used any animal like that for either
23 clothing and/or trim, so chair would entertain a
24 motion to have customary and traditional use of fox
25 Arctic and fox red for all residents of Unit 22.

MR. BUCK: So moved.

SHELTON KATCHATAG: We have a motion
before us to that effect. Second.

MS. MUKTOYUK: Second.

SHELTON KATCHATAG: Discussion.

MR. BARR: Question.

SHELTON KATCHATAG: Question has
been called. All those in favor of recognizing
customary and traditional use of fox red and fox
Arctic by all residents of Unit 22 signify by
saying aye. All those opposed, nay.

(Unanimous)

SHELTON KATCHATAG: Motion passes
unanimously.

24 We now move on to hare, snowshoe and
25 tundra. Present regulations lists no
determination. I would entertain a motion to
recognize the customary and traditional use of

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1 hare, snowshoe and tundra, by all residents of Unit
2 22.

MR. KATCHEAK: I so move.

3 SHELTON KATCHATAG: We have a motion
4 before us to that effect. Do I hear a second.

MS. MUKTOYUK: Second.

5 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Discussion.

MR. BUCK: Question.

6 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Question has
been called. All those in favor of recognizing
customary and traditional use of hare, snowshoe and
tundra, signify by saying aye. All those opposed,

7 nay.

(Unanimous).

8 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Motion passes
9 unaniously.

10 We now move on to lynx which has no
11 determination. Chair would entertain a motion to
12 recognize customary and traditional use of
13 residents of Unit 22(A), 22(B), I'm not sure if
14 they occur in 22(C), (D) or (E), and I would ask if
15 anybody knows if they occur in those two districts,
16 or three subdistricts.

17 MR. SEETOT: 22(D) does occasionally
18 get -- occasionally taking of lynx.

19 SHELDON KATCHATAG: So I would
20 include 22(D).

21 MR. OLANNA: 22(E), has there been
22 any lynx up there?

23 MR. BARR: They come up once in a
24 while.

25 SHELDON KATCHATAG: 22(A), (B), (D)
and (E). Any sign of lynx in 22(C), Loretta.

MS. MUKTOYUK: I don't know.

MR. BARR: When the days get longer.

MR. BUCK: They do come down.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Let's get them
all. 22(A), (B), (C), (D) and (E). Chair would
entertain a motion to recognize customary and
traditional use of lynx in Unit 22, period.

MR. KATCHEAK: So moved.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: We've a motion.
Do I hear a second?

MR. BUCK: Second.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Seconded and
discussion.

MR. BARR: Question.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Question has
been called. All those in favor of the motion
before us to recognize customary and traditional

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1 use of lynx in 22 signify by saying aye. All those
2 opposed say, nay.

(Unanimous)

3 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Motion passes
4 unaniously.

5 Wolf. It currently shows that all
6 rural residents of Units 6, 9, 10, Unimak Island
only, 11 to 13 and the residents of Chickaloon and
16 to 26 have customary and traditional use
determination. The chair would entertain a motion
to recognize customary and traditional use of wolf

7 by the residents of Unit 22, period, and change all
of that to residents of Unit 22.
MR. BUCK: So moved.
8 SHELDON KATCHATAG: We have a motion
before us. Second.
9 MR. BARR: Second.
SHELDON KATCHATAG: Seconded.
10 Discussion.
MS. MUKTOYUK: Question.
11 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Question has
been called. All those in favor of recognizing
12 customary and traditional use of wolf by the rural
residents of Unit 22 signify by saying aye. All
13 those opposed, nay.
(Unanimous)
14 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Motion passes
unanimously.
15 Wolverine shows no determination of
customary and traditional use. Chair would
16 entertain a motion to recognize customary and
traditional use of wolverine by residents of Units
17 22(A), (B), (C), (D) and (E).
MS. MUKTOYUK: So moved.
18 SHELDON KATCHATAG: We have a motion
before us. Do I hear a second?
19 MR. SEETOT: Second.
SHELDON KATCHATAG: Discussion.
20 FRED KATCHATAG: Question.
SHELDON KATCHATAG: Question has
21 been called. All those in favor of the motion to
recognize customary and traditional use by all
22 rural residents of Unit 22 signify by saying aye.
All those opposed, nay.
23 (Unanimous)
SHELDON KATCHATAG: Motion passes
24 unanimously.
Grouse and ptarmigan, the chair
25 would entertain a motion to recognize the customary
and traditional use of both species by rural

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1 residents of Unit 22.
MR. BARR: So moved.
2 SHELDON KATCHATAG: We have a motion
before us. Do I hear a second?
3 MR. BUCK: Second.
SHELDON KATCHATAG: Seconded.
4 Discussion.
FRED KATCHATAG: Question.
5 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Question has
been call. All those in favor of recognizing the

6 customary and traditional use all species of grouse
7 and all species of ptarmigan by the rural residents
8 of 22 signify by saying aye. All those opposed,
9 nay.

8 (Unanimous)
SHELDON KATCHATAG: Motion passes
9 unanimously.

10 Any further customary and
11 traditional use of any species that we have omitted
12 in Unit 22?

11 MR. KATCHEAK: There are limited
12 harvests of ground squirrels in St. Michael area.

12 SHELDON KATCHATAG: I think in most
13 of 22.

13 MR. KATCHEAK: I would like to see
14 ground squirrels in all the subunits of 22.

14 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Are you making a
15 motion?

15 MR. KATCHEAK: Yes, I am.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: We have a motion
16 before us to include to recognize customary and
17 traditional use of ground squirrels, both hunting
18 and trapping, by all rural residents of Unit 22.
19 Do I hear a second?

18 FRED KATCHATAG: Second.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Discussion.

19 MR. BARR: The whole 22?

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Right.

20 MR. BUCK: Question.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Question has
21 been called. All those in favor recognizing
22 customary and traditional use of ground squirrel in
23 Unit 22 by rural residents of 22 signify by saying
24 aye. All those opposed, nay.

23 (Unanimous)
SHELDON KATCHATAG: Motion passes
24 unanimously.

25 I think the chair would entertain a
motion to recognize a customary and traditional use
by rural residents of Unit 22 of beaver, mink and

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1 marten, in both the hunting and trapping
2 regulations.

2 MR. KNAUER: Do you wish to include
weasel, muskrat and otter in there also?

3 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Yes. Let's do
4 them all, let's do beaver, mink, marten, muskrat,
5 otter and what?

5 MR. KNAUER: Ermine, weasel.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Ermine and

6 weasel, they are one species, depends on the time
of the year that you get them. And these are both
for hunting and trapping.

7 FRED KATCHATAG: So moved.

8 SHELDON KATCHATAG: We have a motion
before us to recognize customary and traditional
use of those species listed by all rural residents
of Unit 22. Do I hear a second?

9 FRED KATCHATAG: Second.

10 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Seconded.
Discussion.

11 MR. BUCK: Question.

12 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Question has
been called. All those in favor of recognizing
customary and traditional use by rural residents of
Unit 22 of those species listed signify by saying
aye. All those opposed, nay.

14 (Unanimous)

15 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Motion passes
unanimously.

16 HELEN ARMSTRONG: If you turn to
page 17 of your book and at the very top of the
page it says: Subsistence taking of unclassified
wildlife, all squirrel species and marmots is
allowed in all units without harvest limits.

18 So we probably don't need to do
anything with ground squirrels because of that
regulation. Kind of covers everything. I guess
they don't -- they don't classify it so they don't
care about it.

21 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Does the council
wish to change its motion, or do you wish to leave
ground squirrels in --

22 HELEN ARMSTRONG: You can leave it
in, but the board will respond by saying we didn't
address that proposal because it's already taken
care of.

24 SHELDON KATCHATAG: We'll leave it
as is. Any other hunting species that we need to
recognize?

MS. MUKTOYUK: Recognize the

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1 wolverine?

SHELDON KATCHATAG: We did

2 wolverine.

3 MS. MUKTOYUK: Okay, I didn't hear
you.

4 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Moving on to
trapping regulations.

MR. KNAUER: That would be -- all of

5 those C & Ts would be covered by the actions you
just took. You took it for a species.

6 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Okay. Save you
some work. So all those determinations for hunting
7 would apply to trapping?

8 MR. KNAUER: Yes.

9 SHELTON KATCHATAG: It is so
recognized. So that covers our subpart C, does it
not?

10 HELEN ARMSTRONG: Before we move on,
could we -- could I ask the council to prioritize
11 which of these are the most important that you
absolutely want dealt with this year?

12 SHELTON KATCHATAG: You could ask.

13 HELEN ARMSTRONG: Because in all
honesty, what will happen is if you don't
14 prioritize it we will, and I'd rather that you did
it, because we may not be able to get to all of
these. I will do my very best, I promise you.

15 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Just looking at
the regulations I would say our priorities, and
16 councilmen and women please correct me if I'm
wrong, I would say that our priorities are to
caribou, the moose.

17 HELEN ARMSTRONG: We don't have a
moose proposal.

18 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Okay. Caribou,
musk ox, the hare, the beaver, the grouse,
19 ptarmigan, all the food animals first. The
furbearers next. Include the black bear among the
20 food. Black bear, caribou, musk ox, hare, all
species of grouse and ptarmigan, beaver.

21 HELEN ARMSTRONG: Okay, that's fine.

22 MR. TRIGG: Mr. Chairman, I got a
question here.

23 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Mr. Trigg.

24 MR. TRIGG: When you begin
mentioning these species, and you say moose, she
said you didn't have moose before. You didn't have
moose before when?

25 SHELTON KATCHATAG: It already has a
customary and traditional use determination.

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1 HELEN ARMSTRONG: I said they didn't
have a proposal for it.

2 SHELTON KATCHATAG: But the
furbearers should be a very close second. Does
3 that answer your question?

4 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chairman, I'd
like to include on that list of priorities, I've

eaten lynx before.

5 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Please add
lynx. They are very white meated. Looks almost
6 like chicken.

7 MS. MUKTOYUK: Mr. Chairman, when
Ted talks, could he speak a little louder.

8 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Ted, you have to
speak a little louder the next time.

9 MR. KATCHEAK: Yes, I will.

10 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Looking at the
lateness of the hour, I think we --

11 HELEN ARMSTRONG: If you want to
just get done with C & T before you go, if I could
12 just -- let's do Unit 23 caribou. I just want to
make sure that when we do Unit 23 caribou that we
13 include whoever needs to be included, who goes up
into that unit. So if I could just direct you to
that.

14 SHELDON KATCHATAG: With all due
deference for the Northwest Arctic Regional
15 Advisory Council we shall consider encroachment,
no, strike that -- at the request of staff, we
would like to consider Unit 23 caribou herd, I mean
16 Unit 23 caribou due to the fact that some of the
residents that we represent do hit the southeast
17 portion of their hunting area on the Seward
Peninsula.

18 Just from experience I would request
a customary and traditional use, and I would
19 entertain a motion for residents of Units 22(B),
(C), (D) and (E) for customary and traditional use
20 of caribou within the southern portion of the Unit
23 on the Seward Peninsula.

21 HELEN ARMSTRONG: Can you give me a
better description of southern portion so I know
22 what boundaries.

23 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Anywhere south
of the villages of Deering and Buckland and
probably west of the Buckland River, because --

24 HELEN ARMSTRONG: That's fine.

25 MR. OLANNA: Mr. Chairman, does that
include Selawik Lake?

 SHELDON KATCHATAG: By golly, no, it

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1 doesn't. Do you people hunt up that way?

2 MR. OLANNA: When the caribou are
migrating at different times, there might be times
3 when guys will take -- like the people from
Buckland will.

 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Well, the people

4 of Buckland, that's no problem.

5 MR. OLANNA: And Shishmaref, but I'm
6 talking about taking people all the way over, isn't
7 that right, Bill?

8 MR. BARR: Yeah.

9 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Why don't we say
10 that portion of Unit 23 south of the Arctic Circle,
11 close enough, that includes part of Selawik Lake,
12 okay.

13 HELEN ARMSTRONG: Thank you.

14 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Does that
15 satisfy you, Mr. Barr?

16 MR. BARR: Uh-huh.

17 HELEN ARMSTRONG: Then over lunch,
18 if people will think about it, is there anywhere
19 else in any of the units outside of 22 that people
20 go hunting, to make sure we don't leave out, for
21 any resource. We've got 18, the people of Stebbins
22 and St. Michaels go into 18 for caribou, do they go
23 in there for anything else?

24 MR. KATCHEAK: We go down to almost
25 all the way to Anvik River to hunt, trap marten or
26 hunt moose.

27 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Or wolf.

28 MR. KATCHEAK: Or wolf and --

29 SHELDON KATCHATAG: I would like to
30 include residents of 22(B) and (A) as customary
31 traditional users of wolf in the southern portion
32 of Unit 23 and also the western portion of, what's
33 that eastern interior, 21? Okay, 21 -- not
34 necessarily (A), I think it's (D).

35 MR. KNAUER: Mr. Chairman, because
36 of the way the wolf situation is printed right now,
37 you folks already have C & T in that unit.

38 MS. ARMSTRONG: But I don't know,
39 because I didn't go to the meetings. If Unit 21 is
40 addressing that then --

41 MR. KNAUER: No.

42 HELEN ARMSTRONG: They are not. You
43 probably don't need to worry about it at this
44 point.

45 SHELDON KATCHATAG: See, because
46 like I said earlier about caribou, when the hunters
47 are after wolves they are after wolves, they are

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1 not worrying about where the chase takes them. So
2 that's why I wanted to include them in 23 and 21,
3 21(D) I think it is. That portion of 21(D) I would
4 say west of the Yukon River, I guess. Generally
5 they will go back and forth on the divide.

4 MR. TRIGG: I think if Fish & Game
is going to set limits on where you can go hunt,
5 they should set limits on where the caribou go,
too, and wolves. If you say we can only hunt here,
then keep our game only here.

6 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Any other
species? Hearing none, let's break for lunch and
7 be back here at 1:30.

(Lunch recess.)

8 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Call the meeting
back to order. We have done the C & T, part C.
9 Let us now look at subpart D, seasons and bag
limits. Page 121. Beginning on 121. We'll just
10 go right down through them, and we'll stop as we
run into a season or bag limit we wish to change.

11 Starting with black bear, at the
present time harvest limit is three bears. Open
12 season July 1 through June 30th, that means year
round. Any desire by the council to change the
13 season or the bag limit for black bear? Hearing
none, seek and ask unanimous consent to leave black
14 bear as is. No objection, so ruled.

Now comes the fun one, ladies and
15 gentlemen. Brown bear. Current harvest limit is
shown as Unit 22(C), one bear every four regulatory
16 years. Season September 1 to October 31, May 10 to
May 25. Remainder of Unit 22, one bear every four
17 regulatory years, September 1 to October 31, April
15 to May 25.

18 The chair would entertain a motion
to change the harvest limit from one every four
19 regulatory years to one every year. Justification
being that one bear every four regulatory years is
20 an arbitrary and artificial limitation on the
harvest of the resource by customary and
21 traditional users.

MR. BUCK: So moved.

22 SHELDON KATCHATAG: We have a motion
before us to change the harvest limit for brown
23 bear in Unit 22. Do we want to keep the two limits
the same? There is one for 22(C) and one for the
24 rest of 22(A), (B) and (D) and (E).

MR. BUCK: Motion just for Unit 22.

25 SHELDON KATCHATAG: So you -- Mr.
Knauer.

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1 MR. KNAUER: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.
Any time you do have a situation where the seasons
2 and limits are the same, we just administratively
take care of the consolidation for clarity.

3 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Okay.
MR. BARR: Did we second that
4 motion?
SHELTON KATCHATAG: I was waiting
5 for a second.
MR. BARR: I second the motion.
6 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Discussion.
MR. BARR: Mr. Chairman these bears
7 are becoming a nuisance in our area because there
is so many of them now, and everywhere you turn you
8 seem like you see a bear all the time.
SHELTON KATCHATAG: Mr. Barr, before
9 we get into the nuisance factor of the bears, I
think we should save that for the DLP, defense of
10 life and property, and let's concentrate on the
harvest limit right now, okay. And then the next
11 issue, and I think we were asked to discuss that by
the board, were we not, the defense of life and
12 property?
MR. KOVACH: Not yet.
13 HELEN ARMSTRONG: Yeah, we
haven't -- the board hasn't gotten to a point yet
14 of knowing what they are going to do with it. It's
still with the staff committee.
15 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chairman?
SHELTON KATCHATAG: Mr. Katcheak.
16 MR. KATCHEAK: Comment on the open
seasons. During the summer between -- or the
17 spring from April to August, that's when the guided
game hunts are allowed, and I was wondering, they
18 only show where the May and September one and
October. There is bear all summer long, and the
19 guided game hunts are happening. That's why I
said, you said in St. Michael and Stebbins, and
20 these are between, as I said, April to September.
SHELTON KATCHATAG: Let me check the
21 state hunting regulations.
MR. KNAUER: Page 90. Unit 22,
22 brown bear, Unit 22(A) residents and non-resident
one bear every four years, they have the same
23 seasons. So they shouldn't be hunting between May
25th and August 31st.
24 MR. KATCHEAK: I should say they
should be hunting from May 25 to August, that's
25 when they are around. The rest of the year we
don't see them. They go out and hibernate. Right

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1 now the bears are out until October, they are still
around until October.
2 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Are you saying

you want it open?

3 MR. KATCHEAK: Yes.

4 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Let's do the
harvest limit first, and then we'll do the season,
or is that too much paperwork?

5 MR. KOVACH: We'll combine them.

6 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Knauer.

7 MR. KNAUER: Yes, the council should
be aware that the federal subsistence regulations
do require that any bear harvested under federal
regulations require the salvage and use of meat,
8 because -- and that was derived because of the
provisions in ANILCA that require the non-wasteful
9 use.

MS. MUKTOYUK: Mr. Chairman?

10 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Ms. Muktoyuk.

11 MS. MUKTOYUK: Why, if you look
under the black bear, is there three, and the brown
bear one, what was the rationale behind that?

12 MR. KOVACH: Generally, this is a
very old regulation that we adopted from the state
13 in 1990. But generally where you find bears there
are more black bears per unit of area than there
14 are brown bears, they generally have a higher rate
of productivity, and you are generally capable of
15 harvesting more bears out of -- black bear from a
population than you are from brown bears.

16 On average a black bear begins
reproducing at four years of age and has a litter
17 basically every other year. Brown bears, what
we're learning in this part of the world, don't
18 starting breeding until they are seven or eight or
nine years of age and are having litters once every
19 four years basically, and the difference in
productivity is the reasons why you have a
20 difference.

21 SHELDON KATCHATAG: I think it's
reversed in this neck of the woods because we have
more brown bears than black bears.

22 MR. KOVACH: The habitat here is
more typical of brown bear than it is for black
23 bears. As Jeff was explaining this morning, black
bears are typically found in areas associated with
24 trees, more so spruce trees than others, but
generally in tree areas. And as you noted this
25 morning, brown bears will eat black bears, and
generally you don't find the two co-existing in the

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1 same area. But when you have tundra type brown,
like you have here on the Peninsula, you're almost

2 always going to find exclusively brown bears.
Every now and then you'll find a young black bear
3 that's been kicked out by mom and wandering around
trying to figure out which way is up and he'll get
4 chased by everybody that's bigger than he is, so
that's generally why the difference.

5 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Any further
discussions on harvest limit of brown bear?

6 MR. SEETOT: Was there something
this morning that you mentioned about RFR for brown
7 bear concerning evidence of use or something like
that?

8 MR. KOVACH: No, there wasn't --

9 SHELTON KATCHATAG: No, it was moose
and musk ox.

10 MR. KOVACH: Moose and musk ox.
Yesterday we talked a little bit about the brown
bear proposal the council submitted last year, and
11 the board remanded that back to staff for some
additional work. That's probably what you're
12 remembering.

13 MR. SEETOT: Right, that's it.

14 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Any further
discussion on the proposed regulation change to
change the harvest limit on brown bear for rural
residents of Unit 22 from one bear every four
15 regulatory years to one bear every year?
Justification being that this is an arbitrary and
16 artificial limitation on the harvest of brown bears
which do have a customary and traditional use, and
17 that it's not a custom or a practice among the
people here to artificially limit themselves to
18 such thing as one every four years. Any further
discussion?

19 MR. BARR: Question.

20 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Question has
been called. All those in favor of the change to
change the harvest limit on brown bear for
21 customary and traditional users of Unit 22 from one
bear every four regulatory years to one bear every
22 year signify by saying aye. All those opposed,
nay.

23 (Unanimous)

24 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Motion passes
unanimously. Mr. Katcheak, would you make a motion
as to season and justify it, please.

25 MR. KATCHEAK: I move that the
season opens April 15 to October 31, and this is

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1 because the bears are present at that time, and I

2 guess that's because they are available during
those months between those periods.

MR. BARR: Second.

3 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Staff, could you
4 give us an explanation on why there is a break
between May 25 and September 1 on the season. For
5 the purposes of procedure, Mr. Barr has seconded
the motion by Mr. Katcheak. We're into
6 discussion. Mr. Kovach.

MR. BUCK: I have a discussion on
7 that, in the White Mountain --

SHELTON KATCHATAG: I was asking a
8 question. I'll get right back to you, Pete. Go
ahead Mr. Kovach.

MR. KOVACH: I can't explain the
9 exact dates why it's May 25 instead of May 31, I'll
start with that, but generally the standard
10 practices for the management of brown bears
throughout North America is that seasons have
11 typically been limited to spring and fall when
bears are in their better, or best physical
12 condition.

Much of the breeding activities for
13 bears begins in the latter part of May extending
through the good part of June, so there has been
14 some concern in some areas, especially where paw
populations are more depleted or something like
15 that about disturbance of bears during breeding
activities.

Typically the males come out of
16 their dens first in the springtime, and then
females, who, for one reason or another, lost the
17 litter the year before. Females with litters come
out last of their dens.

In the springtime, predominantly
18 males are harvested, that's why -- that was the
other reason for closing seasons somewhere around
19 the end of May, to provide more protection to
females with young.

As the summer progresses, typically
20 females become much more susceptible to harvest,
because the productivity of brown bears is so low
21 there has been extreme emphasis to protect females
as much as possible. So typically you will
22 virtually never see a harvest season over the
summertime period.

September has been kind of sort of
23 the traditional restart-up time for harvesting and
whatnot. Experience over a number of years over a

1 wide portion of North America has lead wildlife
2 managers to conclude that's the best way to provide
3 a maximum amount of opportunity while providing a
4 level of protection necessary to females, in
5 particular, to sustain a population.

6 Typically this varies from
7 population to population, but typically you can
8 only take about two percent of the females out of
9 the population on an annual basis without adversely
10 affecting the population. So you can take a very
11 small percentage. If you take much more than that
12 it only takes a couple years before you drive that
13 population into an unhealthy population.

14 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Speaking of
15 population, that's one thing I've yet to hear, is
16 the populations of brown bears within all of Unit
17 22 and broken down by subunit. Do we have that
18 information?

19 MR. KOVACH: Yes, we do. Department
20 of Fish & Game did an analysis and report on that,
21 I believe that report is about a year-and-a-half
22 old now. Do you remember the date of that report
23 that Sterling did on the statewide analysis? Is
24 that about a year-and-a-half ago.

25 MR. MACHIDA: About two years old.

MR. KOVACH: But that does provide
an estimate of the bear population by subunit
within 22?

SHELTON KATCHATAG: Do we have that
available?

MR. KOVACH: I don't have it with
me. I have it in my office, I could send that to
you if you'd like, but I don't know the numbers off
the top of my head.

SHELTON KATCHATAG: But overall to
your recollection are these populations relatively
healthy?

MR. KOVACH: Based upon the last
discussions I had with bear researchers with the
Alaska Department of Fish & Game and Steve Machida,
those people felt the populations on the Seward
Peninsula were about where they should be in
relation to habitat quality that is found here in
relation to the relative abundant fish resources
and forage resources.

SHELTON KATCHATAG: How often do
they survey the bears?

MR. KOVACH: Bears are not a regular
survey species. To just get an estimate of
population of bears, takes three to four years of

1 work.

2 SHELTON KATCHATAG: The reason that
3 I ask this is because in speaking with everybody
4 within this region, all of Unit 22, I've run into
5 the same complaint by virtually everybody that
6 discusses bears, that the bear population is
7 artificially high. And the problem I have is with
8 Fish & Game coming out and saying that they are at
9 the optimum number, when from the perspective of
10 the people that have to live with these wild
11 animals in their backyards and around their camps,
12 that these numbers are artificially high due to
13 non-hunting over the years and by this artificial
14 regulation requiring only one every four years. So
15 that's why I was asking about not only the
16 population, but also how often these things are
17 surveyed.

18 MR. KOVACH: We have an answer for
19 your estimated population sizes by subunit.
20 Starting with A, 22(A), estimated number of bears
21 is 206 to 292. For 22(B) it's 282 to 373.

22 SHELTON KATCHATAG: 282 to 373?

23 MR. KOVACH: Uh-huh. For 22(C) is
24 74 to 88.

25 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Okay.

MR. KOVACH: For 22(D) it's 198 to
224.

SHELTON KATCHATAG: Okay.

MR. KOVACH: For 22(E) it's 98 to
108.

SHELTON KATCHATAG: That's a chunk
of bears.

MR. KOVACH: The density of bears,
when you look at number -- how many square miles of
area per bear, it is, for subunits (B) and (C), it
is a little bit higher than what you would
typically find in the Interior.

For subunit (A) it's pretty close to
what you would find in the Interior, and for
subunits (D) and (E) it's actually fewer bears per
square mile than what you would find in the
Interior if you want a relative comparison.

SHELTON KATCHATAG: So according to
your estimates, in all of Unit 22 we have anywhere
between 938 and 1,085 bears as of two years ago.

MR. KOVACH: I haven't done the
math, but I'll take your word for it.

SHELTON KATCHATAG: That's my word
for it. So that's a healthy number of bears given
that we have what, 8,000 some odd residents in the

1 region. So we got about eight people per bear on
2 the high end. That's a lot of bears. No wonder
3 we're having complaints.

MR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman?

4 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Wait. Mr.
5 Katcheak.

6 MR. KATCHEAK: Make a comment.
7 Customary and traditional practice in my going out
8 between Stebbins and visiting the old people, has
9 always been the customary and traditional use to
10 leave those cow or --

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Sow.

11 MR. KATCHEAK: Cow. Sow and cubs
12 alone. I was told that a sow shouldn't be killed
13 because cubs, they would be orphaned and probably
14 starve, so it's always been our practice, probably
15 our conservation, our way of conserving the bear
16 even though we have always had problems. So there
17 is a customary and traditional practice.

18 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Mr.
19 Katcheak.

MR. BUCK: Chair?

20 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Buck, I'm
21 sorry.

22 MR. BUCK: I just want to comment on
23 what Ted said about the season between May and
24 September. Usually around the latter part of June,
25 first part of July is when the time we go out
camping to subsistence fish. That's usually about
the time you have a problem with the bears.

26 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Before you get
27 too far into that, what you're talking about is
28 defense of life and property issues, and we will be
29 discussing that after we get done with customary
30 and traditional use and the bag limit. We've done
31 the bag limit, we're on the season now.

32 MR. BUCK: I just wanted to mention
33 that.

34 SHELDON KATCHATAG: I understand
35 that, but, see, the problem we had with getting the
36 board to approve the change proposal that's in the
37 books now was that it was mixing customary and
38 traditional use with defense of life and property
39 issues, and as the regulations stand now they
40 specifically exclude defense of life and property
41 as being subsistence, so that's why I wanted to
42 make sure we didn't mix defense of life and
43 property and customary and traditional use. And as
44 a matter of discussion, Ted, Steve here has brought
45 up the recognized conservation principle of leaving

1 the bears alone between the end of May
2 approximately when they probably start mating, and
3 to the end of August, leaving them alone in that
4 period because they are either mating and/or into
5 fish so that their meat is not very good anyway,
6 not to mention their fur.

7 FRED KATCHATAG: What if they are
8 bothering your property?

9 SHELDON KATCHATAG: That's defense
10 of life and property. That's a different issue
11 which is regulated by the Department of Fish &
12 Game.

13 FRED KATCHATAG: Even if they wreck
14 your property?

15 SHELDON KATCHATAG: No, it's okay to
16 go ahead and kill them if they are wrecking your
17 property, but then you have to gut and dress the
18 animal, skin it and bring the meat and the hide to
19 the Department of Fish & Game.

20 MR. KNAUER: Just the hide, the hide
21 and the skull.

22 HELEN ARMSTRONG: You get to keep
23 the meat.

24 SHELDON KATCHATAG: You can kill
25 them, but you have to do the reports and you have
to do the paperwork. Anybody here from Fish & Game
familiar with the paperwork for DLP killing of
bears.

MR. MACHIDA: Just a one page form
outlining the circumstances.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Can we get a
copy of that today?

MR. MACHIDA: Do you want it today?

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Yeah, I'd like
to give the council members each a copy of it so
they know what's required of it.

MR. MACHIDA: I'll try to find one.

MR. KATCHEAK: There is another one,
information in talking with the Yukon Fish &
Wildlife Refuge, they said that there is a large
denning area south at the waters of south of
Selawik, how big that area, according to him,
that's a big denning area, and I'm thinking that's
the reason the population's really high based on a
couple years' estimate. So we would have to
consider those things, too.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: In discussion,
and this really doesn't have anything to do with
seasons, but in years when there have been a lot of
walruses caught, that seems to accelerate the

1 growth of the populations, because the bears will
2 claim those carcasses. Once they wash up on the
3 beach, they belong to the bear and they will eat
4 everything but the hide, and I mean they get huge
5 on that walrus meat, they got some big bears. And,
6 you know, everybody says it's wrong to head hunt,
7 but it sure makes those bears big and fat. Just a
8 matter for discussion.

9 Any further discussion on the
10 season? As a maker of the motion, Ted, I would ask
11 you to justify changing the season as it stands
12 now. They won't just allow us to change the
13 seasons just because we, as a council, decide that
14 it should be changed. We're required under Title 8
15 of ANILCA to provide substantial evidence as to why
16 we want these regulations changed. We have changed
17 the harvest limit from one every four years -- or
18 we have proposed a change to change it to one every
19 year, and now we have to justify your motion to
20 change the season. And Mr. Kovach has explained
21 that it is a North American continent-wide
22 recognized principle of brown bear management to
23 leave them alone between the end of May and the end
24 of August, so you're wanting to change it to make
25 the season from April 15th to October 31st, but
then we're running afoul of this continent-wide
recognized principle of brown bear management.

MR. KATCHEAK: After hearing those
facts, I will withdraw my motion.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: You also have to
get agreement from the seconder of your motion. So
both the maker of the motion and the second have
withdrawn.

MR. KATCHEAK: Yes.

MR. BARR: Yes.

FRED KATCHATAG: I would like to
know how many of them trophy hunters are allowed to
get, trophy hunters, how many of them are they
allowed to kill.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: One every four
years. Is there a quota on Unit 22?

MR. KOVACH: I'm not aware of any.
Steve, is there a quota?

MR. MACHIDA: There is for
non-residents, ten a year.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Just for 22(C).

MR. MACHIDA: For 22(B) through (E)
it's ten.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: For 22(B)?

MR. MACHIDA: (B) through (E).

1 SHELDON KATCHATAG: (B), (C), (E)?
2 MR. MACHIDA: (B), (C), (D), (E),
3 it's ten a year, the quota.
4 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Ten per year?
5 MR. MACHIDA: No, ten per season.
6 SHELDON KATCHATAG: You're talking
7 four units, (B), (C), (D), (E).
8 MR. MACHIDA: Yes.
9 SHELDON KATCHATAG: So you're
10 talking 40 bear quota for sport and trophy?
11 MR. MACHIDA: No, ten total for all
12 four subunits.
13 MR. KNAUER: For non-residents.
14 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Is there a quota
15 for residents?
16 MR. MACHIDA: No.
17 SHELDON KATCHATAG: So if there is
18 no quota for residents, then I don't understand how
19 they can make the one every four years stick. That
20 seems like that reflects a conservation concern,
21 and if there is no limit then there isn't a
22 conservation concern.
23 MR. BARR: I don't think they have
24 answered Fred's question yet as to how many do the
25 sport hunters get every year?
26 SHELDON KATCHATAG: (B), (C), (D)
27 and (E) is ten per year, non-resident, but there is
28 no limit on the residents.
29 MR. KNAUER: The limit is of number
30 of hunters. That's not to say that -- you know,
31 there is a finite number that are harvested every
32 year.
33 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Is that number
34 of hunters or number of animals killed?
35 MR. MACHIDA: That's number of
36 hunters, and it's ten per season. So that's ten in
37 the fall, ten in the spring. That's a limited
38 number of hunters.
39 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Non-resident
40 hunters?
41 MR. MACHIDA: Yeah.
42 SHELDON KATCHATAG: That's all you
43 allow?
44 MR. MACHIDA: Yeah.
45 SHELDON KATCHATAG: How about
46 22(A)?
47 MR. MACHIDA: No, there is no
48 restriction there.
49 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Why?
50 MR. MACHIDA: Because it hasn't

1 been -- the reason this quota came about was
2 because in the early '80s, you know, when the guide
3 areas started coming out, the areas that had the
4 most problems with guides coming in and bringing in
5 lots of non-residents was 22(B) through (E), and
6 22(A) didn't have that problem.

7 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Okay. Everybody
8 on the council understand him, you heard him?

9 MR. KATCHEAK: Yes. I'd like to
10 make a comment, Mr. Chairman. I'm just using kind
11 of like a figure and an estimate. I'd like to see
12 documented habitat area, the number of animals in
13 that area and the location and the count, how many
14 bears there are in that area. I was kind of
15 guessing from what I heard and that's -- I don't
16 think that's a very good way to do it. If I could
17 see an accurate count and statistics, numbers,
18 locations and habitat areas identified and be made
19 available to the council sometime.

20 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Staff get that?

21 MR. KOVACH: I'm a little fuzzy on
22 part of what you wanted. If you just repeat that
23 and make sure I get all the parts and pieces there.

24 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Speak up,
25 please.

MR. KATCHEAK: I would like to see a
habitat, bear habitat area location identified,
number of animals in that area, and in what areas
are we talking about, 22(A), 22(B), et cetera.
Population of biological counts, that information.
I think that would make us make better decisions
rather than pulling something out of the hat and
try to make some pieces.

MR. KOVACH: Ted, are you wanting a
breakdown of -- because we got this estimate of a
couple years ago of the number of bears by subunit,
do you want it broken down into finer grades than
that?

MR. KATCHEAK: Yeah.

MR. KOVACH: I don't think we can do
that, to tell you the truth.

MR. KATCHEAK: Well, something we
can work with, general information, probably.

MR. KOVACH: Well, the best
information we have right now is we've got an
estimated number of bears by subunit for all of
Unit 22. If you want it broken down further than
that, you'd be going -- you'd be getting basically
the best estimates of bear biologists, well, this
area probably has that kind of density and that

1 area has that kind of density.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Denton.

2 MR. DENTON: Mr. Chairman, those
3 estimates are estimates, they are not based on
4 site-specific surveys in every single one of those
5 units. Those are based on, say, the real intensive
6 work.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: So those are BLM
7 estimates?

8 MR. DENTON: No, Fish & Game. I
9 think there was a cooperative estimate done,
10 population study, the four-year type study done
11 here on the Seward Peninsula, and what they had to
12 do is extrapolate and bring the bear knowledge to
13 these other areas. There have been no intensive
14 surveys in every unit. That would be an
15 astronomical cost, you'd be talking millions and
16 millions of dollars. Bear surveys are extremely
17 expensive to get statistically sound estimates.

MR. KOVACH: Mr. Chairman?

18 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Kovach.

19 MR. KOVACH: One thing I failed to
20 mention, and I'm glad Jeff said it ahead of me, is
21 Fish & Game did do a fairly elaborate census, the
22 study area was north of Nome here, and I don't
23 remember the exact boundaries, but it was fairly
24 widespread covering approximately a thousand square
25 miles in size. It was a fairly large area.

That census produced fairly good
26 results as bear studies go, and the results from
27 that effort, the people who did that effort all sat
28 down and looked at Unit 22 basically and said okay,
29 based upon what we learned here, what can we
30 reliably project to be elsewhere based upon habitat
31 types and things like that, and that's how these
32 estimates were arrived.

33 SHELDON KATCHATAG: What year was
34 that?

35 MR. KOVACH: That study was -- when
36 did they do the census, in '92?

37 MR. MACHIDA: The study went from
38 '88 through '91.

39 SHELDON KATCHATAG: '88 to '91.

40 MR. KOVACH: So the census was
41 actually done in '91.

42 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Any further
43 discussion --

MR. KOVACH: Mr. Chair.

44 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Kovach.

MR. KOVACH: Rummaging through my

1 piles of notes here, the question was asked what
2 the harvest by various folks have been. I have in
3 my notes some numbers for the '94 and '95
4 regulatory year, and for that year residents of
5 Unit 22 reported taking 19 brown bears. Other
6 Alaskan residents reported taking seven bears, and
7 non-Alaska residents reported taking 14 bears that
8 regulatory year.

9 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Do you happen to
10 know where all the non-Alaskan residents got their
11 bear? I bet it was 22(A).

12 MR. KOVACH: Non-Alaska residents,
13 most of them came out of 22(B).

14 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Interesting.
15 Any further -- we're out of that motion, are we
16 not, done with brown bear? Is that the feeling of
17 the council?

18 Let us move on. Caribou harvest
19 limits 22(A) and (B), five caribou per day, however
20 cow may not be taken May 16th to June 30. Open
21 season July 1 to July 30.

22 In Units 22(C), (D) and (E), no open
23 season.

24 BARB ARMSTRONG: Sheldon?

25 MS. MUKTOYUK: Are we going to get
into life and defense, are we going to do after we
get all that done?

SHELTON KATCHATAG: Yes, let's get
our part D seasons and bag limits done first and
then we shall review that DLP issue on brown bear.
Let's try to stay contiguous here.

Is there any wish to change harvest
limits or seasons on caribou?

MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair?

SHELTON KATCHATAG: Mr. Seetot.

MR. SEETOT: Even though there are
no harvest limits and open seasons for 22(C), (D)
and (E), will that allow the hunters to continue
hunting for these animals in subunits, especially
subunit 22(B) and 23?

SHELTON KATCHATAG: Does our C & T
take care of that? We would expect probably to
maintain the same seasons and bag limits as 22(A)
or (B) and the remainder of 23.

HELEN ARMSTRONG: Well, it's
possible to have a C & T for something and have no
season or bags, and we've done it certainly in
other places.

FRED KATCHATAG: Mr. Chairman?

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Katchatag.

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1 FRED KATCHATAG: I don't think we
2 need to do any changing on that, because a lot of
3 places they won't be there anyway, and if they are
4 there, they don't stay in one place, they migrate
5 right through.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Knauer.

4 MR. KNAUER: In the event of a large
5 influx into that area, the board can react such
6 that a season can be opened there.

6 SHELDON KATCHATAG: But he's
7 bringing up there is no season and bag limit for
8 Unit 22(C), (D) and (E), but yet these people do
9 travel to 22(B) and part of 23 to get caribou.

HELEN ARMSTRONG: That's fine.

8 SHELDON KATCHATAG: So they would
9 abide by the seasons and bag limits of 22(B) and
10 that portion of 23.

HELEN ARMSTRONG: Exactly.

10 SHELDON KATCHATAG: So we don't have
11 to do anything on this.

11 HELEN ARMSTRONG: And there are no
12 caribou right now in (C), (D) and (E)?

12 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Right. Maybe
13 there is some in (D).

13 MR. OLANNA: Yeah, maybe there is
14 some in (D), because the reindeer herders in
15 Goodhope has taken quite a few caribou out of his
16 reindeer already this year alone.

15 SHELDON KATCHATAG: See, because
16 22(D), it ends east of a line going north of White
17 Mountain even, but that's in the national preserve
18 anyway, though.

MR. SEETOT: Can I comment?

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Seetot.

18 MR. SEETOT: I think talking with
19 other people on 22(E), the majority of the caribou
20 are on the northern -- or around the coastline, and
21 some might be residential caribou. And we do not
22 see that in the eastern portion of 22(B) due to the
23 their habitat being the Bendeleben Mountains, and
24 it takes awhile for them to move westward. I think
the majority of the migration is on the northern
coast.

23 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Or the northern
24 slopes of the Bendeleben and Saw Tooth.

24 MR. SEETOT: Yes, we haven't got
anything around Saw Tooth, but I think the reindeer
herders have reported caribou mingling with their

25 herd.

MR. OLANNA: For sure Deering and

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1 Shishmaref.

2 SHELTON KATCHATAG: What is the wish
3 of the council with regard to caribou? One
4 question for Helen while we're on caribou. I was
5 just noticing the second bullet there on caribou,
6 it says Unit 22 except for the Western Arctic
7 caribou herd, no determination. Is that going to
8 stand?

9 HELEN ARMSTRONG: No, we'll be doing
10 determinations for the whole unit.

11 SHELTON KATCHATAG: So that will no
12 longer stand, good. If there are no proposals, no
13 change proposals for harvest or seasons for
14 caribou, let us move on to moose.

15 One question for staff. Do you
16 think, given the conservation concern brought at
17 the last Federal Subsistence Board meeting slash
18 teleconference, that 22(A) will continue to remain
19 closed to non-qualified federal subsistence users?

20 MR. KOVACH: I would anticipate that
21 to be the case, yes.

22 SHELTON KATCHATAG: And can we make
23 sure that will be reflected in the next cycle?

24 MR. KOVACH: Well, right now --

1 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Do we need a
2 change proposal?

3 MR. KOVACH: No. Because the way it
4 works, a request for reconsideration works, is that
5 basically it causes a change in the regulation
6 until another proposal comes up. So even though
7 the Federal Register announcement, which has all
8 the proposed seasons and harvest limits and
9 customary and traditional use determinations in it,
10 even though it still says October 10th, this was
11 published before the board took its actions, so the
12 board action's retroactive in essence.

13 So it will say open season, the
14 first season, August 1 through September 30.
15 Federal public lands closed to those except -- all
16 those except qualified subsistence users, which
17 under the existing C & T determination, which you
18 have elected not to change, is all residents of
19 Unit 22 have C & T for 22(A).

20 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Given the
21 conservation concern in 22(A), the chair would
22 entertain a motion to restrict harvesting of moose
23 in 22(A) to those qualified rural residents of
24

22(A).

25

FRED KATCHATAG: You need a motion?
SHELDON KATCHATAG: Yes.

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1

FRED KATCHATAG: I shall move.

2

SHELDON KATCHATAG: We have a motion on the floor to restrict 22(A) due to conservation concerns to federally qualified residents of 22(A) only, until such time as we have been assured that conservation concern no longer exists. Do I hear a second.

3

4

MR. KATCHEAK: Second.

5

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Seconded.

Discussion.

6

FRED KATCHATAG: Question.

7

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Question has been called. All those in favor of the motion before us signify by saying aye. All those opposed, nay.

8

(Unanimously)

9

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Motion passes unanimously. We don't have a conservation concern in any of the other four subunits?

10

11

MR. KOVACH: As you heard Steve Machida report yesterday, there is still a continuing question as to what's going on with moose in 22(B), but I don't know if the State has any concerns relative to whether they want to start setting back a season or not. I kind of deferred to Steve on that, and he's shaking his head no. But it is an issue we'll be watching in the future.

12

13

14

SHELDON KATCHATAG: And I would appreciate any correspondence if any of these change on moose. So there are no other conservation concerns in (B), (C), (D) or (E).

15

16

MR. BUCK: There might be a concern in (B), but I'm going to go back to the village and talk with the residents first.

17

18

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Do we have information on populations on (B), (C), (D) and (E)?

19

20

MR. MACHIDA: Well, the information I have I gave you in that report yesterday, you know, survey counts and all of that.

21

22

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Any further action on seasons or bag limits on moose in 22, outside of 22(A)? Hearing none, we move on to musk ox.

23

24

That has been changed for 22(D), that still remains -- is that going to be the same

24 for the foreseeable future, only one for Brevig and
Teller each, 22(D)?

25 MR. KOVACH: I would suspect that
after the censuses are flown this spring that a

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1 re-evaluation will be done, and if there is
adjustments to be made, the board will take it up
2 during the summer.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: So no change
3 proposal is required, okay.

MR. SEETOT: Can I direct my
4 comments to the musk oxen?

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Yes, you may.

5 MR. SEETOT: I'd like to thank my
Native associate Fred Tocktoo for all the help of
6 informing us about the musk oxen hunt scheduled for
22(D) and (E); however, action by federal agencies
7 dampen our spirit to approach the hunt with eager
opportunity by the Natives.

8 I did talk to Fred Tocktoo about
some of the concerns via telephone and to Mrs.
9 Morkill when they went up there in August. The
musk oxen do not recognize any boundaries within
10 the land. They do not also say that they will move
to a federal -- or that they will not move out of
11 federal land area because of the hunt, hunts on
these areas. They have a very good instinct to
12 survive out in the wilderness.

Talking to some of these board
13 members saying, that the reproductive rate of any
species, going between bull and a receptive female,
14 I don't think any of us would want to be in between
those two animals. It's their natural instinct and
15 their ability to survive the hunting pressures put
on by man and also by predators. What they do is
16 natural, yet we do continue to place restrictions
and limitations saying that we cannot hunt these
17 because they are out of federal jurisdiction or out
of federal lands.

18 What if the corporation, Native
corporation of Brevig Mission, the community of
19 Brevig Mission start charging the federal
government for grazing permits within corporation
20 land, who would foot the bill?

We have had these animals since
21 1972. I was not aware of cooperation between the
community between the State and the musk oxen.
22 They were there when I was growing up, and I think
that we do not know enough of what they eat,
23 whether they compete with reindeer. I know that

24 they do have sourdock, which is my delicacy, and
they have wiped out my patch.

25 SHELTON KATCHATAG: He has a C & T
patch.

MR. SEETOT: I have no animosity

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1 about these animals, but yet people in these
2 federal agencies continue to monitor and regulate
3 our hunting and harvesting of these wild animals.
4 As Mr. Katchatag stated earlier, I think experience
5 has proven that give and take of these animals have
6 been proven over the years by knowledge handed down
7 from generation to generation, and yet we still
8 continue to try to limit harvest or say that you
9 cannot hunt in these areas because it is defined by
10 regulations.

11 I guess most of the regulations, or
12 most of the regulations being imposed on these
13 people are being met with anger by some, with no
14 regard to regulations by some, with poaching by
15 some, because they said that the only ticket that
16 is available to the Natives is this open stomach,
17 and they have hunted these animals for a number of
18 years, certain species that were introduced, musk
19 oxen, moose. We have enjoyed the meat, the hunts
20 that go along with these, yet we are held to
21 federal and state regulations.

22 We do have two regulations that
might be confused by a person that does not read
very well. Over here it says in the federal
regulations it says one moose per season in 22(D).
In the State regulations it says the same thing, so
that person with limited knowledge might say, oh,
boy, I've got two moose. So I guess it's up to the
communities and to the representatives to get this
knowledge derived from these meetings out to the
public, and it's pretty hard to put this
information out to the public as Ken Adkisson and
Fred Tocktoo and Anne witness going into these
villages to get the musk ox permits to the
villagers.

And unless the state and federal
government work together with game regulation
management then everything is still going to come
to the round table for discussion, because nothing
will ever be resolved just by talking, unless some
action is taken not to have management by one
agency. I ran out of words, that's enough.

22 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Mr.
Seetot. While you were talking it gave me time to

23 reflect on the restriction that has been imposed
24 due to actions by ADF&G and the staff committee. I
25 think the action that they have done with regard to
musk ox violates one of the three principles under
which our council and our recommendations can be
reversed.

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1 In Title 8 of ANILCA and also in the
2 legislative history it states that there are only
3 three instances in which the Federal Subsistence
4 Board and the state rulemaking authority, in which
5 they cannot follow our recommendations. And one is
6 that our regulation change proposal is not
7 supported by substantial evidence; two, that it
violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife
conservation; and the third one has a very
interesting conjunction in front of it in that it
says "or", it doesn't say "and", it says "or",
would be detrimental to the satisfaction of
subsistence needs.

8 Now what RFR and the staff committee
9 have done is that they have arbitrarily given the
10 reproductive rate of 15 percent and the target
11 harvest rate of three percent, is that they have
12 arbitrarily deprived us of our three percent take
13 under the cooperate musk ox management plan.

14 So the chair would entertain a
15 motion to file a change proposal to keep Unit 22
16 regulation the same, that being three percent of
17 the subunit population regardless of whether or not
18 they are on state or federal lands, because this is
19 an artificial restriction, an arbitrary restriction
20 given that no conservation concern has been
21 expressed, given that we have a 15 percent growth
22 rate and only a three percent harvest rate, and
they are nitpicking saying that these animals will
not come back if you harvest all 12 of them from
one herd. This is an artificial and arbitrary
limitation of subsistence given an unquantified
subsistence need for musk ox, and I would entertain
a change proposal to keep Unit 22(D) at 12 animals
with all other restrictions now on the book saying
the same. Do I hear a motion?

MR. SEETOT: So moved.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: We have a motion
before us to keep 22(D) musk ox at 12 animals
subject to a survey being flown this coming spring,
at which time it might be increased or decreased
depending on the number of animals within Unit
22(D). The justification being that this

23 arbitrarily and artificially restricts subsistence
opportunity for a subsistence resource for which
24 these residents have been recognized as having
customary and traditional use, and that it violates
the policies and the intent of Title 8 of ANILCA in
25 that we are artificially restricting harvest on an
unquantified subsistence need. Do I hear a

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1 second?

FRED KATCHATAG: Second.

2 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Discussion. Mr.
Seetot.

3 MR. SEETOT: I think Alaska
Department of Fish & Game did a study within 22(D)
4 and (E) concerning their feed, I mean feed and
habitat of the musk oxen. We, as land managers
5 within 22(D), have not harassed animals in any
way -- in a way that I know of. I know that other
6 people have harassed, or, you know, disturbed these
animals to get them away from areas where people
7 usually gather berries or traditional foods. We
haven't had any, or I haven't run into any reports
8 stating that musk ox do not compete with other
animals such as caribou, such as reindeer, but I
9 know that they take away my favorite food from my
table and I have to look elsewhere for this. This
10 is something I think that we need to look at.

They have become being a nuisance,
11 such as the brown bear, that women or residents
have complained saying that these animals were
12 within the traditional areas of harvesting or
gathering food that they did over the years, and
13 the area within Brevig Mission is private land. I
would request that the State work in conjunction
14 with the federal agencies to get the musk ox hunt
to what they propose about a year ago.

15 I know that the federal agencies are
trying to go with their conservation practices,
16 that the areas within Brevig Mission do not have
very much federal land, that Native corporation
17 state lands surround Unit 22(D), and doing so that
these regulations, or the regulations on musk oxen
18 should be worked on cooperatively by state and
federal agencies to get the maximum number
19 allowable.

20 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Mr.
Seetot. Doing numbers in my head I find that what
we have here in Unit 22(D) with only two bulls
21 allowed out of that population, which if I remember
correctly is in excess of 200 animals, is that

22 you're talking about half of one percent per
23 village. And you have a 15 percent annual growth
rate, and this is nitpicking to the extreme.

I could understand it if, in fact,
24 we were harvesting right at the limit of 15
percent, but we're not. The target is three
25 percent, and three percent of the animals in that
subunit is 12 animals. And like I continue to

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1 argue, and I will continue to argue before the
board, is that this is artificial and arbitrary
2 regardless of how much documentation you might
bring forth.

3 I really think that what we need
here is a trial run, and we should have had it this
4 year, a trial run, on allowing 22(D) residents to
harvest all 12 animals. With 15 percent growth
5 rate, they are not going to stay out of that area
very long.

6 MR. KOVACH: Mr. Chair?

7 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Kovach.

8 MR. KOVACH: The basis the board
used when they had request for reconsideration, is
that they looked at the proportions of populations
distributed by subunit also in relation to
9 federal --

10 SHELDON KATCHATAG: But that is two
years old.

11 MR. KOVACH: Let me finish, please.
During the RFR, it forced them to re-evaluate
everything, and they looked at distribution of
12 animals by subunit, and they looked at distribution
of animals as far as land status also, and found
13 that in (E) and 23 it was so close that it really
didn't make a difference, but in 22(D) they found
14 it compelling that, based upon the ecology of the
species -- early September the animals move onto
15 their wintering grounds, and reasonably or
relatively speaking, park themselves there until
16 latter part of April, beginning of May. That's
where they spend the winter.

17 These wintering sites are fairly
traditional sites by specific groups. If there is
18 an extreme amount of disturbance, predators,
harassment, hunting, whatever that source of
19 disturbance is, sites have been known to be
abandoned by musk ox.

20 The Bering Land Bridge Preserve
lands in 22(D) are typical of wintering sites for
21 musk ox. The Bureau of Land Management lands in

22 22(D) are typical of summer types environment for
23 musk ox. Even though there is BLM lands, the odds
24 of finding them during the hunt are pretty slim.
25 If you went out at the beginning of September you
might find some there, but generally what you're
going to need to do is wait until winter and hit
the preserve lands up in that corner in 22(D).
Because so few animals were found
wintering on those sites, the board found that

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1 compelling to ensure that some musk ox would
2 continue to be there in the future, that's why they
3 reduced the harvest limit, because of the ecology
of the species and recognized management of musk ox
in North America.

There was something else I wanted to
4 say and now I forgot. Oh, the 15 percent growth
5 rate is for the entire population on the Seward
6 Peninsula. The growth rate in 22(D) is like one
7 percent or two percent, that's because that's
8 primarily the core area, and 22(D), and Steve,
9 correct me if I'm wrong, is pretty much the core
10 area, it's pretty full of musk ox, it's not going
11 to hold very many more than there is. It's going
to vary through time with weather events and food
availability and other things that effect
population, but it's pretty much where it's going
to be. Where the growth is occurring is up in
22(E), over in 23, down over in 22(B), that's where
this 15 percent growth rate is actually being
realized.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Why was not this
12 information produced to us before?

MR. KOVACH: It was.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: No, it wasn't.

MR. KOVACH: In the staff

14 analysis --

SHELDON KATCHATAG: We were told
15 they have a 15 percent growth rate.

MR. KOVACH: We were talking about
16 the population as a whole. And the staff analysis
17 was presented to the council last winter that broke
18 it out, the growth rate. There was table in that
19 analysis that broke out the growth rates by
20 subunit, and it was shown that 22(D) had an
insignificant growth rate compared to many of the
other areas. In fact, proportionately the biggest
growth occurred in 23, had about a 40 percent
growth rate.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Is that growth

21 rate or migrating?

MR. KOVACH: It's both. It's
22 migration of animals as well as reproduction.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Now let me pose
23 this question to you. You're saying that these
animals choose wintering areas because they are the
24 easiest in which to feed?

MR. KOVACH: That's right.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Now if, in fact,
25 you take 12 animals from their feeding ground, they

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1 are going to go, but I guarantee you if that's the
best foraging area, they will come back, especially
2 given what we've been told as far as fat reserves
of these animals. They are not in the habit of
3 carrying large amounts of fat.

So the habitat will still be there
4 regardless if the Brevig residents kill six animals
there and the Brevig Mission people kill six
5 animals there, or at a different part, it still
happens to be the best feed area.

MR. KOVACH: Well, like I said --

SHELDON KATCHATAG: And in the
7 winter, they ain't going to go find more feed in
other areas if that's the best feed area, they will
8 come back.

MR. KOVACH: Like I said, these
9 wintering sites are traditional use sites by
specific groups, and if you dislodge that group,
10 evidence from Canada has shown that sites become
abandoned by musk ox, and it may take several musk
11 ox generations for that site to be re-discovered
and re-utilized, and it was some of that evidence
12 that the board saw and said, no, let's take a
cautious approach and not push this small amount of
13 animals off of 22(D) lands, because if that happens
the residents of 22(D) will, in essence, have no
14 musk ox on federal public lands with which to
harvest. That was the basis for the board's
15 decision. I just wanted to provide that as
background for the council.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: I still say
16 that's artificial and arbitrary, and I will
continue to say that. Any further discussion by
17 the council about the matter before us?

FRED KATCHATAG: I think, Mr.
18 President, we need to have more studies on this
issue, and why don't we table this until next
19 meeting, then both the state and federal and the
board here will have more information on musk ox?
20

21 SHELDON KATCHATAG: I would prefer,
22 given the fact that we've gone over this long and
23 hard over the last 18 months, I would prefer that
24 we pursue maintaining our three percent out of
25 fairness to the people of Brevig Mission who have
long suffered over these 23, 24 years the
harassment of these musk oxen without a taste.

 One animal per village is like
handing your dog a bone with no meat on it, and
that does not go anywhere near satisfying a
subsistence need. Any further discussion? Mr.

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1 Barr.

 MR. BARR: Yeah. I belong on this
2 State Game Board Advisory Committee, and that guy
3 from Whales last month, you know, when he talked --
4 when we got the musk ox thing he stated that this
5 is too far, this Bering Land Bridge, for him to go
6 hunt, because he said he can't find musk ox right
7 down here where the point is near his place, you
8 know, because musk ox don't go down there. He says
9 this is too far for him to go hunting, and I think
10 he had a legitimate reason. But there was people
11 there, State Game Board people there.

 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Another thing,
12 you're saying that the BLM lands in 22(D) are
13 summer range?

 MR. KOVACH: They are typical of
14 summer range.

 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Typical of
15 summer range. And you're looking at a fairly
16 sizeable chunk of the national preserve over there
17 as being the problem area where you only want to
18 take half of one percent. Now if the State Fish &
19 Game would play ball we wouldn't have to be
dickering around with these nickels and dimes. We
would have one subsistence hunt for all of 22(D),
three percent of the animals, 12 animals, and we'd
be done with it.

 MS. MUKTOYUK: I would also like to
20 comment that there is BLM land on King Island
21 Native Corporation, that's why the community of
22 King Island was disappointed because we were not
23 included in part of this musk oxen hunt. And one
24 of our board members said just to do away with
25 those darn things, all they are doing is just
causing problems, get rid of all of them.

 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Are you talking
26 about the land by Cape Woolley there?

 MS. MUKTOYUK: Yeah.

20 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Any further
21 discussion on the proposal before us, the change
22 proposal? Mr. Seetot.
23 MR. SEETOT: Can I ask the
24 Department of Fish & Game, what are your plans now
25 on musk ox regulations?
26 MR. MACHIDA: Talking about my
27 plans?
28 MR. SEETOT: Fish & Game plans for
29 musk oxen?
30 MR. MACHIDA: Well, you know, I
31 can't really speak for, you know, what the

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1 commissioner's office is going to do or what the
2 State Game Board is going to do. I can only
3 surmise from what I've been told by those that
4 attended the board meeting, that they have
5 postponed the decision on what to do with musk
6 oxen, and I think they are waiting to see how this
7 hunt goes and what happens in the legal forum.
8 Most of those things are done way at the top and
9 out of my control, you know, so there is --
10 actually in some ways I probably know less about
11 what goes on than some of you here.
12 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Does that answer
13 your question?
14 MS. MUKTOYUK: Isn't there a
15 representative from Nome on the BOG.
16 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Tom Johnson.
17 MS. MUKTOYUK: Who?
18 BARB ARMSTRONG: Tom Johnson.
19 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Any other
20 discussion on the proposal before us?
21 MR. KNAUER: Mr. Chairman?
22 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Knauer.
23 MR. KNAUER: It might not hurt for
24 those members that might not have been seated prior
25 to the federal proposal. The state proposal and
26 state action was to have 25 -- 24 permits, 12 of
27 which would have been by drawing and 12 of which
28 would have been by registration in the individual
29 local communities. That system would have allowed
30 hunting on federal or state lands in the affected
31 areas. That was the proposal that the Board of
32 Game placed prior to the federal action last April.
33 SHELDON KATCHATAG: But the trouble
34 being with that is that neither of the hunts that
35 the State proposed can, in any way, shape or form
36 be called subsistence hunts, and we are an agency
37 or a council which provides regulation for

subsistence.

20

MR. KNAUER: I don't disagree.

21

SHELDON KATCHATAG: And I don't want to get in the habit of saying that something that is not a subsistence hunt will suffice to provide for subsistence needs, and I think we would be in gross violation of our charter if we would accept a state sport hunt in lieu of an authorized federal subsistence hunt.

24

Any further discussion on the matter before us? Chair will call for the question. All those in favor of the motion before us signify by saying aye. All those opposed, nay.

25

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1

(Unanimous)

2

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Motion passes unanimately.

3

Getting back to our seasons and bag limits -- before we get into the final meat of the matter, let us take a ten minute break, be back at 3:00.

4

(Off the record.)

5

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Call the meeting back to order. Mr. Magdanz was kind enough to go to the office and pick up some defense of life and property forms, I believe that's what this is. Yes, it's a non-sport kill of bear, questionnaire and affidavit. And even though Steve Machida said it was a one page form, this one has one, two, three, four, five pages.

9

MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Machida has gone back to the office by the way.

10

SHELDON KATCHATAG: I can understand why. Let's look it over real quickly and I'll go ahead and read it real quick. State law 5 AAC 92.410(b) requires that any person who kills a brown/grizzly bear or black bear in defense of life and property (DLP) must submit a written report to the department within 15 days of incident. This document can be used to satisfy that requirement.

14

If possible this document should be completed by the person who killed the bear. If that person cannot complete the questionnaire, the department agent receiving a report of the bear taken for DLP purposes should complete the questionnaire from the information obtained from someone personally familiar with the circumstances of the kill. Data from this questionnaire will be compiled by the Department of Fish & Game. The answers will help the department understand why

18

19 people and bears have confrontations and how these
20 conflicts can be minimized. Please read each
21 question carefully, and "choose the best answer" is
22 underlined, that describes the circumstances in
23 this incident. Place the number of best answer on
24 the blank provided. One, shooter's name, print.
25 Date of kill, month, day year. Game Management
Unit. The shooter is, one, a local resident of
game management unit of kill. Two, Alaska resident
of other Game Management Unit. Three,
non-resident. 4, unknown. Blank, none. That's
kind of an ambiguous term.

MR. MAGDANZ: That would be if you
hit your animal with a vehicle.

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1 SHELTON KATCHATAG: So if you leave
2 it blank the shooter is none. The bear was, one,
3 alone. Two, with another adult. Three, with
4 offspring thought to be cubs of year. Four, with
5 offspring thought to be older than cubs of year.
6 Five, with its mother. Six, with other littermates
7 (brothers or sisters).

Other bears killed in the same
8 incident. One, none. Two, one other adult.
9 Three, two other adults. Four, one offspring.
10 Five, two offspring. Six, three offspring. Seven,
11 one other littermate. Eight, two other
12 littermates.

The human injury result -- never
13 mind, I won't read the whole thing.

As you can see, you have to fill out
14 some 20 questions, I take it that back, there is 24
15 different questions, 24 numbered questions and
16 other items to be filled out.

MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chairman?

17 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Any questions
18 about the defense of life and property form
provided by ADF&G? Mr. Magdanz.

MR. MAGDANZ: I've never filled one
19 of these out myself, or helped anyone fill them
20 out. Steve tells us and Donna Edmonds from Fish &
21 Wildlife protection, that the department uses these
22 as an interview guide.

SHELTON KATCHATAG: Say again, what
23 was that last bit.

MR. MAGDANZ: The department uses
24 this form in an interview where we go over with it
25 the person, sometimes on the telephone if it's a
villager, and the form is actually filled out by
the department in most cases, not by the hunter.

19 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Any other
comments or questions with regard to the defense of
20 life and property form? Hearing none, thank you
Mr. Magdanz.

21 Speaking of DLP -- we were going to
go through the rest of this, first. We have done
22 musk ox. Any change proposals on harvest limits or
seasons for coyote, fox, hare, lynx, wolf,
23 wolverine, grouse or ptarmigan? We had also added
mink, marten, beaver, muskrat and ground squirrel,
24 even though that's covered by -- as far as we know
there are no seasons for mink, marten, beaver,
25 muskrat or ground squirrel. Wait, marten, mink,
weasel, muskrat and otter have trapping seasons.

MR. BUCK: Make a motion.

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1 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Could you speak
up with your motion?

2 MR. BUCK: I made a motion to keep
the harvest limits and the open seasons as it is.

3 MR. BARR: Second the motion.

4 SHELTON KATCHATAG: We have a motion
and a second. Discussion. We'll just do the ones
5 there in print. Any further discussion on seasons
and bag limits? We have a motion before us to keep
them the same as shown on page 123.

6 FRED KATCHATAG: Second the motion.

7 SHELTON KATCHATAG: It has been
seconded twice.

FRED KATCHATAG: Question.

8 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Question has
been called. All those in favor of leaving seasons
9 and bag limits for those species shown on page 123
signify by saying aye. All those opposed, nay.

10 (Unanimous)

11 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Motion passes
unanimously.

12 There are no seasons and bag limits
on mink, marten, beaver, muskrat or ground squirrel
other than the trapping regs.

13 MR. KOVACH: Right.

14 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Chair would
entertain a motion to extend the harvest limits and
15 the seasons of the species just mentioned, also
otter, to reflect the seasons and bag limits as
shown on page 124 under the trapping regs, also
16 ermine and weasel. Any questions from the
council? The chair would entertain a motion to
17 keep the seasons and bag limits for mink, marten,
beaver, muskrat, ground squirrel, otter, ermine and

18 weasel the same as those shown on page 124 under
the trapping regs.
19 MR. BARR: Moved.
SHELDON KATCHATAG: We have a motion
20 before us. Do I hear a second?
MR. BUCK: Second.
21 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Discussion.
FRED KATCHATAG: Question.
22 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Question has
been called. All those in favor of the motion
23 setting seasons and bag limits as being identical
for those shown for trapping regulations for
24 hunting signify by saying aye. All those opposed,
nay.
25 (Unanimous)
SHELDON KATCHATAG: Motion passes

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1 unaniously.
MR. KOVACH: Chair?
2 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Kovach.
MR. KOVACH: Just a question for
3 clarification, because we're a little confused over
here. Was that for adding those species as a
4 hunted species?
SHELDON KATCHATAG: Yes.
5 MR. KOVACH: Because we weren't sure
because the way you were referring to page numbers
6 we got a little confused over here.
SHELDON KATCHATAG: You have to
7 listen very closely. I said we were setting
seasons and bag limits for the hunting of those
8 species the same as the trapping limits, seasons
and bag limits, shown on page 124.
9 MR. KOVACH: Okay. Give us a moment
to catch up with our paperwork and notes.
10 SHELDON KATCHATAG: We shall take a
five minute recess while they catch up on their
11 notes.
MR. KOVACH: I don't think we'll
12 need that long.
SHELDON KATCHATAG: Well, at the
13 outside then. While they are looking at that let
us be looking at the trapping regulations. We have
14 already done the customary and traditional use
determination recommendations, and let us look over
15 the bag limits and seasons of those species listed
for trapping. Is staff caught up?
16 MR. KOVACH: Yeah.
SHELDON KATCHATAG: What is the wish
17 of the council with regard to the trapping

regulations, seasons and bag limits?

18 FRED KATCHATAG: Does anyone on the
board traps anymore?

19 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Planning on it
for personal use. Those marten are a lot of fun to
20 trap. Hearing no motion to the opposition, the
chair will entertain a motion to leave the trapping
21 seasons and bag limits as shown on page 124.

22 MR. KATCHEAK: With the exception of
ermine and weasel, do we have a harvest limit on
those?

23 SHELDON KATCHATAG: No, if you look
in the middle of page 124, it says mink and weasel,
24 weasel is the same as ermine, it's just the winter
phase, and there is no limit and the season from
25 November 1 to January 31st. Is there any
particular reason for the mink and weasel season

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1 ending January 31st?

2 MR. KOVACH: As I understand it, Mr.
Chair, there was some concern about mink
3 populations a little bit ago, and it's not uncommon
for weasels to be caught in mink sets, and
4 therefore that's why mink and weasel were lumped
together type of a thing. I do not know what the
5 current status of the populations are for mink at
this time. I would have to consult with Steve
Machida on that.

6 SHELDON KATCHATAG: The chair has
requested a motion to leave the seasons and bag
7 limits for those species shown for trapping the
same for the next regulatory year.

8 MR. KATCHEAK: Second it.

9 SHELDON KATCHATAG: You have to make
the motion. I'm entertaining it.

10 MR. BUCK: I'll make the motion.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: We have a motion
to that effect. Do I hear a second?

11 MR. SEETOT: Second.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Discussion.

12 FRED KATCHATAG: Question.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Question has
13 been called. All those in favor of leaving the
trapping and season and bag limits the same as that
14 shown on page 124 signify by saying aye. All those
opposed, nay. Ladies and gentlemen -- unanimous.

15 (Unanimous)

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Ladies and
16 gentlemen of the council, we have completed our
subpart D, change proposals. Any other proposals

17 from the staff or public or anybody else on the
18 council?

MR. KOVACH: Mr. Chair.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Kovach.

19 MR. KOVACH: Just for a point of
20 clarification for ourselves in assisting us to do
21 the staff work, when you were adding species such
22 as marten, mink, weasel, otter, et cetera as hunted
23 species, you notice that the trapping seasons are
24 generally shorter than the hunting seasons for many
25 of those seasons, wolverine is a example. Trapping
season is November 1 through April 15, whereas the
hunting season starts September 1st.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: That's no
24 problem.

MR. KOVACH: The primary reason for
25 the trapping seasons to be carried over into the
hunting, is because that's the traditional time for

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1 taking those species when furs are prime.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: No problem.

2 MR. KOVACH: Thank you. We just
3 need some clarification on that.

4 SHELDON KATCHATAG: And if, in fact,
5 there are hunters out there that would like, or
6 trappers out there that would like the seasons
7 changed, then we'll make sure we get change
8 proposals into their hands, and that would be
9 considered during the next cycle.

10 Hearing no further change proposals,
11 and in light of the fact that we have been informed
12 by staff, today is the last day for submission for
13 change proposals, is that the close of business
14 today? If you think of anything between now and
15 3:30, please submit it to Helen or Steve.

16 Hearing no further change proposals,
we now move on to item 8 E, and before we move on
to item 8 E, I was wondering, I had received some
question as to whether or not under subpart -- let
me ask, community harvest, are they subpart D?

HELEN ARMSTRONG: Yes, they are. It
12 would be under the seasons and bag -- under your
13 harvest limit.

14 MR. KNAUER: It might be a
15 situation, instead of saying one antlered bull,
16 which would refer to an individual, it might say a
harvest -- a community harvest limit for the
community of, we'll say Brevig Mission, ten
antlered bulls or something, whatever might be
appropriate. The question is is always what is the

17 appropriate number for the community and does the
community wish to have that system in place.
18 MR. SEETOT: Community or subunit?
MR. KOVACH: Community.
19 MR. KNAUER: It's a community
limit. In other words, instead of --
20 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Community
harvest quota.
MR. KNAUER: Yeah, it's a community
21 harvest quota.
SHELDON KATCHATAG: You know, you
22 might -- when you get back to your respective
villages and your other villages of your area, I
23 would ask if, in fact, you and the people that you
live with are interested in community harvest
24 quotas. In other words, rather than having
individual seasons and bag limits, we would have a
25 community harvest quota for that particular
species.

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1 The reason I ask is, and I'm
wondering if under our findings of customary and
2 traditional use, that we might be being redundant
by seeking community harvest quotas because it is a
3 custom and a traditional among our people to hunt
for, as Mr. Katchatag pointed out earlier, to hunt
4 for widows and those that do not have a hunter
available to hunt for them.
5 It is a custom and tradition, and I
was wondering if by recommending a change proposal,
6 recognizing customary and traditional use, that we
are in the same breath also recognizing customs and
7 traditions of sharing.
MS. MUKTOYUK: Mr. Chairman?
8 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Ms. Muktoyuk.
MS. MUKTOYUK: I would also like to
9 include, it's not only just for widows but single
parents.
10 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Right.
MR. KOVACH: Mr. Chair, you were
11 heavily involved in the discussions and activities
regarding the designated hunter program that the
12 board adopted at its last meeting in April, and
that might be something that you may want to have
13 council members also discuss, if implementation of
a designated hunter program for certain species in
14 certain areas might not be appropriate as well.
SHELDON KATCHATAG: See, the thing
15 that I brought up at that meeting, at that
designated hunter task force that we had, is that

16 basically what they were trying to do at that
17 meeting by setting up this designated/proxy hunter
18 business, is that they were recognizing our customs
19 and traditions as indigenous people of hunting for
20 and sharing catch with those that cannot hunt for
21 themselves.

19 And I said, why don't you just
20 recognize our customary and traditional use and
21 leave it at that, as long as the species is
22 healthy, as long as the harvest rate is within the
23 sustainable yield of that particular specie, then
24 why don't you just recognize our customs and
25 traditions as long as we don't approach maxing out
that sustained yield. And every time I turned
around, a half an hour later they are way off
somewhere, and that's what we ended up with, was
designated hunter system. And it still entails
more paperwork and it still does not officially
recognize our customs and traditions of sharing.

MR. KNAUER: I think from everything

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1 I have seen, both the community harvest limit and
2 the designated hunter system do recognize that
3 sharing has been a customary practice throughout
4 Alaska. They also recognize a significant need to
5 be able to document the harvest of animals to
6 assure the continued conservation of healthy
7 populations.

8 The situation exists, though, that
9 in some communities, a community harvest system
10 probably would not work very well, and that would
11 probably be in a community that has many different
12 components, maybe some of your larger communities.

13 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Like Nome.

14 MR. KNAUER: Like Nome, exactly.

15 Whereas a designated hunter type system might work
well in either Nome or a small homogeneous
community. A community harvest system is probably
going to work best in the smaller homogeneous
communities. Now that's not to say that's the only
situation, and that's not to say it would always
work there, but that's been the thinking behind
that situation.

16 SHELDON KATCHATAG: You know, I was
17 talking -- excuse me, Loretta go ahead.

18 MS. MUKTOYUK: I would have to
19 disagree with that, because we do not designate
20 hunters. Whenever the hunter goes out, and he has
21 excess meat, he shares it with the community. We
22 don't say, you're designated hunter, you go out and

16 get me the meat. We don't say that. Usually
17 whoever is out hunting and catches an extra moose
18 or whatever, they usually share it with the
19 community. We don't say, you are the designated
20 hunter. You go out and hunt for the widows and the
21 single parents, we don't do that, it's not our
22 custom.

19 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Thank you,
20 Loretta, that very pointedly points out the gist of
21 the discussions I had over lunch with Dave Spirtes
22 of the National Park Service.

21 It is looked upon, from our
22 perspective as indigenous people, that it is looked
23 upon as for a want of a better word, it's
24 "ugugnook" (bragging). To say I am going to go
25 out and hunt for you and you give me this paper
designating me as hunting for you. That is, to put
it, to translate "ugugnook" into English is to say
that you are taking on heirs, you are putting
yourself above everybody by saying that you're
going to publish the fact and broadcast it to

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1 everybody by this piece of paper by saying I am
2 going to hunt for this poor sole over here. And
3 that is our attitude toward it, and we don't hunt
4 with that kind of an attitude, and therefore a
5 designated hunter type of thing where you fill out
6 a piece of paper, it goes against our customs and
7 traditions, and that's why I had problems with the
8 designated hunter business. Mr. Knauer.

5 MR. KNAUER: Loretta, is the entire
6 community of Nome pretty much this way, or are you
7 only referring to, we'll say, the Native segment of
8 Nome?

7 MS. MUKTOYUK: Native segment of
8 Nome.

8 MR. KNAUER: That's where our
9 problem would arise with a community quota, because
10 there is another segment of Nome that could not be
11 separated out, so it would have to be dealt with on
12 a community basis as a whole.

11 MS. MUKTOYUK: It does not just go
12 to the community, it also goes to your friends that
13 live outside of Nome.

12 MR. KNAUER: Right, we recognize
13 this.

13 MS. MUKTOYUK: So we're not just
14 sharing with one community, we're sharing with
15 others.

MR. KNAUER: But the sharing within

15 Nome is not the same through all -- among all
people of Nome.

16 SHELTON KATCHATAG: The bigger the
community, the less this happens.

17 MR. KNAUER: Right, we recognize
that.

18 SHELTON KATCHATAG: And the more
diverse your community becomes, then you start
19 having small pockets of people that continue to
commune in this nature.

20 HELEN ARMSTRONG: Well, I just
wanted to say that your point, I think, is very
21 well taken and we've tried -- people of Kaktovik
have asked for a community harvest a number of
22 times for sheep and were never given it by the
board, they were given a designated hunter system
23 and they have never done it.

SHELTON KATCHATAG: And that is why.

24 MR. KOVACH: Two.

HELEN ARMSTRONG: Were they
25 Natives?

MR. KOVACH: I don't know.

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1 HELEN ARMSTRONG: But I know it's
been basically a failure, and it would be
2 interesting to talk about that.

SHELTON KATCHATAG: Because that's
3 how we're brought up. You do not ever go out and
say, I am going to go out and get a moose, because
4 you are saying you are more powerful than God which
provides that animal. You have to go out and put
5 yourself at the mercy of whichever spirit is in
charge out there, and hope he'll bless you because
6 I know how -- personally I know how humbling it is
to go out there and not find anything, and you
7 start asking yourself, what have I done, what have
I done to displease the great spirit of the
8 outdoors, that I can go out here and try to get
something and not see a darn thing, it's scary. So
9 it is not our custom and tradition to do that. And
to be so forward as to say I can have her sign her
10 right to a moose over to me and I go out with this
piece of paper that authorizes me to take something
11 from the great outdoors.

MS. MUKTOYUK: It don't work that
12 way.

SHELTON KATCHATAG: It don't work
13 that way. We just don't grow up that way. You do
not -- you cannot presume to provide for yourself
14 what is provided by something that is a greater

spirit than you are. It's just not done.

15 MR. KATCHEAK: I'd like to interject
one experience, this is a personal experience.
16 Couple years ago I went to one of the vendors,
agents that gave me a bear tag. So I said, well,
17 I'm going to go out and hunt bear because I got a
bear tag. So every time I go out I just took it
18 along. I never saw the bear. That proves that if
you go out there and tell everybody that you're
19 going to go out there and hunt that bear, you'll
never see it, because the law of nature and
20 probably the spirit, the great spirit says, no, you
cannot say you're going to go out and get this
21 certain animal.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Mr.
22 Katcheak.

Any further discussion on customs
23 and traditions or community harvest? Like I said
earlier, I would ask each and every one of us on
24 the council to take the idea of the community
harvest quota back home to our respective areas,
25 talk to our -- the people that we live with and see
if that's what they want for the future, and then

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1 we'll get into it during the next cycle, a year
from now. Is that acceptable to the council?
2 Hearing none and seeing the nods, so be it.

8 E status report on musk ox, short
3 and sweet or what.

MR. KOVACH: Pretty short. All the
4 permits have been distributed. I checked with the
hunt coordinator who receives all the reports and
5 stuff before I got on the plane to come up here,
and as of that point in time no musk ox have been
6 reported on the permits. And when Ken and I were
discussing this yesterday, to the best of his
7 knowledge none have been heard of. So we still got
a long ways to go in the hunt.

8 SHELDON KATCHATAG: We're looking at
November, December, January.

9 MR. KOVACH: Right.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Not only that,
10 but getting a little more snowfall, so it should
get a little bit easier to travel about. Any
11 further discussion on musk ox? Mr. Adkisson, do
you have anything to add?

12 MR. ADKISSON: I don't think so,
we'll just see what the proposals look like, I
13 guess.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Mr.

14 Adkisson. Counsel, staff, public? Hearing none
15 let us move on to item 10. Establish time and
16 place of next meeting. The chair moves that we
17 have our next meeting in beautiful downtown
18 Anchorage, TBA, time to be announced. Is that --
19 BARB ARMSTRONG: The dates, TBA?
20 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Subject to
21 negotiation with the Northwest Council.
22 MR. KNAUER: Northwest is the 15th
23 and 16th, you're aware.
24 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Yeah. That's in
25 Kotzebue. We're going to see if we can move them
one way or another.
BARB ARMSTRONG: They have it
tentative.
SHELDON KATCHATAG: She's going to
talk to the chair, and if they stay on 15th and
16th I would suggest that we have 12, 13.
HELEN ARMSTRONG: In Anchorage?
SHELDON KATCHATAG: Pardon?
HELEN ARMSTRONG: In Anchorage,
right?
FRED KATCHATAG: February.
HELEN ARMSTRONG: What are you

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1 trying to do with Kotzebue, you want them to
2 move --
3 SHELDON KATCHATAG: We wanted them
4 to move off the 15th and 16th, is that not correct,
5 Barb?
6 BARB ARMSTRONG: Yeah.
7 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Another reason,
8 there is two reasons why we would like to have the
9 meeting in Anchorage. Number one being the North
10 American -- not the North American but the Fur
11 Rondy, the dog sled championships starts on the
12 16th and runs to the 18th. The second one being
13 financial. In this time of financial austerity, I
think it would be a lot cheaper for the seven
council members to travel to Anchorage along with
our coordinator, and we'll only be spending travel
and per diem for it, seven of us. And staff will
not be having travel and per diem.
We would like to see if this will,
in fact, result in a savings of money for our
operations, and if it results in a savings of
money, I would be of the opinion of making this a
custom and tradition so that we continue to have
these October meetings when we accept change
proposals in one or another of our villages here in

14 the region, and since we're finalizing our
15 recommendations at our February, March meetings,
16 that we do that in Anchorage. This might result in
17 a more efficient use of funds available to us, and
18 we would like to try it out once to see.

19 HELEN ARMSTRONG: North Slope is
20 having theirs in Anchorage in October so they can
21 go to AFN.

22 SHELDON KATCHATAG: I'm sure they
23 probably run into flak from their village when they
24 start asking.

25 BARB ARMSTRONG: Not only that, this
council wants to tour the subsistence management
office in Anchorage and get to know who they are
talking with.

MR. KOVACH: We can do that.

HELEN ARMSTRONG: That's very
exciting.

MR. KNAUER: In that regard, anytime
anyone is in Anchorage, whether on subsistence
business or otherwise, we certainly extend the
invitation to you to come out and talk to folks in
the subsistence office, meet them. We'll give you
a little tour. And if you have any questions, you
know, be glad to answer them. Some of the chairs

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1 regularly appear floating through our offices, so,
2 you know, that invitation is always open.

3 FRED KATCHATAG: What's your phone
4 number?

5 SHELDON KATCHATAG: 1-800-478-1456.
6 What is the wish of the council on time and place
7 of meeting?

8 MR. SEETOT: Is this in compliance
9 with our guidelines on regional advisory?

10 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Yes, I believe
11 it is.

12 BARB ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: We are not
violating our charter or our title, right, by
having a meeting in Anchorage?

MR. KNAUER: No, you are not.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: And we are
checking to see if we are going to save the federal
government a few bucks in the process.

MR. BARR: What is that Anchorage
number again?

SHELDON KATCHATAG: 1-800-478-1456.

MR. KNAUER: Or if you are in
Anchorage you can also dial 786-3888. That will

13 put you to Ellen Bear who is the receptionist for
14 us. Some of you may know Ellen, she's originally
from Shishmaref.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: So is the
15 council in agreement on place, Anchorage, Alaska.

MR. KATCHEAK: Yes.

16 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Hearing no
objection, that's the place. The time is to be
17 announced, and subject to discussions with the
Northwest Arctic Council chair, and Barb will let
18 me know, and I'll let you folks know as soon as I
find out, or Barb will let you folks know one way
19 or another.

Moving on to item 11, public
20 comments. Do we have any public comments. Going
once, going twice, sold. Number 12, council staff
21 comments, Ms. Muktoyuk.

MS. MUKTOYUK: No.

22 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Seetot?

MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chairman, I'm just
23 happy that I tried to represent the people as best
I can. Sometimes I just kind of speak my words out
24 without giving them thought, but with this type of
representation from different agencies, it's nice
25 to know that I can air my opinions face to face and
then, you know, try to get some feedback to my

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1 questions. And this is one of the few councils
that Ken can give me the opportunity to air my
2 comments or to act in the best interest of the
public, and, you know, it's very few times that you
3 get the opportunity to do this type of meeting
where you come to terms with what you're trying to
4 solve, and I'm happy to know that this board is
also chosen to, you know, to have these meetings in
5 public and invite the public and then we try to
solve our problems in a good manner, thank you.

6 SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you. Mr.
Katchatag.

7 FRED KATCHATAG: No comments.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Buck.

8 MR. BUCK: No comments.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: The elder has
9 spoken for you.

SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Katcheak.

10 MR. KATCHEAK: I would like to thank
the various agencies that represent -- that have
11 helped us provide us information, our staff, and I
want to thank the council to listen to me and not
12 feel bad about it. Sometimes I talk a little long,

13 but I think some of the things I've stated are
legitimate concerns and questions that I ask.
Thank you.

14 SHELTON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Mr.
Katcheak. Now to me. We'll be here to 5:00.

15 First of all, I'd like to thank
16 Barb, our able regional coordinator for bearing
with us and providing us with the information that
17 we need to conduct our business here, and I would
like to thank our very able staff providing us
18 information that we request, and for working with
us in a very cooperative and respectful manner.

19 I appreciate all the efforts on both
sides of the table with regard to what we're doing
20 here, and I'm very happy with the attendance that
we have had so far with our council members. We
haven't had more than one or two excused absences
21 from our council meetings. Everybody has made a
good faith effort to be at our meetings, and I'm
22 very appreciative of that.

23 And I would like to express my
thanks to the Nome Nugget representative and the
KNOM representative for providing us some publicity
24 of our deliberations here in Nome, and I appreciate
that. It's something that we've been hoping for in
25 the past, but hopefully this will be more of a
custom and tradition between us.

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1 As you can tell I am a customary and
2 traditional person, and I'm trying to get everybody
more aware of customs and traditions of our people,
3 and I cannot emphasize the importance of what we do
here with regard to subsistence because subsistence
4 might be just a word, but to those people that live
it, it's the very stuff of life.

5 I would hazard a guess that at least
50 percent of the food resources consumed by
6 village people can be termed subsistence, and I
really appreciate the determination and caring and
7 consideration of not only staff, but everybody at
the Department of Interior to make sure that we as
8 subsistence users continue to have not only the
opportunity, but also the resources on which to
subsist.

9 And having said that, I thank you
all for turning out -- before I go too far, I'd
10 like to thank the Alaska Department of Fish & Game
for their very sizeable presence at this meeting.
11 At first I was a bit doubted thinking what are they
mounting here, but I'm very thankful for their

12 willingness to listen, and I hope I haven't stepped
on anybody's toes.

13 As you can tell I do feel strongly
14 about some of these things, and if I have hurt
15 anybody's feelings, I apologize at this time. And
16 having said that, I thank you all for coming out
and I look forward to working with each and every
one of you in the future.

17 I'd like to thank Mr. Jake Olanna of
Kawerak for being a gracious host, he's been kind
18 enough to keep us in coffee. I'd like to thank the
NPS staff and ADF&G staff locally here for
19 providing the information that we requested in a
timely manner.

20 And please, madam coordinator, would
you send a respectful letter of thank you to the
21 person in charge of the Bering Straits boardroom
for providing us a very, very comfortable and
luxurious atmosphere in which to work.

22 And having said that, is there any
other business to come before the council? We are
adjourned.

23 (Proceedings concluded at 3:50 p.m.)

24

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1 CERTIFICATE

2 I, LEONARD J. DiPAOLO, Registered Professional
3 Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of
4 Alaska, do hereby certify:

5 That the proceedings were then taken before me
6 at the time and place herein set forth; that the
7 testimony and proceedings were reported
8 stenographically by me and later transcribed under
9 my direction by computer transcription; that the
10 foregoing is a true record of the testimony and
11 proceedings taken at that time; and that I am not a

12 party to nor have I any interest in the outcome of
13 the action herein contained.

14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
15 hand and affixed my seal this day of
16 , 1995.

17

18

19 LEONARD J. DiPAOLO

20 Notary Public for Alaska

21 My Commission Expires: 2-3-96

22

23

24

25