

1 NORTH SLOPE/NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY JOINT COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6 VOLUME I  
7 Egan Convention Center  
8 October 18, 2011  
9 9:00 a.m.

10  
11  
12 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

13  
14 NORTH SLOPE  
15 Harry Brower, Chairman  
16 Rosemary Ahtaungaruak  
17 Ray Koonuk  
18 Lee Kayotuk  
19 James Nageak  
20 Roy Nageak  
21  
22 NORTHWEST ARCTIC  
23 Peter Schaeffer, Chairman  
24 Percy Ballot  
25 Leslie Burns  
26 Victor Karmun  
27 Michael Kramer  
28 Enoch Shiedt  
29 Raymond Stoney  
30 Austin Swan

31  
32  
33  
34  
35 Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike

36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45 Recorded and transcribed by:  
46  
47 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC  
48 135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2  
49 Anchorage, AK 99501  
50 907-243-0668/sahile@gci.net

1 P R O C E E D I N G S  
2  
3 (Anchorage, Alaska - 10/18/2011)  
4  
5 (On record)  
6  
7 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Okay. At this time  
8 we'll call the meeting of the joint North Slope  
9 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and the Northwest  
10 Arctic Subsistence Regional Council meeting to order and  
11 we've -- Tom and I have -- or, excuse me, Harry and I  
12 have -- are going to be Co Chairing so what we'd like to  
13 do is when you get to the agenda is to suggest several  
14 changes.  
15  
16 So at this time we'd probably need the  
17 roll call. So whoever's doing that.  
18  
19 CO CHAIR BROWER: Good morning. My  
20 name's Harry Brower, I'm Chairman of the Regional --  
21 North Slope Regional Advisory Council. And we have our  
22 Secretary that will -- he'll call the roll for our  
23 portion.  
24  
25 MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning, everybody.  
26 Roll call for Region 10, North Slope meeting this  
27 morning.  
28  
29 Roll call for seat one, vacant.  
30  
31 Seat two, vacant.  
32  
33 Seat three, Roy Malone Nageak, Sr.,  
34 Barrow, Alaska.  
35  
36 MR. R. NAGEAK: Here.  
37  
38 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat four, Lloyd J.  
39 Leavitt, Barrow, Alaska.  
40  
41 (No response)  
42  
43 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat five, Harry J. Brower,  
44 Jr.  
45  
46 CO CHAIR BROWER: Here.  
47  
48 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat seven, James Nageak,  
49 Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska.  
50

1 MR. J. NAGEAK: Here.  
2  
3 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat eight, vacant.  
4  
5 Seat nine, Lee Kayotuk, Kaktovik.  
6  
7 (No audible response)  
8  
9 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 10, Rosemary  
10 Ahtuanguaruak, Barrow, Alaska.  
11  
12 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Here.  
13  
14 MR. KAYOTUK: Call a quorum for this  
15 morning's meeting.  
16  
17 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Lee.  
18  
19 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Okay. At this time  
20 I'll do the roll call for the Northwest Arctic Regional  
21 Advisory Council.  
22  
23 Seat one, Ray Stoney from Kiana.  
24  
25 MR. STONEY: Here.  
26  
27 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Seat two, Victor  
28 Karmun is excused to attend the Park Service and SRC  
29 Chairs meeting.  
30  
31 Seat three is vacant.  
32  
33 Seat four, Michael Kramer, Kotzebue.  
34  
35 (No audible response)  
36  
37 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: I believe he'll be  
38 joining us shortly.  
39  
40 Seat five, Percy Ballot, Sr. from  
41 Buckland.  
42  
43 MR. BALLOT: Here.  
44  
45 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Seat seven, Walter  
46 Sampson from Kotzebue.  
47  
48 (No audible response)  
49  
50 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: He's not here.

1                   Seat eight, Enoch Shiedt, Sr. from  
2 Kotzebue. Attamuk.  
3  
4                   MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk's here.  
5  
6                   CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Seat nine, Austin  
7 Swan, Sr. from Kivalina.  
8  
9                   MR. SWAN: Austin here.  
10  
11                  CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you.  
12  
13                  And seat 10, Leslie Burns from Noatak.  
14  
15                  MR. BURNS: Leslie here.  
16  
17                  CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: All right. We have  
18 a quorum.  
19  
20                  Okay. The next item on the agenda is the  
21 welcome and introductions. I'd like to have -- starting  
22 with the court reporter on through the audience and state  
23 your name and your affiliation.  
24  
25                  Thank you.  
26  
27                  COURT REPORTER: My name's Tina, I'm the  
28 court reporter.  
29  
30                  MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm Helen Armstrong,  
31 I'm with OSM.  
32  
33                  MS. DAVIS: Alicia Davis, OSM.  
34  
35                  MS. HYER: I'm Karen Hyer, I'm with the  
36 Fisheries Division at OSM.  
37  
38                  MR. RUTSCHNEIDER: My name's Brian  
39 Rutschneider, I'm with SWCA Environmental Consultants.  
40  
41                  MS. MEDEIROS: Andrea Medeiros with OSM.  
42  
43                  MS. BROWN: Cole Brown with OSM.  
44  
45                  MR. PAPPAS: George Pappas, Fish and Game  
46 Subsistence Liaison Team.  
47  
48                  MR. MATTHEWS: I'm Vince Matthews with  
49 Arctic, Kanuti and Yukon Flat Refuges.  
50

1 MR. SHEARS: Bob Shears, resident of  
2 North Slope Borough, Village of Wainwright.  
3  
4 MS. NORTON: Dolly Norton, Cully  
5 Corporation, President and CEO.  
6  
7 MR. YOKEL: Good morning, I'm Dave Yokel  
8 with the Bureau of Land Management's Arctic Field Office  
9 in Fairbanks.  
10  
11 MR. POURCHOT: I'm Pat Pourchot with the  
12 Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior.  
13  
14 MR. JENNINGS: Good morning. My name's  
15 Tom Jennings, I work with Fish and Wildlife Service and  
16 I work with Donald Mike and the other Council  
17 coordinators.  
18  
19 Thank you.  
20  
21 MS. OKADA: Good morning. Marcy Okada,  
22 National Park Service, Gates of the Arctic.  
23  
24 MR. ADKISSON: Ted Adkisson, National  
25 Park Service, Western Arctic National Park Lands.  
26  
27 MR. PROBASCO: Good morning. Pete  
28 Probasco of the Office of Subsistence Management.  
29  
30 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: All right. Thank  
31 you very much. Okay. Starting with Donald to introduce  
32 yourselves and where you're from.  
33  
34 MR. MIKE: Hi, good morning. My name is  
35 Don Mike, I'm the Regional Council Coordinator. And I'm  
36 happy to see everyone here and this is my first  
37 coordinator position with the North Slope and Northwest.  
38 And recently Barb Atoruk retired and I'm filling in her  
39 shoes. So it's some big shoes to fill.  
40  
41 But anyway I want to welcome you all to  
42 Anchorage for this joint meeting and hopefully you'll be  
43 productive.  
44  
45 And I just want to remind the public and  
46 Council members we have a sign in sheet out on the table  
47 so just for our records if you would sign in that would  
48 be great.  
49  
50 Thank you.

1 MR. NUHALE: My name is James Nuhale, I'm  
2 from Anaktuvuk Pass. Originally was born in Barrow, but  
3 raised at Kaktovik and married into the Village of  
4 Anaktuvuk Pass. So that's where I retired in Anaktuvuk  
5 Pass. It's good to be here.

6  
7 Thank you.

8  
9 MR. R. NAGEAK: Roy Nageak, Sr. from  
10 Barrow. I grew up chasing him. I didn't move to  
11 Anaktuvuk Pass though. So I'm picking up where he left  
12 off in Barrow.

13  
14 I was born in Noyatuk (ph) and all of our  
15 family members who were born from Noyatuk, right in front  
16 of Colville River all the way over to Kaktovik. So that  
17 was our stomping ground into the mountains of ANWR. And  
18 then my dad went back to where real men hunt for whales,  
19 Barrow.

20  
21 (Laughter)

22  
23 The reason why we were born spread apart  
24 is we were subsistence hunters all over the Slope and we  
25 got that petition my sons carried that and now more women  
26 are involved in that. And we prefer that sometimes.  
27 Other than that good to be here.

28  
29 MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning. Lee Kayotuk  
30 from Kaktovik, Alaska representing North Slope. Good to  
31 be here again from last year season.

32  
33 Good morning.

34  
35 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak,  
36 Barrow.

37  
38 Thank you, everyone.

39  
40 CO CHAIR BROWER: Good morning,  
41 everybody. My name's Harry Brower, I'm the Chair of the  
42 Regional Advisory Council. I reside in Barrow as well,  
43 do a lot of subsistence, hunter, fisherman, whaler,  
44 father of Roy and James and Ron too.

45  
46 (Laughter)

47  
48 CO CHAIR BROWER: Good morning.

49  
50 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Good morning. I'm

1 Pete Schaeffer. My Inupiat name is (in native) and I'm  
2 very proud of it. I've had a lot of good times with the  
3 folks in Barrow, as a matter of fact I'm related to the  
4 Nageaks and to the Akins up in Barrow. That's from my  
5 mother's side who used to mock Martha Akin, and when  
6 Martha Akin came to visit one time, of course, Martha got  
7 a lot bigger and my mom got a lot smaller, I wanted my  
8 mom to show us how she used to mock Martha around. So  
9 that got a lot of laughs from the family.

10

11 So I'm glad to be here and I think we're  
12 going to have a very interesting session jointly with the  
13 North Slope and we're just happy to be able to work with  
14 you all.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MR. STONEY: Good morning, I'm Raymond  
19 Stoney, born and raised in Kiana. My history of being  
20 with the -- with this group here, when a Federal  
21 subsistence first formed the game management in '93,  
22 there was like Mr. Schaeffer and I and the few was  
23 just appointed by Secretary Banning and we're still at  
24 it. So our work for all these years for people was very  
25 important to think that we meet with all our staff,  
26 either from the State and Federal Subsistence Board. My  
27 history of this because I see what was happening in early  
28 '50s and '60s and '70s that we were so much harassed by  
29 the law enforcement at the time all of us, you know, we  
30 were in a situation where if you get a caribou or  
31 something you wind up in jail. When I was just about 14  
32 years old I wanted to do something for our people. After  
33 construction business for 43 years I made up my mind to  
34 get into a State Advisory Council. Very quickly I was  
35 appointed by the Secretary of the Interior for that  
36 situation. And I want to continue as I go along for a  
37 long ways. After I see what happened to our people, you  
38 know, that if you aren't like in Barrow or Noatak  
39 somewhere, you're still 50 miles away when the law  
40 enforcement meets you out there, 50 miles away, 50 below,  
41 he takes your rifle and your ammo, how do you expect to  
42 live. That's the kind of law we went through, that's the  
43 kind of situation we went through. And I want the  
44 situation where I wanted to be, help manage the fish and  
45 wildlife in the State. And I'm glad I'm doing it.

46

47 Thank you so much for letting me  
48 participate in this meeting for the next several days.

49

50 Thank you.

1 MR. BALLOT: Good morning, I'm Percy  
2 Ballot from Buckland.  
3  
4 (In Native)  
5  
6 I really appreciate this time to work  
7 with you guys and good to see my friends again. And I  
8 think subsistence is the key to our life, it always will  
9 be our life, we need to watch our resources and make sure  
10 they're there for our kids when we go.  
11  
12 MR. BURNS: My name is Leslie Burns, born  
13 and raised in Noatak. And this is my first time here and  
14 I'm trying to learn. So I'll do my best for my village.  
15  
16 Thank you.  
17  
18 MR. SHIEDT: (In native)  
19  
20 My great, great grandmother (In Native),  
21 the one that is buried at Atqasuk. I'm originally -- Dan  
22 and Eva Schneider and I probably am one of the worst ones  
23 that subsist in Kotzebue and I enjoy it and I will not  
24 lose it for anything. And I'm there to protect it the  
25 best way I know how because we need it, it's our life and  
26 it's our culture.  
27  
28 (In Native)  
29  
30 MR. SWAN: Good morning.  
31  
32 (In Native)  
33  
34 Austin Swan, from Kivalina, Alaska. I'm  
35 late into this game with subsistence councils so I'm  
36 still learning the process. But I do know that we -- we  
37 need to take care of our resources up there and this  
38 global warming, climate change is playing havoc with  
39 everything we have. So we need to watch it.  
40  
41 Thank you.  
42  
43 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Okay. Thank you  
44 very much for those introductions.  
45  
46 The next item to deal with is the review  
47 and adoption of minutes. So we'll take a few minutes to  
48 review them and we can act on them.  
49  
50 Oh, excuse me, actually it's the review



1 and adoption of the agenda. We have some suggested  
2 changes. Since the main topic of concern for both  
3 regions has been the issues of climate change, we'd like  
4 to move that subject up from number 13 to number 7. And  
5 I guess my question to the staff and Helen is if that's  
6 enough time for whoever's doing the presentation to  
7 participate.

8

9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong, OSM.  
10 We just need to make a phone call to the Regional Office  
11 to have Greg Balogh come down a little bit earlier. And  
12 -- but that shouldn't take more than a few minutes. I'll  
13 go call him right now.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: All right. Thank  
18 you.

19

20 Are there any other changes to the agenda  
21 that you all would like to consider?

22

23 Ken.

24

25 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Ken Adkisson,  
26 National Park Service. Under item 15, (b)(2), I believe  
27 it is under the appointments to the Subsistence Resource  
28 Commissions, the one that's on your agenda is for Gates  
29 of the Arctic, and the Park Service would request that  
30 you add two additional appointments and they could be  
31 just maybe dealt with under that general area, one for  
32 the Cape Krusenstern Commission and one for the Kobuk  
33 Valley Commission.

34

35 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: All right, thank  
36 you.

37

38 MR. ADKISSON: Thank you, sir.

39

40 CO CHAIR BROWER: Maybe like while we're  
41 still discussing the agenda, you know, it's -- I'd like  
42 to reiterate something that we -- it's been passed on by  
43 my -- our communities up on the North Slope is to provide  
44 an invocation for our meetings. And it was before a  
45 moment of silence was added onto the agenda because of  
46 all the different churches that have -- are affected from  
47 one, but -- one meeting, but this is our meeting and we'd  
48 like -- I'd like to see that we provide an invocation in  
49 recognition of a lot of things that are beyond our  
50 control. So I just make that comment at this time, add

1 on invocation right after the adoption of the agenda.  
2  
3 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Okay. That's fine.  
4 Any other suggested changes?  
5  
6 Donald, do you have any?  
7  
8 MR. MIKE: Just one minor addition to the  
9 agenda. We have staff from Fish and Wildlife Service, I  
10 believe, Trent Sutton. He wanted to do a presentation on  
11 whitefish studies prior to the discussion on climate  
12 change. And that would be as the Council made changes to  
13 the agenda, move number 13 to number 7, if we can add  
14 Trent as the presentation prior to the climate change  
15 presentation.  
16  
17 And, Mr. Chair, I was -- that may be a  
18 good lead in -- that presentation by Mr. Sutton would be  
19 a good lead in to the climate change discussion.  
20  
21 Thank you.  
22  
23 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: All right. Any  
24 other changes.  
25  
26 Helen.  
27  
28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. I just  
29 wanted to verify that Greg Balogh is on his way down  
30 here. So it shouldn't take more than -- by the time you  
31 get to that agenda item I think he'll be here. So -- and  
32 he'll do a presentation that's a lead in to your  
33 discussion talking about what's been going on at the Fish  
34 and Wildlife Service and climate change research.  
35  
36 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: All right. Thank  
37 you. Any other changes.  
38  
39 (No comments)  
40  
41 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair. I move to  
42 approve the agenda as changed.  
43  
44 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Okay. Is there a  
45 second.  
46  
47 MR. BALLOT: Second the motion.  
48  
49 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Percy.  
50 Any further discussion.

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Okay. Well, hearing  
4 none, all those in favor of the approval of the amended  
5 agenda say aye.  
6  
7 IN UNISON: Aye.  
8  
9 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Any opposed, same  
10 sign.  
11  
12 (No opposing votes)  
13  
14 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Okay. Unanimously  
15 approved.  
16  
17 CO CHAIR BROWER: James. (In Native)  
18  
19 MR. J. NAGEAK: Huh.  
20  
21 CO CHAIR BROWER: (In Native)  
22  
23 I asked for an invocation.  
24  
25 (Prayer - in native)  
26  
27 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: (In Native)  
28  
29 Okay. At this time we can do the review  
30 of the minutes related to your SRC. So whenever you are  
31 ready you can move to approve or whatever you want to do.  
32  
33  
34 MR. R. NAGEAK: Are we first? Mr. Chair.  
35 I move to approve the minutes of Monday, March 7, 2011,  
36 for the North Slope Subsistence Council meeting, March 7  
37 and 8.  
38  
39 CO CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve the  
40 minutes of March 7 and 8, 2011.  
41  
42 MR. KAYOTUK: Second the motion to  
43 approve.  
44  
45 CO CHAIR BROWER: Any discussion or any  
46 changes to the minutes.  
47  
48 (No comments)  
49  
50 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Call for question.

1 CO CHAIR BROWER: The question's been  
2 called on the motion to approve the meeting minutes of  
3 the North Slope Regional Advisory Council, March 7 and 8,  
4 2011. All in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.  
5  
6 IN UNISON: Aye.  
7  
8 CO CHAIR BROWER: Opposed say nay.  
9  
10 (No opposing votes)  
11  
12 CO CHAIR BROWER: None noted. Thank you.  
13  
14 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair. I move for  
15 approval of the March 18, 2011 meeting minutes of the  
16 Northwest Arctic.  
17  
18 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Okay. Is there a  
19 second.  
20  
21 MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk here. I'll second  
22 it.  
23  
24 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Okay. Thank you.  
25 Discussion, any changes, suggestions.  
26  
27 (No comments)  
28  
29 MR. BURNS: Question.  
30  
31 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Okay. The  
32 question's been called on the minutes of March 18, 2011.  
33 All those in favor of approval of the minutes say aye.  
34  
35 IN UNISON: Aye.  
36  
37 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Any opposed, same  
38 sign.  
39  
40 (No opposing votes)  
41  
42 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: None noted and that  
43 takes care of the minutes.  
44  
45 CO CHAIR BROWER: I guess we're down to  
46 the item number 6, Chair's report under the Federal  
47 Subsistence Board 2010 annual report response.  
48  
49 Donald, is this identified in the booklet  
50 or it's a handout.

1 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For  
2 reference for the Councils for the North Slope and  
3 Northwest, I provided hard copies of the annual report  
4 response for the North Slope and Northwest. These were  
5 -- these letters were mailed out to each individual  
6 Council member a month and a half ago, but I have hard  
7 copies in front of you for the North Slope and Northwest  
8 Regional Advisory Councils for their review. And if they  
9 have any questions on the annual report response we have  
10 staff available to answer these questions or if you need  
11 clarification we'll have staff to respond to those  
12 questions.

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Donald, for  
17 the information.

18

19 We'll look to the North Slope Regional  
20 Advisory Council members to see if there's any questions  
21 or comments or concerns to be voiced in regards to the  
22 annual report.

23

24 I need to know that, I had missed the  
25 last meeting because of other commitments so I was  
26 involved in -- pardon, I was not involved in part of the  
27 March meeting. I had been traveling and there's one  
28 meeting I'm supposed to have gone to, was that Western  
29 Arctic Caribou working group meeting to hear about  
30 caribou issues regarding that herd. And I was not able  
31 to attend that meeting as well. I'm trying to think of  
32 -- was it your or.....

33

34 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -  
35 away from microphone).....

36

37 CO CHAIR BROWER: Yeah, I just can't  
38 recall if we sent somebody else from our region, our  
39 Council, to attend that meeting. And I -- that's the  
40 only thing I don't see in regards to the concerns that we  
41 had voiced regarding the -- that Northwest Arctic Caribou  
42 Herd. I know that coalition is.....

43

44 Anyway, do we have any other comments or  
45 concerns regarding the annual report.

46

47 MR. KAYOTUK: I'd like to make a comment,  
48 Mr. Chair. I was not here for that meeting in March due  
49 to weather out by our island.

50

1 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.  
2  
3 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy.  
4  
5 MR. R. NAGEAK: I'm just wondering, you  
6 said you had a hard copy of that. It's just a letter or  
7 is there an annual report that you shipped out to the  
8 members and -- is it a booklet or it's just a letter?  
9  
10 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.  
11 Nageak -- member Nageak. It's just a letter from -- the  
12 annual report that last fall the Councils identified  
13 issues to submit as annual report items to the Federal  
14 Subsistence Board and it's a response from the Federal  
15 Subsistence Board. And, Mr. Nageak -- member Nageak, I  
16 had a copy of all -- I made a hard copy of all.....  
17  
18 MR. R. NAGEAK: Okay.  
19  
20 MR. MIKE: .....the annual report for  
21 each member and it should be in front of you. But these  
22 letters were mailed out about a month and a half ago and  
23 they didn't make -- that letter did not come out in time  
24 for -- to be placed in our meeting materials book.  
25  
26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
27  
28 MR. R. NAGEAK: Oh, I was talking about  
29 the Federal Subsistence Board 2010 annual report itself  
30 or was that shipped to us or maybe I missed it, the 2010  
31 that reflected the responses from the Board, but the  
32 report itself I -- maybe I never got it because I'm a new  
33 member.  
34  
35 MR. MIKE: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36 Thank you for that clarification. I will provide you the  
37 original report that was signed by your Chair for your  
38 records at the next.....  
39  
40 MR. R. NAGEAK: Okay. That's what I  
41 was.....  
42  
43 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
44  
45 MR. R. NAGEAK: Thank you.  
46  
47 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Donald, for  
48 that clarification.  
49  
50 Maybe just to reiterate some of the

1 contents on the September 29th, 2011, the response. We  
2 had these issues that we had discussed during our  
3 Regional Advisory Council, the North Slope Regional  
4 Advisory Council in regards to fish studies. The other  
5 was on the -- update on the brown bear and more hunting  
6 opportunities for brown bear. And that's what we had  
7 identified during our North Slope Regional Advisory  
8 Council meeting and voiced those concerns to the Federal  
9 Subsistence Board. And they've generated a response and  
10 you can see the responses from the -- coming from the  
11 Federal Subsistence Board as to what our concerns --  
12 addressing our concerns referring to the two items that  
13 we've identified.

14

15 We have to ask the Council do we have any  
16 concerns or comments you want to add on to -- from  
17 reviewing the contents.

18

19 Roy.

20

21 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair. In regards to  
22 the response for the brown bear population. It just so  
23 happened I spent two weeks in Anaktuvuk Pass just at the  
24 time that this was open. And there was subsistence  
25 caribou hunting and more so often there were so many  
26 brown bears they were getting concerned with why. And  
27 then the people themselves are not wanting to catch any  
28 brown bear and to allow more people to land and then  
29 they'll take them out over to where their camps are to  
30 get those brown bears that are constantly harassing them  
31 because the brown bears have learned to be where the  
32 hunters are and basically a conflict or try to keep on  
33 top of your does. It's getting to the point where  
34 getting dangerous. And the response that I see, it needs  
35 to be more definite in regards to allowing people to take  
36 people to their camps and then allowing them to kill  
37 those brown bears that are a nuisance. And from what I  
38 see it just talks about the limitations and how many are  
39 -- need to be taken. Because there's some people that  
40 are willing to kill those brown bears, but the people  
41 that live in that area are seeing a problem. And I think  
42 my brother could verify that.

43

44 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Roy, for  
45 your comments.

46

47 Any other comments in regard to concerns  
48 regarding the September 29, 2011 response from the  
49 Federal Subsistence Board.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CO CHAIR BROWER: James, did you have a  
4 comment or concern you wanted to voice?

5

6 MR. J. NAGEAK: Yeah, I think that Roy's  
7 right that, you know, the younger generation doesn't eat  
8 the bear meat the way we grew up eating brown bear and  
9 those things like that. And so there's no reason for our  
10 people to hunt the bears anymore. And they're getting  
11 more and more around. And it's -- it's a problem. I --  
12 you know, they're learning how to listen to the sound of  
13 gun -- you know, rifle when they go bang, the brown bears  
14 come right into where the shots are coming, you know, and  
15 they -- they just wait around and sometimes they just  
16 come right to where you are when they're -- when you're  
17 trying to skin a caribou. It's -- and that's happen  
18 quite a bit now. And so we're at a point where, you  
19 know, they -- when they come that close then the only  
20 thing they can do is shoot them.

21

22 So and I think that maybe with the brown  
23 bear -- we had a meeting concerning brown bears  
24 handicrafts. That gives us an opportunity to use some of  
25 the -- use the skin and the claws and things like for us  
26 that are subsistence users. And so I think that it --  
27 that opportunity is now open for sometimes the Anaktuvuk  
28 Pass mask makers, they could begin to use the brown bear  
29 skin for those really big Anaktuvuk masks, they use brown  
30 bear skin for that. And before they were harassed or,  
31 you know, and they say you can't use that, you can't use  
32 the brown bear skins for something like that. But now I  
33 think that they can do it without having to be scared  
34 that they'll be arrested for illegally taking the bear  
35 someplace.

36

37 So it is a problem, but I think that we  
38 have bear watches now, bear watches that never used to  
39 happen, you know. With a lot of dogs in the old days,  
40 you know, they used the meat sometimes for dog food, but  
41 now we don't have any dog teams, there aren't that many  
42 dogs to keep the bears away. But that's about the  
43 comments I have.

44

45 Thanks.

46

47 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, James. I  
48 know we do have the -- we made some recommended changes  
49 to the brown bear season over within the North Slope. It  
50 used to be three bears every three years -- I mean, three



1 -- one bear every three years, let me get that right, one  
2 bear every three years and we've changed them to one bear  
3 every year from what it used to be. And that's what the  
4 proposals that we submitted a couple years ago to get  
5 that changed. And then you still have the defense of  
6 life and property. And since that a hunter's property is  
7 being damaged by a brown bear, it's getting life  
8 threatening, the person can take down that bear for  
9 defense of life and property. That's still ongoing. So  
10 we've made some changes to the regulations that we have  
11 had in the past to try and lessen the property damage  
12 that can occur and by -- and caused by brown bears on the  
13 North Slope. And there's been some repeated cabins being  
14 demolish -- practically damaged by brown bears on the  
15 North Slope and that was getting to be very disheartening  
16 for the hunters, trying to keep their cabins and their  
17 campsites usable for their subsisting. And that's been  
18 a -- and it's slowed down for the past -- I think the  
19 past year and a half, I think I've not heard too many  
20 cabins being damaged or entered by brown bears. I think  
21 there's been some number of bears taken in the past three  
22 years, I think. So that lessens the damage occurring to  
23 brown -- caused by brown bears.

24

Any other comments from the Council.

25

26

MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

27

28

CO CHAIR BROWER: Yes, Rosemary.

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

Just to reiterate a little comment that  
James made trying to address being conservationists. We  
through the North Slope Borough work with the State of  
Alaska in obtaining permits to harass bears, brown bears  
specifically. And we also have one for polar bears along

1 the coastal communities. You know, it's against the law  
2 to harass bears, but we have to get our permits to do  
3 that and we've done that for Anaktuvuk and one for -- I  
4 think we also have Point Lay included in that permit, in  
5 the event that brown bears come -- approaching the  
6 community that it gets deterred away from the community.  
7 That's something that we've applied for through the North  
8 Slope Borough to the resource managers.

9

10 Just to share that with you in regard to  
11 what steps we've taken in terms of not just killing the  
12 bears and we've taken measures to deter the bears from  
13 approaching the community so they don't get killed.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 Roy.

18

19 MR. R. NAGEAK: I need to find out what  
20 the term harassment that we cannot harass brown bears and  
21 we need a permit to harass brown bears. What's.....

22

23 CO CHAIR BROWER: It's called.....

24

25 MR. R. NAGEAK: .....your interpretation  
26 for harassment, somebody out there, because trying to  
27 stop a brown bear coming into my campsite and to be  
28 personally involved with it, I need a permit for that too  
29 so that I won't harass it away from my campsite or I --  
30 I like the term my dad always used to use when we were  
31 growing up or young, when we were growing older. He says  
32 once you see a brown bear kill it. And that's the story.  
33 But I don't think we live in those times no more. That's  
34 what he -- he's seen the havoc of what a brown bear does  
35 to subsistence users. It's a battle of the fittest and  
36 that this old times it was usually the bigger bear that  
37 usually won over. So anytime anything gets close that's  
38 a bear and you got to compete with a bear for subsistence  
39 use, that was the rule of the land, survival of the  
40 fittest, kill that brown bear. But now we got to put up  
41 with rules and regulations and with the terms harassment  
42 and how we -- some of those terms are used that if we  
43 need a permit to scare, I don't know whether the intent  
44 of the law is there for rules and regulations are made to  
45 follow the intent of the law, we need to see what the  
46 intent of the law is harassment and needing permits for  
47 it if we're saving the lives of our people.

48

49 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Roy. If you  
50 want I could reiterate some of the comments I made in

1 terms of harassment. It's within the community like for  
2 Anaktuvuk. Brown bears coming into the -- near the  
3 village. So to keep the bear away and lessening the  
4 chance of somebody getting harmed by the bear, that's a  
5 term to deter that bear instead of just killing it in  
6 terms of conservation measures. That's something that  
7 we've had to apply. That's what I was trying to express.  
8 But in terms of campsites, that's a little bit different.  
9

10 And maybe, Helen, you could -- I'll  
11 recognize you at this time.  
12

13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
14 Helen Armstrong.  
15

16 Harry's exactly right that when it's  
17 defense of life and property then it -- that's a  
18 different situation. And so if you're -- you know, if  
19 you're defending your camp, your home, your family, there  
20 isn't an issue with doing that. I think what Harry's  
21 talking about is -- I mean, especially with any wildlife  
22 resource where there's a conservation concern then they  
23 have regulations against harassment. And you asked about  
24 a definition, Roy, and it -- there's on Page 132 of your  
25 -- I believe you all have the wildlife regs in front of  
26 you. Looks like this, the brown book. On Page 132 sort  
27 of towards the top in the third column there is a  
28 definition of harass and you asked about that. It means  
29 to disturb, worry, molest, rally, concentrate, harry,  
30 chase, drive, herd or torment. So that isn't allowed  
31 when there's a conservation concern for brown bears, but  
32 if -- but it's a different thing. I -- you know, you see  
33 that it's kind of a gray line maybe, but do you see the  
34 difference of what I'm talking about, if you're defending  
35 your camp and you're trying to get the bear away from  
36 your camp then my understanding, and somebody out here  
37 can correct me if I'm wrong, but I think that that is  
38 acceptable to chase a bear away in that case when you're  
39 defending your property.  
40

41 MR. R. NAGEAK: Just for clarification,  
42 you mean our people cannot disturb, worry, molest, rally,  
43 concentrate, harry, chase, drive, herd or torment brown  
44 bear?  
45

46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, any wildlife.  
47 This is a general definition that applies to any  
48 wildlife. And that would apply to brown bear.....  
49

50 MR. R. NAGEAK: I hope there's a

1 different meaning for molest.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. R. NAGEAK: I mean, who would put a  
6 word in there for us not to molest.

7

8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I don't the know  
9 origins of that. These -- I think these definitions --  
10 we'll blame it on getting them from State of Alaska. But  
11 I don't know the origin of that one.

12

13 MR. R. NAGEAK: Maybe their species are  
14 in the terms of brown bear or whatever they molest, but  
15 not in our society.

16

17 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy, you asked for a  
18 definition, you got one.

19

20 MR. R. NAGEAK: I got it. I'm not  
21 molesting no wildlife.

22

23 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Helen.  
24 Maybe at this time I'll just stop here -- stop this a  
25 conversation for a minute and.....

26

27 MR. R. NAGEAK: Just a request how we  
28 need to look at all these rules and regulations that are  
29 made to protect our subsistence hunters, whether we could  
30 work with whomever to allow some of the people that look  
31 forward to getting their tags of brown bear filled where  
32 they could go to some of these villages that have  
33 problems with brown bear and they work with each other to  
34 show them which one is the biggest and the most ornery  
35 and they say that one's been bothering. And they've come  
36 to recognize some of these brown bears and say get that  
37 one, that's the most ornery one.

38

39 Just a comment.

40

41 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Harry.

42

43 CO CHAIR BROWER: Pete.

44

45 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Harry.

46

47 I'd just like to note that we're joined  
48 by Representative Jewell in the audience. And our old  
49 Copper Valley friend, George Edwardson. Welcome.

50

1 MR. EDWARDSON: Can we ask questions?  
2  
3 CO CHAIR BROWER: Yeah, we're under the  
4 discussion of our -- the Chair's -- a response from the  
5 Federal Subsistence Board to the Chairs of the Councils,  
6 concerns that were voiced.  
7  
8 MR. EDWARDSON: I was just wondering if  
9 we could join your conversation and add to your  
10 information we have.  
11  
12 CO CHAIR BROWER: This is supposed to be  
13 between the Council, but I'll allow a question, George,  
14 I don't think I -- this is part of the public, we're  
15 supposed to fill out forms and stuff for public  
16 testimony. I think there's -- we can allow a question  
17 for you. Come on down.  
18  
19 MR. EDWARDSON: Okay. Because the  
20 question I had for you was when you look at the bears  
21 that have harassed and, you know, bothered and destroyed  
22 cabins, they're always the bears that have had tags put  
23 on them and those tags have worn out the skin right  
24 inside the meat around the animals. Those are the bears  
25 that do the harassing to us. And I'm listening to you  
26 talking about regulations and harassing bears. If a bear  
27 comes and if he -- if it can come within 100 feet of you,  
28 you chase it away, that bear will know it can come within  
29 100 feet of you and not get killed. It knows that,  
30 they're that smart. And for us to start giving them the  
31 same rights as we do as humans, then we put our families  
32 in danger when we go out. So when a bear learns to get  
33 that close we have to, you know, put it down, it's that  
34 simple. And when you look at the bear population, it's  
35 not on the endangered species list, is it. So quit  
36 putting regulations on how many you can catch. If the  
37 three bears come to -- come after me in my cabin, I'll  
38 shoot all three of the bears. If they have to stand up  
39 and break Federal law and you people enforce the Federal  
40 law, then I will be, you know, responsible for breaking  
41 the law because I will tell those people of mine shoot  
42 them. The same thing my uncle's father taught them, we  
43 got to protect our people. And listening to your  
44 conversations you're going away from it. I just wanted  
45 to bring that out. And the bears that have caused all  
46 are problems are the ones that have the radio tags. And  
47 if you can find a way to remove using those radio tags  
48 that would be great. Half of the -- most of the bear  
49 harassments would stop.  
50

1 Thank you.  
2  
3 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, for your  
4 comments, George.  
5  
6 Any other concern regarding the response  
7 from the Federal Subsistence Board in the North Slope  
8 Regional Advisory 2010 annual report?  
9  
10 MR. KAYOTUK: I'd like to make a comment  
11 on that.  
12  
13 CO CHAIR BROWER: Yes.  
14  
15 MR. KAYOTUK: Before 1993, is there any  
16 way we could get up to date to 2011 for each different  
17 region on the North Slope and other regions that aren't  
18 on the map that we could get up to date of what these  
19 bears are doing in surrounding areas?  
20  
21 CO CHAIR BROWER: You'd have to look to  
22 the biologists or, Don, do you have a comment.  
23  
24 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah,  
25 Mr. Chair, we can accommodate that request and maybe Cole  
26 or a staff biologist or Helen can provide that  
27 information.  
28  
29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That -- my  
30 understanding in talking to Geoff Carroll who's as you  
31 all know is the biologist for Fish and Game up in Barrow,  
32 is that that research hasn't happened. The Federal  
33 subsistence management program doesn't do research on  
34 wildlife, it -- we look to the State and what they do and  
35 what they fund and so I think that would have to be a  
36 question that the State would have to respond to in terms  
37 of providing more up to date information. I know they  
38 just haven't done more current surveys. And Geoff isn't  
39 here, but I don't know if anyone else from the State  
40 wants to speak to that.  
41  
42 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.  
43  
44 CO CHAIR BROWER: Lee, did that help with  
45 your concern?  
46  
47 MR. KAYOTUK: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Yeah,  
48 that kind of helped. Hopefully we get some updated  
49 issues about -- see 1993 quite some time away, but up to  
50 date through 2011 would be appropriate.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Lee.

4

5 Roy.

6

7 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair. Along those  
8 same lines, with the percentage of brown bears that are  
9 being able to be taken within our regions, whether any  
10 reports come from whether the State or Federal government  
11 up the amount of brown bears that are taken. And whether  
12 they fall within the percentage -- well, whatever  
13 percentage you use to make it a viable where it'll keep  
14 -- the brown bear will keep reproducing or keep going for  
15 that matter and whether the percentage could be up. With  
16 what -- what I'm understanding that they used the 1993  
17 study on the population on the brown bear, right, and  
18 whether anybody could update that with that in mind if  
19 there's an increase and it needs to be increased too.  
20 And whether within the North Slope how many brown bears  
21 are got within the permit system. And I think -- I know  
22 the North Slope Borough keeps track of how many bears are  
23 -- brown bears are taken each year just by survey and  
24 stuff like that. And whether keeps track of how many  
25 brown bears are taken from our region to assure us that  
26 there's enough brown bears being taken so that it would  
27 limit our association with them. Because there's too  
28 many and like we stated there's getting to be so many  
29 that it's getting dangerous for our people to go berry  
30 picking or to go caribou hunting then it's a concern that  
31 needs to be addressed by regulations or allowing more  
32 people with permits to do what they need to do to  
33 alleviate some of our concerns.

34

35 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Roy.

36

37 If there are other concerns we'll.....

38

39 MR. R. NAGEAK: She's going to respond to  
40 that.

41

42 CO CHAIR BROWER: Oh. Sorry, Helen, go  
43 ahead.

44

45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. I just  
46 wanted to make a comment that there is a proposal on  
47 brown bears for making the seasons for more liberal that  
48 you'll be addressing later on during your meeting. And  
49 that's Proposal 82. And there is some discussion on some  
50 harvests in there, in that analysis as well. So we will

1 continue the brown bear discussion later.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. R. NAGEAK: Okay. Thank you. You  
6 mean the harvest amount or what is.....

7

8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We have some  
9 information on it, not extensive, but there is some.  
10 Okay. And we'll talk about that during.....

11

12 MR. R. NAGEAK: Thank you.

13

14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: .....later during  
15 Proposal 82.

16

17 CO CHAIR BROWER: If there's no further  
18 discussion will pass the floor to Pete for your Council  
19 to do your.....

20

21 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Harry.

22

23 I think generally I'd just like to say  
24 that we share the same concern about bears, particularly  
25 brown bear. Just as a side note I do know that when the  
26 DLP regulations first materialized back years ago that a  
27 guy named Clifford Wayawanna had shot a grizzly a little  
28 out of season so he couldn't claim it. So he asked the  
29 Department what he was supposed to do with it. They said  
30 well, you know, you're supposed to send it to us so we'll  
31 deal with it. So Clifford he packed the grizzly bear up  
32 in nine gunny sacks, freight collect to the office in  
33 Nome and after they wound up paying the bill they made a  
34 clarification, we want just the skin and the skull is  
35 what we meant. And he said oh, okay. Well, next time I  
36 know.

37

38 But, I guess, for our side of things we  
39 do have five issues to discuss and we'll probably be  
40 dealing with most of the discussion when we breakout into  
41 our respective RAC meeting probably tomorrow. But, I  
42 guess, generally speaking this is probably a good time to  
43 air the concerns that we have about it. And just -- I'd  
44 just like to note too that I just have been the Chair for  
45 this year and some of the discussion I understand took  
46 place a lot earlier than that. So Attamuk and Silvester  
47 and Ray and the rest of you guys, if you have any  
48 recollections of what may have occurred as far as the  
49 discussion's concerned we can summarize it if you'd like  
50 now.



1 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair. I -- thank you  
2 for the response, but, you know, our populations studies  
3 on the bear, like you said we do have the same concerns,  
4 we have more and more instances with our people that are  
5 out there with bears now more than ever. And our last  
6 population studies were done in 2000 something, but it  
7 was just in Ninilchik. So I don't know when they're  
8 going to step up to the plate to do more population  
9 studies, but our traditional -- our people always say  
10 that there's too much bear. So I hope that these regs  
11 that we're going to be looking at will make it a little  
12 less harder for even sportsmen to go out hunting for.....

13

14 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Percy.

15

16 Ray.

17

18 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
19 -- here in North Slope I see the brown bear population is  
20 also increasing in the North Slope and just about  
21 everywhere. Mr. Chairman, I see in the spring from my  
22 own experience that our area, that's below -- you know,  
23 below in Kiana, and then I'm hearing that they say that  
24 we've been harassing the brown bears. Evidently if you  
25 see the report of what's happening this spring, it wasn't  
26 the people harassing the brown bear, the brown bear this  
27 spring was harassing a family of six, four grizzly bears  
28 kept them inside the house for half a day. The door --  
29 right at the door waiting for them to go out. And he had  
30 a bunch of kids with him, his family. When the law says  
31 that if bears in your area is the number 1, it's life and  
32 property. I think the regulations should be understood  
33 by the people that should be some regulations saying that  
34 if the brown bears is harassing you there should be some  
35 regulation in order to take that bear. After being  
36 locked in all day the guy who right there said well, we  
37 have to do something, now it's getting late already, I'm  
38 going to try to get one because they're right there  
39 within two feet from the door and he got the biggest one  
40 and he report it to the State. And the State couldn't  
41 believe him, they were trying to give him a citation.  
42 That should be clear to all of us because life and  
43 property's important if four grizzly bears are right in  
44 your door waiting for you we have to do something. So  
45 the regulation should be again understood by all our  
46 people at the North Slope and Northwest. I felt sorry  
47 for these people after what happened.

48

49 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

50

1 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Ray.  
2  
3 Attamuk.  
4  
5 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, I'll share my thoughts  
6 about bear. Let's put it this way, the bear was within  
7 inches from my son at camp, yet when we went after it we  
8 were told that we didn't have the permit to go after it.  
9 The bear and my son only separated by the side of the  
10 boat. And when we tried -- and when we shot it we were  
11 the bad guys. And these are the things the people at the  
12 office got to understand. You guys are in an office,  
13 we're out in the country being harassed by bears. And  
14 when the agencies go after us as law breaking citizens  
15 that is wrong. Because when my grandpa, when I was  
16 growing up, every time he -- when we were in camp  
17 gathering food for the dogs, when he see a bear he would  
18 be gone most of the day sometimes just to go after the  
19 bear because the bear could consume a lot more in a few  
20 days than we try to survive during the winter, our foods.  
21 That's the one -- that's a clarification we have to put  
22 for your example. I do a lot of surveys and I do a lot  
23 of work, if one bear has triplets that's four bears in a  
24 year's time. And if they could have their young within  
25 three, four years and if those three young ones have  
26 three bears let's just put it that way, they increase by  
27 19 in four years. And yet we're trying to be law abiding  
28 citizen yet they're controlling how we write the  
29 regulation. I think we should change it. We should  
30 write the regulation for us, for our protection because  
31 they harass. And when they start -- animals start  
32 declining they blame us. It's mainly the bears because  
33 I have -- at my camp I have three moose that had been  
34 there for four years, okay, last summer they got all four  
35 moose. I watch the bears hunt, it's amazing what they  
36 could do to a moose as big as they are. And these things  
37 we got to understand, we have bear problems. At Kivalina  
38 where Austin, for your correction you called him  
39 Silvester, Pete, for your -- Austin. Where we come from,  
40 when we used to have hawk, we can't even fly our hawks  
41 anymore, we have to take them to Kivalina. Why, because  
42 of the bears. We have to take them to Kivalina. We  
43 can't leave them out there the way we like to eat them,  
44 we like (in native) we like to get them stink for our  
45 food. So you agencies got to realize put us -- put you  
46 on our feet, on the bears. And we got to open it.  
47 That's the problem right here. We as Federal Advisory  
48 Board supposed to put the regulations the way we want  
49 them yet they control us. We've got to stop that. We  
50 should control our -- how our regulations should be

1 written.  
2  
3 Thank you.  
4  
5 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Attamuk.  
6  
7 I apologize, Austin, I guess that after  
8 50 some years after graduating our minds start to slip so  
9 I apologize for misnaming you.  
10  
11 MR. SWAN: I'm used to it.  
12  
13 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Say again?  
14  
15 MR. SWAN: I say I'm used to it because  
16 I get mistaken for Silvester a lot.  
17  
18 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Okay. Well, no more  
19 by this guy.  
20  
21 Any other comments by the Northwest  
22 Regional?  
23  
24 MR. SWAN: Yeah. Yes, I would like to  
25 say something. Just this past summery alone from early  
26 spring I saw a picture of a brown bear, looked like a  
27 young one, dead, decomposed, not gutted, partially eaten.  
28 Whether it was sick or shot is not known, but there is --  
29 somebody took a picture of it on the coastal trail. And  
30 then during the summer during berry picking season  
31 pictures were taken of bears just coming in to the berry  
32 pickers, you know, without like no hesitation at all.  
33 Those kind of things are starting to happen quite often.  
34 The other thing even though someone was shooting at a  
35 bear he still kept coming, you know, trying to scare it  
36 away. But that's got to stop, we just have too many  
37 bears. They're -- like they all -- most of the people  
38 say they're learning how to deal with people without  
39 hesitation.  
40  
41 Thank you.  
42  
43 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Austin.  
44  
45  
46 Any other comments.  
47  
48 (No comments).  
49  
50 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Okay. Well, hearing

1 none if you'd like we can go to the next subject. Of  
2 course the North Slope first.

3  
4 CO CHAIR BROWER: I'm not sure what all  
5 we want to reflect in the 2011 annual report topics. I  
6 think we need to look back in our minutes in terms of  
7 what we've identified as concerns. I think the -- I'm  
8 still looking to see on the fisheries, that was what  
9 identified from the response. That's something that's  
10 still in the works, I guess, and that need -- we'll need  
11 to work with probably generating proposals and see how we  
12 can move forward with that concern about fisheries and  
13 climate change.

14  
15 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

16  
17 CO CHAIR BROWER: Yes, Roy.

18  
19 MR. R. NAGEAK: If it seems like the  
20 topic of brown bears in concurrent with what the  
21 Northwestern and North Slope is talking about and whether  
22 this topic will be brought up to allow some changes in  
23 the law that stops or that criminalize the subsistence  
24 users in their association with the brown bears. What I  
25 would like to see in front of the Subsistence Advisory  
26 Council is whether any changes could be made so that it  
27 won't criminalize the subsistence users in their  
28 association with brown bears. And whether that could be  
29 better defined in respect to that. If I could see that,  
30 if I -- if the reports that have stated what this Board  
31 -- these two Boards have done or talked about, whether  
32 any changes need to be made so as to protect our people  
33 from becoming criminals under any statutes that are out  
34 there. And it kills me to ask what laws are -- the ones  
35 that are allowing language to be in there, language like  
36 harassments. I know there's statutes and laws that are  
37 being made and in some cases the rules and regulations  
38 that follow are different from what the intent of the law  
39 is. So if we knew -- if there's anybody that knows these  
40 laws, what the intent of the laws were and the  
41 association with our people and in association with the  
42 brown bear, we need those better clarified. And whoever  
43 makes the rules and regulations that calls us to harass  
44 and kind of criminalize our people in their association,  
45 we need to find those rules and regulations to assure  
46 that there'll be changes made for the protection of our  
47 people. If we could have those annual reports and have  
48 something in front of us that we could address the issues  
49 that are becoming more common and language that tend to  
50 criminalize our people in their association of wildlife

1 and we need to have those in front of us maybe in the  
2 future if we get together again. I would really greatly  
3 appreciate that and if we could work with the people that  
4 allow permits to be more in the association of working  
5 how our wildlife population is and maybe say that we need  
6 a study that would since control the proliferation of or  
7 the increase of brown bears for the safety of our  
8 subsistence hunters. Maybe that could set a tone in what  
9 we want to advise the Subsistence Board in what they're  
10 trying to do so that we be more in cooperation with  
11 whomever make these laws and rules and regulations and  
12 what we have to work with so that we could do it in a  
13 more positive mode rather than butt heads so that we  
14 could understand each other where we're coming from.  
15 From the subsistence side and the people that make the  
16 laws and what are rules and regulations that interpret  
17 the laws that are being made on behalf of the animals and  
18 on behalf of us, the subsistence users.

19

20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Unfortunately I  
23 think that what's really happened is that we're now into  
24 multi-jurisdictional issues and that the State of Alaska  
25 has defense of life and property regulations that clearly  
26 are not adequate for meeting the Federal needs. Of  
27 course, the other is the bears don't give a hoot about  
28 where they trod, whether it's Federal lands or State or  
29 private. And therein is the other side of the problem,  
30 what do you do in the event that you're on Federal lands  
31 and what Federal comparisons are there to defense of life  
32 and property. Generally Federal regulations have kind of  
33 followed State regulations since I think the assumption  
34 is that all of the fish and game wherewithal is within  
35 the State which some of agree with and some of us  
36 disagree with. And I think that in terms of those kinds  
37 of issues we have the task of trying to see where the  
38 resolution lies in terms of where the problem is and  
39 whether it's resolved. I don't know if it's -- I mean,  
40 what I'm saying is that it looks like it's just going to  
41 be another round of paperwork in terms of doing a  
42 response to the report and whether those statements are  
43 accurate enough to reflect some of the discussion here.  
44 Clearly defense of life and property has to reach another  
45 level of concern for the human being and not necessarily  
46 for the protection of the bears because in our area we  
47 have the same issues and problems as described earlier.

48

49

50 So I'm wondering what formal action is

1 needed by this group to start to see if there is a means  
2 of doing some sort of MOU with the State since you  
3 already got one anyway related to enforcement and  
4 everything else in terms of coming to some agreement as  
5 to the problems stated and whether or not, you know, we  
6 have an avenue to fix the problem. If not I'm afraid to  
7 say that stuff is just going to continue and it's going  
8 to continue to get worse before it gets better.  
9 Hopefully the powers that be in the State regulatory  
10 system can address some of the concerns that we'll raise  
11 here because going through the regulatory process is a  
12 lengthy, time consuming process unfortunately that does  
13 not reflect another problem and that's sometimes with  
14 changes in weather and stuff we have to make  
15 accommodations trying to accommodate current regulatory  
16 regimes and the situation at hand and sometimes it's hard  
17 to decide whether you're going to take the chance of  
18 being a criminal to protect yourself or even to meet your  
19 needs with a highly migratory species at any given time  
20 such as the bag limit.

21  
22 So, I guess, my question is for Helen and  
23 what is it that the Feds can do to do something a little  
24 different besides the current DLP regulatory regulations  
25 as they stand now.

26  
27 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think the first step  
28 would be to put it in your annual report, your concerns  
29 and to raise it to the Federal Subsistence Board. And if  
30 both Councils put that in there I think that would be a good  
31 start and see if we can begin some dialogue. As you  
32 noted, I mean, it is a State of Alaska regulation with  
33 DLP so, you know, but they see these letters and I -- you  
34 know, I'm not sure and maybe Pete Probasco wants to add  
35 a little bit more as to what more could be done at this  
36 point, but I think that would be a beginning. And I  
37 think it's a common concern around the State. I know  
38 brown bears seems to be coming up more and more  
39 everywhere we go.

40  
41 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Well, thank you, but  
42 it appears that the problem's already stated in the  
43 previous correspondence to the Federal Subsistence Board.

44  
45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think Pete  
46 Probasco's going to come up and say something.

47  
48 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

49  
50 CO CHAIR BROWER: Good morning, Ray.

1 MR. KOONUK: Good morning, Harry. Yeah,  
2 I apologize for being late and just want to make note  
3 that I'm present. And, you know, we sit in the situation  
4 here at Point Hope in regards to what unit, you know,  
5 we're supposed to be running in and who we supposed to  
6 represent. And although we sit in Unit 23, I still go to  
7 meetings in Unit 26. And things get kind of complicated  
8 between -- not between, but for our hunters as far as  
9 what are we supposed to or what regulations are we  
10 supposed to follow. So you're talking about bears,  
11 caribou and whatnot, but, you know, we'd sure like to get  
12 this problem resolved. And what regulation is for, is it  
13 the State, the Federal or the Inupiat way, you know.  
14 That's real hard our hunters, you know, to try and abide  
15 by. So I just want to make a note of that since you're  
16 talking about, you know, something here that -- and I  
17 hope I -- you know, the agencies look at this real close  
18 and try to get this resolved because, you know, we don't  
19 go, you know, up north very much to go hunting so right  
20 in the east, northeast area and the sea along the coast  
21 that we hunt. So, you know, and this has been a issue,  
22 you know, as far as what we are -- our hunters are trying  
23 to understand, where do we stand and who do we give the  
24 regs to or what regs do we follow.

25  
26 Thank you.

27  
28 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Ray.

29  
30 Well, we'll probably respond maybe after  
31 we get the current discussion. We're under the agenda  
32 item of the annual report, Ray, for your information.  
33 It's on the first page and it -- we did the response from  
34 the Federal Subsistence Board and now we're down to the  
35 discussion of the 2011 annual report. So we can follow  
36 along, you're right in line in terms of our concerns to  
37 be voiced.

38  
39 Pete.

40  
41 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Chairmen, Mr.  
42 Schaeffer and Mr. Bower.

43  
44 There's a couple of issues here that we  
45 -- as we deal with brown bears and the issues as it  
46 affects each of your areas. I agree with Ms. Armstrong  
47 that we do need to continue to make this an issue in your  
48 annual report. However the other avenues that are  
49 available to the Councils is submitting proposals. The  
50 Federal Board can only adopt regulations through the

1 proposal process. And so that's the avenue to get  
2 changes. The other thing you got to keep in mind is that  
3 this Federal program only deals with Federal lands and as  
4 you look in your area there's a lot of State lands and  
5 private lands as well which is -- they're under State  
6 jurisdiction. Also this issue would need to be forwarded  
7 to the Board of Game through the State of Alaska. But I  
8 encourage you to again put it in the annual report and  
9 also you do have a proposal before you dealing with brown  
10 bears, you can bring that forward in that part as well.

11

12 Mr. Chair.

13

14 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: All right. Thank  
15 you. Thank you, Pete.

16

17 I guess the other concern is that as we  
18 process or we work through the process of regulatory  
19 proposals is the two avenues of where we're going to have  
20 to go on the Federal side and then on the State side.  
21 The Board of Games meets in November in Barrow and I  
22 think perhaps at that time maybe we ought to talk about  
23 step two and modify the proposal to include some of the  
24 concerns expressed here and see if the Board of Game will  
25 accommodate some of those concerns. I too am concerned  
26 about the attitude of the Department at times when you  
27 report an animal that's been taken in DLP and it's like  
28 the Department sometimes has the attitude of treating you  
29 like a violator first and then you prove your innocence.  
30 And I think that that's part of the problem is the  
31 accurate reporting of some of the bear take because I  
32 would venture to guess that in the event of a bear  
33 destroying personal property at times that it causes  
34 people to be hesitant to report such an incidence because  
35 of the fear of being prosecuted. And I think that  
36 discussion needs to happen with the Board of Game in  
37 Barrow because I think it's a genuine problem and if  
38 there's a way to make it easier for people to report for  
39 -- not only for the purpose of safety, but I think the  
40 Department would appreciate the information as well  
41 because I think accurate information leads to more  
42 accurate assumptions when regulations are made. So  
43 perhaps that's the next step to take as far as, you know,  
44 the attempt to try to correct some of these problems.

45

46 And I understand Roy's -- Ray's concern  
47 about the jurisdictional issue because we have had a  
48 caribou working group, and this is a little off the  
49 subject, but just to iterate what you're saying and, you  
50 know, that group has included the Boards of -- the Board



1 of Game, the Chairman, it's included the Chairman of the  
2 Commercial Services Board, Chairman of the Federal  
3 Subsistence Board, all of the regional representatives in  
4 our area and for four years we've had about six meetings  
5 dedicated to the issue of user conflict for primarily for  
6 caribou. This year the fortunate thing was that the  
7 caribou showed up in somewhat more desirable locations  
8 and, of course, it has been a contest of sorts to lay the  
9 blame on the feet of the transporters or some such thing  
10 when, in fact, I think the issue that even though the  
11 title seems simple it's a lot more complicated than it  
12 appears. So I can express some real sympathy for what  
13 you're saying, but as far as the relief is concerned, you  
14 know, we've also talked within our Advisory Committee  
15 groups about the subject of subunits, that may make it  
16 easier for your area because I know you're right on the  
17 borderline of 26 and 23 and that must make it, you know,  
18 a lot more complicated for you guys. I'm -- I guess  
19 that's just maybe one avenue to try and see if the  
20 problem can be fixed, but, of course, within the Board of  
21 Game there's a lot of opposition to not only to that  
22 subuniting, but control use areas and such things like  
23 that.

24  
25 So I just wanted you to know that, you  
26 know, I appreciate your concern.

27  
28 MR. KOONUK: Thank you.

29  
30 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Pete. And  
31 Pete as well. Thank you for your responses.

32  
33 And, Ray, I think we're going to -- we'll  
34 follow through with the agenda, we'll have another time  
35 for discussion in terms of the jurisdictional issues.  
36 It's not only from you, your area, but also from  
37 Anaktuvuk, we have the same situation because they're  
38 right on the borderline as well -- I mean, the boundary  
39 line, not the borderline, boundary line in terms of Unit  
40 24 and 26. I mean, you can just probably step over the  
41 line and you experience the same situation in Point Hope  
42 with 23 and 26, just go, you know, from your community  
43 either direction, north or south, you're going to two  
44 different subunits. And that's been voiced several times  
45 and this is the appropriate area to be discussing the  
46 concern even though it's not -- we've not identified  
47 previously, but we've had discussions in the past of the  
48 situation because we were -- I remember some of the  
49 earlier meetings, in the early '90s, when this  
50 jurisdictional issue was coming around, our communities

1 were put right on the boundary line and which regulations  
2 do we follow, you know, there's -- you know, there's  
3 similar regulations, but when you go down to the fine  
4 print there's differences to be identified as -- on both  
5 sides, even with the State regulations.

6

7 Ray.

8

9 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, Mr. Chair. You know,  
10 we've been carrying this issue for decades and this  
11 issue hasn't been resolved by the State or by the Federal  
12 agencies in regards to, you know, where we sit. And I  
13 don't know, Anaktuvuk, you know, if you'll in the same  
14 situation, you know, what regs do we follow. And like  
15 you say we -- you know, have a borderline here and  
16 whatever issues we're going to talk about it's going to  
17 come up, you know, whatever's on the agenda. Bears,  
18 caribou, muskox, you know, it's going to come up.  
19 Doesn't matter where the situation sits right now, but,  
20 you know, we're going to -- we're going to bring it out.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for voicing  
25 your concerns, Ray.

26

27 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

28

29 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy.

30

31 MR. R. NAGEAK: Before we get away from  
32 where the boundaries of game units and the boundaries  
33 where the State and Federal government and whether  
34 they're in conflict or which rules and regulations that  
35 we need to follow, I always remember my father when we're  
36 starting to become a unit of the State and trying to  
37 create the borough and he really expound on me that why  
38 are we starting a borough while we've got a regional IA  
39 government unit that could do exactly the same thing.  
40 But it was done and the North Star Borough was created.  
41 But when you look at it as a whole, it doesn't matter  
42 what game unit are where we live, the Inupiat community  
43 of the Arctic Slope which was recognized in the '30s and  
44 1940s, is a unit by itself that need to be in association  
45 with our Federal government. And that whole unit as a  
46 whole and how the Federal government has their  
47 responsibility to assure that the people within that unit  
48 as a whole where ICAS covers, it's -- it behooves me to  
49 ask who's taking care of our people. Because when a IR  
50 government is created and we've got the boundaries

1 already and it's not game units, it's a whole boundary of  
2 the North Slope where the government through that  
3 regional government to government relationship could  
4 cover all those needs across where we're at. And I think  
5 the Northwest has their own regional government too in  
6 regards to the IR governments, but that relationship that  
7 was started even before the State became a state, that --  
8 we want to start that relations and go back and say where  
9 have you guys been to protect what -- who we are through  
10 the IR government of the Inupiat community of the Arctic  
11 Slope which covers the whole slope. I don't -- I don't  
12 see this being a game unit here, a game unit there and a  
13 game unit there, the State's got this game unit, well,  
14 what across the board the relationship between our  
15 subsistence hunter that's got to be under the auspices of  
16 the Inupiat community of the Arctic Slope which is the  
17 whole North Slope and take it from there. That could  
18 alleviate what the State wants from our region or how the  
19 State wants to regulate what we hunt or what we eat or  
20 what we do with our wildlife. And I think if we look at  
21 it from that perspective to me through the IR government  
22 of the Inupiat community of the Arctic Slope, the Federal  
23 government has a responsibility to assure our people have  
24 the rights that they always had before the coming of the  
25 State. I just want to point that out because my father  
26 reminded me of why are we becoming a State unit when  
27 we're already a Federal recognized with the boundaries of  
28 the whole North Slope being covered and why we weren't  
29 protected by the Federal government when the State  
30 started issuing a lot of rules and regulations in their  
31 game units. And I want to take it right there and say  
32 ask the Federal government well, where were you when the  
33 State started becoming and associating with these game  
34 units and these rules and regulations that we need to  
35 comply with. We're a Federally recognized tribe and we  
36 are the people of a Federally recognized tribe that  
37 carries those boundaries without the game units and as a  
38 whole. I think through that they need to protect our  
39 subsistence rights for our people.

40

41 And I'll leave it at that and if we need  
42 to go through all these motions to try to see what  
43 jurisdiction our village people are and what State rules  
44 and regulations we need to comply with and what Federal  
45 laws are out there that are supposed to protect our  
46 rights as a Federal local government to government  
47 relationship that need to protect our rights as native.

48

49 CO CHAIR BROWER: (In Native)

50

1 Thank you, Roy, for your comments and  
2 concerns.  
3  
4 Do we want to identify anything else.  
5  
6 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.  
7  
8 CO CHAIR BROWER: Ray.  
9  
10 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, like Roy say and like  
11 our forefathers say, you know, hunger knows no laws. And  
12 now we have the State and Federal agencies that regulate  
13 our subsistence hunting. You know, we need to know. But  
14 like being raised up, our grandfathers, our fathers, tell  
15 us hunger knows no law because that was the only way to  
16 feed our people.  
17  
18 Thank you.  
19  
20 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Ray.  
21  
22 If there's no further comment at this  
23 time I'd like to entertain a 10 minute recess. And then  
24 we'll come right back on this.  
25  
26 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Last -- two minutes.  
27 That when we were putting these regulations in place I  
28 remember when I first started that we have to adopt this  
29 because it's the State law and that's what I was told.  
30 And I tried to argue with it, this is our Federal land,  
31 we should put our regulation in place for the Federal  
32 land, not the State. Everything we do have to comply  
33 with the State of Alaska and the State of Alaska wrote it  
34 for their own benefit. I think things need to change, we  
35 need to put it for our people because we are here to  
36 protect the subsistence and resources for the futures to  
37 come. Yet they tell us we can't do this, we can't do  
38 that when we're trying to put regulation in place for our  
39 people. This got to stop. Our regulation need to be for  
40 our land, not the State land because we are covered by  
41 Federal land and yet we have to comply with the State.  
42 This has to change. And I think this thing, this issue  
43 as -- need to keep on the table and we need to do it  
44 together with the Slope and Northwest Alaska because we  
45 harvest the same animals yet it's different. And they're  
46 seeing it wrong, I'll give you an example. I grew up by  
47 Attamuk and I was told by the Federal I can't use it  
48 because it's not my legal name, yet when I was born I was  
49 Attamuk. Now I have to use Enoch Shiedt. That's how  
50 their regulations. I can't even put my name in there.

1 And I'm known by Attamuk in my region. See that's how  
2 they're regulating it. And they are telling us. I was  
3 told by the Federal agency I can't use my Eskimo name.  
4 And our regulation is the same way, they regulate us how  
5 we should put the regulation for our harvest, for our own  
6 protection.

7

8 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Enoch. So  
9 at this time I think we'll take a 10 minute recess.

10

11 (Off record)

12

13 (On record)

14

15 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: .....Representative  
16 Reggie Jewell to speak to what's happening in terms of  
17 where the efforts to try to accommodate the climate  
18 change is happening. And then after Reggie we'd like to  
19 ask Mr. Pat Pourchot to speak to whatever he feels like  
20 and then probably address the standing as to where the  
21 two additional Federal Subsistence Board members are.

22

23 So welcome, Mr. Jewell.

24

25 MR. JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
26 Good morning, everyone.

27

28 IN UNISON: Good morning.

29

30 MR. JEWELL: I find your dialogue this  
31 morning kind of interesting because it spurred a question  
32 before I digress -- I'll digress a little bit because it  
33 spurred a thought to me and that is where we are with  
34 subsistence and dual management and that longstanding  
35 debate about subsistence in Alaska. And, you know, it's  
36 been dormant for a long, long time. And I can't help but  
37 think that at some point that thing's going to simmer and  
38 start to boil over at some point. And I just throw that  
39 out there just because it's something else to think  
40 about. But from the legislative level we've gotten --  
41 it's been kind of a non-issue, but it's an every day  
42 issue for many of us.

43

44 With regards to climate change, it -- I'm  
45 going to start off by rendering a personal opinion, but  
46 sometimes when an issue like that comes apart -- comes up  
47 and you can do a couple of things, you can recognize the  
48 issue, deal with it and adjust and adapt or you can bury  
49 your head in the sand and pretend it's not happening and  
50 hope that at some point it'll blow over. And in the

1 issue of climate change it seems that at least for a  
2 period of time we took the latter, to put our heads in  
3 the sand. Unfortunately when you do that that only  
4 leaves one prominent part of your anatomy exposed.

5  
6 (Laughter)

7  
8 MR. JEWELL: And that's your backside.  
9 And on the issue of climate change I think we've been  
10 getting kicked around pretty good on that exposed part of  
11 our anatomy.

12  
13 We've known about the changes for a long  
14 time, climate change is nothing new for many of us. The  
15 way I've heard it expressed the best was this way, that  
16 in terms of time somebody drew a -- like a racetrack, an  
17 oval, you can go through long periods where things are  
18 stable and then you come around a curve and change. And  
19 in terms of weather and our climate, we're around that  
20 curve. The question is how long does it take before we  
21 get to a point of stability because in recent memory we  
22 haven't had that experience. Now somebody through  
23 stories may have a better handle on that, but that was  
24 the analogy that was given to me of how long this is  
25 going to occur before we come back to some stable weather  
26 expectations.

27  
28 At the State because we've come to  
29 recognize climate change and in the legislature, the  
30 melting sea ice, the permafrost, the unstable permafrost,  
31 coastal erosion, those kinds of real, obvious things have  
32 led the legislature to come up with the Northern Waters  
33 Taskforce. And we're -- this taskforce will sunset in  
34 January and we will come up with some recommendations.  
35 But one of the things that -- some of the things that  
36 we're looking at are issues like governance,  
37 infrastructure, resource development including OCS  
38 research and science, marine transportation. And we've  
39 heard from communities, we've heard from industry, we've  
40 heard from conservation folks because in the -- as the  
41 globe -- the international community recognizes the even  
42 more rapid pace of climate change and all that it may  
43 present in terms of opportunity, the north and the Arctic  
44 is being looked upon as a place to develop resources, but  
45 be careful. And there's this raging debate going on.  
46 And at the State level while conversations are going on  
47 internationally through the Arctic Council and others  
48 nationally and while the State has had some presence at  
49 some of these forums, the legislature certainly hasn't.  
50 We deal with things through the budget process and

1 sometimes through legislation and policy issues. And the  
2 Northern Waters Taskforce was an effort to get the  
3 legislature engaged in some of these discussions and some  
4 of these topics.

5  
6 And I bring that up because of the recent  
7 news that's been up with regards to some of the issues  
8 and-- around sea mammals in particular the seals and the  
9 walruses and the lesions that they're -- that are showing  
10 up that I think in some of the communities you've known  
11 about for a while. And tomorrow during or just prior to  
12 AFN the Northern Waters Taskforce is taking public  
13 testimony. We've been out to some of the communities,  
14 we've been out to Nome, Kotzebue. We took some public  
15 testimony up in the Barrow area, but that was all. We're  
16 going to head back up to the North Slope in mid November,  
17 we've been out to Unalaska, Bethel, and we're putting a  
18 report together that will comprise of some  
19 recommendations that the legislature should take up. And  
20 I wanted you to be aware that if in the course of your  
21 conversation and granted from what I'm hearing you're  
22 dealing with mostly with land mammals and those kinds of  
23 issues around subsistence, but I know that for many of us  
24 the health of the sea mammals is also very important and  
25 to the point where those intersect. And I extend that  
26 invitation to the Northern Waters Taskforce public  
27 testimony opportunities tomorrow at the Dena'ina Center  
28 between 1:00 and 2:30. And so I wanted to pass that  
29 along.

30  
31 Back to the issue of climate change, the  
32 Palin Administration and somewhat the Parnell  
33 Administration pretty much the lead person dealing with  
34 a lot of those issues from at least the administrative  
35 side has been the Commissioner of Environmental  
36 Conservation which is Larry Hartig. And he's well versed  
37 on many of the issues. I think one of the unfortunate  
38 things through the budgetary process, you try and absorb  
39 a lot of the cost of being involved in those issues  
40 within the existing budgets. And so you may not always  
41 get to the depth of understanding or -- of some of the  
42 things that you need to pay attention to. And hopefully  
43 we can dig and try and see if we can help the  
44 administration get some focus through that -- through the  
45 budgetary process in the upcoming year.

46  
47 But the whole reason that the Northern  
48 Waters Taskforce has been put together is as a foundation  
49 piece to climate change. Because all of these things are  
50 happening in the world around us the Arctic is being

1 looked at as a place for fisheries, for marine  
2 transportation and shortcuts from Asia to Europe. And  
3 there's just going to be a whole lot of activity and some  
4 of that we'll see I'm sure this summer as permits are  
5 granted with OCS. And so anyway I wanted to extend that  
6 opportunity for members of this -- these two Advisory  
7 Committees to take advantage of that if you felt there  
8 was something that you might want to say and need to  
9 bring to our attention during the public testimony  
10 tomorrow.

11  
12 And I would be willing to answer any  
13 questions.

14  
15 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Yes, Ray, go ahead.

16  
17 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, as -- thank you,  
18 Representative Jewell.

19  
20 As far as the -- you know, we've been  
21 hearing about the coastal management, you know, getting  
22 off from the State election or where that's done because  
23 I believe it's really affecting, you know, our areas and  
24 as far as what regs we're supposed to follow or any  
25 industry's supposed to follow. So where does that stand  
26 within the State?

27  
28 MR. JEWELL: Thank you, Ray. It's a  
29 great question. And I purposefully didn't talk on  
30 coastal zone management because I anticipated somebody  
31 would ask.

32  
33 You know, after four years -- no, from  
34 the changes that happened in 2003 under the Murkowski  
35 Administration to coastal zone management which many of  
36 us in the legislature, but not enough, opposed, over time  
37 we've been trying to claw back some of what we lost in  
38 the repeal under the Murkowski Administration. And this  
39 last year the end result was that the State no longer has  
40 a coastal zone management because there was a sunset date  
41 where if we did not extend that date that would go away.  
42 And that is what has occurred. And so the State no  
43 longer has and participates in the coastal zone  
44 management program which for coastal states is voluntary.  
45 The State does not have to, they can choose not to  
46 participate. And in the waning hours of the session we  
47 lost the support of people that we thought we had to  
48 continue the program because it was felt by the  
49 administration that there weren't the people there any  
50 longer to manage the program and so it would hold up the



1 permitting process and that would end up costing jobs.  
2 And that was the reason given by the administration. And  
3 so support from the legislature waned and we lost that by  
4 one vote.

5  
6 But to your question, what this means is  
7 that many of the permits that need to be garnered from  
8 the State, what ACMP kind of did was kind of put it in --  
9 most of it in one place through the coastal zone program.  
10 And that's no longer there, it's back to a fragmented  
11 system. And, you know, you still need permits from Fish  
12 and Game, you still need permits from DEC, but it's  
13 fragmented. And in the case of our two boroughs, the  
14 Northwest Arctic and the North Slope Borough, both have  
15 adopted ordinances that allow for some level of coastal,  
16 it's kind of -- it's a more localized system. And it  
17 again is one of those that lends to that fragmentation  
18 because people who are seeking permits have to go all  
19 over the place as opposed to going through that system  
20 that I think under the right conditions could have  
21 expedited a lot of the permits.

22  
23 And, you know, unfortunately one of the  
24 things that held up the process and where we got hung up  
25 was our own local knowledge versus science. And it was  
26 really unfortunate that we pitted one against the other  
27 because quite frankly they should work in tandem.

28  
29 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Mr. Koonuk.

30  
31 MR. KOONUK: Yes, to follow-up. You  
32 know, the State has a boundary, three miles. Is that  
33 still in effect, you know, we have three mile -- the  
34 State has a three mile limit.....

35  
36 MR. JEWELL: Three miles.

37  
38 MR. KOONUK: .....from the ocean -- from  
39 the beach to the ocean, is it still in effect.....

40  
41 MR. JEWELL: Yes.

42  
43 MR. KOONUK: .....and if so then how --  
44 because, you know, right now we're facing to where  
45 there's some animals that are sick and they're in -- and  
46 they're washing ashore and, you know, I'm talking about  
47 walruses and seals, you know, that are coming ashore and,  
48 you know, they don't want to go back to the ocean. And  
49 so they're just laying there. And so I'm just wondering  
50 whether, you know, that three mile zone is still in --

1 does still exist beyond the state and if so I'm hoping  
2 that the State would come in and help try to resolve the  
3 issue as far as what's going on today.

4

5 MR. JEWELL: I'm -- the State still  
6 manages three miles in, but with regards to sea mammals  
7 that's generally under the jurisdiction of the Federal  
8 government under the Sea Mammal Act.

9

10 And I -- and back to your point on the  
11 coastal zone management, I also wanted to bring up the  
12 fact that there may again be legislation to try and rein  
13 -- try to get that back, but also in the process the --  
14 there was some signatures garnered to begin the process  
15 of an initiative, a voter initiative in the next general  
16 election to bring back coastal zone management. And so  
17 they've taken it the first step, the next step is if the  
18 Lieutenant Governor approves then they've got to go out  
19 and get the appropriate amount of signatures from around  
20 the state to get that initiative on the ballot. And at  
21 that point they need to have some real -- you've got to  
22 be able to see what it is and I'm sure that it's already  
23 there, of what is being proposed, but the Alaska  
24 Municipal League is -- the organization behind that  
25 initiative and it seems to be collecting steam very  
26 quickly.

27

28 CO CHAIR BROWER: That help, Ray.

29

30 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, thank you.

31

32 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Thank you,  
33 Mr. Jewell.

34

35 MR. JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
36 members.

37

38 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Reggie.  
39 Okay. Next we'd like to ask Mr. Pat Pourchot to come up  
40 and give a brief presentation.

41

42 Thank you, Pat.

43

44 MR. POURCHOT: Thank you, Chairman  
45 Schaeffer and Chairman Brower, members of the two RACs.  
46 First let me thank you on behalf of the Secretary of  
47 Interior for your service. As you all know the Advisory  
48 Committee system was very much envisioned and part of  
49 Title VIII of ANILCA. And then when the Federal  
50 government took over management in '92 the RACs were

1 incorporated as a key component of Federal subsistence  
2 management. And I think that the Board of -- the  
3 Subsistence Board has been over the years very reliant on  
4 the input from the RACs such as yours. And again I think  
5 we all appreciate all of your work and knowing it's  
6 voluntary and taking time away from other things. And so  
7 it's very much appreciated.

8  
9 I also would note that in the roll call  
10 as you all know there are vacancies almost every year and  
11 sometimes several vacancies. And in the past, and this  
12 has come up I think in some of your reports, that it's  
13 been kind of a slow process in filling those vacancies.  
14 We have all tried as hard as we can and much harder to  
15 try to get vacancies filled. I was back in D.C. a couple  
16 weeks ago and visited with people involved in that  
17 process. As you know the Federal Subsistence Board  
18 forwards names to the Department, they have to go through  
19 a background check and then they're finally approved by  
20 the Secretary. And we're hoping this year to have those  
21 vacancies filled faster, announced sooner and -- so  
22 people, new people, get a chance to review material and  
23 be brought up to speed in advance of the winter RAC  
24 meetings. So again we're trying to do all we can on  
25 that.

26  
27 I also wanted to say just a few updates  
28 on the Federal subsistence review. As many of you know  
29 it was about two years ago to the day when Secretary  
30 Salazar announced to the AFN convention his intention to  
31 do a review of the subsistence program. That was done,  
32 a lot of that work was handled out of my office here in  
33 Anchorage. And then about a year ago recommendations  
34 from the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of  
35 Interior came out. Many of those were directed to the  
36 Board and about a year ago they started their review  
37 process. I have to say I think they've made great  
38 progress on some of those issues that apply directly to  
39 the Board and in turn I think they've got back out to the  
40 RACs looking for input on some specific topics and they  
41 are very much involved, I think, in reviewing some of  
42 these issues that have been raised by RACs and others  
43 over the years.

44  
45 One recommendation in particular required  
46 a change of regulation and that was the Secretary's  
47 intent to increase the Federal Subsistence Board by  
48 adding two public members who had personal knowledge of  
49 and experience with subsistence uses in rural Alaska.  
50 And there was a -- the regulation was published, it was

1 reviewed, many RACs commented on it, the Board commented  
2 on it, there was then some changes made in the wording of  
3 the final proposal, it was published, it's final. The  
4 Secretary announced a few weeks ago a call for  
5 nominations and Alaska for those two public member seats.  
6 That application period closes at the end of this month.  
7 And we have received, you know, a number of applications  
8 and recommendations, but I sure want to encourage anybody  
9 who's interested or nominations from folks such as  
10 yourself of people who might be good candidates for the  
11 two public seats to turn in your application or  
12 nomination. There's a website, I think you can reach  
13 through your -- either through my office, but also I  
14 think there's a link on your -- the Fish and Wildlife  
15 Office of Subsistence Management website so that you can  
16 go to see what the criteria are and where to send  
17 applications or nominations. So we encourage people to  
18 do that. The hope would be that two public members would  
19 be named and approved and seated prior to the winter  
20 Federal Subsistence Board meeting where they're going to  
21 take up the next regulatory cycle. So that would be the  
22 hope and I think the Secretaries, both of Agriculture and  
23 Interior, felt that the Board needed more local, rural  
24 input beyond that that now as you all know that it's  
25 mostly composed, except for the Chair, of Federal agency  
26 heads in Alaska. And that was one of the things in the  
27 review that we heard so often was a need for more input  
28 from local, rural subsistence users.

29  
30 So, Mr. Chairs, that -- unless the people  
31 have questions, that's about it for me.

32  
33 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

34  
35 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Well, thank you,  
36 Pat.

37  
38 Roy.

39  
40 MR. R. NAGEAK: Thank you. I'm hearing  
41 from Jewell, our representative, in regards to the voice  
42 of the people that must be heard that are going to be  
43 impacted by what's happening on a statewide basis. With  
44 most of the resources are from the northwest and from the  
45 northern region, supplying 95 percent of the State  
46 revenue to run the government and how we from a statewide  
47 perspective, our voice that need to be heard in how all  
48 this activity by the oil companies, whether it's on land  
49 or on Federal waters, how our need to be heard is being  
50 diminished by the doing away with the coastal zone

1 management, management that was needed, that's helped us,  
2 that we as the people that will be impacted, our avenue  
3 to be heard is diminished greatly.

4  
5                   And on the Subsistence Board, the Federal  
6 government, there's always a need for that and so many  
7 different Federal divisions that are out there and how  
8 they used to be one or how our issues need to be heard  
9 are convoluted by so many different departments and when  
10 we want to ask a question we just get the phone tag of  
11 where our issues need to be heard. They're different and  
12 different Federal divisions address different issues that  
13 concerns us. It's like a phone tag, who will address  
14 this issue, who will address that issue from our  
15 perspective. And eventually the frustration goes to the  
16 point where we want Federal for our people, we want them  
17 in the Federal Boards, we want them in the Federal  
18 subsistence, but the frustration of -- already at my  
19 first meeting the frustrations of how we need to get our  
20 issues addressed and what are the rules and regulations  
21 for that matter, the statutes need to be changed or our  
22 issues need to be heard or our issues need to be instead  
23 of laws coming in in how to run our lives and what we  
24 need to hunt or what we need to eat, it need to be  
25 protected. Where the Federal government, especially  
26 tribes to the government to government issue where our  
27 help is needed and that's a (In Native) that need to be  
28 (In Native) how is it going to impact the native people  
29 that were here first. All these rules and regulations  
30 that tend to come from the State and the Federal  
31 government. The Federal government need to protect  
32 what our rights are as subsistence people and that's your  
33 issue on the table right now.

34  
35                   And with economic development and like I  
36 stated 95 percent of the revenues that the State uses to  
37 run their government come from Nana Region and the North  
38 Slope and we're the ones that are being impacted, but at  
39 the same time our voice is being diminished. And there's  
40 rules and regulations that's really impacting the way  
41 that our life used to be and this -- you got to go  
42 through the quota, you got to go through the limits, it's  
43 all the rules and regulations that you need to comply  
44 with something, the way that we used to live and it's  
45 being impacted greatly. And that's our concern is where  
46 does it stop. Eventually it's going to happen the way  
47 that the native Americans were impacted by the  
48 association of the greater society. And within our area  
49 where money drove almost to extinction the bowhead whale  
50 and almost our people nearly died off, but they came back

1 and the bowhead whale came back too. But now there's a  
2 different economic development with -- associated with  
3 money again that wants to draw that oil out, but at the  
4 same time it will affect the animals that we eat, it will  
5 -- it's already impacted Nuiqsut with the caribou and  
6 with what they have done within that small village. So  
7 these are things that we need to start dealing with, our  
8 way of life. And like I stated the Federal government  
9 has convoluted, so divided into different divisions that  
10 it don't address some of the issues that need to be  
11 addressed.

12

13 So from that perspective and you could  
14 see the frustration of people not wanting to be in  
15 subsistence council because it's like a -- they say it's  
16 like evolving and convoluting and it keep moving and it  
17 all -- seems like the State and Federal government just  
18 want to control what we do, our way of life and in some  
19 cases to stop it. But at the same time we're the ones  
20 that are being impacted by the economic development  
21 that's happening and it's on a nationwide basis, they're  
22 looking at the North Slope for their energy. Every so  
23 often they say that, Obama says that the North Slope is  
24 where it's going to come from.

25

26 And one small issue is that in the lower  
27 48 they're on the -- a lot of the southern states there's  
28 impact aid for offshore development and stuff and I don't  
29 see that in Alaska, whether that is something that need  
30 to be addressed is how it will impact. If there's going  
31 to be impact for the northern section of the state then  
32 we the people that are impacted need to have the same  
33 thing that the lower 48 states that are impacted by  
34 Federal oil offshore or oil activity that they get  
35 certain form of revenue to offset some of the impact.  
36 I've forgotten what states get it by offshore  
37 Federal.....

38

39 MR. POURCHOT: Yeah, Louisiana, I know  
40 does get some.

41

42 MR. R. NAGEAK: So that's just.....

43

44 MR. POURCHOT: Mr. Nageak, I appreciate  
45 your frustrations. I mean, I think we all see this in  
46 our lives about there's so many different agencies and so  
47 many different programs. And I know on the North Slope  
48 and the Northwest you -- even from my Department you see  
49 multiple people, you know, from different agencies coming  
50 around and talking about different programs and wanting

1 different input for different things, whether it's OCS  
2 or NPR-A or the Arctic Refuge conservation plan or -- I  
3 mean, that's just in the north and, of course, you  
4 multiply that out by other agencies and other parts of  
5 the state, it absolutely gets to be a -- kind of  
6 bewildering array of different regulatory schemes. I  
7 think from our Department standpoint we are working real  
8 hard at at least making sure that our agencies do come to  
9 local people and to local villages and towns in Alaska  
10 and hold public meetings to give an opportunity for  
11 input. And I think that's an important connection at  
12 least to have for local people to voice concerns.  
13 Obviously that -- you know, it's a big world out there  
14 and there -- you know, there's different input from  
15 different places whether it's Anchorage or Washington,  
16 D.C. or everywhere in between, but I agree, I think we  
17 have to try as hard as we can to try to bridge that  
18 connection between the people who are most affected by  
19 some of these actions and programs.

20

21 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Mike.

22

23 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, my name's Mike Kramer  
24 from Kotzebue. Over the years that I've been, you know,  
25 within this great state of Alaska I've noticed a big  
26 issue in global warming and it's really impacted our  
27 area. Along with now, you know, Reggie Jewell said that  
28 they're going to start looking at transportation things  
29 out there, ships and stuff like that. Now we're going to  
30 have oil drilling and it's going to be a big impact on  
31 our coastal waters. And it's going to be a big impact on  
32 our coastal and subsistence way of life. And if it has  
33 a drastic impact then we ain't going to get it back. I  
34 can remember my dad -- my dad is white, I'm half native,  
35 I just live the best of both worlds. My dad said that  
36 when Park Service first stepped foot in the Northwest  
37 Arctic, they said that we were just going to be here.  
38 Now they walk up into your camp and then they interrogate  
39 you right there on the gravel bars or up in your camp.  
40 You know, my dad said eventually they're going to take a  
41 little away at a time and where do we have the say where  
42 that taking a little away at a time is going to stop.  
43 And it's going to have to stop because look, that is our  
44 land, you know. That's a big impact on our lifestyle, we  
45 need to be able to have a permit process where this Shell  
46 offshore drilling, if they say we're going to go out  
47 there and drill, well, you got to get a permit from  
48 Kotzebue, Wales, Nome, Barrow, Wainwright, Point Hope and  
49 you have to have a rural Advisory Council have full vote  
50 on it. If one person does not vote on it, it doesn't

1 happen. You know, just like the Red Dog thing, that  
2 threatened to shut down the Red Dog. We need to have  
3 something like that that protects our waters because when  
4 the bowhead whales are gone they aren't coming back.  
5 When the belugas are gone, they aren't coming back.  
6 Polar bears are gone, you know, it's going to take a lot  
7 to get them back. And it's going to take many, many  
8 years. I might not even be able to live through that  
9 cycle. But, you know, that kind of an impact on our  
10 subsistence way of life, that is why we have a say so in  
11 it and, you know, with the Secretary of Interior should  
12 be able to stand behind our say so because we live there,  
13 he doesn't.

14

15 And that's all I have to say.

16

17 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.

18

19 MR. HALL: Fred Hall (ph) in Homer. I  
20 came to share with you, but I think I'm going to refrain  
21 from making any comments right now.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MR. HALL: I'm going to unbutton my  
26 sleeves and roll them up.

27

28 Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

29

30 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Harry, I just wanted  
31 to say thank you, Pat, your presence and your role has  
32 made a difference in the way activities have occurred.  
33 And I appreciate the work you have put forward in a good  
34 way.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MR. POURCHOT: Thank you, Rosemary.

39

40 CO CHAIR BROWER: So we'll go ahead with  
41 our next agenda item with the -- starting with the  
42 presentation.

43

44 Don, you might want to help introduce the  
45 person that's.....

46

47 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
48 next presenter is Greg Balogh. He's from the Climate  
49 Change Office. And, Mr. Balogh, you can introduce  
50 yourself now.



1 MR. BALOGH: Chairman Brower, Chairman  
2 Schaeffer, good morning. My name is Greg Balogh, I'm  
3 with the Arctic Landscape Conservation Cooperative. And  
4 you probably have no idea what that is, but at the end of  
5 my presentation hopefully you'll have a better idea and  
6 if you don't then I didn't do my job very well.

7  
8 Just by way of further introduction of  
9 myself, I came up to Alaska straight out of college in  
10 1986 and I got dropped off by helicopter on the Shaviovik  
11 River on May 31st and I was there for about five hours  
12 before we had our first grizzly bear encounter. And our  
13 bosses told us we would never see a grizzly bear all  
14 summer, I think we saw 11 of them in the first week. So  
15 your previous discussion was of interest to me.

16  
17 So like I said I'm going to be talking to  
18 you today about Alaska's landscape conservation  
19 cooperatives. And these are mechanisms, partnerships  
20 that were set up to address climate science needs and  
21 climate related management needs in Alaska. They were  
22 set up by the Department of Interior, Secretary Salazar  
23 in a Secretarial order. And he directed all Interior  
24 agencies to work with states and tribal governments to  
25 address landscape level changes, especially climate  
26 changes. And the LCCs are one outgrowth of that  
27 Secretarial order and the USGS climate science centers  
28 are another outgrowth of that order.

29  
30  
31 So some of the big picture Arctic issues  
32 that we're looking at in Alaska that I'm sure you are  
33 well familiar with is a reduction in seasonal sea ice,  
34 increase in coastal erosion that partly results as a --  
35 partly is a consequence of that sea ice reduction. Also  
36 with lack of sea ice in the fall or delayed formation of  
37 sea ice in the fall there's increased opportunities for  
38 flooding and storm surges. We have thawing ground ice  
39 and permafrost, glaciers over in the Arctic Refuge are  
40 projected to disappear by the end of the century. These  
41 polygon rims when they formed were covered with sedges  
42 and now they're covered with alder shrubs. And that is  
43 a manifestation of the northward creep of shrubs into the  
44 tundra. The Anaktuvuk River fire is an example of what  
45 we may see more of in the future as rain pattern changes  
46 and drought conditions increase. That was a quarter  
47 million acre fire, it was the biggest tundra fire in the  
48 U.S. and put more carbon back into the atmosphere than  
49 all of the circumpolar tundra was able to sequester as  
50 carbon in that entire year. And then there's the issue

1 of food safety. You see ice cellars that have worked for  
2 hundreds of years on the North Slope that are beginning  
3 to fail and they're not preserving food the way they used  
4 to. And that's another very important manifestation of  
5 climate change that has to hit home with residents of the  
6 North Slope.

7  
8 If you just look at just the temperature  
9 trends in the lower 48, temperatures are projected to  
10 increase one degree Fahrenheit by the end of the century.  
11 If you look at Alaska statewide we're looking at five  
12 times that. And if you look up at Barrow, we're looking  
13 at seven times that national rate of temperature  
14 increase. The northern part of the North Slope is  
15 changing faster than just about anywhere else in North  
16 America and as fast as anywhere in the world. So you  
17 guys are pretty much at ground zero for climate change,  
18 it's going to hit you harder and faster than anyone else.

19  
20 So finally what are LCCs, what will they  
21 do. Like I said management partnership -- management  
22 science partnerships, we have conservation goals that we  
23 want to identify, we have four conservation goals that we  
24 are addressing and one of them is to address the needs of  
25 subsistence users in northern Alaska. And we want to  
26 address the science information needs that all of the  
27 land managers, BLM, Park Service, the State, Fish and  
28 Wildlife Service, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, all  
29 the information needs that they have, that they need to  
30 deal with climate change. And we want to improve the  
31 understanding of habitat and populations as they respond  
32 to climate driven changes in the ecosystem as a whole.

33  
34 These are the borderlines for the LCCs,  
35 landscape conservation cooperatives, in Alaska. And if  
36 you look at the thumbnail in the upper right-hand corner  
37 you can see that the Arctic LCC that's purplish extends  
38 well over into Canada, taking virtually all of Noorvik.  
39 The northwest Interior forest bleeds over into Canada,  
40 the Yukon Territories, Northwest Territories and --  
41 what's the other province there, Yukon, Northwest,  
42 Alberta, I'm not sure, and Western Alaska which covers  
43 from Kotzebue down to Kodiak and out to Unalaska and then  
44 the Aleutian Bering Sea LCC which takes in all of the  
45 islands up to St. Lawrence Island down to the Aleutians  
46 and then the North Pacific which is an LCC that actually  
47 extends from Homer all the way down to Northern  
48 California.

49  
50 I'm going to talk a little bit about the

1 Arctic Landscape Conservation Cooperative now with is the  
2 one that I'm in charge of, I'm the coordinator for it.  
3 We have a Steering Committee that basically drives this  
4 LCC. These are the entities that decide ultimately what  
5 projects we're going to focus on, what information needs  
6 we're going to address. And this is where we're looking  
7 to get more tribal input at the Steering Committee level.  
8 And I'll get to some slides a little bit to show what we  
9 are doing to try and engage the tribes in this process.  
10 But right now you can see that we've got NOAA, Fish and  
11 Game, BLM, Arctic Research Commission, Bureau of Ocean  
12 Energy Management which used to be NMS, Park Service,  
13 Fish and Wildlife Service and USGS serving on the  
14 Steering Committee, the main decision making body for  
15 this LCC.

16

17                   And then we've got technical working  
18 groups which are just groups of experts in different  
19 subject matter areas. So we've got permafrost experts,  
20 coastal process work experts, climate modeling experts,  
21 species and habitat experts. And six groups like that.  
22 And these are the entities that are feeding into those  
23 technical working groups. And anyone, anywhere that has  
24 technical expertise on the topics that we are focused on  
25 is welcome to participate in any of our working groups.  
26 And we welcome that input.

27

28                   We received about a million dollars in  
29 project funding over the past couple of years, a little  
30 bit more than that actually. And the Steering Company  
31 decides how to spend that money. And what we've done  
32 thus far is we've received proposals and reviewed them  
33 and decided on which ones were best and then these were  
34 the entities that we've funded for various studies which  
35 include Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, North  
36 Slope Science Initiative, couple of entities that I'm  
37 sure you're familiar with, Nature Conservancy, Beyond  
38 Wilderness Society, the Universities get a big chunk of  
39 our money. I think the allocation was about 40 percent  
40 that went to agencies to do various studies, 40 percent  
41 that went to the universities and then the remaining 20  
42 percent went to the nonprofit organizations that are  
43 listed up there like Wilderness Society, Wildlife  
44 Conservation Society and Alaska Native Tribal Health  
45 Consortium.

46

47                   And so if you just look at all of our  
48 partners together that's what we've got and all of us are  
49 working together to form this one Arctic Landscape  
50 Conservation Cooperative. We have no regulatory

1 authority, no management authority, we're in the business  
2 of providing information to the people that need that  
3 information to make good decisions in the face of climate  
4 change. And that's our business.

5  
6 We're in our second operational year,  
7 we've got all of our governance documents, charters and  
8 policies in order. We're working on a strategic science  
9 plan so that we can be a little bit more focused in how  
10 we address the projects that we fund now and into the  
11 future, but right now we're looking at 35 projects that  
12 we've funded in the past two years and just in this past  
13 year 1.3 million that we had was able to leverage \$3  
14 million in addressing climate related projects in the  
15 Arctic.

16  
17 I covered the Steering Committee already  
18 and I spoke to the working groups already. We're trying  
19 to engage the tribes in this way thus far. We know of 12  
20 Arctic tribes, tribes that exist in Alaska within the  
21 Arctic LCC. We want their participation on the steering  
22 committee, we would like their participation in the  
23 technical working groups, we would welcome proposals that  
24 we received from the tribes and as partners in any  
25 capacity in which the tribes would like to participate.  
26 We sent out information packets in August to all of the  
27 tribes, we've been making follow-up phone calls since  
28 then, we've been unable to reach four of the tribes to  
29 date and so we've sent out follow-up emails to those  
30 tribes saying that we've been unable to contact you,  
31 please contact us if you would like to participate in  
32 this process. The other tribes that we have made contact  
33 with are taking the information that we sent to their  
34 tribal councils and they're going to discuss it in the  
35 tribal council setting to decide how they would like to  
36 participate in this LCC.

37  
38 The North Slope Borough has a seat  
39 waiting for it at the Steering Committee table and  
40 eventually we're going to seek some First Nation input  
41 when Canada becomes more of an active participant in this  
42 LCC.

43  
44 So I don't know how much time I want to  
45 spend on this slide. These are just some of the -- it's  
46 kind of a sell job on what the Arctic LCC is doing.  
47 We're creating synergies, we're trying to bring like  
48 different scientists together that have studies that are  
49 sort of related, but not and we get them working together  
50 and then those two studies working together are going to

1 produce a product that's better than what they would have  
2 produced independently. And we've been able to do that  
3 on several projects thus far. We're creating  
4 efficiencies by planting people in different field camps  
5 that are able to address more than one study at a time so  
6 that we have fewer field camps out there and each field  
7 camp is multifunctional. We're facilitating permitting  
8 by creating some data bases where people don't have to --  
9 people that are like writing NEPA documents or doing  
10 Endangered Species Act consultations, they don't have to  
11 go all over the place looking for the data, they just go  
12 to these central data bases and get everything they need.  
13 And then we're providing management tools and one  
14 management tool that we've come up with date is the -- a  
15 lake drainage model that I'll go over in detail here in  
16 a few moments.

17  
18 So if you just look at all the projects  
19 that we've funded in this past year they can kind of fall  
20 out into these four groupings, studies that address human  
21 systems, biological, landscape and then geophysical  
22 systems. And an example of the human system.....

23  
24 Sure. Go ahead.

25  
26 MR. KOONUK: When you talk about funding  
27 these, are these long term, short term projects you're  
28 looking at?

29  
30 MR. BALOGH: Well, the maximum time that  
31 we are allowed to fund a project under the Federal  
32 contracting rules is five years. Many of the projects  
33 are set up to just go for one or two field seasons.

34  
35 MR. KOONUK: So you think climate change  
36 is going to change after five years.....

37  
38 MR. BALOGH: Climate change is going to  
39 continue.....

40  
41 MR. KOONUK: .....as far as funding?

42  
43 MR. BALOGH: Oh, absolutely, but we won't  
44 be done after five years, we'll just be readdressing.....

45  
46 MR. KOONUK: Well, maybe you should look  
47 at a long range, maybe 10, 20 year project, you know, not  
48 five years because, you know, climate change is going to  
49 be -- it exists now.

50

1 MR. BALOGH: That's an excellent point.  
2 And our strategic science plan is going to get us to  
3 that, where we will identify the areas of focus that we  
4 want to spent, 10, 15, 20 years looking at. We'll have  
5 to do that piecemeal in five year chunks just because of  
6 Federal contracting rules, but we would be able to focus  
7 on that for an extended period of time.  
8  
9 So the human system, the rural Alaska  
10 monitoring program is looking at background, there's  
11 zoonotic diseases, diseases that exist in subsistence  
12 wildlife and other forms of wildlife that humans can  
13 contract by coming into contact with those animals. So  
14 if you kill a sick animal you can catch what that animal  
15 has and an example of that would be brucelloses. And so  
16 the RAMP program is working with natives to get blood  
17 samples from subsistence caught animals and screen them  
18 for the presence of these zoonotic diseases so we can get  
19 a baseline idea where these diseases are now and whether  
20 they're spreading northward or becoming more common as  
21 the climate changes.  
22  
23 And that's basically just everything that  
24 I said.  
25  
26 Outcome. Outcome could be  
27 recommendations on changes in harvest practices or timing  
28 if you want to avoid diseased animals or suggesting which  
29 species are more likely to have the disease relative to  
30 others. And you can see in the inside of the photo up  
31 there is a caribou leg that has a lesion on it that's  
32 caused by brucelloses.  
33  
34 A management tool that we produced is the  
35 lake drainage model where we are looking at the  
36 vulnerability of lakes on the North Slope to drainage  
37 because of climate change. So as the climate becomes  
38 warmer, the depth that the tundra thaws every summer  
39 becomes a little bit thicker. And as that thaw layer  
40 increases in depth you get more ways for lakes to create  
41 drainage channels. And you can -- and different small  
42 streams can change their flow pattern more easily as that  
43 thaw layer thickens. And lakes have a higher probability  
44 of becoming tapped especially as certain lakes grow in  
45 size due to wave induced erosion of their lake banks.  
46  
47 And so this model, for instance, predicts  
48 that at the current rate of lake drainage on the left,  
49 that's about what you would expect in the way of lake  
50 drainage in the next 100 years -- I'm sorry, by the end

1 of this century. But on the right if you just take --  
2 with climate change if you assume that the lake drainage  
3 rate doubles, you get between six and nine times the  
4 number of lakes that would be draining up on the North  
5 Slope. And that would certainly affect fishery sources,  
6 it would affect all of the bird species that use those  
7 larger lakes and those changes would -- could cascade  
8 down to subsistence users.

9

10 And what this map gives you is a feel for  
11 the distribution of those lakes as well.

12

13 CO CHAIR BROWER: I have a question.

14

15 MR. BALOGH: Yes.

16

17 CO CHAIR BROWER: Just for clarification  
18 you're indicating that these -- the lake drainage  
19 wouldn't mean that the lake's emptying into a stream?

20

21 MR. BALOGH: Sometimes they empty into a  
22 stream, sometimes they're consumed by another lake.

23

24 CO CHAIR BROWER: And then they would --  
25 they remain dry?

26

27 MR. BALOGH: Yes.

28

29 CO CHAIR BROWER: And that's a projection  
30 of what's happen in climate change?

31

32 MR. BALOGH: Well, I mean, it's been  
33 happening all along. If you look at aerial photos you  
34 can see drained lake basins all over the places. And  
35 they drain at a rate of about two lakes per year on  
36 average historically in this study area. But we're  
37 saying that if the projected climate changes continue as  
38 is and if the lake expansion rate just doubles, for  
39 instance, and we're not saying it's going to double, but  
40 if it did double this is what you'd get. If it tripled  
41 we could model what you would get. If the lake expansion  
42 rate went down we could tell you what you would get with  
43 this model.

44

45 CO CHAIR BROWER: So to follow-up with my  
46 comment there. In regards to our use patterns of where  
47 we did our fishing before in those lakes that are  
48 draining, we -- our patterns would basically be changed  
49 to where there -- the presence of lakes and the use of  
50 those lakes by the fish.

1 MR. BALOGH: Right. And this model.....  
2  
3 CO CHAIR BROWER: And there'd be a  
4 shifting.  
5  
6 MR. BALOGH: Yes. So this model could  
7 actually tell you where those more stable lake systems  
8 are, ones that are already connected to drainage systems  
9 so they've already basically drained to whatever level  
10 they're going to drain to and they're stable, they won't  
11 dry out.  
12  
13 CO CHAIR BROWER: Another follow-up  
14 because I'm questioning. In regards to this research  
15 when do you expect to bring this information out to the  
16 general public, our constituents, I mean, we see -- it's  
17 good that you shared with us, but we don't carry this  
18 information and knowledge with us and yet there's a lot  
19 of our constituents that are not even informed of this  
20 research and the projections that are set.....  
21  
22 MR. BALOGH: Right.  
23  
24 CO CHAIR BROWER: .....presented here.  
25  
26  
27 MR. BALOGH: So you guys are the very  
28 first people to see the results of this study because I  
29 just got it about two weeks ago. And we were at the  
30 North Slope Science Initiatives science conference this  
31 past winter in Barrow and we had five posters up there  
32 that were giving preliminary results of some studies that  
33 we'd funded and we'll continue to do efforts like that.  
34 We will -- we have as part of our granting requirements  
35 that the investigators needs to report back with some  
36 form of outreach and in many instances that isn't the --  
37 entails the investigators going back out to communities  
38 to report their results. So we are cognizant, we are  
39 aware of the fact that you guys need to hear the results  
40 of all this research that's going on and that's built  
41 into our system.  
42  
43 CO CHAIR BROWER: But then when is that  
44 going to be applied.....  
45  
46 MR. BALOGH: Well.....  
47  
48  
49 CO CHAIR BROWER: .....I mean, it's  
50 written in there, but.....



1 MR. BALOGH: Right.  
2  
3 CO CHAIR BROWER: .....when do you apply  
4 it?  
5  
6 MR. BALOGH: As the results come in. And  
7 so this study here is one -- it's actually the very first  
8 study in which we have final results and we just got them  
9 a couple of weeks ago. And all the other studies are  
10 still ongoing, some of them just received their funding  
11 a couple of months ago so they're just starting.  
12  
13 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.  
14  
15 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: I have a question.  
16 At what point do you start to factor in the changes in  
17 animal behavior which will result in changes in human  
18 behavior, you know, in terms of the need for traditional  
19 foods and, you know, the history of taking.  
20  
21 MR. BALOGH: That's a good question and  
22 we're struggling with that question. The approach that  
23 we've taken thus far is the belief that we can't jump  
24 right to how climate change is going to affect the  
25 animals until we understand how the climate is going to  
26 affect the land upon which the animals depend. And so  
27 we're looking at -- we're starting off looking primarily,  
28 but not exclusively, at the geophysical processes that  
29 are going up there, how climate change is affecting  
30 permafrost, lake distribution, coastal erosion, that  
31 would affect food resources for migrating birds, for  
32 instance. And when we get a better handle on those  
33 physical processes, I think we can better model what is  
34 going to happen to the animal populations. Now getting  
35 down to the level of climate change affects animal  
36 behavior, I see that as a ways off before we can make  
37 that leap.  
38  
39 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: The other -- the  
40 reason I bring that question up is that we are noting  
41 significant behavioral change like I say with our Western  
42 Arctic Caribou Herd. And then, of course, with the  
43 diminishing ice, what impact that's going to have on  
44 certain species of marine mammals since, you know,  
45 they're not only threatened by weather, climate change,  
46 but also by the process of what the multinational  
47 companies are going to be doing in terms of development  
48 and that kind of thing. So is that information to be  
49 shared with those entities that are potentially going to  
50 affect the -- our way of life?

1 MR. BALOGH: So the behavior changes of  
2 walruses and ice seals, those are, I guess, rather  
3 obvious behavioral changes that are affected by climate  
4 changes. And our LCC hasn't been directly involved in  
5 any projects having to do with those species yet because  
6 they've been addressed by other entities already. So our  
7 Marine Mammals Program and NOAA Fishery -- NOAA -- I  
8 guess NOAA Fisheries.

9  
10 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: In the arena of  
11 changes to the physical earth itself with changes in ice  
12 patterns like say Kivalina and several other villages, is  
13 there going to be measurements of any sort related to  
14 what's happening from curustrial (ph) changes by local  
15 observation or is that going to be something to offer  
16 this groups from the tribes in terms of what their  
17 observations are and what resulting concern may arise  
18 from those?

19  
20 MR. BALOGH: Yeah, we're all -- we're  
21 absolutely looking for local observations and the Western  
22 Alaska LCC actually did a -- I think it was a five  
23 village tour just last winter where they visited key  
24 villages looking for testimony as to observe changes and  
25 I accompanied them up to Kotzebue which was the -- sort  
26 of on the borderline between our two LCCs and listened to  
27 what was said up there. I also listened to a number of  
28 people describing changes that they've noticed when I was  
29 at the North Slope Science Initiative meeting in Barrow  
30 this past winter. And as we engage with the tribes  
31 that's the kind of input that we will absolutely be  
32 seeking, especially as we go out and visit with tribal  
33 councils.

34  
35 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: I think we  
36 appreciate that, but what I was getting at with my  
37 earlier question was the changes in animal behavior that  
38 run into somewhat a static regulatory system or  
39 regulations sometimes are really slow to change to  
40 accommodate, you know, changes in animal and human  
41 behavior. So I was wondering if some of this data is  
42 going to be generated by some of the tribal entities to  
43 reenforce, you know, what our concerns are in terms of  
44 where things are going. I think for the previous  
45 thousands of years the Inupiat of the north has probably  
46 had the smallest carbon footprint of any race on the face  
47 of the earth, yet now we're faced with the changes by  
48 carbon emissions from the emerging nations' economics,  
49 you know, China, they already -- horrendous output of  
50 carbon dust from the industrialized world and now we're

1 faced with the prospects of suffering the direct  
2 consequences first. And I was just kind of curious as to  
3 how this information is going to be guiding the science  
4 to speed up the process of coming to some conclusion that  
5 something different's going to have to be done here.

6  
7 MR. BALOGH: So part of what the LCC does  
8 is we solicit that input from people through our  
9 technical working groups, through Steering Committee  
10 representation and through our partners groups. That  
11 will inform the Steering Committee, tell them what other  
12 people out there think is important, what we should be  
13 focusing on as far as our research goes. And if we hear  
14 loud and clear that there's some aspect of caribou  
15 behavior that is being altered by some aspect of climate  
16 change and there's information that a regulatory agency  
17 needs in order to make a good regulatory decision, that's  
18 exactly the kind of task that the LCC is willing to step  
19 in and undertake, to provide the information, not to  
20 draft the regulations, not to even make recommendations  
21 as to what the regulations should be, but to provide the  
22 information that the decision making bodies need to make  
23 a good decision.

24  
25 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair. I think what  
26 Pete is trying to drive at is who's going to be impacted  
27 by the studies that you are doing. What's the outcome of  
28 say your conservation study on the lakes. What will that  
29 stop.

30  
31 MR. BALOGH: Oh, so if you're looking to  
32 the LCCs to figure out how to stop climate change.....

33  
34 MR. R. NAGEAK: I mean, what's the point  
35 of the study.

36  
37 MR. BALOGH: To figure out how to adapt  
38 to climate change.

39  
40 MR. R. NAGEAK: For us to adapt to more  
41 rules and regulations for conservation.

42  
43 MR. BALOGH: I would say for everybody in  
44 North America to adapt.

45  
46 MR. R. NAGEAK: No, it's our region  
47 that's being studied. Usually conservation really scares  
48 me a lot because when studies are being done like this  
49 and what should be changed, it's usually our way of life  
50 that is being changed, not the people that causes the

1 problem. And that's got to be switched around. We're  
2 the ones that are being impacted by what's happening in  
3 the rest of the world that's using fossil fuel. And now  
4 when the studies are being done and how our animals in  
5 that region are being done, and then we're the ones that  
6 need to be regulated when the ones that -- the people  
7 that are damaging the world or doing the climate change  
8 are not being impacted. You got to turn it around, you  
9 got to tell the rest of the world and nobody believes it,  
10 Washington, D.C. people don't believe it. So you got to  
11 turn that change around. When I see conservation and  
12 studies like these being done then it shows that's why we  
13 need to control more of what you're taking from what you  
14 subsist from. Unless there's a shift in dynamics that  
15 when global warming and you guys are doing on the study  
16 what will the studies do to stop what is happening with  
17 climate change.

18

19 MR. BALOGH: So when I.....

20

21 MR. R. NAGEAK: So what you just showed  
22 me, how will that impact the people that makes the rules  
23 and regulations or what is it going to stop with what's  
24 happening within our world. You're a minute thing that's  
25 happening in this earth, we're minute, but the more we  
26 see it, where the changes that are happening in our  
27 climate, they're trying to ask -- tell us that because of  
28 the changes like, for instance, with the polar bear,  
29 right away we saw within my region there's going to be  
30 just hundreds and hundreds of miles of conservation area,  
31 where the polar bear habitat needs to be. Who decided on  
32 that, who decided that this is a area, many miles of area  
33 within the North Slope of Alaska that will be like  
34 habitat there, who decided on that one. Who recommended  
35 that one. It just came out of the blue. And that really  
36 irked me because I said wow, they could do that for the  
37 polar bear, that somebody somewhere says this is the many  
38 hundreds of miles of habitat that the polar bear needs.  
39 And it made me wonder where were they when we were being  
40 impacted already, that the Inupiat need this large area  
41 of land to subsist out of. They gave that consideration  
42 for the polar bear, right away, many miles offshore or  
43 inland these will be designated as needed by the polar  
44 bear to survive. And that the Inupiat need to ask the  
45 question where is our area needed -- that need -- need  
46 not to be impacted for our subsistence way of life. And  
47 that Inupiat need to question on studies like these  
48 especially. And conservation really scares me. That's  
49 where we're the ones that always get impacted by the  
50 limitation of animals or the way that we hunt because

1 conservation is something that you can't touch. And that  
2 really -- all these studies that are being done, to  
3 testify that there'll be no more sports hunting within  
4 our region would be good for me. Because we're competing  
5 with something in our subsistence way of life that makes  
6 money for other people. And that's why conservation to  
7 me, when you get this right, it will allow for us to  
8 testify that we don't need no sports hunting within these  
9 areas so that our own people could live and survive just  
10 like they kind of did for the polar bear. Designated  
11 this -- all these areas, miles of land so the polar bear  
12 could survive. Where were you guys when somebody or the  
13 Federal government or somebody with powers to say the  
14 Inupiat and their subsistence way of life need all these  
15 areas and many miles to survive cannot be changed for  
16 their own way of life. And that they did it for the  
17 polar bears, they never did it for us, the Inupiat. So  
18 when conservation and stuff like that it scares me unless  
19 there's a end result that's supposed to stop something.  
20 And what is it that you're stopping through the  
21 designation of climate study, through the designations of  
22 climate change, what are you trying to stop.

23

24 MR. BALOGH: So this is one study of 36.  
25 Let me give you an example that you might like a little  
26 bit better. We're doing -- and it has to do with polar  
27 bears where we are bringing together polar bear  
28 biologists, snow physicists and geospacial modelers. And  
29 what they're doing is they're bringing all their skills  
30 together to figure out given a set of prevailing weather  
31 conditions, where that year you're likely to see maternal  
32 polar bear dens on the tundra. And they can model --  
33 when they're done they'll be able to model that, develop  
34 a map that shows where you're most likely to see polar  
35 bear dens and then within the oilfields they can route  
36 ice roads and oil facilities to avoid affecting those  
37 polar bears during their maternal denning period. And so  
38 that would be an example of a project that is making a  
39 conservation difference to animals upon which you depend  
40 and wouldn't be impacting subsistence users at all.

41

42 So hopefully we're getting at some things  
43 that will help subsistence users because it's one of our  
44 four conservation goals is to help the indigenous people  
45 to learn to adapt to the changing conditions or to -- I'm  
46 sorry, to provide the tools that they need to make the  
47 decisions that need to be made during the adaption  
48 process.

49

50 MR. R. NAGEAK: I've got a question

1 again. You've set aside areas and if you've learned  
2 where their denning areas are then there won't be --  
3 they'll kind of steer away from that so there'll be less  
4 impact. So if I've got a subsistence area that I need to  
5 survive out of, you'll have the same courtesy for me as  
6 you did for the polar bear.

7

8 MR. BALOGH: Like I said the LCCs are  
9 into providing the information, not making the  
10 regulations. So whenever there's a regulatory need or a  
11 management need, any kind of decision need that's out  
12 there and information is lacking, then LCCs are supposed  
13 to be able to help address that need.

14

15 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, you talk about polar  
16 bears, what about the other animals that migrate and when  
17 you have offshore activity, are you going to tell the oil  
18 companies or are they here to listen to the issues that  
19 we're concerned about and you are providing this  
20 information, they should be here to listen and to make  
21 sure that they follow these -- you know, the -- whatever  
22 information you are giving them. My goodness, you know,  
23 we're the people that's going to be affected. And the  
24 companies are going to just come and go. And not only  
25 the polar bear that do migrate from, you know, south to  
26 north, but we have the whale, walrus, seals and  
27 everything else that, you know, will be affected out  
28 there.

29

30 MR. BALOGH: So yeah, the oil companies  
31 aren't here today, but they are present in venues where  
32 we're presenting. And we're in fairly close contact with  
33 representatives of BP and ConocoPhillips.

34

35 MR. KOONUK: You're telling all this --  
36 you know, all the studies you are doing, certify what  
37 studies and I don't see one person from, you know, the  
38 oil companies out here listening. I mean, they should be  
39 gathering this information because this is people that  
40 sit in this body here are being affected. So, you  
41 know.....

42

43 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: What type of studies  
44 are you doing out in the sea ice right now?

45

46 MR. BALOGH: You know, that's an  
47 excellent question. The LCCs nationally, this is a  
48 national network, there's 22 LCCs that exist nationwide  
49 so it covers all of the United States and much of Canada,  
50 five of them are in Alaska. And I failed to mention that

1 at the beginning of my talk, but this is a national  
2 network. And there's a lot of discussion right now about  
3 how far out into the ocean we are going to extend our --  
4 I don't want to say our area of jurisdiction because we  
5 don't have any jurisdiction, but area of consideration,  
6 I guess. Some LCCs are stopping at the coast, some are  
7 going out to three miles, some are going out to the EEZ  
8 at 200 nautical miles. The one in Hawaii is going out  
9 beyond 200 miles in their scope of consideration. And  
10 there's no consistency. And there's discussion within  
11 Alaska about how far out to go and there's even some --  
12 well, there's a lot of disagreement even within our  
13 Steering Committee about how far out we should be  
14 considering. Some representatives say it should stop at  
15 the shore, others say it should go out to 200. And it's  
16 not been decided yet.

17  
18 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: You know, the reason  
19 I ask that question is in his presentation Representative  
20 Jewell mentioned the increased traffic lanes that will be  
21 creating in the Bering Strait, probably as we speak. And  
22 also a major concern is the development of the United  
23 States trying to play catchup in the ice breaking  
24 industry. As I understand it Norway and Russia and  
25 several other circumpolar nations including Canada are  
26 way ahead of the US of A. And the concern there is that  
27 if they intend to plow through the ice in the winter like  
28 it sounds like they want to do, then the concern for  
29 marine mammals and their areas of migration and areas of  
30 sea ice use will probably be severely impacted. So I  
31 think the -- in relation to the effect on the human  
32 being's piece of the research ought to consider taking a  
33 look at, you know, the entirety of the sea ice  
34 disappearance phenomena and what the impacts already has  
35 on the routing of traffic lanes for one thing and then,  
36 of course, the other is the offshore oil development that  
37 is also going to multiply given that the ice sheet is  
38 shrinking to a point where over in Greenland as I  
39 understand it they're practically giving away their  
40 resources just for the opportunity for development which  
41 I think -- thinking about a smelter over in Greenland is  
42 probably one of the dirtiest polluting devices ever  
43 invented by mankind when you're smelting aluminum or  
44 smelting any kind of ore to just add to the acceleration  
45 of the phenomena of the disappearance of not only sea  
46 ice, but glacial melt which got to be of major concern to  
47 some areas of the country and the world because that, in  
48 fact, is the entirety of their water source and, you  
49 know, who's to say what's going to happen if all of that  
50 disappears.

1                   And, I guess, from a national security  
2 standpoint would be the reaction of people and how  
3 they're going to be accommodating those changes which may  
4 be severe enough that it'll cause major changes in human  
5 habitation from what it sounds like already. And that's  
6 not only in the ice changing world, but also where major  
7 droughts have begun to happen throughout the globe. And  
8 I find that extremely disconcerting that we have  
9 multinational companies and using Pebble Mine as an  
10 example, begin to extract in areas of extreme sensitivity  
11 where, you know, some people have gone around the world  
12 looking for one mine -- mining activity that has kept its  
13 word in terms of containment of hazardous materials and  
14 all that kind of thing and to this date cannot find one  
15 that has -- you know, has not had major impact on the  
16 area that those extractions occur. But I'm concerned  
17 about the human side of it based on our use of marine  
18 mammals up here and because that's a staple of our  
19 existence to take those animals and make what we do out  
20 of them to survive as native people. And I think that  
21 recommendation ought to be that the extension of study  
22 include the -- what happens to the human beings in any  
23 given part of -- or the ice phenomena is happening.

24  
25                   MR. BALOGH: So, yeah, I share your  
26 concerns and I share your hope that this LCC and others  
27 will extend their area of consideration into the ocean  
28 because in the case of the Arctic issues related to  
29 seasonal ice and marine mammals are about most importance  
30 to the people up there and the reason that has been  
31 stated for us to not consider issues of marine influence  
32 is that other agencies such as BOEM and NOAA are already  
33 studying those phenomena, but the same could be said for  
34 agencies that have land trust resources, the LCC is  
35 working on the land where BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service  
36 and the State have already been studying things. And the  
37 whole notion of the LCC is to bring everyone together to  
38 the table because climate change is a big deal and no  
39 single agency is going to be able to make a difference on  
40 their own. The best we can hope for is to work  
41 collaboratively on solutions and that's sort of the whole  
42 spirit of the LCC.

43  
44                   Yes.

45  
46                   MR. KRAMER: About for the last five to  
47 eight years I've been dropping off somewhat of a relative  
48 of mine, his name is Ben Crosby, and he's a geologist  
49 from a college down south and he's been -- he's had  
50 several other colleges participate in this and they put



1 in for a grant and they pay me a drum of gas to go -- or  
2 more to go drop them off in specific areas within our  
3 region, up in the Noatak River, Selawik River, Arctic  
4 Circle, down the coast from Kotzebue and they do a lot of  
5 geological studies. They like -- up at Knap Creek for  
6 instance they've got time lapse cameras, also motion  
7 sensor animals who pass. This year and last year I've  
8 asked a lot more questions towards him, you know, about  
9 has he seen very much climate change up in the areas that  
10 he has these -- you know, this equipment at. And the  
11 equipment he has isn't -- you know, not the greatest, but  
12 it has come up with some pretty interesting things and  
13 findings that, you know, the amount of snow and the  
14 erosion in creek beds and, you know, this year alone he's  
15 seen more water up in Knap Creek than he has ever seen in  
16 the last eight years. You know, I think it would be  
17 interesting to see if we could try and involve, you know,  
18 our universities here within the state of Alaska and  
19 elsewhere to come up here and participate in these kind  
20 of studies so that way people within our state get that  
21 -- you know, that opportunity to be able to study our --  
22 you know, our geological, global warming, everything that  
23 involves animals, everything, you know, all compiled into  
24 one thing and then send out a report to every person  
25 within the state to read. I find it very interesting  
26 that Ben from a different state within the United States  
27 comes up here to go do that. I mean, you know, the  
28 University of Alaska, Anchorage and Fairbanks should be  
29 participating and doing a lot of stuff like this and  
30 giving reports.

31  
32 You know, one other concern I have is  
33 that, you know, Japan had a big old radiation leak over  
34 there and there was a lot of big talking about it and  
35 then all of a sudden they just quit. Is that going to  
36 impact us within the state of Alaska, it might, you know,  
37 we're not far from them. Are they doing in kind of  
38 studies to test animals for any kind of radiation, I  
39 mean, whether it be bird eggs, fish, seal blubber, whale  
40 blubber, you know, any kind of caribou, moose, sheep,  
41 bear. There needs to be some kind of a study to protect  
42 our animals from those kind of impacts that happen within  
43 the world.

44

45 And that's all I have.

46

47 MR. BALOGH: Okay. I appreciate the  
48 comments. As far as the Arctic LCC fund allocations go,  
49 the University of Alaska, Fairbanks was actually the  
50 largest single recipient of funding. And University of

1 Alaska, Anchorage was also a very large recipient. So  
2 just those two together accounted for about 40 percent of  
3 the funding that we put out there. So we are looking to  
4 our local academic expertise to look into our problems or  
5 our issues. Sometimes the expertise lives at other  
6 universities, for instance, the expert in aquatic  
7 invertebrates in the Barrow area happens to be a faculty  
8 member at North Dakota State University. And so we go to  
9 the expert on that topic to do that study and he just  
10 happens to not be in Alaska.

11  
12 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, like Roy say after all  
13 the study you do and all your results in the end impact  
14 and where he's coming from, it's not us, it's we're going  
15 to be regulated. So are you going to go to the western  
16 world and say quit using your hairspray because you're  
17 impacting the north. Whatever happens in the western  
18 world north is the suction where it'll suck everything  
19 down. And we are being hurt. We try to say that a few  
20 years and nobody listen to us, now it's too late, you're  
21 worrying about it. You should have your traditional  
22 knowledge, the people that live here. When we see it,  
23 that something is happening you guys don't hear us until  
24 it's too late. So I think you need to start from the  
25 other side where -- the beginning, where it starts from.  
26 That's all we're -- he's trying to say, that's all we  
27 want to say. And toward the end on your end results it's  
28 going to impact us because the studies and the things you  
29 see is here not from the beginning where it start from.

30  
31 MR. KAYOTUK: Under that issue too is  
32 we're right in the heart of like Kaktovik where we got  
33 the polar bears that are being affected by the  
34 helicopters and our biggest issue is collaring the polar  
35 bears is a big issue in our village because collars are  
36 on there for quite some time, three, four months and by  
37 that time it's too late because polar bears already  
38 affected with these collars that are embedded right  
39 through their skin and at the time, you know, they said  
40 okay we could take it off now, but you already scarred  
41 all these polar bears. All these issues are coming up in  
42 our area at -- where we getting the -- a lot of people  
43 that are -- we have a lot of tourism in our area that are  
44 coming to our village to see polar bears and stuff like  
45 that, but we do have a fence now that's doing studies on  
46 polar bears that are getting hair samples and now we have  
47 cameras and everything that are watching these polar  
48 bears and stuff like that. And I really strongly suggest  
49 that, you know, studies like this should be aware of  
50 what's going to be going on in the coming months. That

1 should be addressed too before any studies that should  
2 come up forwards should be brought before any village  
3 that, you know, if they do want it to do these studies in  
4 -- on the North Slope which is important.

5  
6 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Before you respond  
7 I'd like to say that it's 12:00 noon now and I was  
8 wondering if we want to take a lunch break and resume  
9 maybe an hour and a half.

10  
11 CO CHAIR BROWER: Good idea.

12  
13 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: We'd appreciate your  
14 patient, stick.....

15  
16 MR. BALOGH: Stick around and give the  
17 rest of this presentation after lunch.

18  
19 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Sure.

20  
21 MR. BALOGH: Sure.

22  
23 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you. All  
24 right. We'll resume the meeting at 1:30.

25  
26 (Off record)

27  
28 (On record)

29  
30 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: We'll call the  
31 meeting back to order and continue with the presentation.

32  
33 MR. BALOGH: Thank you, Chairman  
34 Schaeffer and Chairman Brower.

35  
36 So part two of the LCC presentation here.  
37 I guess I just wanted to mention this one other project  
38 before I go on and talk briefly about the Western Alaska  
39 LCC which is not my LCC so I won't be able to answer  
40 questions to the depth that I could for Arctic. But one  
41 other project that we are funding in the Arctic LCC is  
42 the Biomap Alaska project which is being executed by  
43 University of Alaska in Fairbanks and the Alaska Sealife  
44 Center. And basically they're getting citizen scientists  
45 from the villages to basically just keep an eye out for  
46 unusual critters. And this is basically done in an  
47 effort to track range expansions as endemic species creep  
48 northward in their ranges possible due to climate change  
49 and also to document the appearance and spread of  
50 invasive species.

1 Yes.  
2  
3 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Are these maps  
4 associated with any of the other work that are being done  
5 in our state like Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium  
6 or any of the other entities?  
7  
8 MR. BALOGH: Biomap Alaska specifically  
9 you mean?  
10  
11 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We have other entities  
12 that are doing various forms of mapping and sharing  
13 information and I'm wondering is this tied into some of  
14 those other resources?  
15  
16 MR. BALOGH: Actually I'm uncertain, I  
17 can't answer that for certain. I know that we're working  
18 ANTHC on another project and I will actually ask the  
19 question to see whether the two investigators are aware  
20 of each other's work because that's part of our job to  
21 make sure that we don't have any duplication of effort  
22 going on out there.  
23  
24 MR. R. NAGEAK: I think I saw some swamp  
25 people up in Barrow.  
26  
27 (Laughter)  
28  
29 MR. R. NAGEAK: You seen on that Unusual  
30 Species?  
31  
32 MR. BALOGH: In my experience, no.  
33  
34 (Laughter)  
35  
36 MR. R. NAGEAK: In fact that's one of my  
37 favorite programs.  
38  
39 MR. BALOGH: So the Western Alaska LCC,  
40 it's -- this past year was the first year that this LCC  
41 was up and running where they actually had some project  
42 money. They had a Steering Committee similar to the  
43 Steering Committee that Arctic has. They've got their  
44 governance documents drafted or in order. They have  
45 village, tribal and NGO involvement, not necessarily on  
46 the Steering Committee, but in entities that are  
47 receiving funds and in their partner network. They had  
48 a science workshop this past year where experts from the  
49 different areas and the different agencies got together  
50 and as a group decided on what the biggest common

1 management questions and objectives were that were out  
2 there. And then a science workshop that brought together  
3 scientists to decide or to vocalize what they thought  
4 were the biggest shared science needs, all the questions  
5 that were most important to answer to understand the  
6 affects of climate change in that region.

7  
8 In 2011 they got one and quarter million  
9 and they were able to leverage well over that in their  
10 projects that they funded. And like that slide that I  
11 had for Arctic, they're creating synergies, responding to  
12 existing needs of the different partners out there such  
13 as the Western Arctic Caribou Herd working group and  
14 building partnerships within rural Alaska communities.  
15 Like I said they're involving at least three rural  
16 communities in at least one of their important projects  
17 which I'll get to in just a moment. And as you sketch  
18 out the projects that they funded in the same categories,  
19 human systems, biologic, landscape and geophysical  
20 systems, you can see there's a lot of studies going on to  
21 try and understand what climate change is doing to the  
22 land before we start looking so much at how species  
23 themselves are responding to the land. And I explained  
24 that earlier that it just seems to make sense to  
25 understand what is happening to the land before you try  
26 to understand how the species are going to respond to  
27 climate change because the species are actually  
28 responding to the land.

29

30 Yes.

31

32 CO CHAIR BROWER: Good afternoon. Harry  
33 Brower. And in regard to the comments you made or that  
34 figure there, that community assessments and through this  
35 climate change observations and how it's impacting our  
36 human residents. I'm trying to get back into a -- since  
37 the thawing of permafrost, it's impacting our ice cellar  
38 and storage of our resources that we gathered for food.  
39 With the permafrost thawing it's impacting the amount of  
40 time we can use the ice cellar. I mean, I just had the  
41 experience over the past three years trying to use the  
42 ice cellar and we're having to deal with the thawing. At  
43 this time of the state the temperatures of the ground  
44 remaining and just the top layer of the ground is frozen,  
45 but the remaining ground is thawed and it's affecting our  
46 food that we try to store in the ice cellars. And is  
47 that something that's being thought about in this  
48 community assessment or is this something outside with a  
49 different objective?

50

1 MR. BALOGH: So the community assessment  
2 project that's being addressed here is community health  
3 assessment. But that idea, that notion that you have  
4 about the ice cellars is one that we're quite aware of.  
5 And from what I understand folks in the Arctic have  
6 actually gone down into their ice cellars and January and  
7 found standing water in the bottom of their ice cellars.

8

9 CO CHAIR BROWER: Yes.

10

11 MR. BALOGH: In western Alaska they're  
12 actually much worse off than folks in northern Alaska  
13 because they're permafrost is actually near the point of  
14 thawing so when you get permafrost that's right around  
15 30, 31, 32 degrees, you raise that a couple of degrees  
16 and it's gone. Up in the North Slope the permafrost is  
17 considerably cooler, it's going to be around -- not  
18 everywhere, but there's going to be some of it around for  
19 the next century or so at least.

20

21 But I am interested personally in  
22 pursuing what I see as a fairly easy engineer fix and I'd  
23 like to try and fund this study where you just get a  
24 thermally controlled ventilation switch that basically  
25 floods ice cellars with cold air in the middle of winter  
26 through a fan that trips on and is powered by, you know,  
27 wind power or some other off the grid power source. It  
28 seems like if I was an engineer I would have built that  
29 thing by now.

30

31 CO CHAIR BROWER: Anyway I'm just trying  
32 to understand how this community assessment and how are  
33 subsistence activities are encompassed within the  
34 assessment.

35

36 MR. BALOGH: And I think that I -- I'll  
37 need a slide on that and I think it's the next slide or  
38 the next couple of slides.

39

40 CO CHAIR BROWER: All right. Thank you.

41

42

43 MR. BALOGH: And there it is. So the --  
44 this project, the community climate change health  
45 assessments being done in three communities, in this case  
46 in the Bristol Bay region because this is for the Western  
47 Alaska LCC, there's a lot of villages in the Bristol Bay  
48 area for that LCC.

49

50 Looking at threats to food and water

1 resources through, you know, things like hydrologic  
2 shifts and sea level rise and saltwater intrusion, risks  
3 to infrastructure and what additional changes may be  
4 happening in the future. And so the outcome here is to  
5 give the local communities the information they need to  
6 help them adapt to what we see as future conditions  
7 basically.

8

9 And that actually brings me to my second  
10 to last slide which is our two websites, the Western  
11 Alaska you can reach at that longer website on top,  
12 Arctic LCC, all of our pertinent information you can  
13 bring up just by typing in ARCTICLCC.ORG.

14

15 And my last slide may be a moot point  
16 because it seems like we've been talking about it for  
17 about an hour or so, but still looking for additional  
18 input on what changes you are seeing and what information  
19 you need or you think you need to best adapt to the new  
20 conditions.

21

22 MR. KOONUK: Would you slide back,  
23 please.

24

25 MR. BALOGH: You bet.

26

27 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

28

29 CO CHAIR BROWER: Go ahead, Roy.

30

31 MR. R. NAGEAK: Just a couple of  
32 questions. What did you say funds most of your projects?

33

34 MR. BALOGH: We actually get funding from  
35 the Department of Interior to put towards what the LCC  
36 Steering Committee identifies as the highest priority  
37 information needs.

38

39 MR. R. NAGEAK: And those are regional  
40 FCCs?

41

42 MR. BALOGH: LCCs. There's 22 of them  
43 across the United States, there's five of them that are  
44 part of Alaska, two of those are entirely within Alaska.

45

46 MR. R. NAGEAK: In your first slide you  
47 kind of visualized to us what the Arctic was and it kind  
48 of spread over to Canada and.....

49

50 MR. BALOGH: Uh-huh.

1 MR. R. NAGEAK: .....Greenland. What  
2 does -- what did you say signified that?

3  
4 MR. BALOGH: Where do those borders come  
5 from?

6  
7 MR. R. NAGEAK: I mean, what did it  
8 signify, the Arctic or.....

9  
10 MR. BALOGH: That's the Arctic LCC. That  
11 Arctic -- the LCC is all across the North Slope of  
12 Alaska, but it also includes all of that area in northern  
13 Canada which is virtually ignored thus far in our LCC  
14 governance, we've not engaged with Canada much at all,  
15 but hope to eventually.

16  
17 MR. R. NAGEAK: There's an organization  
18 called Inuit Circumpolar Conference that have -- maybe  
19 every four years they have meetings to try to address a  
20 lot of issues that are up in the Arctic instead of  
21 consortium with a lot of native organizations and  
22 regional corporations across the board just on like what  
23 rights or how the people of the Arctic are treated by the  
24 different governments. And with that since they had  
25 opened an office or because of the way that it's  
26 configured have been able to get into the offices of  
27 the United Nations. And I'm -- there's ways that when  
28 we're being impacted by our Federal government and the  
29 State government with their rules and regulations and  
30 their laws which are detrimental to the needs of the ways  
31 of lives to the native people across the Arctic, it  
32 provides maybe an avenue if things go to the point where  
33 our rights as subsistence hunters and our rights to be  
34 protected, might be a way for us to address on how the  
35 United Nations would feel about us and our rights in some  
36 ways being trampled especially with the subsistence issue  
37 and on rights that have been with us for centuries.  
38 There is an organization, Inuit Circumpolar Conference  
39 with offices in the United Nations that are starting and  
40 those are ways that we could look beyond to issues if  
41 we're not -- if our Federal government and our State  
42 government are trampling our rights to live a life then  
43 those are -- might be avenues. I'm not trying to scare  
44 you guys or anything, but somebody in the Federal  
45 government needs to do their job right and protect our  
46 rights to the subsistence way of life.

47  
48 And through this funding I could see  
49 where if you involve the local people in the regions to  
50 do what needs to be done, but a lot of things have



1 already been done like in our region through the North  
2 Slope Borough and status of the bowhead and the impacts.  
3 And probably areas of our region being stated fisheries,  
4 caribou, those are things that have been done, I think  
5 the Federal government is a day and a dollar short. And  
6 our local people know what kind of rules and regulations  
7 are needed and one of them is the rules and regulations  
8 that regulate sports hunters. When I see the studies  
9 that need to be done on the animals and the regions that  
10 are being affected by global warming, in the same time  
11 the resources like what we subsist on are being impacted  
12 by lax State laws that control sport hunting and lax  
13 Federal laws and they say that that's not our area,  
14 that's a State area. There's so much convolution that  
15 nobody really protect our right, our regions, our areas  
16 from hunting.

17  
18 Like I stated earlier all of a sudden the  
19 polar bear is a endangered species and somebody just  
20 designated hundreds of miles of areas to try to protect  
21 this specie. And then we as the human species, the  
22 Inupiat or the native people, they don't give a darn.  
23 Nobody ever done say all this area is for subsistence  
24 hunting and how it will be impacted by development,  
25 nobody has done all that. Nobody declared us being  
26 endangered by activity, by economic development and I  
27 just want to point that out. It's so damaging to our  
28 people that we don't have the same consideration as a  
29 polar bear in our subsistence way of life. These are  
30 areas that need to be protected for subsistence hunting  
31 and this is -- this need to be protected. Nobody done  
32 that for us, but they did it for the polar bear. That  
33 mentality's got to stop somewhere especially with the  
34 Federal government. Let's have the government to  
35 government relationship to protect us on our behalf.

36  
37 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Roy, for  
38 your comments and voicing your concern.

39  
40 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

41  
42 CO CHAIR BROWER: Yes, Ray.

43  
44 MR. KOONUK: Do we have all this  
45 information in our packets as far as what's being  
46 presented and the presenters making sure that we have  
47 their information in our packets so we can distribute  
48 this information to our tribal councils and whoever is  
49 interested in our hometown. This is really, you know,  
50 good, vital information as far what studies are being

1 done and I'm surprised that, you know, we don't have  
2 nothing in our packet in regards to, you know, this  
3 information that's being presented to us. And, you know,  
4 whatever or whoever's giving a presentation should  
5 provide that information. We need it in our packet so we  
6 can review it and we can't just go along and, you know,  
7 ask questions and it's going to take, you know, a day,  
8 maybe two, three days, if we want to, you know, voice out  
9 our concerns because, you know, this is all new to us.  
10 Like I said these -- there's been studies being done all  
11 over and we need this information before and we only meet  
12 three times a year as a Federal -- North Slope Federal  
13 and Northwest. You know, we need information at hand in  
14 regards to what presentations are given to us so we can  
15 have the questions right there not while they're giving  
16 these -- you know, the slide presentations or -- because  
17 it's taking up most of the time, you know. And we have  
18 other issues that we need to talk about.

19

20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Ray, for the  
23 comment.

24

25 Don, did you want to make a comment.

26

27 MR. MIKE: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
28 There's this presentation by Greg, you know, it's on my  
29 laptop and I'll make hard copies for all the Council  
30 members for their references to take home with them. And  
31 I think Helen has something more to say.

32

33 Helen, you have anything else to add?

34 Helen Armstrong.

35

36 MS. ARMSTRONG: That's what I was going  
37 to add.

38

39 CO CHAIR BROWER: Rosemary.

40

41 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

42

43 CO CHAIR BROWER: Yes, Rosemary. Go  
44 ahead.

45

46 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'm appreciative of  
47 the effort to expand the understanding of what's involved  
48 in the Arctic. Having the mapping extended into that  
49 area is very important, but there's also many areas that  
50 are very important to our understanding of the management

1 of our resources. There are migratory boundaries that  
2 cross through countries that the animals don't respond to  
3 and we need to have a good understanding of the whole  
4 Arctic circumpolar region to understand the management.  
5 We can't assume that when the ice goes away that the  
6 polar bears are on that ice and they're surviving and  
7 they're now in another country. We have to know what our  
8 population counts are and whether or not they're moving  
9 with the ice or if they're drowning when the ice melts.  
10 Those kinds of issues are very important.

11  
12 I'm also very concerned with the way that  
13 information is being developed and the way it's being  
14 distributed. There is a very important process for us in  
15 our areas, in our lands and in our waters that are facing  
16 these changes. We need this information in our  
17 communities, sharing with our local leadership, within  
18 our community members that are involved in the various  
19 decision making processes because our world has  
20 fragmented every layer of our involvement. We don't get  
21 to say what is a better line on all of these decisions  
22 that affect whether or not we get to hunt in our  
23 communities. The animals and their migration and the  
24 changes in our environment, there's a lot that we don't  
25 have control over. But we need to be getting this  
26 information out to our communities so that we're involved  
27 in this process. We're getting the information and  
28 they're used in some report in the lower 48 to decide how  
29 things are going to happen in the Arctic. Because we're  
30 on the ground right here, we're involved in our local  
31 community meetings and we need to be at these tables  
32 throughout this process because our concerns are left  
33 behind when it's the importance of whether or not  
34 profitability takes the lead at the table or if it's  
35 whether or not it's the sustaining of a natural resources  
36 in our lands and waters are very important to sustain our  
37 communities. It's a very different view when we're not  
38 at these tables. No one can bring our stories to these  
39 tables, these stories need to come from our tribal  
40 membership into these processes. Our stories are  
41 changing generation after generation. Years ago our  
42 elders talked about how hunting was in our normal state  
43 without oil and gas facilities. I talk about how our  
44 hunting has changed tremendously when we came surrounded  
45 with oil and gas development around Nuiqsut and how our  
46 hunting went from harvesting over 300 Arctic cisco down  
47 to absolutely nothing when all of these research and  
48 monitoring processes were at our local community meetings  
49 saying don't worry, it's natural cycle of the Arctic  
50 cisco, don't worry it's La Nina that's causing changes,

1 don't worry it's El Nino that's causing these changes.  
2 Now don't worry, it's because of the change in climate.  
3 Well, in the meantime we went without any harvesting and  
4 that's not an appropriate response when we go into our  
5 local meetings and somebody says oh, we could offer you  
6 a hot dog if you're hungry when you're not hunting your  
7 caribou. That kind of understanding is not helping us in  
8 these decision making processes. And when we're at the  
9 table we're talking about the importance of our health,  
10 the health of our people, the health of eating our foods  
11 and our ways and in our processes and sharing our  
12 traditional and culture into the generations when it's a  
13 lifelong process of being a traditional subsistence user.  
14 It's not just going out and harvesting that one day of  
15 hunting that you might go out and get that caribou, it's  
16 all of the stories that go into the generations of  
17 knowledge that get us to these tables to be involved in  
18 this processes. There are good thing that are coming out  
19 here, but when we're not looking at this information and  
20 it's going elsewhere, we're the ones that are sitting at  
21 the back of the table when the decisions come in and  
22 change our maps and open up tremendous amounts of areas  
23 that are not protecting us.

24  
25 Thank you.

26  
27 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary,  
28 for your comments and your concerns being voiced.

29  
30 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

31  
32 CO CHAIR BROWER: Yes, Ray.

33  
34 MR. KOONUK: How involved is the Chair  
35 for each North Slope or Northwest, how involved are you  
36 in making sure that information is distributed to the  
37 Council members and, you know, if you guys are not too  
38 involved in making sure that that information is within  
39 our -- in our communities and within our Councils, you  
40 guys need to make and ensure that that information is  
41 provided to us so that we can bring the questions up.

42  
43 Mr. Chair.

44  
45 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Thank you,  
46 Ray. It's -- I have to reiterate some other issues that  
47 come out here. This is something that's the first time  
48 being presented as Greg indicated. It's not been shared  
49 other where -- elsewhere. Maybe besides one other  
50 meeting you mentioned. So this is new information

1 freshly being presented to us. I'm not seen it  
2 beforehand, this is the first time I'm seeing it as well.  
3 In terms of the dissemination of information we work with  
4 our coordinator to provide you as Council members as much  
5 information that's being requested. So we try to address  
6 in that segment as well. And we -- in the terms of the  
7 agenda items that -- that gets communicated with the  
8 Chair and what other items that we mention during our  
9 meetings, our regional Council meeting to bring it forth  
10 during the next meeting of our -- occurrence of our  
11 meeting to -- coming up. So those are the things we have  
12 to work with and some of them are pretty much standard  
13 material that already have been identified to be on the  
14 agenda in terms of our regional Advisory Council.

15  
16 So I just state that, Ray, this is new  
17 information to all of us. We're just hearing for the  
18 first time. And that -- that is -- you know, I'd like to  
19 add as well, we need to understand from what this  
20 presentation means in terms of how we are -- are we  
21 within our protocol or objectives of the -- as regional  
22 Advisory Council members. You know, we have a protocol  
23 and limitations of the resources that we can discuss  
24 within this program, in the purview of the Federal  
25 subsistence program. So we need to keep that in mind as  
26 well.

27  
28 As I'm not begin to ask my questions yet,  
29 but it's good that you voice your concerns, I really  
30 appreciate that and the office of OSM probably  
31 appreciates your concerns as well. And that's what we  
32 need to express is your concerns so we can continue, not  
33 just myself, but we all have to work together in trying  
34 to address what's being voiced.

35  
36 Ray.

37  
38 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I'm not  
39 just talking about this information, but, you know, other  
40 information to make sure that we have at hand, you know,  
41 and so that we can review and tribal council or -- and  
42 the members can review too before we come down and that  
43 way we'll know as far as what we're talking about and  
44 what our agenda items are before us. And I know we have  
45 a new coordinator here that's just been I guess maybe  
46 hired, replacing Barbara. So I'm not just talking about  
47 this information, but past information or in the future  
48 information that need to come before us before we meet.  
49 And that way we can have more questions or understanding  
50 from our tribe as far as -- you know, as far as meeting.

1 And we don't -- you know, we don't have no monthly  
2 meetings, it's only two, three times a year at times or  
3 a special meeting. So that will help, you know, that we  
4 get the information at hand before we come here.

5  
6 Thank you.

7  
8 CO CHAIR BROWER: Again thank you, Ray,  
9 for voicing your concern.

10  
11 Don, did you have a comment. I'm not  
12 sure what is those lights are around your -- over there.

13  
14 MR. MIKE: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair. This is  
15 a teleconference meeting, there's some interest in --  
16 public listening in on this meeting.

17  
18 As far as to -- responding to Mr.  
19 Koonuk's concerns about meeting materials, OSM tries to  
20 anticipate informational needs for our upcoming meetings,  
21 we have meetings twice a year. And coordinators work  
22 closely with the Council Chairs as far as agenda items.  
23 And then we get that agenda developed and then prior to  
24 our meetings, like at least a month or a couple months  
25 out, we send agenda items for public comments. And it's  
26 another way to try to anticipate meeting materials needs.  
27 But if any Council -- you know, you want to receive -- if  
28 -- for those that do not access to emails, you know, I  
29 can always mail you a hard copy and you review the agenda  
30 items and express your concern about what kind of meeting  
31 materials you'd like to see prior to a meeting and that  
32 way we can anticipate what should be in a book that's  
33 related to each specific region.

34  
35 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36  
37 MR. KRAMER: I'd like to try and, you  
38 know, see if we could have a statewide meeting with all  
39 Federal Subsistence Boards within the State of Alaska at  
40 least once a year along with our three meetings. That  
41 would be four meetings. That way we could always discuss  
42 items and issues and concerns throughout the state and we  
43 could all sit down and talk about them and try and see if  
44 we could get these issues straightened out and fixed out  
45 and fixed and learn a lot more from, you know, like the  
46 presentation that we just had, but statewide. You know,  
47 and even -- either that or even have it televised.  
48 Because I think the people out there that are missing out  
49 on this meeting, you know, I'm pretty sure they have  
50 concerns also. That's why I'm surprised we don't have a

1 telephone that's, you know, broadcasting this over  
2 KBarrow and KOTZ radio. I think it would be much better  
3 if we were able to share this information with our  
4 communities within our regions.

5  
6 And our youth is the key to our future.  
7 I made a proposal or I spoke to Barb last year and I  
8 brought it up at our last meeting that I think we need to  
9 start involving our youth in these Federal subsistence  
10 meetings because we're going to all get older, we ain't  
11 going to be able to sit here, I'm probably the youngest  
12 one at this table, you know. We're all going to be  
13 replaced one day by someone who's younger and doesn't  
14 have that serious subsistence lifestyle like all of us  
15 do. I mean, I was taught about my 95 percent of my  
16 subsistence life was by my grandmother. So we need to  
17 try and look at, you know, passing on this information  
18 and bringing it to our future, our kids. You know,  
19 whether the schools have their own Federal subsistence  
20 RAC committees within their high school, within their  
21 villages, everything will help us in the future. That  
22 why we need to look at these kind of processes and at  
23 least meet once a year statewide that way we can voice  
24 our concerns with power and have the Secretary of  
25 Interior here to listen to our concerns. That way we  
26 could get everything through and, you know, be able to do  
27 it a lot better.

28  
29 Thanks.

30  
31 MR. KOONUK: So was that a motion?

32  
33 (Laughter)

34  
35 MR. KRAMER: I could make it one.

36  
37 MR. KOONUK: That would be good. We have  
38 Northwest, North Slope, you know, the more power and  
39 that's a real good recommendation, you know, that's what  
40 we need.

41  
42 MR. KRAMER: Well, I make a motion that  
43 we have a statewide meeting at least once a year, not  
44 affiliating with AFN or any other things that would make  
45 it, you know, to where we could have it at one hotel or  
46 we could take up a hotel or something and have it in one  
47 place, not where we have to walk four blocks to get to  
48 the place where we're going to meet.

49  
50 MR. KOONUK: I'll second that motion.

1 MR. R. NAGEAK: Who's got the legal power  
2 here, the Federal government.  
3  
4 (Laughter)  
5  
6 MR. R. NAGEAK: Call for the question.  
7  
8 CO CHAIR BROWER: I wasn't clear in terms  
9 of whether we were to take action on any of the items,  
10 but this is something that's coming out of the blue here,  
11 you guys. I -- you know, were under discussion of an  
12 agenda items.  
13  
14 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.  
15  
16 CO CHAIR BROWER: I think that.....  
17  
18 MR. KOONUK: If something can be brought  
19 up by agencies.....  
20  
21 CO CHAIR BROWER: Yeah.  
22  
23 MR. KOONUK: .....without them being on  
24 the agenda I don't see why we can't bring up motions to  
25 where valid concerns are being brought out to make sure  
26 that we have our people here and making sure that they  
27 listen and voice out their concerns too.  
28  
29 CO CHAIR BROWER: Is that we have some  
30 procedures that we can follow through with in terms of --  
31 and we're still discussing the subject that we were just  
32 discussing. I'm not just trying to put the motion aside,  
33 I think we need to take appropriate steps, but it's.....  
34  
35 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chairman, there was a  
36 question called for.  
37  
38 CO CHAIR BROWER: Yes.  
39  
40 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Well, I'm going to  
41 have to object to the process. I didn't hear a second.  
42 And I think that the -- we need to talk over this kind of  
43 motion prior to submitting it to the floor because my  
44 understanding was that this was a informational  
45 presentation to educate us as to what's happening in the  
46 bigger picture. Now we've got the information and I  
47 think that it's appropriate to bring it back to our  
48 respective powers that are, you know, our tribal councils  
49 and our elders organizations to have them take a look and  
50 see if they have any comment in terms of what they would



1 suggest as far as, you know, what should happen next.  
2 Because the normal process at least in our neck of the  
3 woods is that we get information and this is where a lot  
4 of villages fall a little short is once they get  
5 information from bodies like these and the big question  
6 is well, how do you disseminate it amongst your people.  
7 Up north our system is that we have an advisory committee  
8 system that is practically made up of the same people  
9 that are elected to this group and that the information  
10 kind of flows through a lot easier and then we have  
11 public meetings where we make decisions based on input  
12 from not only the affected bodies, but sometimes  
13 involving the elders to make sure that we're in a  
14 direction that is appropriate and agreed upon by what  
15 they're doing.

16  
17 The other thing is that since this is new  
18 information I think what we're going to do is bring it  
19 back and go to the borough and the other organizations,  
20 Maniilaq and Nana and make sure that we're on the same  
21 page in trying to come to some agreement as to what we're  
22 going to be doing and with whatever action is necessary  
23 after our consultation process. I don't know how other  
24 villages want to do it, but I think the other issue is  
25 the expense of a statewide meeting that might be  
26 addressed maybe by teleconference which is a lot easier  
27 although you miss the face to face communication. But  
28 still I think with the limited budget and with the  
29 economic trends that are happening in this good ol' US of  
30 A where we're now having to deal with significant cuts  
31 even to the tribes where -- I'll just take the Native  
32 Village of Kotzebue, for example, where we had a 46  
33 percent indirect rate now it's down to 9 and a half  
34 percent and how are we going to survive with such a  
35 drastic cut. And that's just -- that's just the process  
36 that's just starting now. And I would probably tend to  
37 think that what's going to happen with a meeting twice a  
38 year is more likely probably going to wind up being once  
39 a year the way budget cuts are going. So I feel like  
40 what we're doing here is a valuable service to those we  
41 represent only if we bring the information back and  
42 consult them as to what their thoughts are and how they  
43 can add to what's happening here.

44  
45 Thank you.

46  
47 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

48  
49 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Pete. Ray.  
50

1 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, I did second that  
2 motion. I don't know if Pete heard me. I seconded the  
3 motion. And, you know, this information is really  
4 important and I'm pretty sure Department of Interior can  
5 adjust or amend their budget as far as, you know, the  
6 issues we're talking about and the changes we're -- you  
7 know, we're looking at now, especially the climate change  
8 and offshore stuff that are, you know, taking place now.  
9 And, you know, I feel that -- and it's important that the  
10 public and the students know.  
11  
12 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair.  
13  
14 CO CHAIR BROWER: Ray, are you done?  
15  
16 MR. KOONUK: Yes.  
17  
18 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy, you're done.  
19  
20 MR. R. NAGEAK: We need a questions  
21 toward the LCC cooperative, that's just some process that  
22 was adopt -- already adopted to be utilized from the  
23 Department of Interior to address the concerns that are  
24 in each regional area or who decided to use a  
25 cooperative, the LCC cooperative to utilize that, I mean,  
26 that process.  
27  
28 MR. BALOGH: I'm not certain I understand  
29 the question, but I'm going to give it a shot.  
30  
31 The LCC.....  
32  
33 MR. R. NAGEAK: Who authorized the  
34 cooperative, the LCC cooperative?  
35  
36 MR. BALOGH: It was by Secretarial Order  
37 3289.  
38  
39 MR. R. NAGEAK: I -- and that's law  
40 or.....  
41  
42 MR. BALOGH: Secretarial orders are not  
43 law, they're administrative rules.  
44  
45 MR. R. NAGEAK: So they decided to use  
46 that method for us to -- or for the agencies that I saw  
47 for them to try to address the issues coming from the  
48 people or for them to -- for things that need to be done  
49 by the people or for the loss of rules or regulations  
50 that need to be -- what is the cause of the cooperative?

1 MR. BALOGH: Basically what the  
2 Secretarial order does is it's our main boss, the guy  
3 that's in charge of all the Department of Interior  
4 agencies, telling those agencies you guys work together  
5 on climate change and by the way work with all the states  
6 and the tribes.

7  
8 MR. R. NAGEAK: Then where did the  
9 cooperative come from?

10  
11 MR. BALOGH: It was established by  
12 Secretarial Order 3289.

13  
14 MR. R. NAGEAK: What's -- well, I'm  
15 trying to figure this out because usually there should be  
16 a sense of ownership by the people that will be impacted  
17 by this, right? We'll be impacted by -- because this  
18 will be the method that we will utilize to -- like from  
19 what I understood we need to study the polar bears, it's  
20 got to be something that the regional people want studied  
21 because it's going to impact their subsistence way of  
22 life. Or.....

23  
24 MR. BALOGH: So -- I'm sorry, go ahead.

25  
26 MR. R. NAGEAK: Is that the guise of what  
27 I'm hearing?

28  
29 MR. BALOGH: So from the Caribbean which  
30 is one edge of the LCC network to North Atlantic to  
31 Southwestern United States up to the Arctic, all of these  
32 LCCs are addressing the needs of what the people in those  
33 areas think are the most important information needs they  
34 need to address climate change. So the Caribbean LCC is  
35 going to have different questions, different concerns,  
36 different people using different resources than the  
37 Arctic LCC is. And so they're dealing with a different  
38 set of questions and different constituents down there.  
39 But what we intend to do is to address the high priority  
40 science needs that are important to you and that are  
41 important to the industry and that are important to the  
42 agencies and everyone else that has a stake in that  
43 landscape, users of that landscape. If there's an  
44 information gap out there that you think is important to  
45 be filled, then we're going to try and fill it.

46  
47 MR. R. NAGEAK: I've got a problem with  
48 that because right now we're a Subsistence Regional  
49 Advisory Council and we need to address our subsistence.  
50 When you say with this LCC cooperative which a

1 Secretarial something -- order and the oil companies need  
2 to be involved in it just through the Secretary. And  
3 then where one person too or a group of us just need to  
4 be addressed by that Secretary through the LCC  
5 cooperative then who decides overall. Because it's --  
6 how does it help retaining our subsistence way of life.

7

8 MR. BALOGH: So one of our four  
9 conservation goals addresses.....

10

11 MR. R. NAGEAK: There's that dangerous  
12 word again, conservation.

13

14 MR. BALOGH: Okay. So one of our four  
15 goals.....

16

17 MR. R. NAGEAK: Okay.

18

19 MR. BALOGH: .....is to address the needs  
20 of subsistence users in our LCC area. And our governance  
21 structure is such that to be represented on our Steering  
22 Committee you have to be a form of government or an  
23 agency of government. So tribes can be present.....

24

25 MR. R. NAGEAK: Oil companies.

26

27 MR. BALOGH: No, oil companies cannot.

28

29 MR. R. NAGEAK: Okay.

30

31 MR. BALOGH: Tribes can be. Regional  
32 corporations, no, because they're not a form of  
33 government, they're a corporation. But the North Slope  
34 Borough can be present on it.

35

36 MR. R. NAGEAK: A State entity.

37

38 MR. BALOGH: The State is on it because  
39 that's a form of government, yeah.

40

41 MR. R. NAGEAK: And it will impact our  
42 subsistence way of life through that forum, what are the  
43 impacts?

44

45 MR. BALOGH: Well, the impacts result  
46 from things like climate change and regulations. And  
47 we're not in charge of either of those things. We're  
48 just feeding information.

49

50 MR. R. NAGEAK: And that's the other

1 area, who will have ownership of that information?  
2  
3 MR. BALOGH: Everybody. We're making all  
4 the information that we get public over our portal, over  
5 our website. And that's one of the -- that's one of the  
6 conditions of getting LCC money is you have to make your  
7 information public.  
8  
9 MR. R. NAGEAK: And it be utilized by  
10 anybody?  
11  
12 MR. BALOGH: Anybody that wants it.  
13  
14 MR. R. NAGEAK: Discussion -- end effort  
15 of those studies, the final product, who decides whether  
16 it's okay, it's -- this a good study that was done and it  
17 was honest and it reflects the subsistence way of life of  
18 the people there. Who decides whether it's good or bad?  
19 Secretary.  
20  
21 (Laughter)  
22  
23 MR. BALOGH: I don't -- I guess I'm not  
24 sure what the gist of that question is. I mean, whether  
25 it's good or bad.  
26  
27 (Phone rings)  
28  
29 MR. R. NAGEAK: Wait, that's my wife.  
30 She knows.  
31  
32 (Laughter)  
33  
34 MR. R. NAGEAK: I won't answer it, I'll  
35 just turn it off. I always do what my wife says.  
36  
37 (Laughter)  
38  
39 MR. R. NAGEAK: Oh, okay. I'll shut up.  
40 But you get the guise of what I mean on the affects of  
41 those studies?  
42  
43 MR. BALOGH: Yeah, the -- yes. Yes.  
44  
45 MR. R. NAGEAK: Because what in the North  
46 Slope we're years beyond the Federal government or the  
47 studies because we studied the bowhead whale and  
48 testified our needs before the National Whaling  
49 Commission.  
50

1 MR. BALOGH: Right.

2

3 MR. R. NAGEAK: And like she stated the  
4 studies of the fisheries, we've done that before too and  
5 the caribou and all of us here knows the affect of  
6 caribou management through studies for studies, I mean,  
7 were done. So a lot of this work already has been done.  
8 Just need to listen to the people that have the  
9 subsistence issues and if you ask us then it's pretty cut  
10 and dry on what our needs are.

11

12 MR. BALOGH: So yes, I'm asking. And,  
13 you know, if it takes me coming up to the villages to  
14 meet with the tribal councils then that's what I'll do.  
15 But we're looking for input from the local people on this  
16 stuff. That's why I'm here, I'm seeking input.

17

18 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: You had asked for some  
19 input and one of the concerns that arose in Nuiqsut was  
20 related to ice cellar, but it also is related to the  
21 changing in our environment. One year a few years ago we  
22 ended up with a tremendous epidemic, it took four days  
23 out of 500 -- over 500 people to have 50 charts left on  
24 the shelf that didn't need to be seen. We had concerns  
25 because earlier in our whaling season we had an  
26 individual who was medivac'd out of Cross Island with  
27 rheumatic fever. I'm very concerned that this may have  
28 played our factor in our outbreak in Nuiqsut.  
29 Immediately within 24 hours of our feast we had people  
30 come in sick, 102 temps or more. This went on  
31 continuously over about 10 days. We ran out of Tylenol  
32 in the village, we ran out of Motrin, we ran out of all  
33 of our antibiotics. First day we had 20 positive strep  
34 cases, the second day we had 40 positive strep cases and  
35 then we had no more kits. Thank god we planned ahead and  
36 ordered a bunch before the winter season happened. But  
37 it -- the first day the medivac crew was sickened from  
38 the first medivac so we couldn't -- no longer medivac  
39 anyone outside of the village. We had a three month old  
40 baby, 106 degree temperature not medivac'd out of the  
41 village.

42

43 These kinds of concerns are a reality of  
44 what happens in a rural community. You don't have a lot  
45 of resources to deal with a serious epidemic. This  
46 happened prior to planning for the emergency response  
47 system and increasing our ability to respond to crises in  
48 our state. Part of these communications were very  
49 important for some of the planning that occurred in  
50 creating our ability to respond to small communities with

1 resources to help with these situations with absolutely  
2 no IV fluids left, no Tylenol to give for people coming  
3 in with high fevers, no Motrin in the village, no place  
4 to go and get anything because the store ran out the  
5 second day. These are really big concerns for our rural  
6 communities.

7  
8 But you worry more when you worry about  
9 contaminations to our food and our feasting events that  
10 occur in which you're feeding the whole village. Whether  
11 or not strep played a factor in the distribution in the  
12 illness that arose, we don't know. We couldn't get food  
13 samples sent out because we couldn't even medivac out.  
14 So sampling didn't occur. That's the reality of living  
15 in the Arctic, trying to get adequate sampling for people  
16 living in a rural village is very difficult, costly. And  
17 inability to even get samples out in an appropriate  
18 manner to make sure that they're even assessed  
19 appropriately is difficult. We don't have refrigeration  
20 units at our airports to get our food samples,  
21 contaminated food items of our species that we're hunting  
22 or worry about lesions in the various animals that we're  
23 harvesting or illnesses that we're seeing in these  
24 various things, it's very difficult to get this process  
25 out. Without being able to appropriately assess it went  
26 down in the books as being maybe a flu epidemic. Nobody  
27 looked at the number of strep cases we had, nobody looked  
28 at the reality we had a guy medivac'd out from Cross  
29 Island where we do our whaling activities and he had  
30 rheumatic fever and the risk factor for our food and  
31 sharing in our processes. We also had extremely warm  
32 temperatures that year so it also affected the harvest of  
33 the whale anyway. So that especially now with some of  
34 the increased efforts having to negotiate with our  
35 neighbors nearby to even get our whale brought out  
36 appropriately, we're having to use a barge, we're having  
37 to stage the whale on the island in cardboard boxes which  
38 may be a factor contributing to some of our food items,  
39 having industry refuse to bring the whale home until  
40 after the whaling season and having some of the whale  
41 mold is a real issue, a reality of some of these factors.

42  
43  
44 But reality is the whole village got  
45 sick. We couldn't get help from elsewhere. We're going  
46 to have other villages in our state that go through  
47 similar events. Our ice cellars are not protective, our  
48 temperatures in the Arctic are not the same as they used  
49 to. We used to get 40 below for X amount of days for how  
50 many days, it would effectively help with some of our

1 issues related to diseases and infectious control issues.  
2 It's not the same thing anymore, we need to be more  
3 involved in these processes and sharing these concerns.  
4 Because when we ran out of everything and they wouldn't  
5 medivac anyone out and that three month old baby was in  
6 the clinic for about two days while we were trying to  
7 help deal with that baby. That baby should have been  
8 medivac'd out. We should have had a response from the  
9 State to get Life Flight brought up to bring that baby  
10 out. I don't want to have to hear these kind of stories  
11 come through other communities because we've had our  
12 share of bad stories about the way health care occurs,  
13 the way that our system works on addressing our concerns.  
14  
15

16 This is the level of communication that  
17 needs to be brought to the table and you're dealing with  
18 your processes and developing these plans and these  
19 documents that are coming out. We have people's lives  
20 that are at stake. We have a changing environment, there  
21 are a lot of issues that are coming that are nothing  
22 related to what we dealt with in the past. But we need  
23 to be more informed for the future and we can't wait  
24 until we have the devastation that occurred in our  
25 community to happen in other communities before we get  
26 some kind of response saying hey, now this has been too  
27 much of an impact, let's cut this off, we can't do  
28 anything more right in this area. We've got over 600  
29 percent increase in asthma in this village over here,  
30 let's get some regulations to restrict some of the  
31 flaring of the gas and these kinds of things. We have  
32 this whole village over here that hasn't gotten any  
33 caribou because the migratory route has been changed  
34 because they want to put a road into this area or they  
35 decided to bring in -- fly in hunters into this area and  
36 now this whole village hasn't been harvesting any  
37 caribou.  
38

39 We need to have something that triggers  
40 a response and we don't have that with anything that  
41 we've been dealing with. We have years and years of  
42 telling the same old story, coming to these meetings with  
43 new people coming to the table with their good ideas or  
44 not, telling us how it should be done. But we're telling  
45 you we have a lot of concerns, we have a lot of need to  
46 get this information and we need to be active in a role  
47 where we're involved in the decision making process.  
48

49 Thank you.  
50



1 MR. R. NAGEAK: Here, here.  
2  
3 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.  
4  
5 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.  
6  
7 CO CHAIR BROWER: Ray.  
8  
9 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, I mean, when -- I got  
10 some greens that can help you -- fix you better than  
11 Tylenol.  
12  
13 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Okay. Don, did you  
14 have a comment.  
15  
16 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just  
17 want to get -- be clear on the process, Mr. Chair.  
18 Earlier there was a motion made and then a second. As  
19 far as process wise, you know, normally the Chair  
20 recognizes the motion that was -- is made so he can make  
21 it known to the Council and then there's a second and  
22 then they can discuss it. But as far as process, I think  
23 we need to clear that up.  
24  
25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
26  
27 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Don. In  
28 terms of what we heard from Pete and this being an  
29 informational meeting and we're just getting -- we're  
30 still discussing the subject, and then that's why I made  
31 my comment earlier, it seems a little premature to make  
32 a motion while we're still being -- discussing the  
33 information at hand. And we -- and just like what you  
34 said, Ray, we don't have the material, the presentation,  
35 to look over and better understand where we could -- what  
36 -- which was to steer the questions or concerns. I mean,  
37 that's why I was making my objection to -- it's too early  
38 and premature to make the motion. We need to continue to  
39 discuss what we're learning from the presentation. I --  
40 you know, I think we need to be also considerate of what  
41 other factors are -- that we're still not hearing that  
42 could influence making a motion at the time.  
43  
44 Thank you.  
45  
46 Ray.  
47  
48 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, at least this is a  
49 good start to where, you know, we want to try to get this  
50 out to the public and to the -- and getting the younger

1 generation involved. I think this is a -- you know, a  
2 good start to where, you know, while we're here together,  
3 Northwest, North Slope, you know, we can bring that  
4 information out whether it passes or not, but, you know,  
5 we can provide that information too when we head back.  
6 But it's up to the -- you know, the Council itself to --  
7 you know, they're concerned like he said, we're not going  
8 to be here, you know, we're not going to be here forever  
9 and our younger generation is going to take over and  
10 they're going to have to know all this information in  
11 making sure that our subsistence, our way of life is  
12 being taken care of and protected from, you know,  
13 anything that's happening in the industries or any  
14 diseases or viruses that's going on because of climate  
15 change. You know, this is a good start.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Ray.

20

21 Enoch.

22

23 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah. On this map you  
24 showed earlier a lot of different entities involved with  
25 this new process. What got me disturbed was where was  
26 the natives because Alaska's so large that we need to be  
27 involved on something like this. You have the different  
28 people in there, but I tell you one thing, there's a lot  
29 of traditional knowledge in our villages that know a lot  
30 what's going on with their land because we live here. We  
31 know the changes, we know what's going on, and your plan  
32 is a good one, yes, but keep the natives in the loop and  
33 use traditional knowledge in part of the process to make  
34 a decision. They are important because I tell you one  
35 thing, if we see something wrong we're the first ones to  
36 see it, like the seals that's having problems at the  
37 North Slope. Who see it first, the natives that live  
38 there.

39

40 MR. BALOGH: Mr. Chairman. So yeah, I'd  
41 like to reiterate that we really do seek tribal  
42 involvement on our Steering Committee and to that end we  
43 did send information packets out to all 12 tribes, we  
44 followed up with multiple phone calls, follow-up  
45 information packs sent by email, unfortunately we've  
46 still been unable to make contact with four of the  
47 tribes, but we are in negotiations with other tribes to  
48 see in what capacity they would like to participate in  
49 our LCC, whether it's on the Steering Committee, through  
50 technical working groups, just to be kept informed of our

1 activities or whatever role they would like to have.

2

3 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Greg.

4

5 George.

6

7 GEORGE: Thank you. You've been talking  
8 about your tribes and I see Arctic Slope written all over  
9 up there and we've never had a government to government  
10 meeting with the Secretary of Interior and the law  
11 requires that you do a government to government before  
12 you talk about the Arctic. I am the president, the  
13 regional tribal government of Inupiat Community of the  
14 Arctic Slope. I am the north's head, I know nothing of  
15 what you've been putting up here and stamping Arctic all  
16 over. It has not been brought before the Council so I  
17 don't know who made it or how it is and I just wanted to  
18 let you know I am the tribe and we know nothing about  
19 what's going on. We have to be told before you can talk  
20 about the Arctic. We have to be visited as a tribe.  
21 That's the law. And it applies for all of you here, it  
22 applies for all the Federal government, Secretary of  
23 Interior, government to government has to be honored and  
24 it has not been in this instance.

25

26 That's what I wanted to tell you.

27

28 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for sharing  
29 that, George. Like I said it's written in the agenda and  
30 we moved it up from item 13 in our booklet, informational  
31 discussion on the affects of climate change on  
32 subsistence. So this is -- this is our first hearing on  
33 this information as it's being presented by Greg. So  
34 we're still under that discussion.

35

36 And I wanted to ask maybe Helen, I'm not  
37 sure if you're the right person or Don, in terms of OSM  
38 how do you perceive the Regional Advisory Council using  
39 this information into the -- if we choose or if it's  
40 something that we select to use at a later time in terms  
41 of our impacts maybe or proposed research on subsistence  
42 resources that we depend on for subsistence.

43

44 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45 Helen Armstrong. I think you hit it exactly when you  
46 said about research and you're going to hear a little bit  
47 later on our fisheries resource monitoring program where  
48 we come before the Council and ask for ideas for research  
49 and we've had -- in the past we've had -- in the past --  
50 we do this every other year, in the past two cycles have

1 had really good dialogue from the Council about -- when  
2 we'd ask for ideas for research and we -- it would turn  
3 toward climate change and so we were, you know, trying to  
4 find out what you wanted to have research done on. And  
5 there's some projects that'll be up for your  
6 recommendation for funding. So that is one way I think  
7 the information you can give us about what you're seeing  
8 with climate change that can be put into research that  
9 you want to see be done. I think what -- Greg is asking  
10 the same thing, what research would you like to see be  
11 done, what changes are you seeing. I think he's asking  
12 for a number of things, he's also asking -- you know,  
13 they're looking for tribal involvement, where they can  
14 get more involvement. You guys are, you know, leaders in  
15 your community so you can go back and say, you know, we  
16 need to get people involved in this. I think Rosemary  
17 had some really good points about, you know, it's -- you  
18 guys need to be at the table as well so that it's part --  
19 it's your process as much as it is anyone else's. That  
20 is a big push in this administration to have tribal  
21 involvement.

22

23 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.

24

25 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

26

27 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Helen.

28

29 MR. KOONUK: Thank you for saying it's  
30 your process, that sound better.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 CO CHAIR BROWER: Did that cover it, Ray?

35

36 MR. KOONUK: Yeah. Thank you for that.

37

38 CO CHAIR BROWER: Okay. I'm not sure  
39 which way we want to go, Pete, in terms of -- we haven't  
40 had comments or -- you know, I could probably make a few  
41 more comments, but I look to you as well to see if  
42 there's anything else we need to consider.

43

44 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Well, a couple of  
45 things. I think the motion on the floor was a bit  
46 premature prior to the discussion that we're having now,  
47 but still it's a motion on the floor and I think that,  
48 you know, we probably ought to act on it. Because I  
49 believe that the motion was that desire for a statewide  
50 regional Council meeting was the intent of the motion.

1 Is that correct, Mike?

2

3 MR. KRAMER: Correct. That is correct.

4

5 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: And we're basically  
6 under discussion.

7

8 MR. KOONUK: There was a question called  
9 for by Roy.

10

11 MR. R. NAGEAK: I think my wife sent me  
12 a signal not to question it yet.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. R. NAGEAK: But the process is --  
17 when I first became Advisory Council member I tried  
18 responding and connecting with all my other regional  
19 Advisory Council members, I think I believe I could do  
20 that. But trying to connect with the other region  
21 Advisory Council members all over the state which could  
22 preclude a statewide meeting and try to get information  
23 together on how the rest of the state felt on a lot of  
24 these subsistence issues or rules and regulations that  
25 tend to come from on top and then hit us right square in  
26 the eye, for some reason our -- when somebody sends to  
27 other regional from your Depart -- from your Division  
28 when somebody sends out something you can't reply to all  
29 of them, it's being controlled like that. Have you seen  
30 that, has anybody else seen that, it's like wow, I can't  
31 talk to the rest of the regional Council members all over  
32 the state when there's like a big message and I wanted a  
33 response on what was being told to us or what we wanted  
34 to -- they could get my reply, but I wanted to reply to  
35 the rest of the regional Council all over the state of  
36 Alaska and that was blocked. Is that purposely or they  
37 don't want any of these issues discussed on a statewide  
38 basis rather than -- I like the motion, I'd like to see  
39 one day of all the subsistence users at a statewide  
40 meeting to address and I think that could be a  
41 recommendation that we need to make to the Subsistence  
42 Board, right, just a recommendation. Because it is the  
43 Subsistence Board that need to have that statewide  
44 meeting. But the way that we communicate with each other  
45 through the computer, it's like we're blocked. Because  
46 it really like when that happens all the computers in the  
47 Federal government get like -- no?

48

49 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy, (In Native)

50

1 MR. R. NAGEAK: (In Native).....  
2  
3 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Roy.  
4  
5 Helen.  
6  
7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm not exactly sure  
8 what you're talking about, but you gave me a really good  
9 idea as you were talking. And maybe we can explore doing  
10 some kind of electronic forum, I mean, maybe it's a  
11 Facebook page, maybe it's a blog, maybe -- I don't know  
12 what it might be, but somewhere where people could  
13 communicate with one another in that kind of forum  
14 electronically. I mean, I just -- you just sort of made  
15 me think creatively that we should explore something like  
16 that as a way for people to communicate. I do know that  
17 we are not allowed to give out the private information  
18 for people because there are privacy laws. So if you --  
19 you know, Roy, you were to ask me for somebody else's  
20 contact in another regional Council, I wouldn't be  
21 allowed to give it to you. I could contact them and ask  
22 them to give permission, but we're not allowed to do that  
23 just because of privacy laws. But we could maybe create  
24 some sort of other type of forum where people could  
25 communicate.  
26  
27 MR. R. NAGEAK: Right.  
28  
29 MS. ARMSTRONG: And that might be a good  
30 idea to do that.  
31  
32 MR. R. NAGEAK: I think that would be  
33 good.....  
34  
35 MS. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.  
36  
37 MR. R. NAGEAK: .....because if we could  
38 communicate on a statewide basis with a different region  
39 and that's allowable and you get the feedback, if you  
40 want to hear from people that are in a regional Council  
41 together and they discuss it through email just like how  
42 they discuss Facebook or -- I don't like to gossip like  
43 that, but.....  
44  
45 (Laughter)  
46  
47 MR. R. NAGEAK: .....when you look at the  
48 needs on a statewide basis and we communicate to each  
49 other be more open and be more truthful on what the  
50 subsistence people need on a statewide basis and all this

1 animosity and always asking each other question or who's  
2 the boss or who decided on this and we need to open up  
3 because we are the people, I think, right. We're not  
4 going against the stock market or anything, we just want  
5 to hunt in peace.

6

7 CO CHAIR BROWER: Rosemary.

8

9 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: There definitely are  
10 some resources that are already out there. There is a  
11 hunter and skin sewers forum on Facebook already, Arctic  
12 Oceans has a Facebook page already and there are many  
13 others like that out there. The process that really  
14 needs to be looked at is that we get the information  
15 being distributed in a good way, without getting it  
16 fragmented so that the understanding gets diluted and we  
17 get into these processes so that, you know, people had a  
18 discussion over here, but there was another discussion  
19 over here and now what comes out onto the meeting process  
20 is three different pages of discussions that never talked  
21 with one page. So there are some good resources that are  
22 out there, there are very good discussions that are being  
23 had on these forums. But we need to make sure that we do  
24 a good process and that we disseminate information in a  
25 good way without fragmenting us any further because that  
26 is a very big concern on some of these issues that we're  
27 dealing with. We have issues that we're dealing with  
28 that go through many different agencies, but we're  
29 dealing with one. And when we are dealing with some of  
30 these issues that crossover so many jurisdictional  
31 boundaries and agency boundaries and all those kinds of  
32 issues, there's different rules for each layer of these  
33 pages and it's very concerning because we're the ones at  
34 the very bottom of these tables and that are living with  
35 the reactions to all of these pages.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Just as a matter of  
40 concern for the -- this half of the Co Chair is that  
41 we're on item seven and we have 11 items to go. So at  
42 some point we're going to have to glean the agenda to see  
43 what's appropriate for the North Slope folks to deal with  
44 out of the agenda and what's appropriate for us to deal  
45 with, Northwest Arctic.

46

47 But still we have a motion on the floor,  
48 but still to be determined, I guess, would be what would  
49 be the topic of concern for the statewide forum were that  
50 to happen.

1 Helen.

2

3 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, I just wanted  
4 to -- I thought maybe it was my responsibility as  
5 representative of Office of Subsistence Management, there  
6 are a couple things I wanted to clarify that somebody had  
7 been saying that we have three meetings a year, we only  
8 have two. So I didn't want that misinformation going  
9 around, very rarely have we had special meetings, I think  
10 Northwest Arctic or maybe -- we have had occasionally a  
11 special meeting, but it's pretty rare. So we do a  
12 meeting in the fall where we address wildlife issues  
13 where it's regulations to change wildlife and we do one  
14 in the spring where we look at changes to fisheries  
15 regulations. And that -- that is the goal of this  
16 Council is to provide recommendations to the Federal  
17 Subsistence Board. I -- to have a third meeting that  
18 would be everybody in the whole state together, I  
19 certainly -- you know, you're certainly -- it's fine to  
20 ask the Board, but I think Pete raised a very good point,  
21 we are having shrinking budgets, not growing, and we  
22 heard yesterday that our budget at OSM next year would be  
23 -- is going to be cut by 10 percent. We're having huge  
24 hits to travel budgets, 20 percent, and we can't -- we at  
25 OSM can't cut the travel of the Councils so it's meant  
26 travel cutting for everyone else as well because we have  
27 to have the Council meetings. So given the budgetary  
28 restraints I find it rather unlikely that the Board would  
29 ever hold a statewide meeting unless there was some  
30 reason. They did do it once and that was for when we  
31 took over management of fisheries, the Federal fisheries.  
32 I think that was the time when we did the statewide  
33 meeting to help everybody understand, give everybody the  
34 same information at once and help them understand what we  
35 were doing. I think a statewide meeting would cost, I  
36 was sitting here figuring it out, but I think it would  
37 probably be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$150,000  
38 with as many Council members as we have, we have 10  
39 Councils and some of them have as many as 13 people. So  
40 it's a huge amount of money so Pete made a good point on  
41 that.

42

43 So just sharing that information with  
44 you, you know, of course, can make any recommendation  
45 you'd like to to the Board.

46

47 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair. I could  
48 recommend that U.S. Fish and Wildlife enforcement agency  
49 take the brunt of the cuts.

50



1 (Laughter)  
2  
3 CO CHAIR BROWER: Don.  
4  
5 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. During  
6 the discussion, you know, Chairman Schaeffer that it --  
7 I think it was Chairman Brower stated that it was  
8 premature for the -- a motion on the floor. But as  
9 process wise I'm just trying to keep it move -- the  
10 meeting moving smoothly. I can offer you some options  
11 here as far as the statewide meeting that the motion  
12 stated. You can include it as a part of your annual  
13 report or you can ask the maker of the motion to withdraw  
14 it, concurred by the second and then you can -- after  
15 further discussion you can consider bringing that back up  
16 as -- under a motion.  
17  
18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
19  
20 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Don.  
21  
22 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.  
23  
24 CO CHAIR BROWER: Ray.  
25  
26 MR. KOONUK: Yeah. Well, I'm not going to  
27 opt out on anything here and, you know, I still want to  
28 ensure that the public and the communities know what  
29 we're doing, information is being passed out and making  
30 sure that our young ones get involved. And that was a  
31 real good point because they need to be involved and, you  
32 know, I'm not going to opt out on -- from this discussion  
33 and I'd like to see that, you know, this motion get  
34 carried on and duly passed as far as a start to where,  
35 you know, this can be discussed in another -- in our next  
36 meeting and see where -- where it's going. You know,  
37 that's a good start right here because we have Northwest,  
38 North Slope and we have other regions that are probably  
39 hopefully thinking about, you know, getting their  
40 communities and their young ones involved too. And like  
41 the guy said, we're not going to be here forever and we  
42 need to have them involved.  
43  
44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45  
46 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Ray.  
47  
48 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Call for question.  
49  
50 CO CHAIR BROWER: The question's been

1 called for the motion on this floor to hold these  
2 statewide RAC meeting in the future. All in favor of the  
3 motion signify by saying aye.

4  
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6  
7 CO CHAIR BROWER: Opposed say no.

8  
9 (No opposing votes)

10  
11 CO CHAIR BROWER: None noted. Thank you.  
12 The motion passed.

13  
14 Next agenda item for this climate change  
15 discussion was going to lead us into another second --  
16 Pete, maybe you can help me with what we were discussing  
17 earlier.

18  
19 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: All this -- such a  
20 lengthy session that I almost forgot. But I think what  
21 we're trying to get at was how climate change -- and I  
22 appreciate all the scientific information because we've  
23 seen a lot of it over the last few years and it's getting  
24 more and more interesting, but I think that how it  
25 impacts us as users and we've expressed some concern  
26 already is where we wanted to approach the problem  
27 because I think has human nature responds to stuff beyond  
28 it's control, I mean, it's like, you know, what do you  
29 do. And it's not intended to confuse anybody about what  
30 there is to do, but more specifically as to exactly what  
31 we're going to be doing in response to something clearly  
32 out of our control. And I know it's extremely  
33 frustrating because of that, but, you know, our  
34 experiences already go back about 10 years ago when we  
35 lost two experienced hunters out in the ice when it  
36 melted from the bottom up, it frosted up and they  
37 couldn't tell probably -- and I'm just second guessing  
38 based on some of the observations we had, when they went  
39 into thin ice and, you know, that was Doug Shellin and  
40 Raymond Brown, very experienced sea people. And that  
41 kind of started us thinking about how it -- we respond  
42 because back in the old days with dog teams, when you  
43 were out in the ocean the dog just would stop and refuse  
44 to go if it got too thin because they -- they don't like  
45 water in the winter and boy, they do everything to try to  
46 not get wet. But now we have snowmachines and, you know,  
47 it -- they don't give a damn where they go

48  
49 (Laughter)  
50

1 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Unfortunately most  
2 machines you don't have a paddle track and a 150 horse  
3 engine to retrieve you out of a situation like that. So,  
4 you know, I think we were thinking about how it applies  
5 to us on a more personal level simply because that's  
6 where the rubber meets the road is what experiences we  
7 have now in terms of our observation. I live 30 miles  
8 from Kotzebue or I try to and with the prevailing wind  
9 changing from west to south it's caused significant  
10 acreage loss, refacing the north side of Kobuk Lake. I  
11 would guess that we probably lost something around 75  
12 acres just around the proximity of our camp there.  
13 Because the other thing that's happening is that the  
14 waters come up so high that the Kobuk Lake ice starts to  
15 move based on the wind now. And that ice starts to move  
16 when it's four feet thick and, you know, semi-freshwater  
17 ice is real hard and can do some real damage. And that's  
18 the observations we're seeing in terms of just what's  
19 happening in that little piece of the planet earth.

20  
21 But given that we're so behind on the  
22 agenda I would probably want to proceed to see what we  
23 can do individually tomorrow based on what needs the  
24 North Slope has identified and, of course, what we're  
25 doing for Northwest Arctic.

26  
27 The other thing though that I'd like to  
28 mention is that with this presentation that's going to be  
29 given to us, and like I said in my previous statement  
30 that we need to run it through our people to say what  
31 they're thinking because one of the things that we talk  
32 about a lot up north is that if you can't offer to be  
33 part of the solution then shut the -- up. Because part  
34 of the problems that as we offer information to our  
35 people, we also invite criticism, but we also invite  
36 suggestions as to how to make things better. And you'd  
37 be surprised that if you have that little responsibility  
38 there, the tone of those meetings change considerably  
39 sometimes. Because then we're inviting them to be a  
40 piece of the solution. And, you know, people are really  
41 happy to be doing that kind of thing at least in our neck  
42 of the woods and I'm probably saying it for the rest of  
43 the state as well.

44  
45 So I would suggest that perhaps we go  
46 through the agenda very quickly and then get back to the  
47 remainder of number 7 and then allot to complete the  
48 action items that we need to do prior to disbanding this  
49 joint meeting. That's my recommendation.  
50

1 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair. Ask for a 10  
2 minute break.  
3  
4 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Okay.  
5  
6 CO CHAIR BROWER: That sounds good to me.  
7 Ten minute break, recess.  
8  
9 (Off record)  
10  
11 (On record)  
12  
13 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Don, did you want to  
14 introduce the next presentation.  
15  
16 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For  
17 your reference, Karen -- Ms. Karen Hyer from OSM will do  
18 the presentation to the next speaker.  
19  
20 Thank you.  
21  
22 MR. R. NAGEAK: What item number are we  
23 on?  
24  
25 CO CHAIR BROWER: Item number 8.  
26  
27 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairmen, Council members.  
28 Good afternoon. Trent Sutton is going to present some  
29 work he's done through the FRP, but before he does his  
30 presentation for those of you who are new I was just  
31 going to kind of remind you of what the FRP is all about.  
32 But in 2009 we came before you and we asked for your  
33 ideas about what to study in your region. And through  
34 that meeting we developed the priority information needs.  
35 So in 2010 we did a request for proposals for funding for  
36 research and Trent is going to present some of the  
37 findings of one of those successful projects. And then  
38 later on after his presentation I'm going to present the  
39 draft 2012 fisheries resource monitoring program which  
40 will be our next funding cycle for further fisheries  
41 research.  
42  
43 So I'm going to turn it over to Trend  
44 Sutton and let him present to you his work.  
45  
46 MR. SUTTON: All right. Thanks, Karen.  
47 Thank you, Mr. Chairmen and RAC members. I want to talk  
48 about a project that as Karen's introduced was funded in  
49 2010 and it continues through -- until the end of 2012.  
50 So we're just about at the halfway point.

1                   A little bit about me. My name is Trent  
2 Sutton, I'm a faculty member at the University of Alaska,  
3 Fairbanks in the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences.  
4 By training I'm a fisheries biologist so that's mostly  
5 what I do, but I teach classes and I -- I'm involved in  
6 administering our graduate fisheries program. And as  
7 part of the research that I do I train graduate students.  
8 And the graduate student on this project is Nick Smith  
9 and Nick couldn't be here today, but he's the primary  
10 individual that's working on this research for his  
11 master's degree research. And there's a whole host of  
12 other folks that are involved as well that provide a lot  
13 of expertise and logistical support and I'll just name  
14 those individuals. Chris Zimmerman who's from the U.S.  
15 Geologic Survey, Alaska Science Center here in Anchorage;  
16 Ray Hander who's from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
17 Fairbanks Field Office; Tina Moran who's with the Fish  
18 and Wildlife Service, Selawik National Wildlife Refuge;  
19 and then the last individual there is probably one of the  
20 most instrumental individuals in helping with this  
21 project from a logistical standpoint is Alex Whiting who  
22 is in Kotzebue and I'm sure many of you know Alex, but  
23 he's been a huge help in terms of the logistical support  
24 for this project, helping us hire folks. We hire  
25 individuals from the villages of Selawik, Kobuk and  
26 Kotzebue to help with this project in terms of collection  
27 of fish and deployment of our receiving stations which  
28 I'll tell you a little bit about them, collecting the  
29 data that we need for this research project. So this is  
30 a fairly large project and it requires help from a lot of  
31 folks to pull it off successfully.

32  
33                   But what I'm going to talk to you about  
34 is a species of fish that I think many of you probably  
35 are familiar with, inconnu or as I'll refer to the rest  
36 of the meeting, the sheefish, and looking at specifically  
37 winter movement patterns and habitat use up in the  
38 Kotzebue region. So just to tell you -- give you an idea  
39 a little bit what I'm going to talk about, I'm going to  
40 give some background, why we're doing this project in the  
41 first place, why it's important, what are our specific  
42 study objectives and how we went about doing the research  
43 that we have at hand, where we're at specifically  
44 collecting fish, so the study area, how we're doing our  
45 collections and tagging fish, tracking fish and assessing  
46 habitat use. And that's mostly what my talk is going to  
47 be about and then I'm going to -- at the very end kind of  
48 show you some preliminary results and I say preliminary  
49 because our first year of tagging fish was summer of 2010  
50 and we just got the data back in July of this year, just

1 started working on the data in August of this year. And  
2 we collected somewhere close to 30,000 data points so  
3 far. And it takes a while to sort through all that and  
4 get it in a usable form so we're still in that process.  
5 In the meantime we've tagged a new batch of fish in the  
6 summer of 2011 and those fish are still at large and  
7 we'll be collecting data on those individuals next July  
8 at which point then we'll be complete with collecting  
9 data and in the process of finalizing our data analyses.  
10 So that's kind of where we're at right now.

11  
12 CO CHAIR BROWER: You have to clarify  
13 what you mean when you're at large.

14  
15 MR. SUTTON: Fish are -- so that fish  
16 that we had implanted transmitters in that are still  
17 swimming around out in the river and the lakes. So we  
18 have not collected the data from those individuals yet.

19  
20 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.

21  
22 MR. SUTTON: Thank you. So a little bit  
23 about -- I already mentioned the species I'm going to  
24 talk about is inconnu, but I'm going to refer to them as  
25 sheefish for the remainder of this presentation. I've  
26 been working on whitefish for a long time, before I came  
27 to Alaska I was working on whitefish in the Great Lakes,  
28 lake herring and lake whitefish, but since I've been in  
29 Alaska I've worked on a whole host of species, Bering  
30 cisco, least cisco, humpback whitefish, broad whitefish,  
31 but sheefish are really interesting in that they get a  
32 lot larger than those other species of whitefish, they  
33 live a lot longer and they're pyciferous, they feed on  
34 other fish. And so they're pretty neat fish to work  
35 with. We find them in Arctic -- they have a rather  
36 circumpolar distribution, you find them in Arctic and  
37 sub-Arctic waters across North America as well as Asia.  
38 In Alaska we find them in the Kuskokwim, the Yukon, the  
39 Kobuk and the Selawik drainages, at least known  
40 distributions and there's -- actually their distribution  
41 is actually spreading a little bit beyond those systems  
42 as well. But the primary ones are the four that I list  
43 there. I'm not going to talk about all those systems,  
44 I'm going to talk about the Kobuk and the Selawik River  
45 drainages specifically, but I'll come back to that here  
46 in a moment.

47  
48 So just to kind of orient everybody with  
49 where I'm talking about here specifically, we've got the  
50 Selawik drainage flowing through right in here and then

1 we've got the Kobuk River drainage flowing through here.  
2 And there have been reports that sheefish have been  
3 caught up in the Noatak River and it's not clear yet if  
4 that's actually a spawning population, it might be, and  
5 so a new population that is beginning to form. And  
6 there's some other river drainages they're moving to as  
7 well. But I'm going to talk about the Selawik River  
8 stock and the Kobuk River stock today.

9  
10 To give you some background about these  
11 fish, these Kotzebue sheefish, historically they're  
12 identified as being a single stock, there was no known  
13 differentiation between Kobuk and Selawik fish, but  
14 through a series of studies conducted by the Alaska  
15 Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
16 Service using both a combination of tag return studies  
17 and genetic analyses which are actually still ongoing,  
18 it's known that those are two distinct stocks, they have  
19 two distinct spawning locations in the Selawik and the  
20 Kobuk River respectively. But what's interesting about  
21 those fish is that during the wintering period it was  
22 believed, and I'll show you here today, that those fish  
23 are actually a mixed stock in terms of where they winter,  
24 Hotham Inlet, also known as Kobuk Lake which is a  
25 brackish water system and in Selawik Lake which is a  
26 freshwater system. And I should actually go back to that  
27 previous slide just to orient you where I'm talking about  
28 here. So if this is the Selawik River and this is the  
29 Kobuk River here, Selawik Lake is right here which is  
30 strictly freshwater, so Selawik River dumps into Selawik  
31 Lake and then that flows into Hotham Inlet also known as  
32 Kobuk Lake which drains from freshwater here at the mouth  
33 of the Selawik Lake to gradually more and more brackish  
34 water as you get close to where it enters Kotzebue Sound.  
35 So we have some differences in terms of salinity,  
36 strictly freshwater in Selawik Lake and progressively  
37 more saline waters as we move down through Kobuk Lake.

38  
39 So the belief was that in the wintering  
40 period that the fish from the Selawik River and fish from  
41 the Kobuk River mix together, we call it a mixed stock  
42 fishery, and sort of co-mingle together and that's where  
43 a lot of the harvest takes place.

44  
45 And just to give you some idea of what  
46 we're talking about in terms of harvest, there's the  
47 three primary means in which fish are harvested in this  
48 system, subsistence, sport or recreational harvest and  
49 then commercial harvest, but realistically the sport and  
50 commercial harvest of sheefish in the Kotzebue area is

1 relatively minor. Just to show you some data from 1997,  
2 you've got, you know, 23,000 plus fish harvested by  
3 subsistence means that year where there's not even 1,000  
4 fish combined being captured by sport and commercial  
5 fish. The subsistence harvest fluctuates around from  
6 year to year and a number of things factor into that, but  
7 the point I want to make here is that sheefish are being  
8 harvested in this region primarily for subsistence  
9 purposes. And the other factor, the other sport and  
10 commercial fishery, really don't factor much into it at  
11 all.

12  
13 In terms of how fish are harvested  
14 there's three primary means. During the fall spawning  
15 migration fish are gillnetted at the mouth and in the  
16 rivers themselves. When the fish are actually spawning  
17 they're harvested using beach seines on the spawning  
18 areas. For the most part that gillnetting and beach  
19 seining harvest is relatively minimal. Most fish are  
20 harvested during the wintering period through under ice  
21 gillnetting and under ice angling. And so the majority  
22 of the fish that are being caught by -- for subsistence  
23 purposes are being caught using those two modes during  
24 the wintering period primarily down near Kotzebue for the  
25 most part.

26  
27 So the question is what kind of concerns  
28 do we have that sort of led to a need to understand  
29 winter movement and habitat use. Well, there was some  
30 concern that there are stock of abundance differences  
31 between the Selawik and Kobuk River stocks. So, for  
32 example, we know that there are few fish that spawn in  
33 the Selawik than the Kobuk, a resident known fact. If  
34 there concern for over harvest of the less abundant  
35 Selawik stock, we don't know that. My study doesn't  
36 focus on harvest, that's something that Fish and Game and  
37 the Fish and Wildlife Service is focusing on. My concern  
38 came down to these next two points. And when we first  
39 started developing the project in talking to LeeAnne  
40 Ayres who is the manager of the Selawik National Wildlife  
41 Refuge, she expressed a significant concern with ice road  
42 construction. There has been an increase in the number  
43 of proposals for ice roads across Selawik Lake and Kobuk  
44 Lake and the concern that construction of ice roads might  
45 have on movement and habitat use of sheefish. When you  
46 make an ice road basically what you're doing is creating  
47 a venue for transporting goods across that. To create an  
48 ice road though requires one to pump water up onto the  
49 ice to strengthen that surface to allow for heavy loads  
50 to pass. And in doing so what you do is you change the



1 depth profile below it, you change the content by having  
2 less freshwater in that area, you change the interchange  
3 between freshwater and saltwater which affects salinity,  
4 it affects temperature, it affects migration routes, it  
5 can have very significant impacts on fish movement and  
6 habitat use. So there was a concern with this increase  
7 in proposal of ice roads what impact could that have on  
8 sheefish. No one knew because no one even knows what the  
9 habitat use -- the habitat requirements are during the  
10 wintering period. So we wanted to look at that before  
11 there was too many ice roads being built, what would the  
12 potential impacts be.

13

14 Same thing for climate change, you know,  
15 nothing we can do about climate, at least nothing I can  
16 do about it, but we can begin to look at what impacts  
17 that might have on habitat availability before the  
18 impacts are too great. So climate change is going to  
19 affect things like ice up and ice out. As we heard a  
20 little bit it has affects already on ice movement  
21 patterns, how does that affect things like salinity,  
22 water depth, temperature, those are the primary factors  
23 that are going to influence the distribution of sheefish  
24 and as a result subsistence harvest of sheefish. So  
25 those are the things you want to try to tackle,  
26 understanding winter habitat selection, winter movement  
27 patterns before things happen and become too different  
28 than what we're seeing now.

29

30 So those are the threats, and those are  
31 very real threats that we have to try to understand and  
32 that's kind of what we focus on with this study.

33

34 There have been some ongoing -- previous  
35 and ongoing research looking at things like spawning  
36 abundance so we got a pretty good handle on how many fish  
37 spawn in the Selawik and the Kobuk Rivers every year. We  
38 have a pretty good handle on the stock and genetic  
39 structure of these two spawning population and we also  
40 know the migration patterns of those fish during the  
41 spawning migration, we know when they enter the rivers,  
42 we know when they're getting up to the spawning grounds,  
43 we know when they begin to leave, but we don't know is  
44 what happens much after that. The time period we're  
45 talking about here is June, July, August, into early  
46 September, after that we don't much of all what's going  
47 on.

48

49 There have been no evaluations to date  
50 until our study that have actually looked at migration

1 and post spawning movement and habitat selection within  
2 these drainages. And there's a reason for that, most  
3 movement studies use telemetry so you're implanting or  
4 attaching a transmitter onto a fish and then tracking it  
5 as it moves around. That's primarily using radio  
6 telemetry so you can put out radio antenna stations in  
7 various locations and detect fishes that are moving by or  
8 you can fly around in an airplane with an antenna and  
9 pickup with a receiver where those fish are located. The  
10 problem is that radio telemetry does not work in  
11 saltwater. So it worked fine up in the Selawik River and  
12 the Kobuk River, it works fine in Selawik Lake, but once  
13 those fish move into Kobuk Lake where you start getting  
14 some salinity you can't track them anymore and we know  
15 that's where they're at. So the previous attempts to  
16 look at movement patterns wouldn't tell you anything.  
17 We're using some different here which I'll come up to in  
18 a little bit.

19  
20 The other issue you have is we're talking  
21 about a pretty expansive spacial scale here, hundreds of  
22 miles, river miles, these fish are moving and you're  
23 looking at Selawik Lake which is a very large system,  
24 Kobuk Lake which is a very large system and so we needed  
25 some way to sort of get a handle on where these fish are  
26 moving at on a seasonal basis from the time they begin to  
27 leave the spawning areas in the river until they get to  
28 their wintering grounds and then make their movement  
29 starting back up towards their spawning grounds the  
30 following spring, early summer. And so that's what we  
31 are able to address with our particular study using some  
32 different technology than what's been used in the past.

33  
34 So the objectives are really twofold.  
35 First off we wanted to get a handle on the fall and  
36 winter distributions of inconnu within the Selawik and  
37 Kobuk River drainages and that includes Selawik Lake and  
38 that includes Kobuk Lake, where are these fish at, where  
39 are they moving to and is there any seasonal trends  
40 there. But then objective number two sort of breaks that  
41 down further, what is the role or what is the importance  
42 of things like water depth, temperature and salinity as  
43 the primary drivers of determining winter habitat use,  
44 how do those factors play into that. And then based on  
45 that we can make projections okay, if salinity is  
46 important, they're selecting a certain salinity or  
47 they're selecting a certain temperature, how changes  
48 might affect those. And maybe it's not actually directly  
49 affecting them, maybe it's affecting their prey base,  
50 maybe that's what's being affected here, but nevertheless

1 we'll know what it is that's driving that factor, looking  
2 at these habitat features. And so that's what we're  
3 trying to address here in terms of our objectives.

4

5                   So what did we actually go out and do.  
6 Well, I mentioned before we had two sampling seasons, we  
7 have 2000 -- the summer of 2010 and we also have the  
8 summer of 2011. And what we did is we targeted the fish  
9 in the Selawik and the Kobuk Rivers during their spawning  
10 -- upstream spawning migration, so we're collecting fish  
11 before they spawned. The time period which we sampled  
12 was beginning in late July fish enter the Selawik River  
13 earlier than in the Kobuk River so we were able to catch  
14 those fish mid to late July in the Selawik River and then  
15 move over to the Kobuk River and start collecting them in  
16 early August, extending until about mid August. So our  
17 tagging both years in 2010 and 2011 was over by mid  
18 summer -- excuse me, by late summer.

19

20                   The capture locations on the Selawik  
21 River we collected them from an area near Kerlu Creek  
22 which is right about here. All the fish to move to that  
23 area to spawn so we're catching them just below the  
24 spawning grounds. In 2010 we collected 80 fish from that  
25 area, took us about two weeks to do that. In 2011 we  
26 caught 80 fish in that same area, took us about three  
27 days to do that there and we tagged all those individuals  
28 so 160 fish from the Selawik River over two years. And  
29 in the Kobuk River we collected fish right about here,  
30 extending from region just up -- excuse me, right at  
31 about the Village of Kobuk to about a kilometer  
32 downstream of the Pah River and again collected fish in  
33 2010 and 80 fish in 2011. It was the opposite, in 2010  
34 we collected all the fish in the Kobuk River in about  
35 three, four days and in 2011 took us about three weeks.  
36 And more of a function of water levels has a big effect  
37 on how successful we can catch fish.

38

39                   The means by which we caught fish, the  
40 primary way that worked the best was just rod and reel,  
41 just hook and line using crock isle spoons with single,  
42 barbless hooks and casting right out into these deep  
43 holes on river bends. And the fish are -- they're pretty  
44 aggressive and they hit very readily and we're able to  
45 collect them that way. But when water levels start to  
46 get high, fish are a little more challenging to capture  
47 and so what we use in that case were haul seines and  
48 here's an example of using these large nets and dragging  
49 them basically right through the spawning areas before  
50 the fish spawn and collecting them that way. And so in

1 the years where we had higher water we were able to  
2 finish off our sampling using those -- using that type of  
3 gear. But both of them work pretty effectively and the  
4 nice thing about them is it doesn't leave any mortality,  
5 we were able to collect 160 fish from each river system  
6 over two years with no mortalities, we didn't kill a  
7 single fish so that was great. And also we didn't catch  
8 anything else, you don't catch any incidental species,  
9 you didn't catch any pike, didn't catch any chums,  
10 nothing else, just caught sheefish which is what we were  
11 after which made things a lot easier for us.

12  
13 So what do we do with the sheefish after  
14 we collect them. Well, we, you know, collect length and  
15 weight and then we anesthetize them in a cooler or in a  
16 tub with a solution of clove oil, just standard, food  
17 grade clove oil which would -- which basically knocks the  
18 fish out so we leave them in there for a period of time.  
19 When the fish can no longer maintain an upright position  
20 and no longer swimming, we move them into a V shaped  
21 cradle right here, we lay them upside down so their  
22 abdomen is facing upward and during that whole process  
23 from the cradle we keep bathing them with this clove oil  
24 solution. So the fish are always staying wet, we're  
25 pouring it over their gills and over their body so that  
26 the fish always remain in an anesthetized state and  
27 they're not moving around during the surgical procedure.

28  
29 For surgery we just make a two centimeter  
30 long incisions right near the pelvic fin and so two  
31 centimeters, we're looking at something a little bit less  
32 than an inch long. So pretty small incision, all the way  
33 through the abdominal cavity. We then insert an acoustic  
34 transmitter which is different than a radio transmitter  
35 and it's a different kind of a signal and requires an  
36 acoustic receiver to pick up that signal, but that gets  
37 them planted and here actually you can see where they're  
38 actually inserting the transmitter through that incision  
39 right there, put it in the abdominal cavity and then we  
40 close the incision with two to three monofilament sutures  
41 and then pet vetbond adhesive on the sutures and all  
42 vetbond really is is superglue. And that just keeps  
43 those sutures tight and keeps them from breaking at all  
44 as that glued area heals over a couple of week period.

45  
46 And then once the surgical procedure's  
47 been completed we put the fish in a tank of freshwater  
48 and allow them a period of time to recover. And that  
49 might take anywhere from a couple of minutes to as long  
50 as a half an hour. And so basically the fish is in

1 freshwater, there's no more anesthesia, the anesthesia is  
2 passed out of the fish through the gills and eventually  
3 begins to swim normally and once the fish is in an  
4 upright position and is behaving normally and can swim on  
5 its own, we then let it go and watch it swim away. And  
6 then we don't see it again at that point.

7

8                   So we did this like I said I mentioned  
9 over two years, tagged 320 fish total.

10

11                   How do we get the data back from the  
12 fish, we don't have to ever see the fish again. Actually  
13 we don't ever want to see the fish again. So what we do  
14 is put out a series of receiving stations and here's what  
15 a receiving station looks like. So I've got a schematic  
16 on the left and an actual picture of it on the right.  
17 This is the primary part here, this is the acoustic  
18 receiver right here and this is what it looks like. It  
19 looks like a large Nalgene bottle for the most part, it's  
20 a plastic container and inside that is a receiver that  
21 picks up the acoustic signal emitted by these  
22 transmitters. And they're emitting a signal  
23 continuously. I'll come back to that in a second. We  
24 also have an archival tag attached to this item, there it  
25 is right there and I'll tell you about the data that  
26 collects as well. So that's where we're getting all of  
27 our data from, this apparatus right here.

28

29                   We've got a couple other things that are  
30 part of this, we've got a big float, this yellow object  
31 right here. All that basically does is keep the  
32 receiving station from lying on the bottom. We don't  
33 want it lying on the bottom because it's going to get  
34 covered with silt that way and then we'll never see it  
35 again. So this keeps that receiving station elevated  
36 above the bottom of the location that it's been deployed.  
37 And then we have a locator tag which is right here,  
38 attached to the side of the receiving station. Once we  
39 deploy these, and they can be in water from as shallow as  
40 10 feet to as much as 20 feet in depth, you can't see  
41 them any longer. We do take the latitude and longitude,  
42 we have a GPS unit so we know where they're at, but we  
43 didn't know if these were going to be moving around at  
44 all over the winter. We do have a big weight here that  
45 anchors them into the substrate and then we have a side  
46 rope or a retrieval rope with a small weight on the end  
47 of it, it's about 30 feet in length. We weren't sure  
48 though if those receiving stations were going to move  
49 around. Ice could catch them and move them, they could  
50 be buried by sediment. What this locator tag does is it

1 kicks on starting June 1st and starts emitting a signal.  
2 And so we get close to the receiving station based on our  
3 GPS coordinates and then we can put in our -- we have a  
4 hydrophone on an acoustic receiver, we can then pick up  
5 the -- that ping being emitted by that locator tag and  
6 find out exactly where those stations are located. So it  
7 helped maximize our retrieval because to be quite honest  
8 when we deployed these and we had 20 receiving stations,  
9 I didn't know if we were going to see any of them ever  
10 again. And we had some good success in retrieving those  
11 and I'll come back to that here in a second.

12  
13 As I mentioned we had 20 of these  
14 receiving stations that we deployed, we had one at the  
15 mouth of the Selawik River, one at the mouth of the Kobuk  
16 River, one at the mouth of the Noatak River, we had two  
17 of these -- two of these in Selawik Lake and then the  
18 other 15 were at various locations through Hotham Inlet  
19 or Kobuk Lake. Those locations were based on Alex  
20 Whiting talking to various folks who fish for sheefish  
21 and said here's where we know the fish are located. We  
22 want to put these where fish were so we could collect the  
23 data, the habitat data about where these fish are going  
24 to be located and their habitat preference. We also put  
25 some receiving stations in location where we knew there  
26 weren't going to be fish because we also need to  
27 characterize they're not along with where they're at. So  
28 that's all part of this process. We had 20 receiving  
29 stations out there that we deployed in September, 2010  
30 and then retrieved the following summer.

31  
32 What type of data these receiving  
33 stations collect. Well, each of these acoustic -- so  
34 this is what we insert inside of the sheefish. Each of  
35 these acoustic tags has two sensors, one of them is a  
36 temperature sensor and one of them is a depth sensor.  
37 About every minute it records the temperature and the  
38 depth of where that fish is at. And then when it gets  
39 close to that receiving station it transfers that  
40 information to the receiving station and that receiving  
41 station then archives that data. So we know the exact  
42 fish and, of course, then we know all of the biological  
43 information that fish collected when we implanted the  
44 transmitter. And we also have the temperature and the  
45 depth while that fish is in the location of the receiving  
46 station. Each of these receiving stations had another  
47 archival tag, it was called the start loading archival  
48 tag and that's this device right here which recorded  
49 water temperature and salinity on an hourly basis. So we  
50 have on each of our 20 receiving stations an archive from

1 the time they were deployed until the time they were  
2 retrieved of hourly water temperature and salinity data.  
3 So again help play into this collecting of habitat  
4 information for our sheefish study.  
5  
6                   So that's kind of what we've done over  
7 the last two years. So we've tagged fish in 2010, we  
8 deployed receiving stations, we retrieved them in 2011,  
9 we tagged more fish and then we redeployed those  
10 retrieving station and I'll pick them back up again next  
11 summer. Here's what we've done, like I mentioned we  
12 tagged 80 fish in each river in 2010 and 2011, we have  
13 the size distributions from a 2010 fish from the Kobuk  
14 River and the Selawik River here just to kind of show you  
15 what we're looking at. The minimum length of fish we're  
16 targeting is 820 millimeters, that's 31 inches, that's  
17 the minimum size at which fish spawn or at least it's  
18 believed that they spawn. We collected only fish bigger  
19 than that and we saw some pretty big fish, 40 plus inch  
20 fish in these rivers. And we tried to -- we tried to get  
21 a distribution, you know, big and small fish that were of  
22 spawning size for our study and we did a pretty job of  
23 collecting fish in that size range during that period.  
24  
25                   I mentioned we deployed those 20  
26 receiving stations and we didn't know if we were ever  
27 going to see them again and the reality is we did pretty  
28 good getting them back, we got 18 of 20 back. The only  
29 two we were not able to retrieve was one at the mouth of  
30 Selawik Lake and one right outside -- right here at the  
31 mouth of Kobuk Lake. Those retrieving stations -- or  
32 those receiving stations are in about 20 feet of water,  
33 we could -- we could hear the locator tag down there, but  
34 what we think happened is that retrieval rope got buried  
35 in the sediment. We took a site scan sonar out there and  
36 we're able to see them sitting there, but we weren't able  
37 to -- we spent a couple hours trying to get them out of  
38 that location and were not able to do so. So what we're  
39 going to do next summer is go back out there and they'll  
40 still be pinging away, we're going to hopefully have a  
41 diver that can out there or dive team and go out there  
42 with us and can go down to those locations and unbury  
43 that retrieval rope so that we can pull those receiving  
44 stations out. Because they have -- we think we --  
45 they're going to have some pretty valuable data. I mean,  
46 this location here's going to have ever single fish from  
47 the Selawik River that would have passed through this  
48 region so that's pretty -- a pretty important station.  
49 And then any fish that might have actually left Kobuk  
50 Lake and gone on to the Kotzebue Sound would be picked up

1 by this receiving station here. So we want to make sure  
2 we get those receiving stations. And so we're going to  
3 be working to identify a couple of divers that can come  
4 out with us next year, if anybody knows anybody that  
5 wants to go diving, let me know and we're more than happy  
6 to accommodate -- accommodate them, especially folks that  
7 have experience diving in those areas. But we got back  
8 18 of our 20 receiving stations, we were pretty happy  
9 about that.

10  
11 The receiving stations collected data  
12 from October 1st of 2010 through April 30th of 2011. As  
13 I mentioned we had almost -- you know, almost 29,000 data  
14 detections. And a detection, what that means is a time  
15 a fish has passed the location of the receiving station.  
16 Okay. So a fish might be there for -- you know, might be  
17 in an area for 10, 15, 20 minutes. Each time the fish  
18 is, you know, about every minute picking up a ping from  
19 that -- an individual fish. If we take that 28,000 plus  
20 detections and break it down, about 16,000 detections  
21 were from the Selawik River and that actually comprised  
22 46 of our 80 fish from 2010. So over half of our fish we  
23 were able to pick up as they passed that location --  
24 those different receiving stations. And then from the  
25 Kobuk we got about 13,000 detections which comprised 42  
26 of our 80 fish. Most telemetry studies by way of  
27 reference, if you're picking up 20 percent of your fish  
28 you're pretty happy, we're picking up 50 percent of -- 50  
29 percent plus of our fish. So we were very happy about  
30 the numbers of data hits we got and the numbers of  
31 different fish that were involved in these data hits.

32  
33 Just to give you some idea, these  
34 receiving stations have a radius of about 500 meters  
35 around, so a little over a quarter of a mile they can  
36 pick up a fish. So they don't have to be right next to  
37 the receiving station. There's some variability there,  
38 some of them extend out to as far as 800 meters, so about  
39 half a mile, some of them are less than 500 meters, but  
40 the average is about 500 meters.

41  
42 Just to show you some very coarse results  
43 and Nick put these together. So what we have here, this  
44 is for the Selawik River stock so we have Selawik Lake  
45 and we have Hotham Inlet, so you got the Kobuk River  
46 coming in this way, you got the Selawik River flowing in  
47 this way, we got months of the year, October, November,  
48 December, January, February, March and April. And these  
49 dots represent fish. The bigger the dot the more fish at  
50 a location. So a big dot means more fish, a small dot



1 means fewer fish. And what you can see here, this is --  
2 again this is on average by month and we're going to  
3 break this down and look at it on a fish by fish basis  
4 and on a weekly basis as well. But what you can see in  
5 October is fish are still moving out of the river as we  
6 would think they would, they spawn in late July and  
7 August and still hang out in September, October, heading  
8 out in the river into Selawik Lake and some fish are  
9 actually already down here, but not too far from  
10 Kotzebue, but by November almost all the fish are sitting  
11 down here at the mouth of Hotham Inlet and they remain  
12 there until January when fish begin to start moving back  
13 up and moving away from these areas and start moving back  
14 up toward Selawik River. And then by later in the spring  
15 and relatively few are down in the lower Kobuk Lake, most  
16 of the fish are sitting up here in Selawik Lake. So  
17 there's definitely a seasonal moving pattern, they're  
18 moving down through the late fall, spending the winter  
19 down here in the lower Hotham and Kobuk Lake area through  
20 the winter which is kind of what -- we're not too  
21 surprised because that's where most of that winter ice  
22 fishery takes place and then they begin moving back up  
23 near where they're going to start heading upriver later  
24 on in the spring as they get ready -- prepared for their  
25 summer spawning migrations.

26  
27 We saw the same thing for the Kobuk River  
28 for the most part. A little bit different. We didn't  
29 see fish with maybe one exception up in Selawik Lake  
30 ever, most of those fish came out from the Kobuk River in  
31 October, moved down, spent the winter down near the mouth  
32 at Hotham Inlet and then late winter and in the spring  
33 began to distribute themselves back up closer to where  
34 they're going to begin their migration back up the Kobuk  
35 River a little bit later in that spring or early summer.

36  
37  
38 But again these are very coarse results  
39 at this point in time and we're going to be able to break  
40 that down on a much finer scale, tie in the water  
41 temperature so we're going to need depth data too which  
42 we have not done. I do want to show you what that data  
43 looks like and here's this -- we have water temperature  
44 here on the left and we have salinity on the right and  
45 this is by month. And each one of these points  
46 represents one of those receiving stations, the average  
47 for that particular month. And as you can see there's a  
48 lot of variability in the data which you would expect to  
49 see. And red dots are Selawik, blue dots are Kobuk. And  
50 so the trick for us is to tease apart all this

1 variability in the data and tie that back to individual  
2 fish by stock, by month, by location to determine what  
3 are the individual habitat selection criteria for these  
4 fish. And that's the challenge that Nick has over the  
5 next year, doing it for the 2010 tagged fish and then  
6 next summer he'll have the 2011 tagged fish and a year  
7 from now we'll have all this data compiled and have some  
8 better understanding of what's going on. We're still  
9 early on the process even though we've collected, you  
10 know, about half of our data at this point in time.

11  
12                   So just to kind of wrap up here, and I  
13 appreciate your patience, is I want to acknowledge a few  
14 organizations and folks. And first the funding for this  
15 project is from Fish and Wildlife Service Office of  
16 Subsistence Management and Karen Hyer has been  
17 instrumental in helping to shepherd this project through  
18 and getting -- help in getting it funded and helping with  
19 some additional funding later on as well. Alex Whiting  
20 with the Native Village of Kotzebue has been -- without  
21 him this project wouldn't happen from a logistical  
22 standpoint. He's been key in coordinating all the hires  
23 and a lot of the logistics in the field and he's in  
24 Kotzebue so he's a great resource whenever we need his  
25 assistance or need to tap into his expertise, if he  
26 doesn't know something he knows somebody who does know  
27 something and puts us in touch with those individuals.  
28 The Selawik National Wildlife Refuge, they contributed a  
29 lot of support, personnel, Brandon Saito who's one of  
30 their technicians has been out in the field with us both  
31 summers helping to collect and tag fish. The Fairbanks  
32 Field Office with Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S.  
33 Geological Survey has provided a lot of the sampling gear  
34 we've used, they've helped provide some of the retrieving  
35 station or receiving stations. UAF has contributed some  
36 funds as well. And then finally a couple folks that  
37 weren't initially involved in the project, but became  
38 instrumental later on were James Savereide and Brendan  
39 Scanlon with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
40 they've both done a fair bit of research, James on the  
41 Kobuk River sheefish and Brendan on Dolly Varden there,  
42 but they had a lot of sampling gear, we used their boat  
43 and things that we weren't able to provide from UAF, they  
44 were instrumental.

45                   So this has been a pretty big project, a  
46 lot of people have been involved in that, you know, area  
47 for -- at least from Fairbanks is not easy to get to, but  
48 we've been able to, I think, be pretty successful thus  
49 far in collecting data. And like I said, you know, in a  
50 year from now we'll have a better handle on what that

1 data actually means, but I think we're making some pretty  
2 good progress on understanding what are the habitat  
3 requirements of these fish during the wintering period  
4 and then tying that back into what, you know, how these  
5 structures might actually impact those.

6

7                   So I appreciate your time and if anybody  
8 has any questions, I don't know if we have time for  
9 questions, I'd be more than happy to answer them.

10

11                   MS. AHTUANGARUAK: In relation to the  
12 changes that are coming with efforts to change the land  
13 and waters in that area, we also had a lot of concerns  
14 related to ice road development. We were very concerned  
15 about water withdrawals, we're also very concerned about  
16 the -- if they meltdown or not after the process because  
17 they're very different areas that also melt differently  
18 than if you don't have an ice road or an ice bridge in  
19 those areas. We were also very concerned about the  
20 freezedown in our area when you're putting on ice roads,  
21 we had more concern that the depth of the freeze was  
22 changing with putting on ice roads and not understanding  
23 that well.

24

25                   Another concern we had was compacting  
26 these areas and not understanding, especially in our  
27 area, we have so much water within the grass and within  
28 the tundra, and not understanding how the fish move  
29 through these areas and the depth of water that's  
30 necessary and the timing of when these fish movements  
31 are. We had a lot of concern to the broad whitefish in  
32 these areas and concerns with ice roads, but also with  
33 snow packing trails. We've had villages across the North  
34 Slope express concerns about that kind of thing and how  
35 does it affect some of these interlake or streams or  
36 ponds migration of these fish when they're not well  
37 understood. It is a lot of good information that's on  
38 there, I wish we had some more information that looked at  
39 how the water levels and different things, how the  
40 fishing are moving through these areas, I think that's  
41 something that's going to be very important for your  
42 future understanding with changes that may come with  
43 these ice roads.

44

45                   Thank you.

46

47                   CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: I think we  
48 appreciate the scope of the work and the people involved  
49 and, you know, I guess its complexity because I know that  
50 sheefish are probably not a easy fish to study. But I

1 was wondering in terms of some of the details that people  
2 don't generally know that unlike salmon they don't spawn  
3 and die, is there any indication as to how many times in  
4 the lifetime of a fish that they will spawn?

5

6 MR. SUTTON: That's one of those  
7 questions that -- that's a tough nut to crack because you  
8 have to be able to catch fish repeatedly over time. I  
9 mentioned the one individual who's doing some work, James  
10 Savereide with ADF&G, he's doing a radio telemetry  
11 project where they've been tagging fish over a three or  
12 four year period and what they're hoping to figure out is  
13 sort of the idea of spawning period as how often does a  
14 fish spawn. You know, for a fish that spawns multiple  
15 times over the course of its life and you're talking  
16 about large fish, in this case for a female it's very  
17 energetically taxing to do that and you're talking about  
18 long spawning migrations during which they're not usually  
19 actively feeding. Females invest a lot of energy into  
20 egg production more so than males put into sperm  
21 production. And the thought is that a female -- a female  
22 sheefish spawns every couple of years whereas males spawn  
23 maybe every year, maybe every other year. But that's  
24 something that I don't have an answer for, but James'  
25 study is supposed to get a handle on because by tracking  
26 these fish, you know, hundreds of fish over multiple  
27 years, he'll begin to see the same fish moving back and  
28 forth past areas and he knows who's male and who's  
29 female, how big they were and how old they were, how  
30 often -- how frequently they spawn. So a female ought to  
31 be coming back every two years, every three years or  
32 every four years, are males coming back every year, every  
33 other year. So that's something that'll be forthcoming.  
34 I know he's completed his tagging and he's still in the  
35 process of data collection. So we should know something  
36 in that regard in the next year or two in terms of the  
37 spawning period. But it's a real -- it's a legitimate  
38 issue, we're talking about fish that spawn multiple times  
39 over the course of their life.

40

41 Unfortunately for whitefish it's hard to  
42 get a handle on that versus salmon. Even salmon that  
43 don't die after spawning so, for example, I've worked on  
44 steelhead before. And steelhead when they move back in  
45 to spawn, they don't feed and their scales begin to  
46 reabsorb and they get a spawning check and you can count  
47 those spawning checks and determine okay, this fish is  
48 six years old and it came back to spawn for the first  
49 time at age three and came back at age five, age six and  
50 age seven. You can determine that. But whitefish

1 because they're so long lived, you know, we're talking  
2 about fish that are 20, 30 years old, it's hard to age a  
3 whitefish reliably using scales when they're long, we  
4 just can't do it, you can only age them reliably using  
5 otoliths and then you have to get that information -- you  
6 have to take the ear bones out of their head. So that's  
7 not something we want to do in this case. So using  
8 techniques we've used with other fish species that works  
9 really well don't work with whitefish. We've seen the  
10 same thing with humpback whitefish because I do a little  
11 bit of -- more work on them than anything else. We've  
12 seen it with broad whitefish and Bering cisco. So I  
13 think James' study is going to shed some light on that  
14 question that you have and I don't -- I actually don't  
15 have an answer. If I were to guess I'd say males  
16 probably every year or two, maybe three, females probably  
17 every two, three, four in terms of when they come back to  
18 spawn, how many years in between those.

19

20 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: So like salmon  
21 you're able to determine age by scale patterns or how do  
22 you do that?

23

24 MR. SUTTON: Well, you know, most salmon  
25 -- yeah, the scales. Most salmon are -- you know,  
26 they're not very long lived, you know, if you're talking  
27 about something like a pink salmon it's two years, you  
28 know, a chinook might be, you know, six, eight years,  
29 something along those lines. And so the long -- the  
30 problems with long lived fish and they lay down those  
31 growth increments on their scales, the older they are  
32 those increments bunch up together and they're hard to  
33 discriminate from one another. And when you begin to --  
34 when they go through these nonfeeding periods and they  
35 begin to reabsorb protein in their body and there's  
36 protein in the scales too, it starts to erode away those  
37 outside edges. And so as a consequence you can't get a  
38 reliable age estimate where something like an otolith,  
39 those ear bones, they don't ever breakdown, there is a  
40 permanent record along with their age along with -- you  
41 can get other things like otolith chemistry and determine  
42 if they're out -- you know, when they're out in saltwater  
43 versus freshwater, there's a lot of interesting  
44 information there. You can also use fin-rays and  
45 vertebrae with salmon. I've actually used vertebrae, you  
46 take sections and use those to age them because they're  
47 not long lived compared to, you know, a whitefish. I've  
48 done a lot of work with sturgeon in the past, we're  
49 talking about fish that live, 50, 60, 70 years. And so,  
50 you know, using -- they don't have scales anyway which is

1 irrelevant, but using some other structures is key. So  
2 yeah, you can age salmon very reliably using scales and  
3 that's actually what -- Fish and Game does a lot of the  
4 aging of salmon in Alaska, they use scales.

5  
6 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Any other questions.

7  
8 Attamuk.

9  
10 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, and for your -- for  
11 the rest of the group here, maybe you should stress the  
12 health to the fish because remember a couple years ago  
13 one of the fisherman got one with a satellite in it and  
14 it was given to my office. And we -- I went to the  
15 Selawik Wildlife Refuge and we biopsied that fish and for  
16 your information even the satellite was sticking out  
17 about four inches from the fish, that fish was pretty  
18 healthy looking. I mean, it was fat, there was nothing  
19 wrong with the muscle and what I mean by that is the meat  
20 was okay. The rest of it was -- we sent it out to have  
21 it sampled. So the tagging you do and the thing --  
22 information you're getting, it's real information and  
23 it's helpful for me. Now I know where to go in December  
24 to get fish.

25  
26 (Laughter)

27  
28 MR. SUTTON: Yeah, I think I've tipped  
29 off where all those fish are sitting, at least a good  
30 proportion of them.

31  
32 That's the nice things about these tags,  
33 they're relatively small, they're only about two to three  
34 inches in length, they weigh not even an eighth of a  
35 pound. So if you think about how big a sheefish is,  
36 they're pretty small, they weigh far less than 1 percent  
37 of the fish's body weight. So there's nothing -- doesn't  
38 have any effect on them. We -- you know, they're  
39 internal implants so they don't affect the balance of the  
40 fish at all, they're in the abdomen and, you know, if you  
41 were to catch one or know of somebody who caught one, if  
42 you were to, you know, filet it out you wouldn't have to  
43 worry about biting into this because it's not going to be  
44 in the filets at all. And if you do catch one there's  
45 some information on the tag about who to get ahold of or  
46 get ahold of Alex Whiting or you can get ahold of one of  
47 use, get ahold of me, and there's actually -- we have a  
48 reward system for those tags. And so -- I can't remember  
49 it is because Alex is coordinating that, but then in  
50 addition to that your name goes in a hat and at the end

1 of the year they draw a name out of the hat and the  
2 winner gets a drum of fuel. So there's some incentive  
3 for people to turn in tags because we can reuse those  
4 tags, we can download information off those tags, we want  
5 those -- I mean, ideally the fish are going to be at  
6 large and be out there, you know, collecting data, but if  
7 somebody catches them we want to get that tag back. So  
8 spread the word, we've had -- we've done a couple of  
9 radio bits on the radio station in Kotzebue and we've  
10 done some other outreach activities in some of the other  
11 villages up there as well that kind of get the word out.  
12 I think a lot of folks know about what we're doing, I  
13 doubt everybody does, but if people are getting tags or  
14 catching fish, you know, we want to know -- we want to  
15 know where the fish was caught, how big it was, I mean,  
16 there's no -- you know, we just want the information just  
17 so we can, you know, use that to help figure out what  
18 we're trying to figure out about where these fish are at.  
19 So that would be useful if you can spread the word.

20

21 MR. SHAFFER: I think that's a big part  
22 of our culture is not only being able to harvest these  
23 animals, but to learn about them. Just talking about the  
24 tag, last spring -- this spring I was out on the ice and  
25 I heard some little five year old kid running around with  
26 a tag in his hand, saying I got a tag, nobody else got a  
27 tag. I got five bucks. And then he was trying to sell  
28 it somebody.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 MR. SHAFFER: But, you know that -- I've  
33 helped the Park Service in Kotzebue for a number of years  
34 with muskox survey, wolverine study, all kinds of things.  
35 I harvest these animals and I enjoy learning about them  
36 and I think that should be part of our subsistence  
37 lifestyle, you know, learning their habits, learning  
38 their -- you know, what they feed on and, you know, I  
39 mean, us living there we already know. Like in the  
40 springtime they're down at the Kobuk area or Pike's Spit  
41 and Lockhard Point feeding on herring. And down in front  
42 of Kotzebue feeding on herring. Not the big ones, but  
43 the small ones. And then in the falltime they're down in  
44 Kotzebue area feeding on tomcods and herring and smelts.  
45 But it's always good information to learn about our  
46 subsistence, you know, resources. And I enjoy, you know,  
47 hearing about that and I try to teach my kids, I'll  
48 probably bring this back to my kids and let them read it.

49

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. SUTTON: And one of the things we  
4 wanted to make sure we -- you know, actually I can bring  
5 crews up from Fairbanks to do this work, but we wanted to  
6 make sure we hired folks from Selawik and Kobuk and  
7 Kotzebue to come out there and give them an opportunity  
8 to hands on learn how to -- you know, what we're doing  
9 and then they can spread that information to folks in,  
10 you know, where they live. And that I think was a key  
11 aspect for this project and something Alex coordinated.  
12 And I assume you probably know Alex. And so yeah, I  
13 mean, I'm -- you know, I'd be more than happy to, if  
14 anyone wants to get hold of me, provide more information,  
15 if you want to come back at a future one of these  
16 meetings and give you the final results of what we found,  
17 I'd be more than happy to do that, I mean, I think I  
18 should do that. But, you know, the goal here is that --  
19 is collect this information now before things have  
20 changed dramatically because things are changing as we  
21 know and understand what these fish are doing and then,  
22 you know, the folks who make decisions can use it in a  
23 way that or, you know, fishers can use it in a way to  
24 help them collect fish or catch fish, that's an important  
25 aspect. We're not just collecting data for the sake of  
26 an exercise of collecting data. We want it to be useful,  
27 to better inform people on -- in terms of doing the  
28 things they need to do.

29

30 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CO CHAIR BROWER: Rosemary.

33

34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I think this process  
35 is really good and I think that the information is going  
36 to help in some ways. I think there's more information  
37 that we still need to get to help is some of this  
38 understanding. I'd like to see that this process also  
39 get incorporated into our school system, it's really  
40 important that we create this process that we're  
41 involving our students in becoming the future people that  
42 are obtaining these data sets and utilizing these  
43 reporting methods to help us in our processes. So I hope  
44 that in your process you also look at a way to look at  
45 some of this information and get it back into the school  
46 system to help our process to teach science, to teach our  
47 information about our traditional resources and the  
48 process of working within our government entities.

49

50 Thank you.



1 MR. SUTTON: Yeah, that's a great idea.  
2 You know, unfortunately when we're out there doing this  
3 is during summer and school is out of session, but, you  
4 know, I mean, we'd be more than happy to come up in the  
5 fall or in the spring before schools are out and, you  
6 know, come into the classroom and provide information.  
7 You know, part of what I -- I'm an educator, that's what  
8 I do, and this is actually education, we're -- I'm  
9 training graduate students how to do research. So  
10 whether I'm working with graduate students or I'm working  
11 with K through 12, I mean, I've done all of that and  
12 that's a key aspect because, you know, what we're trying  
13 to do -- what I try to do is -- you know, I'm trying to  
14 educate people in the fisheries and resources and what  
15 those mean. And also in some ways try to recruit people  
16 into our field, I want to see, you know, people that are  
17 interested in natural resources, whether it's fish or  
18 wildlife or something else, go into those areas that  
19 you're passionate about. And so if you can -- you know,  
20 poor wording here, no pun intended, hook them into this  
21 early in life then maybe they'll become fish biologists  
22 some day and then they can come back and better inform  
23 these, you know, resource management in these areas where  
24 they grew up and play a part in that. So absolutely and  
25 if anybody has any, you know, suggestions on programs we  
26 could do or people to contact, I'd like to -- I'm not in  
27 the villages, I don't know all the folks, but if -- you  
28 know, get ahold of me and I'd be more than happy to  
29 figure out a way to make that happen.

30

31 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you.

32

33 Attamuk.

34

35 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, Rosemary's right. You  
36 need to include the students because they'll be the  
37 future. So if you go there and -- give you an example,  
38 we're talking about fish, but when we do caribou  
39 collaring, they include the students. Now they know who  
40 I am, I got a couple of small notes from kids that did  
41 the collaring for caribou, they're going to school to  
42 become biologists. So that will lead to it if you  
43 include the students. So you could probably approach  
44 them during the winter and say okay, we need kids for the  
45 summer and hire from the village. Because the more you  
46 hire from the village the less headache you're going to  
47 have because they will oppose this -- some will oppose  
48 it. But if they know about it and a family member happen  
49 to get hired see and if the explanation come from a  
50 native, that's a completely different thing. At least

1 they'd say okay, this is coming from a native, it's okay.  
2 It'll work. And I like this project.

3

4 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy.

7

8 MR. R. NAGEAK: I agree. Because I've  
9 got a niece that was in high school, her junior and  
10 senior year and got involved with the North Slope polar  
11 fish study and now she's graduating this year at the  
12 University of Fairbanks being a biologist. Ernestine.  
13 Oh, yeah, you probably know her, she's in high demand  
14 now. People are just waiting for her to graduate. The  
15 other person is my son, he was in high school, his junior  
16 and senior year, and he got involved in the State tagging  
17 of caribou in the summertime and now he's a wildlife  
18 biologist for Native Village of Barrow. And I think he's  
19 going to be hired on as a Federal agent for crying out  
20 loud.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MR. R. NAGEAK: What is this world coming  
25 to.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 MR. R. NAGEAK: But it's that interest  
30 and your studies are being funded that when young people  
31 are involved with it then they carry it on. I mean, and  
32 they're -- if you want people involved with the Federal  
33 government too in regards to fish studies or any kind of  
34 studies, they'll be the future of the Federal government.

35

36

37 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair. I like that idea  
38 of doing things with the kids because, you know, we do  
39 have culture camps around that time of the season so it  
40 might be good to bring children with the Maniilaq or  
41 Kotzebue has a camp and there's a couple more up the  
42 river, Kobuk River.

43

44 MR. KRAMER: I know for a fact that last  
45 spring my brother held and Maniilaq held a camp down at  
46 Sadie Creek. And I was called (in native). If you guys  
47 go to AFN you guys would be able to watch a video on  
48 these kids for suicide prevention. And what they did was  
49 they went out there and lived off the land for one week.  
50 You know, this would be a great opportunity to bring

1 these kids and involve them in studies like this, gets  
2 their minds off of personal matters and onto their  
3 future. You know, my brother's looking at -- hoping and  
4 hoping that it's a bigger camp next year. So if, you  
5 know, you guys were able to provide a couple people for  
6 him to go there and teach them about these things and go  
7 out and actually do these things, you know, it's all for  
8 -- I'm all for it. I've always been for our kids because  
9 they're are futures because when I'm gone, this is their  
10 chair, not mine. I'm history when that day comes. So we  
11 need to bring it towards our kids and involve them in our  
12 subsistence way of life and learning about our resources.  
13 If they don't learn about our resources we've lost it  
14 all.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Any other questions.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: If not, we'll move  
23 on.

24

25 MR. SUTTON: Thank you.

26

27 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you very much.

28

29 CO CHAIR BROWER: Wasn't there a second  
30 part to this presentation?

31

32 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council members.  
33 I'm going to talk about the fisheries resource monitoring  
34 program which I refer to as the FRMP. And it can be  
35 found -- it starts on Page 25. And there's a lot in this  
36 book so I'm just going to go over some of the highlights.  
37 But I want to remind you and for those of you who are  
38 new, you weren't part of the Council then, but in 2009 we  
39 went to the Councils and we asked what the information  
40 needs were and what they felt needed to be researched.  
41 And I have heard today some discussion on some ideas and  
42 we're going to be doing that again. We fund research  
43 projects every other year and so this next cycle of  
44 meetings which will be your winter meetings, we're going  
45 to begin to prepare for our next funding cycle and we'll  
46 be coming out to you and asking you what you're seeing in  
47 the communities and what ideas you have to help us guide  
48 our investigators in the studies. So that's coming up,  
49 that's something we do before we start this whole  
50 research project and then from that we've composed our

1 priority information needs for the different regions and  
2 we do a call and we ask for people to submit research  
3 proposals.

4  
5               So if you turn to Page 25 you're given a  
6 -- the start of the background information on the  
7 program. And if you turn to Page 26 you'll see the  
8 project evaluation process. And so we put out a call, we  
9 ask for projects, they come in and they're evaluated on  
10 these four factors. The first one is strategic priority.  
11 The project must address an information need related to  
12 Federal subsistence management. The second one is  
13 technical and scientific merit. The project is evaluated  
14 for its scientific rigor and its clarity of purpose. The  
15 third one is the investigator's ability and resources.  
16 The investigator must have the ability to complete the  
17 proposed work. The fourth criteria that these projects  
18 or these proposals are evaluated on is partnership and  
19 capacity building. And the projects must have a  
20 participate -- it must have the participation and support  
21 of the local organizations.

22  
23               So if you turn to Page 33 you can see  
24 here for this region we had seven proposals submitted and  
25 this is the list of the proposals and the request for the  
26 funding for the proposals. And of the seven submitted  
27 six were recommended for funding. And the remaining  
28 tables in this section of the book summarize past  
29 projects that have been done in the area and breakdown  
30 some of the other requirements of the process.

31  
32               So if you turn to Page 36 that starts the  
33 description of the six proposals. So the first one is a  
34 Selawik River sheefish assessment. And there's a large  
35 permafrost thaw that has slumped into the Selawik causing  
36 the river to become turbid and potentially destroy a  
37 spawning habitat for sheefish. And this project will  
38 collect information that will be used to assess the long  
39 term affects of this slump and assess the success of the  
40 spawning of sheefish in this area.

41  
42               The second one is the Kobuk River  
43 sheefish assessment. And this is the one that Trent  
44 spoke about earlier. This project is in the Kobuk River  
45 currently and the investigators have asked for continued  
46 funding. The radio tags have been deployed and they want  
47 funding just to continue to collect the information  
48 through the life of those radio tags. And this  
49 information will be used to estimate the spawning  
50 frequency, the spawning location and the migratory timing

1 of the Kobuk River sheefish.

2

3                   The third one is the Noatak River Dolly  
4 Varden assessment. And currently little is known about  
5 the over-wintering Noatak River Dolly Varden population  
6 and how it compares to the other major populations  
7 spawning in northern Alaska. This project will use radio  
8 telemetry described over-wintering location of the Dolly  
9 Varden and then it will use sonar to estimate the  
10 abundance of this population as they migrate out to the  
11 ocean in the spring.

12

13                   The next one is the Northwest Alaska  
14 fisheries harvest survey. And information from this  
15 project will provide salmon and non-salmon harvest  
16 information for eight villages in Northwest Arctic  
17 Alaska. And these include Kivalina, Noatak, Noorvik,  
18 Selawik, Kiana, Ambler, Shungnak and Kobuk. The study  
19 will collect harvest data as well as explore factors  
20 driving these harvests. The project attempts to explain  
21 how changes in subsistence fisheries are affecting both  
22 fisheries and subsistence users.

23

24                   The next one on the list is the Norton  
25 Sound salmon fisheries traditional ecological knowledge.  
26 This project will document baseline information on  
27 harvest of salmon and non-salmon fisheries in Point Lay  
28 and Wainwright. Traditional ecological knowledge,  
29 ecology, climate change and related observations and  
30 trends and socioeconomic factors will be collected. The  
31 research will work with communities to create educational  
32 materials and distribute harvest calendars to monitor the  
33 fisheries. The project offers an exploratory research of  
34 an emerging fishery.

35

36                   And then the final one proposed for  
37 funding is the North Slope climate change and subsistence  
38 use of whitefish. And investigators will gather local  
39 knowledge about subsistence uses of broad whitefish and  
40 cisco in two North Slope communities. And there's a  
41 possibility that it could be Wainwright, Barrow, Nuiqsut  
42 or Kaktovik, that's still to be determined. The project  
43 aim is to document changes in harvest location, timing  
44 and preservation methods. The investigators will explore  
45 historical knowledge and present knowledge of fisheries  
46 through in depth interviews and observations in the study  
47 area.

48

49                   And finally the draft fisheries resource  
50 monitoring program is an action item and we need a motion

1 to recommend it for funding to the Board.

2

3 Any questions?

4

5 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Attamuk.

6

7 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah. I always -- I know  
8 the ones you mentioned that they're funded already, but  
9 one of my main concerns is Aggie where there's so much  
10 fish there that I don't even have to have net, I just  
11 throw them to the beach. And I've been saying for last  
12 few years that they got sore -- they got sores in them.  
13 And I've been trying to get funding for those to see what  
14 kind of sores they are. And I -- I was told by the  
15 agencies not to worry, it's not a problem yet. See  
16 that's what I'm trying to say, when we see something they  
17 always say wait, it's not a problem yet, we'll work on it  
18 later. Why the fish there migrate to the main river so  
19 if they're getting sores at the Aggie they might be  
20 passing it on to the others. That's my concern. There's  
21 so much fish there that I've been saying that and Pete  
22 know it probably just like a thorn in side. Things like  
23 this fish need to be studied and investigated more like  
24 instead of two years we need to do it now because these  
25 things are important. Because last summer, this summer  
26 when I was there again, because they go in certain time,  
27 my timing was a little bit later, I caught the tail end  
28 of the fish, but I saw a couple of -- they were too  
29 deteriorated, but they were dead on the beach. And I  
30 know where they winter in the lakes at Aggie and some  
31 stay at the river, at the forks. And I would -- my  
32 concern I would wish they would hurry up and check on  
33 those fish because they do migrate to the ocean and they  
34 migrate to the river. You know, and you've probably  
35 heard me saying that over and over. And I'm not going to  
36 quit saying it until something is done to have it  
37 investigated.

38

39 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council members.  
40 The State has actually asked at some of these meetings  
41 for fish that are caught that have lesions to be sent to  
42 them because they are interested in tracking that.  
43 That's Alaska Department of Fish and Game. And I can get  
44 that information. But that would be the first step in  
45 doing that.

46

47 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, the reason -- I'll  
48 follow-up. The reason why I'm asking the agencies, it's  
49 in the Federal land, I mean, the river's different,  
50 probably the State. Yet the section of that land around

1 the river is part of Noatak Preserve. So that's what I'm  
2 saying, you know, we depend on the State yet we're not  
3 being heard. So I'm having a dry cry here

4  
5 (Laughter)

6  
7 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Attamuk.  
8 So you're looking for a motion to approve the six  
9 projects that you're recommending for funding?

10  
11 MS. HYER: Mr. Chair. That is correct.

12  
13 MR. SHIEDT: So move.

14  
15 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Moved by who?

16  
17 MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk.

18  
19 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Seconded. Rosemary.

20  
21 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: All right. Thank  
22 you, Rosemary.

23  
24 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair. Just out of  
25 curiosity who prioritized these projects here?

26  
27 MS. HYER: These project aren't in any  
28 priority, the ones that are recommended for funding.  
29 They're all recommended. Sometimes we do prioritize them  
30 if we have more projects, but.....

31  
32 MR. R. NAGEAK: I mean, somebody in your  
33 Department makes the recommendations or.....

34  
35 MS. HYER: No. What happens if the  
36 proposals are submitted, they're reviewed by the  
37 Technical Review Committee which is an interagency group  
38 that recommends what should be funded and what shouldn't.  
39 So for the particular project that you see wasn't funded  
40 here, because out of the seven submitted six were  
41 recommended for funding, they went back with some pretty  
42 specific recommendations for that project, they felt it  
43 was too broad and it needed -- to be successful it needed  
44 to be narrowed down. So it wasn't that the research  
45 question wasn't important, it was just they felt the  
46 project couldn't be successfully executed so that is  
47 their recommendation. So now we go before you and we get  
48 your recommendation to support it. And then the Board is  
49 the one that makes the decision to fund it.

50

1 MR. R. NAGEAK: So what kind of criteria  
2 do they use for recommendations?  
3

4 MS. HYER: They're evaluated on four  
5 criteria and those criteria are on Page 26.  
6

7 MR. R. NAGEAK: Okay.  
8

9 CO CHAIR BROWER: I have a question to --  
10 maybe to our Council members. I was just trying to look  
11 into this number 12-155, North Slope climate change and  
12 subsistence use of whitefish. Under that -- in that  
13 place we have community of Wainwright.  
14

15 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: They don't have  
16 whitefish.  
17

18 CO CHAIR BROWER: Yeah, that's what I  
19 mean. I mean, that's what I'm catching as well. So I'm  
20 -- I'm thinking it was Atqasuk that was -- that we were  
21 discussed before, Nuiqsut had requested for.....  
22

23 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Right.  
24

25 CO CHAIR BROWER: .....studies for  
26 whitefish and cisco. And Wainwright has the smelt and  
27 the salmon species and we don't have whitefish. I don't  
28 think because we -- I know they come to Barrow to get  
29 some whitefish from fishermen up in Barrow.  
30

31 And the one on Page 34, the last  
32 paragraph, I think that needs to be changed. Wainwright  
33 needs to be changed to Atqasuk.  
34

35 Thank you.  
36

37 Helen.  
38

39 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. This is  
40 exactly the type of information we look for from the  
41 Councils, we've had situations where the Council's  
42 recommended adding communities or deleting communities.  
43 So we're looking to your input not only just for funding,  
44 but if you think that the study should be changed in some  
45 way and then what the reasons might be for that. So we  
46 appreciate those comments.  
47

48 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Helen.  
49 Yeah, I mean, that just -- just from my personal  
50 knowledge I think we're -- what I know Wainwright we



1 don't see them catching the Arctic cisco or the broad  
2 whitefish. They may get some other (in native), the  
3 Bering cisco when -- on their movement northward, but the  
4 not the least cisco and the broad whitefish.

5  
6 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. Also one  
7 of the recommendations that we had made if I'm  
8 remembering correctly, I think Alesia's still here, was  
9 to narrow that project to -- yeah, to narrow it to fewer  
10 communities just because we thought the scope might have  
11 been too broad for them, just to make it a more focused  
12 project. So what they proposed and then what we've  
13 suggested in our recommendations for fund, but with  
14 modification -- I was just looking for what the -- where  
15 the -- yeah, it was fund with modification. And the  
16 modification was to.....

17  
18 CO CHAIR BROWER: Could you please, I  
19 didn't find what page you're.....

20  
21 MS. ARMSTRONG: Page 54 is the page where  
22 we have the justification there. And we actually had  
23 suggested and it would be good to have some input from  
24 the Council that they should maybe not look at Barrow  
25 because Barrow's so large, to look at a smaller  
26 community. And then we had some concern that Wainwright  
27 has been -- is a focus of another monitoring project.  
28 And I also believe that -- and I'm not certain about  
29 this, but the old MMS just did some research in  
30 Wainwright as well. You know, we also look at not  
31 overstudying a community, you get too much, you know,  
32 study fatigue. So we were recommending that the project  
33 be narrowed and we didn't tell them how they should do  
34 it, but we're looking to them for some guidance and, you  
35 know, anything you might have to suggest I think would be  
36 welcome. The SWCA actually has one of their project  
37 managers here listening as well.

38  
39 CO CHAIR BROWER: I'm thinking just from  
40 what I recall, it was -- one of our previous RAC members  
41 that had recommended that the least cisco and broad  
42 whitefish for the Mede River so that would mean including  
43 Atqasuk.

44  
45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's a good  
46 suggestion.

47  
48 CO CHAIR BROWER: Yeah, the -- if you  
49 took Barrow and Wainwright out and put in the Mede River  
50 and Atqasuk, the community of Atqasuk, they have these

1 fish in their river.

2

3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
4 excellent suggestion.

5

6 CO CHAIR BROWER: That's my comment.  
7 Thank you.

8

9 Rosemary.

10

11 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'm torn in two ways.  
12 I agree with the recommendations, I believe Wainwright  
13 was a misdocumentation there, I believe the Mede River  
14 was the river we were speaking of. I do know that  
15 there's a lot of harvesting of the fish in Barrow and it  
16 would be a lot, a different study than if you focused on  
17 the village. In Nuiqsut we've had a lot of studies  
18 related to the Arctic cisco and so that's where I'm  
19 concerned about, but if you're looking at changes Nuiqsut  
20 needs to be looked at. There's been a tremendous amount  
21 of changes that have occurred, there's things that have  
22 happened with land use changes and gravel placements and  
23 all those things that are affecting how our -- the  
24 villages' harvesting. But I also am concerned because of  
25 the amount of studies we've done in Nuiqsut. So I put  
26 that caveat in there. I do feel we need to look at  
27 Atqasuk and we need to have further discussion in this  
28 area.

29

30 CO CHAIR BROWER: Any other comments or  
31 concerns.

32

33 James.

34

35 MR. J. NAGEAK: Yeah, we -- for Anaktuvuk  
36 Pass on the Inlet, there's something going on with our  
37 fish up there, too. You know, we -- there was a  
38 community meeting at Anaktuvuk and everybody was  
39 concerned that this spring when we usually go over to  
40 Chandlar Lake to fish for lake trout and Arctic char,  
41 this spring was really a bad year. You know, you go over  
42 there a third of a mile ride on a snowmachine and you  
43 drill a hole and you fish all day and you only get one,  
44 one lake trout. And same thing with the other lakes, the  
45 Willow Lake they call it or Shannon Lake which is north  
46 -- northeast of Anaktuvuk and we had really a bad year  
47 for fish for some reason. We wanted somebody to look at  
48 the activities at Umiat, you know, the activities that  
49 have been going on year round in Umiat area where the  
50 drainage of the Chandler River, the Anaktuvuk River, and

1 I don't know, but Nunashak River drainage goes in  
2 Colville. And I think that they come up through the  
3 Colville and come on up to the -- to our lakes like  
4 Chandler Lake and Shannon Lake. But this year we don't  
5 -- I don't know what happened. There's something that  
6 happened that -- and we don't know what it is because we  
7 hardly got any fish at all this spring, you know, March,  
8 April, maybe into May people go to these lakes to fish.  
9 And there's something going on. I'd be really  
10 disappointed if this happens again this coming March, you  
11 know, because that's a -- we depend on the fish from  
12 these lakes. Somebody need to check on those things.

13

14 CO CHAIR BROWER: Just a question either  
15 to Karen or Helen. When would be the next round of  
16 proposals to be submitted for research, maybe, you know,  
17 for -- in regard to his concern, James' concern. I'm  
18 sorry.

19

20 MS. HYER: Yes, in regard to his concern  
21 and the other concerns we've heard here today. This is  
22 the 2012 monitoring program so in the summer of 2012  
23 these projects go into action. The next funding will be  
24 in 2014. So in 2014 will be when the next set of  
25 projects go into action. But before those projects go  
26 into as I say action, there's several things that happen.  
27 And the next winter meetings which happen in early 2012,  
28 we'll be coming to you and asking for ideas to guide us  
29 for research. And I'm already hearing some good ideas.  
30 So that is when we start the funding process. And then  
31 we develop a list of ideas, of things that you are  
32 interested in studying in your area and we put out a call  
33 and ask for proposals for that.

34

35 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: So right now we're  
36 in discussion for the approval of the six pending  
37 projects. So is there any further discussion.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MR. R. NAGEAK: Call for question.

42

43 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Okay. The  
44 question's been called and I guess we'll just ask for a  
45 unanimous vote for approval. And all those in favor of  
46 the approval of the six projects as described -- excuse  
47 me. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying  
48 aye.

49

50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Any opposed.  
2  
3 (No opposing votes)  
4  
5 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Okay. It's  
6 unanimous.  
7  
8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chairs,  
9 thank you members of the Council.  
10  
11 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you for your  
12 presentation.  
13  
14 I guess my question is to Don are there  
15 any time constraints on some of the other presentations  
16 that require them to present now?  
17  
18 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. I did not receive  
19 any requests for -- to address your question, but we have  
20 tribal consultation and the wildlife proposals and the  
21 SRC hunting plan recommendations to take action. But I  
22 did not receive any request for -- to address the Council  
23 due to time.  
24  
25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
26  
27 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: All right. Well,  
28 perhaps -- it's been a long day and maybe what we should  
29 is start off the meeting tomorrow jointly as we are now  
30 and then discuss where we need to deal with the issues  
31 for North Slope and Northwest Arctic individually.  
32  
33 MR. MIKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. Or you can  
34 address it right now and get ready for tomorrow. That's  
35 my suggestion.  
36  
37 Thank you.  
38  
39 MR. R. NAGEAK: How long is it going to  
40 take, got an idea?  
41  
42 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. Just as far as for  
43 tomorrow's agenda items, I mean, you can prepare for your  
44 agenda items tomorrow right now or you can wait until in  
45 the morning.  
46  
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
48  
49 MR. R. NAGEAK: I always do what the  
50 Chairman say.

1 (Laughter)  
2  
3 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Well, what we can do  
4 and this is just a recommendation, is that we resume the  
5 meeting tomorrow in joint session and then divvy up the  
6 tasks that need to be done accordingly.  
7  
8 CO CHAIR BROWER: Sounds good.  
9  
10 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: All right. Then  
11 we'll recess until 8:30 a.m. tomorrow morning.  
12  
13 Thank you very much.  
14  
15 (Off record)  
16  
17 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA                    )  
  )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA                                )

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 134  
contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH  
SLOPE/NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE JOINT REGIONAL  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I, taken electronically  
by Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC on the 18th day  
of October 2011, in Anchorage, 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 31st day of  
October 2011.

---

Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 9/16/14