

1 NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME I

7
8 Kotzebue, Alaska
9 September 4, 2007
10 8:30 o'clock a.m.

11
12 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

13
14 Victor Karmun, Chairman
15 Percy Ballot
16 Robbie Everett
17 Ralph Ramoth
18 Walter Sampson
19 Austin Swan
20
21 Regional Council Coordinator, Michelle Chivers

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2
3 (Kotzebue, Alaska - 9/4/2007)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Good morning. Roll
8 call.
9
10 MS. CHIVERS: Percy Ballot.
11
12 MR. BALLOT: Here.
13
14 MS. CHIVERS: Ralph Ramoth.
15
16 MR. RAMOTH: Here.
17
18 MS. CHIVERS: Victor Karmun.
19
20 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Yes.
21
22 MS. CHIVERS: Raymond Stoney. I did
23 talk to Raymond on the phone just a few minutes ago,
24 earlier, and he said that due to his job he's going to
25 be unable to make it and I've already informed the
26 Chair, so it's considered an excused absence.
27
28 Robbie Everett.
29
30 MR. EVERETT: Here.
31
32 MS. CHIVERS: Walter Sampson.
33
34 MR. SAMPSON: (Nods affirmatively)
35
36 MS. CHIVERS: Attamuk.
37
38 (No comments)
39
40 MS. CHIVERS: Virgil Adams is excused.
41 He is actually at work right now and couldn't break
42 away from work to come to the meeting and the Chair is
43 already aware of that.
44
45 Austin Swan.
46
47 MR. SWAN: Here.
48
49 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, we have a
50 quorum.

1 MR. SAMPSON: (In Native)
2
3 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Now, interpret for
4 yourself please.
5
6 MR. SAMPSON: I said we're going to
7 hold a meeting today in Eskimo.
8
9 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Are you going to be
10 interpreting for it then?
11
12 MR. SAMPSON: No. You find your
13 interpreter, just like any other consultant, you hire
14 them.
15
16 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Well, you're short
17 notice my man.
18
19 MR. SAMPSON: Well, that's what they
20 do, short notice it, they're here.
21
22 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay.
23
24 MR. SAMPSON: (In Native)
25
26 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: You need a
27 microphone.
28
29 MR. SAMPSON: (In Native)
30
31 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Walter, you need a
32 microphone.
33
34 MR. SAMPSON: (In Native)
35
36 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: We'll go around the
37 table and introduce yourself please.
38
39 MS. SWAN: Austin Swan from Kivalina.
40
41 MR. SAMPSON: (In Native)
42
43 MR. EVERETT: Robbie Everett, Kotzebue.
44
45 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Victor Karmun,
46 Kotzebue.
47
48 MR. BALLOT: Percy Ballot, Buckland.
49
50 MR. RAMOTH: Ralph Ramoth, Selawik.

1 MS. CHIVERS: Michelle Chivers, Council
2 Coordinator.
3
4 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Can we introduce the
5 guests, please.
6
7 (Introductions)
8
9 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Review and adoption
10 of the agenda.
11
12 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair, I move to
13 approve the agenda.
14
15 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Do I have a second
16 from anybody.
17
18 MR. RAMOTH: Mr. Chairman, I second the
19 motion.
20
21 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Adoption of the
22 agenda and approved. Review and adoption of the
23 minutes, March 17 and April 2.
24
25 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair. I'll move to
26 approve March 17 and April 2 meeting minutes.
27
28 MR. SAMPSON: Second.
29
30 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Seconded by Walter.
31
32 (Pause)
33
34 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Call for question.
35
36 (No comments)
37
38 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: If not we'll hear
39 Council member reports.
40
41 Mr. Swan.
42
43 MS. SWAN: We've had a pretty good
44 summer in Kivalina with the beluga hunting. And some
45 caribou, they were quite late coming around from the
46 north side, like three or four weeks late, but we got a
47 few.
48
49 At the moment we got a lot of fish
50 coming in the Wulik River, a good number, along with

1 the pink salmon and the chum salmon. A lot of pink
2 salmon on the Wulik River, not so much on the Kivalina
3 but a good number of dead pink salmon on the Wulik. A
4 lot of trout, good trout, good fishing.

5
6 Caribou is late coming around from the
7 east side this time, they're still way up on the
8 Noatak, I understand, but a few come around on
9 occasion, not too many.

10
11 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Walter.

12
13 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 We all know that the cost of living certainly is
15 getting to the point where people are barely pulling
16 through in some of our smaller communities, especially
17 where barging is -- is -- or the barges are unable to
18 get to the community. And some communities -- gas is
19 almost four to \$500 a drum now. In Kotzebue it's \$250-
20 some a drum. And that's pretty pricey, a pricey hunt
21 if you plan to go out hunting. A gallon of milk [sic]
22 in Kobuk is \$17 a gallon, and that shows you the -- the
23 cost of living is certainly higher in this region.

24
25 And we do have some problems that are
26 being raised by people who are living out in the areas
27 where -- basically where they do their traditional
28 hunting. As land owners, as agencies, the
29 responsibilities of managers of these lands certainly
30 has a big impact on the way of life of people at the
31 community level. If there's no control over people in
32 regards to how permits are issued we have a problem.
33 The problem, again, is the deterring of the caribou
34 herd that's trying to migrate north/south. Any time
35 you detour a first batch of that herd they will turn
36 one way or another. The minute you turn those things
37 in -- in one way, if they go further up east that means
38 additional gas for -- for people that are trying to
39 hunt to do. I think it's something that we all need to
40 -- need to -- need to look at on how permits are
41 issued. I'd like to certainly get a report in regards
42 to where spike camps are set up during this hunt. I'm
43 sure the managers are aware or should know, both BLM,
44 Park Service and Fish and Wildlife, I'd like to know
45 where these camps are set up or whose permits are
46 issued to them.

47
48 And the other is trial-staking. You
49 know through the process of ANCSA State and Federal
50 agencies both had asked for easements and through --

1 through Native selected lands. And easements were part
2 of the required thing under ANCSA and we did, but the
3 problem is once you request something, you at least
4 have to put up a dollar to do some trail-staking. And
5 I know to this point there's never been a dime put to
6 -- for trail-staking. The burden has always been on
7 the community. But yet when -- as a community, as a
8 region, when we submit for things, that's the first
9 thing they require of us is to do these things as well.
10 I think that's important BLM, Park Service, Fish and
11 Wildlife, ought to -- to make some dollars available
12 for -- for trail staking. These are public access that
13 the agencies had requested. If you request these
14 things put up your dime to share that cost.

15

16 Sure we have a Northwest Arctic Borough
17 that deals with some of these things, but we also have
18 limited dollars that we have to deal with.

19

20 So in a lot of that I would like to put
21 on the table for Park Service to look at putting its
22 share on the table for public access. When you ask for
23 these things and you don't take responsibility in
24 getting these trail-staking marked, then we take the
25 burden as the Native Corporation for trespass, not you,
26 but the Native Corporation, which means that we have to
27 put up our own dollars to enforce our policies. At
28 some point in time if we don't, you know, get
29 cooperation from the agencies on some these things,
30 we'll be forced to do something, and I don't know what
31 that something will be but I think people are finally
32 getting tired of trying to find dollars to -- for
33 trail-staking.

34

35 So take a little bit of time to decide
36 -- to set aside some dollars for trail-staking.

37

38 I thought at that point in time that
39 we're all in it but it always seems like we take the
40 brunt of the burden to look after these things. I
41 think that it's time that we share the -- those dollars
42 for trail-staking.

43

44 And as I go through the meeting I will
45 certainly raise more issues and I know we'll get a good
46 report from the agencies on what's happening with their
47 activities within their respective management areas.

48

49 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Walter.

50

1 MR. EVERETT: I haven't received any
2 contact from the sportsmen or commercial groups so my
3 report won't include any comments from them.

4
5 I just enjoy being back and great
6 weather.

7
8 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. My turn.
9 On the agenda it says the .805(c) letter from Mr. Mike
10 Fleagle.

11
12 MS. CHIVERS: Were you going to
13 comment?

14
15 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay. I have no
16 comments or ad-on's to that letter from Mr. Fleagle
17 unless somebody else does.

18
19 MS. CHIVERS: Okay.

20
21 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: But that was my first
22 Federal Game Board meeting and it was a very huge
23 learning process for me. Very interesting on the
24 comments, recommendations and whatever from the other
25 Regional Councils. Very, very interesting.

26
27 Lots of salmon around Kotzebue Sound
28 this summer but no price.

29
30 Fishermen I talk to say they're getting
31 good numbers of fish but are barely making enough to
32 buy their gas to go out for the next fishing period.

33
34 The other one, there was a planner from
35 the State, I haven't heard from, I thought she might be
36 here but maybe she has other priorities, on the user
37 conflict in the region. I've been checking the
38 internet and lots of conversation on Howard Pass,
39 animals coming through the Brooks Range, which was kind
40 of surprising to me. Bettles sounds like it's having a
41 pretty good drop off hunt already at the mouth or up in
42 Howard Pass. They're speaking of Hunt River, Aggie
43 River, and the Kelley River already. So there's
44 animals around but they're really not moving down to
45 this region yet.

46
47 And that's it for me on this one.

48
49 Mr. Ballot.

50

1 MR. BALLOT: Good morning. I just
2 wanted to mention while we had a rough winter, we had
3 to fly in some gas for \$8 a gallon or so and selling it
4 for \$6 because there's hardly any jobs in the village,
5 but now we have jobs, we got a water and sewer project
6 going.

7
8 We had a good summer, spring, everybody
9 got to hunt beluga, we did to, oogrucks, the berries are
10 good.

11
12 In March we mentioned our concern about
13 caribou hunting, now this time, I saw 50, 60 people on
14 the beach early in the morning getting ready to go out
15 and stuff and do their hunting. Everybody came home
16 with nothing. On meat side. But everything else is
17 good.

18
19 And we have a guide in Buckland now or
20 transporter, we're not too sure who, I hope we can find
21 out who's up there and what they're doing. People are
22 concerned, you know, worried about not being able to
23 get their meat again this year. We had a rough winter
24 last year. A lot of us didn't get any meat because
25 they were really going too far up the river.
26 Buckland's kind of shallow so if we don't have water
27 you won't be able to get 10 miles or 20 miles out of
28 Buckland and so it makes it real hard for us to go way
29 up there. If you have hunters up by the head of Munn's
30 Mountain (ph) or (Indiscernible) or somewhere around
31 that area, it -- the caribou tend to turn up farther so
32 we're hoping -- the last couple of years we haven't
33 seen any in the Buckland Flats. I don't know what's
34 been happening but I hope some time will tell.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you.

39
40 MR. RAMOTH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
41 I don't have very much report at this time. We had a
42 good summer. Like usual the whitefish and sheefish,
43 good fishing in spring and there was good fishing all
44 through summer, like whitefish, humpback.

45
46 The only problem is I'm finding is
47 there's one creek that goes out to Selawik Lake come
48 back whitefish usually goes into that creek and -- and
49 go all the way up, you know, for -- going up to that
50 creek but we took a ride down that way but that creek

1 was all blocked by the beavers. I don't think those
2 fish will be able to be going up that way, going up in
3 that creek anymore. The number of dams that we can't
4 even go through with the boat. We usually go further
5 up in the boat but the beaver dams were in the way and
6 we couldn't make it up that way either. We see some
7 fish down close to the mouth, but that seems like they
8 wouldn't make it through those dams.

9
10 And on the other creek that they call
11 the Fish River, but that Fish River there runs humpback
12 whitefish runs pretty good. And the thing is been
13 having a much light, I mean our main Selawik River, I
14 don't know how many years by now, that makes the water
15 pretty muddy, Selawik River, and I can see that
16 sheefish are changing route. I don't think the
17 sheefish ever go up through that river before but
18 they're going up in numbers, fishermen went up that way
19 when they start running into some fish, sheefishermen,
20 they start fishing around and I think they're changing
21 route, instead of going up through that muddy river,
22 that -- that mouth, I stop by around the mouth there,
23 the mouth of Selawik River that goes into Tag River and
24 Tag River is clear and Selawik River is muddy, this is
25 why they're changing route and we don't really fish way
26 up that way like people does around Kobuk but we do
27 fish those when they come down Selawik River in -- and
28 in the spring once they start going in in the
29 springtime. That makes changes like that.

30
31 And the caribous are slow this year.
32 We hardly have any caribou around close to the village,
33 as like Walter said about the gas, we had to go way up
34 -- way up on, not -- not less than a drum of gas to
35 fuel up just to go for caribou, you know, since the
36 caribou -- since gas is getting pretty high. I -- I
37 think the gas cost of \$4.82 in Selawik but that's not
38 too bad compared to other villages, you know, some
39 places it went up to \$8 a gallon. But that's a long
40 river, you know, when the caribous are going through
41 way up Selawik River you had to go way up there in Tag
42 River, they start going by around that area right now.
43 But hopefully they start going by through -- through
44 the village.

45
46 I don't have anything further so that's
47 it.

48
49 Thank you.
50

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Next on
2 the agenda is call for proposals to change Federal
3 Subsistence Wildlife Regulations, from the public first
4 please.

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Hearing none, how
9 about from the agencies.

10
11 Mr. Sandy.

12
13 MR. RABINOWITCH: Good morning, Mr.
14 Chairman. I'm Sandy Rabinowitch with the Park Service.

15
16 I have a draft proposal that I've been
17 asked to share with you, and let me -- I'll pass it
18 around here and then do some explanation. There is
19 enough for everybody here. And, Jim, here's one for
20 you, for the State.

21
22 (Pause)

23
24 MR. RABINOWITCH: So what is getting
25 passed around is something that was presented last week
26 at the North Slope Regional Council in Barrow. And
27 what this is is a draft proposal that I was asked to
28 prepare for the North Slope and then I was asked to
29 bring it here today, and let me explain what this is
30 about.

31
32 There's three pieces of paper that I've
33 given you. The first piece is a front and back page,
34 is about the proposal, and I'll walk through that in
35 just a little bit of detail in a minute.

36
37 The second page, with this yellow, kind
38 of bright yellow text on it, is a Xerox out of the
39 wildlife hunting book, out of this book right here. So
40 this is just a Xerox out of that.

41
42 And then the third page with the kind
43 of bright pink up in the top corner is a Xerox out of
44 the State codified regulations, all right, so that's
45 what that is. And I'll see in a little while, kind of
46 surprising Jim Magdanz, which I apologize for
47 surprising you about, but I'll ask him a question if
48 I'm understanding the State reg right as best he knows.

49
50 So let me launch and explain what this

1 is about.

2

3

4 This is a proposal, that if you were
5 interested in it, could add your area into a list of
6 already existing areas in State regulations that would
7 allow the use of brown bear fur to be used in the
8 making and selling of handicrafts, where, right now,
9 technically that's not allowed. The use of black bear
10 fur is already allowed for anyone who wants to do that,
11 but brown bear fur is not allowed.

12

13 So that's really it in a nutshell. I
14 mean that's kind of the summary of what this is all
15 about.

16

17

18 What I've done here on this first page
19 is take the proposal form, that if you or anyone else
20 wanted to submit a proposal you would use, and I've
21 just filled it out, so you can kind of see how this
22 would work. On this page the No. 1, again, is just the
23 regulation that exists in the hunting book already.

24

25

26 Then the number 2, where it says how
27 should the new regulations read there's two bullets
28 there. The first one is about black bear, and if you
29 compare it to the existing regulation you'll see that
30 it's the same. And as I just said black bear fur can
31 already be used in handicrafts.

32

33

34 So the meat of the issue is in the
35 second bullet under No. 2, and if you look carefully at
36 the language there you'll see that in a bolder text, a
37 little blacker text in underline, you see 24B and 26
38 have been added. Those are the areas the North Slope
39 was interested in adding in. Their interest is
40 primarily for Anaktuvuk Pass but this would allow use
41 in all those areas.

42

43

44 And if you are interested in having
45 this allowance, what you would need to do is to tell us
46 that you would like to add Unit 23 into that list.
47 Now, whether you want to do that or not I don't know.
48 I'm not trying to advocate that at all. I'm trying to
49 merely make you aware of what happened in North Slope.
50 And as I said I was asked to bring it here and share it
with you all so you were aware of it. There may be
some people in this region that use brown bear fur in
masks and if the bear, I haven't said this yet so let
me be clear, under Federal regulations for brown bears
taken from Federal land, it's not currently legal. I

1 do understand and I'll kind of look at Jim, I don't
2 know if you've had a chance to read this or absorb it,
3 but my understanding of the State regs is that it is
4 allowed to use the brown bear fur from State land, but
5 the one distance is that in the Federal regulations fur
6 includes claws where under State regulations fur does
7 not include claws. That's my grasp but.....

8
9 MR. MAGDANZ: (No microphone) but
10 that's the way.....

11
12 MR. RABINOWITCH: And I apologize,
13 again, for kind of surprising you.

14
15 MR. MAGDANZ: Jim Magdanz with Fish and
16 Game. Yeah, I -- as I read the regulation that seems
17 to be what I understand it to say and that's probably
18 where we should leave it.

19
20 MR. RABINOWITCH: That's fair enough.

21
22 So, Mr. Chairman, I think I'll stop
23 there and see if there are questions. I don't want to
24 take more time than you want to give to this. I can
25 certainly answer questions if you have them or I can go
26 sit down and let you move on in your agenda, whatever
27 you'd like.

28
29 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Stick around.

30
31 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay.

32
33 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: This had been a
34 highly controversial topic of discussion in the past, I
35 don't know what it will be now.

36
37 Council members, you have any questions
38 or comments.

39
40 Walter.

41
42 MR. SAMPSON: Sandy. Can you quickly
43 run us through in regards to the process of making a
44 proposal?

45
46 MR. RABINOWITCH: Certainly. If you're
47 interested in doing that, what I would suggest you do
48 is look at the item in this typed sheet, Item No. 2,
49 the second bullet, underneath that, and that paragraph
50 that's -- what I would do is to make a motion to add

1 Unit 23 or some portion of Unit 23 to that, as a
2 motion, for a proposal for this cycle. And if this
3 paragraph suits your needs, it's already written down
4 and here it is. I mean you might want to amend this,
5 certainly, I don't know.

6

7 So I think a simple motion to turn it
8 into a proposal.

9

10 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I don't
11 have no problems with the concept of the proposal,
12 which, I think, is good. There's folks that certainly
13 love to do exactly what the intent of this regulations
14 is, I think, and if we don't allow it on one specie of
15 bear but yet allow it on the other then certainly it's
16 something that we need to change.

17

18 I guess the process that I was asking
19 was if individuals at the community level wants a
20 regulation, what's the process, that's what I was
21 asking.

22

23 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm sorry, Walter, I
24 didn't understand exactly what you were asking.

25

26 MR. SAMPSON: What I'm trying to get
27 at, Sandy, is as an agency, as organizations, we have a
28 tendency to propose things without consultation of a
29 community who would be impacted by these very
30 proposals, but, yet, we move ahead sometimes even at
31 the agency level with these things. What I'm trying to
32 get at is I want to get out of the reactive mode and
33 have the communities become the owners of these things
34 and it's time that we change that planning process
35 around so the communities would have the ownership of
36 these things, not the agency. Remember, they're part
37 of the Federal government, they make the Federal
38 government as well and they ought to be looked at in
39 that way, not at an agency at the top level making the
40 decisions for these folks. For too long that's been
41 happening. It's time that we change that around to
42 where local folks participate in a planning process to
43 where they have the ownership or at least part
44 ownership of these things.

45

46 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Walter.
47 Any more questions or comments.

48

49 Sandy.

50

1 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, if I might try
2 to answer the other part of Walter's question that I
3 didn't.

4
5 All somebody has to do, again, I'm just
6 holding up the Federal regulation book here, on Page 15
7 there's a blank form and that's a proposal form that
8 anybody, any of you, you know, anybody in the region
9 fills out, it's the same thing that I've done here,
10 I've just typed it up. So all they have to do is fill
11 this out or they can call the Office of Subsistence
12 Management in Anchorage, you can do this verbally, you
13 know, it doesn't have to all be written down, it can be
14 called in or Michelle or other people that just take
15 the information and fill it out, people can fax them
16 in, email them in, any way that works, and people do
17 all of those different things. The deadline this year
18 is October 19th.

19
20 So, you know, for example if you didn't
21 want to do something with this today that's perfectly
22 fine, that's up to you. But if one of you or someone
23 else wanted to submit a proposal, just do it by the
24 19th is all.

25
26 MR. SAMPSON: So if I call Roger Clark
27 in Selawik and Bobby Wells in Noorvik and ask them, do
28 you know the process for making proposals for
29 regulations they would know?

30
31 MR. RABINOWITCH: I don't know the
32 answer to that question. I recognize the names of both
33 gentlemen, I don't think I know them and I don't know
34 if they're familiar.....

35
36 MR. SAMPSON: What I'm trying to get at
37 is, is that very process that people should know in
38 regards to -- to making regulation proposals. That's
39 why I alluded to the fact that if people are going to
40 have ownership of these things, or part ownership of
41 these things, people need to know.

42
43 You and I know the process, but the
44 very people that are impacted by these things, do they
45 know the process of these things even, that's -- that's
46 what I'm getting in -- so as a manager, as employee of
47 the Federal agency somebody has to take that
48 responsibility, getting a message to these folks and
49 say this is the process you go through in regards to
50 putting together a proposal. That's what I was getting

1 at.

2

3 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Walter.
4 You want to make a motion to adopt, amend or.....

5

6 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I move
7 that we -- that I make a motion to include Unit 23 on
8 the proposal provided that the Office of the -- or the
9 Kotzebue Office has looked at -- at this proposal.

10

11 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Do I hear a second.

12

13 MR. SWAN: Kivalina, second.

14

15 MR. SAMPSON: My question then is to
16 the Kotzebue manager and maybe to Willie, would the
17 office have any problems with the proposal the way it's
18 proposed or is there any changes that we would need to
19 -- need to make to the existing proposal that's being
20 proposed by the North Slope folks.

21

22 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. I was just
23 going to mention that this is actually like a proposal
24 that is being submitted and there will be an
25 opportunity for agencies as well as the public to
26 comment on this before it becomes -- before it comes to
27 the Council again in the spring. It will go through
28 the spring cycle and at that point we'll have all the
29 comments together from all the agencies and everybody
30 else involved.

31

32 They'll get a chance to.....

33

34 MR. SAMPSON: I'm just trying.....

35

36 MS. CHIVERS:make comments on it.

37

38 MR. SAMPSON:to get things on --
39 while things are fresh in mind, to address some of
40 these things, I know we will have that process.

41

42 My second question is to the State,
43 would the State of Alaska have any problems with the
44 proposal as it's written, just to think, well, would
45 the State be able to bite this?

46

47 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chair. Mr. Sampson.
48 As I understand what's happening here, the current
49 Federal regulation is more restrictive than the State
50 regulation, and the proposed regulation would be less

1 restrictive than the State regulation. So when the
2 regulation is finalized, the State will come forward
3 with an opinion on -- a position on the actual proposed
4 regulation. But at this time, you know, I could say
5 that we would be comfortable with a regulation that
6 went to match the State regulations, but since this one
7 moves beyond what the State does and includes claws
8 then I'll have to, you know, withhold comment on that
9 portion.

10

11 MR. SAMPSON: We'll just say he said
12 that, uh.

13

14 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Jim. Any
15 other agency comments. Willie.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: No.

20

21 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I guess
22 even with that, if -- if it does -- you know there's
23 some objections to it there will be some time for the
24 agencies to rebut to our motion and that's fine, too,
25 so there'll be time to do that.

26

27 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: All right. Anybody
28 have any other comments.

29

30 Mr. Everett.

31

32 MR. EVERETT: Not really. Other than I
33 was looking on Page 29 and 20 and noticed that we were
34 the only ones that supported that proposal and I was
35 wondering if that had anything to do with some of the
36 concerns that are shared.

37

38 And then I also wanted to make a
39 comment that maybe part of the responsibility of
40 letting people know should be taken on the shoulder of
41 this Council and letting people know about those forms
42 that are available to make changes and proposals.

43

44 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I don't know, we will
45 have -- or the region will have a comment period for
46 this proposal.

47

48 Ramoth, any comments.

49

50 MR. RAMOTH: I don't have no comments

1 at this time, thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Mr. Ballot.

4

5 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, we have a lot of
6 bears in the Buckland area and we can't seem to get
7 anybody to hunt them. We do have some use for the
8 claws and stuff like that maybe so we'll see what the
9 hunters say, time will tell. It could be a good
10 proposal.

11

12 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Sandy.

13

14 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, just a bit of
15 clarification. If you pass this proposal, what that
16 will do is simply get it submitted. Then in your
17 winter, like you're all used to, many of the same
18 people, you know, will come back and there'll be a
19 written out analysis of this proposal, how it will work
20 and so on and so forth, you're all, I'm sure, very
21 familiar with that. You can choose to continue to
22 support it then or you could amend it or you could
23 reject it so the -- you're not locking yourself in, I
24 guess is the point I want to make.

25

26 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Walter.

27

28 MR. SAMPSON: I guess I'm smiling at
29 myself. I was looking at the logo of the Federal
30 agency in regards to no elect -- what do you call it,
31 the fire prevention bear with the hat, now we're
32 promoting to shoot that very bear and it's sort of --
33 maybe sometimes we ought to put the cartoon in there
34 that shows the bear with a Park Service hat with
35 somebody shooting a bullet at it.

36

37 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Walter.

38 Any other comments. Agencies.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: My personal opinion.
43 I'm glad to see this possible -- I don't know, got a
44 long ways to go before it becomes adopted. Like I say
45 this would be just a review before it's submitted to
46 the Game Board but it's been controversial in the past,
47 maybe it will be again, especially the bear claws. I
48 firmly believe it's just a byproduct just ivory off
49 walrus, it's just a byproduct of the animal.

50

1 All those in favor of this being
2 submitted or approved.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. We'll
7 take a short break right now.

8
9 (Off record)

10
11 (On record)

12
13 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Next on the agenda
14 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, Mr. Richard
15 Cannon.

16
17 MR. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 My name is Richard Cannon. I'm a fisheries biologist
19 with the Office of Subsistence Management. And I'll be
20 going over the 2008 Fisheries Monitoring Program. The
21 material for this program is found on Pages 25 through
22 43 of your Council books. Pages 27 through 31 provide
23 an introduction and overview of the statewide 2008
24 program. I'll just refer you to a couple of things
25 that may be of interest.

26
27 On Table 1 on Page 30 will provide an
28 account of the number of investigation plans that were
29 considered by region. You will see that of the 30
30 proposed studies the Technical Review Committee
31 recommended 23 to be funded statewide. Now, this
32 Technical Review Committee is made up of social
33 scientists and biological scientists who -- from the
34 agencies who look at the technical merits of each study
35 that's submitted. And the recommendation that I'm
36 presenting to you today is their recommendation. The
37 Council's have the opportunity to make their own
38 recommendation so you have -- your input on this is
39 requested, on the studies that would be taken to the
40 Federal Subsistence Board for final approval for the
41 Northern Region, and the Northern Region includes three
42 Councils, the Seward Peninsula, Northwest Arctic and
43 North Slope Councils.

44
45 Figure 1 on Page 31 breaks down the
46 available funding for 2008. You'll see that 34 percent
47 of the funds would go to Native organizations, 27
48 percent to State ADF&G, and 34 percent to Federal
49 agencies, and in many cases there are partnerships. We
50 try to encourage collaboration and partnership in any

1 of the studies that we fund with our program.

2

3 The overview for the Northern Region
4 begins on Page 32.

5

6 Each region in the past have identified
7 important issues and information needs for their
8 regions and these needs and issues are reviewed
9 annually with the Councils. The Seward Penn and
10 Northwest Arctic Councils have identified salmon and
11 char fisheries as being most important fisheries for
12 their region, in most cases. I know that whitefish are
13 also important to your Council. Char, whitefish and
14 Arctic Grayling fisheries are of most importance to the
15 North Slope Council.

16

17 Since the inception of the Monitoring
18 Program in 2000 27 projects have been funded in
19 Northern Alaska and four of these projects are ongoing
20 during 2008. So next year these projects will be in
21 the water but they were funded in past years. Table 1
22 lists past projects and is found on Page 33. So if
23 you're interested in what projects have been funded in
24 your region in the past they're listed there.

25

26 Table 2 on Page 34 lists ongoing
27 projects that will be operated in 2008. Two of these
28 ongoing projects are in the North Slope area, one
29 addresses Dolly Varden aerial monitoring in the Arctic
30 Refuge and one addresses completion of a genetic
31 baseline study for Dolly Varden in the North Slope.

32

33 The other two ongoing projects are in
34 your region, the Northwest Arctic region.

35

36 Project 04-157 [sic] explores
37 approaches to harvest assessment in sustainable
38 subsistence fisheries.

39

40 Project 07-151 is focused on
41 subsistence fisheries harvest patterns and trends.

42

43 There are three fisheries projects for
44 the Northern Region being considered for 2008, and this
45 is what we'd be asking you for your recommendation on,
46 are these three projects.

47

48 After reviewing the three investigation
49 plans the Technical Review Committee recommended
50 funding only one of the projects and prioritized them

1 all in the following descending order, as shown on
2 Table 5 on Page 36. So if you go to that table you'll
3 see the three -- the titles of the three, the dollar
4 amounts and they're recommending that the Kobuk River
5 sheefish spawning and run timing study be funded for
6 this region in 2008. Due to funding constraints, the
7 two projects below the line, the other two, are not
8 recommended for funding at this time. Summaries of
9 each project are found on Page 38 through 41 of your
10 Council books. And I can go through just a real brief
11 summary of what each of these studies entail.

12
13 The first one, 08-103, which is the one
14 that the Technical Review Committee is recommending is
15 a project that will use radiotelemetry to document
16 spawning, frequency, timing and location along with
17 post-spawning migration of sheefish in the Kobuk River.
18 Federal subsistence users harvest sheefish in Hotham
19 Inlet, Selawik Lake and Kobuk River. The sheefish
20 fisheries are a mixed stock group comprised of two
21 spawning populations, the Selawik and the Kobuk River
22 populations. In this study they're making an attempt
23 to try to sort out the different stocks. Past studies
24 have looked at both the Selawik and Kobuk stocks
25 individually and this study will look at particularly
26 the history of -- the spawning history of the fish that
27 are in this mixture of fish that occur in Hotham Inlet
28 and to see if some are skip spawning, so some may not
29 spawn every year and what kind of behavior, for
30 example, do the fish exhibit, are both males and
31 females, do they behave the same way. So there's some
32 important.....

33
34 MR. SAMPSON: (Indiscernible - no
35 microphone).....

36
37 MR. CANNON: I'm not aware of that.

38
39 I'll just give you a brief overview of
40 the other two studies.

41
42 08-106 is Unalakleet River chinook
43 salmon ASL study. This project would collect age, sex
44 and length samples from chinook salmon returning to the
45 Unalakleet River and from subsistence fish harvest in
46 Norton Sound.

47
48 08-150 the Nuiqsut baseline fish
49 harvest assessment, this is a two year project aimed at
50 collecting and synthesizing detailed information on the

1 subsistence harvest of all the fish by the residents of
2 Nuiqsut. And this study will focus on some of the not
3 so well documented fisheries that occur in that
4 community.

5
6 That ends my comments and I'll open it
7 up to questions.

8
9 Mr. Chairman.

10
11 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Walter.

12
13 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, for your
14 report. This is the -- the concept of it, I don't have
15 no problems with. My question is, again, this is to
16 the people at the community level, what type of
17 provisions have been made to provide information to
18 community of Selawik, to the community of Kobuk, so
19 they can have that information and know what's
20 happening?

21
22 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Walter.
23 Any comments, questions from the rest of the members.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Hearing none, we'll
28 move on on the agenda.

29
30 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I'd like
31 an answer if there's.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Excuse me.

34
35 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. I was
36 turning to Page 39, which gives -- there are more --
37 these are summaries of each study. And on Page 39 for
38 the Kobuk River sheefish spawning and run timing
39 there's a partnerships and capacity building paragraph,
40 and it talks more about some of the plans and the
41 involvements that the investigators are planning to
42 have or have had with regard to this study. And you
43 can see that there is a strong outreach program
44 associated with this program. And that, in fact, is
45 one of the things that we judge these studies on. We
46 want to make sure that there is an effort to
47 collaborate and to communicate with the communities.

48
49 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, it
50 looks like Maniilaq and the Village of Shungnak and

1 Kobuk supports this project so based on that I
2 certainly don't have no problems.

3
4 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any more comments or
5 questions.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. What I
10 would ask the Council to consider doing is to make a
11 recommendation, your own recommendation on these three
12 studies. If you support the Technical Review
13 Committee's recommendation to fund the sheefish study
14 then you could make a motion to support the draft
15 proposal.

16
17 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Mr. Walter.

18
19 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I move for
20 adoption in support for the plans for fisheries.

21
22 MR. EVERETT: I second.

23
24 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Seconded by Robbie.
25 Questions.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: All those in favor.

30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32
33 MR. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

34
35 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Next on the agenda,
36 Draft Customary and Traditional Use Policy, Polly
37 Wheeler. Thank you.

38
39 DR. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 All of you should have had on your desk in front of you
41 a copy of a draft policy that was handed out this
42 morning. It wasn't included in the book because we
43 took some time -- we had to get some internal review
44 comments taken care of and we missed the deadline for
45 the book but in some ways it's probably better to hand
46 it out to you directly, although I recognize some of
47 you may not have had a chance to look at it.

48
49 I'll explain some of the background and
50 talk you through it and we maybe can take it up later

1 in the agenda, once you've had a chance to look at it,
2 you have other comments. But I have just a couple of
3 key points that I can touch on as some of you look
4 through it, if that would be okay, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, please.

7

8 DR. WHEELER: Thank you. And I should
9 have said, my name is Polly Wheeler. I work for the
10 Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage. And I
11 have been working on this policy for, I don't know, it
12 seems like a couple of years anyway. It's been in the
13 works for quite a while. How the Federal Program does
14 customary and traditional use determinations has been
15 the subject of a lot of interest and controversy.

16

17 As you probably all are vaguely aware,
18 if not directly aware, the way that the Federal Program
19 does the customary and traditional use determinations
20 was borrowed from the State when Federal management
21 started, and we -- sort of the model of how C&T
22 determinations are done was borrowed pretty much full
23 scale as were many of the C&T determinations, I think,
24 about 300 at the time.

25

26 At the bottom of the policy on the
27 first page, you see in very small font, which I
28 actually can't see with my glasses on. I now have the
29 joy of putting my glasses on and off all the time
30 because I can't see no matter what I do. But at the
31 very bottom of the page, on the first page and at the
32 bottom of the second page there's the eight factors,
33 the State calls them criteria, we call them factors,
34 but functionally they're about the same. What the
35 Federal Board does is the Federal Board looks at --
36 there's an analysis that's presented to the Federal
37 Board -- well, it's presented to the Councils and then
38 the Federal Board, that looks at these eight factors in
39 a holistic way. We don't use a checklist, we don't use
40 thresholds, we don't use numerical measures for
41 deciding what a long-term pattern of use is, it's sort
42 of looking at all of the information before it and
43 that's what they do to make their C&T determinations.

44

45 Like I said there's been considerable
46 controversy about that. The State has specifically
47 been interested in making sure that the Federal Board
48 actually does use measures or benchmarks or thresholds
49 or uses sort of a rigid checklist checking off each --
50 if information on each of the factors is included

1 before the Board -- or, you know, is included while the
2 Board does their determinations.

3
4 So the Secretary of Interior in 2005
5 directed the Federal Program to develop a policy for
6 how they do C&T determinations. It was stimulated, in
7 part, by a letter from Governor -- then Governor
8 Murkowski in early 2005 complaining about the lack of
9 standards for how the Federal Program addresses
10 customary and traditional use determinations. So the
11 Secretary of Interior said the Federal Program needs to
12 develop a policy. So that started two years ago.
13 You'd think it would be fairly simple but sometimes
14 these things -- simple things get complicated when they
15 have to go through a large bureaucracy.

16
17 The policy has been in the works, like
18 I said, for a couple of years. During this time the --
19 while Staff was working on the draft policy the State
20 sued the Federal Program, the basis of the Federal
21 Board's decision in May of 2005 to expand a customary
22 and traditional use determinations for moose in Unit
23 12, which is around the upper Tanana area, so the State
24 filed suit and that suit was just -- we just got a
25 decision on that lawsuit in June of 2007, which decided
26 in favor of the State -- or in favor of the Federal
27 Program and against what the State wanted. The
28 decision basically affirmed the Federal Program,
29 affirmed how the Federal Program has done the C&T
30 determinations, which, again, is sort of a holistic
31 application of the eight factors, kind of looking at
32 all of the information together, not using a checklist,
33 not using thresholds, that sort of thing.

34
35 And so what you have before you in that
36 policy, it basically lays out the existing Board
37 process for addressing C&T determinations. It doesn't
38 represent a change in how the Board is going to
39 approach C&T determinations. It's basically intended
40 to clarify the approach that we were taking as was
41 requested by the Secretary of Interior originally two
42 years ago and several times since then. And, again,
43 part of the process is to consider the eight factors in
44 a holistic way rather than as a rigid checklist as has
45 been asked by some.

46
47 So the policy before you doesn't
48 provide a new way of doing things, it just describes
49 how the Board has been doing them since the inception
50 of the program. And that, again, how the Board has

1 been doing things was affirmed by the Chistochina
2 Decision, which occurred on June 27th, 2007.

3
4 What we're looking for from you is
5 comments on the policy, and I certainly am sensitive to
6 comments that you brought up earlier, Walter, as far as
7 getting the word out, how do we get the word out and I
8 would defer to all of your better judgment about
9 getting the word out. We are accepting comments
10 through December 1st. If you have suggestions for how
11 we can do a broader distribution of this policy I'm
12 here to listen to them and get the word out as best we
13 can. In some ways you all, as members of the Board, or
14 as members of the Council, are the best people to do
15 that because you understand the history of this rather
16 convoluted issue, too. But we are looking for comment.
17 The address for comments is on the policy. We take it
18 by mail, by email, by fax, by phone, by Pony Express,
19 if that's how it needs to get done but we need to get
20 them by December 1st. The address for the comments is
21 on the last page of the policy. And I am here to
22 answer questions. Again, it might be a good idea to
23 give you all a chance to look at it and you can take it
24 up later in the agenda, maybe after lunch or something,
25 assuming you go to lunch, or you're going to meet after
26 lunch, but if you want to do that -- or you can always
27 call me on the 800 number and talk about any comments
28 or questions that you might have. But at this point we
29 are looking for comments from the Council as far as
30 what you think of this.

31
32 But I just want to stress that it's not
33 a change in how the Federal Program is doing business.
34 I know there was a lot of concern, particularly on the
35 part of Alaska Federation of Natives that the Federal
36 Program was responding to the State's criticism of how
37 they do C&T determinations and we were going to make a
38 big change because of that and it's really -- there's
39 not a change -- the policy doesn't outline changes, it
40 outlines how the Board has been doing business all
41 along.

42
43 Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Any
46 questions, comments.

47
48 MR. SAMPSON: I guess.....

49
50 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Walter.

1 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman the
2 only thing I have -- get clarity on, on the State's
3 suit, if I may.

4
5 DR. WHEELER: I'll give you as much
6 clarity as I have but I'm not a lawyer so I can only
7 give you what I know.

8
9 The State sued -- the Federal Board
10 made a decision in May of 2005 to expand a customary
11 and traditional use determination for moose in Unit 12.
12 They gave the community the entire -- well, they didn't
13 give it, they acknowledged that the community of
14 Chistochina had customary and traditional use
15 determinations for all of Unit 12 for moose. The State
16 -- that was a Federal Board decision. The State
17 subsequently filed a request for reconsideration, which
18 they have to do if they question a decision that the
19 Board makes, it's called RFR, a threshold analysis was
20 done, and I know that some of this probably sounds like
21 Greek to a lot of you but this is, again, the Federal
22 process that's laid out. The Federal Program and that
23 -- the Board determined that there wasn't grounds to
24 reconsider the decision so the State brought suit in
25 Federal court against that decision. And it winded its
26 way through the legal process through the courts and a
27 decision was made, I think it was June 27th or June --
28 I think it's June 27th of this year basically deciding
29 in favor of the Federal Program and against the State
30 and affirming how the Federal Prog -- affirming that
31 specific decision but also affirming how the Federal
32 Program has dealt with C&T's over the years.

33
34 And I can get you a copy of the action
35 decision and also a summary that was done by the
36 Solicitor's office, I can send it to you, I don't have
37 it with me but I can send it to you if you're
38 interested.

39
40 MR. SAMPSON: No, this is good, I -- I
41 just wanted to -- to refresh a little bit to what --
42 what that is and I think the issue in regards to the
43 process of, you know, the concept of what you presented
44 to us certainly is something that -- sometimes it's
45 sort of bothersome to -- to say that when we start
46 rubber stamping the State of Alaska's existing policies
47 and regs or whatever it may be, it sort of creates a
48 problem sometimes, too, because that mentality from the
49 State of Alaska being taken over to the Federal
50 management is also -- can also be seen by write up's by

1 some of the issues that are being placed publicly. But
2 I think when you -- when you say we're a large
3 bureaucracy, certainly we are a large bureaucracy. And
4 I think at some point in time we also need to think,
5 independently as an agency and not dependent on the
6 State of Alaska for what it does and how it wants to do
7 things. It's just like the State of Alaska holding our
8 hands and walking us through and this is what we ought
9 to do, I thought we were the big boys. We ought to act
10 as such.

11
12 I think sometime I feel like that I'm
13 being -- being radical but I'm hoping that, you know,
14 I'm trying to bring some points to the table for people
15 to look at. And sometimes I will -- I always feel, to
16 myself, that, hey, I'm radical, but I'm not. I'm --
17 I'm trying to raise some points to where we can look at
18 issues from a whole different perspective from the
19 agency perspective, not somebody else's perspective.

20
21 And, again, the processes that we go
22 through sometimes, the provisions that we ought to make
23 to provide information to folks out at the community
24 level, I'm just wondering how many of those folks know
25 what's been happening in regards to that lawsuit, and I
26 think it's time that we start making provisions for
27 people to go out to provide information. I mean look
28 at just at this meeting how many agency representatives
29 we have. Some of you can go out to the villages to --
30 to provide information. I mean if that's what your job
31 is, you can go out and provide information, don't pass
32 the buck to me to provide to the community. That's
33 part of your work. And look at it that way, don't get
34 offended by -- by what I'm saying, but that's the fact
35 and, you know, it's something that people need to hear
36 from others who have that authority, who provide that
37 information to the public. So make some time.

38
39 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Walter.
40 Any other comments, questions from the Council members.

41
42 MR. EVERETT: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do.

43
44 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Robbie.

45
46 MR. EVERETT: I appreciate several
47 things that I noticed in this as I was reading it
48 earlier this morning.

49
50 On the third page I appreciated the

1 comment that on the overly narrow standards for
2 customary and traditional use, ignore the historic
3 adaptability of subsistence economic and social
4 systems. I think that's an important thing to keep up
5 with, that traditional and customary use is not locked
6 in a time warp. That over history things have evolved
7 and I think we need to always be aware of that as well.

8
9 I think that this may be in somewhat
10 disagreement with Walter but not necessarily in
11 concept, I think this is a wonderful opportunity for us
12 currently to make a difference for the younger
13 generations. I still am going to be an outspoken
14 person to be critical that I don't see the youth
15 involved in this as much as they should be and mostly
16 some of the older generations are very passionately
17 involved and I would like to see more of them involved.

18
19 I think the Borough did a really good
20 job in the last couple years in producing those meat
21 care posters around the community. They were directed
22 mostly towards outside hunters and transporters and I
23 think this is an opportunity on the first page in the
24 paragraph; establishing a preference for customary and
25 traditional use of fish and wildlife according to a
26 priority for non-wasteful subsistence use by rural
27 Alaska residents. This give us an opportunity, I
28 think, in rural Alaska to take a proactive stance and
29 start working with some of those younger generations in
30 the communities and saying, you know, if we could maybe
31 increase our non-wasteful subsistence use, then we have
32 a better leg to stand on when being critical of the
33 transporters and the outside hunters. I think they
34 would take that a little more seriously, too, when
35 we're being the model, I guess, role model for them to
36 look at. So I would like to see that. Mostly that
37 comes from my bias in working with the youth and
38 asking, you know, I know it's just anecdotal but asking
39 how many of them are involved in subsistence activities
40 and being disturbed that fewer and fewer each year are
41 actually involved.

42
43 So I think this is a good opportunity
44 for us to put a positive foot forward and say this
45 looks really good but what can we do and I would rather
46 see us take some of that responsibility on ourselves
47 here in the community to get the information out
48 because then they look at, not myself, but the other
49 leaders at the table as being the ones encouraging
50 them, rather than just outside folks or agency folks

1 telling them what to do.

2

3 That's all I have to say.

4

5 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Robbie.

6 Any more comments, questions.

7

8 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I support
9 what Robbie's talking about, expanding this to involve
10 youth, that's why I say if you have some information
11 that needs to be provided, that's where you take it out
12 to a community to invite everybody, to include youth.
13 So that's why I said, hey, take it out, provide that
14 information to them.

15

16 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I have a question on
17 the C&T, is there some generalities or they follow to
18 how they determine what is C&T?

19

20 DR. WHEELER: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
21 Chair. Again, at the bottom of the first page and at
22 the second page in a footnote there's what we call the
23 eight factors, and together those eight factors
24 describe a customary and traditional pattern of use.
25 And the Federal Board, and you've all had C&D
26 determinations before you, where there's an analysis
27 that's done of all the available information for a
28 particular species in a particular area, and that
29 information is presented -- it goes through a large
30 lengthy public process and then it goes before the
31 Staff Committee and then it goes eventually by the
32 Federal Board, the Federal Board considers all of the
33 information before it and makes a -- either supports
34 the proposal or doesn't support the proposal.

35

36 MR. SAMPSON: So you're the eight
37 factors, Victor.

38

39 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Just one of them,
40 just like you.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MR. EVERETT: Mr. Chairman.

45

46 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Robbie.

47

48 MR. EVERETT: Could you address on Page
49 3, ANILCA describes subsistence use as that which is
50 rural and customary and traditional but then the next

1 sentence, I would like a little more clarification on
2 that second sentence.

3

4 MR. SAMPSON: Not all rural uses are
5 customary and traditional.

6

7 DR. WHEELER: Right. And that's where
8 it's up to the Board, with the input by the RACs and
9 everything else, to decide whether or not a use is
10 customary and traditional. So in other words, just
11 because a use occurs in a rural area, it doesn't
12 necessarily mean it's customary and traditional.

13

14 MR. EVERETT: How does that fit into
15 the next paragraph where they're looking at
16 adaptability of the community in changes in
17 customary.....

18

19 MR. SAMPSON: Man.

20

21 MR. EVERETT:and traditional use?

22

23 DR. WHEELER: Well, that's the
24 interesting thing, is that, the rub has been in some
25 places -- well, of course there is -- you know there's
26 some uses that are not customary and traditional,
27 they're sport uses for example, that's one of them.
28 But one of the issues has been, before the Board,
29 introduced species or reintroduced species and ANILCA
30 doesn't address that but it has been down in Southeast
31 with Unit 2 deer, that's been a highly controversial
32 issue. My understanding is they're potentially
33 thinking of introducing bison out in Minto Flats, that
34 might be another issue. So there's some resource use
35 that may not be considered -- we're not saying it's all
36 rural and customary and traditional, we're not saying
37 it's all or it's not but there is some room for
38 evaluating the different uses and coming up with
39 recognizing whether or not that use is customary and
40 traditional; if that helps.

41

42 MR. EVERETT: Do the agencies foresee a
43 problem with muskox coming up since that might fit into
44 some of that?

45

46 DR. WHEELER: That might fit into some
47 of that and I'm certainly not going to speak for the
48 agencies, I haven't worked for them that long, but long
49 enough to not speak for all of them. So I think that
50 is a potentially controversial issue that may come up.

1 MR. EVERETT: I'd just like to say, Mr.
2 Chair, that as a committee we should keep that in the
3 back of our mind because that potentially could be a
4 problem if some of this moves forward.

5
6 MR. SAMPSON: Are you saying that
7 muskox is not a C&T issue? No, I'm asking you Rob?
8

9 MR. EVERETT: No, I just had a question
10 the way it was described, is that, some of the
11 introduced or reintroduced species, and then someone
12 might look at muskox as being a reintroduced species
13 down the road and in our unit I know a lot of people
14 depend on those in the villages and as a customary and
15 traditional use. could some smooth talking lawyer down
16 the road come back and say, now, you guys can't use or
17 whatever.

18
19 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you.

20
21 MS. PETRIVELLI: Mr. Chairman. If I
22 could -- my name's Pat Petrivelli, and I work for BIA,m
23 but I used to work for Fish and Wildlife Service as a
24 subsistence anthropologist. But with muskox, the C&T
25 determination has been made and usually whenever
26 there's a shortage then there's a provision in ANILCA,
27 in .804, where you look among the different subsistence
28 users. But once a positive customary and traditional
29 use determination has been made and recognized,
30 whenever there's a shortage or there's a question about
31 who should be allocated then it's amongst the customary
32 and traditional users, they use .804 criteria, and so
33 that's a whole different section of ANILCA.

34
35 And like the introduce and reintroduce,
36 when I worked for Fish and Wildlife Service, I got to
37 do some analysis and for like on the Kenai Peninsula,
38 they introduced, I think it's ruffed grouse or I forget
39 -- or, yeah, it's ruffed grouse and the Federal Board
40 made a negative customary and traditional use
41 determination because that was an introduced species
42 and that's because there was like five and it was hard
43 to say that any community had a pattern harvesting any
44 of those five ruffed grouse. You know I wrote the
45 analysis as all the information I had that there were,
46 you know, they counted five ruffed grouse on the whole
47 Kenai Peninsula and there was just no way that any
48 community could have regularly used those five ruffed
49 grouse over the past 20 years, you know, so it was --
50 so the Board said that -- now, if the population, you

1 know, somehow that there got to be a whole bunch of
2 ruffed grouse and then a number of communities used
3 those, the rural residents of the Kenai, then they
4 could ask again, you know, saying, you know, there's
5 lots of ruffed grouse now we've been using them for 20
6 years, you know, would you please recognize our
7 customary and traditional use of that resource. But
8 while there's -- but at the point where that came up --
9 and actually the sports guys wanted to protect them
10 because they were afraid that maybe, you know, that
11 some subsistence users -- because a subsistence user
12 could possibly, you know, take all five, you know, and
13 they were concerned and in my mind I was hoping they
14 would but, you know, because then we wouldn't have to
15 write the analysis.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MS. PETRIVELLI: So I hope that
20 clarifies a little.

21

22 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, appreciate
23 that. Any more questions, comments.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Hearing none, we'll
28 go on to the next.

29

30 DR. WHEELER: If I could, Mr. Chair, I
31 have some other things to say later on but just to get
32 back to this policy, I'm here all day and I can give
33 you my direct line at OSM if you have any questions or
34 comments or thoughts on this policy or if you want to
35 take the policy up later once you've all had a chance
36 to look at it and any other questions might come to
37 mind might come to mind later on this afternoon then
38 I'll be here and I'd like to hear your questions,
39 comments or concerns.

40

41 Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. I didn't
44 mean to cut you short.

45

46 (Pause)

47

48 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Annual report.

49

50 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If

1 the Council members would turn to Page 44 this is an
2 informational item. It's kind of guidance on how to
3 submit an annual report.

4
5 Each year, the Regional Councils, they
6 will submit a regional status report to the Chair of
7 the Federal Subsistence Board, which is referred to as
8 the annual report. This is the Council's opportunity
9 to discuss subsistence needs and subsistence related
10 policies and issues that they think the Board should
11 address. In this report the Regional Councils should
12 recommend specific actions needed to resolve the issues
13 that they bring forth to the Board.

14
15 The Regional Council's discuss this at
16 their fall meeting and if they would like to submit a
17 list of items at this time they can do so at this time.
18 They can do so at this time. However, if the Council
19 decides not to submit an annual report then we will
20 write a letter to the Board stating that the Council
21 opted not to submit an annual report for this year.

22
23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I have a question.
26 Can the Council members call you on their concerns and
27 recommendations?

28
29 MS. CHIVERS: Yes, Mr. Chair. If you
30 don't have any concerns today and something pops in
31 your mind and you want to call and add an item onto the
32 annual report you are certainly welcome to do so and
33 then at that time when you call me, also if you have a
34 recommendation on a specific action that should be
35 taken, that would be helpful, too, in writing the
36 report and then it will be brought forward to the
37 Council at the next winter meeting, and then at that
38 point it will go -- some things will be assigned to
39 agency Staff and then if there's other requests
40 regarding other agencies, like, say, the National
41 Marine Fisheries Agency or something, we would actually
42 submit that letter to the Board and the Board would
43 respond but we would have somebody gather all the
44 information for that particular issue.

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Any
49 questions, comments from the Council members.
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Next will be agency
4 reports. Who is going to step up to the plate -- thank
5 you.

6

7 DR. WHEELER: Me, again, Mr. Chair.
8 You have the distinct honor of listening to me for the
9 next five agenda items. I promise you I will make it
10 brief but I'm here to give you the status of the
11 closure policy; the status of Council composition;
12 rural and non-rural determinations, and the OSM budget
13 reorganization. And then there's a couple of other
14 items in your books, I'll just walk you through these
15 items and if you have any questions you are more than
16 welcome to ask them as I move along.

17

18 The first item is the status of the
19 closure policy. The closure policy, much like the
20 customary and traditional use determinations policy was
21 requested by, actually initially by the State of Alaska
22 and the Federal Board walked its way through. There's
23 actually a final closure policy and this shouldn't be
24 new information to you because you did have a draft
25 policy before you at your last, I think, several
26 meetings. But I do have the closure policy, 25 copies
27 of that, so there's extra if the public is interested.
28 And there's also -- late last week we got a letter from
29 Secretary Kempthorne basically endorsing the closure
30 policy, so I have a copy of that letter, too, as well
31 as a new and revised briefing on the closure policy to
32 replace the briefing that's on Page 45 in your book.

33

34 I'm not going to read it to you but I
35 will touch on a few of the highlights. Basically this
36 closure policy, again, has been in the works for a
37 couple of years. It was initially drafted in -- and
38 the point of it is to clarify when it's legally and
39 administratively appropriate to close or restrict
40 takings of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands
41 under Sections .815 and .816 of ANILCA. And the
42 closure policy describes when it is legally and
43 administratively appropriate and when it is what they
44 do about it.

45

46 So that's the gist of the policy.

47

48 The Board, again, received notice late
49 last week, I got the email August 31st, so it was
50 Friday, from the Secretary that the policy had been

1 approved so copies -- this is the final policy, it
2 doesn't have the actual date on it but that's because
3 it was very late last week that we heard it so if
4 you're interested, here's a copy of the letter from
5 Secretary of Interior Kempthorne approving the policy
6 and a new briefing on the new policy for you.

7

8 Mr. Chair.

9

10 So that's Item 1, any questions or
11 comments on that.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 DR. WHEELER: Sorry to be throwing all
16 this loose paper at you at the meeting but sometimes
17 it's better to get loose paper than no paper at all.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 DR. WHEELER: Next item, if you want me
22 to move on, Mr. Chair, otherwise I can wait.

23

24 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Not unless some of
25 the Council members have any questions or comments.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Please, go ahead.

30

31 DR. WHEELER: Okay. Next item on the
32 agenda is the status of the Council composition, and
33 you're all familiar with the 70/30 rule. This issue,
34 too, has a long somewhat difficult history in the
35 Federal Program.

36

37 Almost 10 years ago the Safari Club
38 International filed a suit against the Secretaries of
39 Interior and Agriculture and the Federal Board. They
40 were initially complaining about subsistence priority
41 determinations and the process for making those
42 determinations and then they eventually -- that
43 complaint sort of morphed into issues about Council
44 composition. The Board changed the -- in 2003 the
45 Council Charters were changed to stipulate that members
46 would represent either subsistence or commercial sport
47 users and that's where the 70/30 rule came in. That
48 rule was challenged and the Board was basically told
49 that it had to -- the Board was told by the courts that
50 they should consider other ways of achieving balanced

1 membership on the Councils. And to address that court
2 order the Board took several steps, they published a 30
3 day notice in the Federal Register, they solicited
4 comments from the Councils at last winter's meeting, as
5 you probably remember, at its May 2007 meeting, the
6 Board considered these comments and they considered
7 alternatives and they eventually developed its
8 recommendation, which was for a 70/30 rule for the --
9 or goal for the Council composition.

10

11 So at this point the Federal Program is
12 publishing a notice in the Federal Register describing
13 this process and hopefully will address the court's
14 concerns.

15

16 So, again, I would say that nothing has
17 changed on the ground, it's just the administrative
18 process in some ways had to catch up with the initial
19 rule.

20

21 Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Robbie.

24

25 MR. EVERETT: Mr. Chairman. Ms.
26 Wheeler. I represent one of those seats, I believe
27 Virgil does as well, I can't speak for him, but I'm
28 nearing the end of my first term and I have not been
29 contacted by any sport or commercial group in the three
30 years. And so I would just like to go on record to
31 say, well, that's nice and I appreciate that and maybe
32 I fill one of those positions but I -- in our area that
33 has been quite controversial with transport hunters and
34 outside hunters, I think that we should go on record
35 and say, well, I would represent who I'm supposed to be
36 representing but I haven't been contacted by any of
37 them so all of my comments have come from just local
38 people here that I know and am friends with in the
39 community, but I think that's interesting they're
40 making a big stink about it.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any other comments,
45 questions by Council members.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Please continue.

50

1 DR. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
2 next item on -- it's on Page 47 in your book, it's the
3 Final Rule and Request for Reconsideration, it's a
4 lengthy title, of the Decennial Review of Rural and
5 Non-Rural Determinations by the Federal Subsistence
6 Board. And you probably also remember the rural issue,
7 the rural consideration's done every 10 years in
8 response to the census, the Board has to consider which
9 areas of the state still fall under the purview of
10 ANILCA basically. The Board made their decision, the
11 final rule was published in the Federal Register in
12 May. And as we might have expected we got some
13 requests for reconsideration of the Board's decision
14 and we not only got one, we got seven requests for
15 reconsideration so somebody's clearly paying attention
16 to what the Federal Board's doing.

17
18 The process that we're engaged in now
19 is we have Staff that are reviewing the seven different
20 requests for reconsideration because they all have
21 different claims contained within them. So Staff are
22 in the process of reviewing these RFRs and will be
23 evaluating the claims in the form of a threshold
24 analysis, which is what we do. Again, we have, the
25 Board makes a decision, the public or the State or
26 whomever just wants to challenge that decision they
27 file what's called an RFR, request for reconsideration.
28 Our process, internally, is that we evaluate that
29 request for reconsideration, we do what's called a
30 threshold analysis, so we evaluate the claims that are
31 made in the request for reconsideration, it has to
32 comply with certain standards, it has to provide new
33 information, it has to provide information that the
34 Board didn't consider -- new information that the Board
35 didn't consider obviously, and we're in the process of
36 reviewing those claims at this point in time to do a
37 threshold analysis.

38
39 You all should have been mailed a
40 booklet which contained the final rule for the rural
41 determination and the six -- I misspoke, it's six RFRs,
42 not seven, I thought we had seven, okay, we have
43 gotten, I think 19 request for reconsideration this
44 summer so I get -- on various decisions that the
45 Federal Board has made, I guess only six referred to
46 the rural decision. Anyway we're in the process of
47 evaluating the claims right now. You all should have
48 been mailed a copy of the final rule as well as copies
49 of the six RFRs and that's really for your information.
50

1 As far as process we'll have more for
2 you at the winter meetings but right now we're
3 evaluating the claims that are before us in the form of
4 the RFRs.

5
6 Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Any other
9 questions, comments.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Please continue.

14
15 DR. WHEELER: Okay. The last and final
16 item I have that I need to speak to, Mr. Chair, is on
17 Page 48 in your book, it's the two year cycles, the
18 budget and the OSM -- the OSM budget and the OSM
19 reorganization.

20
21 I was looking through your minutes from
22 your last meeting and you had Steve Klein from our
23 office presenting you the budget woes of the Federal
24 Program so I'm not going to restate what he said. The
25 short of it is that we have some budget cuts up before
26 us, we're trying to streamline Staff and the way that
27 we do business to deal with those budget cuts as best
28 we can.

29
30 One of the things we've done is we've
31 reorganized so that we're going to be doing fish one
32 year and wildlife the next year. One is in even year,
33 and one is in odd year. But you're not going to see
34 the effects of it for a year yet because this winter
35 you'll be dealing with wildlife and you're dealing with
36 the Fisheries Monitoring Program now. So a year from
37 now we'll be doing fisheries one year, wildlife the
38 next year and that's to, again, reflect, we've had some
39 staffing decreases in recent years, we've had some
40 budget problems and with everything that's going on at
41 the national level and international level I don't
42 expect that those budget cuts are going to change any
43 time soon so our response is rather than reacting we're
44 trying to be proactive and change out staffing, change
45 the way that we do business as best we can to address
46 the concerns of the subsistence users out on the ground
47 as best we can.

48
49 So, again, this is an informational
50 item as much as anything else, but just to keep you

1 apprised of how we're dealing with these budget cuts.

2

3

Mr. Chair.

4

5

CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Walter.

6

7

MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Polly. Just a
8 question. Why is it that subsistence always take the
9 ax right at the top level, both at the State and
10 Federal level?

11

12

DR. WHEELER: Well, as an individual I
13 could give you my whole philosophy of the world but as
14 a Federal employee I don't have the option, certainly
15 not on the record. I would say that -- I can't speak
16 for the State right now even though I did used to work
17 for the State for a short period of time, but I know at
18 the Federal level, the Fish and Wildlife Service
19 nationwide is experiencing cuts. How those cuts are
20 distributed and how they are absorbed by the Federal
21 Program is somewhat discretionary and the Federal
22 Subsistence Program is unique to the Service, unique --
23 you know the Federal Subsistence Program is the only
24 one of its kind -- or the Federal Subsistence Program
25 in Alaska is the only one of its kind and there are
26 some that think that it doesn't fall within the core
27 mission of the Service, I don't happen to agree with
28 them but that's how you'll see the budget cuts
29 sometimes reflected.

30

31

And that's probably all I better say.

32

33

MR. SAMPSON: I guess the reason why
34 I'm asking is, you know, as a user people will say,
35 yeah, you're an interest group. Subsistence is a way
36 of life for the rural communities and I just can't see
37 how people can't see with their own eyes from the
38 outside world more so from the management level, both
39 at the State and Federal level, that a way of life is
40 slowly being diminished. Eventually there's not going
41 to be subsistence. And I guess the intent is to do
42 away with all of us eventually. And I hope that by the
43 time I'm gone somebody will have a big happy smile and
44 more life to them.

45

46

CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Walter.

47 Go ahead, please.

48

49

DR. WHEELER: Just a comment on that
50 note. I think that -- the budget is made by Congress,

1 Congress responds to the public, if the public has
2 concerns about decisions that they're making then the
3 public needs to act on that and we have to be very
4 careful as Federal employees, we can't lobby Congress,
5 certainly we can't go outside of what the director of
6 the Fish and Wildlife Service determines but I would be
7 certain that if the public, if there is a huge human
8 cry from the public about how budget dollars were or
9 were not being allocated, that maybe they would be
10 heard by the Alaska Congressional Delegation, just as
11 an example. But that's just an aside, Mr. Sampson.

12

13 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Walter.

14

15 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you. I recognize
16 allocation, how allocations are made from the
17 Congressional level, but at the regional level I'm sure
18 that there's some options that the Regional Office can
19 also look at in not cutting some of these things. And
20 that's what I was getting at, too.

21

22 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Polly.

23

24 DR. WHEELER: Your concerns are heard.

25

26 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any other questions,
27 comments from the Council members.

28

29 MR. BALLOT: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'm
30 concerned, too. Even though I'm getting off the Board
31 I would like to see these meeting being held regularly.
32 I don't know how much it cost for all of us to get
33 here, I don't think it's about 30,000 or so but we
34 should make it known that we're concerned and that we
35 want to keep this process going like we do yearly, and
36 whatever we can do to make this known we should.

37

38 The way we live our life and rules
39 change and there's policy and regulation change without
40 our input it concerns me for the future of our
41 children. So we watch our game -- everybody knows that
42 we have a history of watching what we do and how we do
43 it and stuff like that and we should keep it up. I
44 think what we do here, all of us, together, we do good
45 and I'd sure hate to see us, even if it's -- I'm still
46 happy we're going to be every other year or this
47 process will still go on, but whatever it is we need to
48 make this -- let them know that we want to keep this
49 going twice a year or whatever it is.

50

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Percy.
2 Michelle.

3
4 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. I just wanted
5 to add that the number of Council meetings, we will
6 still meet twice a year and what the office has
7 suggested is that if there is not an issue or no issues
8 of concern or no proposals at that time, we would make
9 a determination as to whether a meeting is necessary.
10 But the plan is to still have the Councils meet twice a
11 year, all 10 regions.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Go ahead,
16 Polly.

17
18 DR. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 The last two items here on Pages 49 and 50, there's a
20 letter from Secretary of Interior Kempthorne to the
21 Board and then some materials on Regional Advisory
22 Council compensation. Those are both informational
23 items. I guess just to give you a head's up, that
24 letter from Secretary Kempthorne -- it's actually on
25 Page 50, there's a couple interesting things in there
26 but one of the changes that the Secretary has made is
27 given how important subsistence is, he has changed it
28 so that it is actually the Alaska agency heads that now
29 sit on the Board rather than -- prior to that there was
30 a designee, so he's had it that the Federal agency
31 heads in Alaska will be sitting on the Federal Board.

32
33 Sandy just told me that last week they
34 said that now they're going to have three meetings a
35 year, is that what you said, okay, so they're going to
36 have three set meetings a year with those Federal
37 agency heads because those folks are fairly busy and
38 nailing them down as far as the meetings go was
39 starting to look kind of difficult. So rather than the
40 -- the two agencies -- Niles Cesar was typically the
41 head of Alaska BIA, who was typically at the meetings,
42 but many of the other agencies had a designee, so now
43 you're going to have the actual head of the agency in
44 Alaska. So that's the gist of that letter.

45
46 You'll notice at the bottom that the
47 Secretary is also very interested in the customary and
48 traditional use determination policy so he stuck his
49 little -- stuck a note in there on that, too, so he'll
50 be getting a copy of that policy once it went --

1 actually he has it already, the draft policy.
2
3 So, anyway, just informational items,
4 those two items.
5
6 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Any other
7 comments, questions from the Council members.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay.
12
13 MR. SWAN: I have one.
14
15 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay, excuse me,
16 Austin.
17
18 MS. SWAN: I was just thinking we have
19 less meetings and we have less cost to the agencies, to
20 the management, are we doing something right? Is not
21 anybody concerned about how we live up here anymore?
22
23 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I don't know how to
24 answer that one.
25
26 (Laughter)
27
28 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Polly.
29
30 (Laughter)
31
32 DR. WHEELER: Me neither.
33
34 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any agency want to
35 tackle that one.
36
37 (Laughter)
38
39 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Sandy.
40
41 (Laughter)
42
43 MR. SWAN: It's just something for you
44 to think about.
45
46 DR. WHEELER: Food for thought.
47
48 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Austin. I
49 think you got their attention.
50

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: There was, in the
2 past, on the make up of the Federal Game Board,
3 whatever happened, it seemed like there was possibly a
4 court case in the making on the nature of the way the
5 Federal Game Board was made up, or a question on the
6 members, are you familiar with that?

7
8 DR. WHEELER: I'm not familiar with
9 that, Mr. Chair, I don't know if anybody else is.

10
11 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Maybe it went
12 nowhere, but I did find something on the internet to
13 that.

14
15 DR. WHEELER: Well, you got to be
16 careful of the internet.

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 MR. SAMPSON: Are you relating to the
21 fact when the State was trying to get a seat on the
22 Federal Board as a voting member?

23
24 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Maybe that was part
25 of it. But the bottom line was, Walter, near as I
26 could interpret from the correspondence or whatever I
27 could find on the internet was the nature of the make
28 up, probably that was part of it.

29
30 Any more comments, questions.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: If not, let's take a
35 very short break and then it will be agency reports.

36
37 (Off record)

38
39 (On record)

40
41 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay, first agency
42 report, U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

43
44 MS. MORAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
45 Tina Moran, wildlife biologist for the Selawik Refuge.
46 Do we want to wait until Walter gets back -- or never
47 mind.

48
49 Anyway, we had several projects going
50 on this summer and this fall and I'm going to highlight

1 just a couple that are in this little handout I passed
2 out to folks on a moose survey that was done this
3 spring and the sheefish project that we're doing right
4 now.

5
6 First off, we cooperated with Fish and
7 Game, BLM, Park Service, on a sort of Refuge wide moose
8 survey this spring, in March. And we estimate about
9 2,319 moose with a density estimate of about .35 moose
10 per square mile and the calf to adult ratio is about
11 9.9 calves per 100 adults. This is kind of our first
12 endeavor to try to do the whole Refuge and a little bit
13 more. The only part we didn't really do was the
14 Kobuk/Delta which we had done last -- the spring
15 before. It came off really well, we had a lot of
16 cooperation, the weather cooperated really well for us,
17 too, which really helped. And like I said we hadn't
18 done this large of a scale of survey before, so we
19 don't really have any comparison data from past years
20 for that but we were able to break it up. We had -- in
21 the past we've done sections of the Refuge and we
22 looked at some of the analysis from those sections from
23 past years and there wasn't too much difference there.

24
25 So if there's any questions on that
26 I'll try to answer those.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MS. MORAN: Right now we are finishing
31 up a Tag River sheefish project, putting radios into 30
32 sheefish. We just recently found out that there are
33 sheefish in the Tag River. We were not aware and
34 neither were -- as we were told the local residents
35 were not aware that sheefish were using the Tag River.
36 So this fall, Nate Olson, our other biologist and
37 biologists from the Fairbanks Fisheries Office and a
38 resident from Selawik, Sonny Berry, went out and
39 captured -- or caught 30 sheefish and implanted radios
40 and these should last about four to five years so we
41 can document their movements and hopefully some
42 spawning areas and we're also taking genetic samples as
43 well so you can see what stock they're coming from. so
44 it's kind of an interesting project, some new
45 information. And taking it from some -- information
46 from some local hunters and residents. They just
47 finished up yesterday so hopefully we'll get some good
48 information here pretty soon.

49
50 What I didn't include in here was we

1 also did, again, Avian Flu projects, continued with the
2 pintail project near Buckland, wasn't quite as
3 successful as it was last year, we only got 20 pintails
4 tested but we still got some. I also caught about 15
5 gleaming tails as well. We're not sure if we're going
6 to be funded again for next year but that's a
7 possibility.

8

9 We also work with Migratory Bird
10 Management and captured 130 tundra swans and tested
11 them as well. Hopefully we'll be getting the results
12 in the next couple of months just like last year,
13 hopefully they'll be a little quicker. But we'll let
14 you know once we know what the results are.

15

16 So far of all the projects that have
17 been done, this summer, all over, statewide, there's
18 been, you know, negative results so, you know, that's
19 good. Hopefully we'll continue with that.

20

21 That's pretty much what I have for
22 right now.

23

24 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Walter. Thank you,
25 Tina.

26

27 MS. MORAN: Uh-huh.

28

29 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you for your
30 report, Tina. What's the life of a fish?

31

32 MS. MORAN: What's the life of a fish?

33

34 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah. How long does a
35 sheefish.....

36

37 MS. AYRES: I know they've had some of
38 the larger ones that have been 23 years old and I think
39 they're about six years when they start spawning, when
40 they start breeding.

41

42 MS. MORAN: Yeah, so it's a pretty long
43 lived fish.

44

45 MR. SAMPSON: How do you tell the age
46 of a sheefish?

47

48 MS. MORAN: That little otolith, that
49 they got of their heads and they sort of -- sort of
50 like counting rings in a tree, they can do that, so

1 they just take that out of their heads and obviously
2 they didn't do it with these fish because they want
3 them alive, but when they harvest them or collect them
4 for that purpose that they take that piece out of their
5 brain and they're able to do that in the lab.

6

7 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Excuse me. Can you
8 count the rings on their scales also or is that very
9 accurate?

10

11 MS. MORAN: I'm not sure of that. I'm
12 not actually.....

13

14 MS. AYRES: We've sent our fisheries
15 biologist in the field to work on field so we're doing
16 this second hand, but there are some techniques where
17 they can look at the number of times they go into, like
18 saltwater, that will lay down a certain pattern on the
19 scales, but it's a much more kind of -- they're still
20 kind of testing that to do the relations on it.

21

22 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Susan.

23

24 MS. AYRES: There you go, help us out.

25

26 MS. MORAN: She's a fish lady.

27

28 MS. GEORGETTE: My name is Susan
29 Georgette. And I just have had the good fortune of
30 traveling with the fish biologist some in the past few
31 years and I learned some of this from them. And what
32 they said about sheefish scales is that it's only
33 accurate up to a certain age and then the scale doesn't
34 keep making a line or a ridge for every year.

35

36 So in past studies when they only used
37 the scales to estimate age they underestimated them by
38 many years because they learned that after 16 or 18
39 years you can't tell by scales anymore. And when
40 they've done these otoliths, these ear bones that Tina
41 mentioned, they have found some of the whitefish to
42 live to be 40 years old and even 52 years old, I think,
43 is one of the oldest whitefish, and I don't think that
44 was from our region but from the Yukon River area. So
45 they think the sheefish probably live longer than 20
46 years but they've underestimated their age by only
47 looking at the scales.

48

49 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Susan.
50 any more questions, comments Council members.

1 MR. BALLOT: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
2
3 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Percy.
4
5 MR. BALLOT: On your moose surveys you
6 have Tag River, Selawik, do you have any numbers like
7 for Kauk River area, do you have any?
8
9 MS. MORAN: We try to do a little bit
10 of the Kauk River on this survey. We didn't really --
11 if I can recall, we didn't have a whole -- I don't
12 think we actually saw too many down there so our
13 estimate was probably going to be a little low. But,
14 yeah, we tried to include that in our survey this year
15 just for that specific purpose that people are
16 concerned about that area.
17
18 MS. AYRES: And for the rest of the
19 Buckland and that area, I think Kyle can talk about
20 that with the BLM, and the State, Jim Dau, does some of
21 the surveys down in that area.
22
23 MS. MORAN: Right.
24
25 MS. AYRES: Any other questions.
26
27 (No comments)
28
29 MS. AYRES: I guess -- my name is
30 LeeAnne Ayres, I'm the Refuge manager for the Selawik
31 Refuge and I'd just like to follow up on a couple other
32 items that have been going on in the Refuge since your
33 last meeting.
34
35 One of the ones kind of follows up on
36 Ralph's observation about the slump, the thaw slump on
37 the upper Selawik and the Chairman asked me to kind of
38 mention what we knew about that and what was going on
39 with that project and that event up there. And it's
40 certainly a very dramatic event. What I passed out is
41 a couple of the diagrams from a draft report that one
42 of the -- a university researcher, KinGiYoshakawa (ph)
43 presented or came up and worked on this summer.
44
45 One of the issues that we're looking
46 at, well, actually there's two issues that we feel are
47 fairly important for us to focus on and be monitoring
48 this, and that involves, with one, the sediment flow
49 that comes from this slump up in the upper Selawik.
50 Other than kind of clouding up the water, one of the

1 concerns is that it might eventually if it continues
2 being a really active slump it might begin to affect
3 the sheefish spawning habitat there below it. As Ralph
4 noted we're seeing some fish starting to go up the Tag
5 River that could possibly be a result of it being so
6 murky there around the spawning area.

7
8 So what we had was we sponsored two
9 geomorphologist researchers to actually go up and take
10 a good look at it. These are people that -- the first
11 one, who has provided the diagrams that you have, he
12 studies these types of events and looking at permafrost
13 and kind of the geomorphology of the area, and he got
14 in on the ground and did some samples and kind of
15 provided us a look at what might be going on there.
16 He'll finalize his report and kind of have a little bit
17 more information and he'll be talking to other folks
18 about what might be occurring there.

19
20 The second person that we sponsored to
21 go up was Ben Crosby, a geomorphologist from Idaho
22 State University, and he basically mapped the area so
23 that we can look at how much volume is being basically
24 put into the river on an annual basis.

25
26 So both of those people, we hope to be
27 keeping involved with helping us look at this and
28 monitor what's going on up there and then on the side
29 -- we'll be moving in to looking at what we need to do
30 to look at its impact on the fisheries resources on the
31 Selawik.

32
33 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Any
34 comments, questions from the Council members.

35
36 MR. RAMOTH: Mr. Chairman.

37
38 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Ralph.

39
40 MR. RAMOTH: Yeah, that area there, I
41 know it pretty well, where it's at, and it started a
42 long -- quite a long time, a number of years ago.

43
44 MS. AYRES: Yeah.

45
46 MR. RAMOTH: And the current keep on
47 washing the bottom away like that and then the big
48 chunk of ice, like frozen mud's been hanging there for
49 years. It finally started giving away, I believe
50 that's global warming or -- or what -- what causes

1 that, finally start coming down and started melting
2 off, you know, every year. Once it start falling off,
3 I believe it really -- really thawing out every year.
4 So I thought myself that for changing route, migration
5 of sheefish that's probably caused it from that water,
6 so cloudy, so dark and so muddy, and once you see it
7 from the air the whole thing is muddy all the way up to
8 the place there.

9
10 And on the mouth of Selawik River,
11 there is clear water and muddy water, you know, that's
12 where it starts going to the clear water, start
13 migrating to Tag River. There's never been a sheefish
14 there in Tag River as far as I know because I've been
15 around there and -- and one time my partner and I, we
16 were trapping way up, we been finding some salmon
17 heads, like dog salmons, sometimes I think they made a
18 wrong turn and it ended up way up Tag River, but as far
19 as I know there's nothing but burbots and grayling
20 that's just about the only fish that I know in Tag
21 River, but way up -- up -- so I don't know how far the
22 sheefish will be going up or spawning but there's good
23 areas like around Purcell (ph) area, spawning area
24 around Purcell Creek where sheefish are, have good
25 rocks, around there, so there should be real good --
26 not too far up in Tag River, I believe they will
27 probably be going up that far.

28
29 MS. AYRES: Yeah.

30
31 MR. RAMOTH: So this is something, it's
32 different than -- and, you know, we don't know anything
33 about sheefish going up through Tag River before.

34
35 MS. AYRES: Yeah, that's one thing that
36 we just hope that they can find some of those areas to
37 spawn in.

38
39 MR. RAMOTH: Another thing is -- yeah,
40 the question is how -- what method do they use for
41 putting radio transmitters in sheefish?

42
43 MS. MORAN: It's a similar technique
44 that they used for when they did the Selawik project,
45 they surgically implant them. I'm not sure exactly --
46 I've never done it myself so -- but, yeah, they
47 surgically implant in the body cavity of the fish so
48 they're catching them by rod and reel and then -- and
49 they put them under anesthesia and -- and cut them open
50 and sew them back -- you know, put the radio in and sew

1 them back up and release them and they've had really
2 good luck with this technique. And so they just
3 finished up a couple days ago. They were catching
4 quite a few sheefish so that was pretty interesting.

5
6 So that's kind of the short and dirty
7 answer to that.

8
9 MR. RAMOTH: Thank you. I worked on
10 that before.

11
12 MS. AYRES: Right.

13
14 MR. RAMOTH: Doing the same thing. But
15 I understand that there is some other ways of putting
16 radio transmitters is by letting the sheefish swallow
17 the radio transmitter or what, just something that --
18 how long do they live after they put a transmitter like
19 that in the sheefish, you know, because those sheefish,
20 I -- I been subsisting ever since I am a little boy on
21 sheefish and I've been out with a number of biologists
22 like Department of Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife
23 Service and what do they feed and how long they been
24 around and what kind of fish are spawning and how much
25 do they spawn and things like that, you know. Because
26 there's a lot of people that doesn't know anything
27 about -- like don't understand that sheefish spawns
28 only once, once in their lifetime, they're not like a
29 salmon. They don't spawn and die off, so they live to
30 get old fish, like real big fish, like some of them
31 weighs over 50 pounds, which we can't catch with lures
32 or anything, some people need to know that. And how
33 far out do they go, because this is -- you know we need
34 to know how far out do they go when they come out in
35 fall time because, you know, they're catching some
36 sheefish over in the Buckland River, around Deering,
37 there's sheefish around that area, and we know that
38 sheefish goes up the Kobuk River. That was way before
39 the biologist started coming around, we find that out,
40 one old guy was fishing out in Selawik Lake, he put his
41 name on a -- on his lure and he was fishing and he lost
42 that lure, so they caught it around Kobuk River on the
43 net and they send that lure back to him so we know they
44 were going from Kobuk River to.....

45
46 MS. AYRES: Oh, that's great news.

47
48 MR. RAMOTH: That's all I have, thank
49 you.
50

1 MS. MORAN: Well, that's -- we hope if
2 folks do catch these fish, you know, they happen to
3 catch and harvest these fish that have the radios and
4 the tags, you know, we've got a number of tags out as
5 well, that, you know, reporting it to us because that's
6 important information. Especially the radio's, too,
7 because we're always concerned about the condition of
8 the fish as well. So if people catch fish with these
9 radios and let us know what the condition is, that'd be
10 great. We've been monitoring, you know, a number of
11 fish in this area for a number of years now so, you
12 know, we know they do work but it's always good to see
13 them hand's on after -- you know after they've had
14 these radios in them for a while.

15
16 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Any more
17 questions, comments Council.

18
19 MR. BALLOT: Yes, Mr.....

20
21 MR. SAMPSON: I have one for Mr. Ramoth
22 (In Native)

23
24 MR. RAMOTH: That's what I'd like to
25 know, yeah, they come all the way out here and when
26 they come out to Kotzebue, how far out do they go and
27 is there any information with the radio transmitters
28 that comes out in the fall time?

29
30 MS. MORAN: I'm not too sure. I
31 haven't looked at the -- they haven't gotten the final
32 report yet for the Selawik one and hopefully we'll get
33 some information from these fish that are in the Tag.
34 We've gotten a number of people that have been fishing
35 out here in the Sound reporting those little green
36 tags, I don't know if anybody has seen those in any of
37 the sheefish they've got. But we've had several people
38 come into the office or call into the office with their
39 numbers so we're getting them out in the Sound here.
40 But I can get that information for you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Willie. Okay,
43 Willie, then Susan.

44
45 MR. GOODWIN: Willie Goodwin from
46 Kotzebue. When we had the hatchery one time and they
47 let the fish out, the salmon, they followed them all
48 the way to Point Hope and Point Hope was getting
49 sheefish up there. But over the years, especially in
50 the fall time in the lagoons, north of -- in the

1 Krusenstern Monument, they'd catch those (In Native)
2 those smaller sheefish there, so they do go up the
3 coast.

4
5 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Willie.
6 Susan.

7
8 MS. GEORGETTE: Susan Georgette with
9 Fish and Wildlife Service. One of the disadvantages of
10 those transmitters is that they won't transmit in
11 saltwater. And so what happens is that once they get
12 out into Kobuk Lake and out this way and out in
13 Kotzebue Sound they can't pick up those transmitters.

14
15 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Any --
16 Walter, go ahead.

17
18 MR. SAMPSON: No. No.

19
20 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Well, I have a
21 question or whatever. What did you find on that bird
22 survey, or Avian Flu, bird flu, just out of curiosity?

23
24 MS. MORAN: The projects we did this
25 year or last year?

26
27 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Yes.

28
29 MS. MORAN: Yeah, we captured about 130
30 swans and so far we haven't got the results yet from
31 that or the pintail -- is that what you're asking
32 or.....

33
34 MS. AYRES: Yeah, usually they get the
35 results back to us on the ones that they sampled this
36 season, they'll be getting them back in probably around
37 December. They do a quick test to see if there's any,
38 you know, any of them kind of are flagged but.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: The reason I asked,
41 Mike Reardon, who used to be here in Kotzebue, they did
42 a pretty good program on the YK-Delta with the
43 individual, the World's Dirtiest Job, that was pretty
44 interesting. I mean there was a lot of laughs, I guess
45 they had a pretty good time down there, but just a
46 comment.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 MS. AYRES: And I guess I'll just touch

1 real briefly on what's going on in the field right now
2 with our kind of law enforcement efforts and fall
3 patrol work.

4
5 There's kind of, I guess, probably
6 three things that we're working on or the focus of our
7 fall activities with sport hunters and folks in the
8 field. The first one is we issue permits to a number
9 of transporters, we have six transporters and one guide
10 that are permitted. And we've worked really closely
11 with people in Selawik and the surrounding area to
12 develop permit conditions that they have to comply with
13 when they're operating commercially on the Refuge. So
14 one of the things that our law enforcement folks are
15 doing are making sure that people comply with those
16 permit conditions that deal with where they can hunt
17 and how they report their activities and what not.

18
19 The second thing that we're kind of
20 focusing on this year is to make sure people who are on
21 the Refuge have permits so we're working really closely
22 with BLM and the State folks to just be doing the
23 patrols and making sure that people who are
24 commercially bringing people on the Refuge have the
25 permits they require to kind of get them in the system
26 where we can monitor them and be working with them.

27
28 The last thing that we're working on is
29 basically to help facilitate kind of communication and
30 coordination between people in the village trespass
31 programs, Abraham Synder with NANA, working with
32 Purcell Security and with our State law enforcement
33 Trooper here, Eric Loring as well as our law
34 enforcement folks, to just help get communication going
35 so when either they need help in the field that there
36 are other agencies that have the resources that can
37 join in and help them with law enforcement actions that
38 are going on, and also with all of the folks that are
39 in the field now, if they are having problems, to be
40 able to get that information to the agency law
41 enforcement folks so that they can take action
42 immediately because that's when it's most effective and
43 I think that's what can help prevent some of the
44 frustration of seeing things going on in the field and
45 then reporting them afterwards. When we don't have the
46 law enforcement folks here and we just can't make the
47 cases unless we actually have those people in the field
48 dealing with what's going on or what the problem is for
49 our local hunters.

50

1 So those are kind of the three things
2 that we're working on this season. And we have like
3 one to three folks here and we'll have somebody here at
4 the airport in a few days to be working with the
5 Kotzebue -- kind of Kotzebue checks.

6
7 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, LeeAnne.
8 Walter.

9
10 MR. SAMPSON: The six transporter
11 permits that you gave, who are they and who is the
12 guide?

13
14 MS. AYRES: The transporter permits are
15 to Buck Maxim with Arctic Air Guides; Joe Schuster with
16 Sportsman Air out of Galena; Colin Brown also out of
17 Galena; Jim Kincaid with Northwestern Aviation; and
18 Eric See with Hagelund; and then there was a new
19 applicant Vern Kingsford, who, we're not sure whether
20 he's even operating this year, he simply put in a
21 permit. So the ones that are actually active on the
22 Refuge pretty much are Joe Schuster, Buck Maxim and Jim
23 Kincaid are probably the ones that bring most of the
24 folks.

25
26 We denied two permits to previous
27 permit holders last year so they're -- we have less
28 permit holders this year than we did last year.

29
30 MR. SAMPSON: Who's the guide?

31
32 MS. AYRES: Joe Schuster.

33
34 MR. SAMPSON: Before any permits are
35 issued, do you look at the history of the individuals
36 in regards to violations?

37
38 MS. AYRES: Yes, we do, quite a bit.

39
40 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Walter.
41 Any other comments.....

42
43 MR. SAMPSON: The only.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN KARMUN:questions.

46
47 MR. SAMPSON:the only other
48 concern that I would -- would have is I know I have
49 seen airplanes flying through to -- to areas, you might
50 want to reinforce the height of these folks fly at,

1 sometimes they fly two to 300 feet above ground level
2 and I don't think that's really appropriate to do
3 especially when you have people hunting on the Selawik
4 River.

5
6 MS. AYRES: Oh, yeah, no, if you -- if
7 we can get who those are we'll certainly -- those are
8 things that we can -- when they have the permit, that
9 we can approach and talk to them about.

10
11 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

12
13 MR. BALLOT: We have.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, LeeAnne.

16
17 MR. BALLOT: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.
18 We have a guide or transporter stopping off in
19 Buckland, he goes towards the Refuge, do you know who
20 that is, and I wanted to know is what those conditions
21 are for issuing the permits that they have, too?

22
23 MS. AYRES: That is BLM so I can let
24 Kyle talk about it.

25
26 MR. BALLOT: Oh, BLM, okay.

27
28 MS. AYRES: But I, you know.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Robbie.

31
32 MR. EVERETT: I was just going to make
33 a comment to all those that have law enforcement people
34 in the field this year, to see if they could
35 communicate with the other law enforcement individuals
36 so that they don't double and triple up on one person's
37 camp. The only complaint I heard from last year is
38 that this particular camp had three people stop in the
39 same day and the other ones weren't aware that the
40 other ones had stopped in. So I mean they were happy
41 and legal but, you know, they felt like they.....

42
43 MS. AYRES: Yeah, no, that's not
44 appropriate.

45
46 MR. EVERETT:didn't have a good
47 day that day.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Any other
2 questions, comments.

3
4 MR. SAMPSON: I'm glad they feel
5 exactly what we feel sometimes.

6
7 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, LeeAnne,
8 Tina.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: We'll move on.
13 National Park Service.

14
15 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National
16 Park Service and George Helfrich, Superintendent
17 Western Arctic National Park Lands. I'll give a brief
18 rundown of some of our activities.

19
20 Willie's handing out, passing out some
21 handouts that Brad Schultz put together on some of the
22 key wildlife projects this year, and if you have any
23 questions related to those materials we can bring Brad
24 up and he'll be glad to answer them for you.

25
26 I'll basically run through the project
27 activities and then George can give you an update on
28 where the Park is at in relation to its transporter
29 issues.

30
31 Basically in terms of field activities,
32 research monitoring Western Arctic National Park Lands
33 had a pretty busy summer with a wide variety of
34 research and monitoring activity. Some of the projects
35 we conducted, some of the others we provided logistic
36 support for and some of the others were more of a
37 matter of providing permitting and Environmental and
38 National Historic Preservation Act compliance for the
39 projects so they could go forward.

40
41 Among all of these activities muskoxen
42 work in Unit 22. In Unit 23 bears, sheep, moose and
43 muskoxen. And then also U.S. Geological Survey and
44 Fish and Wildlife Service conducted a couple of
45 projects down in the Espenberg area, one on yellow
46 billed loons and another on common eiders and Fish and
47 Wildlife Service Migratory Birds is also for the last
48 several, couple three years, been working on swans down
49 in that part of the area. A lot of that work has been
50 motivated by the Avian Influenza concerns and like

1 LeeAnne said, for this year's project, a lot of like
2 the eiders and the loon work, the results are still
3 preliminary but so far everything we've heard, you
4 know, everything looks good. Also I might mention in
5 relation to the Avian Influenza Kawerak Incorporated
6 has a project through the Fish -- along with the Fish
7 and Wildlife Service for the collection of subsistence
8 harvested birds from Shishmaref and so far those
9 materials have all turned up fine, too, no H5N1 so
10 overall things continue to look pretty good I would say
11 in the region. Doesn't mean that it might not happen
12 but so far so good.

13

14 Part of the drive for the loon project
15 and the eider project we're capturing and equipping
16 some of those birds with radio transmitters to better
17 understand their migratory patterns and where they're
18 actually going and what other bird populations they
19 might be coming into contact with to better predict the
20 possibility of a transmission of H5N1 across some of
21 those populations and eventually winding up in here.

22

23 In terms of a lot of our work with the
24 Arctic Network, our inventory and monitoring program,
25 this was the last year for the field work portion of a
26 multi-year project related to ecological land survey
27 and cover mapping. This year's work focused basically
28 in Kobuk Valley, looks at vegetation, looks at soil,
29 looks at underlying bed rock, and a lot of that work is
30 going to ultimately be geared to a better refinement to
31 our models and our ability to interpret from satellite
32 imagery and aerial photographs to be able to understand
33 long-term changes in the landscape and cover. And when
34 you figure that for the Arctic Network we're dealing
35 with Kobuk Valley, Noatak, Cape Krusenstern, Bering
36 Land Bridge and Gates of the Arctic, probably with
37 those four units together, the Park Service would
38 manage, in those four units alone, probably I would
39 guess somewhere around 30 percent, or 33 percent of the
40 entire land mass of the National Park Service. So you
41 can see in trying to develop a monitoring program for
42 that huge area it's a pretty challenging task to
43 develop sampling designs and how you're actually going
44 to -- what kind of data you're actually going to
45 collect, how often you're going to collect it, where
46 you're going to collect it from. But this is the last
47 year for that part of that field work.

48

49 Another project that we had going which
50 related maybe to the Selawik bank slump that LeeAnne

1 was talking about, we had a group up in the Kelley
2 River area looking at characterizing and mapping
3 thermokarsting phenomenon and those are basically
4 sinking and slumping associated probably, you know,
5 with the global climate change and the melting of the
6 permafrost. And some of the researchers who originally
7 worked up in this area, like in the '60s and '70s have
8 come back as part of -- like working as cooperators and
9 things with our monitoring program and have noted
10 tremendous changes in some of these areas, like up in
11 the Finiak Lake (ph) area, we've got a lot more reports
12 of pretty significant changes going on in this
13 thermokarsting phenomena down in Bering Land Bridge, so
14 I think it does have really long-term implications for
15 perhaps some of our water quality and some of our fish
16 spawning habitat and stuff so we're trying to, you
17 know, at least map that and get a better hold on what's
18 going on with that.

19

20 They also did some preliminary aerial
21 reconnaissance of some the freshwater resources in
22 Noatak, again, looking at trying to pick out locations
23 and things that they think would be good for sampling
24 and monitoring as we move into our actual protocol
25 development and monitoring program. Along with that
26 they actually did some sampling in Kobuk Valley and
27 some of the lake resources there, water quality,
28 habitat, the critters that are in the lake, the life
29 forms.

30

31 Took another look again at monitoring that
32 hydrocarbon spill that we've been checking on for the
33 last several years up there on the Haul Road in
34 relation to potential changes there, so that's just
35 more or less seeing what's going on.

36

37 And then finished up some work on non-
38 vascular plant surveys in the Noatak Preserve and in
39 Kobuk Valley and that's sort of the last of a currently
40 multi-year project and it's pretty interesting to note
41 that through the inventory and monitoring program
42 nationwide the Park Service gives almost no attention
43 to those non-vascular plants, things like lichens, yet
44 they're a huge component of our biomass up here and the
45 underlying foundation for a lot of the things, like the
46 caribou and stuff, you know, so we've had to sort of
47 pump extra effort into that.

48

49 Continuing looking at the airborne
50 contaminant issue along the Haul Road and in the Park

1 in relation to potential impacts and impacts to plant
2 and wildlife resources in the area, that, again, is a
3 continuation, really no big more surprises there and
4 they're still crunching the data and things but we'll
5 let you know when that gets done, we'll have more
6 information on that.

7

8 Another project involved reconstructing
9 fire regimes in the tundra ecosystem, basically looking
10 through sampling of lake core samples and they worked
11 in there, mostly in Noatak this last summer and
12 probably in Bella, down in Bering Land Bridge next
13 summer. And the implications there, I think, are being
14 able to better understand climate change, fire regimes
15 in the past and potential, you know, impacts and
16 possible changes in fire regimes under continued
17 climate change and global warming.

18

19 Then the other thing, I guess, is that
20 let you know what's kind of going on with muskoxen in
21 Unit 23 because there's probably some significant
22 changes coming down the road there.

23

24 In answer to Robbie's question earlier
25 about the concerns over the C&T and so forth, there's
26 no guarantee that somebody won't ever challenge it but
27 for now basically we've been there, we've seen that,
28 we've done that, there are C&T determinations for
29 muskoxen in place. It would be very difficult for the
30 system to reverse itself and take those away. Getting
31 them, though, there was a really hard struggle. The
32 Board of Game had a history of finding no subsistence
33 on the North Slope originally, later reversed
34 themselves, they -- when the Seward Peninsula
35 population came up for consideration, the Board of
36 Game, again, found no subsistence use, the Federal
37 Board took the issue up the same year, came to an
38 entirely different conclusion, led to several years of
39 conflict in dual management, and eventually, based
40 largely on the harvest that was going on under the
41 State, the State reversed itself and came up with a
42 positive determination for those and that's been in
43 effect now for a good number of years, and so with a
44 lot of the successful muskox harvest on the Seward
45 Peninsula coming under the State managed program so it
46 would be very difficult to reverse themselves on
47 muskoxen but there's always that question about
48 reintroduced or, you know, new animals moving into an
49 area through natural or otherwise changes and whether
50 those would be, you know, legitimate subsistence

1 resources and so there's always concern about how to
2 try to interpret that.

3
4 With respect to the Unit 23 muskoxen,
5 there was a slight decline in the count. We did our
6 2007 count, there were 219 animals counted in the Unit
7 23 Southwestern Area, that's the Buckland, Deering
8 area, that's down from the 255 in 2000, but it's also
9 the third highest, you know, count since the -- the
10 several years we've been counting since 1992 so there's
11 probably not a lot of growth going on there, they're
12 shifting across boundaries between 23 Southwest, 22E,
13 22D, that kind of thing. Overall the Seward Peninsula
14 muskoxen population continues to grow. It's overall
15 growth rate, though, has dropped the last couple
16 counts, it's down now to about seven percent, somewhere
17 in there, almost half of what it was back in the early
18 '80s and the '70s -- the early '80s and the early '90s
19 when the average annual growth was running around 14
20 percent. So that population may be starting to taper
21 off.

22
23 The big news on how the hunts run and
24 everything is that in 19 -- well, 2005 when the Board
25 of Game met up here in Kotzebue, the Board instructed
26 the Seward Peninsula Muskoxen Cooperator's Group to
27 take a look at the amount needed for subsistence
28 determination, that determination was done originally
29 in the mid-90s based on a handful of villages, we
30 didn't have much of a handle on what external demand
31 around the state and so forth could be. Meanwhile the
32 muskoxen population continued to grow, expand both in
33 range and numbers, new hunt areas were brought into the
34 system, so, you know, it basically -- and plus we were
35 reaching the limit of the original ANS, which was 100
36 animals. And the ANS was important to basically
37 determine whether or not you've got enough animals to
38 meet that and whether you're in like a Tier II or Tier
39 I or you can go to a general hunt condition, so that's
40 the importance of the ANS figure. Anyway the Board
41 asked the cooperators to look at it, last year in
42 November the cooperators did meet, they spent two and a
43 half days basically wrestling with that pretty
44 complicated issue and what sort of data should be used
45 but I think they came up with some pretty defensible
46 logic and numbers and basically following the request
47 of the cooperators I worked with ADF&G and we developed
48 and submitted a proposal to the Board of Game to
49 reconsider and revise the amount needed for subsistence
50 for the Seward Penn muskoxen and the Board will be

1 taking that up this November when it meets in Bethel.
2 The crux of it is the cooperators are recommending
3 going from 100 muskoxen for the Seward Peninsula to
4 somewhere, an ANS of around 200 to 250 animals. I'm
5 not sure the Board of Game is going to really take to
6 that too well because obviously there's people on the
7 Board who want to get that hunt opened up to more and
8 more people, create more opportunity for the
9 sporthunters and they've always been concerned that
10 what we were going to do is like play a little shell
11 and pea game, and every time the animals grow in
12 numbers we were going to raise the ANS and continue to
13 shut out the sportshunters. I can assure you that, you
14 know, that was not the intent of this raising of the
15 ANS and it was based on a lot of factors, including
16 average weighted number of households throughout the
17 state who applied for permits and stuff as a way to try
18 to, you know, assess demand.

19
20 Number-wise right now, there's -- the
21 last 2007 count that we did for the Seward Penn
22 animals, there's 2,688 animals out there. The current
23 allowable harvest given the current regime we're
24 working under with the recommendations from the
25 cooperators on harvest rates and so forth is 187 as an
26 allowable harvest, so you can see that even with an ANS
27 of 200 to 250 animals, we're pushing the bottom limit
28 of that. So, you know, forecasting things down the
29 road I think, you know, it's not going to be very far
30 off in the future before we see major changes in the
31 way the hunt is managed and it will probably lead to,
32 you know, greater utilization by non-local hunters and
33 we'll keep you, you know, informed on those changes.

34
35 That's basically it on the wildlife
36 stuff unless you've got some questions on the projects
37 or have some questions for Brad on the details of some
38 of those.

39
40 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Ken. Go
41 ahead, Robbie.

42
43 MR. EVERETT: I have a question for
44 you. How are the numbers of the muskox population in
45 Cape Krusenstern and any idea why those may be lower
46 than what they should be.

47
48 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah. Well, Brad, can,
49 I think, try to address that since they actually just
50 conducted some comp work on it. Unfortunately we

1 weren't able to pull off the actual census out there
2 this year and Brad can address that. They got more
3 involved on the Seward Penn, I think, and simply ran
4 out of time.

5

6 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead.

7

8 MR. SCHULTZ: Hi, Brad Schultz with the
9 Park Service. You know the last two years we've been
10 out there in the summer doing the composition counts
11 and then Fish and Game did get out in February and did
12 the -- you know, Jim did the best job he could by
13 himself in February, as you can imagine and he did get
14 that number of 347.

15

16 What we've been seeing the last couple
17 of years is it seems like we're missing 20 to -- you
18 know, we're missing a couple of large groups of
19 muskoxen and they're either not there or they've walked
20 somewhere else. And there's -- we had a little bit
21 lower calf production this year, which isn't surprising
22 out there, you get a good year, you get a bad year, you
23 get a good year, it's just been the way it's always
24 been out there as long as we've been collecting data.
25 But there is a little bit of concern amongst the
26 biologists that either the population is declining a
27 little bit or our ability to find them is poor but
28 we've looked a lot. And there's been a couple of
29 groups that have showed up farther to the northeast but
30 they've been there before, you know, we haven't really
31 counted them into the big total. So we've had a
32 difficult time finding some of the larger groups. I
33 gave you the distribution maps from Jim's survey in
34 February and there's actually more groups north of the
35 Monument there that make up the total, I've just showed
36 you what's on the Wulik's south and on the Monument.
37 And then I've given you kind of how they're spread out
38 in the summer, that's what we're up against in terms of
39 the composition counts and we just did those two weeks
40 ago and you know how hot it was here, it was real tough
41 finding them. They were in the bushes and everything
42 else.

43

44 But I'd say that, you know, we're going
45 to do a really good census this winter and one of the
46 things that would help is if you're seeing fringe
47 groups that you're not used to seeing somewhere else,
48 that you let us know so we can add them in because
49 we're certainly missing a couple of groups. We're just
50 not seeing the large groups on the Kivalina and the

1 Wulik that we're used to seeing.

2

3 MR. EVERETT: I guess I'm just curious,
4 has anybody noticed and this would be really hard to
5 find with all the scavengers around but aborted fetus
6 and anything related to the Haul Road and heavy metals
7 or anything with the cow/calf numbers?

8

9 MR. SCHULTZ: It's been -- the
10 Northwest Coast population's been so erratic in its
11 productivity over the years that we've been looking
12 that it's hard to say what's causing that but we don't
13 see -- it seems to be more about productivity than it
14 does recruitment. You go out there and you just don't
15 see calves standing around in the spring like you do on
16 the Seward Penn, they're just not there. It's either
17 real early mortality or they're not even dropping them.

18

19 And one of the things that appears to
20 be true on the Northwest Coast is it's limited habitat.
21 There's just not many places they go, where do you see
22 them, in the same places all the time in the winter,
23 there's limited winter habitat and some of those cows
24 may just not be up to weight to drop a calf every year.
25 And that's all speculation but that's what appears to
26 be true, that they've probably been at the peak
27 population starting back here four or five years ago
28 and they're just not going to get any bigger, and we're
29 seeing more and more up the Noatak. Mixed sex groups
30 as far as the Cutler River, so they're certainly
31 disbursing in mixed sex groups, which is new.

32

33 MR. EVERETT: Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Kivalina.

36

37 MR. SWAN: I'm wondering how far west
38 do you go on your studies, do you go into the North
39 Slope?

40

41 MR. SCHULTZ: We go all the way up to
42 the Lisburne Hills and then as far as the lake that
43 escapes my mind that is to the east of there.

44

45 MR. SWAN: We have had quite a large
46 herd there around the Cape area for the last several
47 years.

48

49 MR. SCHULTZ: Yeah, and we kind of stop
50 there at Lisburne and don't really include anything

1 north of Lisburne there. But what's missing is there
2 used to be a lot of muskoxen at Chariot and they're
3 just not around. And we looked pretty hard this
4 summer.

5
6 MR. SWAN: We have seven, eight right
7 across the lagoon at the moment from Kivalina.

8
9 MR. SCHULTZ: I think we looked at
10 those, they're probably on the map, we caught that
11 group.

12
13 MR. SWAN: Yeah.

14
15 MR. SCHULTZ: But if you see any large
16 groups wandering around, especially prior to the survey
17 in March that'd be helpful to know about.

18
19 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any other questions,
20 comments Council.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Mr. Adkisson, go
25 ahead.

26
27 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chairman. I might
28 add one thing as it relates to hunting activities. We
29 did go to Buckland and Deering again and do clinics on
30 filling out State Tier II applications as well as
31 distributing our Federal permits. And just to give you
32 some results of that, for that Buckland, Deering hunt
33 area this year there were 41 applicants for the State
34 Tier II hunt. Sixteen of those came from the Buckland,
35 Deering area. An awful lot of them also came from the
36 Kotzebue and there were a few others scattered around
37 this region and a few non-local applicants. But the
38 result of it was out of the 26 total State permits, 13
39 of those went to the Buckland, Deering area so half of
40 them went to those two communities. And so I sort of
41 attribute that to some of our work on helping people
42 with the State permit system.

43
44 In addition to those State permits that
45 are out there we'll be issuing up to 15 Federal permits
46 between those two communities, too, so, you know, the
47 opportunity's, I think, there for them.

48
49 Just to give you a comparison I did --
50 I don't think I've got it really with me but -- yeah, I

1 do. For the TX107, which is the State Tier II hunt
2 north and west of the Noatak River, there were 42
3 applicants for that hunt, and a lot of them were from
4 Kotzebue. There was a small smattering from Noatak and
5 Kivalina. And then there were even a few from, one
6 from Eagle River and one from Willow. All six of those
7 permits went to Kotzebue residents. So what that means
8 in relation to like Noatak and Kivalina, I really can't
9 say. And there's a lot that can go wrong when people
10 are filling out those State applications and those get
11 scored and the high scorers get the permits.

12

13 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Walter.

14

15 MR. SAMPSON: Do you manage this region
16 out of Nome?

17

18 MR. ADKISSON: Depends on what you mean
19 by manage it.

20

21 MR. SAMPSON: Well, you talked about
22 resources, numbers of.....

23

24 MR. ADKISSON: Well, I'm a subsistence
25 program manager for all four areas.

26

27 MR. SAMPSON: So what does George
28 manage?

29

30 MR. ADKISSON: Everything else and me.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MR. SAMPSON: I mean when you start
35 referring to Unit 23, I got a problem with that. If
36 subsistence is being cut at the Congressional level but
37 yet you have two offices, then why not close one office
38 and put the dollars into subsistence and manage out of
39 Kotzebue?

40

41 MR. ADKISSON: Because there's a lot of
42 stuff that goes on down there, too, and one of the
43 things we attempted to do when we merged was to make
44 efficiencies that's why we don't have two subsistence
45 program managers these days.

46

47 MR. SAMPSON: 90 percent of the Parks
48 and Monuments are up in this Northwest region.

49

50 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, a lot of problems

1 down on the.....
2
3 MR. SAMPSON: How many acres is
4 the.....
5
6 MR. ADKISSON:Seward Penn also.
7
8 MR. SAMPSON:Bering Land Bridge?
9
10 MR. ADKISSON: A lot of problems down
11 there, too, so.....
12
13 MR. SAMPSON: Well, we got a lot of
14 problems up here, too, but this is Federal lands.
15
16 MR. ADKISSON: Yep.
17
18 MR. SAMPSON: And that's what it's all
19 about. I mean nothing against what you're doing it's
20 just that you see the reports in regards to subsistence
21 being cut at the Federal level but, yet, there's
22 duplication in management in two different locations
23 here.
24
25 MR. ADKISSON: Well, there's really
26 not, I mean we used to have a subsistence program
27 manager based here and we had one based in Nome. Now,
28 we've got one.
29
30 MR. SAMPSON: How big is your office in
31 Nome?
32
33 MR. ADKISSON: Right now, I don't know,
34 it's probably six or seven people, I don't know I
35 haven't counted it recently.
36
37 MR. SAMPSON: Uh. Okay, since you
38 manage that I guess maybe I have to raise the question
39 regards to -- to a policy issue. You know, sometimes
40 back -- there's a cut on sheep hunt, that's from the
41 State level to where the State closed a sheep hunt in
42 this region.
43
44 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, there was a
45 complete closure for.....
46
47 MR. SAMPSON: Exactly.
48
49 MR. ADKISSON:a number of years,
50 correct. And it began.....

1 MR. SAMPSON: I'm -- I'm leading --
2 I'm.....
3 MR. ADKISSON:it began with.....
4
5 MR. SAMPSON: Let me finish.
6
7 MR. ADKISSON: Okay.
8
9 MR. SAMPSON: I'm leading to that. And
10 I'm -- you know State cut the sheep hunt out but the
11 Federal, through this very committee, through this
12 commission, went through the process of getting a hunt
13 for sheep for subsistence purposes. And thanks to
14 Willie for good work. He was good -- a good portion of
15 that was his work as well and there was a sheep hunt
16 within this unit further up north there.
17
18 If that's type of a -- a policy and --
19 and what not can be worked out, is there any reason why
20 the Park Service can't do -- or address the issue in
21 regards to putting together a policy closure for Aggie
22 River during the fall hunts for outside hunts, I'm
23 talking -- I know you're smiling but it's something
24 that you need to look at. If you can put a policy to
25 do these things, is there any reason why you can't do
26 that for -- for the -- put a closure just like a
27 controlled-use area?
28
29 MR. ADKISSON: Maybe, maybe not. And
30 I'll be completely frank with you, closure policies are
31 not really very popular. I have actually floated that
32 very idea and I have got absolutely nowhere with it at
33 any level of management other than me, including some
34 of the Secretarial, you know, folks that are assigned
35 to the region.
36
37 OSM presented the draft closure -- or
38 the closure policy, is that -- is that final now, they
39 signed off on the draft closure policy -- you know,
40 just working with the sheep thing, believe me, was a
41 real challenge and I think Willie can tell you and he
42 and I worked so close together for so long on that
43 thing along with Sandy Rabinowitch and a score of other
44 people to get that thing opened up and working, and
45 keeping it closed, like in the Bairds, is going to
46 produce a challenge as we go down the road. But, yeah,
47 I've raised the question of what kind of options are
48 open to us out there to deal with somewhere like the
49 Aggie area and a subsistence -- a closure to non-
50 subsistence use has come to mind. But I can tell you

1 that it's not a very popular concept and probably right
2 now doesn't have much chance of going anywhere but I
3 wouldn't take it off the books. I think we're going to
4 be asked to do other things first. And I think if you
5 look at the closure policy that was presented to you,
6 you will see that it says, as part of this we're
7 supposed to look at other management options and ways
8 we can address the issue and one of the things I think
9 George will tell you and bring up today is where we're
10 at in dealing with our permitting process and stuff.

11
12 So it's not.....

13
14 MR. SAMPSON: Maybe.....

15
16 MR. ADKISSON:that we're not
17 aware of and it's not that we're not working on it.

18
19 MR. SAMPSON: Maybe in light of that
20 then if you're running into a.....

21
22 MR. ADKISSON: However, if you want to
23 propose a closure, you know, feel free to, you know,
24 submit one.

25
26 MR. SAMPSON: Well, that's what I'm
27 going to suggest is that maybe what we ought to do is
28 get the folks from KIC and the folks from Noatak to
29 move ahead with a proposal to do that. I mean if
30 agency management is unable to do anything then we
31 ought to ask KIC and Noatak maybe to put together a
32 proposal that we can look at at the next meeting. So
33 maybe we'd suggest that. I don't know what process it
34 would be to go through, is -- if we directed somebody
35 to write a letter to KIC, would it be -- would that
36 suffice the process?

37
38 MR. ADKISSON: Well, you could.....

39
40 MR. SAMPSON: Or do we -- would we have
41 to do it on our own time on -- as an individual?

42
43 MR. ADKISSON: Well, a starting point
44 is to just get a few people together and start talking
45 about it and decide whether that's a worthwhile thing
46 and a direction to go and how you might have it done
47 and that could be done informally and off the record,
48 just get some people talking. What's the problem and
49 how are we going to fix it.

50

1 MR. SAMPSON: Okay, thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Walter.
4 Any other questions, comments.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I have one, status of
9 the sheep around this region, is it increasing or
10 declining compared to years past?

11

12 MR. SCHULTZ: On the first page of your
13 sheet, what I've done is just showed you that we did
14 about 50 percent of the sample units that we've
15 normally done in the Western Bairds since 1986 as part
16 of a bigger survey so we did about half the units, and
17 those nine units usually have about 60 percent of the
18 total number of sheep that we count on average. So
19 just a comparison between '04 when we did those same
20 nine units and '07, you know, the numbers are real
21 similar, 400 versus 412. And I'd say, in general, that
22 that western Baird's population continues to creep
23 along and increase at a very slow rate. And what
24 you're going to come up against, I think, in the next
25 couple of years is you'll be back at, you know, barring
26 any bad winters or horrible productivity, you're going
27 to be back at the situation where you have as many
28 sheep, you know, in the future that you had in 1986
29 when there was a sport hunt going on, when they were
30 harvesting as many as 70 percent of the legal rams out
31 there at the time, which were 7/8ths and full curl.

32

33 So, you know, that population's
34 growing, Victor, that land productivity's been good for
35 many years now but it's just taken it awhile to get out
36 of that hole, because remember we were down around
37 three to 400 -- 300 to 450 sheep and we're probably
38 back up in the neighborhood of 800 and the peak of that
39 population was probably somewhere around 1,100.

40

41 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Austin.

42

43 MR. SWAN: What kind of range does a
44 sheep have, how far do they travel?

45

46 MR. SCHULTZ: I'm better at describing
47 what they do geographically. They essentially move
48 from summer into winter ranges so in the western Bairds
49 what they do is they'll head north to Kivivik Creek and
50 along the Noatak there in those mountains just north of

1 the (indiscernible), and they'll pile in there.
2 There's a couple other wintering areas. In the summer
3 they disperse out and in a course of 24 hours they'll
4 go from one mountain to the next. We've got a lot of
5 satellite telemetry data that shows that. So they move
6 around a lot. And what we do see, when it's hot in the
7 summer they don't move around much and they spend a lot
8 of time in those caves, piled in there and up against
9 the rocks.

10
11 But I'd have to look to give you an
12 absolute number.

13
14 MR. SWAN: The reason I asked that is
15 we saw three ewes and one lamb at Cape Thompson this
16 spring -- this summer.

17
18 MR. SCHULTZ: Uh-huh. And I think if
19 you talk to Jim Dau or LeeAnne, you know, over the
20 years there's been sheep walking out to Lisburne and I
21 think there's been sheep overwintered in Lisburne,
22 would be my guess, if I recall, so they can walk a long
23 way.

24
25 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Any other
26 questions, comments.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MR. ADKISSON: If not, George can talk
31 about our transporters.

32
33 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay, thank you.

34
35 MR. SCHULTZ: Well, and one last thing,
36 Victor, if you don't mind. I apologize for handing out
37 materials late, I know it aggravates Walter immensely
38 but my track record over the past 15 years has been
39 poor and I doubt it will improve.

40
41 MR. SAMPSON: No, Brad, you don't
42 aggravate me.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 MR. SAMPSON: It's just the process
47 that aggravates me.

48
49 MR. HELFRICH: My name is George
50 Helfrich and I'm a National Park Service employee,

1 Superintendent of Western Arctic National Park Lands.

2

3 Let me start off by saying thank you to
4 all of you for the time and thought you devote to the
5 Regional Advisory Council.

6

7 Let me say just a few words about the
8 programs that we have had going since the last time the
9 Council met.

10

11 In interpretation we have had Rangers
12 out in the schools and also up at the Interpretation
13 and Education Center here in Kotzebue and also out at
14 some of the camps and they've been given programs for
15 children, young adults and adults. And I'm glad to say
16 that at least one of the seasonal interpretation
17 Rangers that we had this year was from the local
18 community, from here in Kotzebue.

19

20 In cultural resources, one of the
21 projects that I was most pleased about was doing
22 extensive repairs and maintenance to the cabin that
23 Nelson -- Willie, help -- Grist -- for Lewis Giddings
24 in the 1960s, that's the cabin just down river of
25 Ambler, and if you have the opportunity to be on the
26 Kobuk I hope you'll have a chance to stop by and see
27 it. The repair maintenance work turned out very well
28 and I think that the cabin will be something that the
29 region can take some pride in for the next 50 years.

30

31 Ken and Brad talked to some of the work
32 that we've been doing as far as biology is concerned.
33 Had a lot of research as far as fish and wildlife going
34 on. Of particular interest to this group, I think, is
35 the work that we have been doing on lichen in Cape
36 Krusenstern, Kobuk Valley and Bering Land Bridge
37 National Preserve. And I emphasize lichen because
38 lichen, of course, is the primary food for the Western
39 Arctic Caribou Herd. In Bering Land Bridge, we're
40 actually starting range condition work so we'll be able
41 to describe the conditions for the caribou herd out on
42 the lands.

43

44 Right now, as far as our protection
45 program is concerned, we've got four National Park
46 Service Rangers using helicopter and fixed-wing
47 aircraft out in the field and they are addressing the
48 continued tension between subsistence users and
49 sporthunters. Currently we have all the companies that
50 have permits to take sporthunters out into the field

1 coming into our offices to meet with our protection
2 Rangers to talk about some of the reasons for the
3 tension and how they might address it. Also we are
4 asking, and I didn't know about Walter's aversion to
5 getting materials during a meeting, I won't do this
6 again, we are giving these to all the transporters and
7 asking them to distribute them to their clients. This
8 is a short brochure called Hunting in Noatak National
9 Preserve, and it compliments the materials that the
10 State is producing.

11
12 As I've said in the past we believe
13 that education and enforcement are two of the keys to
14 diffusing the tension between these two groups.

15
16 And then, finally, also as Ken and Brad
17 spoke to, we either led or cooperated on a number of
18 wildlife surveys over the past eight months, bear,
19 sheep, muskoxen, moose and caribou.

20
21 Brad, is there anything that you wanted
22 to add about bear or moose surveys?

23
24 MR. SCHULTZ: I could add something
25 real quickly sure.

26
27 MR. HELFRICH: If anybody has any
28 questions. Yeah.

29
30 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Walter.

31
32 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I wanted
33 to thank George for a good handout. This is something
34 that certainly is good for the outside hunters to have.

35
36 MR. HELFRICH: Right.

37
38 MR. SAMPSON: At least they will know
39 what the Park Service is certainly looking in doing and
40 how it's relationship with the folks as land owners
41 outside the Parks and Preserves and what not. So this
42 is good, I want to thank you for that.

43
44 MR. HELFRICH: I appreciate the
45 compliment and I will pass it on to the person who
46 produced it.

47
48 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Brad.

49
50 MR. SCHULTZ: Just really quickly, you

1 guys didn't ask but we have conducted three bear
2 abundant surveys and since '05 -- we did the upper
3 Noatak in '05, about a 6,000 square mile area from the
4 Miniaktuk (ph) all the way to the head waters of the
5 Noatak. We just repeated that survey this summer so we
6 have two estimates up there now. And then we did one
7 on the Northern Seward Peninsula in '06, and so I
8 shouldn't have said that we have two estimates -- I
9 haven't finished running the estimates yet, I gave you
10 some raw numbers from our survey in June but I can tell
11 you that the preliminary estimate from '05 in the upper
12 Noatak showed that we had about 40 percent fewer bears
13 in terms of density than what we counted in 1986 around
14 the Red Dog area. That could be for a lot of reasons.
15 But essentially the numbers show that the densities
16 weren't as high as they were 20 years ago.

17
18 And there's a lot to talk about with
19 that kind of stuff. But I hope in the spring to have a
20 good preliminary estimate from all three of those and
21 how we did them and we can talk about them for the
22 spring meeting and I'll get them to you ahead of time,
23 maybe.

24
25 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Walter.

26
27 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. Brad.
28 Does the bear migration seem to be moving more into the
29 flat areas away from the mountain areas to Kobuk Delta
30 over in the Selawik Flats and what not?

31
32 MR. SCHULTZ: I can't really speak to
33 it, Walter. Probably what you folks see is probably
34 more reliable than what I can tell you because I get a
35 slice of time estimate for 10 days in the beginning of
36 June before the leaves come out and what I find is what
37 you probably know, is, you know, we find sows with cubs
38 in the mountainous terrain and then we see some running
39 around in the hills and then we see an occasional bear
40 out in the tussocks wandering around.

41
42 MR. SAMPSON: The reason why I ask is
43 there's been a lot of, you know, property -- private
44 property, I guess, has been damaged, camps been
45 destroyed by bears and what not on the Kobuk Delta.

46
47 MR. SCHULTZ: Right. And one of the
48 things that I've always -- that we've got to get
49 straight and work through is that sometimes bear/human
50 conflicts don't equate to abundance of bears and

1 everybody knows that you get one pesky group of bears
2 that causes a lot of damages, it doesn't necessarily
3 mean that there are more bears around it just means
4 that you got more troublemakers or you have more people
5 around them. So what I'm finding right now is that
6 abundance doesn't seem to be as high as what people may
7 think in terms of a landscape scale density. But if
8 they're in your camp the density's high, you know,
9 that's why.....

10

11 MR. SAMPSON: The reason why I brought
12 that up, you know, is you get people travel, people
13 talk and you've got people reporting more bears on the
14 Nusurik Channel (ph), at the same time you will hear
15 people talking about the bears on the Melvin Channel so
16 there's quite a distance in between the two and in
17 between.

18

19 MR. SCHULTZ: I think a lot has to do
20 with fish resources, too. I know that when we do these
21 muskoxen surveys in August for the composition work,
22 you know, the -- you'll see 10 to 20 bears, last year I
23 saw 22 in four hours of flying along the Senguluk (ph),
24 up in that country because there's probably, as you
25 said, pink salmon and everything else, so they get
26 concentrated. You fly on a day like that and you
27 think oh, my goodness, there's a lot of bears around
28 but you fly in July and you may not see one, so I think
29 it's just perspective.

30

31 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Any other
32 questions, comments Council.

33

34 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Chairman. If I
35 could just address a couple issues. Earlier in the
36 meeting Mr. Sampson asked about the location of spike
37 camps and the last 10 days or so most of the camps that
38 our protection Rangers have been seeing have been up on
39 the Kelly and Kugururok. But then the protection
40 Rangers predict that in the next couple weeks they'll
41 see more camps along the Aggie.

42

43 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Walter.

44

45 MR. SAMPSON: Thanks.

46

47 MR. HELFRICH: Okay, thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: BLM.

50

1 MR. JOLY: Good morning, Mr. Chairman
2 and Council members. My name is Kyle Joly, I'm with
3 the Bureau of Land Management, wildlife biologist. I'm
4 just going to run through some of the things that have
5 been going on with the BLM.

6
7 We had a fisheries project up on the
8 upper Kivalina River, which were looking at Dolly
9 Varden habitat and they identified spawning habitat
10 eight miles up further than what was previously
11 identified and they took genetic samples, which are
12 currently under analysis and they will be returning in
13 the fall of 2008 to look at fall habitat.

14
15 The Kobuk/Seward Plan's been going on
16 for a few years now and it's starting to wind down.
17 The notice of availability, which is the publication
18 date is scheduled for this month, September 28th, 2007.
19 The notice of availability, it's also the NOA, also
20 begins the 30 day protest period so if there's
21 something in the plan that you don't like you can
22 protest it but just during the 30 day period. The
23 notice of availability also starts the Governor's
24 review, which lasts 60 days. If you want to protest it
25 there'll be directions in the mailing when the plan
26 comes out and the protest has to be postmarked within
27 30 days of that date.

28
29 Also along with the Kobuk/Seward Plan
30 there's going to be a meeting here in Kotzebue in mid-
31 October, the date hasn't been worked out yet, but
32 they'll be holding Section .810 hearings about the plan
33 and also discussing anything you want about the plan so
34 there'll be mailings of when that meeting will take
35 place.

36
37 As you've heard earlier we've been
38 assisting with a lot of the projects, the moose survey
39 of the Selawik and Seward Peninsula muskoxen census.
40 Percy you asked about the Kauk River, we intentionally
41 added that on, that's outside of the Selawik River but
42 working with Selawik we were able to add that area in
43 and we did not find very many moose in that area, I
44 think the density worked out to be about .2. We hope
45 to have a final report worked out next month and we'll
46 be able to give you the final figures at the next
47 meeting. But it looks like about .2, so better than
48 what you're seeing in the Buckland Valley but not as
49 good as with what we're finding in the Selawik Refuge
50 and that whole survey area was about .35, so it's about

1 half of the density of what you're seeing in the rest
2 of the survey area.

3

4 Did you have a comment?

5

6 MR. BALLOT: You said better than the
7 Buckland Valley?

8

9 MR. JOLY: Yeah. Jim had gone out and
10 surveyed the Northern Seward Peninsula including parts
11 of the Buckland before, I think it was 2004 and he was
12 seeing densities as low as .1 moose per square mile,
13 and so the preliminary figures for the Kauk River area
14 and the Mangoak (ph) is about .2 so it's better but
15 it's still very low.

16

17 Also in connection with that you asked
18 about guides in the area. There are a couple guides
19 that could be working out of Buckland. There's two, I
20 believe, that are permitted by the BLM to work in the
21 Kauk, in the Mangoak Rivers and there's another one
22 that is permitted to work in the Tag, the upper
23 portions of the Tag, south of the Refuge. And one of
24 the ones that's permitted in the Kauk can also work in
25 the upper portions of the Tag. So any one of those
26 three guides could be basing their operations out of
27 Buckland.

28

29 MR. SAMPSON: You talk about the Kauk
30 River, can you show us exactly where Kauk River is?

31

32 MR. JOLY: I -- it's right at the base
33 of the Baldwin Peninsula, let's see if there's a map
34 here. No, unfortunately Park Service didn't put
35 together a map for me.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MR. JOLY: But it's right at the base
40 of the Baldwin Peninsula and it drains out to
41 Eschscholtz Bay and it's just to the west of the
42 southwestern portion of the Selawik Refuge.

43

44 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. That
45 section of the land is also a portion of the withdrawal
46 area for KIC as a deficiency (ph) withdrawal area,
47 there's also State land within that area. As far as
48 permitting is concerned, did you get any letter from
49 both the State and KIC regards to getting a letter of
50 non-objection from those folks?

1 MR. JOLY: All of our permits that are
2 on BLM managed lands that are not unincumbered, so
3 State selected lands and Native selected lands, all of
4 our permits will require a letter of non-objection so
5 if they did get a permit they did get the letters of
6 non-objection for the land holder to be.....

7
8 MR. SAMPSON: So what you need to do
9 then is go to KIC and ask -- see if there was a letter
10 that was issued to individuals for the Kauk River area.

11
12 MR. JOLY: Yeah, and that's something
13 that any land holder can do. If it's selected lands
14 you can just get -- not give the letter of non-
15 objection and then we wouldn't give a permit out.

16
17 MR. BALLOT: When you say they're
18 located or stationed in Buckland, do they have a place
19 of business in Buckland?

20
21 MR. JOLY: No. No. You said that you
22 were seeing guides and airplanes, so it -- they're not
23 based in Buckland but they're probably using Buckland
24 as a base because it's the closest airport to the Kauk.
25 But I'm not sure that they're using Buckland for sure,
26 but since those are three guides in our area that are
27 closest to Buckland I would imagine that's who they
28 are.

29
30 MR. BALLOT: My brother said he got
31 some meat here last week or sometime but he said it was
32 kind of wasted and stuff so just good for dogs so I was
33 wondering and what he said it's from the guide that's
34 flying around. But they fly kind of low and I
35 mentioned we use -- our gas is real high and so when
36 you're flying around the river the moose can't --
37 aren't going to be hanging around or they're going to
38 be hiding around so it makes it pretty hard for the
39 hunters. We realize they got a right to make a living,
40 too, but we got more people to feed than those guys
41 that bring some of that meat that's already kind of
42 wasted, to town, so I hope they utilize that wanton
43 waste brochures that you've been given out.

44
45 MR. JOLY: Yeah, and.....

46
47 MR. SAMPSON: Is it illegal to -- to
48 feed dogs with caribou, what about moose?

49
50 (No comments)

1 MR. SAMPSON: So it's illegal to feed
2 dogs with caribou or moose?

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MR. SAMPSON: So if they give you
7 rotten meat then you've got a bad deal there.

8
9 MR. BALLOT: I'll let them know, yeah.
10 Well, people should know what's allowed. These folks
11 that do the transporting or hunting and when they give
12 meat away should know that -- I don't know, they just
13 took it because it was given to them. They weren't
14 happy with how it was.

15
16 MR. JOLY: Yeah, and that's a concern
17 of ours and, you know, the transporter and guides
18 should both know what's legal and acceptable practices
19 with meat and waste and definitely if you have problems
20 with a guide bringing in meat that isn't good or is not
21 doing things that are acceptable, definitely contact us
22 and let us know and we'll try and get someone out there
23 to -- yeah, don't accept it and another thing is also
24 the State law enforcement people can enforce those
25 regulations as well.

26
27 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Mr. Walter.

28
29 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
30 As a land owner, as a manager of public lands, in event
31 that a -- an individual in Buckland should be given
32 meat for consumption, individuals proceeded to cook it
33 or whatever, and eat the meat, and individual becomes
34 sick or dies from the consumption of that meat, who
35 then becomes liable, the land manager or the individual
36 who provides that meat?

37
38 MR. JOLY: I'm not a lawyer so I'm not
39 really sure who would be responsible but I'm sure it
40 could be brought up as a civil case.

41
42 MR. SAMPSON: That's why I'm asking
43 you, I know you're not a lawyer, but it's something to
44 think about, you know, as land -- you know as land
45 owners and we also need to think of how we make sure
46 that there are some provisions for protection as
47 managers.

48
49 MR. JOLY: Again, I think that waste
50 and acceptable practices is a concern for us and if

1 things aren't going the way that you hope, definitely
2 contact us and let us know and try and get the guide's
3 name and try and document everything you can, and
4 either contact BLM law enforcement or State law
5 enforcement.
6

7 MR. SAMPSON: So in a case where people
8 are receiving meat make sure they get the name, address
9 and telephone numbers of all individuals they receive
10 meat from.
11

12 MR. JOLY: Also I wanted to add that
13 we've just started something new with our guide permits
14 in Unit 23, is that, for moose we are limiting the
15 number of moose clients that they can take within an
16 area. So the Kauk has very low moose densities. The
17 way the State permit system is set up is that up to 24
18 moose could come out of that guide use area, which
19 includes the Kauk and most of the Selawik, so what
20 we've done is to calculate the area of BLM lands that
21 are within the guide use area, which happens to be
22 about six percent for the Kauk and then we only allow
23 the number of moose that are proportional to the
24 proportion of land in BLM lands, so we limited the
25 number of moose that could come out of the Kauk and
26 Mangoak River to three moose. And we're doing that
27 throughout Unit 23 now.
28

29 MR. BALLOT: That's pretty low and --
30 for population wise, I mean, so that kind of tells you
31 you really need that caribou for our village.
32

33 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any other comments,
34 questions Council.
35

36 MR. BALLOT: I think the village only
37 got one moose so far this year, that's just about it.
38

39 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Austin.
40

41 MR. SWAN: Yeah, distribution extended
42 eight miles further up stream on the Kivalina, I'm
43 wondering where is that in relation to the gap on the
44 mountain range that the Kivalina runs through.
45

46 MR. JOLY: The fisheries biologists
47 were on that and they gave me a description of where
48 they worked and I can talk to you about where some of
49 those local names are and stuff like that and maybe you
50 can tell us if the habitat goes up even further.

1 MR. SWAN: Yeah, the gap I'm referring
2 to is -- we call it Kidding Rock (ph) and the river
3 runs right -- it's the only gap in that mountain range
4 there.
5
6 MR. JOLY: All right. Well, I'll talk
7 to you about that in.....
8
9 MR. SAMPSON: Brad knows. He knows
10 where they're at.
11
12 MR. SCHULTZ: That's right up there
13 before the forks.
14
15 MR. JOLY: Yeah. Yeah, I think they're
16 up past there.
17
18 MR. SWAN: Okay.
19
20 MR. JOLY: But I'll show you their
21 report and see if we can't figure out if they go up
22 even further, they're going to be back out there later.
23 But I wasn't up on that trip.
24
25 MR. SWAN: How about the long mountain
26 there, we usually call (In Native), I know that was
27 spawning grounds before, is that further up stream than
28 that now or.....
29
30 MR. JOLY: Let's see they -- it says
31 that they established the base camp at -- I can't
32 pronounce this but (In Native) Bluff and they sampled
33 their effort on the middle tributary of the Kivalina
34 known as Supa -- Supa.....
35
36 MR. SWAN: Yeah. Yeah, that's the one
37 I'm talking about.
38
39 MR. JOLY: All right. It says they
40 were found three miles up that tributary, which I
41 believe is eight miles further up than what the
42 anadromous category put them at.
43
44 MR. SWAN: Thank you.
45
46 MR. JOLY: Yep.
47
48 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Walter.
49
50 MR. SAMPSON: I guess maybe the best

1 way to address the issue regards to -- to taking meat
2 from hunters is to put a PSA, I mean that would protect
3 the hunter himself as well as the recipient of
4 individuals taking meat, maybe that would be an ideal
5 thing to do is to put a PSA on the radio that says if
6 you are taking any meat make sure that that meat is
7 edible and that would protect the hunter themselves as
8 well as the recipient of that source.

9

10 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Walter.
11 Any other comments, questions.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MR. JOLY: Okay, I just got a couple
16 more things to run through.

17

18 We are planning to have our law
19 enforcement officer here in Kotzebue for part of the
20 moose season, it'll probably be the later part of the
21 moose season. We are partnering in the GMU 23 user
22 conflict group with the State and the other Federal
23 agencies.

24

25 I'm going to be out working with Jim
26 Dau and other groups at Onion Portage in a week or so.
27 We're going to put out, I think it's 44 collars, out
28 there. And with some end of year money that I found we
29 were able to purchase 12 additional satellite collars
30 for the project which we'll probably get the collars in
31 time for next year's 2008 project.

32

33 So that's all I have.

34

35 MR. BALLOT: I had one more question,
36 Kyle.

37

38 MR. JOLY: Yes.

39

40 MR. BALLOT: If a person was to take
41 any kind of money for any reason from these
42 transporters, that's a business transaction or allow --
43 you have to pay taxes in the village?

44

45 MR. JOLY: I'm not -- that's kind of
46 out of my expertise. I would think that it depends on
47 where the transaction takes place. If it took place in
48 Kotzebue and they went through Buckland but I'm not --
49 that's out of my area.

50

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Robbie.
2
3 MR. BALLOT: But the transporter or the
4 guide has to report things like that?
5
6 MR. JOLY: Yes.
7
8 MR. BALLOT: Well, what do they report
9 when they do things that they're doing for their place
10 of business?
11
12 MR. JOLY: Yeah, I mean that all would
13 have to be reported to -- for tax purposes, Federal tax
14 purposes, I'm not sure about local taxes.
15
16 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Robbie.
17
18 MR. EVERETT: I just wanted to thank
19 you for continuing to do the Onion Portage project.
20 Kids from Kotzebue were involved with that this year,
21 they're looking forward to it. I'm hearing a lot of
22 good things at school. I'd just encourage you to
23 continue doing that.
24
25 Thank you.
26
27 MR. JOLY: Yeah, I wish I could take
28 credit for that but that's definitely Jim Dau and Fish
29 and Game, we're just helping out and it's going to be
30 my first time so I'm looking forward to it probably as
31 much as the kids are.
32
33 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Any other
34 questions or comments.
35
36 MR. SWAN: Yeah, I have one more. On
37 the collaring projects, I know you've involved school
38 kids, I'm wondering if maybe we can't get somebody from
39 Kivalina, one of the students, or a couple of them, to
40 get involved in that. Because I know several of them
41 that really get interested in this project. They read
42 about it.
43
44 MR. JOLY: Yeah, it's a great project
45 and the Fish and Game's done a great job of rotating
46 different school systems into it and hopefully they'll
47 get Kivalina involved. I'm sure if there's interest
48 they'll try and get them in there.
49
50 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Go ahead,

1 Walter.

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: Would you give us a quick
4 idea of -- you own some BLM land on the Squirrel, what
5 do you have as far as permits and what do you know of
6 -- or have knowledge of what spike camps are on the --
7 on the Squirrel and also on the northern parts of the
8 hills there?

9

10 MR. JOLY: There's 10 guides that have
11 permits in the Squirrel River area. Two of them have
12 gone inactive so there's eight permits currently in the
13 Squirrel River and -- for guides. And then there's
14 also one permit for NovaGold to conduct helicopter
15 landings on the upper North Fork. And that permit
16 should have expired, I believe, on the 1st of
17 September, they were doing some exploratory mining
18 efforts up there.

19

20 MR. SAMPSON: What about transporters?

21

22 MR. JOLY: Currently we don't permit
23 transporters and that's something that we're working on
24 in the.....

25

26 MR. SAMPSON: So you don't have no
27 control over -- over hunting within -- within the
28 Squirrel then?

29

30 MR. JOLY: I wouldn't say that we don't
31 have any control over it, I'd say it's an issue that
32 we're working on.

33

34 MR. SAMPSON: Well, I think it's
35 something that you need to take a look at while you're
36 here. Take advantage of a good flight and see what you
37 can see on the Squirrel.

38

39 As far as moose is concerned, I don't
40 know what the status is on number of moose on the
41 Squirrel or on the Aggie, but you have folks here that
42 can do some flying, take Jim Magdanz up with you, too.
43 You buy the gas and he'll fly you up, I'm sure.

44

45 MR. JOLY: That sounds like a good
46 offer.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 MR. SAMPSON: And take a look and see

1 what you can see as a manager for BLM.

2

3 MR. JOLY: Okay.

4

5 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any other questions,
6 comments for BLM.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you.

11

12 MR. JOLY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 ADF&G.

14

15 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chairman, thank you.
16 I'm Jim Magdanz with the Alaska Department of Fish and
17 Game.

18

19 Jim Dau's getting ready to go to Onion
20 Portage on the collaring project and regrets that he
21 can't be here this morning but he's trying to get
22 supplies and everything lined up for that project.

23

24 I'm going to mention a few things. I've
25 done a handout, Walter has actually seen this a week
26 ago so it has had some advanced notice to Walter
27 anyway. The Board of Game is meeting November 9th
28 through 12th in Bethel and the Department has submitted
29 a proposal that would increase the number of non-
30 resident bear drawing permits in Unit 23 by 10. These
31 permits would be distributed to guide use areas. It's
32 actually a way of capping the current levels of harvest
33 in the areas that are intensively used and is trying to
34 distribute some of the non-resident effort to other
35 parts of the unit.

36

37 The Seward Peninsula Muskox
38 Cooperator's Proposal, Ken Adkisson's already talked
39 about that and will be presenting some information to
40 the Board about hunt histories down there.

41

42 I have a couple projects that I want to
43 talk about. First of all there's a project that was
44 just approved in the last winter cycle that looks at
45 fishery harvests in six communities in the Kotzebue
46 district and, in particular, in close detail it looks
47 at Shungnak and Noatak and we'll be in the villages
48 this winter working with the kids in the schools as
49 well as with the households in the communities looking
50 at their harvests over the last 11 years and looking

1 for changes in their harvests and asking households to
2 explain what those changes are. This is a cooperative
3 project. Maniilaq is our partner in this project and
4 we'll be working with the school district and with the
5 village councils as well.

6
7 The handout I gave you is a project
8 that is nearing completion. We made a presentation
9 last Tuesday to the Western Arctic Borough Assembly
10 work group. In this project we have been visiting each
11 of the village councils in the NANA region and asking
12 them for advice and guidance on how to document
13 subsistence harvest in the region. Our focus is
14 fisheries harvest but we have been asking them to give
15 us advice about harvest of all kinds of subsistence
16 resources and we have been bringing a presentation to
17 each community showing that community what we now know
18 about the harvest in their region. And we know less
19 about subsistence harvest than many people believe we
20 know. On moose, for example, about one in four or one
21 in five people actually returned moose harvest -- we
22 think the actual harvest by the region is four or five
23 times what is reported to us and we believe that to be
24 the case because when we compare our survey reports
25 with the formal harvest reporting system we see only
26 about 20 to 25 percent of the moose are being reported.

27
28 There are no such reporting
29 requirements for fish but we only have surveyed fish
30 harvest for the six communities that are affected by
31 the Kotzebue commercial salmon fishery, that is the
32 Kobuk River communities and Noatak, we don't survey
33 Buckland or Deering or Kivalina on a regular basis.
34 Only once a decade or so have we surveyed those
35 communities.

36
37 When we did our project we passed out a
38 little questionnaire at the end of each meeting and we
39 asked the people who attended these meetings to fill it
40 out and give us their advice in a formal way and we
41 asked them about six questions.

42
43 We asked them whether they thought
44 their village should be surveyed and how often. Only
45 six percent of the people at these meetings thought
46 that we should never do harvest surveys; 57 percent
47 thought we should survey every year and 37 percent
48 thought every couple years. So there was actually a
49 lot of support out there for harvest survey research.

50

1 We asked, also, which species should be
2 included and that's summarized in the chart in the
3 middle of the handout that I gave you and it's what you
4 would expect, caribou was the number 1 -- 91 percent of
5 the people who filled out the questionnaire thought
6 caribou should be included. Moose 80 percent. Salmon
7 77 percent. And when we've done our comprehensive
8 surveys we find that about 10 species comprise 90
9 percent of the harvest. Most of the harvest comes from
10 just a handful of species. And these are the same
11 species that people recommend that we survey.

12
13 Finally we asked people who should do
14 these surveys. Should it be the tribes, should it be
15 agencies, should it be regional organizations. And the
16 largest -- the most common response to that question
17 was for a cooperative approach that involved the tribes
18 and other organizations. The mix of other
19 organizations varied, sometimes it would be ADF&G and
20 the tribe, other times it would be Fish and Wildlife
21 and the tribe or Maniilaq and the tribe. But the
22 tribes were consistently supported around the region
23 and the cooperative approach that involved the other
24 organizations and the tribes was consistently
25 supported.

26
27 We'll be producing a final report for
28 this project. That should be out this winter and we'll
29 provide copies to the Council probably at -- hopefully
30 at your next meeting.

31
32 Where we go from here is up to the
33 organizations in the region, including the RAC, the
34 Borough has some applications in for some funding. But
35 we hope that we develop a steady funding stream for
36 this kind of research that gives us an ongoing estimate
37 of subsistence harvest in the region for a cross-
38 section of species that are important to subsistence.
39 I think this is a step towards that and I appreciate
40 the support of the RAC and the Federal Office of
41 Subsistence Management and the villages and the other
42 agencies here in town in putting all this together, and
43 especially to Attamuk and Susan Georgette who started
44 this project about four years ago and we're just now
45 finishing it up.

46
47 So, Mr. Chair, that concludes my
48 presentation.

49
50 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Jim.

1 Walter.

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: Just a comment, Mr.
4 Chairman. I think -- first of all I want to thank Jim
5 for his good report. I think the agencies ought to
6 take this as a model, a way to communicate with the
7 village folks.

8

9 What Jim does is certainly something
10 that he communicates with the -- with the -- at the
11 village level, trying to get a feel of how people are
12 -- what people are doing, how they're doing their
13 hunting. That type of a relationship, that type of a
14 communication is what we've always asked for from the
15 agencies and it's something that we need to take as a
16 model and the future of how agencies manage their
17 lands.

18

19 So, Jim, thank you.

20

21 MR. MAGDANZ: Thank you, Walter.

22

23 Mr. Chairman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Jim.

26

27 MR. MAGDANZ: No, those are kind words,
28 thank you, Walter.

29

30 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any other questions,
31 comments for Jim Magdanz.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I got to say thank
36 you for some of those reports you put out Jim, they're
37 very interesting, good reading, I appreciate that.

38

39 MR. MAGDANZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

40

41 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: With that, okay, go
42 ahead, you have something.

43

44 MS. BUCKNELL: My name's Susan Bucknell
45 and I'm the Board support coordinator at the Kotzebue
46 Fish and Game office. Charlie Greg retired last
47 spring, resigned, so I'm back at the Board's desk.
48 There's five Fish and Game Advisory Committee's around
49 the NANA region so one for everybody's area so if
50 there's any ways that you want to coordinate with the

1 State system, contact me or contact your local chairs
2 or your Advisory Committee people. If anyone wants
3 information about how or when to submit any Board of
4 Game or Board of Fish proposals for the State system,
5 I'll be happy to help work with anybody in any way.

6

7 So that's it, Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Susan.
10 Any questions, comments from the Council members.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay. Any other
15 business.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Time and place of
20 next meeting.

21

22 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If
23 all the Council members would pull out the calendars
24 that I put in front of you. At our last meeting we had
25 selected February 27th for our meeting here in Kotzebue
26 and as you can see from the calendar there are three
27 meetings scheduled that week, there were four but the
28 North Slope moved their meeting to March 4th and 5th.
29 And Western Interior and Southeast had selected their
30 meeting dates, they met -- they were the first couple
31 of meetings that had met -- groups that had met, and so
32 they've asked that we select a different date for our
33 Northwest Arctic meeting. And I provided this calendar
34 so we make sure that we're not overlapping with other
35 meetings where our agency folks may be overlapping.
36 Like for instance, Greg Risdahl is the biologist for
37 our region as well as Seward Penn, so if we move our
38 meeting it cannot be that same week as the Seward Penn
39 meeting.

40

41 I'm just asking that the Council decide
42 on a meeting date that would work best for everyone.

43

44 MR. EVERETT: Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Robbie.

47

48 MR. EVERETT: Is Fairbanks also moving
49 theirs?

50

1 MS. CHIVERS: Currently they are not
2 because they do not overlap with the Southeast Council
3 but we do have some folks that overlap with Western
4 Interior and they had met prior to our meeting so
5 that's why they're asking that we go ahead and move our
6 meeting.

7
8 MR. EVERETT: Just a question. Can we
9 plan ahead so that we can beat Southeast for next year
10 because they always push us into spring break time when
11 all of us that are trying to do subsistence activities
12 are getting out and this looks like it's going to be a
13 repeat of the last several years of us meeting when
14 we're looking out the window wondering why we're not
15 out and we made an attempt, I remember, because I was
16 one of the complainers, that we move it to when the
17 weather may not be so good and earlier and we, once
18 again, find a scheduling problem.

19
20 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Robbie.

21
22 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. We do have a
23 second calendar for next year for the winter meeting so
24 it's open right now so you will have an opportunity to
25 select your dates first. But right now, if we could,
26 let's just go ahead and take care of this winter
27 meeting and then also we have the fall calendar
28 following.

29
30 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Walter.

31
32 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think
33 it's -- I'm going to take a stand on the February 27th
34 date.

35
36 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: That sounds like a
37 good one to me before late winter, early spring
38 activities.

39
40 MR. SAMPSON: And I would suggest maybe
41 go to a village for one of our meetings.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: We can seriously
44 consider that way.

45
46 MR. SAMPSON:so that way --
47 Noorvik would be an ideal place, close, good access,
48 people can snowmachine if they want.

49
50 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: You want to put a

1 motion on the table.

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I make a
4 motion that we meet February 27th, 2008 in Noorvik.

5

6 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Do I hear a second.

7

8 MS. CHIVERS: I'm sorry what was the
9 date?

10

11 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: The 27th, I think.

12

13 MR. BALLOT: Second.

14

15 MS. CHIVERS: March 2nd?

16

17 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: What was your date?

18

19 MR. SAMPSON: February 27. 2008 in
20 Noorvik.

21

22 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. I'm sorry, we
23 do need to move the meeting date as well, whatever
24 works best for the Council, but right now it's in
25 conflict with a couple other meetings.

26

27 MR. SAMPSON: There's a motion on the
28 floor, Mr. Chairman.

29

30 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay. What's the
31 conflict with the other meetings, please, if you have
32 them?

33

34 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. We.....

35

36 MR. SAMPSON: It's them in Fairbanks.

37

38 MS. CHIVERS: We do have agency Staff
39 that are going between the three meetings, we have a
40 biologist, we have an anthropologist and we have
41 Council coordinators. I'm not a coordinator for any of
42 those other regions, however, some of the Staff are
43 being spread thin, not only just Fish and Wildlife
44 Service Staff but other agencies, Staff like Park
45 Service that do have to attend these meetings, and so
46 we're trying to make sure that it's not overlapping too
47 much so that they can be at those meetings to provide
48 reports to the Councils.

49

50 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Walter, you want to

1 rescind that and rethink your dates?

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: No. I'm adamant for
4 February 27th. As far as detailed work is concerned
5 then they can work around the schedule at the
6 management level with different biologists.

7

8 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any suggestions or
9 recommendations from the Council.

10

11 MR. SAMPSON: There is a motion on the
12 floor.

13

14 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Yes, sir.

15

16 MR. SAMPSON: Motion on the floor and
17 we'll work on an alternate date.

18

19 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Anybody want to come
20 up with an alternate date, we still have a motion on
21 the table.

22

23 MR. SAMPSON: There is a motion on the
24 floor, Mr. Chairman, and we'll work on an alternate
25 date.

26

27 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Robbie, let me ask
28 you.....

29

30 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. There is a
31 motion on the floor.

32

33 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: And it's being
34 considered.

35

36 MR. EVERETT: I thought Percy seconded
37 that and now he's hiding down there behind his papers.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Oh, excuse me.

42

43 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah, we'll work on an
44 alternate date after.

45

46 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay, we have a
47 motion on the floor, all those in favor.

48

49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I'm going to have to
2 say aye myself.
3
4 (Laughter)
5
6 MS. CHIVERS: Well, Mr. Chair, if we
7 could have the Council members turn the page we also
8 have the fall 2008 calendar open.
9
10 MR. SAMPSON: Let's work on the
11 alternate date first.
12
13 MS. CHIVERS: Okay.
14
15 MR. SAMPSON: Would the 25th work?
16
17 MS. CHIVERS: Which date?
18
19 MR. SAMPSON: The 25th of February.
20
21 MS. CHIVERS: You can select that as an
22 alternate and I'll find out when I get back.
23
24 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: 25th.
25
26 MR. BALLOT: I got a question, how
27 about March 7, Walter? I think that's.....
28
29 MR. SAMPSON: I think we're getting
30 closer to NANA meetings there.
31
32 MR. BALLOT: Oh.
33
34 MR. SAMPSON: Shareholder meetings
35 sometime that month.
36
37 MR. BALLOT: Okay.
38
39 MR. SAMPSON: Well, the problem with
40 going further into March is we've got a lot of activity
41 that's starting to happen, too.
42
43 MR. SWAN: Yes, also this coming year
44 we have NANA meeting in a different village and
45 Friend's Church Annual (ph) meeting in a different
46 village so they're going to have two different dates.
47
48 MR. BALLOT: I just bring up the high
49 school basketball, it starts around March 7th.
50

1 MR. EVERETT: Could I ask Willie,
2 when's State wrestling scheduled, do you have that date
3 on the top of your head, since you might be going?
4
5 MR. GOODWIN: (No microphone)
6
7 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Ralph, any
8 suggestions.
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: You're awful quiet.
13
14 MR. RAMOTH: There's no other
15 activities, March 7th would be okay for me.
16
17 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I think the only
18 problem with that we have to watch -- NANA Corporation
19 may have -- that might be very close to the annual
20 meeting of the NANA Corporation.
21
22 MR. BALLOT: We can give you the option
23 to change the date.
24
25 MR. SAMPSON: Can we leave that to the
26 Chair?
27
28 MR. BALLOT: He'll have.....
29
30 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: If you give that to
31 me I would probably take a poll vote and see what is
32 not in conflict with anybody. If I could I would try
33 probably schedule it where everybody could be here.
34
35 MR. SAMPSON: Thanks.
36
37 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: If that's the route
38 you want to go I would be more than glad to give it a
39 try.
40
41 (No comments)
42
43 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: You want that as a
44 motion.
45
46 MR. BALLOT: No, we've got.....
47
48 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay, this is just
49 the alternate date, if you want to go that route,
50 that's okay.....

1 MR. SAMPSON: What about the 2008
2 meeting.
3
4 CHAIRMAN KARMUN:with me.
5
6 MR. SAMPSON: Do you have the calendar
7 for that?
8
9 MS. CHIVERS: Yes, Mr.....
10
11 MR. SAMPSON: Under which page?
12
13 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. That is on
14 Page 54 in your booklet, it's the very back page, the
15 back side of the very last page.
16
17 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think we
18 ought to try to hold the next meeting in -- sometimes
19 -- sometime in, you know, right now a lot of activities
20 are starting to happen to people -- people are out
21 fishing, gathering, hunting, October would be an ideal
22 time to try to hold a meeting. Possibly middle of Oct
23 -- about mid-October, the first two weeks in October.
24
25 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: To me mid-October
26 would be very good mainly because.....
27
28 MR. SAMPSON: Because there's no
29 activity much, I think, uh, just freezing up.
30
31 MR. EVERETT: Yeah.
32
33 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: It's a.....
34
35 MR. SAMPSON: People are.....
36
37 CHAIRMAN KARMUN:transition
38 period and.....
39
40 MR. SAMPSON:people are slowing
41 down.
42
43 CHAIRMAN KARMUN:they're mainly
44 going to be where they're going to be at. That's a
45 very good date.
46
47 MR. SAMPSON: October 9th. Good.
48
49 (Council nods affirmatively)
50

1 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I move
2 that our next 2008 RAC meeting be set for October 9,
3 2008.
4
5 MR. EVERETT: I second that.
6
7 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: All in favor.
8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.
10
11 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay, then.....
12
13 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I move for
14 adjournment.
15
16 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: There's a motion for
17 adjournment.
18
19 MR. RAMOTH: I second the motion.
20
21 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Seconded by Ralph.
22 All in favor.
23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.
25
26 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, people.
27
28 (Off record)
29
30 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 13th day of September 2007.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08