

1 NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6 VOLUME I

7  
8  
9 Kiana, Alaska  
10 October 8, 2014  
11 9:17 a.m.

12  
13  
14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 15  
16 Enoch Shiedt, Chairman  
17 Percy Ballot  
18 Verne Cleveland  
19 Michael Kramer  
20 Hannah Loon  
21 Enoch Mitchell  
22 Calvin Moto  
23 Raymond Stoney  
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27 Regional Council Coordinator, Melinda Burke  
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kiana, Alaska - 10/8/2014)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: My name is Attamuk Enoch Shiedt. Hello. Welcome everybody here to the Federal Advisory Board meeting at Kiana. Welcome, everyone. First of all we'll give roll call and we'll have invocation after that. So get a roll call, please.

MS. LOON: Raymond Stoney.

MR. STONEY: Here.

MS. LOON: Austin Swan.

(Not present)

MS. LOON: Hannah Loon. Present.  
Michael Kramer.

MR. KRAMER: Here.

MS. LOON: Percy Ballot.

MR. BALLOT: Here.

MS. LOON: Verne Cleveland.

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: He'll be in later.

MS. LOON: Walter Sampson.

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: He'll be here.

MS. LOON: Enoch Shiedt, Sr.

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Here.

MS. LOON: Enoch Mitchell.

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: He'll be in later on the next flight.

MS. LOON: Calvin Moto.

MR. MOTO: Here.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. For Austin  
2 Swan, Austin is not going to make it due to a relative  
3 death at Kivalina, so he's going to be home. He called  
4 in, so he'll be excused. At this time I would like an  
5 open prayer by Hannah Loon.

6  
7 (Prayer)

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We're going to  
10 change the agenda a little bit this morning. Attamuk  
11 here. We're going to ask the tribal administrator,  
12 Dale, to speak and after that we'll hear from the elder  
13 Larry Westlake. So you've got to come up everyone and  
14 use the mic. For the new ones that are here, maybe for  
15 the housekeeping, there's the bathrooms back there.  
16 You're welcome to get up anytime you want. So we'll  
17 hear from Dale, tribal village of Kiana.

18  
19 MR. STOTTS: Good morning. Thank you,  
20 Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Native Village of Kiana  
21 we'd like to give you a warm welcome to our village.  
22 I'd like to recognize Raymond for his hard work serving  
23 our community and I think the other communities like  
24 you all have subsistence and Inupiat lifestyles and  
25 culture and tradition in mind with the important work  
26 that you do. So thank you all very much. Glad you're  
27 here. I look forward to the next couple days. We'll  
28 try to get more public involvement as we go along.  
29 We'll invite kids from the school later. We wish  
30 everybody well while they're here. Hope you feel at  
31 home. If there's anything that we can do to make your  
32 stay more comfortable, please let us know.

33  
34 Quyana. Welcome.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Dale.

37  
38 Go ahead, Larry.

39  
40 MR. WESTLAKE: (In Inupiaq). I'm Larry  
41 Westlake. I'm the president of the elders in Kiana.  
42 I welcome you here. Nowadays our fish and game is an  
43 important thing in our life. We know there s a lot of  
44 change in our life. There's change in the weather,  
45 there's change in the migration, there's change in the  
46 fish that we harvest. Hopefully all that comes up for  
47 discussion in the next two days.

48  
49 Thank you very much for being here.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, it's a pleasure  
2 to serve here in Kiana. You guys have to thank Raymond  
3 so much. He pushed hard to have the meeting here at  
4 Kiana and he never did give up and it did happen. I  
5 would say thank you, Raymond. I would praise Raymond.  
6 And thank you, Dale, and Larry for speaking.

7  
8 Okay. We'll go back to review of the  
9 agenda and make any changes that need to be done. Go  
10 ahead, Melinda.

11  
12 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. We have a  
13 few things to modify before we get started here in the  
14 agenda. We also want to remind everyone on the line  
15 and in the room and the community this agenda is  
16 adopted as a guide. We will accommodate any elders or  
17 public or anybody who wishes to speak. If we have  
18 anyone on the teleconference who's calling in later who  
19 has limited time, we're very accommodating to whoever  
20 needs to speak to us today. So I just want to remind  
21 everybody that this is a draft and we can deviate from  
22 it as much as we need to.

23  
24 A couple of updates here. On the  
25 second page under the ADF&G Elizabeth Mikow should be  
26 giving us a presentation tomorrow regarding some  
27 research that ADF&G has happening. Also, this will be  
28 of interest to everyone. Jim Dau will be joining us  
29 tomorrow. He's got his updated caribou presentation  
30 that he wants to be giving in all of the Northwest  
31 Arctic communities and he's going to be here in Kiana  
32 tomorrow.

33  
34 It will be a longer presentation, so  
35 we're really hoping and he's really hoping too that a  
36 lot of the community will come out for that  
37 presentation. That's a time certain tomorrow after  
38 lunch. So if you want to note that in your books,  
39 tomorrow afternoon right after lunch Jim Dau will be  
40 flying in and providing that presentation to us and we  
41 can update the agenda as the day goes on. Mr. Chair.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, okay. Thank  
44 you, Melinda. We need to back up a little bit in our  
45 meeting. We need to do our introductions.

46  
47 Calvin, we'll start with you.

48  
49 MS. BURKE: Do you want to take a vote  
50 to adopt the agenda real quick before we do that.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I was advised that we  
2 need to vote to adopt the agenda.

3  
4 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair. I move to  
5 approve the agenda as amended. Percy Ballot.

6  
7 MR. MOTO: Second.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Moved by Percy and  
10 seconded by Calvin. Thank you. So we're back to the  
11 introductions. Okay, Calvin, we'll start  
12 introductions. Your name and where you're from.

13  
14 MR. MOTO: Reports?

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No.

17  
18 MR. BALLOT: Your name and where you're  
19 from.

20  
21 MR. MOTO: For those who don't know I'm  
22 Calvin Moto from Deering, Alaska.

23  
24 MR. BALLOT: I'm Percy Ballot,  
25 president of Native Village of Buckland. I've been  
26 with these guys for 15 years or so. It's nice to be  
27 here. I thank Raymond for keeping on pushing us to get  
28 over here. I haven't been here for a while. The last  
29 time we went to another village was in Noatak, which  
30 was about 15 years ago when I first started. It's  
31 always good to have our issues taken to the forefront  
32 and the best place to be to deal with them is right  
33 there where they're having these problems. I  
34 understand you have a lot of hunting going on. I'm  
35 hoping the hunters come up here or the gatherers and  
36 have a discussion with us on the things they see are a  
37 hindrance to their hunting.

38  
39 MR. KRAMER: Mike Kramer, Kotzebue.  
40 Been with about 8 to 10 years.

41  
42 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
43 Raymond Stoney. It's a great honor to meet all the  
44 staff from Anchorage that finally got to Kiana. It  
45 took three years after dealing with our coordinator.  
46 It wasn't easy. She did a lot of hard work just to  
47 come up here and show your facts to us in Kiana. I'm  
48 very, very proud and very pleased with the Staff from  
49 Anchorage that's here today because it took a long time  
50 planning to have a meeting in Kiana. So, for the

1 people of Kiana please don't hesitate to ask your  
2 questions and then talk to some of our Staff right  
3 here.

4

5 Thank you so much, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Raymond.

8

9 Go ahead, Hannah.

10

11 MS. LOON: My name is Hannah Paniyavluk  
12 Loon. I represent the Native Village of Selawik.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Melinda.

15 You're our coordinator.

16

17 MS. BURKE: Good morning, everybody.  
18 My name is Melinda Burke. I work for the Office of  
19 Subsistence Management and I'm the Council coordinator  
20 for this region as well as the Western Interior  
21 Regional Advisory Council.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Now how are we  
24 going to do the public for them to be recorded? Do  
25 they need to come up to the mic and say who you are and  
26 where you're from?

27

28 REPORTER: No.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, start it.

31

32 MR. JOHNSON: I'll start. Carl  
33 Johnson. I'm the Council Coordination Division Chief  
34 for Office of Subsistence Management.

35

36 DR. CHEN: Aloha, Mr. Chair and Council  
37 members. My name is Glenn Chen. I'm the Subsistence  
38 Branch Chief for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

39

40 MR. BROOKS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman  
41 and members of the Council. My name is Jeffrey Brooks  
42 and I'm here from the Office of Subsistence Management.  
43 I work there in Anchorage as a social scientist in  
44 their Division of Anthropology and I'm here to work  
45 with you this week and it's a pleasure to be here. I'd  
46 like to thank the village of Kiana and the people here  
47 for inviting us and I'm looking forward to this.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.  
2  
3 MS. MCBURNEY: Good morning, Mr. Chair  
4 and Council members. I'm Mary McBurney. I'm the  
5 Subsistence Program lead for the National Park Service  
6 and it's wonderful to be back in Kiana. It's been  
7 about three years and it feels like home.  
8  
9 Thank you.  
10  
11 MS. JOHNSON: Good morning. Marcy  
12 Johnson. I'm a wildlife biologist for the National  
13 Park Service in Kotzebue.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Larry.  
16 Introduce yourself again.  
17  
18 MR. WESTLAKE: I'm Larry Westlake. I  
19 was born and raised here in Kiana.  
20  
21 MR. STOTTS: I'm Dale Stotts. (In  
22 Inupiaq).  
23  
24 MR. ATORUK: Wilbur Atoruk, Kiana.  
25  
26 MR. MORENA: Warren Morena, Kiana.  
27  
28 MS. HYER: Good morning. I'm Karen  
29 Hyer and I'm a fisheries biologist with OSM.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Before we get  
32 to the phone I would like to announce we've got someone  
33 cooking for us back there and I would say thank you. I  
34 don't know what's his name.  
35  
36 MS. LOON: Thomas.  
37  
38 MR. STONY: Thomas Jackson.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thomas Jackson. And  
41 out in the radio land just say your name and which town  
42 you're from would be nice. Also the one listening in  
43 the radio could call 1-800-478-1456. Is there any code  
44 with this number? The code is -- I'm trying to find  
45 the code.  
46  
47 MS. BURKE: It's 906.....  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'm sorry. The phone  
50 number is 1-877-638 and the code is 81654. That can't

1 be the number. There's one too many numbers in there.

2

3 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.

6

7 MS. BURKE: I wanted to give everybody  
8 an update. Normally we have KOTZ broadcasting a portion  
9 of our meeting. They had a power outage a little while  
10 back and it affected their control room, so they re  
11 going to try and call in this morning and they'll let  
12 me know on the cell phone. So I think right now we  
13 just have folks on the teleconference. We don't have  
14 the radio. We're keeping our fingers crossed that the  
15 engineers will fix it and they might be able to call in  
16 tomorrow or this afternoon. So as of this morning no  
17 radio, but we re keeping our fingers crossed. We do  
18 have a few Staff members on the teleconference though.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So you could correct  
21 me on the number, the way I see it we have five numbers  
22 and I see the code is 9060609.

23

24 MS. BURKE: That was a typo.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. There's a  
27 typographical error. So the number is 1-877-638-8165,  
28 code -- they will ask you the code number. You need to  
29 put in there 9060609. So anybody s welcome to call in  
30 and listen in. Hopefully we make the radio later. We  
31 need to air this because the majority of our people  
32 live on caribou so much. We can't go without caribou.  
33 I always consider Northwest Alaska as the caribou  
34 people because we depend heavily on caribou and we will  
35 not live without it. Without caribou where would we  
36 be. Caribou is our main resource.

37

38 Okay. Now back to the agenda.

39

40 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. We have a  
41 couple Staff members on the teleconference who need to  
42 introduce themselves.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Oh, I'm sorry. The  
45 Staff members that are online introduce yourself,  
46 please.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 MR. MCKEE: This is Chris McKee. I'm

1 the Wildlife Division Chief with OSM out of Anchorage.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

4

5 Anyone else.

6

7 MR. LIEBICH: This is Trent Liebich.

8 I'm a fish biologist with the Office of Subsistence  
9 Management.

10

11 MS. OKADA: Hi, this is Marcy Okada  
12 with the National Park Service, Gates of the Arctic.

13

14 MS. RATTENBURY: Hi, this is Kumi  
15 Rattenbury with the National Park Service, Arctic  
16 Network.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Anyone else  
19 out there?

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, welcome. And  
24 anyone here that want to give testimony could fill out  
25 the blue cards. If you fill it, we'll be calling you  
26 later to testify, that want to testify here at Kiana.  
27 So you're all welcome. Anybody here from Kiana could  
28 come and fill out the cards and we will acknowledge  
29 anyone that fills it out, so everybody is welcome.

30

31 Melinda.

32

33 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. Next on  
34 the agenda is reviewing and adopting the previous  
35 meeting minutes. If we want to give the Council a  
36 couple minutes to review those, they start on Page 4 of  
37 your book and then we'll need a motion and a vote to  
38 approve those minutes or if there's any amendments that  
39 need to be made, we can do that at this time. Mr.  
40 Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, thank you.

43

44 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

47

48 MR. BALLOT: Percy Ballot here. We've  
49 had these for a while, so I'll move to approve the  
50 meeting minutes of Northwest Arctic Subsistence

1 Regional Advisory Council March 25 and 26.

2

3 MR. KRAMER: Second.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy.

6 Thank you, Mike. So back to the agenda item.

7

8 MS. BURKE: The vote.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. All in favor

11 signify by saying aye from the Council.

12

13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It's all approved by

16 the Council members, so approval of the agenda was

17 done. We're going to go to the Council reports now.

18 We'll start with Hannah.

19

20 MS. LOON: Yes, good morning. Last

21 spring we've been very fortunate to have caribou around

22 Selawik to store for the springtime. We were also

23 fortunate that our whitefish and pike were in good

24 shape that we were able to harvest whitefish and pike.

25 It has been a very good cool breeze, kind of not too hot

26 or not too cold. Long enough to go seine for the

27 iqalugruags up on Fish River and were able to dry that

28 very good. We're thankful for a really good

29 salmonberry season. The blueberries did not -- there

30 were not many blueberries and there were some

31 cranberries. As for the greens, green were abundant.

32 Lots of erosion going on. Too many beavers as usual.

33

34 This fall we feel a little bit of --

35 not lonely, but we look forward to caribou as everybody

36 else does because usually normally our elders in

37 Selawik always tell us to wait for the first bunch, the

38 females and their calves, to pass through and then

39 later on the bulls are last. The caribou were late

40 coming. We've been informed in our village by Jim Dau

41 the population has been very low in comparison to

42 400,000 some years ago to 200,000 and asked us, the

43 community, to take what we can. So the caribou were

44 late this fall, however some families did harvest some

45 caribou.

46

47 I'd like to thank the village of Kiana

48 for allowing us to sit here. It's a really good

49 feeling to be at home, to have a Federal meeting in a

50 village. I think it's a good practice because you see

1 the real Inupiat, the real hunters and us that are  
2 listening to you. We like to hear your comments and  
3 hear the community s comments and how their experiences  
4 are about salmon or unusual things about your food.  
5 Have a good morning.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.

8

9 Go ahead, Raymond.

10

11 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 You know, one good thing about the caribou hunting  
13 season this year it was approximately two to three  
14 weeks earlier compared to last year and it was very  
15 surprising that the heard was being seen way up at  
16 Onion Portage in late August, so apparently this  
17 caribou migration was a lot easier and they were a lot  
18 quicker compared to last year.

19

20 I certainly want to thank Attamuk and  
21 his crew and all the people that was interested in  
22 hunting in the Kobuk River. They had to go up Onion  
23 Portage. That's 100 miles from Kotzebue. Just imagine  
24 how much a gallon they pay in Kotzebue to go that far  
25 to hunt caribou.

26

27 In the beginning of their hunting  
28 season was unsuccessful because the weather was so wet  
29 and the caribou was pretty much slow. Within two weeks  
30 time all of a sudden overnight there were hundreds of  
31 them everywhere just about like 20 miles up. Right now  
32 the herd now they're riding down here. I seen them at  
33 the airport up here yesterday and down the river.

34

35 So most of the hunters that came from  
36 Noatak, Kotzebue, Selawik and all the Kobuk perimeter  
37 they were all successful and the caribou is in very  
38 good condition. Very good condition. I'm sure glad  
39 everybody was successful on their harvesting caribou  
40 this year.

41

42 Number two on my report, Mr. Chairman,  
43 the salmon. If you've ever been to Noatak during a  
44 salmon run you'd see thousands of salmon dead. I think  
45 right here in Kiana it must have happened before, but  
46 some people say a hundred years ago they done that  
47 here. Hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of salmon  
48 just died here at the Squirrel River and the Kobuk  
49 River. If all of you that is aware of this, you know,  
50 it would be nice to know why are they dying? Water

1 conditions or what? I don't know. I would not know.  
2 Maybe Jim Dau will know by tomorrow. It was very  
3 unusual. They go down the beach and further down you  
4 see salmon everywhere.

5  
6                   Otherwise it's been a good fall. The  
7 weather conditions were perfect the last two months.  
8 Again I would like to thank all of the Staff and all  
9 the people that finally come to Kiana. You can see now  
10 the hunting season for all the villages. It's very,  
11 very important to all of us even had to pay thousands  
12 of dollars to buy gas. It never bothers them.

13  
14                   Thank you very much for coming to  
15 Kiana.

16  
17                   Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18  
19                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Raymond.  
20 What little I know about salmon that die off, before we  
21 get to Michael and the rest, to ease you, because  
22 salmon, the way them old people used to say that Noatak  
23 was -- Noatak used to have a lot of salmon. You wait,  
24 no air for them to breathe. There's not enough air for  
25 them to breathe on. (In Inupiaq) old people. When  
26 Susan Georgette and Selawik Wildlife Refuge they check  
27 on them and sure enough that's what they did. Due to  
28 lack of oxygen.

29  
30                   Mother Nature is taking its course.  
31 Because this summer at Kotzebue there was so much  
32 salmon and we all know (in Inupiaq) due to Mother  
33 Nature taking care. It's own course to take care of  
34 Mother Nature. That way it will be plentiful again in  
35 the future. It's alarming, but Mother Nature has its  
36 own way to take care of us because we try to take care  
37 of Mother Nature. Mother Nature takes care of us.

38  
39                   I had to say that because I asked for  
40 Susan for a report and I knew someone was going to  
41 mention it and that's why I said it, to ease your mind.  
42 That's what it was due to, lack of oxygen. It was  
43 nothing really alarming, no disease or anything like  
44 that. They were safe to eat.

45  
46                   Thank you, Raymond.

47  
48                   Go ahead, Michael.

49  
50                   MR. KRAMER: Yeah, Kotzebue area it's

1 been a pretty good spring. A quick melt. A lot of  
2 birds were harvested. A lot of oogruks out there in  
3 the ocean were harvested. A good salmon run. The  
4 salmon run came through real good and real strong. A  
5 lot of people were real happy with the amount of money  
6 they made just for fishing.

7  
8                   As for the fall caribou hunt, it was  
9 pretty good for me. I came up here and spent a week  
10 and a half at my cabin. As I hunted, I noticed, you  
11 know, real severe desperation for people wanting to  
12 make sure they get their caribou. I mean I got cut off  
13 several times by boats while my son was in the bow  
14 getting ready to shoot. I've heard of a lot of other  
15 people getting cut off by boats. You know, I don't  
16 know if it's just miscommunication or just people not  
17 willing to cooperate with each other or just severe  
18 desperation.

19  
20                   I had gotten reports that some people  
21 were not far from here in Kiana where they were using a  
22 12-gauge shotgun shooting at caribou. I got a lot of  
23 reports. I mean it has to -- you know, that kind of  
24 stuff.

25  
26                   As for around the upper Noatak, I got  
27 complaints of a lot of aircraft up in the -- you know,  
28 way back in the mountains. No caribou moving through.  
29 A couple friends of mine went up as far as right below  
30 Cutler and didn't see too many caribou. They didn't  
31 get any. The next time, you know, there was a whole  
32 caravan of boats coming from the village of Noatak here  
33 to Kiana to go get caribou and that's good.

34  
35                   I noticed there was a lot of boat  
36 traffic up here on the Kobuk. During the weekends I  
37 don't hunt, but during the weekdays I do and it s a  
38 little more peaceful. But other than that the weather  
39 has been real nice up there. My kids enjoyed  
40 themselves. They love it here in Kiana. They love the  
41 Kobuk River. They missed camp every single day and  
42 they really enjoyed themselves.

43  
44                   All we could do now is just, you know,  
45 hope for a good fall and winter and hopefully  
46 everything is a lot easier on the sheep and caribou.  
47 We do need to push for better predator control. Later  
48 on I'll talk about those issues and see what kind of  
49 proposals we can bring up on those. That's all I have.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Michael.

2

3 Go ahead, Percy.

4

5 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I  
6 just want to mention I'm glad you mentioned that  
7 because of the way hunting is changing now or a lot of  
8 young folks -- our Inupiaq values are not being used as  
9 much as they should. People are getting careless. We  
10 need to stress safety and that type of hunting is just  
11 not us. I don't know where we're going from there, but  
12 I'm hearing and seeing it more and more.

13

14 We have cultural Inupiaq days at home.  
15 We take the kids out and teach them about hunting and  
16 stuff two, three times a year. We need to do more of  
17 those things. Like when we're talking about trying to  
18 involve our kids, it would be nice to have some kids  
19 here. We just had a beluga tech Wisdom Keepers  
20 Workshop in Buckland. We had a lot of scientists over  
21 there and we had our kids doing presentations on  
22 beluga, their own studying, and we had local knowledge  
23 and we gathered together and we work with the kids and  
24 everybody. We had a good time of trying to find out  
25 exactly what happened to our beluga. There's a lot of  
26 unknowns about it. There still is a lot of unknowns  
27 about it, but at least we're talking and we had  
28 representatives from the region.

29

30 So hopefully we re spreading the  
31 message out to see what we can do to bring back the  
32 beluga. What it is, I don't know, but I just know that  
33 beluga is the mainstay of the people on the coast. It  
34 doesn't really belong to Buckland, but it belongs to  
35 Kotzebue, Deering, Noatak, Kivalina and people all  
36 along the coast. So we started that and hopefully  
37 we'll move forward. I really thank the Northwest  
38 Arctic Borough for funding and Shell and North Slope  
39 Borough.

40

41 We also had a debris river cleanup, so  
42 it turned out pretty good. We had a lot of volunteers  
43 and a lot of boys cleaning up our river, so it looks  
44 pretty good over there.

45

46 This spring, while they were looking  
47 for eggs, they found a lot of fish and it's not like  
48 how they were finding over here. It happened during  
49 the winter when it flooded during the winter and the  
50 ice went way up and the current went in, so they were

1 finding a lot of smelt, a lot of herring, I think, and  
2 a lot of tomcods and ocean fish all along Buckland  
3 Flats, so there was a lot of fish rotting on the flats.

4  
5 We didn't see very much seals this year  
6 because we were out about a week ago. I went out and  
7 didn't see very many either and what I did see was  
8 skinny seals along the coast. A lot of them were on  
9 the banks, but you could tell they're skinny compared  
10 to ones that are fat when they're really fat.

11  
12 Some people at home were wondering  
13 about the consideration of hunting female moose in  
14 September. I'd like to take a look at that at some  
15 point for the hunters at home.

16  
17 This year the caribou came in late,  
18 early October, just about a week ago. A lot of people  
19 have been without meat for one month, two months and so  
20 when they went out, they only had a week. While they  
21 were up there there was two small planes riding around.  
22 If you know Buckland, you can only go about 10 miles,  
23 15 miles, maybe 20 miles when the tide is okay, but you  
24 can't go any further when it gets shallow and stuff  
25 like that. So we were wondering why we had some planes  
26 up there landing on the beaches near town, not too far  
27 from town up there. We don't know who they are. But  
28 it was mentioned to me a couple of times and there was  
29 a lot of angry young hunters up there.

30  
31 So we want to look at moose, female  
32 moose, I think, sometime in the future if that's  
33 possible. We're also looking at -- because of the  
34 presentation Jim Dau gave about caribou decline, we're  
35 considering putting a bounty this winter on wolves to  
36 encourage more hunting from people.

37  
38 We had snow in July too, so there was  
39 no berries, so we've been hit by a lot of stuff. At  
40 least people got caribou and they're happy. It froze  
41 overnight. Yesterday, you can't go nowhere when it  
42 goes about one or two inch thick or thicker, so  
43 hopefully they'll be going out with snowmachine maybe.

44  
45 That's it, Mr. Chairman.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy.

48  
49 Go ahead, Calvin.

50

1 MR. MOTO: Well, we had an unusual  
2 winter this past winter for subsistence hunting.  
3 January we had weather up to 40-something above. We  
4 had a lot of floods. In fact, we didn't have planes  
5 for three days because they had to use a boat to go  
6 pick up the passengers from the landing field in  
7 January. Consequently it was hard for the subsistence  
8 hunter to go out and harvest caribou because most of  
9 the ground in our area was no snow. When it finally  
10 stopped, everything froze, so it was slick. This is  
11 something that our people have been putting up with,  
12 unusual weather. We had 72 mile an hour wind for a  
13 while.

14  
15 Finally spring came. We were lucky to  
16 harvest our oogruks because we had only three or four  
17 days because the ice was so thin, but we were able to  
18 get 11 oogruk anyway. That's what we usually get every  
19 year. Right after that when the ice moved out we  
20 weren't able to hunt beluga because of killer whales  
21 were by Shishmaref. Consequently the beluga didn't  
22 come into Kotzebue Sound.

23  
24 This has been something that's been  
25 going on. I don't know. Is it climate change?  
26 Probably is. But it's hard for a lot of our  
27 subsistence hunters to go out and hunt because right  
28 now our gas is \$6.75 a gallon and the only way they  
29 could hunt sometimes, if they're going to hunt for an  
30 elder, then they get subsidized with gas and shells.

31  
32 But we are fortunate when the high wind  
33 was a south wind instead of north because if it was  
34 north we would have been swamped. In fact, I took  
35 pictures of the waves and they were 10 feet from my  
36 house and I was kind of worried because my dog. I was  
37 more worried about my dog than the people. A lot of  
38 people on the west side had to spend time at the school  
39 that night because of that high wind. A lot of people  
40 were thinking about moving out of there. I said that's  
41 okay, the south wind. I said I'm never worried about  
42 south wind. It's north or west.

43  
44 Right now we're seeing not too many  
45 caribou in our area, but they've been able to harvest  
46 caribou right now, some. We got three or four moose  
47 this year. We don't rely too much on moose. It's  
48 mostly caribou.

49  
50 Our bird population was pretty good.

1 We were able to harvest our geese, our eggs, but some  
2 of the eggs were kind of -- they were hatching early  
3 this year, every year.

4  
5 Berries, hardly any salmonberries  
6 because of high wind, so our subsistence gatherers  
7 couldn't get some berries. Our crowberries, which we  
8 really pick, were pretty much depleted because so many  
9 geese and ducks, you know.

10  
11 We were able to survive though. We  
12 learn, you know. So I just thought I'd bring that up  
13 because the last few years this is the weirdest weather  
14 I've ever seen. Nothing like in the 40's when we were  
15 growing up.

16  
17 That's all I have to say.

18  
19 Thank you.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. So I'll  
22 give a brief report. Welcome Enoch Mitchell. I'll  
23 give a report for Kotzebue. I'll start from the bird  
24 hunting time because birds this year were plentiful in  
25 Kotzebue. Conditions were right. Everybody that went  
26 out got their birds the way I hear in time to hunt  
27 oogruks. They went that hunt early and got a lot of  
28 oogruks. Later on it was okay.

29  
30 A few of us that got lucky got beluga  
31 and I'm one of them that got lucky, but I had to push  
32 and work hard together with my boys. I can't say  
33 enough thank you to my boys. All I got to say is where  
34 I want them and they're there for me and a few of us  
35 got. There was a lot of beluga, but Kotzebue is a  
36 growing town and there was lots of activity because  
37 some people going home from oogruk time and some people  
38 going out.

39  
40 They're not trying to make noise  
41 because they want to make noise. They're doing it  
42 because they're going out to hunt and after they hunt  
43 they have to go home. So some people will say they  
44 blame the hunters making too much noise, but the way I  
45 feel about it, we are all doing our thing. That's why  
46 we make noise. We go out to go hunt and next we got to  
47 go home before they spoil.

48  
49 I don't like to blame other boats  
50 because each family is trying to put food on the table

1 and I won't say because -- the only time I blame  
2 someone is when I see someone out there trying to  
3 harvest, a youngster that don't know anything about the  
4 ocean.

5  
6 I'll give you an example. I go  
7 hunting, nice day. I run into a boat that's from  
8 Noorvik, young boys. They just got to the ice and they  
9 run out of gas and I tell them you should take enough  
10 gas to go out. Oh, we thought we had enough because we  
11 could see ice. I said, yes, you could see ice, but the  
12 main ice where the oogruk is is further out. And I had  
13 to give them gas to head back to Kotzebue. They wanted  
14 to go hunting with the five gallons I gave them. I  
15 said you're going to hunt with that five gallons? I'll  
16 get my five gallons back, mark you on my GPS and  
17 hopefully I find you because I'm not going to let you  
18 go out further. You might get stuck in the ice and run  
19 out of gas. I said the gas I give you, you head  
20 towards the beach. I gave them directions to go  
21 towards Sheshalik. I said that's the only way I'm  
22 going to give you gas and I watched them go. He left  
23 and he run out of gas by Sheshalik and he got another  
24 gas from someone. He make it to Kotzebue.

25  
26 The ocean is different than the land.  
27 You have to treat it with great respect. You can't go  
28 to the beach and save yourself in the ocean. You can't  
29 go to the ice because the ice could break up. There's  
30 a lot of things. Otherwise everything was okay. There  
31 was akpiks further back towards Sealing Point my wife  
32 and I didn't pick because we tried to commercial fish,  
33 but we're okay. There was a lot of blueberries around  
34 my camp. I'm a lucky few that's got a camp at Noatak  
35 River. We had so much blueberries it was blue in a  
36 garden. It was plentiful. I had to tell people pick  
37 them all. I can't pick them.

38  
39 And hunting caribou at Onion Portage, a  
40 lot of them go from Kotzebue to Onion Portage. They  
41 done good and they get their catch and I didn't hear a  
42 lot of -- there was a lot of activity that everybody  
43 was trying to race for their caribou and I don't know  
44 how to say how to do it, how they do it. It's up to  
45 me, it's up to Kiana how. Regulation be set how us  
46 Natives should harvest caribou at Kiana in the river.  
47 At Noatak where I grew up we hunt at the river, but we  
48 always hunt with big rifles and we always pack our  
49 caribou down. It's different here. I got a lot of  
50 respect for Kiana. They're the one that should say and

1 put a proposal together how they should harvest  
2 caribou. That way there wouldn't be a conflict. I  
3 hate to see conflicts. That's my personal feeling.

4  
5 Right now if the school is listening,  
6 if you have any students that want to come in and  
7 listen, bring them to this meeting here and I'm  
8 encouraging the school of Kiana to bring any students.  
9 Hopefully one day they sit at the table with us right  
10 here. We have to have students to take over. We're  
11 all getting old. We can't be here forever. From all  
12 the villages if you're willing to come, as the Chair,  
13 you call me. I'll do my best. I can't guarantee I'll  
14 bring you, but I'll make an effort to bring you.

15  
16 I was going to say if Noatak comes in  
17 this afternoon and Noorvik come in, that they could  
18 speak and give a report about their villages. Enoch  
19 came in and I'll give you a chance to speak later.

20  
21 Percy, you talk about bounty for  
22 certain. Before the Federal had bounties on seals and  
23 wolves when they wanted to make the resources grow  
24 again and I greatly feel the Federal should have bounty  
25 again on wolves because they're the main predators.  
26 And there's bears too being the same thing. There's so  
27 many bears now. They even break into camps at the  
28 coastal towns, at Sheshalik, Sealing Point. They break  
29 into almost every camp, even at Ugarok. They even  
30 break through tents. They went in through somebody's  
31 tent. Went through the back. Didn't do nothing,  
32 didn't destroy their camp, and went right out the front  
33 door. Just went through. Just to ornery, I guess. I  
34 don't know, but I know bears are bears. There's  
35 nothing really you could do about it. They're scary  
36 and there's so many of them.

37  
38 Due to change, we Eskimos have to learn  
39 to live with the change due to global warming. Hannah  
40 mentioned that there was a lot of erosion. There's  
41 erosion now all over due to something is happening and  
42 erosion is scary. It's making so much changes. It's  
43 making changes to our rivers even due to erosion. It's  
44 scary. There's hardly any water. We don't get snow  
45 like we used to get 40 years ago. Get so much snow,  
46 get a lot of high water. We don't get that anymore.  
47 It's getting to be Alaskan desert. That's what it is,  
48 hardly any snow.

49  
50 And I would like to thank the Maniilaq

1 Board, even they're not here, that they gave every  
2 village money for the hunters to get money and help  
3 them a little bit on the gas and ammo and I would say  
4 that because they do help us and that's a big  
5 difference. It's not much, but it's a big difference  
6 if they spend 60, 70 bucks. I don't know what they  
7 spend in each village. They're a little bit different.

8

9 Thank you, Maniilaq.

10

11 That way they will hunt for the elders  
12 and I would say that.

13

14 So we have other people that walked in.  
15 First of all our board member Enoch Mitchell from  
16 Noatak is here, but the one that came in could you  
17 introduce yourself and we'll get back to Enoch. Go  
18 ahead, Susan.

19

20 MS. GEORGETTE: Good morning. I'm  
21 Susan Georgette. I work with Fish and Wildlife Service  
22 in Kotzebue and I'm happy to be here.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

25

26 MS. MORAN: My name is Tina Moran. I'm  
27 also with the Fish and Wildlife Service in Kotzebue.

28

29 MR. LAWLER: I'm Jim Lawler and I'm  
30 with the National Park Service and I'm out of  
31 Fairbanks.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you for  
34 coming. Is there anyone else out in the radio land out  
35 there that would like to be acknowledged calling on the  
36 phone.

37

38 MS. YUHAS: Thank you so much. This is  
39 Jennifer Yuhas at State of Alaska Fish and Game calling  
40 from Fairbanks and I finally got through.

41

42 MR. SHARP: This is Dan Sharp with  
43 Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: One more time for  
46 anyone out in radio land that haven't introduced  
47 themselves.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, go ahead,  
2 Percy.

3  
4                   MR. BALLOT: I just want to say I hear  
5 a lot of people out there and they should have come  
6 here. You're missing nice, good weather over here in  
7 Kiana. Good people. I hope next time you really make  
8 it out here. We've been planning this for three years  
9 and I'm sad to hear you're not out here.

10  
11                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy.  
12 Enoch is one of our board members from Noatak, Enoch  
13 Mitchell. Go ahead, Enoch. Introduce yourself and  
14 give a brief report about your hunting and what  
15 happened last year.

16  
17                   MR. MITCHELL: First of all I'd like to  
18 thank Kiana for hosting us here for this fish and game  
19 meeting. My name is Enoch Mitchell. I'm from Noatak,  
20 Alaska. I forgot my glasses. This year we had a late,  
21 late fall season again, like last year. October 6,  
22 that was Monday, three days ago, people were finally  
23 putting their boats out of the water. It started to  
24 freeze up in Noatak. No more boating over there as of  
25 Monday. Our search and rescue had to go out on Monday  
26 night to help someone break through the ice to make it  
27 to the village.

28  
29                   This summer we had a small fire near  
30 our group sites and the locals was able to put that  
31 fire out before the smoke jumpers come around. We had  
32 lots of fish this year. Lots of salmon, lots of trout  
33 and whitefish. Lots of fish in the river this year,  
34 but not much akpiks and not much blueberries this year.  
35 I don't know why. Kind of dry or something.

36  
37                   As for the caribou, nobody got any  
38 Western Arctic Caribou Herd yet and that's going to be  
39 a problem because we usually get our caribou fall time,  
40 this time of year, but Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
41 didn't reach it.

42  
43                   Early September boats went way up by  
44 Abraham's Camp to hunt caribou and that was that  
45 Teshekpuk Herd when it was around. We bought 70, 80  
46 gallons of gas to go up to Abraham's Camp to hunt  
47 caribou, but there was very few this year. Very few  
48 bulls this year. A lot of boats went way up to  
49 Abraham's Camp this fall and apparently the Teshekpuk  
50 Herd crossed from the north to the south way up there,

1 but when we hunt our Western Arctic Caribou Herd, they  
2 cross south to north and we hunt them closer to the  
3 village, but they didn't come up.

4  
5 When the boats went way upriver, there  
6 were a few boats from Noatak that went here. About  
7 four boats, I believe, this fall, four or five. They  
8 came here to Kiana to hunt caribou because there s no  
9 caribou in Noatak. Those boats that came here were  
10 successful and they helped a lot of people out.

11  
12 Once again our gas prices in the  
13 village are still climbing. This year we had more  
14 families pool their money together to go way up to  
15 where the caribou was crossing. They were still doing  
16 that right up to freeze-up, they were looking for  
17 caribou. Right before freeze-up they were really  
18 boating around way up river, down river and they were  
19 going to get any kind of caribou as long as it's meat.  
20 They were going to get a bull, female, calf, just as  
21 long as it's meat. We need our meat.

22  
23 This stuff didn't happen a long time  
24 ago. We didn't have these kind of hunts a long time  
25 ago. I mean it don't seem right. And a lot of people  
26 didn't catch their falltime catch of caribou this year,  
27 so it s going to be a problem for them. The CUA dates  
28 this year was useless for the Noatak River. The CUA  
29 dates are August 15 to September 30 and there was no  
30 caribou between those dates. The CUA dates was  
31 useless. Also the CUA upper limit is by Sapun Creek  
32 and the caribou was further up than that this year, so  
33 the upper limit didn't work at all.

34  
35 So I believe we're going to have to do  
36 something about the dates and the limit. Move that  
37 limit. The upper limit is the mouth of Sapun Creek,  
38 but let's see if we can make the limit up by Abe's  
39 because every boat they have sport hunters on the river  
40 and it's getting to be a big conflict now. I mean  
41 we're struggling to catch any kind of caribou we could  
42 get and sport hunters they have the advantage of flying  
43 all over Alaska. Because they're blocking the  
44 migration route. They're not coming to us in the time  
45 that we need it.

46  
47 These people that pool their money  
48 together, these families, they didn't get nothing. Not  
49 only them, but there's a lot of people that didn't get  
50 their caribou. We know there's a lot of hardships

1 that's going on that's not manmade. The weather, we  
2 can't do much about it. Fire, we can't do much about  
3 those, wild land fire. Their habitat, their food, we  
4 can't do much about that, but sport hunters, that's a  
5 manmade problem and we can do something about that.  
6 I'm asking we all speak up together because we've got  
7 more sport hunting on the Noatak River than there are  
8 people in the village this year and that's not right.  
9 There's more sport hunters on the river than there are  
10 local hunters on the river and that's diverting the  
11 caribou and that's becoming a conflict. So I'd ask  
12 that we do something.

13

14 A couple of proposals that came to --  
15 we want to space sport hunters camps at least 10 miles  
16 apart to give the caribou room to move around, to cross  
17 wherever they want to cross because on the other side  
18 of the river you see sport hunters, sport hunters all  
19 along it. They don't want to cross because they're  
20 right there and it's getting more and more worse every  
21 year. When I talked to Jim Dau, he said there's 85  
22 percent of the sport hunters in Alaska going to Noatak  
23 River and that's lot. That is becoming a big conflict.

24

25 Today we have our caribou herd  
26 declining quite a bit and the Fish and Game, the  
27 Federal will start taking action on putting something  
28 to preserve our caribou, but I want to point out that  
29 we, the Natives, depended on that caribou for as long  
30 as I can remember, for generations, and it's going to  
31 affect a lot of people if they take that caribou away  
32 from us. The thing is to put a number on the  
33 transporters, but a limit on the transporters that's  
34 coming into the Noatak River and space the camps.  
35 Those two proposals, I want to see if we can get those  
36 going.

37

38 I think that's about it I have on the  
39 report. Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,  
42 Enoch. You brought an important issue, transporters  
43 and outfitters bothering us. We've all got a conflict  
44 with it. I will tell you one thing. Forty years ago  
45 we never had problems with our caribou until the  
46 transporters and outfitters started coming in. That's  
47 when our problem is starting, the transporters and  
48 outfitters. They're intercepting our caribou because I  
49 know and I did go see one that bring hunters to the  
50 Noatak River and he always bring them above Cutler.

1 That's the beginning of the migration.

2

3                   Yet our caribou begin further back even  
4 than the Cutler. They begin at Anaktuvuk Pass and I  
5 did get a call, like I said, from Anaktuvuk Pass since  
6 transporters and outfitters started coming in. That's  
7 when the conflict started because they're changing the  
8 migration of the caribou because when they go hunt, to  
9 bring their hunters, they bring them right on the  
10 migration route and when they divert the first ones,  
11 they change them to the right side or they change them  
12 to the left side.

13

14                   It's the same thing with Cutler because  
15 I know one plane -- he asked me and I gave the same  
16 plane guy and I go see him again this summer. He don't  
17 fly anymore, but he got someone flying for him. He  
18 takes about four plane loads, the same six people every  
19 year with a rubber boat with gas. They're so well off  
20 that they even have people to work for them, to work on  
21 their caribou. They're just there to get the thrill of  
22 the bang and get the thrill of getting the antlers.  
23 They don't care about anybody else.

24

25                   I think what we need to do as Eskimos  
26 is propose that they come back with all the caribou and  
27 take them to the closest village and drop them off if  
28 they don't want the meat, unspoiled. With the  
29 stipulation that when they hunt caribou, they harvest  
30 caribou. If it s warm, within two days they bring the  
31 caribou to Noatak, Kiana, Buckland, whatever village  
32 they're closest to, before they spoil. Once they spoil  
33 the meat is no good to us. I think these are the kind  
34 of proposals we need to put together as Natives and  
35 we're the ones that have to do it and we've got to work  
36 hard because I feel it too.

37

38                   This year I never get caribou -- I get  
39 caribou, I get maybe enough, but I would like to get  
40 more, but due to the way they migrate and they coming  
41 in late and late, we're all feeling it. We're going to  
42 hurt. Some of our people never get caribou, they're  
43 going to hurt. Yet some people get enough and when  
44 people get enough they will share and I guarantee you,  
45 like me, before February, March we'll run out because  
46 we'll send them out to our relatives and we will do  
47 that. There was a couple of people that walked in.

48

49                   I'll tell you one thing, that hurts us  
50 when the transporters start coming in and did they come

1 in. And I know for a fact there's two guides that quit  
2 being guides. They turned to transporters and  
3 outfitters because there s more money in there because  
4 they could drop off their hunters and if they don t get  
5 any caribou here, he has to move them to where there's  
6 caribou. Us Inupiats hunt at the river. We can't  
7 move because we hunt just at the river. We can't go  
8 hunt like they do and move. We can't afford to do  
9 that. We've got to stay with our boats and we hunt off  
10 our boats and we hunt all our villages.

11  
12 The one Enoch mentioned, it's near the  
13 end of the mouth. When you go up from Abraham's, from  
14 his house, when you go up there a little bit there's no  
15 more mountains, only rolling hills. That's how far up.  
16 And it's just below (in Inupiaq). It means there's  
17 rapids that go -- you could see them. They go  
18 downriver. The river is lower here and you could see  
19 the rapids. There's another one when you go up further  
20 a little ways, I've been that far. Go up a little bit  
21 and it's the same thing. It's higher up there and it  
22 comes down pretty hard. It costs a lot of money to go  
23 up the river. We fight it, but Noatak, we're lucky we  
24 could drift down further up with no problem and we save  
25 a lot of gas and we use the gas to stay in the main  
26 river.

27  
28 It's harder and harder for the people  
29 of Noatak. I feel it because I'm from Noatak. I moved  
30 to Kotzebue. But I was lucky, the few I could hunt  
31 toward Kiana. Thank you Kiana people for providing for  
32 us again. Even Noatak people had to hunt again from  
33 Noatak. It take me a lot of gas, over two drums, to  
34 get from Kotzebue to Onion Portage. Yet, just think  
35 how much more it costs from Noatak to go to Kotzebue  
36 first and up Kobuk and back and return. That's a lot  
37 of gas.

38  
39 But Eskimos don't care as long as they  
40 put food on the table they don't care what it costs  
41 because they want to eat good for the winter. When  
42 they get the caribou, they eat good. I'll tell you one  
43 thing, it makes you feel good when you eat caribou,  
44 especially when they're fat. There's a big difference,  
45 fat caribou versus females.

46  
47 You guys in Kiana are so lucky, Upper  
48 Kobuk. You guys could just go out your back door.  
49 When they go out, I tell you one thing, thank God for  
50 four-strokes. We use a lot less gas nowadays compared

1 to before. Like I've got an old Yamaha that's over 20  
2 years old. I'll tell you one thing, I need Crawley  
3 behind me, you know, and it uses so much gas, but it  
4 has power, but not compared to four-stroke. About half  
5 of what we use now.

6

7 I think at this time enough is said for  
8 now. I think we'll go on a short break and we'll  
9 resume our meeting in about 15 minutes. Anything you  
10 want to add, Melinda, our coordinator?

11

12 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I just wanted  
13 to see if there was anybody else in the room who hadn't  
14 introduced themselves yet or if we had any new Staff  
15 calling in to the teleconference or any public folks  
16 just for the record real quick this morning.

17

18 MS. MIKOW: I'm Beth Mikow. I'm with  
19 Division of Subsistence.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Henry.  
22 Introduce yourself.

23

24 MR. SCHAEFFER, SR.: Henry Schaeffer,  
25 Sr.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. We'll go  
28 on a short break. Welcome everybody. So we're going  
29 to go on a short break. When we come back Melinda will  
30 give the number again if you want to call in and listen  
31 in.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 Let's go on a short break.

36

37 (Off record)

38

39 (On record)

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Attamuk here. We'll  
42 call the meeting back to order at 11:00 PM [sic] and  
43 we'll go back to the agenda. An .805 report on Page  
44 15. The one on Page 15 there was a statewide proposal  
45 about the consensus agenda and the other one is 14-40  
46 brown bear proposal and 14-41 on muskox. These were  
47 adopted by the Board, the Alaska statewide board. They  
48 were adopted, so they all passed, our proposals.  
49 Someone will give a report on that .805 annual report.

50

1                   Go ahead, Melinda.

2

3                   MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. What Enoch  
4 just covered here is the .804(c) letter and that's the  
5 report from the Federal Subsistence Board back to the  
6 Councils about how they voted on the proposals that  
7 affected your region. So Enoch just gave that  
8 overview. And Enoch was there at that meeting that  
9 took place.

10

11                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Are we going to move  
12 to the .805?

13

14                   MS. BURKE: Yes.

15

16                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. On.....

17

18                   MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

19

20                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

21

22                   MR. BALLOT: I guess it wouldn't hurt  
23 to thank the Board for supporting our proposals from  
24 our area.

25

26                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Melinda will write a  
27 thank you letter. At this Federal meeting when I was  
28 there all our proposals in Northwest Alaska compared to  
29 other places had no opposition, no request because I  
30 gave my best report on these and they had no problem  
31 passing it. I was so proud that they didn't even  
32 question. I gave my report plain as possible. Not  
33 like the others, we had no problem passing it. But the  
34 information I give is not really from me, it's from the  
35 people like you. You give it to me. I just pass it  
36 on. I'm just your second mouth and I use it and I'm  
37 glad to do it like that. I'm happy. You guys done  
38 good.

39

40                   So on 17, FY2013 annual report.

41

42                   MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. Page 17 is  
43 the report that the Council submitted to the Federal  
44 Subsistence Board of the issues of your concern for  
45 that fiscal year and then on Page 20 is the reply from  
46 the Federal Subsistence Board regarding those issues.  
47 Page 20 in your book.

48

49                   I also wanted to just note and for you  
50 as well, Enoch Mitchell from Noatak, throughout this

1 meeting I've got a little running list here and if  
2 there are items that come to mind on some of the issues  
3 you folks have brought up or other issues that come to  
4 the table, I will be keeping a list here of any items  
5 that you deem important to put on this year's annual  
6 report. So we'll start that running list here and then  
7 we will finalize that in the winter.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. The one she's  
10 talking about is the concerns about the road to Ambler,  
11 so it's in the report here. Do you have somebody to do  
12 a brief on it?

13

14 MS. BURKE: No, Mr. Chair. If you want  
15 to review the response from the board, you all should  
16 have gotten it in the mail a little while back, but if  
17 there's any questions or anything that myself or any  
18 other Staff can answer, we're happy to do so if there's  
19 any questions regarding the Board's response to your  
20 issues.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, because the  
23 letter was real self-explanatory and it was well  
24 explained in the letter. The bottom line is I gave a  
25 lot of respect to how Ambler wanted to do the road up  
26 there. It's their land. It's their concern. They're  
27 the one that should decide and that's the way I feel  
28 about all things. If it concerns a certain village,  
29 they're the ones that should give the final on how they  
30 want it done and I will support them.

31

32 Okay. With that said and done, Federal  
33 Subsistence Board annual report reply on Page 20. This  
34 is the one that we supported, road to Ambler. So  
35 basically they're real close to each other and how  
36 Ambler decides on Page 20. From the Council, if you've  
37 got any questions, interrupt me anytime, raise your  
38 hand and I will acknowledge you with no problem.

39

40 So we're just moving along the agenda.  
41 I'm so happy. And now with the -- anything you have to  
42 add for the annual report, Melinda?

43

44 MS. BURKE: No, Mr. Chair. Just keep  
45 in mind I'll be keeping a running list for this year's  
46 2014 annual report. Just any time during the meeting  
47 speak up and we'll make sure to note those concerns and  
48 include them in the report.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If you hear me out

1 there, you guys will find out that I depend heavily on  
2 Melinda. She's our coordinator and I go through and  
3 she goes through with me and we work together from  
4 Kotzebue through Anchorage. She's a good one and she's  
5 good at what she's doing. I'll tell you one thing,  
6 she's a Native in her own right because she works hard  
7 for us to make sure we all get what we need.

8

9 Okay. Back to the -- I gave a real  
10 brief Chair's report and I think I don't need to say  
11 any more. We should get on with the presentation of  
12 services.

13

14 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.

17

18 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, we will have  
19 that portion tomorrow. Our Assistant Regional Director  
20 Gene Peltola will be joining us and I think it would be  
21 appropriate for him to present the service award, so  
22 we'll move that to tomorrow if everybody wants to make  
23 a note in their book.

24

25 Next on the agenda we do have someone  
26 that we need to reappoint to the Kobuk Valley SRC. In  
27 your gray folder I've included there in front of all  
28 the Council members there's a letter that we received  
29 from Marcy on the left-hand side. They're requesting  
30 for us to reappoint Louie Commack, Jr. He noted that  
31 he would like to continue serving on the SRC. So if we  
32 could have a vote if the Council would like this  
33 reappointment to take place.

34

35 MS. OKADA: Melinda.

36

37 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

40

41 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I thought we already  
42 had reappointed him, but if not then I would move that  
43 we reappoint Louie Commack to the SRC.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, his term is up.  
46 That's why we have to go through the regular process of  
47 reappointing him. Go ahead in radio land, someone.....

48

49 MS. BURKE: Marcy.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Marcy.  
2  
3 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair. This is Marcy  
4 with Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.  
5 What is actually being requested is that we reappoint  
6 Louie Commack to the Gates of the Arctic SRC. His term  
7 expires in November and we'd like to reappoint him at  
8 this time.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So Percy.....  
11  
12 MR. BALLOT: That was my motion.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Percy's motion was to  
15 appoint Louie Commack from Ambler to Upper Kobuk SRC,  
16 right?  
17  
18 MS. BURKE: Gates of the Arctic.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Gates of the Arctic.  
21 I personally will second the motion what Percy put  
22 together. Louie Commack represented us for Upper Kobuk  
23 for years and years. He's going to get reappointed.  
24 Also, for your information, Louie is going to be the  
25 chairman for the Upper Kobuk for Fairbanks. So the  
26 more people we have for Northwest Alaska even if  
27 they're from Kobuk, it's better for us to have someone  
28 like that to represent us and speak for us on behalf of  
29 us people that depend on the land and their resources.  
30  
31 We will vote from the Council. All in  
32 favor of Louie representing us signify by saying aye.  
33  
34 IN UNISON: Aye.  
35  
36 (No opposing votes)  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: All in favor. So  
39 congratulations, Louie, if you're listening. You're  
40 reappointed. I think it's another three or four years  
41 and we'll go through the process again in a few years.  
42 So, okay, back to the agenda.  
43  
44 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, ma'am.  
47  
48 MS. BURKE: I just want to remind  
49 everybody on the phone we hear a little bit of paper  
50 shuffling. If everybody could push \*6 unless you re

1 speaking on the phone line, that would be great.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, Percy.

8

9 MR. BALLOT: Do we get a chance to  
10 respond to the responses from the FSB regarding our  
11 issues?

12

13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think they're going  
14 to give.....

15

16 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. If there is  
17 something that -- is there something you don't feel was  
18 answered thoroughly, Percy, or is there something.....

19

20 MR. BALLOT: Yes.

21

22 MS. BURKE: .....you wanted to keep on  
23 this year's annual report that you didn't feel  
24 satisfied with the answer?

25

26 MR. BALLOT: Well, I just wanted to  
27 discuss it a little bit about the transporters. You  
28 just heard Mr. Mitchell mention the issues they had  
29 with the transporters and the amount of guides up there  
30 and I'm wondering -- you know, we talk about educating,  
31 but I don't think that's enough now. It s time to look  
32 at limiting or something because our caribou is  
33 dwindling. At some point in time we need to start  
34 looking at what else we can do or need to do to make  
35 people in the village harvest their animals.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy.

38

39 Go ahead, Michael.

40

41 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman. I wanted to  
42 try and see if there s a possibility that we could  
43 completely restrict transporters on Federal and State  
44 lands due to the fact that our caribou herd is  
45 dropping, our sheep population has drastically dropped.  
46 I had mentioned several years ago that they do an  
47 emergency count or do an emergency shutdown and now our  
48 Dall sheep population is dwindling and on the edge of  
49 losing them. If they would have listened to us back  
50 then, this wouldn't have happened with the Dall sheep.

1 We would have still had some Dall sheep around due to  
2 the weather, you know, impacting their survival rate  
3 and the wolves and the bears.

4

5 I would like to see if there's a  
6 possibility we can restrict transporters within the GMU  
7 23 to only the local area transporters that reside here  
8 365 days a year. Any outside transporters they will  
9 not be allowed to operate or exist within the GMU 23.  
10 That way it gives priority to the transporters that  
11 reside and stay in Kotzebue, Kiana, wherever, that they  
12 be allowed. Our caribou herd is dropping. Once our  
13 caribou herd drops and dwindles, then they're going to  
14 start relying on moose and then the moose is going to  
15 crash.

16

17 We have a lot of issues that we need to  
18 start putting our foot down. If they would have put  
19 their foot down on the Dall sheep several years ago  
20 like I said, we wouldn't have had this problem with the  
21 Dall sheep. We probably won't be able to hunt Dall  
22 sheep for another 10, 15 years maybe. Transporters, I  
23 think they need to be cut off, any outside ones.

24

25 I'm hoping to hear the reports later on  
26 as to how many animals were taken, how many  
27 transporters were actually operating within the  
28 agencies at the moment. I can't wait to hear the  
29 spring meeting as to what were harvested and how many  
30 were taken and how many transporters they allowed  
31 within their agency area.

32

33 Okay.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Michael.  
36 Before I get to Hannah, we're going to have the agency  
37 give a report on the sheep later on. I think it's  
38 tomorrow on the sheep population issues and concerns.  
39 I would like to welcome -- I think these are students  
40 that walked in. Could you introduce yourself? I mean  
41 I'm welcoming all young people because you're the  
42 future that's going to sit right here at this table in  
43 the Council. So all students are welcome from the  
44 schools. Could you come up to the mic and introduce  
45 yourself. I'm welcoming you, Attamuk here, Chairman  
46 for the Northwest Arctic Federal Advisory Board.

47

48 MR. JACKSON: My name is Frank Jackson,  
49 Jr. from Kiana.

50

1 MS. BARR: My name is Amber Barr. I'm  
2 a senior at the Kiana school. Lee and Helena's  
3 daughter. We're doing the newspaper and that's why we  
4 came.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you for coming.  
7 I mean it makes me proud. No matter which village,  
8 even in Kotzebue, when young kids come in and sit and  
9 listen. They might learn and one day they will sit at  
10 our table and I will welcome you. On our breaks if you  
11 have any questions, don't be scared to ask. We're all  
12 Natives here and if you have any questions for us,  
13 you're welcome to ask us and take the pictures you  
14 want.

15  
16 Okay, back to the agenda. Michael,  
17 you're right. For the Western Arctic Caribou Herd I  
18 used to be in there and if the caribou started  
19 declining, the way they had planned, was transporters  
20 and outfitters supposed to be cut first and the guides  
21 before they cut the Natives at all to start hunting. I  
22 always stress it's very important for Maniilaq to take  
23 surveys.

24  
25 Susan and I did lots of surveys for  
26 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. Not only caribou,  
27 fish, trout, sheefish, whitefish. We did a lot  
28 together. We worked together as a team. Susan is so  
29 good at it. She made me look good. But I tell you one  
30 thing, average take for Northwest Alaska on caribou  
31 per family, whether they take caribou or not, is 14  
32 caribou a year just to survive.

33  
34 And Jim Dau admitted that if the  
35 caribou ever declined on the surveys that was taken by  
36 the State and Maniilaq, that when the first reduction  
37 he will not let them take no more or less what they  
38 take because Northwest Alaska is caribou people, like I  
39 always say. That's why I wish Maniilaq would keep  
40 doing surveys because they're declining and we are  
41 being hurt.

42  
43 I know what Mike Kramer is saying. We  
44 feel it. Noatak River is so full of transporters and  
45 outfitters and they could just get on their satellite  
46 phone, we're not seeing any caribou, move us. The  
47 transporters and outfitters will do it to make money.  
48 They will gladly transport them. We can't do that like  
49 I said earlier. I feel for the people of Northwest  
50 Alaska.

1 I'm getting off the agenda. Go ahead,  
2 Hannah.

3  
4 MS. LOON: Taikuu, Mr. Chairman. This  
5 is Hannah Loon. I really feel for Mr. Enoch Mitchell  
6 for his moving report about lack of caribou in the  
7 Noatak area considering gas is \$15 a gallon or more and  
8 the river is low and it's hard to barge in the stove  
9 oil to Noatak and the same amount too for heating.

10  
11 I think it's high time Board of Game  
12 attend the RAC meetings and hear all our concerns  
13 regarding weather and competition on the use of  
14 resources, primarily the caribou in the fall time. For  
15 them it's just for commercial purposes and for us it's  
16 for the reasons of survival and I'm sure Enoch, I know  
17 Noatak or everybody in the region must get at least 15  
18 because they take care of their grandmas and their  
19 aunts and those that have no hunters or providers for  
20 them.

21  
22 I don't know if we ever had a Board of  
23 Game listen to our RAC meetings and we need to open  
24 communications especially with our representative from  
25 the transporter and guiding to also educate the guides  
26 that if they have -- we would rather want the meat and  
27 the skin or the meat preferably to be brought to our  
28 communities. Educate them about that. We want those  
29 because we always skunk from them interfering and  
30 affects the migration patterns.

31  
32 There are times over the years when  
33 there was a large gathering in Shungnak and Kivalina  
34 residents came up and the hunter said I have not tasted  
35 caribou soup in five years. Spiritually, that affects  
36 the family and your relatives at home. When, in fact,  
37 the coastal people have always provided us with the  
38 marine mammals. Black and white from this table.  
39 Someone representing to go listen to all our meetings  
40 in the future.

41  
42 Taikuu, Mr. Chairman.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah. I  
45 will respond that maybe Melinda could take notes that  
46 we could invite someone from the State of Alaska, Board  
47 of Game. Someone to sit in on a meeting like this and  
48 hear our concerns about the codfish we're having.

49  
50 Also the Western Arctic Caribou Herd

1 Working Group is going to have a meeting probably in  
2 December again. So, Melinda, if the Federal have extra  
3 money maybe a couple people could go sit in and listen  
4 in to the Western Arctic Caribou Herd because they're  
5 the ones that do the final the way I feel and how they  
6 take input from the people for our caribou.

7

8 With that said, go ahead, Raymond.

9

10 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
11 On the Northwest Arctic Caribou working group I  
12 happened to be on that group for quite a long time and  
13 I was the chair. We started planning just in case the  
14 caribou was going to be declining. We seen something  
15 ahead of us 12 years ago. So we decided on it for four  
16 years technically and planning what will happen if the  
17 caribou started declining. So it took four years to do  
18 the technical work if the herd started declining.

19

20 There's a memorandum on that booklet  
21 that tells exactly what we'll have to do if the caribou  
22 start declining. Number one, just like you said, Mr.  
23 Chairman, just stop all transporters and guides.  
24 That's the number one in this plan.

25

26 So my question is and my  
27 recommendation, Mr. Chairman, somebody attend that  
28 working group meeting like you said this winter. Maybe  
29 just ask for one or two booklets so all of us could see  
30 that plan right there so we know exactly what to do  
31 with it. However, in all that time when we're done  
32 with it, the recommendation from the committee was give  
33 that report back to the advisory council, State AC, and  
34 then make a strong recommendation to the Board of Game.  
35 They'll say since the caribou are declining we want all  
36 the sport hunters and guides out, closed completely.  
37 They'll have to make that decision. That's including  
38 the RAC here. That's something we should look into,  
39 Mr. Chairman.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Raymond.  
42 You're so right. I'm going to acknowledge our elder  
43 here. He raised his hand. Go ahead, Larry. You could  
44 come up and say something.

45

46 MR. WESTLAKE: Are you on public  
47 comments?

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We're not on public  
50 comments, but I'm going to acknowledge you because you

1 are the elder rep here from Kiana. As Chair, I could  
2 make a minor adjustment to the agenda. I will gladly  
3 respectfully call you up, Larry.

4  
5 MR. WESTLAKE: Taikuu. I've got a blue  
6 sheet to make it official. I'm Larry Westlake and I  
7 represent the elders in Kiana. I was born and raised  
8 here.

9  
10 First of all I'd like to speak on the  
11 salmon issue this summer. I think to around the 1st of  
12 August we had a wonderful salmon season. There was a  
13 lot of salmon. The salmon were bigger than ever. We  
14 were getting 10-pound salmons that we never get before  
15 around here. Everybody had their freezers full of  
16 salmon; smoked salmon, dried salmon, fresh salmon. And  
17 we wake up one morning and salmon floating down our  
18 stream, coming off the Squirrel River and the Kobuk  
19 both.

20  
21 Well, some of us got on the phone and  
22 I, myself, called the Northwest Arctic Borough and  
23 talked to the mayor because we needed something done  
24 right away. It was our diet at the time and, like I  
25 said, our freezers were full, but when something  
26 happens like that, it should be acknowledged right  
27 away. The same day or second day there should be  
28 somebody here to take care of that stuff. We didn't  
29 get a real written report until maybe 10 days after  
30 that or something that our salmon in our freezers were  
31 okay and we could eat them.

32  
33 I've been here a long time and that's  
34 the first time in my life I've seen salmon do that on  
35 the Kobuk River. Through the years we see some salmon  
36 floating down, but those were salmon that already  
37 spawned in the tributaries and current take them out.  
38 These salmon weren't even spawned. They were full of  
39 eggs. It became a safety issue for us. The bears,  
40 without any berries or anything much to eat out there,  
41 came to the shores of the Kobuk and the shores of  
42 Squirrel River. I think of it as a dangerous issue for  
43 a while. Luckily we didn't lose anybody. I think that  
44 part of it saved the camps along the Kobuk and the  
45 Squirrel River. I didn't hear of any bear issues in  
46 camps along those two rivers. But the issue is, you  
47 know, when we have an emergency like that we have to  
48 get on top of it right away.

49  
50 Another thing is the whitefish in our

1 area. We have a problem with beaver damming up the  
2 tributaries. I mean the sloughs into the spawning  
3 grounds of the whitefish and up the Squirrel River. I  
4 don't know how many sloughs in there. The fish are  
5 landlocked in there. There's some on the Kobuk River.  
6 The beaver dammed the sloughs up and the fish can't get  
7 out or they can't even winter in there now. I would  
8 suggest there be a bounty, try to set up a bounty for  
9 beaver. There's a price to the skins and, besides  
10 that, if you put a bounty for a certain extent, then I  
11 think they would be controlled.

12

13 For our caribou hunt this year we were  
14 lucky that nobody got hurt or had a boating accident.  
15 There was a lot of boat races out there. I lived here  
16 all my life, like I said, and before the caribou  
17 migration started crossing the Kobuk River we were  
18 still territory of Alaska and that was the early '50s.  
19 The tribal council would meet with the Kiana people and  
20 suggest that we don't bother the caribou herd until  
21 they crossed the river and they told us you will have  
22 enough meat. Everybody will have enough meat once they  
23 get the pattern across that river. Right up here,  
24 those mountains, you could see from here the migrating  
25 pattern those days.

26

27 These are things that we live with  
28 through the years. By the tribal council we would come  
29 up with proposals here in Kiana to hunt on the south  
30 side, camp on the south side, let the caribou cross.  
31 It's really out of hand today and it's not only out of  
32 hand, it's dangerous out there. Very dangerous for a  
33 boat accident or somebody getting shot. I think myself  
34 that I will work hard this winter to get the tribal  
35 council to come up with some proposals. We still have  
36 the hunting laws and all that, but I think we could  
37 come up with some proposals that we could work along  
38 with.

39

40 All these years the Kiana people hunted  
41 caribou with Noorvik and other villages, near villages  
42 that came up here. We wait until the caribou get  
43 halfway or more across the river and then the boats  
44 take off, you follow the herd to the shore, to the  
45 south shore, and you get all the caribou you want.  
46 Four or five boats could get all they want.

47

48 This fall was real bad. Just when they  
49 hit the river on the north side the boats start  
50 crossing and chasing back. There's no common sense

1 there. Really there isn't. How do you expect to get  
2 caribou if you chase them back. The caribou then they  
3 can't get across there, so they change their pattern.  
4 They go further up the river or down the river to  
5 cross.

6  
7 So I think that we should have a good  
8 message out from Kiana to all the hunters to camp on  
9 the south side of the river and wait until the caribou  
10 get halfway or more across the river, then everybody  
11 could get meat. And then, if you already got meat, if  
12 you already got a couple caribou, you have to take  
13 turns. There's people there that didn't get anything.  
14 You have to let those people go out to the next group  
15 that comes across. This is how we were told when we  
16 were young, to share and not try to get ahead of each  
17 other. Make a plan on the shorelines of the Kobuk.  
18 Make a plan so everybody could get caribou.

19  
20 Also Enoch brought up a 10-mile limit  
21 on big game hunters, on their camps. We proposed to  
22 the Game Board a couple years ago that it be 5 miles.  
23 I haven't seen anything on that lately, but that's a  
24 good point. I think the caribou would have more room  
25 to migrate if they were five to 10 miles apart.

26  
27 Also we're hearing that transporters  
28 are going further than the Noatak. They're out further  
29 towards the Slope. These are places where the caribou  
30 come through, major patterns through the high mountains  
31 there. If you get ahead of the pattern, I think that's  
32 affecting a lot of it because the major part of the  
33 herd this fall came through the Upper Kobuk and this is  
34 Federal land we're talking about.

35  
36 We have to get the Park Service and the  
37 Federal people to start backing this up in our concern.  
38 These issues are going on in Federal land. They have  
39 to start working with us. This is a serious issue. To  
40 get there we have to start electing people that will  
41 speak out for us. Get the best people to represent us.  
42 We talk about this stuff for years and still we're not  
43 there.

44  
45 I'll close with thanking you for the  
46 time listening to me today. Taikuu.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: , Larry. You brought  
49 up a couple important points. Larry (in Inupiaq). The  
50 transporters and outfitters, they're starting to make

1 an impact on us. What I mean, transporters are trying  
2 to make impact on us big time. Like I said, Anaktuvuk  
3 Pass called and they're starting to do it from up  
4 there, from the starting of the migration. That's  
5 where our animals start migration, at Anaktuvuk Pass.  
6 I think that's where Anaktuvuk Pass, the North Slope  
7 Borough, our board here in Kotzebue and our villages  
8 need to get a plan together.

9  
10 We might not have much money, but I  
11 think what we need to do is buy out the guide and own  
12 by Natives. Buy out the guide and never -- the guide  
13 that was bought at Anaktuvuk Pass and say this guiding  
14 license belong to the Natives and we don't have anybody  
15 there anymore. Just buy out if we could do it. That's  
16 what I always think. I think we could put enough money  
17 together for the North Slope Borough and the borough.  
18 I think things like that could happen because we are  
19 being hurt big time, like I said, by transporters and  
20 outfitters.

21  
22 That's the way it was written. Raymond  
23 and I worked hard on transporters and outfitters that  
24 they go first and the Natives last. It's in there.  
25 Raymond will remember it and that's what needs to  
26 happen. That's why I say we need to attend that  
27 meeting. There was an Arctic Caribou Herd Working  
28 Group meeting. I used to be in there. Raymond used to  
29 be the chair.

30  
31 Selawik Wildlife Refuge is the one that  
32 go up on your salmon issues and I think they gave a  
33 brief report. We have two from here I don't know if  
34 they were involved with, but the salmon that died off.  
35 So I'm going to call you later to speak to make the  
36 concerns what you have on salmon because that's a  
37 concern. But Mother Nature takes care of Kiana again,  
38 give them a lot of salmon in case they never get  
39 caribou. They fill their freezer with salmon. They've  
40 got lots of smoked salmon. Mother Nature taking care  
41 of us in a certain way. Noatak have a lot of salmon.  
42 So much salmon that Mother Nature says you might not  
43 get any caribou. Here's other resource you could live  
44 on and you could make it as an Eskimo, so you could  
45 survive.

46  
47 (In Inupiaq). What I mean is as a  
48 Native we might not have money, but when we have no  
49 more money we go to our Native food just to make it.  
50 We can't go without it. It's our life and our

1 resources. All these years it provided for us and we  
2 have to protect it. I don't want to fight over  
3 animals. I just want to protect our resources for the  
4 future.

5  
6                   On your beaver pelts, beavers that you  
7 were talking about, I actually last year get a call  
8 again from Cantwell that they're getting so many  
9 beavers in their rivers that their whitefish is dying.  
10 It even stinks because they die right there because  
11 they couldn't go out to migrate. And it's happening.  
12 Beavers all the way to Point Hope and Noatak River.  
13 I'm scared one day they're going to block the river and  
14 our trout is not going to grow because they have to go  
15 to the ocean to grow up and come back. That's how  
16 trout is. They have to go to the ocean to get old  
17 enough for us to eat in the future.

18  
19                   I think on your proposal what you need  
20 to do is put a proposal together on how you want  
21 harvesting done. I don't say Eskimos hunt. We harvest  
22 for food. We never hunt. I never hunt. I harvest. I  
23 always use that. To put a proposal together how you  
24 want hunting done here because Noatak did it a few  
25 years ago. They put a proposal together to stop  
26 hunting at certain times, but now that proposal is no  
27 good due to global warming. They're migrating later  
28 and that means the transporters and guides have a  
29 chance to harvest before we even get.

30  
31                   So if you make your proposals, you need  
32 to make a consideration due to global warming. It's  
33 changing. It's getting later and later every year. If  
34 you put a certain date, this date might work a few  
35 years ago, but it's not going to work in the future due  
36 to global warming. It's very important. I've seen  
37 that.

38  
39                   The same thing when Percy talking about  
40 those eggs last summer. I'm one of those few in  
41 Kotzebue that goes to those islands and get eggs. They  
42 were early this year because it was warm. Animals  
43 depend on the weather so much that they lay early. I  
44 take my boys and I take my grandson. They had so much  
45 fun out there just getting eggs and they get lots and  
46 they pass them out. These are the things that are  
47 happening. It's not only caribou, even birds are being  
48 affected.

49  
50                   Like I said, I think what we need to do

1 is buy the guide out at Anaktuvuk Pass somehow and that  
2 way we can say we Natives own the guiding license but  
3 we won't put hunters there. We won't take any hunters  
4 and we could have it forever and it can't be passed on.  
5 It just could be passed on to the tribal governments.  
6 All I could say. Someone had their  
7 hand up.

8  
9 MS. BURKE: Calvin.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Calvin.

12  
13 MR. MOTO: In August I attended a  
14 hearing on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and he said  
15 the declining herd was kind of -- so after he gave the  
16 presentation I said are you thinking about recommending  
17 cutting back on subsistence hunting. He said that's a  
18 consideration. I said you should consider the fact  
19 that maybe you should limit how much commercial hunting  
20 of caribou could be. A couple years ago there was over  
21 400,000 caribou and now there's something like 200,000.  
22 That's a big decline.

23  
24 We had the same thing happen in the  
25 '80s where the caribou herd went from up to 179,000.  
26 The funny part of it, three or four years ago the  
27 population bloomed. I said did the caribou have  
28 triplets or twins? I said how come the number went up  
29 to almost 100,000 more. So these are questions we have  
30 to think about.

31  
32 I told him if you're going to make a  
33 proposal to limit, you have to let the people in the  
34 village know, especially the advisory councils, because  
35 we are the ones being affected by this, you know, if  
36 they limit. Right now it's pretty good harvest quotas,  
37 but I don't know. Is it climate change or is it the  
38 fact that more predators, I asked him. He said he'd  
39 get back to us.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I'll get to  
42 you in a minute, Mike. Back to the agenda. Anyone from  
43 the public like to give a brief testimony like Larry  
44 did. It happens every morning, but you're welcome from  
45 the public to testify if you want. You've got the  
46 little blue card.

47  
48 Go ahead, Michael, if somebody don't  
49 want to say something. Go ahead.  
50

1 MR. KRAMER: Just hearing Enoch's  
2 concerns, you know, I seen it up on the Noatak. I've  
3 hunted for quite a few years up on the Lower Noatak.  
4 It's like a desert up there. There's nothing. There's  
5 no caribou, muskox, moose. I can remember back in the  
6 day going up there to talk to Theodore Booth and we  
7 used to have to shoo the caribou away from the  
8 hatchery. Can't even do that anymore.

9  
10 I'm still trying to get Fish and Game  
11 and other entities to admit that the Red Dog Road is  
12 having an impact on our caribou herd. I also see the  
13 concerns of transporters. I think that we should try  
14 and see if we can get a proposal together to make the  
15 Noatak Controlled Use Area fluctuate with the herd  
16 migration and make the northern boundaries 10 miles,  
17 not five. The northern boundaries should be able to  
18 allow the caribou to move through freely and then the  
19 southern be the same. That way they have freedom to be  
20 able to move about when they want to.

21  
22 Limiting the amount of transporters is  
23 a good thing, but at least if we have guides that's one  
24 on one with the hunter. I worked as an assistant guide  
25 for a number of years and, boy, I was strict on these  
26 hunters. You know, having a local assistant guide is a  
27 good thing to have around because your knowledge. I've  
28 had a hunter say I don't need that piece of meat. I  
29 said I'll turn you in for wanton waste. I ain't  
30 scared. I don't care.

31  
32 But we need to also look at predator  
33 control. Our predators are starting to outnumber our  
34 -- you know, getting pretty close to really taking down  
35 a lot of our animals. There needs to be a balance  
36 there. We either need to take down the predators to  
37 allow our harvestable animals to be able to increase  
38 and stay stable. We've got to be able to maintain  
39 predators versus harvestable animals. If we don't do  
40 that, we don't control that and we lose everything,  
41 like the Dall sheep -- the Dall sheep died because of  
42 climate change and predation. If we don't take the act  
43 now, we're going to lose them and we're going to become  
44 reindeer herders again.

45  
46 I'd like to see if there's a  
47 possibility that the main Federal Subsistence Board  
48 would allow the Noatak Controlled Use Area to fluctuate  
49 with the migration. If they move farther north, well  
50 move farther north with them. Protect the herd, you

1 know. Protect what we can harvest. Make it allowable  
2 for us to harvest. That's what subsistence is about.  
3 If we don't take control now, then we're going to lose  
4 it, just like we did the sheep. It's either step in  
5 and be able to make the changes now to protect them for  
6 our future or we're going to lose them.

7  
8 That's my suggestion. I'll come up  
9 with a couple more other proposals that I'd like to see  
10 come up here in the future. That's all, Mr. Chairman.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

13  
14 Go ahead, Melinda.

15  
16 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. I just  
17 wanted to respond to a couple of things. For the  
18 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, our Council  
19 member, Verne Cleveland, who has been delayed, he is in  
20 the leadership position now on the working group, so  
21 I'll ensure that after the December meeting I'll try to  
22 attend a portion of it and I'll work with Verne to make  
23 sure we have a good report back to the Council for the  
24 winter meeting.

25  
26 And then with the current discussion  
27 we're having regarding the wildlife issues, later this  
28 afternoon or tomorrow we're going to have Chris McKee,  
29 our biologist, giving you folks a rundown of the sheep  
30 closure issue that we had and I think that would be a  
31 really great time to bounce some ideas off of him so we  
32 can get our Council prepared for the next wildlife call  
33 for proposals, which will be right after the new year,  
34 but I'll double check when exactly it opens up.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Melinda.  
37 Go ahead. You're welcome to speak.

38  
39 MR. JACKSON: My name is Thomas  
40 Jackson. I would like to add on to what Larry was  
41 saying. I was born and raised in this area and camped  
42 at the coal mine area that's up the river from Kiana.  
43 We were seining. We saw whitefish jumping, so we  
44 wanted to seine in front of the camp, which we've done  
45 before. When we did seine, there were over 50 dead  
46 salmon. That was the first time I've seen this. I  
47 told the elderly people that were there. They said  
48 they've never seen it before and I said I've never seen  
49 it before for the number of years I've camped with my  
50 parents. The young boys were even getting salmon,

1 grabbing them from the shore. We couldn't believe  
2 that. I've never done that as a child.

3  
4 So these things that we're seeing we  
5 need to pay attention to and thank you folks for coming  
6 into Kiana.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you for your  
9 report. I'm going to ask you, you're cooking.....

10  
11 MR. JACKSON: Salmon.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: .....salmon for us.

14  
15 MR. JACKSON: And it's not dead salmon  
16 that we caught.

17  
18 (Laughter)

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So about when will it  
21 be done let me ask?

22  
23 MR. JACKSON: I'm getting ready right  
24 now.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. In a few  
27 minutes we'll go out. We'll give him time to set the  
28 table.

29  
30 MR. BALLOT: I'm raising my hand.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You're raising your  
33 hand, Percy. Go ahead.

34  
35 MR. BALLOT: I just wanted to mention  
36 that the Western Arctic Caribou Working Group is what  
37 they are, they're a working group. If we want to make  
38 an impact, we need to put in proposals. The process  
39 for a proposal can be done by anybody and that needs to  
40 be done. So by our winter meeting or sooner we need to  
41 come up with a proposal if we want to take some kind of  
42 action. Maybe that's something we need to talk about  
43 down the line.

44  
45 I know we're here at a fisheries  
46 meeting, but we all depend on the caribou and I'm part  
47 of the working group too and they make recommendations  
48 on the management long term of the caribou. If we want  
49 to do a direct impact soon, we have to come up with a  
50 Federal or State proposal that we could put before the

1 Boards.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you Percy. You  
4 brought up an important point. We have two for the  
5 Western Arctic Caribou Herd, Verne and Percy. Melinda,  
6 I'll tell you one thing. The State will pay their fare  
7 to Anchorage, so we need someone from the board here.  
8 What I'm trying to do is maybe we could outnumber  
9 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and we could  
10 do basically what we want to protect our herd and  
11 protect our people, to sit on the table.

12

13 So I know Verne's fare will be paid.  
14 Percy's fare will be paid. You say you're going to  
15 attend. Also we need someone to listen. The better  
16 we grow as a group, the more maybe they will listen to  
17 us more because we have to put an issue and concern  
18 about Western Arctic Caribou Herd. Like I always say,  
19 it's our resources.

20

21 Okay. Go ahead, Hannah.

22

23 MS. LOON: Taikuu, Mr. Chairman. (In  
24 Inupiaq).

25

26 I will translate what I just said. The  
27 brown bear have been blocking when the caribou passes  
28 through here. Larry said there's always a trail right  
29 there to go towards Selawik area and usually that's  
30 always been like that for so many years. The bear  
31 would be eating caribou along there by their pathway  
32 and sometimes, you know, we wait and wait.

33

34 And I forget to report in my report  
35 about the brown bear. Some of them are skinny.  
36 They've been doing a lot of damage along the Selawik  
37 River, especially on the Selawik River, including the  
38 Fish and Wildlife's cabin. So it would be good to  
39 include -- I mean I'm glad this was brought up for  
40 predator control to keep our population of caribou,  
41 something we have no control over. They're always  
42 hungry and they will do any means and are not afraid to  
43 break into a cabin to look for food.

44

45 Taikuu, Mr. Chairman.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. So you  
48 don't have to worry about it. She translated what she  
49 said in Eskimo, so it's in English too. After we get  
50 to Melinda, I think we'll go on a short break for lunch

1 for maybe an hour unless you guys want to make it a  
2 little bit longer, but we don't have to go nowhere. We  
3 could just eat here.

4

5 Go ahead, Melinda.

6

7 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I can  
8 definitely submit a request in to my office to have  
9 another member attend the Western Arctic Caribou  
10 Working Group meeting in December. Is there someone in  
11 particular that wanted to attend to volunteer or did  
12 you want to assign someone?

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think the Board  
15 could assign someone who they want to attend because  
16 the more we have from here the better it look for us.

17

18 MS. BURKE: It looks like we have a  
19 volunteer, Mr. Mitchell.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead. You  
22 want to volunteer, Enoch?

23

24 MR. MITCHELL: (Nods affirmatively).

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We'll have  
27 Enoch go ahead and attend the meeting. Enoch Mitchell  
28 from Noatak. He's one of the villages being impacted  
29 by the caribou and he's being impacted more by the  
30 transporters and outfitters because I've seen it up  
31 there. So Enoch will go ahead and attend.

32

33 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. I will  
34 submit the request into my office and we will let Enoch  
35 and the rest of the Council know how that goes.

36

37 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Yeah, go  
40 ahead, Percy.

41

42 MR. BALLOT: Sometime maybe after this  
43 it would be nice to go over real quick on how we put  
44 proposals on the table, whether they're Federal or  
45 State. It might be good for the public to know.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We'll have  
48 Melinda put a -- there's a protocol how proposals are  
49 done. For your information, the State of Alaska Board  
50 of Game meet at Kotzebue on every even year. They

1 don't meet on the odd years, right, Susan? And I was  
2 going to ask Susan, maybe before we go to lunch, Susan  
3 could give a quick brief report on the salmon issues.  
4 You were up there when they died up the Kobuk. So  
5 before we go to lunch, but don't spoil our appetite,  
6 please.

7

8

(Laughter)

9

10 MS. GEORGETTE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
11 My name is Susan Georgette and I work with Fish and  
12 Wildlife Service. Larry is absolutely right, that  
13 those emergencies need a response right away. I think  
14 in Kotzebue the Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife, the  
15 agencies started getting reports on Thursday and Friday  
16 of that week in mid August. Of course a lot of people  
17 are out of town or doing something and we weren't --  
18 well, I think I was going to camp, whatever. We didn't  
19 do anything on Friday. Monday morning I called around  
20 to the villages again and it had gotten worse over the  
21 weekend.

22

23 So the Park Service pilot, who was new  
24 in town, was ready to go right away, so we flew along  
25 -- well, I think we hit the Kobuk down below between  
26 Noorvik and Kiana and we landed there. It was quite  
27 dramatic, as anyone who has been on the river then.  
28 And we flew all the way up past Kobuk, past Maniilaq  
29 River and there were dead fish everywhere. We landed  
30 in a couple places and up by the Maniilaq River mouth  
31 we picked up a couple -- or I think four dead fish that  
32 looked in pretty good shape.

33

34 For the scientist to figure out what  
35 happened to them they have to be really freshly dead  
36 and so that's one of the challenges we had. It can't  
37 be rotting already. So we managed to pick up a few and  
38 then we landed in Kobuk and got on the VHF and talked  
39 to people and went and talked to some of the elders and  
40 went back to Kotzebue and arranged with the Fish  
41 Pathology Lab with Fish and Game in Anchorage -- so  
42 they're the guys that dissect the fish and do all the  
43 tests on them and they agreed to take one of them.

44

45 So I got it all packaged up and the  
46 Kotzebue Airport was closed that day for construction  
47 or the next day, so I couldn't send it that day. The  
48 next morning I went to send it and Alaska Airlines  
49 wouldn't take a GoldStreak on the morning flight, so it  
50 was one of those kind of things. So a couple days

1 later they finally got it in Anchorage and the guy  
2 there was really good.

3  
4 He dissected it right away, but part of  
5 the problem is that for them to do the tests on it  
6 about whether it has a disease or bacteria or a virus,  
7 it takes a few days. It takes anywhere from a week --  
8 because they take samples and they culture it and  
9 whatever. So he couldn't really tell us for at least a  
10 week about disease. Some of it he just told us about  
11 -- I mean it takes three or four weeks to see if these  
12 viruses grow before he can be sure it doesn't have any  
13 disease.

14  
15 Yeah, so it took more than a week or  
16 two weeks before we could even say there wasn't  
17 anything obvious on it. Now the pathologist in  
18 Anchorage said that the one interesting thing he saw in  
19 it was that it had algae on its gills and on its skin  
20 and he thought that there would have to be a lot of  
21 algae in the water for it to stick to fish like that.  
22 Because there was such a record run of salmon in the  
23 Kobuk this year, I think it was three times the average  
24 over the last -- like since the early '90s. And we  
25 also had that real hot weather in mid-August.

26  
27 Because they found no disease on it and  
28 because they found these algae, they concluded that it  
29 was lack of oxygen. So they call it low dissolved  
30 oxygen and it's what happens in rivers when there's a  
31 lot of fish, there's hot weather and you can have algae  
32 blooms. I'd be interested in people's observations  
33 because that day we flew the river was very clear and  
34 it wasn't an algae bloom like that real green or blue  
35 stuff you see, but the pathologist said that you could  
36 have algae blooms that aren't very visible. One thing  
37 he said was that it had different kinds of algae on it,  
38 not just one species and he thought that that meant  
39 that it wasn't a toxic kind of algae. And he said  
40 sometimes you could see them and sometimes not.

41  
42 He also thought that there were so many  
43 fish in the rivers and there was warm weather that that  
44 alone could have been enough to crowd fish into places  
45 that don't have a lot of oxygen and that spawning  
46 salmon are especially susceptible, like they're under  
47 stress. It's sort of like a pregnant woman or  
48 something. They're kind of more vulnerable than just  
49 your average siilik or whitefish or something. So he  
50 thought that it could take -- that they could die of

1 lack of oxygen faster than other fish.

2

3                   So we did our best to get information  
4 out. We had newsletters. We sent it kind of as far  
5 and wide as we could for people that had -- we had  
6 email addresses, we sent it to the Borough and they  
7 sent it out.

8

9                   But I think one of the lessons is  
10 really what Larry said, is this idea that you have to  
11 respond right away and part of the problem was getting  
12 water samples because we did come to Kiana about the  
13 week afterwards and Dale at KTC arranged for Dan  
14 Douglas to take us out and we went up to coal mine, but  
15 even a week later -- I mean you have to get water  
16 samples that day almost.

17

18                   I've since talked to some of the  
19 villages because I think Ambler, Lonnie Tibits in  
20 Noorvik and maybe other villages have some water  
21 sampling equipment. I think we have to think that the  
22 people really on the ground, right there, are the ones  
23 that have to go get the water samples. We can't even  
24 really wait for Kotzebue if it's going on in Ambler.  
25 Some of the equipment is very simple and some of the  
26 villages have it. I've talked to some of the Alaskan  
27 Native Tribal Health Consortium folks too about it.

28

29                   So there's been a lot of discussion  
30 about it. I think we did the best we could given the  
31 conditions, but it's true you have to be able to  
32 respond right away. And we were lucky to get salmon  
33 that were at least fresh enough because they can't be  
34 dead for very long before the biologists can't tell,  
35 you know. It's just rotting away.

36

37                   So that's all I have.

38

39                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Susan.  
40 Anyone have any questions for Susan before we break for  
41 lunch.

42

43                   Go ahead, Raymond.

44

45                   MR. STONEY: Since the salmon, you  
46 know, so much has gone down, we're all wondering how  
47 far they go up the Kobuk River. They usually go way  
48 past Maniilaq River. I wonder what happened. I wonder  
49 if they went that far or Squirrel River. Do you have  
50 any information on that?

1 MS. GEORGETTE: Well, you know we were  
2 only able that one day to fly as far as Maniilaq  
3 because of gas. You know, we just didn't have enough  
4 fuel to go further because I was really curious how far  
5 up the Kobuk there were dead salmon. Oh, and they were  
6 up the Squirrel too, as you know, so it wasn't like  
7 they were just floating down from upriver or something.  
8 It was very widespread. I mean a couple hundred miles  
9 or more.

10  
11 I'm not sure really how far the salmon  
12 go. I always thought they went way past Maniilaq. I  
13 mean up past Beaver River and up that way, but I wish  
14 we could have had the fuel to really go look, but it's  
15 just a long ways to go that far.

16  
17 MR. STONEY: Thanks, Susan.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,  
20 Susan.

21  
22 Go ahead, Percy.

23  
24 MR. BALLOT: I like what you said about  
25 having people on the ground. I think we need to share  
26 this with the other villages or for future things where  
27 there's something that we all know what it is we need  
28 to do in order to help whatever is going on with  
29 whatever resource it is. Just to have some kind of set  
30 of plans or red marks or whatever you call it, red  
31 flags to address things like this. I think it would be  
32 real good to share this stuff with our other villages  
33 because we all have EPA programs in our villages.  
34 Something like that to who we need to see, contact  
35 people and all that stuff down the line.

36  
37 MS. GEORGETTE: I think that's a great  
38 idea. One thing I learned in this is that there are  
39 experts in our state who are willing to help, but  
40 they're at UAF or the fish pathology guy in Anchorage  
41 was great, but he's in Anchorage. He can't come up  
42 here and fly out and get a salmon in time to look at  
43 it, so they really rely on people on the ground here.

44  
45 There's a guy who's an algae expert at  
46 UAF and he s happy to look at the samples, but someone  
47 has to actually go out there and get it right away in a  
48 clear jar or whatever the rules are. I think you're  
49 right, if we could all learn how to do it because a lot  
50 of it is not really complicated, but you have to have

1 certain clean containers and things like that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. I  
4 think you're right. I think maybe in every village,  
5 Noatak, Noorvik, Kiana, Ambler, Kobuk and Shungnak, I  
6 think what we need to do is probably try to find some  
7 funds and get a grant to train a couple people in each  
8 village to take some kind of emergency sampling and  
9 things we could turn to. Kivalina, Deering, Buckland,  
10 all our villages. I think we need to find a grant to  
11 train a few people. Not only elders, youngsters too or  
12 the tribal could have protocol steps that need to be  
13 taken to get the correct sample done within a few hours  
14 after they hear something, a disaster like that,  
15 because the longer it takes the less chance the sample  
16 is going to be A-ok.

17

18 With that said, we need to find someone  
19 to probably put a proposal together. As far as I could  
20 remember, I think we'll have to turn to Maniilaq to do  
21 this and put a proposal because they've got grant  
22 writers and they could work with the villages to put it  
23 together. I think you're right.

24

25 We'll make Calvin the last one because  
26 I'm starting to smell that food. And Enoch wants to  
27 say something. The last two and then we'll go eat. Go  
28 ahead, Calvin.

29

30 MR. MOTO: What people I talked to from  
31 this area said for some reason this past summer some of  
32 them didn't get their quota of whitefish. Do I ask  
33 directly to you guys or do I have to ask the State?  
34 Because a lot of people rely on some of that whitefish,  
35 you know. Is it because of the slump or is it because  
36 of the turbid water?

37

38 MS. GEORGETTE: In the Selawik River?  
39 I don't know, Calvin, is what I would say. I had not  
40 heard that people had not got enough whitefish. Maybe,  
41 Hannah, would you know?

42

43 MS. LOON: Taikuu. We did get enough  
44 kausriluks this fall. They're really large and have  
45 big roe and we did get a lot of fish, the smaller ones  
46 with sharp nose, seining. It was a good season. We  
47 have enough. We have fairly large pike and they're  
48 plentiful. There is not one fish that we are lacking  
49 right now because everybody got their share.

50

1 MS. GEORGETTE: One thing, Calvin, is  
2 that we had the chance this year to go to that slump  
3 that we've talked about before, that really big mud  
4 slide on the upper Selawik, and I think I was last  
5 there probably four or five years ago, but it's very  
6 stabilized now. I was really surprised because last  
7 time I was there there were rocks constantly falling  
8 off, it was really noisy and really mucky mud and kind  
9 of a spooky place in a way. Now it's real gradual  
10 slope. It's quite re-vegetated. A lot of grass and  
11 different plants growing on it. It's still putting  
12 some mud into the water, into the river, but not nearly  
13 like it was before. So I think we're kind of lucky on  
14 that now.

15  
16 MR. MOTO: The reason I brought that  
17 up, I was asked to bring it up by a couple of people  
18 because they were wondering, you know. So that's why I  
19 brought it up today.

20  
21 MS. GEORGETTE: I appreciate that.  
22 Thank you.

23  
24 MR. STONEY: Susan, just like the fish  
25 in Selawik, we all know there's a lot of beaver in the  
26 Selawik River. Is that not hurting the whitefish in  
27 the Selawik River, all the beavers?

28  
29 MS. GEORGETTE: Well, I'd probably say  
30 there's different views on that. Local people have  
31 observed impacts of beavers on whitefish where you  
32 can't get fish where you used to fish. Some of the  
33 fish biologists would say that some of those beaver  
34 dams provide good places for little fish to grow. I  
35 think one of the things with beaver dams is that if you  
36 don't have high water often enough that really flushes  
37 them out, then fish get stuck back there sometimes. So  
38 it's something that we don't really know the answer to,  
39 I guess. I mean there's definitely a lot of beavers.  
40 There's no doubt about that.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Enoch.

43  
44 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, we had a lot of  
45 fish this year in Noatak, a lot of salmon. My concern  
46 is like Raymond. I know people get sick from this  
47 beaver fever. We never used to have beavers in the  
48 Noatak River. Now we've got beavers up there. I think  
49 we've got to start doing something about them before  
50 somebody start getting sick. We've got a lot of fresh

1 water up there that goes down.

2

3 I think the camp, right below the vein,  
4 where the creek comes out, I think that might be  
5 contaminated water from the beaver now because they've  
6 been there for years now, several years now. So I was  
7 kind of wondering if there's something being done about  
8 them beavers.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,  
11 Enoch. I think everybody is getting hungry, so I think  
12 we better break for lunch for an hour. We'll resume  
13 our meeting at 1:15.

14

15 (Off record)

16

17 (On record)

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Welcome back,  
20 everyone. We'll call the meeting back to order at 1:15  
21 in the afternoon. We're at Kiana IRA. Like I say,  
22 thank you, Kiana, for welcoming us here. Back to the  
23 agenda. We are on old business, customary and  
24 traditional use. David, go ahead. You have the floor.

25

26 MR. BROOKS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.  
27 Thank you for having me today. My name is Jeff Brooks.  
28 I'm with the Office of Subsistence Management for the  
29 record. I'm going to present to you today on this.  
30 Pippa and David are back in Anchorage.

31

32 I'd like to start by thanking you once  
33 again, people of Kiana, for inviting us here. I'd also  
34 like to thank -- I believe Thomas is his name, the  
35 chef. The lunch was very good, delicious. Thank you  
36 for sharing the salmon. I really liked the crust on  
37 top and he gave me the secret recipe so I'll be able to  
38 make it at home now.

39

40 MS. BURKE: Share so it's part of the  
41 record.

42

43 MR. BROOKS: I'd also like to draw your  
44 attention before I start on this briefing to a document  
45 that was placed before you at your table site there.  
46 There's a bound report by Mr. Kevin Bartley and two  
47 other authors, including myself. That's some  
48 information for you. I wanted to let you know that  
49 that contains some information in it and  
50 recommendations to the agencies about understanding and

1 improving collaborative management with rural residents  
2 of Alaska. It was focused on the Bethel area and the  
3 Kuskokwim Yukon area. Some of the recommendations may  
4 apply to your region and I wanted to make you aware of  
5 what that was.

6

7 If you have any questions about that  
8 report later this week or in the future, please email  
9 or call myself or one of the other authors. We'd be  
10 happy to talk to you about it.

11

12 The briefing that I'm going to provide  
13 to you is on customary and traditional use  
14 determinations. I got some assistance with this from  
15 our anthropologist back in Anchorage, Pippa Kenner. I  
16 just wanted to let you know where we are on this.  
17 Number one, it's not an action item. We discussed this  
18 at the last two or three meetings with you.  
19 Particularly in Kotzebue when I was there last time we  
20 talked about it at length. Ms. Pat Petrivelli and  
21 myself were there speaking to you about it.

22

23 Today I want to tell you where the  
24 Federal Subsistence Program is in its review of the  
25 customary and traditional use determination process.  
26 If you turn to Page 26 and actually 27 is where the  
27 letter starts in the booklet. That's the part of the  
28 RAC book that we're talking about.

29

30 In 2010 the Secretary of Interior asked  
31 the Federal Subsistence Board to review with Regional  
32 Advisory Council input the customary and traditional  
33 use determination process and present recommendations  
34 for regulatory changes. In 2011, all 10 of the  
35 Regional Advisory Councils reviewed the process and  
36 nine out of 10 Councils recommended no changes at that  
37 time to the process. The Southeast Council had asked  
38 the other nine Councils to review the customary and  
39 traditional use determination process once again, which  
40 you and the other Councils did in 2013 and '14.

41

42 At the time the Northwest Arctic  
43 Council decided to still develop its recommendation.  
44 The North Slope and Bristol Bay Councils are also in  
45 that spot. They're still discussing it and asking for  
46 more information from their communities and their  
47 tribal councils. We talked about this last time at  
48 your meeting and at that point we left it at there  
49 would be a letter drafted with our help from you to go  
50 out to the communities and the tribal councils to seek

1 more information from those people before any kind of  
2 recommendation was made. Again, this is not an action  
3 item and you don't have to make a recommendation at  
4 this time.

5  
6                   However, the new development is at the  
7 winter 2014 meeting the Southeast Council submitted a  
8 formal proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board to  
9 make changes to the customary and traditional use  
10 determination process and that letter begins on Page 27  
11 of the Council book. If you actually turn to Page 27,  
12 near the bottom, the last full paragraph that starts  
13 with enclosed is the Council's background paper, there  
14 are four points there that sums up what the Southeast  
15 proposal is.

16  
17                   The first one listed is the Councils  
18 would have the autonomy, the individual decision-making  
19 authority is kind of what that means, to recommend  
20 customary and traditional use determinations specific  
21 to their region. So the concern about this being a  
22 region by region thing and that there are differences  
23 is being accounted for.

24  
25                   Second, any restrictions for the taking  
26 of fish and wildlife shall be implemented using the  
27 criteria established in the ANILCA Section 804. That  
28 is also repeated in the regulatory language. If you  
29 remember, that involves three criteria as opposed to  
30 the eight that are used now in the customary and  
31 traditional use determination.

32  
33                   Number three, deference on customary  
34 and traditional use determinations recommendations  
35 would be given to the appropriate Regional Advisory  
36 Council. So depending on the region, that Council would  
37 be given deference on their recommendations.

38  
39                   Finally, this new proposal, if adopted,  
40 would eliminate the current eight factors that are  
41 considered for making customary and traditional use  
42 determinations.

43  
44                   That sums up their proposal and if  
45 you re interested in seeing the actual proposed  
46 language that would change the regulation, that's on  
47 Page 31 of the booklet.

48  
49                   So where we are is in the winter of  
50 2015 the Office of Subsistence Management Staff are

1 planning to present an analysis of this Southeast  
2 Council's proposal to all 10 of the RACs for their  
3 review and recommendation to the Federal Subsistence  
4 Board. The Federal Subsistence Board may decide to  
5 make a recommendation to the Secretary of Interior and  
6 the Secretary of Agriculture.

7  
8                   So in summation, between February 18th  
9 and March 19th of 2015 our tentative plan is for the  
10 Regional Advisory Councils to meet and make  
11 recommendations on the Southeast Alaska Council's  
12 proposal to change the customary and traditional use  
13 determination process. Again, before that happens,  
14 Staff from the Office of Subsistence Management would  
15 present to you and the other nine Councils an analysis  
16 of that proposal that I just reviewed with you. At a  
17 time to be determined, the Federal Subsistence Board  
18 would meet and make a recommendation on the proposal to  
19 the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of  
20 Agriculture.

21  
22                   That's the briefing that I have for you  
23 on customary and traditional use determinations.  
24 Again, it's not an action item. I wanted to bring you  
25 up to date on where we were and also remind you that  
26 what we talked about doing at your last meeting is  
27 still in the works. Action has not been progressed on  
28 that and that's something that we could discuss today  
29 if you wish.

30  
31                   That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

32  
33                   Thank you.

34  
35                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Jeff.  
36 Anyone from the board have questions for Jeff.

37  
38                   (No comments)

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, you must have  
41 done a good job. No questions asked.

42  
43                   MR. BROOKS: Either that or everybody  
44 is confused now that I spoke.

45  
46                   (Laughter)

47  
48                   MR. BROOKS: Or the salmon is kind of  
49 making you sleepy.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, okay. Back to  
2 our cook, thank you, cook. Applaud you for doing a job  
3 well done. Okay. If you're done, Jeff. Rural  
4 determination process, Carl Johnson.  
5 Oh, Jeff again? How many hats do you wear?

6  
7 (Laughter)

8  
9 MR. BROOKS: Well, I am on the agenda.  
10 Not formally, but now that I'm here I'm going to talk  
11 to you briefly about that as well. The rural part of  
12 this briefing and other information starts on Page 34  
13 of your RAC booklets. And if you page through that,  
14 you will see something that starts on Page 44 -- this  
15 is kind of a long section -- that summarizes all the  
16 public comments that we received on the rural  
17 determination review process.

18  
19 In April of 2014, I went before the  
20 Federal Subsistence Board with others and presented a  
21 summary of what the public had to say about the rural  
22 determination process. As part of the Secretarial  
23 review, one of the things that the Federal program is  
24 supposed to examine is the rural determination process.  
25 There's a lot of information in this RAC book that can  
26 give you more background.

27  
28 What we heard is that the public was  
29 dissatisfied with the way the Federal Subsistence Board  
30 now does and has done in the past the rural  
31 determination process. So, at that meeting in April,  
32 the Board drafted some recommendations on reg changes  
33 for the Secretaries to consider. That letter has been  
34 sent to the Secretaries and I'm trying to remember  
35 where in the book that letter starts. Actually it's  
36 not in the book. But the letter has been sent and it  
37 basically can be summarized by the paragraph in the  
38 very middle of Page 35.

39  
40 If you turn to Page 35, you will see a  
41 section called Federal Subsistence Board recommendation  
42 and this is what the Board has put before the  
43 Secretaries and these are changes to the regulations as  
44 they are now. It would now read that under rural  
45 determination process the Board shall determine which  
46 areas or communities in Alaska are nonrural and all  
47 other communities and areas are therefore rural.

48  
49 The Board also recommended eliminating  
50 from Secretarial regulation the specific criteria

1 previously relied upon by the Board in making rural  
2 determinations. Those include population thresholds,  
3 the population data sources, rural characteristics,  
4 community aggregation, and the 10-year review.

5  
6 In particular, from examining the  
7 public comments, which I was the lead analyst on, there  
8 were over 475 comments. People were very dissatisfied  
9 with using population thresholds and they also did not  
10 like the 10-year review of the process. There were a  
11 lot of comments on the other criteria as well, but for  
12 the most part what you need to know now is that this  
13 recommendation has been sent to the Secretaries from  
14 the Federal Subsistence Board.

15  
16 And then, if you look down below under  
17 next steps on Page 35, it shows you a general  
18 timberline of what would happen in the future. Pretty  
19 much, if there's no new rulemaking, this would involve  
20 more public involvement, public process, and a Federal  
21 rulemaking to actually change this. But if that  
22 doesn't happen by March 1, 2017, then the 2007 rule and  
23 regulations would become enforceable. So they're in  
24 the process of discussing how, when and where -- how to  
25 change this.

26  
27 That was the update that I needed to  
28 give you on the rural determination process.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

31  
32 Go ahead, Mike.

33  
34 MR. KRAMER: I see in the rural  
35 characteristics, just reading that section right there,  
36 so if the Ambler Road project comes in, will that  
37 change our rural status? I mean it says  
38 transportation, community infrastructure, economy. If  
39 their economy increases, will that affect the remainder  
40 of -- Kiana, Kotzebue, all the other villages, will  
41 that affect our rural status?

42  
43 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Michael. That s  
44 a very good question. Again, Mr. Chairman, Jeff Brooks  
45 for the record. One of the main concerns from the  
46 public was just that very thing, if in the future some  
47 areas may develop. Some may need to develop for  
48 economic reasons. Others may develop for resource  
49 development reasons that people share different views  
50 on. But one of the things the public wanted to see

1 changed was that even if populations grew because of  
2 infrastructure and development and people coming into  
3 the area that they would not be in danger of losing  
4 their rural status.

5  
6                   Currently I think industrial complexes,  
7 for example like Prudhoe Bay, has been determined to be  
8 nonrural. So a mining district could also be  
9 determined to be nonrural, but the people that live in  
10 that area would retain their rural status. If you look  
11 at the proposed changes, that problem would be somewhat  
12 eliminated, especially in the short term, by the  
13 change. I mean the Board would determine which areas  
14 are nonrural and that would be that and everything else  
15 would be rural. So even if the Board said that this  
16 mining area or district had these boundaries and that's  
17 going to be nonrural, the community of Ambler, for  
18 example, would retain its rural status.

19  
20                   I don't know if that helps or makes  
21 sense, but that's the way I understand it. The concern  
22 that you raised was raised in several public comments  
23 and particularly from people in this region because of  
24 the possibility of that road.

25  
26                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Mike, that  
27 answered your question?

28  
29                   MR. KRAMER: Yeah.

30  
31                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone else have  
32 questions for Jeff. Go ahead, Raymond.

33  
34                   MR. STONEY: Now with an area if it  
35 populated up to 2,000 or more, it would still be  
36 nonrural?

37  
38                   MR. BROOKS: Raymond, your question was  
39 if a community got to 2,000 or more. I think that is  
40 under the current threshold or right near it. Yeah,  
41 basically under the new changes, if I understood your  
42 question, once the Board determined which areas are  
43 nonrural, everything else would be considered rural and  
44 stay rural regardless of a population change unless  
45 there was some extenuating circumstances where the  
46 Secretaries would have to reconsider.

47  
48                   Say in 400 years if Ambler grew to the  
49 size of Anchorage, things would be different obviously.  
50 But now, say a community got up to 5,000 people, they

1 would not necessarily lose their status because  
2 population thresholds wouldn't be considered  
3 in the determination process. Basically the Board  
4 would determine who is nonrural and everybody else  
5 would be rural and they would retain that Federal  
6 subsistence priority.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Are you done?

9

10 MR. STONEY: Yeah, I've got one more  
11 question. If that road will pass, I know that it goes  
12 through Gates of the Arctic. Would there be a lot of  
13 transporters and guides on that road if they wanted to?

14

15 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
16 Well, I don't know what changes it would bring to the  
17 Park itself, but if there was public access through the  
18 Park on a road, then there would be more access, more  
19 people coming through. I don't know how many of those  
20 would be hunters, but I have a feeling that -- I don't  
21 know if your question was would the guides and  
22 transporters use the road instead of airplanes. Is  
23 that what you asked?

24

25 MR. STONEY: (Nods affirmatively).

26

27 MR. BROOKS: I don't know. I mean I'd  
28 think that they'd prefer to use their planes still.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.

33

34 MS. LOON: On the last paragraph in  
35 March 1, 2017 specifying rural and nonrural, the 2007  
36 rule will become enforceable. Can you give us a  
37 picture of how things would change, how our lives will  
38 change?

39

40 MR. BROOKS: Through the Chair. Thank  
41 you, Ms. Loon, for the question. It's a very good  
42 question. Right now, in 2017, that's still three years  
43 away. I suspect the rural status and subsistence  
44 priority of the communities in the Northwest Arctic  
45 would not change under either scenario. Right now the  
46 2007 rule is what's sort of in place. It's been put on  
47 hold so to speak because of this review and possible  
48 regulation changes. If the new rule as written here  
49 was adopted, the communities in this region would  
50 remain rural. If that new rule isn't adopted or

1 something else is adopted -- I mean something else  
2 would be what's already on the books, the 2007 rule,  
3 which says that all your communities right now have  
4 rural status and the Federal subsistence priority on  
5 Federal public lands and waters.

6

7 MS. LOON: Does that include Kotzebue?

8

9 MR. BROOKS: Yes.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Hannah, you're  
12 done. Go ahead, Enoch Mitchell.

13

14 MR. MITCHELL: I've got a question  
15 concerning rural. A lot of the villages here in the  
16 region they have been named like cities, like City of  
17 Kiana. My question is will that make any difference in  
18 the rural status?

19

20 MR. BROOKS: Through the Chair. Thank  
21 you for the question, Mr. Mitchell. Having a city  
22 council government is not one of the factors that right  
23 now the Board considers. However, the public did  
24 mention in their comments that the presence of an  
25 organized village council or government would be a  
26 rural characteristic that would be important for  
27 determining the subsistence priority.

28

29 But, no, if your communities have city  
30 councils and they're called the City of Kiana, for  
31 example, that's not one of the criteria that are now  
32 considered and it certainly is not part of this  
33 proposed change. So right now they look at population  
34 numbers, they look at things like if two or three  
35 communities could be aggregated for some reason, does  
36 that push them to a nonrural status. It's not the  
37 presence of a city council or the name city, so that  
38 doesn't affect the rural status or nonrural status.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So, Enoch, I think  
41 where you're coming from, you're looking at the phone  
42 directory just under the layman terms like City of  
43 Kiana, City of Noatak, City of Kivalina. That's just a  
44 layman term they use in the phone directory saying  
45 this is from your town. So being a city we're okay and  
46 if you're not connected to a road system.

47

48 Anybody else have any more questions.  
49 Go ahead, Barbara. Come up to the mic. You know the  
50 process. You went through it as you were our

1 coordinator for years. Don't play like -- you know  
2 better than we do.

3

4 MS. ARMSTRONG: Hi. Welcome to Kiana.  
5 I hadn't heard that you guys were having a meeting  
6 here. I didn't see no posters, no flyers that I used  
7 to be sending out to the village wherever you guys are  
8 meeting and then I thought this was the caribou meeting  
9 where that other caribou meeting was meeting and I was  
10 posting on Facebook caribou meeting is meeting. I  
11 didn't realize it was the Federal Subsistence Regional  
12 Council.

13

14 Having heard just part of this, I  
15 haven't received any of this stuff that was proposed  
16 for this meeting here. I have a question for Jeff on  
17 that rural determination, the new recommendation that  
18 the Board is making. Just out of curiosity, I'm  
19 curious to see how this will affect the Ketchikan area  
20 for rural determination.

21

22 MR. BROOKS: Mr. Chair. Thank you,  
23 Barbara. You snuck in behind me. I didn't know what  
24 was happening. Now I know. Okay. Well, obviously,  
25 one of the reasons that this is controversial, there  
26 are many reasons why this is extremely important to  
27 rural Alaskans and others, but the Ketchikan/Saxman  
28 situation is one of them.

29

30 Since the beginning of the Federal  
31 program, it's always been difficult for the Federal  
32 Subsistence Board to make rural determinations in the  
33 Ketchikan area and also in the Kenai Peninsula area.  
34 They seem to have gone back and forth on it. They're  
35 hoping that a proposed regulation change would help and  
36 a new Federal rulemaking process and new regs would  
37 help make it easier to make these determinations in  
38 places where it's very questionable and controversial.

39

40 So if this passed and got on the books,  
41 the Federal Subsistence Board would then be able to  
42 say, okay, for example, Saxman is rural -- excuse me,  
43 they wouldn't say that, they would say these places are  
44 nonrural and everybody else is rural. So if Ketchikan  
45 and/or Saxman or any other communities were not  
46 determined to be nonrural by the Federal Subsistence  
47 Board, they would be by default considered rural and  
48 they would have or retain the subsistence priority on  
49 Federal public lands.

50

1 Did that answer your question?  
2  
3 MS. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. That's close  
4 enough.  
5  
6 MR. BROOKS: Okay.  
7  
8 MS. ARMSTRONG: I was just curious to  
9 see how that went since you guys were discussing it.  
10  
11 Thank you.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The other one is,  
14 Barbara, like Saxman and Ketchikan could prove that  
15 they did live a subsistence lifestyle and through the  
16 Federal if they could prove it, they could be a  
17 category same as the smaller villages because they live  
18 off the land, you know, before they were connected to  
19 the road system and the population level.  
20  
21 MS. ARMSTRONG: I understood that.  
22 Thank you.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Anyone else  
25 here have any questions for Jeff. Yeah, go ahead,  
26 Percy.  
27  
28 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I'm just curious. I  
29 want to back up a little bit on what you said about  
30 Section 804 and C&T determination. You said you guys  
31 are going to do an analysis. Is it just people from --  
32 who all is going to do it.  
33  
34 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. Ballot.  
35 That is a good question. Basically the Southeast has  
36 put this proposal forth as part of the regulatory  
37 process. So we would put it into the lineup with  
38 everything else that goes into the process and Staff at  
39 the Office of Subsistence Management would draft an  
40 analysis of that proposal and what that means is they  
41 look at how the regulation change would affect or  
42 impact rural residents in the subsistence management  
43 program and other factors. That would go through the  
44 process of review by leadership in Office of  
45 Subsistence Management and the InterAgency Staff  
46 Committee, which serves the Federal Subsistence Board,  
47 and it would also go through the RACs at the next  
48 cycle, which I believe is February through March of  
49 2015.  
50

1                   The Staff, probably someone like myself  
2 and others, would be going before all the Regional  
3 Councils, the RACs, and we would be presenting that to  
4 you in the public forum of your meeting and the public  
5 would have a chance to comment. It would be part of  
6 the regulatory process, so there would be opportunities  
7 to weigh in particularly from the Councils but also the  
8 public.

9

10                   MR. BALLOT: So then we wouldn't be  
11 changing ANILCA, opening ANILCA or anything, just using  
12 it.

13

14                   MR. BROOKS: Mr. Chair. That's  
15 correct, Percy. One of the key features of the  
16 Southeast proposal is that whenever there was a reason,  
17 a conservation reason, a shortage, a problem or issue  
18 with a population of fish or wildlife or other  
19 resources that are relied on for subsistence, if there  
20 was an issue, they would use the 804 process, which is  
21 in ANILCA, there's three criteria, to determine the  
22 qualified pool of rural subsistence users from  
23 everybody who's qualified.

24

25                   So the case that was recent up in the  
26 Seward Pen with muskox, a lot of communities had C&T  
27 for muskox, but there was an issue, so they had to  
28 limit who among the subsistence harvesters could take  
29 from that population of muskox. So that's what would  
30 be the case. They would do away with the eight  
31 criteria that are used to make customary and  
32 traditional use determinations and, in general,  
33 qualified subsistence harvesters would have their  
34 subsistence priority in a broad sense for all species  
35 that they rely on.

36

37                   So right now these customary and  
38 traditional use determinations are usually done for  
39 certain communities or areas for certain populations of  
40 fish and wildlife. The Southeast has proposed that it  
41 shouldn't be that way. It should just be, you know,  
42 I'm a rural qualified subsistence harvester, I should  
43 be able to take advantage of this resource to feed my  
44 family and to practice my way of life unless there is a  
45 shortage, a concern. Then the 804 process from ANILCA  
46 would kick in and they would determine who among all  
47 the qualified people actually could harvest in that  
48 situation.

49

50                   So it isn't changing ANILCA or opening

1 it up. It's actually proposing to essentially replace  
2 the eight criteria with the 804 criteria. Did that  
3 answer your question?

4

5 MR. BALLOT: Yeah.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead,  
8 Percy -- I mean Calvin. Sorry.

9

10 MR. MOTO: I just wanted to bring up a  
11 point about the customary and direct dependence upon  
12 the populations as the mainstay of livelihood. For  
13 years we fought the battle with the different agencies.  
14 They said we have no documentation that we used all  
15 these things, but when we started building we found  
16 kind of like a cabin there where the house was. There  
17 was a big rock that was a table. On one side there was  
18 a whole bunch of caribou bones. On the other side  
19 there was a whole bunch of geese bones. So we took  
20 pictures of it. The next time they brought it up I  
21 said a picture tells 1,000 words. I said this is what  
22 I'm trying to prove to you people that this is our  
23 dependence.

24

25 Without subsistence we will not  
26 survive. You wouldn't be here if your people  
27 generations ago didn't have subsistence. That's what I  
28 told them. Subsistence, a lot of people take different  
29 views of it. Subsistence is survival, period. People  
30 say it's a custom. People say it's a culture. People  
31 say it's a tradition, but it's survival. Without  
32 subsistence we wouldn't be here.

33

34 Think about that sometime when you get  
35 in an argument with somebody. That's the reason I got  
36 booted out of the Advisory Council one time. They  
37 finally brought me back in. If you look at what we  
38 found, we found a lot of things. We found different  
39 types of artifacts. We found a mask that was 2,000  
40 years old. There was a lever that moved the eye. How  
41 did he do it. There was a level that moved his jaw up  
42 and down. This was a mask that was built 2,000 years  
43 ago.

44

45 About seven miles east or eight miles  
46 east of Deering you'll find a circle of rocks like  
47 that. Somebody said they were going to take it and I  
48 said no. What it used to do, what for? When there was  
49 not very much caribou or not very much game, the shaman  
50 would go there and he'd sit there. He'd sit there

1 until the caribou come. All these subsistence animals  
2 and water. That's some of the traditions we had  
3 thousands of years ago. That thing is still there. I  
4 told them don't ever move it until I pass away.

5  
6 These are things that we have to -- we  
7 look and we talk about subsistence, we argue about  
8 subsistence. I go with the sportsmen and I prove to  
9 them how we all are here because of subsistence.  
10 Generations and generations. Not only us Inupiat but  
11 everybody relied on subsistence. How did they survive  
12 when you came from foreign country to America. I read  
13 all the history books I could find on subsistence and  
14 old traditions of a lot of people.

15  
16 But that's the point I want to make  
17 because subsistence is survival.

18  
19 Thank you.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Jeff.

22  
23 MR. BROOKS: Mr. Chair, thank you.  
24 Thank you for your comment. It's well taken and I love  
25 to hear those stories of the knowledge that was passed  
26 on to you. Also I agree with you that subsistence is  
27 more than the words in these briefings. It's really  
28 hard to define. It's so important that that's why we  
29 have these meetings.

30  
31 I will concur also, as I read stories  
32 to my children, like the Laura Ingles Wilder series,  
33 because in the woods and whatnot where it describes the  
34 pioneers coming across the plains of the Lower 48 they  
35 talk about going out to get a bear to feed themselves.  
36 So subsistence did happen down there with the white  
37 settlers as well.

38  
39 Thank you.

40  
41 MR. MOTO: That's like somebody told us  
42 one time when we had this meeting, you people should go  
43 back to traditional way of hunting with skin boats.  
44 You people should use harpoon. You know what I told  
45 him? I told him now it's in regulations where we can  
46 only take so many walrus to build a boat, umiaq. They  
47 told me we're only allowed so much stuff to make it. I  
48 said who brought this outboard motor to us, who brought  
49 the rifle to us, you know. But this is something I've  
50 always been kind of -- sometimes I go overboard, but,

1 you know, I lived subsistence life all my life. In  
2 fact, the Subsistence Board member, a commercial  
3 fisherman one time, they used to ask me how did you get  
4 on. I said you've got to think about the subsistence  
5 side, not only the commercial side.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin.

10

11 Anyone else for Jeff.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Jeff, thank  
16 you. If not, I'll call on Henry Schaeffer to come up.  
17 His card is up. Henry Schaeffer from the public.

18

19 MR. SCHAEFFER: Good afternoon,  
20 Attamuk. I'm not going to speak very long. The  
21 subsistence hunting of a caribou I've seen it for years  
22 and years. Like everybody else as a Native, I live on  
23 it. I put in a lot of years up at the North Slope,  
24 Prudhoe Bay, and I seen that Atigun Pass. I had a good  
25 buddy that owns a trucking company out of Anchorage,  
26 18-wheelers, went through that Dalton Highway for over  
27 35 years. He told me, Henry, we've got a problem after  
28 Governor Hickel opened the Dalton Highway for public  
29 use. It disturbed me very much. Not only me, but  
30 North Slope and Kotzebue area, North Slope Borough  
31 area.

32

33 I've seen so much vehicles up there  
34 below Atigun Pass where the Northwest Arctic Caribou  
35 Herd goes through every fall. He said, Henry, there's  
36 between 200 to 400 vehicles waiting for that caribou to  
37 come through there. You talk about two, three, four  
38 hundred vehicles, just think how many caribou each  
39 vehicle gets.

40

41 I've seen so much sheep, bear and  
42 caribou that got killed just from Atigun Pass to  
43 Prudhoe Bay. Mentioned to the Fish and Game about it.  
44 They wouldn't do a thing about it. They said that's a  
45 North Slope Borough problem, but it's all our problem  
46 as Inupiat way of life.

47

48 I thought I'd bring this up because as  
49 of today I don't think they've ever done anything to  
50 that parking on Atigun Pass right there where everybody

1 takes their meat. I mean it's just a good, big  
2 campsite right there. That's our herd that goes  
3 through there and I'd like to see Fish and Game do  
4 something about it because it's hurting all the way to  
5 here.

6  
7 Just like the guy said at Anaktuvuk  
8 Pass. Through his whole livelihood, he's about in his  
9 60's, same age as I am probably, they had no sport  
10 hunters whatsoever in his lifetime up there and they're  
11 just starting to appear. Now they've got no caribou  
12 where their migration route is going because of the  
13 sport hunters and we see it here all the time. We've  
14 seen it up the Noatak, here in the Kobuk. Talking  
15 about it for the last 20, 30 years. Nothing has been  
16 done about it. You're absolutely right, sport hunters  
17 should go first before any Inupiat.

18  
19 Thank you.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Henry. I  
22 think we'll get back to the agenda. We're done with  
23 old business. To the new business.

24  
25 Karen and Trent, priority information  
26 needs. Who's going to speak on it? Karen.

27  
28 MS. HYER: Good afternoon, Chairman and  
29 Council members. Actually it's going to be Karen and  
30 Jeff, but before we start I have got a handout that I'm  
31 going to pass out to you. So I will do that right now.

32  
33 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

36  
37 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, before we go on I  
38 think we need to hear a bit more or get something set  
39 up to hear more about the discussion Henry shared with  
40 folks from North Slope or somebody in our winter  
41 meeting.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Maybe we could back  
44 up a little bit. I haven't heard much from North Slope  
45 about hunters on the Haul Road. For your information,  
46 the way they get the grant that time, right as soon as  
47 our 20 years was up, the road was open to the public.  
48 Everybody know it. We fought it. I'm one of them that  
49 fought it. I know what Henry is talking about. I've  
50 seen it. Didn't like it and I tried to talk to people

1 in Barrow. It's really hard to say because -- I don't  
2 know really. I don't know how to explain it because  
3 I'm not from Barrow, you know what I'm saying.

4

5                   Maybe Barbara knows more about it. She  
6 could say something about it. Probably has more  
7 information than I do being a past coordinator for the  
8 Federal Advisory Board. I'm going to turn it over to  
9 Barb. If she has any way to answer it, it would be  
10 nice because Percy needs an answer.

11

12                   We'll get back to you too. Thanks.

13

14                   I'm not trying to put you in a bind,  
15 Barbara. You've been there longer than most of us.

16

17                   MS. ARMSTRONG: Taikuu. They discussed  
18 it just in very short lengths, but then if you, as in  
19 Northwest Arctic Regional Council, can write a letter  
20 to them and remind them and ask them that this did come  
21 up here in Kiana, then that would start the process.  
22 You need to have a letter in your file saying that you  
23 guys did write the letter and cc Henry here and that  
24 would help North Slope, whoever the chair is now. I  
25 think it's still probably Harry. Harry is still  
26 probably the chair for North Slope and write a letter  
27 to him and then tell him this came up at your meeting  
28 here at Kiana and then propose -- they probably could  
29 do a proposal.

30

31                   I don't know if you guys can do a  
32 proposal, but it's in their region, therefore you guys  
33 can't really do anything from the Northwest area. But  
34 then it would help if you guys wrote a letter to North  
35 Slope, to the Council, and asked them, you know, that  
36 this came up here and then start from there.

37

38                   On the other note, while reading  
39 through the Facebook and if I had known this one was  
40 going to happen here, there is another question asked  
41 by a constituent asking to see if the sport hunters or  
42 the other hunters or transporters would hunt two or  
43 three weeks after the region-wide people have hunted  
44 already because that is so prominent here. Even on the  
45 Squirrel River you notice that the spike hunters and  
46 all those other sport hunters do land up further in  
47 there, like further up in Omar or further up and then  
48 blocking the first herd that are coming in and I've  
49 heard that so much while here in Kiana.

50

1 I would probably ask Northwest Arctic  
2 if they would do a proposal on that line somehow to see  
3 if they would help us to see if the sport hunters and  
4 transporters would come in after the residents here in  
5 the region do their hunting already and I would give  
6 that to you.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, thank you,  
11 Barbara. You're right. Come to think of it, in past  
12 meetings when they had that for the Noatak where they  
13 could hunt at a certain time and sport hunters come in  
14 later. That issue came up due to global warming.  
15 Caribou are migrating later and later. I thought  
16 Noatak was going to work to change the dates until  
17 after Noatak get their harvest, but it's really hard to  
18 put a date in there due to we don't know what the  
19 weather is going to really do. You could make -- you  
20 know, suggest it on certain dates, but it's changing  
21 and everything's changing.

22

23 But just the way I see it with the  
24 problems, issues we're having, I would like to see it  
25 completely -- ask the sport hunters and transporters,  
26 the Park, Noatak National Monument, Selawik Wildlife  
27 Refuge, the Bering Land Bridge, the Squirrel River, the  
28 BLM to stop issuing permits for transporters and  
29 outfitters for them to drop off hunters. The hunters  
30 that go in, the majority of them, go hunt for antlers.  
31 Us Eskimos we harvest for food. We never hunt, we  
32 harvest because we want to put it on the table and  
33 that's it.

34

35 Go ahead, Hannah.

36

37 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
38 I'll translate later.

39

40 (In Inupiaq)

41

42 As I have said, I have been hearing  
43 from the floor, from the Council. They've been here so  
44 many years. And thank you Barbara and Henry for coming  
45 forward and teaching us about the sport and  
46 transporters. Atigun Pass, 200 and 400 cars are too  
47 much. Our problem lies right there. Part of our  
48 problem lies right there although we have talked about  
49 the temperature of our climate. 200 to 400 cars are  
50 too much. We can't compete against that. Us people

1 that are living here and that we so much look forward  
2 to our spiritual well-being and for our healthy way of  
3 life affecting us primarily, Noatak, Kivalina and  
4 sometimes us too, Selawik, Noorvik, Kiana. We have had  
5 years where we had no caribou at all because they had  
6 changed their patterns going way above Kobuk River, way  
7 above the headwaters of Kobuk.

8

9 So it lies there and we need to wake up  
10 and sober up and let's put the working governments to  
11 work to inform them to attend or listen to the concerns  
12 that was addressed today to Fish and Game and to the  
13 North Slope area and put it to work. Let's let the  
14 process work for us. Taikuu, Attamuk.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.  
17 Thank you, Barbara. So back to Jeff. We're going to  
18 go back to customary and traditional use. Thank you.  
19 You have the floor.

20

21 MS. HYER: Good afternoon, Mr.  
22 Chairman, Council members. For the record, I'm Karen  
23 Hyer and I'm going to talk to you today about our  
24 priority information needs. Before I address that I'm  
25 going to give you kind of a brief overview of the  
26 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan.

27

28 In your books, everything starts on  
29 Page 61, so I'm just going to touch the highlights of  
30 that and move on and you can have that for reference  
31 for later. I just wanted to remind the Council that  
32 every two years we have an announcement where we have a  
33 notice of funding opportunity where we ask for  
34 investigation plans for projects that will provide  
35 information to help us regulate Federal subsistence  
36 fisheries. We used to call it a call for proposals. I  
37 don't remember in the past if you recognize that, but  
38 that's what we used to call it and now our terminology  
39 has changed. It's basically the same thing, but now we  
40 call it a notice of funding. So we put this notice out  
41 and we advertise it and anybody across the country can  
42 apply for it.

43

44 We ask people to submit what we call  
45 investigation plans and they're basically just what the  
46 investigators plan to do in the studies. So before we  
47 make that announcement we come to the Regional Advisory  
48 Councils and we ask them what they think is important  
49 and then we also ask the State and Federal land  
50 managers what they think is important and then we also

1 ask the State and Federal land managers what they think  
2 is important concerning fisheries and how we should  
3 target this call. So that's what we're going to talk  
4 about today, the priority information needs.

5  
6 Before I ask you for your opinion on  
7 what you think is important in this region I just kind  
8 of wanted to remind you of the process because we ask  
9 for these investigation plans and then they come in and  
10 we have a Technical Review Committee that's made up of  
11 State and Federal experts and they look at all the  
12 proposals and they judge them for the technical ability  
13 and then they give a recommendation as to whether they  
14 think that the proposals are technically sound and they  
15 should be funded or if they're not technically sound.

16  
17 The proposals or what we call the  
18 investigation plans, if they're technically sound, then  
19 we bring those investigation plans back out to the RAC  
20 and we ask the Regional Advisory Councils which  
21 projects they think are most important in their region.  
22 We also take the projects to the InterAgency Staff  
23 Committee, which is the Staff Committee for the Federal  
24 Subsistence Board. They actually give us an opinion  
25 also and then we take all that information to the  
26 Federal Subsistence Board and they vote on which  
27 projects they want to fund and then we fund those  
28 projects according to our budget. So if we have more  
29 good projects than we can fund, then we'll fund our top  
30 priorities and then we'll move down the list.

31  
32 So that's the overall program. We're  
33 at the front end of that where I'm coming before you  
34 today to ask you about what you think are information  
35 needs for this area. This fall we'll put out our  
36 notice of funding and we'll get our investigation plans  
37 in sometime in the spring and then we'll go through the  
38 review process.

39  
40 The handout that I handed out to you,  
41 right here, this one, has the priority information  
42 needs that we've put together so far. I have Northwest  
43 at the top and then I have North Slope and then Seward  
44 Peninsula so you can have a little bit of an idea what  
45 the other regions are talking about. Even the North  
46 Slope ones. We just got done with the meeting in  
47 Nuiqsut and they've changed substantially and I'm going  
48 to have to go back and edit those using the  
49 transcripts.

50

1                   Today we're going to talk about  
2 Northwest Arctic and so I'm just going to go through  
3 this list and then I'm going to ask you for your input  
4 as to what you think is important on the list, if there  
5 are things you don't think are important that should  
6 come off the list or if there are other things that  
7 aren't on the list that you think should be.

8  
9                   So I'll just go ahead and start. The  
10 first one is understanding differences in cultural  
11 knowledge, beliefs, attitudes and perceptions of  
12 subsistence resources between fishery managers and  
13 subsistence users in Northwestern Alaska.

14  
15                   The second one is local and cultural  
16 knowledge about locations of, perceptions of abundance,  
17 and harvest monitoring for coastal lagoon whitefishes.

18  
19                   The third one is spawning locations for  
20 broad whitefish in the Selawik River drainage.

21  
22                   The fourth one is traditional local  
23 knowledge of subsistence fish, including application to  
24 Federal subsistence management such as identifying  
25 critical habitat, refining range maps and shedding  
26 light on ecological relationships.

27  
28                   And then they list three areas of  
29 importance: whitefish on the northern Seward Peninsula  
30 and the communities of Buckland, Deering, Shishmaref  
31 and the north coast communities of Kivalina and Point  
32 Hope; Dolly Varden in the communities of Noatak and  
33 Kivalina; and northern pike in the community of  
34 Selawik.

35  
36                   I just want to point on the second page  
37 we also have some multi-regional priority information  
38 needs and those will span more than the northern area,  
39 so it could be the northern area combined with another  
40 area that it borders. These have an importance to a  
41 wider area of Alaska.

42  
43                   So we have two listed there and the  
44 first one is changes in subsistence fishery resources  
45 and uses in the context of climate change where  
46 relevant, including but not limited to fishing seasons,  
47 species targeted, fishing locations, fish quality,  
48 harvest methods and means and methods of preservation.  
49 Then we ask that they include management implications.  
50

1                   The second one is changes in  
2 subsistence fishery resources in the context of climate  
3 change including but not limited to fish movement and  
4 barriers, including permafrost slumps, water quality  
5 and temperature, draining of tundra lakes, changing  
6 patterns of precipitation, both snow and rain, changing  
7 freeze-up and break-up timing.

8  
9                   So these are what we have right now.  
10 These are draft. The information we use is collected  
11 to help manage Federal subsistence fisheries. With  
12 that I will take any comments you might have or any  
13 ideas you might have of where we should be going with  
14 our fisheries research.

15  
16                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I have one.  
17 I'll have two probably due to impacts on fish. My  
18 concern is this if we do it with this kind of funding.  
19 Up at Noatak we used to never have beavers, but they're  
20 starting to build dams and if they block the river,  
21 they will not go back to the ocean to grow. Can you do  
22 a study to see how much impact it's having on our fish?

23  
24  
25                   Once agencies believed in beavers for  
26 years. They say it's good for moose, but it's not  
27 really overall good for anything. It just damages our  
28 fish. They're blocking the rivers. We need to find  
29 out the impacts the beavers are having on our fish.  
30 Like the Noatak River, if they ever get -- they're so  
31 full in one, the one Enoch Mitchell mentioned, it will  
32 have impact on us, the beaver fever. Not only fishers.  
33 The beavers are affecting our fish, so they should be  
34 part of the study.

35  
36                   Really, I got nothing against the word  
37 subsistence. Me, I don't like to use it. When I talk  
38 like this like on your little handout here, your  
39 traditional knowledge of subsistence fish. My name and  
40 terms on my translation is this: traditional knowledge  
41 of take of fish. The word subsistence really, in the  
42 white man's world, is barely making it and getting by.  
43 We don't barely make it. We take our animals just to  
44 make it. That's my thought. That's why I never use  
45 hunt. I always use the word harvest or take.

46  
47                   You don't really have to do it, but  
48 just a suggestion I would like to use because the  
49 Western world has got to understand that we Natives  
50 take whatever resources out there. Not only fish,

1 caribou, birds and other like plants. We just take  
2 what we need. We never overharvest. We're not like  
3 the Western world.

4

5 I would like to see some kind of study  
6 that Enoch mentioned. There's a creek that's full of  
7 fish -- I mean it's full of beavers. Those are  
8 impacting our fish. If the fish don't go to the ocean  
9 to grow and become adults, it's going to impact us  
10 because Kivalina and Noatak share with the outside  
11 villages that don't get any trout and these are food  
12 everybody like to eat. We like to eat them frozen, we  
13 like to eat the eggs, and they're getting less and  
14 less. They're getting less trout at Noatak. You can  
15 ask the guy here from Noatak. And that's a big, strong  
16 impact on us.

17

18 With that said, anyone else have a  
19 question for these two. Go ahead, Hannah.

20

21 MS. LOON: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
22 Chairman. About the beaver for Eli's information, we  
23 lived with the beaver -- Selawik lived with the beaver  
24 for a long time. In 1937, around there, there was no  
25 beaver, there was no caribou and there was no moose.  
26 Now we have beaver every bend. To us, they're all  
27 around. We live with them, we see them swim. The only  
28 time we like to eat them is in springtime and in  
29 falltime. They are a source of food if you know how to  
30 make them half dried. They're good eating, barbecue  
31 and whatnot. We always bust their dams, but they'll  
32 build it back in no time.

33

34 Two summers ago a lot of the beaver  
35 died out because of the flood. Their dams are -- they  
36 will have so many beaver inside a big dam. In fact,  
37 close by Selawik Lake there's a dam as big as this one  
38 and higher than this building and many of them will  
39 live in that igloo. We see them every day. It's part  
40 of nature to us. They don't aliktuq or tear down our  
41 nets. Only a muskrat if they get caught. We never  
42 caught beaver in our nets. Only sometimes grebes or  
43 some kind of little duck, we will get them, but beaver  
44 is just part of our nature and part of a cycle even  
45 though they are a nuisance.

46

47 When we go out for a long boat ride  
48 upriver, we will carry along treated water from our  
49 house and not drink the river. In the wintertime, we  
50 get ice from the river for fresh water and that's what

1 we do. As I was looking at this draft, Alaska region  
2 priority needs, it seems like Selawik is studied out.  
3 Whitefish, it's already been studied. Sheefish is  
4 studied. Cultural use of it is studied by U of A and  
5 Fish and Game and others. Do you ever do any studies  
6 in Ambler, any of you? It seems like to me Selawik is  
7 studied out.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.  
12 Any response to that?

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, we'll go to  
17 Calvin.

18

19 MR. MOTO: We don't get any whitefish  
20 anymore in our area. We used to get whitefish all the  
21 time. It's been, oh, late '80s. Right now we go out  
22 after breakup trying to seine for whitefish. All we  
23 get is trout and tomcod. Right now the only species of  
24 fish we have are the trout, tomcod, humpies, chums,  
25 silver salmon and then we get the lingcod and burbot.  
26 We get another species of fish. I don't know what they  
27 call it, but they're about that big. But I remember  
28 when I was a boy we used to see lots of whitefish on  
29 the racks, you know. No more. What happened to our  
30 whitefish, you know. I just wanted to bring that up.  
31 I didn't want to try and get too emotional about it.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin.  
34 Anyone else have a question for these two.

35

36 Go ahead, Percy.

37

38 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I was  
39 kind of thinking just like what Hannah just said.  
40 We've been doing a lot of studies over the years I've  
41 been here with whitefish, trout and salmon. I always  
42 wondered about other species, like tomcods or smelts or  
43 the minnows or things like that because we really don't  
44 know a lot about them. I know we have a couple  
45 different types of trout in Buckland, Dolly Varden and  
46 arctic char, but I never see any studies on those. You  
47 know, there's a mine up the river, so things are  
48 changing like Mr. Moto said. What's the process or how  
49 do you prioritize what types of fish and what studies?

50

1                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy. Is  
2 there a response.

3  
4                   MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council  
5 members. The way we prioritize this is we come to you  
6 and ask you what's important and that's what we're  
7 doing now. Then we'll take this list that we deem  
8 important and we'll ask investigators to submit  
9 proposals on it. We've done a lot of Dolly Varden,  
10 which often is referred to as trout here, work on the  
11 North Slope, but we haven't done as much here. We've  
12 done a project up on the Noatak, but we haven't  
13 received proposals on it. So just because we deem  
14 something important doesn't mean we receive a good  
15 investigation plan on it.

16  
17                   But it's important to keep bringing  
18 these concerns to us because then we keep going on and  
19 asking for investigation plans on these important  
20 issues. Sometimes it takes years, but if you keep them  
21 before the investigators, sometimes we get really good  
22 projects over time, so it's important that you continue  
23 to let us know what you deem is important. Sometimes  
24 things change too over time and what was important  
25 maybe three years ago isn't so important now. So  
26 sometimes things drop off the list. We basically, if  
27 it continues to be important to the communities, we  
28 continue to ask for investigation plans.

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Jeff, go  
31 ahead.

32  
33                   MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
34 Just a couple things to add and to comment on. Thank  
35 you for your questions. It's important for us to hear  
36 things like -- and we kind of had an idea of this  
37 beforehand that Selawik has had a lot of studies. We've  
38 gone out to some of the land managers as well as the  
39 Councils to get input on this and we hear various  
40 things.

41  
42                   One of the things I'd like to inform  
43 you about the program as it's set up right now, this  
44 funding program, these cooperative agreements, are  
45 limited to fisheries resources for the most part and  
46 they don't include wildlife like beavers. However,  
47 ANILCA does say that we could include those, so any  
48 future restructuring or rethinking of the program,  
49 depending on funding availability, there's a  
50 possibility we could expand one day into wildlife

1 issues.

2

3

4                   The other thing is that the proposals  
5 that come in are judged according to a list of  
6 criteria. One of those is is it close to or directly  
7 impacts subsistence harvesting on Federal public lands  
8 and waters. So studies that involve subsistence  
9 fisheries in National Parks or Refuges, for example,  
10 are going to score quite high. Those that are for  
11 communities outside, we have to show a nexus or a  
12 connection to the Federal public lands and waters.

12

13

14                   I believe Ms. Beth Mikow is in the back  
15 of the room from Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
16 Subsistence Division and she's involved with some  
17 research I believe in the Upper Kobuk and there's a lot  
18 of State studies. Some of them come through this  
19 Federal program and she would be an important person to  
20 ask perhaps about current and recent studies in Ambler.

20

21

22                   Also Pippa Kenner back at the office in  
23 Anchorage has compiled a list of studies that are going  
24 on in the northern region. Not just Federal-funded  
25 ones, but a lot of the other studies. I think I  
26 brought that list with me and I'd be willing to sit  
27 down with Hannah, for example, and go over it with her  
28 this week.

28

29

Those are just the comments that I had.

30

31

Thank you.

32

33

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,  
34 Enoch Mitchell.

35

36

37                   MR. MITCHELL: This here has got  
38 changes in subsistence in the context of climate change  
39 and the next one changes in subsistence in the context  
40 of climate change. I think the village of Noatak or  
41 priority concern I think is that beaver getting the  
42 trout. I think that's more higher priority than the  
43 climate change. That's a lot of concern going on over  
44 there. Some people get sick from that beaver fever and  
45 they didn't know what it was for a while, but they  
46 finally know what it is. I think that's going to be  
47 bigger -- going to get the bigger concern in the future  
48 to see if something could be done. But putting it up  
49 there on priority needs.

49

50

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, Jeff, Enoch is

1 right. We take a lot of trout at Noatak and beavers  
2 are impacting us. Beavers are impacting the fish. You  
3 worried about the fish. If the beaver block the fish  
4 from spawning and going to the ocean, it's going to  
5 affect us forever. It will take a long time for them  
6 to come back. It's not easy. I think what we're  
7 saying is study it now and worry about it now before  
8 it's too late. Too late is hard to come back to. Like  
9 example away from fisheries. The sheep, they take too  
10 long to do it and now it's taking forever. Now we're  
11 paying for it. We're hurting. I want to eat sheep,  
12 but we can't. The same thing is going to happen with  
13 trout.

14

15 An example is just at Kivalina. Six  
16 hundred pounds per year per family just taking trout at  
17 Kivalina, but they never eat it all in Kivalina. They  
18 send it to here, they send it to Barrow, they send it  
19 to Anchorage. Just because the number sound high per  
20 family doesn't mean they eat the whole thing. They  
21 share. We're sharing people. We share with relatives.  
22 We trade with relatives. Not no money, not to make  
23 money.

24

25 The beavers are impacting us and we  
26 want to see them studied now, today, before it's too  
27 late. Because we're scared if we start dying off  
28 because of beaver fever, it's going to hurt us.

29

30 Anyone else here from the board have  
31 anymore questions. Go ahead, Barbara. You've got to  
32 come up to the mic.

33

34 MS. ARMSTRONG: I said a suggestion  
35 that if you're going to study the trout over in the  
36 Noatak area, that they should do that study too here on  
37 the Kobuk. I think there was a study one time done by  
38 Fish and Game and he reported at one of the meetings  
39 that all the trout from all the areas always went to  
40 Wulik in the falltime and then they had tagged some  
41 over in the Russian waters too and then some of those  
42 tagged ones from the Russian were coming in to the  
43 Wulik, but then I can't remember the name of the person  
44 who studied that. He's the one that studied also the  
45 grayling.

46

47 MS. HYER: Brandon?

48

49 MS. ARMSTRONG: No. He retired.

50

1 MS. LOON: Fred DeCicco?

2

3 MS. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, Fred DeCicco. So  
4 if that would come back up and be studied, if Noatak is  
5 going to request that, then I would suggest also it be  
6 done on the Kobuk.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You're right,  
11 Barbara. When Fred -- you reminded me. It came to my  
12 mind. I'm getting old and clicking slow back here.  
13 But Fred admitted that when they were studying trout at  
14 Noatak and Kivalina and Wulik that they do -- when they  
15 tag them, that they do go to Russia. They even go to  
16 Unalakleet, they go Upper Kobuk. They go Noatak and  
17 Kukpuk up at Point Hope. So they never just go to one  
18 river to their spawning grounds. It depends -- like my  
19 grandpa said, it depends on the temperature of the  
20 water and the drainage. They don't care. They just go  
21 up that river and that's why it's important when the  
22 trout decide to go upriver, they might not -- that's  
23 why sometimes Noatak will have less. That's why Point  
24 Hope is getting a lot of trout lately. When you see on  
25 Facebook they're getting lots of trout, stuff like  
26 that, maybe because it's cooler. By the time it's  
27 cool, they're migrating towards Noatak and they happen  
28 to cool off, so they go Point Hope to the Kukpuk River.  
29 The same thing with Kivalina River, but hardly anybody  
30 go to Kivalina River it's so shallow.

31

32 So, you're right. Not only -- I think  
33 a study needs to be done to compare data and  
34 information and see what's going on. It's important  
35 because these are our resources. Northwest Alaska is  
36 a gifted area. We have so many resources. We  
37 shouldn't just worry about caribou. We should worry as  
38 a Federal to worry about all our resources here. Not  
39 only fish. Our plants too are being impacted. So  
40 everybody is right their own way. We all are trying to  
41 say the same thing. But I think we should be -- and  
42 when we're being impacted, as the beavers, it's scary.

43

44 Thank you. Anyone else.

45

46 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Susan had her hand up  
49 first. You were done, Barbara? If you're done, Susan  
50 and next you'll have it, Percy.

1 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council  
2 members. I just want to follow up on what Barb said  
3 because we do indeed have a project on the Noatak right  
4 now. What Fish and Game is doing -- and they're  
5 interested, they're trying to figure out where these  
6 fish are congregating in large numbers and they know  
7 the Wulik is one area and they want to look at the  
8 Noatak. Barb is indeed right, they have found fish  
9 from Canada to Russia.

10  
11 Maybe something we can do is -- that  
12 project is coming to an end. I think this summer is  
13 the last summer, so maybe next meeting we can have the  
14 investigator come and talk about what he found because  
15 it hasn't been -- they're still in the process of  
16 gathering the information and putting it together. But  
17 I did want to let you know that Barb is correct and  
18 that we do have that going on currently.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, but they're  
21 just on the tip of the barrel. Not to just do an area  
22 and quit. These are the issues and concerns that  
23 Natives have here as Eskimos. That's why we need to  
24 keep doing it. Just because you've done one here  
25 doesn't mean it's over with. There's other impacts  
26 that will happen tomorrow, that will happen next year.  
27 That's what we're trying to say. Just because you do  
28 one study here doesn't mean you're done with it.  
29 There's always changes due to global warming impacts  
30 from Mother Nature. We have to be on top of it to save  
31 for the future.

32  
33 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council  
34 members. I completely agree with what you're saying  
35 and it is indeed a continuing process, but it's also  
36 good to let you know what we've accomplished and  
37 sometimes I think we don't do that as well as we could,  
38 so that's what I was just suggesting, is it would be  
39 great to have an investigator come and tell you exactly  
40 what he did find out so that you know so we can  
41 continue to build on our research.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. Go  
44 ahead, Percy. Oh, back to Barbara.

45  
46 MS. ARMSTRONG: Just real quick, Mr.  
47 Chair. At the time that Mr. DeCicco was doing the  
48 trout study, he was already informing the villagers at  
49 Kivalina to start lowering their take of the trout. He  
50 said otherwise they would deplete it like they did up

1 in Point Hope on that one river by Point Hope. They  
2 depleted their trout -- I mean their grayling. He said  
3 it took 32 years for one grayling to become full grown  
4 and they were taking all the big ones and even the  
5 smaller ones and they did deplete that river of the  
6 grayling up there. Then he brought that over to  
7 Kivalina and he said only a very few elders there were  
8 just getting what they needed for their households and  
9 stuff at the time. So that report should be before you  
10 sometime soon.

11

12 Thanks.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Barbara.  
15 We'll go to Percy next.

16

17 MR. BALLOT: I just wanted to mention  
18 Buckland up there has a lot of Federal lands, when you  
19 mention about priorities for studies. And also.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Excuse me, Percy. I  
22 hate to say anything, but is somebody's phone on where  
23 it's making noise?

24

25 MS. LOON: Calvin's light is on.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Oh, Calvin, your mic.

28

29 MR. MOTO: Oh. I hit it with my cheek.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MR. BALLOT: Anyway, we have Federal  
34 land up there, but we also have a gold mine and I don't  
35 know what else they're mining up there, but we could  
36 see the color of the water on one fork all the way to  
37 Buckland is somewhat different than the other side  
38 where you have all clear water. We have north fork and  
39 west fork. So that's why I keep saying that there's  
40 some things going on with our fish up there. We have  
41 Dolly Varden and we have arctic char that go up there,  
42 all kinds of fish, you know. So it's for  
43 consideration.

44

45 But I was wondering do we have an atlas  
46 or studies done over the years or a place where we  
47 could compare things that were done 20 years ago, 10  
48 years ago or is there a process or someplace where we  
49 have a monitoring thing that says these studies were  
50 over the years and how do you compare that data?

1                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, you're right.  
2 Alaska Native Science, I thought they were going to  
3 collect all data for all agencies or tribals to go see  
4 what kind of studies are done in a certain area. I  
5 don't know -- they talk about, but I don't know if it  
6 was ever done. I can't say. We'd have to get a hold  
7 of Patricia Cartwright to find out Alaska Native  
8 Science. That was their plan, to collect all the data  
9 of the studies that were done in the state of Alaska.  
10 So whoever want to do something they could see and when  
11 they get done. We are all getting tired of studies.  
12 We're the probably most studied species.

13  
14                   MR. BALLOT: I mean ask here what we're  
15 doing. We've been doing this for years and years and  
16 it seems like we would have something is what I'm  
17 talking about.

18  
19                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I know what  
20 you're saying. I know completely what you're saying  
21 and that's what I say. At one time Kiana, just on  
22 caribou, one year there was three different colleges  
23 doing a study here. Just one year on caribou all on  
24 the same thing. They wanted to know about the fat and  
25 the bone marrow. Raymond and I tried to explain they  
26 get fat falltime, they get skinny springtime. They go  
27 through the same process year after year. The buttock  
28 is better in falltime than springtime. We all know  
29 that, but they wanted to see it. They didn't want to  
30 believe us. We tell them, me and Raymond, just give us  
31 the money, we will give you the results.

32  
33                   (Laughter)

34  
35                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And they never  
36 believed. They just wanted to spend money because they  
37 want to get paid for it.

38  
39                   With that said, go ahead, Susan.

40  
41                   MS. GEORGETTE: Thank you. What Percy  
42 was just saying, a quick comment is that one thing  
43 we've been working on with the Native Village of  
44 Kotzebue is to put together an easy to read document  
45 that summarizes what we know about sheefish and I just  
46 picked one resource, but there's been sheefish studies  
47 since the '60s or the '50s. We have stacks of them,  
48 but most of us aren't going to look through these  
49 stacks of reports. We have a draft of it, a little  
50 bit, where we just try to say, well, what do we know

1 from all these different things that have gone on. So  
2 if Buckland wants to know or Kotzebue wants to know,  
3 they don't have to look through this whole pile of  
4 stuff. So I think it's really important to somehow put  
5 together what do we know about these things.

6  
7 I just had a quick comment, which  
8 Barbara made me think of. The one that says the  
9 spawning locations for broad whitefish in Selawik River  
10 drainage. My suggestion would be that that be for the  
11 Northwest Arctic Borough because broad whitefish, those  
12 are the real big kausriluks, the real fat, big ones.  
13 One of kind of the mysteries of them from a scientist  
14 perspective, from the biologist, is that they don't  
15 really know where they spawn and especially in Selawik,  
16 which has a lot of them.

17  
18 Elders there know where the humpback  
19 whitefish spawn, the cisco and all this, but for some  
20 reason those are a little bit of a mystery to people  
21 and it's a really important resource everywhere. I  
22 know on the Kobuk River when I did work up there in the  
23 Upper Kobuk people like Larry Custer knew where they  
24 spawned, you know, below Shungnak and all, but it's not  
25 really documented like in the science part of it.

26  
27 With the Ambler Road and all these  
28 things going on it seems like a really important thing  
29 to do. And Noatak, I think you guys know more than I  
30 would, but they're in kind of special places on the  
31 Noatak River. They're not everywhere. They're in some  
32 lake up by the canyons and they're in certain sloughs  
33 and all, so it's a really interesting story to me that  
34 I think is an important resource and having it be  
35 anywhere in the region. They might all go around -- I  
36 mean the Selawik ones might go to the Kobuk River. I  
37 mean we don't really know where. The Kobuk River ones  
38 go somewhere else.

39  
40 That's all I have.

41  
42 Thank you.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Susan.  
45 Anyone else. Go ahead, Calvin.

46  
47 MR. MOTO: I remember when Bering Sea  
48 Fishermen's Association was talking about herring in  
49 our area and the aspect of maybe commercial. So what  
50 they did was there was one guy from Bering Sea

1 Fishermen's Association, a biologist, and Rick Steiner,  
2 a fisherman, they test fished the herring and then they  
3 broke it down and found out that herring didn't come  
4 from Pacific. It come from Chukchi Sea. We had a  
5 potential buyer for that fish and we had a way of  
6 sending it down at 25 cents a pound or 10 pounds.

7  
8 The reason they did that was Northland  
9 Barge come up here and they go back empty. They said  
10 they'd take our -- if we had herring, they'd take our  
11 herring for that much a pound, you know. But what  
12 we're curious about is the aspect of, you know, like  
13 the whitefish. We're real curious about that, what  
14 happened. When you do some work, maybe something to  
15 look at is what happened. Tomcod is another one.

16  
17 I almost forgot about the herring, but  
18 we get them every fall. August is when they come  
19 around. They have the same oil content as the one up  
20 in the Chukchi Sea, so that's where they figured they  
21 came from.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin.

24  
25 Go ahead, Enoch.

26  
27 MR. MITCHELL: I wanted to point out  
28 too about what Susan said earlier about the fish. As  
29 you go up Noatak River, there's a lot of sloughs going  
30 into the Noatak River. I'll just say this as an  
31 example. Like this slough here is going to be full of  
32 whitefish, nothing but whitefish. You go up a few more  
33 bends and you go in this slough. It's nothing but  
34 salmon in that slough. You go up a few more and  
35 there's nothing but trout in that slough. So that's  
36 how it is on that river. When we go get whitefish, we  
37 go to this area. When we go get trout, we go to this  
38 area. There's salmon almost all over this area.

39  
40 That's why I wanted to make that trout  
41 study a priority for Noatak because that's one of the  
42 slough they hit, the beavers hit, the one with lots of  
43 trout in it. The trout has been going there for years  
44 now. Now there's hardly any in there. I didn't know  
45 where the other ones go. That's why I wanted to make  
46 it a priority to study that. There's a lot of concerns  
47 on that.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.  
50 Anything else. Go ahead, Hannah.

1 MS. LOON: Just for everybody's  
2 information, Fred DeCicco does come to Red Dog and do  
3 trout studies over there. He has been going back and  
4 forth from Fairbanks to Red Dog.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anything else to  
7 respond.

8  
9 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council  
10 members. I just have some final comments, but I didn't  
11 want to cut anybody off. If you have more to add,  
12 please keep going.

13  
14 MR. BALLOT: I was just going to ask  
15 when you guys were saying where fish spawn, a lot of  
16 times they spawn in lakes and how they get there.  
17 Maybe in the falltime when it floods or springtime, but  
18 a lot of the fish that come out of the lakes are  
19 whitefish. If you see a lot of fish in the river,  
20 there's all this cut off. How come we don't collect  
21 some of that stuff and see what's coming out of the  
22 lakes along the rivers?

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy.

25  
26 Go ahead, Mike.

27  
28 MR. KRAMER: I know Henry Schaeffer can  
29 concur with me on this one. A lot of the lakes along  
30 the coast, around Cape Blossom we have that Cape  
31 Blossom Creek. I know a lot of those lakes and  
32 sloughs, when they close up in the fall they harbor a  
33 lot of whitefish. A lot of whitefish. There's that  
34 lake over by Nimiuk Point. That one harbors a lot of  
35 whitefish. I'm not sure what species they are, but  
36 there's times when they're just packed full of fish. I  
37 don't know if they continue to spawn in there. I know  
38 a lot of times we've gone down the coast to go make  
39 fish traps and we get 20 to 30 gunnysacks and you still  
40 don't make a dent. You could walk along the ice and  
41 there's just clouds of fish. Wherever you step they're  
42 just taking off by the thousands.

43  
44 I think a lot of those kind of  
45 tributaries need to be studied also. I mean you guys  
46 are looking for where the broad fish maybe spawns.  
47 Some of them might spawn in some of those coastal  
48 lakes. I know Shishmaref has a lot of them. I've seen  
49 a lot of fish come out of some of those places. I know  
50 last fall Anagok (ph) was just overflowing with

1 whitefish. I mean at nighttime when they hit the end  
2 it just sounded like thunder.

3

4 That's it.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.  
7 You guys got any response to what you've heard.

8

9 MS. HYER: Yeah. If everybody is done  
10 with their input for the moment, I think what I'll  
11 propose to do is I'll work with Jeff and Susan and  
12 rewrite these and bring them back to you tomorrow to  
13 make sure that we've captured what you want. I think  
14 we'll just end the discussion for the moment and bring  
15 it back up again tomorrow.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. I  
18 think we deserve a break now. See everybody in 20  
19 minutes.

20

21 (Off record)

22

23 (On record)

24

25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, everybody,  
26 ready. Afternoon all and we'll get back to the  
27 meeting. We'll call the meeting back to order at 3:20  
28 pm. We'll go to fisheries proposals statewide. It's  
29 in your booklet on Page 73. Who is going to give it?  
30 You too? Okay.

31

32 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. It's Karen  
33 Hyer again for the record. I'm going to talk to you  
34 about 15-01 and this is an action item, so I'll need a  
35 vote on this when I get done.

36

37 Proposal 15-01 was submitted by the  
38 Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory  
39 Council and it requests that the definition of a hook  
40 be described in regulation as a hook with or without a  
41 barb. The purpose of the proposal is to clarify the  
42 language and the type of fishing hook that could be  
43 used under Federal subsistence fisheries regulations  
44 where hooks are authorized as a method and means of  
45 taking fish.

46

47 The proponent is requesting this change  
48 to existing statewide Federal regulations to eliminate  
49 the potential for adoption of a default method and  
50 means restriction of Federal subsistence fisheries to

1 the use of barbless hooks. On the Kenai, the State  
2 Board of Fish has issued a regulation to use barbless  
3 hooks. That doesn't apply up here at all, but there  
4 are areas in the state where there are no Federal  
5 regulations and when there are no Federal regulations,  
6 we default off into State regulations. So the  
7 proponent just wants to clarify that for Federal  
8 subsistence users, if there's a definition of hook,  
9 then we won't default to a State regulation. That  
10 basically is kind of the crux of the analysis.

11  
12 OSM's recommendation is to support this  
13 and then with the issue that the proposal will just  
14 clarify what a hook is. Again, that would mean that a  
15 hook could be defined as with or without barb.

16  
17 That is all I have to say about this  
18 proposal. Any questions, comments.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. So  
21 this is a procedure for proposals. We have to go  
22 through that. So under number one, she gave the  
23 introduction and presentation. Now we have to get  
24 report from the Board consultation, tribes and ANCSA  
25 corporations.

26  
27 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Melinda.

30  
31 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I will  
32 summarize quickly. We did have a couple of tribes that  
33 called in to the teleconferences when the proposals  
34 were announced and there were some comments received.  
35 I'll give you a brief summary here.

36  
37 Let me start with Ahtna. Ahtna  
38 submitted comments in support of Proposal 15-01. They  
39 say that Federally qualified subsistence users who fish  
40 with rod and reel do not fish recreationally for  
41 salmon. Those who choose to fish with rod and reel are  
42 for Federal subsistence in the Upper Copper River  
43 district and they keep their harvested salmon. They  
44 most likely do not catch and release salmon that are  
45 caught on rod and reel and they speak in support of 15-  
46 01.

47  
48 There was another comment from the --  
49 let's see, there were two tribes who spoke in support  
50 of FP15-01 on the teleconferences and there was an

1 additional written public comment from the Southeast  
2 Alaska Fishermen s Alliance and they are in support of  
3 FP15-01. They believe it makes it clear that a hook  
4 can have barbs in Federal subsistence fisheries unless  
5 otherwise specified in regulation for a particular  
6 conservation use.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. So the  
11 next step we the agency comments. The first one is  
12 Alaska Department of Fish and Game for agency comments  
13 on this proposal.

14

15 MS. BURKE: Is there anyone on the  
16 teleconference who is from ADF&G who would like to  
17 speak to FP15-01?

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Is there anyone going  
22 to report on this from Alaska Department of Fish and  
23 Game?

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MS. BURKE: It doesn't sound like it,  
28 Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, we'll go to  
31 Federal agencies. Anyone from the Federal agency on  
32 Proposal 15-01.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So, if not from  
37 Federal agency, from the Native, tribal, village or  
38 other.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone. Okay.  
43 Advisory group comments or other Regional Councils,  
44 fish and game advisory committees. Go ahead, Karen.

45

46 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council  
47 members. When I attended the North Slope meeting in  
48 Nuiqsut, they were in support of this.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Excuse me. You said

1 Nuiqsut or North Slope? Just Nuiqsut?

2

3 MS. HYER: No, North Slope met in  
4 Nuiqsut, so the North Slope RAC.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Other staff committee  
7 reports.

8

9 MS. BURKE: I believe my summary  
10 included everything we received from tribes and the  
11 public, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. So we're down  
14 to -- go ahead, Enoch.

15

16 MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Chairman. I see  
17 this one is submitted by Southcentral Alaska  
18 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and I think -- my  
19 question is are they asking for support from us or are  
20 we going to do a proposal like this?

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

23

24 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council  
25 members. They're actually asking for support from you.  
26 This would be a statewide proposal, so it would apply  
27 to everyone in Alaska.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So are we the first  
30 tribal to meet on this?

31

32 MS. HYER: North Slope.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I heard they  
35 supported, yeah. Go ahead, Melinda.

36

37 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. Just to kind of  
38 get us rolling on the Council discussion, we'll want a  
39 motion to adopt the proposal. That way we can get the  
40 discussion going and build a good rationale on the  
41 record. So if somebody would like to make a motion to  
42 adopt, it would be proper for the Council to discuss  
43 after that motion. Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Percy.

46

47 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. A  
48 hook is a hook to me. If that's okay with Barb, I move  
49 to support Proposal 15-01.

50

1 MR. KRAMER: Second.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Second by Mike.  
4 Okay, we'll vote on this. All in favor say.....  
5  
6 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, go ahead,  
9 Melinda.  
10  
11 MS. BURKE: We want to build a little  
12 bit of a rationale to make our recommendation solid.  
13 Mr. Chair.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.  
16  
17 MR. BALLOT: I think we've been using  
18 that type of hook already over the years with tomcods  
19 and stuff. So we do use barbless hooks.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Correct me if I'm  
22 wrong. I think this all started when a lot of people  
23 were just catching and releasing. A lot of fish were  
24 dying due to the barb hurting the fish. I think that's  
25 why this came up. It was better when the hook was  
26 barbless. When you pull the hook out, it won't tear up  
27 the fish so much. They live longer. I think that was  
28 about 16 years ago, something like that. It's been a  
29 while. I forgot all about this, but that was the whole  
30 idea. People with barbed hooks were killing a lot of  
31 fish because there was a lot of -- at the time the  
32 state was requesting that people catch and release.  
33 That's why this barbless came up.  
34  
35 I will support this barbless like  
36 everybody else here the way Southeast [sic] Alaska  
37 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council proposed it.  
38 Anyone else.  
39  
40 (No comments)  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Melinda.  
43  
44 MS. BURKE: Do you want to call for the  
45 question.  
46  
47 MR. CLEVELAND: All rise.  
48  
49 (Laughter)  
50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Verne.  
2  
3 MR. STONEY: So they want us to support  
4 this proposal.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, that's our next  
7 vote is going to be to support his. So I'm going to  
8 request to support this proposal. All in favor signify  
9 by saying aye.  
10  
11 IN UNISON: Aye.  
12  
13 (No opposing votes)  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No objections. We  
16 all support FP15-01. Are we done with this proposal?  
17  
18 MS. BURKE: Yes.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Now we all  
21 will welcome Verne. What's your last name again?  
22  
23 (Laughter)  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Verne Cleveland from  
26 Noorvik. Are we done with this?  
27  
28 MS. BURKE: Yes.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We're done with this,  
31 so on to the next item. We will back up and we'll  
32 welcome Verne from Noorvik. He finally made it in.  
33 What we're trying to do is we were trying to wait for  
34 you to give a Council report about your hunting season  
35 here at Noorvik and Upper Kobuk. We know you go all  
36 the way up the Kobuk. You're the security, so you see  
37 a lot of things, more than we do.  
38  
39 So afternoon, Verne, and welcome.  
40  
41 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you. You want me  
42 to give a report?  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, give your  
45 village report on your subsistence. If you look at the  
46 agenda, it's Council members reports. We all gave a  
47 report about our subsistence and what's happening in  
48 our villages.  
49  
50 MR. CLEVELAND: Well, early this fall

1 or the last couple weeks very aggressive hunters want  
2 -- there's so many boats. I've never seen anything  
3 like this before. I mean we had people from  
4 everywhere. We had one boat from Shishmaref here  
5 hunting and I don't know how to say it, but we wait, we  
6 wait, we wait for the caribou for quite some time, you  
7 know, and then they came in and -- you saw that, Ray.  
8 Aggressive. People want caribou.

9  
10 I mean just -- you know what they did?  
11 They left their little boats behind. Them little boats  
12 didn't get nothing, most of them, and the big boats got  
13 what they get. I feel for the guys that have the  
14 smaller boats that can't keep up with the big boats.  
15 That was the problem. I put a bunch of guys with small  
16 boats in my boat and we took off and we got a caribou,  
17 you know. They thought it was -- well, we had to bump  
18 other boats and stuff like that, but that's their  
19 catch, that's their food on the table.

20  
21 Abundance of moose. There's a lot of  
22 moose of moose in the area, a lot of bear. I don't  
23 know about fish. A lot of fish floating, dead ones.  
24 Same thing like in Koyukuk River. I knew it right away  
25 when they said there was fish floating and I told them  
26 that there was no oxygen.

27  
28 Other than that, survived another year.

29  
30 Thank you.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Verne.  
33 Yeah, he's right. A lot of aggressive hunters. Like  
34 Verne did, my boat is decent and those little boats --  
35 I blocked off a couple of boats till that little boat  
36 come in. I knew who they were. They say, Attamuk,  
37 why. I said this poor guy's got to get his first. I  
38 said I'll get mine later. I said next round I'm going  
39 to beat you. I said to other guys from Kotzebue, I  
40 said this guy's got a little 30-horse, give him a  
41 chance because he probably needs it more than we do. I  
42 didn't want to say that, but I felt good.

43  
44 That kid from Noorvik, he called my  
45 house and he said thank you. I got enough meat now, I  
46 can feed my family. That's a big difference when he  
47 say thank you. He said you get your caribou. I said,  
48 yeah, I get my caribou. I hunt out while they were  
49 hunting downriver. I seen what was happening, so I  
50 take off just to help and I shot it for him because his

1 rifle jammed and he said I can't. I got a couple of  
2 caribou for him.

3

4                   But like Verne said, it was getting  
5 really scary out there and we need to do something  
6 before we have another Shungnak incident. Somebody  
7 will take it wrong and it's going to hurt us. If a  
8 family get hurt, it's not only going to hurt one  
9 family, it's going to hurt Northwest Alaska. All of us  
10 are going to hurt. We shouldn't go there, our  
11 youngsters. They should listen to these elders from  
12 Kiana, Noorvik, Upper Kobuk and Kotzebue and Noatak,  
13 how they do things. And it's changing, it's getting  
14 scarier and we need to preserve and we should not fight  
15 for any animal. There's enough for everybody.

16

17                   Thank you, Verne. Good report. So  
18 back to our agenda for Partners for Fisheries  
19 Monitoring Program Strategy Plan.

20

21                   MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council  
22 members. For the record, Karen Hyer again. I think  
23 Jeff was going to join me again. I don't have a  
24 handout for this. We have some talking points we're  
25 just going to go over. First of all I just wanted to  
26 briefly tell you about our Partners for Fisheries  
27 Monitoring Program.

28

29                   OSM funds a program called Partners for  
30 Fisheries Monitoring in which we provide funding to  
31 rural organizations to hire a fish biologist or an  
32 anthropologist or an educator and these positions are  
33 hired in the rural organizations and they're filled  
34 with people who live and work in the communities where  
35 the organizations are based. The purpose of the  
36 program is to help expand and strengthen the  
37 involvement of members of the rural community to  
38 participate in the management of local Federal  
39 subsistence fisheries resources.

40

41                   Currently we have five partners  
42 throughout Alaska. The Kuskokwim Native Association  
43 has a partner. The Native Village of Eyak has a  
44 partner. ONC in Bethel has a partner. And Tanana  
45 Chiefs Conference has a partner and Bristol Bay Native  
46 Association has a partner. These partners do different  
47 things.

48

49                   The partner at the Native Village of  
50 Eyak works on the fishwheels on the Copper River and

1 they estimate the chinook salmon migrating up the  
2 river. The Tanana Chiefs Conference, that partner  
3 helps run a weir and estimates fish that are running up  
4 the Yukon. Kuskokwim Native Association has a partner  
5 that also helps with a weir and different fisheries  
6 projects.

7

8                   So these partners do different things  
9 in the region in which they're located and are all  
10 currently involved with the FRMP, which we were talking  
11 about earlier. We are going to have another notice of  
12 funding coming up in 2015. Before we put that notice  
13 of funding out we want to spend some time talking about  
14 the program and evaluating the program and talking  
15 about partnerships with you.

16

17                   So I have several questions I'm going  
18 to ask you and I want your input, but when this notice  
19 of funding comes out we will be seeking proposals  
20 throughout Alaska and there has been interest in your  
21 region and other regions that currently don't have  
22 partners. So while your region doesn't have a partner  
23 right now, think about what you would like to see in  
24 this region.

25

26                   So, with that, I will just go to the  
27 bullet points and I'll just go through them and you can  
28 give me your input. The first one is how can our  
29 partners facilitate communication. So if you had a  
30 partner in a rural organization, how could they  
31 possibly help facilitate communication. An example  
32 would be that we have partners that live in rural  
33 Alaska and they interact with local people.

34

35                   Before you answer that -- I got ahead  
36 of myself, so I just want to step back and tell you  
37 we're going to use this information and we're going to  
38 develop what we call a strategic plan, basically a  
39 direction for the program. So before we go out and ask  
40 for proposals we have a good idea of what were seeking,  
41 so we want your input to help us develop that strategic  
42 plan for the program. So that's really why we're  
43 getting the input and then we'll write up the plan and  
44 then we'll put out the notice of funding and then  
45 people will apply.

46

47                   Anyway, with that, I'll just repeat my  
48 first question. How could a partner help facilitate  
49 better communication in this region.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Any question  
2 for Karen from the Council here.

3  
4 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. Are you  
5 talking about different organizations, tribes or just  
6 anybody in general?

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Karen.

9  
10 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council  
11 members. It would be rural organizations. This  
12 partner would be in a rural organization. If you could  
13 just think about a rural organization in this area and  
14 then if they had possibly a biologist or an  
15 anthropologist or an educator, what would you like to  
16 see them do to help facilitate communication in this  
17 area.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.

20  
21 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In  
22 my experience over the years working as a resource  
23 person, it's really important that if you are  
24 interviewing local knowledge that you have a fluent  
25 speaker with you that is real familiar with the area  
26 whatever you are studying about because the local  
27 knowledge is science and that you will go through the  
28 protocol of going through and working and partnering  
29 with the tribal IRA councils. They will recommend to  
30 you who is very fluent and who is very familiar with  
31 the land forms and the areas that they would like to  
32 engage in in recording strategic plans.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.  
35 Anyone else. Go ahead, Enoch Mitchell.

36  
37 MR. MITCHELL: How did these other  
38 agencies get on to be partners?

39  
40 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council  
41 members. They actually submitted a proposal and the  
42 proposal contained whether they wanted to hire a  
43 biologist or an anthropologist or an educator and  
44 exactly what those people would do within that  
45 organization. Say for the Native Village of Eyak on the  
46 Copper, they said they wanted a biologist because they  
47 wanted to run this fishwheel and they wanted to count  
48 chinook salmon specifically and that's how they applied  
49 for it.

50

1                   When we did the call for that  
2 particular segment of the Partners Program, we had a  
3 list of what we wanted, what we were looking for from  
4 the organizations. So we're going to go out and ask  
5 again and anybody throughout Alaska can apply for it  
6 that's a rural organization or a Native organization.  
7 What you're telling us now, the information we'll take  
8 and we'll put that out in the call and we'll say we  
9 want people that can help facilitate this and this and  
10 this in these communities. So that's how we're going  
11 to use this information. We're going to say we heard  
12 our users say that they thought this was important, so  
13 this is what we want in our proposal.

14  
15                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So what you're saying  
16 is we're going to hire for Northwest Alaska or like in  
17 Noatak we'd hire an anthropologist to do the issues of  
18 concerns about beaver having impact on our fish.

19  
20                   MS. HYER: That is a good example, yes.

21  
22                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Enoch, I think you  
23 and I need to get together and say, hey, we need a  
24 biologist to do study on our impacts, on our beavers  
25 and our trout at Noatak. So I think you and I need to  
26 get together and work on it. When is the deadline for  
27 this proposal?

28  
29                   MS. HYER: It will be sometime next  
30 year. It hasn't even been announced yet. We're just  
31 getting information so we can write a proposal that  
32 will establish a kind of partnership that you would  
33 want to see. So it's very far in the distance and this  
34 is just the initial. The strategic plan will guide how  
35 we write the proposal and then the proposal will guide  
36 what kind of proposals we get and it goes from there.

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.  
39 Anyone from the Council.

40  
41                   MR. BALLOT: So you're asking us how do  
42 you want them to communicate with us?

43  
44                   MS. HYER: Yes, that's exactly what  
45 we're asking.

46  
47                   MR. BALLOT: We have meetings once or  
48 twice a month, every village here. We have a city  
49 meeting and an IRA meeting or sometimes we have special  
50 meetings where people come in with certain ideas and

1 that's a good time to share what they're doing. Each  
2 and every time something is going on in the village  
3 everybody always knows what's happening or kind of know  
4 what's happening.

5  
6 In addition, we have VHF's and that's  
7 how I do a lot of my announcements here in the village  
8 in Buckland. I tell them we're doing this, doing that,  
9 come on over and check it out, that kind of stuff.  
10 Otherwise just a general letter if you're going to be  
11 local in town. We communicate to our people,  
12 households by letter.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy.

15  
16 Go ahead, Hannah.

17  
18 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
19 think it's a real good idea when local people,  
20 especially the elders that are very knowledgeable of  
21 fish, you know, when they notice anything. They notice  
22 the wind and water and they notice everything through  
23 drifts, snow drifts and the kind of snow that they get  
24 everywhere.

25  
26 Somewhere along the line we are missing  
27 the younger people in our education system. In the  
28 education system, they're learning math and science and  
29 English. That's good. I think that if we have  
30 internships for students to be alongside the program,  
31 they would be learning about their own environment and  
32 their land and their water, they're familiar with land  
33 forms and everything. It would be a real good -- you  
34 win something and local people win something at the  
35 same time. Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.

38 Anyone else here. Go ahead, Jeff.

39  
40 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
41 just wanted to inform you that one of the larger  
42 portions of this program is focused on youth and that  
43 is an important part of our strategic plan.

44  
45 Thank you.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So what you're saying  
48 is you're going to try to get the youth on these  
49 proposals to work together?

50

1 MR. BROOKS: Yes, that's correct, Mr.  
2 Chair.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Karen.  
5 Anything else.

6  
7 MS. HYER: If there's nothing else,  
8 then I'm going to just move down my list because I have  
9 a whole list of questions here. So the next one is how  
10 can our partners provide outreach and education so the  
11 stakeholders, which are you, can better engage in the  
12 Federal Subsistence Program decision-making process.  
13 One of the examples we just had was an internship. Is  
14 there anything else you can think of you would like to  
15 see?

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think what you  
18 could do is go to the villages and say what you want to  
19 do and you could try to get students involved and hire  
20 students to be a part of it or other people from the  
21 villages. I think you'd be better and people would  
22 support you more if you hire locals, like Hannah said,  
23 and they are the experts from their village. Most of  
24 us don't like -- even me, I don't like to say how I  
25 should tell the village how to do certain things. So  
26 each village differ a little bit. That's all I could  
27 tell you.

28  
29 You had your hand up, Percy.

30  
31 MR. BALLOT: Yeah. We have fairs,  
32 health fairs, and different type of fairs. We also  
33 have organizations go to the village every so often,  
34 the borough, NANA. Let's partner up with them and  
35 share what you got out there and have your share the  
36 information that they've got to share. Also to go up  
37 to the school, the grade higher levels or certain  
38 levels that want to know more about what you're doing.  
39 It would be good to visit them in their class.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy.

42  
43 Go ahead, Hannah.

44  
45 MS. LOON: It would be good for the  
46 agency to have an outreach coordinator that you would  
47 specifically tell how to communicate to the community,  
48 like a liaison person, that would help you like we have  
49 in Fish and Wildlife. Her name is Nicole and she works  
50 for Fish and Wildlife and anything that the students

1 are doing, for instance like birdwatching and  
2 collecting butterflies and studying the water, Susan  
3 can cover on that when they have a staff that will  
4 coordinate things between the agency and local elders  
5 and people in the community.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. And I  
8 think, Karen, if you would use, when you ask for a  
9 proposal from the village, if you give an example, an  
10 idea, you know, what this proposal is all about, maybe  
11 that would help the communities understand instead of  
12 saying, hey, we need a proposal from you and that's it.  
13 You will tell them you need a biologist and what do you  
14 want studied. Maybe that's the question you have to  
15 use. What do you want studied around your village. I  
16 think that will make a big difference and they will  
17 tell you.

18

19 Because we all differ. Up here they  
20 might worry about the sheefish or the caribou or  
21 something or Noatak will worry about the trout and  
22 Calvin is worried that they never had whitefish for a  
23 long time. Things like this. So you give an example  
24 and not always all the same. You know, you hear what  
25 we all have to say from different areas. So when you  
26 write your letter, it won't be one draft letter for  
27 all. Each would be different.

28

29 Go ahead, Mike.

30

31 MR. KRAMER: For the past how many  
32 years since I've been on this board and also on the  
33 Fish and Game Advisory Council in Kotzebue, I've seen a  
34 lot of studies done in the past 10, 15 years, I've  
35 always wondered what is the sole purpose of doing these  
36 studies. Is it to benefit the species or is it to  
37 benefit the subsistence taking of these species?

38

39 A gentleman that came in earlier  
40 brought up a good point. He said of all the species  
41 that have been studied within the last 15, 16 years has  
42 any of their populations ever risen or were there  
43 basically a population -- was there a population  
44 estimate or was the studies done to keep track of their  
45 overall health throughout the years or just having good  
46 scientific data to be able to fall back on when  
47 something does happen? And I thought that was a good  
48 point that he brought up.

49

50 You know, there's all these studies

1 done on these species, fish, wildlife, and I told him,  
2 I said, the only thing I've ever seen increase since  
3 they've done studies on fish within this game  
4 management unit since the 1960s was sheefish. You  
5 know, that's the only study increase I've ever seen.  
6 You know, caribou, bears. The main benefit that I  
7 think that study should be based on is for scientific  
8 data as to the overall health, the scientific health.

9  
10 The biggest thing that I'm always  
11 concerned about is contamination. You know, what kind  
12 of contaminants do some of these species carry back  
13 then and now. Contamination studies should always be  
14 done on animals every time a study is done, especially  
15 in different areas of the game management unit. That  
16 way we have some kind of scientific data to fall back  
17 on 20 years from now.

18  
19 That was one of the things I just  
20 wanted to -- you know, the guy brought up a good point.  
21 You know, he's seen so many studies done and what is  
22 the purpose of the study. You know, thinking about all  
23 the studies, it's to benefit the species and to benefit  
24 our subsistence way of life. That's all.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Michael.  
27 Anything else from you two on this here. Go ahead,  
28 Percy.

29  
30 MR. BALLOT: Mm-hmm.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Uhhh, okay.

33  
34 (Laughter)

35  
36 MR. BALLOT: I'm eating. I'm eating  
37 fish.

38  
39 (Laughter)

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: When I look, I look  
42 all over and I see your hands move. Sorry, Percy.  
43 Anything else, Karen.

44  
45 MS. HYER: Yeah, I have a couple more  
46 here. So the next one is how can our partners help  
47 strengthen relationships between stakeholders. An  
48 example would be our partners interact with Federal,  
49 State and then the local organizations to provide  
50 information, such as fisheries escapement. So, like I

1 mentioned before, they might run a weir on the Yukon  
2 and then they'll report back to both the Federal in-  
3 season manager and then the State and any local agency  
4 that's also interested in that. So if you have any  
5 ideas you could share with how we can strengthen  
6 relationships between stakeholders, I'd appreciate it.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

9

10 MR. BALLOT: By actually being there,  
11 they know we do studies, but we always have studies  
12 done by people somewhere. If you come here and see us  
13 and break bread with us, just like we're doing now  
14 here, it's very helpful being one on one with the  
15 people you're working with versus on the phone or  
16 internet or wherever.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone else. If not,  
19 I will -- on your studies here, when you do studies,  
20 when you're working on it, I think when you're halfway  
21 done you should go to the village you're studying and  
22 say this is what we've got so far. We're lacking this  
23 to complete it, can you guys help us complete it.  
24 Whether you know the answer or not, make it sound like  
25 it comes from the village so the village will feel  
26 better and welcome you again the next time and your  
27 next study will be a lot simpler.

28

29 Go ahead, Enoch. You'll be next,  
30 Hannah.

31

32 MR. MITCHELL: Yes. I kind of noticed  
33 you have a lot of names from Southeast. Are you guys  
34 based in Southeast area?

35

36 MS. HYER: No. Actually our Partners  
37 Program does not extend to Southeast Alaska because the  
38 Forest Service is the primary subsistence manager down  
39 there and that's USDA money and we actually start in  
40 Southcentral and go north from there, so the Partners  
41 Program doesn't involve Southeast at all. It stops at  
42 Southcentral.

43

44 MR. MITCHELL: If you have partners up  
45 here, what kind of communication do you all have? I  
46 mean are you guys going to be based -- where at?

47

48 MS. HYER: It would depend on what  
49 organization was successful with their proposal, but  
50 the partners live in the community where the

1 organization is that they work for, so they are in  
2 local organizations. So if the Native Village of  
3 Noatak put in a proposal that was successful, the  
4 partner would live in that village.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Go  
7 ahead, Hannah.

8  
9 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
10 think it's very important, like somebody was saying,  
11 let the audience be from the community. Like, for  
12 instance, on the voting thing for the Yup'ik language,  
13 that one is a very important topic and in all the  
14 studies you have done they should always be done in  
15 plain English and layman's terms.

16  
17 There was a study done by Katie  
18 Moerlein with the University of Alaska and she did some  
19 salmon studies in Noatak and Kotzebue and whitefish  
20 studies in Selawik and her report was just maybe a few  
21 posters for each village and it was really understand  
22 -- I mean you could understand the graph in just plain  
23 English. If you plunked this one into somebody's hand,  
24 it's very overwhelming.

25  
26 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.  
29 Anyone else.

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anything to add,  
34 Karen?

35  
36 MS. HYER: No, Mr. Chairman, but I do  
37 have a couple more points. The next one is how can we,  
38 we being the partners, promote opportunities for youth  
39 and elders to engage in Federal Subsistence Management  
40 Program.

41  
42 MS. ARMSTRONG: Invite them.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think what you need  
45 to do is do it like Jim Dau. When he does caribou  
46 collaring, he takes students to where he's doing the  
47 work. So maybe you could say -- you know, you could  
48 have a study or work done in Kiana, Noorvik, Noatak and  
49 you probably could get outside students from another  
50 village under school culture to bring them to a village

1 to try to get other students involved. I think that  
2 would be more impact and you could let the schools  
3 communicate amongst each other what they learned so far  
4 and you might get an idea what they see and stuff like  
5 that.

6

7 Because when we see students doing the  
8 work, like that collaring at Onion Portage, whether  
9 they're from Shaktoolik, Unalakleet area, we're proud  
10 to see them when they give their report and we are  
11 proud that they're young and we see it. So if  
12 something like that happened, that would be a big +10.  
13 I'll tell you that right now. It will be a big +10.

14

15 Go ahead, Raymond.

16

17 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
18 I see this happening at Onion Portage for some time  
19 now. Jim Dau always has students from just about any  
20 community in Northwest Alaska. I learned approximately  
21 two years ago about eight of those groups that were up  
22 at Onion Portage decided to be game biologists. That  
23 was a good point of view. I'm glad that they make up  
24 their minds that they want to be a game biologist after  
25 collaring caribou. That's a good thing for these  
26 youngsters to see wildlife.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Raymond.

29

30 Go ahead, Enoch.

31

32 MR. MITCHELL: I think each village has  
33 an elder rep now that you could contact to have a  
34 meeting with the rep or you could contact the IRA first  
35 and they'll contact the elders and the community for  
36 you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

39

40 MS. BALLOT: In Buckland we have four  
41 Inupiaq days a year. They're quarterly. We have  
42 hunters and the people and we invite people to have  
43 different themes like you're talking about that you've  
44 got something to share if you're willing to come. We  
45 also have a celebration of life. It's a three-day  
46 event and we'll put things in there that has good news  
47 for resources or hunting or safety and things like  
48 that. You're more than welcome to share your  
49 information when we have that kind of stuff going on.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy.

2

3 Okay, Karen.

4

5 MS. HYER: All right, Mr. Chairman. I  
6 just have two more questions. One is how can our  
7 partners work together to create opportunities for  
8 local individuals to become involved in subsistence  
9 management. You already gave me the example of local  
10 hire and involving students. Is there anything else  
11 out there that you can think of that would be along  
12 those lines.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The other one I would  
15 add is if you want to give your report, whoever you  
16 hire, engage that person and let that person give a  
17 report and you could always follow up when they hear it  
18 from another Native. That's a big plus.

19

20 MR. BALLOT: Like you say, we have  
21 health career fairs, there's Maniilaq, the school  
22 district, and we get to have Federal Subsistence Board  
23 as part of that group sharing their information. I  
24 know we have a lot of young kids. A few years ago we  
25 had Selawik Wildlife doing bird flu studies and the  
26 kids had a good time there and learned a lot. So those  
27 kind of things to give them an opportunity to see what  
28 they could do. I know we have some local kids now that  
29 are managing somewhere else that were around. So it  
30 would be good to see and give them that opportunity. I  
31 know they have some of that stuff in Kotzebue or when  
32 they gather kids together about career fairs and stuff.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. We're  
35 moving on and going back to Karen again. Probably our  
36 last one?

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 MS. HYER: Yes, it is. And I do really  
41 appreciate all this input and we will take all your  
42 ideas back and I'm quite happy they're all on the  
43 transcript because I filled my page with notes. But  
44 the last one is should the Partners Program be expanded  
45 to include other resources. Currently our partners  
46 only work in fisheries. Would that be something you  
47 would like to see? For example, expand it to wildlife.  
48 I know we've talked a lot about caribou today or other  
49 species that aren't fish.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We understand what  
2 you're trying to say, other resources. To do a study  
3 on the thing -- you do a study that impacts a certain  
4 fish or certain area. Because like (in Inupiaq) when  
5 they block up a lot of fish will be there, these are  
6 the things, or when it opens, you have less fish (in  
7 Inupiaq) because they're escaping. We don't have to  
8 (in Inupiaq). We don't have to build a trench for us  
9 to get fish. These are the things, the pros and the  
10 cons, is what you're asking for, right?

11  
12                   MS. HYER: Well, that, Mr. Chairman,  
13 and also we've talked a lot about caribou and beaver  
14 and currently we fund -- it's called the Partners for  
15 Fisheries Resource Monitoring, so our partners get  
16 involved in fisheries issues, but that's only one part  
17 of subsistence, so I'm asking about the interest of  
18 expanding the program maybe beyond fish and include  
19 wildlife and other harvestable -- you harvest berries,  
20 you harvest other things too. Right now the focus is on  
21 fish, so I was just wondering what your interest is in  
22 expanding it.

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Michael.

25  
26                   MR. KRAMER: I think what the State and  
27 Federal governments need to do is have a public website  
28 where people can go on and see what studies have been  
29 done anywhere in the state and be able to see the  
30 outcome of the studies. I think it was Barb saying  
31 that Point Lay or somewhere up there had a shortage of  
32 grayling. That lake over there by Red Dog, that thing  
33 is packed so full of them it ain't even funny. If they  
34 need to transplant, they should get a hold of Red Dog  
35 and transport some of those up there. And I mean  
36 they're big ones. A buddy of mine works there and his  
37 job once a month is to go catch 20 of them, freeze them  
38 instantly and send them out for study.

39  
40                   A place where people can go and see the  
41 data that has accrued throughout the years and be able  
42 to compare data, new and old, is a site that needs to  
43 be there open to the public. I mean I know some of the  
44 caribou collaring things should not be accurate. It  
45 should be five months behind. That way people aren't  
46 looking where the caribou are at. But I think a  
47 website like that where people can log on and create a  
48 username. That way you can see how many people from  
49 different regions. The youth can also jump in on it  
50 too and be able to look at this website and be able to

1 see what studies are done in their regions or specific  
2 areas. I think that's something that really needs to  
3 be looked at statewide and be put on the web. I mean  
4 if you guys have to scan everything from all your  
5 sheefish data all the way back to the '60s, hey, that  
6 kind of stuff will help. That way people can see, you  
7 know, the stuff that you guys are doing. I mean I've  
8 seen people studying mice before and I saw some guy out  
9 there with coffee cans burying them in the ground. I'm  
10 like what are you doing. Making mice traps. Man, I  
11 want a job like that.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 What do you do all day? Catch mice.  
16 You know, I mean somewhere where we can see the  
17 studies, visually see the government money and the  
18 government is involving our youth and taking part in  
19 these studies and it would be a good way to be able to  
20 see how the money is spent and how well it's being  
21 spent and to be able to have accurate data in the  
22 future. You know, why did sheefish crash. Well, this  
23 contaminant was in there and it was starting to grow or  
24 whatever it is. The algae in the water, anything.

25

26 Anything that can affect our -- I mean  
27 water samples can be added into there. I mean you get  
28 a group of kids and you fly around the region and do  
29 nothing but take waters samples. I mean you could  
30 start at Kobuk and then you could float all the way  
31 down to the mouth of the Kobuk taking water samples all  
32 the way down with the kids. Catching fish for samples  
33 or something. You know, all kinds of data like that  
34 will really help in managing our future and all of our  
35 species.

36

37 That's all I have to say.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Michael.

40

41 Go ahead, Hannah.

42

43 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
44 want to go back a little bit further, back about  
45 partnering with other agencies. I know in Fairbanks  
46 they have the Interior-Aleutians Campus where they  
47 recruit STEM students that are taking classes in  
48 biology and science and they go to camp for one week  
49 and not only do they harvest salmon and have elders  
50 there to teach them, but alongside they have to study

1 the temperature of the river and get soil samples and  
2 spend hours and hours with the math teacher or  
3 biologist or their regular teacher, University of  
4 Alaska campus teacher in biology and study the area  
5 where we had the camp.

6  
7 I was sitting on that one as an elder  
8 and teaching the students about caribou and summer  
9 harvesting. Another thing too, which I rarely hear of,  
10 is the food that the caribou eat. You know, with  
11 Russia being close and toxins and all that real close  
12 by Red Dog, how are the lichens. Are the lichens being  
13 studied? Because the caribou and the moose eat pond  
14 moss, lichen or whatever, and different kinds of  
15 lichens that we need to learn about. Are they  
16 affecting our food source?

17  
18 There was warnings done to the Bethel  
19 Yukon Yup'ik area for pregnant females not to eat pike  
20 because they contained cadmium or mercury, one of them.  
21 That was several years ago. Are pike good to eat? I  
22 know they are, but are we being cautious with those  
23 things.

24  
25 I don't like to eat geese what just  
26 come in from the south in springtime because God knows  
27 where they fly from, you know, through industrial  
28 cities and I'm sure they go through wheat fields and  
29 corn fields. But I will eat molting ducks in July  
30 because we know they were born here and they're fresh.  
31 So that's another source we're partnering with U of A  
32 students and a lot of them are from Alaska.

33  
34 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.  
37 Anyone else. Go ahead, Percy.

38  
39 MR. BALLOT: I think there's room for  
40 partnership. Like you mentioned the beaver. Well, the  
41 beaver deals with land and the water is there and the  
42 fish are there, so there's a question of what's really  
43 happening. Whether the beaver is -- well, there's  
44 other things too that can happen. I think there's a  
45 lot of room for partnership with other agencies  
46 regarding how species relate to each other, like the  
47 birds and the bees or things like that.

48  
49 (Laughter)  
50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Are you  
2 done? Now my turn.

3  
4 (Laughter)

5  
6 MS. HYER: That's all I had, Mr.  
7 Chairman. I just wanted to thank you very much for  
8 your input.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. If you're  
11 going to do your studies -- and I've run into this  
12 before. If you do study fish, when you use satellite,  
13 the tag -- remember that one, the one I get?

14  
15 MS. HYER: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It was fatter than  
18 this and about this long with an antenna hooked to the  
19 back fins on the trout. My deal is this, the way you  
20 hook it to the trout with wire and tie, it was dragging  
21 and that wire was cutting the fins. I got so mad and  
22 thank God for Mida. I know they're studying this fish.  
23 I'm going to kill the fish, I'm going to put the  
24 antenna in my boat, I'm taking off to Kotzebue full  
25 throttle, get gas, go to Espenberg just to throw off  
26 the biologist, just to give you an example.

27  
28 Don't hurt the animals you are  
29 studying. Do something a little bit smaller. There's  
30 so much technology nowadays. When you study fish,  
31 instead of using a big satellite tag like that to see  
32 where they go, use something smaller. I read in one of  
33 my fish books they could implant them. They're so  
34 small now and they will give you data. They're costly,  
35 but to me they're worth it.

36  
37 What I'm saying is this -- you guys  
38 remember that last summer when we met in Kotzebue about  
39 that. She take it off my boat when I was taking off  
40 from Sheshalik to Kotzebue. She didn't tell me. When  
41 I get to Kotzebue, I buy gas. I was going to go to  
42 Espenberg with that and it was gone. So I called her  
43 on the phone, where is it. She said I let the boys go  
44 get it while you don't know.

45  
46 But that was my whole point. Be  
47 careful with our animals. Don't hurt them. Do it the  
48 right way and find out how to do it the right way  
49 because we need the resource. We need the information,  
50 but be careful how you do it.

1                                   Okay. Are you guys done?  
2  
3                                   MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair.  
4  
5                                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Melinda.  
6  
7                                   MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. We're going to  
8 go just a little bit out of order. In light of all the  
9 discussion about research today and to accommodate  
10 travel schedule, we wanted to make sure we hear her  
11 information, would it be okay with the Council to go  
12 ahead and have Elizabeth Mikow from ADF&G provide her  
13 presentation before we adjourn today?  
14  
15                                  CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Got an idea how long  
16 it's going to take?  
17  
18                                  MS. MIKOW: I can go as short as 5  
19 minutes or as long as you want, so it's really up to  
20 you.  
21  
22                                  CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If I get tired, I'll  
23 start looking at you real mean.  
24  
25                                  (Laughter)  
26  
27                                  CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead and give  
28 your report.  
29  
30                                  MS. MIKOW: Just roll your eyes at me  
31 and I'll go faster. I have a little handout here for  
32 the Council. Mr. Chairman, members of the Council. I  
33 just wanted to give you a real brief update on research  
34 that the Division of Subsistence has done in Northwest  
35 Alaska. Basically the role of my division is to just  
36 document subsistence; doing harvest surveys, doing  
37 interviews with knowledgeable key respondents and  
38 sometimes getting to go out fishing with people every  
39 now and then.  
40  
41                                  If you look at the second page, this  
42 kind of explains why we do these projects.  
43 Particularly we've been talking about climate change a  
44 little bit during this meeting, so environmental and  
45 manmade changes have the potential to impact life in  
46 arctic communities. So that's something that we ask  
47 about both with our key respondents and with people in  
48 the surveys. Ask if they've noticed any changes in the  
49 environment and if that's had any impact on resources.  
50

1                   Also information about subsistence  
2 harvest informs decisions on proposed development  
3 projects. I'll talk a little bit about the Ambler  
4 Mining District. We did do some surveys in the Upper  
5 Kobuk for that. During our review process we bring the  
6 information back to communities to review before we  
7 publish it. It can also be used by the communities to  
8 help for proposals and things like that to the  
9 different boards.

10  
11                   Obviously we know that local and  
12 traditional knowledge is invaluable when monitoring  
13 changes in the environment. The little graph I have  
14 there just shows some of the information that we  
15 gather. This is actually from a survey in Noorvik in  
16 2012 and it shows the top 10 subsistence resources  
17 harvested by the community per edible weight.

18  
19                   If you look on Page 3, we did do some  
20 big game surveys in Kotzebue for the Western Arctic  
21 Caribou Herd. We asked about moose and furbearers and  
22 other things as well, but caribou was the main focus.

23  
24                   Another thing I want to say about these  
25 projects is we know that people take what they need, so  
26 if we know what they take, we can kind of understand  
27 what subsistence needs are.

28  
29                   So the surveys happened in Kotzebue in  
30 2013 and 2014. We did collaborate with the Native  
31 Village of Kotzebue. So being a big community --  
32 oftentimes when we do these surveys in smaller  
33 communities we try to talk to every household, but for  
34 Kotzebue we went for a 25 percent random sample. Had  
35 to be residents of the community that had been there  
36 six months or longer. So we sampled 27 percent of the  
37 households in 2013 and 26 percent sample in 2014.

38  
39                   We have finalized the report for the  
40 2012-2013 data year and actually brought some copies if  
41 anybody is interested in taking a look at them and  
42 keeping them. The information on that survey can be  
43 found on that URL on that page. Actually all of the  
44 work the Division has done can be found on this  
45 Community Subsistence Information System.

46  
47                   If you look on Page 4, just to give you  
48 a rundown of the basic results, in 2012 and 2013,  
49 Kotzebue households harvested an estimated 1,804  
50 caribou or 80 pounds per person. Obviously people are

1 probably eating less or more than 80 pounds, but it  
2 gives us an understanding of what that kind of  
3 translates to to a total community. In 2013-2014,  
4 Kotzebue households harvested an estimated 1,629  
5 caribou or 72 pounds per capita.

6  
7 Just to kind of compare the per person  
8 harvest to other communities, in 2011 and 2012, Deering  
9 residents harvested 206 pounds of caribou per capita  
10 and Noatak harvested 90 pounds per capita, so that kind  
11 of puts this in light of the region.

12  
13 Moving on quickly. Looking at the  
14 Chukchi Sea and Norton Sound subsistence, we did a  
15 multi-year project to document subsistence harvest and  
16 related traditional knowledge as well as economic and  
17 demographic data in nine coastal communities. For this  
18 project we asked about everything from fish to land  
19 mammals to marine mammals to berries.

20  
21 In 2013, we surveyed Golovin, Noorvik  
22 and Point Lay. The draft report has been completed.  
23 We've done a data review with the communities and we  
24 hope to send the actual report for their review in a  
25 couple weeks. Again that link will show you harvest  
26 data for all those communities if you're interested in  
27 learning about that.

28  
29 Just a brief rundown of the results.  
30 In 2012, we got a 56 percent sample of Golovin  
31 households. Total estimated community harvest of all  
32 wild resources was 54,601 pounds or 302 pounds per  
33 capita. We achieved a 61 percent sample of Noorvik  
34 households. Total estimated harvest was 352,632 pounds  
35 of wild food or 602 pounds of wild food per person. We  
36 also surveyed Point Lay and got a 63 percent sample  
37 there. Total estimated harvest was 133,899 pounds of  
38 wild food or about 535 pounds per person.

39  
40 In phase two, we just surveyed  
41 Stebbins, Diomede and Deering. The data is analyzed  
42 and under review, so we'll be going back to those  
43 communities to review the data before the report is  
44 fully drafted.

45  
46 For phase three, we're currently  
47 seeking approval in three communities for the 2014  
48 study year. We're actively working to approach tribal  
49 councils in Shaktoolik, Point Hope and Kotzebue. All  
50 three represent opportunities to fill information gaps.

1 We've never done a full survey asking about all the  
2 wild resources in any of those three communities.

3  
4 Finally, we did work on the Ambler  
5 Mining Access Road. This subsistence research was done  
6 in Ambler, Shungnak and Kobuk in 2013. The data  
7 analysis and review is complete. A draft report is  
8 within our publications department and we expect to  
9 send a draft to the communities for their review in the  
10 next few weeks. Again, full results can be found at  
11 that URL.

12  
13 I also wanted to mention during these  
14 projects we also ask about community concerns, so  
15 people talked a lot about that road and that's also in  
16 our report as well. There's the Ambler Mining results,  
17 but I'll let you guys read that for yourselves to keep  
18 it short.

19  
20 I also just wanted to mention just  
21 because it came up earlier we are also doing fish  
22 surveys in a lot of the communities that we did  
23 comprehensive surveys that are presented here. So we  
24 are on our third year in Ambler, Shungnak and Kobuk  
25 because we wanted to get three years of data to really  
26 understand fish harvests. The same can be said for  
27 Noorvik and Buckland as well as Selawik. So we're on  
28 our third year of those fish surveys. Once we have all  
29 the data we'll be able to give the results.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So when you do your  
32 surveys -- I'll get to you, Calvin. When you do your  
33 surveys, I know you said you do certain things.

34  
35 MS. MIKOW: Uh-huh.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: But the caribou are  
38 declining. On your questionnaire, did you include  
39 other resources? Because if they keep declining, the  
40 Natives will start taking other resources to fill their  
41 needs just for one year.

42  
43 MS. MIKOW: Uh-huh.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I know Kotzebue is a  
46 hard one.

47  
48 MS. MIKOW: Yeah.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Susan and I have done

1 it and I'm proud of this. We went house to house just  
2 not only for caribou, for fish and migratory bird. It  
3 was hard, but to me it was important because we find  
4 out one thing, that Kotzebue does take a lot of  
5 resources, but the way we see it at the time was --  
6 because Kotzebue is working and they have money for  
7 gas, they've got outboard motor, they got boats, they  
8 got snowmachines, compared to villages where  
9 unemployment is high in rate.

10

11 MS. MIKOW: Right.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That's the way I see  
14 it of the impact, why Kotzebue was taking so much per  
15 household. Surveys need to keep being done, especially  
16 on caribou, due to the declining. If it keeps  
17 declining, we need to say, hey, this is how much it  
18 takes for the Natives just to survive.

19

20 MS. MIKOW: Right.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: To me it's real  
23 important.

24

25 MS. MIKOW: That's basically the point  
26 of the survey, like I said, to people -- if we know  
27 what -- people take what they need and we know what  
28 they take, then we know what they need and that's also  
29 why we ask about the comments that people have because  
30 we know every year is not the same. Weather can impact  
31 or issues in general. Migratory patterns of the  
32 caribou, things like that can impact people. But  
33 that's part of the reason we want to do a comprehensive  
34 survey in Kotzebue this year if the council approves  
35 because then we can get an understanding of all the  
36 resources, not just the caribou.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Because the way  
39 things are happening, if we keep getting global warming  
40 and our resources are getting less and we're trying to  
41 just survive, it's going to impact our resources much  
42 big time. If they take less and yet we're taking --  
43 we Natives take a lot of it, but we take it for food.  
44 That's why it's very important to these surveys the  
45 more they decline.

46

47 They mentioned earlier that they were  
48 taking so much fish in one area that they asked them to  
49 take a reduction. We now eventually the way things are  
50 happening we take a reduction it's going to hurt us.

1 Because you're looking at a guy who can't eat Top  
2 Ramen. I can't eat other stuff because it won't fill.  
3 It will bloat me, but it won't fill me. I will starve.  
4 I'll be hungry yet. That's where we're coming from.  
5 That's why we need to protect our resources.

6

7 Go ahead, Calvin.

8

9 MR. MOTO: All these numbers sound  
10 good, but what I'm curious about is when you get the  
11 report on how many caribou they had in Deering, do you  
12 weigh in and say we got maybe 33 households and say  
13 each household eats that much caribou? The reason I  
14 bring that up there is a lot of single people. So this  
15 harvest sounds good, but I'm curious to know you lump  
16 them all in one and say we've got 30 household and say  
17 130 people and you say 130 people eat that much  
18 caribou?

19

20 MS. MIKOW: Actually, basically, what  
21 we do, and I should have explained it, we survey every  
22 household in town. In the example of Deering, it was  
23 small enough that we could talk to everybody. But we  
24 lump all the information together because we want to  
25 maintain household confidentiality. So basically we do  
26 get a total estimate, but when we say like per person,  
27 it's just a way for us to understand how much per  
28 person. It's basically a way to understand harvest  
29 with the fact that you've got so many people living in  
30 town, you know, controls for population, if that makes  
31 sense. Does that answer your question?

32

33 MR. MOTO: I could break it down  
34 further for you because out of 135 people in the  
35 village, 25 percent are either four years old or  
36 younger and I can't see them eating 200 pounds of  
37 caribou, you know. So I just want to bring that up.

38

39 MS. MIKOW: Yes, absolutely. We know  
40 that most people are eating more or less. It's just  
41 kind of a way to understand it. The other thing I  
42 meant to mention is we also ask about sharing because a  
43 lot of households aren't able to go out and harvest  
44 themselves and people share the meat. So we also try  
45 to kind of capture how people harvest the resources but  
46 also share with other people in the community. So,  
47 again, yeah. We don't actually think that each person  
48 eats 209 pounds, but it's just a way to kind of  
49 understand how much of a resource there would be for  
50 however many people are living in the town. Does that

1 make sense?

2

3 MR. MOTO: Combined, I've got 24  
4 grandchildren, 11 are great grandchildren. So you  
5 break it down more.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,  
8 Calvin.

9

10 Go ahead, Enoch.

11

12 MR. MITCHELL: I'd point out that it's  
13 not only caribou, is it? It's berries, it's seal meat,  
14 it's everything, Calvin, not only caribou.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,  
17 Enoch.

18

19 Go ahead, Percy.

20

21 MR. BALLOT: I was just wondering about  
22 the question when you checked on Kotzebue about where  
23 you get them. I'm surprised Buckland is not in here  
24 because we're the wintering grounds of the Western  
25 Arctic Caribou Herd, so we see a lot of hunters that  
26 come to Buckland every year. There is more and more  
27 every year that are there all the way from -- when they  
28 don't get nothing in the fall, they start coming up and  
29 all the way to March or before it's getting hard to  
30 come back. Is that a question, where you get them?

31

32 MS. MIKOW: Actually, yeah, and I have  
33 the draft of the report. We go into more detail when  
34 we ask people about the caribou they harvest. We have  
35 a map and it shows the different areas. So in this  
36 report it shows the -- and people in Kotzebue are going  
37 all over the place, as you all know, for their caribou,  
38 so it kind of does a little bit of a breakdown of where  
39 people are going to harvest it.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

42

43 Go ahead, Hannah.

44

45 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
46 was going to ask you the same question, like how come  
47 in -- or maybe I know -- 2011 and 2012 Deering  
48 residents eat more caribou per pound compared to Noatak  
49 residents in 2011 and '12. Would the reason be when  
50 the caribou were not available in Noatak, Noorvik,

1 Selawik, some of us we sure skunk out. Could that be  
2 during that time when they were going through way up  
3 river?

4

5 MS. MIKOW: Yeah, during that report  
6 they were definitely really -- they were very much  
7 closer to Deering than the other communities, so that  
8 was something that we kind of talked about in that  
9 report as well, which is also available online at that  
10 URL. Some of the stuff we're still working on the  
11 report, so you can find the harvest data, but most of  
12 the older reports -- and you can find things all the  
13 way back to the '80s for different communities on that  
14 website -- will also have a link to the PDF of the  
15 report so you can take a look if you're ever  
16 interested.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone else got a  
19 question.

20

21 MS. LOON: I just want to say thank you  
22 for this report. It's nice and short and easy to read.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MS. MIKOW: Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Barb.

29

30 MS. ARMSTRONG: I was just looking  
31 through your report. Thank you, Mr. Chair. When you  
32 do the Upper Kobuk, the Ambler, Shungnak and Kobuk, did  
33 you guys do on the fish too?

34

35 MS. MIKOW: Yeah. Actually this  
36 particular report that I talk about the results was for  
37 everything; so fish, land mammals and marine mammals  
38 and plants and everything. But we're also doing a  
39 continuing fish survey, so we did that project for the  
40 2012 harvest season and then we just did the second  
41 year of just fish surveys last year and we'll do one  
42 more this year. So we have kind of two projects going  
43 on in those communities.

44

45 MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Were the fish  
46 that you were studying or doing surveys on, are they  
47 itemized like trout, salmon, whitefish, grayling and  
48 stuff, or is it all.....

49

50 MS. MIKOW: Yeah, it's definitely

1 itemized. We start with salmon and we go through all  
2 the different species of salmon and then go to  
3 whitefish, you know, sheefish and all the different  
4 whitefish species, and then we ask about other fish  
5 like Dolly Varden and arctic grayling and things like  
6 that. And we have ID guides we bring out too with like  
7 local names so people can -- we try to make it easier  
8 on respondents and quicker too to keep the surveys  
9 short. I know people get tired of being surveyed.

10

11 MS. ARMSTRONG: Do you have an idea of  
12 how the trout is doing in the Upper Kobuk?

13

14 MS. MIKOW: I actually don't have the  
15 results of those quite yet. We have the first round  
16 and I can certainly look that up for you and there's  
17 definitely information on the URL. But, yeah, I can  
18 get you the information from 2012.

19

20 MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Barb.  
23 Anyone else.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Which one was that,  
28 Melinda?

29

30 MS. BURKE: That was the one we added  
31 this morning under ADF&G.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay.

34

35 MS. BURKE: We added Jim and we added  
36 Elizabeth.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So we have to go back  
39 to recommending changes in nominations?

40

41 MS. BURKE: If you d like to take that  
42 on. First let's talk about the annual report items.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We'll go to  
45 91, identify issues of FY2014 annual report. Council  
46 coordinator.

47

48 MS. BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As  
49 we discussed this morning, the annual report from the  
50 Councils to the Federal Subsistence Board lines out the

1 concerns that you would like to relay to the Board.

2

3                   So far today it seems like the  
4 transporter issue is still a hot topic and it sounds  
5 like this year it's even a little more intense than  
6 what we've been talking about before, so I feel  
7 confident in saying you would like me to include the  
8 transporter issue again and perhaps we could add a  
9 little bit more information from our discussion here.

10

11                   And then also looking back from my  
12 notes, Mr. Chair, and I have to apologize to the  
13 Council, this was my mistake. You had wanted beavers  
14 added on to the FY2013 and it was not on there. So I  
15 apologize. That's my mistake, so we'll add beavers on  
16 to the FY2014 report. So so far I've got the  
17 transporters, the beavers. If anybody else has topics  
18 they'd like to identify, we could identify them now and  
19 we still have time tomorrow as well. Mr. Chair.

20

21                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. So  
22 you're done with the 2014 annual report?

23

24                   MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. Were there  
25 any -- did you want to go on to the next round of  
26 topics? I'm not sure if you're thinking this is a good  
27 spot to stop for today.

28

29                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think it's a good  
30 spot.

31

32                   MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, if I may.  
33 Following up with Beth's talk as well, I just wanted to  
34 mention to everyone again Jim Dau will be here tomorrow  
35 in town. He's going to come in and he will be  
36 providing the updated caribou report. He's trying to  
37 get to all the communities. So he will be here  
38 tomorrow, so folks from the public, Jim asked me to  
39 relay, please let everyone know. He'd really like as  
40 many folks to come and listen to that as possible. So  
41 we'll have his PowerPoint set up and have his  
42 presentation tomorrow right after lunch. I anticipate  
43 that will be 1:15, 1:30, something like that. So I  
44 just wanted to remind the public and let everyone know  
45 Jim Dau will be here tomorrow providing that report.

46

47                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. So  
48 what I'm hearing from Percy so far is to keep on going.  
49 Anyone else want to argue with Percy.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It's up to you. I  
4 don't care really which way to go besides -- you know,  
5 if you guys want to adjourn, we could adjourn, but I  
6 think this is a process for our nominations to advise  
7 the Council, right?

8

9 MS. BURKE: Oh, yes, I can speak to  
10 that as well. We do have the next round open for the  
11 nominations and applications to serve on this Council  
12 and the Councils around the state. I've provided a  
13 copy of the application in the packets of the two  
14 Council members who will need to reapply whose seats  
15 are going to be up in December of next year.

16

17 Also I have a stack in the back of the  
18 room, so please take some back to your communities and  
19 let folks know we really want to see a lot more folks  
20 apply to be on the Council. As you folks have stated  
21 before, we need to get the next round of folks to come  
22 in who are going to be our future Council members. I'm  
23 so pleased. Take those with you. I let folks know  
24 they're available online here in the room as well. So  
25 that is currently open, Mr. Chair, with a deadline of,  
26 I believe, January 23rd.

27

28 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. Can you  
29 clarify how many seats are open exactly.

30

31 MS. BURKE: There will be two, Percy.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So to make things  
34 easy, I think we'll adjourn no later than 5:00 o'clock  
35 tonight. So if it's going to take 20 minutes with a  
36 guarantee that we'll do it, we can go on. If not, we  
37 could adjourn till tomorrow. What did you say,  
38 Coordinator? You know more about it than we do.

39

40 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I'm getting a  
41 motion from the back of the room. I think we will be  
42 able to take care of one or two of these before we  
43 finish up. I've been informed from our wonderful cook  
44 in the kitchen too we'll have dinner ready here too in  
45 about a half hour or so. So he's got the next meal  
46 getting ready for us right now.

47

48 MR. CLEVELAND: Motion to adjourn.

49

50 MS. LOON: Second it.

1                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I was corrected.  
2 Motion to recess until tomorrow.  
3  
4                   MR. CLEVELAND: Yes, motion to recess  
5 until tomorrow.  
6  
7                   MS. LOON: Second it.  
8  
9                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: What time should we  
10 be back tomorrow, 9:00 o'clock? I've got a quick  
11 question. Are we going to leave our papers here or are  
12 they going to use the building tonight?  
13  
14                  MS. BURKE: I believe we can leave our  
15 materials here and we'll be eating dinner here in this  
16 room tonight as well. One more thing, Mr. Chair. If we  
17 could have the Council -- right after we recess for  
18 tonight, if we could have the Council come out to the  
19 front of the building, we'd really like to get a group  
20 photo of all the Council members.  
21  
22                  CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Tall ones in front,  
23 short ones in the back.  
24  
25                               (Laughter)  
26  
27                  CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'm getting tired.  
28  
29                               (Off record)  
30  
31                               (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
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STATE OF ALASKA )

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 122 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically on the 8th day of October 2014 at Kiana, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 24th day of October 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18