

NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

TELECONFERENCE - ALASKA
November 4, 2020
9:16 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gordon Brower, Chair
William Hopson
Wanda Kippi
Steve Oomittuk
Edward Rexford
Peter Williams

Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S
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3 (Teleconference - 11/4/2020)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're going to start
8 off with our invocation. Do we have any volunteers
9 from any of the Council members.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not, I'll
14 volunteer to give the invocation if that's okay with
15 everybody.
16
17 (Invocation)
18
19 IN UNISON: Amen.
20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: With that I'll call
22 the meeting to order. And, Madame Secretary, if we
23 could do the roll call. And I'm thinking that Atgasuk
24 is our secretary still. It's been a little while since
25 we had a meeting.
26
27 MS. KIPPI: I believe so. This is
28 Wanda.
29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So we'll
31 do the roll call. Wanda, it's 9:16 a.m. and I'll turn
32 it over to you for the roll call.
33
34 MS. KIPPI: Okay. Thank you, Gordon.
35 Good morning, everybody. I'll start with the first one
36 on the list.
37
38 Gordon Brower.
39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). I'm
41 here.
42
43 MS. KIPPI: And I think the number 2
44 seat is vacant. And Wanda Kippi from Atgasuk's here,
45 secretary.
46
47 Steve Oomittuk, Point Hope.
48
49 MR. OOMITTUK: (In Native).
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1 MS. KIPPI: Good morning, Steve.
2
3 MR. OOMITTUK: Good morning.
4
5 MS. KIPPI: Edward Rexford, Sr.,
6 Kaktovik.
7
8 MR. REXFORD: I'm here.
9
10 MS. KIPPI: Good morning. And Martha
11 Itta, Nuiqsut. I believe she's excused.
12
13 William Hopson, Utqiagvik.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Madame
18 Secretary, we'll acknowledge William when he's chimed
19 in.
20
21 MS. KIPPI: Okay. Thank you.
22
23 Peter Williams, Anaktuvuk Pass.
24
25 MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning. Here.
26
27 MS. KIPPI: Good morning, Peter. Mr.
28 Chair, I believe we have a quorum.
29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Madame
31 Secretary. And.....
32
33 MS. KIPPI: You're welcome.
34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER:we have a
36 quorum. And we'll go through the welcome and
37 introductions. Maybe we'll start with those that are
38 online, the agencies and then we'll -- we'll do that,
39 those that are online.
40
41 MS. VOORHEES: Good morning. This is
42 Hannah Voorhees with Office of Subsistence Management.
43
44 MS. DAGGETT: This is Carmen Daggett,
45 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We'll
48 start with Carmen.
49
50

1 MS. DAGGETT: Sorry, didn't mean to
2 interrupt. Carmen Daggett with Alaska Department of
3 Fish and Game up in Utqiagvik.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Morning,
6 Carmen.

7
8 MS. DAGGETT: Good morning, Gordon, and
9 everybody else.

10
11 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning, Mr.
12 Chairman and members of the Council. This is Greg
13 Risdahl from the Office of Subsistence Management,
14 Fisheries Division lead.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.

17
18 MR. LIND: (In Native). Good morning,
19 Mr. Chair and Council members. Orville Lind, Native
20 liaison for the Office of Subsistence Management.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Orville.

23
24 MS. HYER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman
25 and Council members. This is Karen Hyer, fisheries
26 biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.
27 And it's always good to be with you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Morning,
30 Karen.

31
32 MS. VOORHEES: Good morning. This is
33 Hannah Voorhees with Office of Subsistence Management.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Hannah.

38
39 MR. LACEY: Good morning. This is Will
40 Lacey with the National Park Service in Fairbanks.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Will.

43
44 MR. BERENDZEN: Good morning. This is
45 Steve Berendzen, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Steve.

48
49 MS. NIGRO: Good morning. This is

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1 Debbie Nigro with the Arctic District Office of the
2 Bureau of Land Management in Fairbanks.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Debbie.

5
6 MS. JONES: Good morning, Gordon. This
7 is -- and Council. This is Shelly Jones calling from
8 the BLM in Arctic District, Fairbanks.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Good
11 morning, Shelly.

12
13 MS. OKADA: Good morning. This is
14 Marcy Okada with Gates of the Arctic National Park and
15 Preserve.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sorry. I had to take
18 a phone call real quick on another line, but I'm back.

19
20 MR. WIESE: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
21 Council. This is Will Wiese with Arctic Refuge.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Will Wiese.

24
25 MR. PERSON: Good morning, Gordon.
26 This is Brian Person, North Slope Borough, Department
27 of Wildlife Management in Utqiagvik. Morning, Council
28 members.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Brian.

31
32 MS. DAMBERG: Good morning, Chair.
33 This is Carol Damberg, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
34 Service regional subsistence coordinator out of
35 Anchorage.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Carol.

38
39 MR. SCANLON: Good morning. This is
40 Brendan Scanlon, fisheries biologist, Alaska Department
41 of Fish and Game.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Is that
44 -- you said Brendan?

45
46 MR. SCANLON: Sorry. Brendan Scanlon,
47 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, North Slope
48 fisheries biologist.

49
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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good.
2
3 MR. BURCH: Good morning. This is Mark
4 Burch with the Department of Fish and Game in the
5 Palmer office.
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Mark.
8
9 MS. WICKSON: Good morning. This is
10 Donna Wickson with Arctic District Office in Fairbanks,
11 BLM.
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Who was that one?
14
15 MS. WICKSON: Donna Wickson with Arctic
16 District Office of Bureau of Land Management in
17 Fairbanks.
18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good to hear you.
20
21 MS. WICKSON: Thank you.
22
23 MR. CHEN: Aloha, Mr. Chair and Council
24 members. This is Glenn Chen for the Bureau of Indian
25 Affairs.
26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Glenn.
28
29 MS. YOHUNG: Good morning. This is Kim
30 Yohung. I'm with the National Park Service,
31 Subsistence Program, Regional Office.
32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Kim.
34
35 MR. SFORMO: This is Todd Sformo, North
36 Slope Borough.
37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning there,
39 Todd.
40
41 MR. SFORMO: Hello, good morning.
42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any others online
44 that hasn't introduced themselves.
45
46 MR. INMAN: This is Ted Inman with the
47 Arctic District in Fairbanks of the BLM.
48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Ted.
50

1 MR. INMAN: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. If there
4 aren't any others that haven't introduced yourselves,
5 we're going to move along to the next agenda item.

6

7 I welcome you all to the Regional
8 Subsistence Advisory Council, Region 10, up in the
9 Arctic up here. So I'm going to give 30 more seconds
10 for any other introductions that haven't acknowledged
11 themselves.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. That was
16 a fast 30 seconds so we'll do that. So at this time
17 we'll go to item five, review and adoption of the
18 agenda.

19

20 What's the wish of the Council.

21

22 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.
23 This is Steve in Point Hope. Make a motion to adopt
24 the agenda.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
27 the floor to adopt the agenda from Point Hope, Steve
28 Oomittuk.

29

30 IN UNISON: Second.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sounds like there was
33 competing seconders. We'll -- and Earl put his name
34 out there. So seconded by AKP, Earl Williams.

35

36 Any discussion, additions or deletions.
37 Madame Coordinator, any suggested additions or changes.

38

39 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 This is Eva. We do have a couple additions to the
41 agenda which I'll just let you know about real quickly
42 here. Under new business we'll just have a quick
43 update. For old business we'll have an update on the
44 current RAC application process and the new and ex-RAC
45 applications coming up here. And then we have -- we
46 have a couple additional agency presenters. So this
47 afternoon, Raymond Atos who is the new natural
48 resources director for ICAS, for Inupiat Community of
49 the Arctic Slope will be joining us to provide a report

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1 for the Council.

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4 12?

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7 MS. PATTON: Yes, Mr. Chair. Item 12

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is that under item

MS. PATTON: Yes, Mr. Chair. Item 12
under tribal governments and Native organizations.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: So put ICAS?

MS. PATTON: Yes, ICAS.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. And at
the same time any tribal government can provide a
report for their tribe as well, right?

MS. PATTON: Absolutely, yes. There --
we'll likely have others calling in as well, but we did
get confirmation from ICAS and their new natural
resources director.

And then.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any other
suggested changes or additions.

MS. PATTON: And also under agency
reports, just kind of in addition to the Gates of the
Arctic National Park and Preserve, in addition to Marcy
Okada we also have Kyle Joly online and he has a
caribou collar report to provide for the Council.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Kyle Joly, caribou
report?

MS. PATTON: Yes. And that's in
addition to the Gates of the Arctic National Park and
Preserve report.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's awesome. We
love to have caribou reports that's for sure.

MS. PATTON: Yeah. And then Alaska
Department of Fish and Game, we have Carmen Daggett
online. And then we have a written report that was
provided by Beth for the Central Arctic caribou herd.
So there's just a written report that I'll reference
for the Council that was emailed out to you. And for
the folks that don't have computers we had tried to get

1 that printed for you through the North Slope Borough
2 Community Liaison's Office.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. And we
5 suspect that Carmen will elaborate more on the written
6 report?

7

8 MS. PATTON: Yes, and Carmen will
9 present for the Teshekpuk caribou herd and other
10 wildlife updates for her region.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Any other
13 changes or additions.

14

15 MS. PATTON: And we do have -- we do
16 have one additional presentation. At the Council's
17 request to have a kind of comprehensive update on the
18 state of the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas. And NOAA, the
19 National Oceanic Administration, had recently conducted
20 a ecosystem survey in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas so
21 we'll have Ed Farley who is the research director
22 presenting to the Council as well. That'll come at the
23 end of the -- end of the meeting right before the OSM
24 update.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So that's still item
27 12, just under Office of Subsistence Management? No.

28

29 MS. PATTON: Yes, just before the OSM
30 report we'll have NOAA, Ed Farley from NOAA presenting
31 to the Council.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Pretty
34 comprehensive day sounds like.

35

36 Any other suggested changes or
37 additions.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: With that, hearing
42 none, we have suggested additions to the agenda under
43 old business, RAC applications, new process, under old
44 business item 10. So we'll need to amend with that.
45 On item 12 agency reports we got ICAS added as an
46 addition, acknowledge that they will make a report.
47 And under Gates of the Arctic National Park, Marcy
48 Okada, Kyle Joly with caribou report, I think it's a
49 tagging report maybe. And then ADF&G, the written

50

1 report for Central Arctic herd by Carmen. And then --
2 yeah, Office -- just before or after the Office of
3 Subsistence Management, NOAA's state of the Arctic on
4 Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea assessment.

5

6

And what's the wish of the Council.

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MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: And that's with the
amendments?

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MR. OOMITTUK: Yes.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
the floor to amend the agenda under discussion to add
the RAC applications on item 10 and on item 12, ICAS
and Kyle Joly for caribou with Marcy Okada and Carmen
Daggett with the written report on Central herd and
then NOAA and their Beaufort Sea assessment stuff.
There's a motion on the floor to amend the agenda.

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MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, just for the
record that was Steve. I know there was somebody else,
but Steve in Point Hope.

26

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you,
Steve. It's good to be clarifying who made the
amending motion for the agenda. Point Hope, Steve.

31

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34

Do I hear a second.

35

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Been
seconded by Kaktovik. All those in favor of amending
the agenda signify by saying aye.

40

41

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44

IN UNISON: Aye.

45

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(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Amendment is adopted
for the agenda. We're back on the main motion of the
agenda.

1 MR. OOMITTUK: Question call for on the
2 main motion. This is Steve.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's called
5 for by Steve Oomittuk from Point Hope to adopt the
6 agenda as amended.

7
8 MS. KIPPI: Wanda. Second.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded
11 by.....

12
13 MS. KIPPI: I second the motion.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER:been seconded by
16 Wanda from Atqasuk. All those approving the amended
17 agenda signify by saying aye.

18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed
22 same sign.

23
24 (No opposing votes)

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have an agenda.
27 So with that review we'll go down the line and go to
28 item six review and approve previous minutes.

29
30 What's the wish of the Council.

31
32 MR. OOMITTUK: Make a motion to approve
33 the previous minutes of.....

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think they're April
36 1.

37
38 MR. OOMITTUK: I'm looking for the
39 date.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: April 1, 2020.

42
43 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved. Make a motion
44 to approve the minutes of April, 2020.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: By Steve Oomittuk for
47 approving of the minutes.

48
49 MR. WILLIAMS: Second.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Been seconded by
2 Earl. Any discussion, corrections or deletions.

3
4 MS. KIPPI: Correction.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead there, we're
7 under discussion. Go ahead there, Atqasuk, Wanda.

8
9 MS. KIPPI: Okay. On the second page
10 with the Council members reports there's a report from
11 Wanda Kippi. At the bottom -- near the ending of the
12 bottom of my statement they put Nuiqsut instead of
13 Atqasuk.

14
15 REPORTER: Thank you.

16
17 MS. KIPPI: Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So noted. There's a
20 -- I'm pretty sure and those that are at OSM are taking
21 the note that there is a typo of a village. It should
22 be Atqasuk in my view.

23
24 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Wanda. This is
25 Eva. I will definitely make that correction.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MS. KIPPI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
32 or deletions.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MR. OOMITTUK: Question called for.

37
38 MR. WILLIAMS: I have a correction on
39 mine too. Hello.

40
41 REPORTER: Who called the question?

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve. The
44 question's been called for. All those of approving the
45 minutes of April 1, 2020, signify by saying aye with
46 the corrections made for Atqasuk.

47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49
50

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Before you make.....
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed
4 signify by saying nay.
5
6 (No opposing votes)
7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The motion carries.
9 The minutes are adopted with a slight amendment --
10 correction.
11
12 All right. We'll.....
13
14 MR. WILLIAMS: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.
15 Mr. Chairman, this is Earl.
16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Earl.
18
19 MR. WILLIAMS: Before you made that --
20 before you was done talking anyway I was going to make
21 a correction on my name. They put down Steve Earl
22 Williams.
23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.
25
26 REPORTER: Thank you.
27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, there's another
29 typo I guess in the minutes, getting people's names
30 wrong and where we live. I hope somebody wasn't having
31 way too much wine or something while typing.
32
33 MS. PATTON: Thank -- thank you --
34 thank you, Earl. And we'll definitely make that Peter
35 Earl Williams and also the correction for Atqasuk as
36 well.
37
38 Thank you. Thank you, Peter. And just
39 to reconfirm you prefer to be -- to go by your -- your
40 middle name, Earl?
41
42 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.
43
44 MS. PATTON: Okay. Wonderful. Thank
45 you so much, Earl.
46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Well,
48 let's be more diligent about our minutes. And, you
49 know, it's hunker down a lot of times and you got a lot
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1 of time to do it right, you know.

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In any event, so let's -- and thank you, Earl, for that. I'm glad you voice your concern on the minutes. And we'll -- they'll correct that.

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we'll go down the line, item seven, reports. And we'll start from the east, we'll start from Kaktovik.

Eddie.

MR. REXFORD: Yes, good morning. I'm glad we don't have the wind here yet but probably going to if you have west wind. So good morning, everybody.

Our community's been successful in harvesting fish of all types, even salmon and we even have some salmon spawning in our local rivers, even across our island. So that's something new and I'm pretty sure it's happening all over the North Slope rivers and it would be good to have some folks come and do studies like this and find out what species they are.

And also we've been very successful in harvesting caribou. There's quite a lot here even this time of the year. And we also have successful whaling season. We got all three of our whales and we'll allocate it to our community.

And we've also been provided our moose quota, the three again this year. And I'm glad the agency has been accommodating to our views on changing the season. Right now it's open to go out and go moose hunting right now compared to the past and not being restricted just to a month that -- in there.

Other than that I don't think we had any shortages of our subsistence activities. But that's kind of all I got right now for my report.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). Thank you, Kaktovik. Thank you, Eddie Rexford.

1 Anybody have any questions for Eddie.

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(No comments)

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not we'll go to
AKP, Anaktuvuk Pass. Earl Peter Williams.

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MR. WILLIAMS: Great morning, Council
members. Anyway the caribous finally come in,
everybody's out doing successfully hunting and
everybody's going out, every -- try and get on
subsistencely.

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It's cold here, windy from south. We
knew it was coming, it snowed the last few days. But
other than that we don't have much, we just been
hunting on moose too and some -- a few people got moose
that's been coming around so we're lucky on that one.

19

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21

22

23

I just want to thank everybody that's
successful on their hunting and everything on the -- to
the North Slope and hope we get our quota because we
need a lot of caribou there.

24

25

26

Thank you very much and have a good day
you all.

27

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31

CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). Thank
you, Earl. And I keep seeing some of our relatives up
in Anaktuvuk Pass with some big happy faces and
catching tuttu, being blessed (in Native).

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MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you very much.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: With that we'll go to
Atqasuk.....

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MS. KIPPI: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER:Wanda.

MS. KIPPI: Good morning, everybody.
Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good morning to -- good morning
to all that's listening. It was a busy -- busy time of
the year for Atqasuk I guess. We had -- we had some
slow times during the caribou hunting season and while
I was at camp it was too eerie, too quiet and your
animals weren't coming. There was some -- there was a

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1 bear in our area, around the cabin area. And then
2 after that it was still -- there was still something
3 eerie, too quiet, no animals coming, even the birds.
4 There was a muskox around my cabin area. And then --
5 and then they both got caught. They came to -- they --
6 the muskox came on the other side of the river and then
7 that got caught by my son. And then they tried to
8 chase that bear away, my nephew tried to chase the bear
9 away and it started coming back towards the cabin. So
10 my -- I call them my -- my guys, they all started
11 chasing it and my son caught that one. So that was the
12 excitement of my cabin camping for over a month.

13
14 And the caribou after I came home just
15 before it started freezing up end of October, I didn't
16 get to go fishing because I came home. But after it --
17 it froze up after a few days after I got home and then
18 there was caribou practically going through our cabin
19 area, around our area. Then there was some foxes,
20 there's ptarmigan. They did successful geese hunting,
21 it was a good spring.

22
23 And the fishing was good. There was --
24 there was a sucker fisher caught in a net and pike
25 caught in a net recently. And it was -- I don't know,
26 I can't think of anything else right now. But it was
27 exciting at my camp.

28
29 But I think that -- that's all I have
30 to say. If I don't -- if I didn't forget anything.

31
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). Thank
35 you, Wanda. Any questions for Wanda.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: With that we'll go to
40 Nuiqsut if.....

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42 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, go ahead, Wanda.

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46 MS. KIPPI: I forgot. Well, the fish
47 -- the fishing was good. There was fishing the ice --
48 the -- it was good with the grayling, the (in Native)
49 and the nets were touching (in Native) and the ice

50

1 fishing was good for them. They were catching burbot
2 and (in Native). So I just wanted to add that.

3

4

Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Wanda.

7

With that, any representatives from Nuiqsut. I know --

8

I think Martha is excused.

9

10

(No comments)

11

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not we'll go to

13

Barrow, Utqiagvik. I know -- I'm, not sure if William

14

Hopson has chimed in yet.

15

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(No comments)

17

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we'll go to any

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representatives from Wainwright.

20

21

(No comments)

22

23

CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we'll go to Point

24

Lay.

25

26

(No comments)

27

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we'll now go to

29

Point Hope, Steve

30

Oomittuk.

31

MR. OOMITTUK: Good morning from Point

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Hope. For the record, Steve Oomittuk. And it's been a

33

good year, a lot of caribou this year and the last

34

couple years. And they're still getting caribou.

35

36

It finally snowed, but the rivers have

37

been freezing up over the last month and then it warmed

38

up last week. But they catching a lot of fish, lot of

39

trout and silik (ph) up in the river. And pretty good

40

size ones this year compared to last year, the trout

41

and the silik (ph), you know. Last year there was a

42

lot of small ones, quite a -- quite a bit. And the

43

lakes are freezing up.

44

45

The caribou are still around, there's

46

no catching caribou. Normally the last few years, the

47

last 10 years or so the caribou come through in the

48

fall and then they leave, they don't normally hang

49

around in winter, not like the old days where they

50

1 would be around majority of the time and through
2 winter. But, you know, last few years they -- they
3 going further east. And but this year there's you
4 know, they're still running into caribou out there.

5
6 You know, it's been a good season. The
7 -- we've been having pretty rough waters in the ocean,
8 the wind's from the south, majority from the south and
9 southeast. You know, fishing for char in the ocean and
10 salmon, we don't -- we don't normally fish for salmon,
11 but, you know, they've been getting quite a bit of
12 salmon. You know, in the old days we always just
13 fished for the char and the humpies were mainly for the
14 dogs when we had a lot of dog teams there. And king
15 salmon, you very rarely get king salmon, they're
16 further out. You got to go a good mile or two out in
17 the ocean before you get a king especially on the south
18 side of the -- but this year they're getting king
19 salmon, good sized king salmon right on the edge of --
20 in their nets. And they caught a few petty good size,
21 I mean, you're talking over three footers.

22
23 But it's -- the fishing's been real
24 good although the weather wasn't cooperating too good.
25 We mainly fish for the char when they're coming back in
26 August, usually late August when it's getting dark.
27 They fish all night and try to get stock for the
28 winter. And like I said right now they're fishing up
29 river up until -- usually they fish until November --
30 until Thanksgiving and come home. And, you know, in
31 the old days it used to be that the young and the
32 elderly that would be at the camps. Nowadays everybody
33 goes up, fish for the day and come home. You know,
34 it's -- you know, everything is different nowadays.
35 Not too many people camp out.

36
37 It's so easy to get -- you know, the
38 snow, it finally snowed, they're finally using
39 snowmachines, it's getting hard for the four-wheelers.
40 But a lot of snow again, it's been really snowing.
41 Last year we had a lot of snow. We haven't seen this
42 much snow in years. The last couple years we've had a
43 lot of snow and then rain in January and February and
44 it made it hard on the caribou sometimes when it would
45 freeze-up and they can't get to their food source, the
46 moss.

47
48 And but other than that everything's
49 been pretty good. You know, we -- we've seen a lot of
50

1 traffic within our ocean and concern and I understand
2 they've been doing some studies out there. And we
3 understand that maybe commercial fishing might be
4 moving up this way and, you know, our way of life and
5 we as North Slope Borough Subsistence Advisory Council
6 have no jurisdiction in our ocean and area. And, you
7 know, and we mainly deal with everything that's on
8 land. You know, we have a Walrus Commission, Polar
9 Bear Commission, AWC, but, you know, the North Slope
10 Borough Subsistence Advisory Council is restricted to
11 certain areas and -- and even though we deal with our
12 -- you know, our subsistence as Subsistence Advisory
13 Council and our, you know, subsistence is a very broad
14 -- very broad, you know, our way of life as subsistence
15 hunters is not just on land, you know, in the ocean a
16 lot of us that live on the coastline, you know, the
17 majority of our food comes from the ocean. And then
18 we're very concerned. There's a lot of people
19 concerned with our -- with the -- our food source and
20 the food chain which in the ocean, and the traffic and
21 the opening of the Northwest Passage more and more
22 traffic.

23
24 And the ocean's not freezing up sooner,
25 you know, we -- we celebrate the born of the ice (in
26 Native). I know I mentioned this last year and the
27 year before, but, you know, and again this year. You
28 know, with the abundance of whales we got this spring,
29 we got 12 whales and we celebrate, we -- we put the
30 tail of the whale in the ice so it's covered with whale
31 blubber and it ferments in the ice. So it's from
32 April, May, June, July, August, September, you know,
33 October usually -- usually it's finished in October
34 when the first slush ice connects to the land. And
35 here it is November 4. Last couple years it didn't --
36 we didn't have the (in Native) until November 20th,
37 right before Thanksgiving. And two years and here it
38 is again, you know, November and it hasn't, you know,
39 and then there's a lot of concern about our food chain,
40 you know, and the climate change and then what affects
41 it has on the animals within the ocean and the caribou
42 especially with the warm climate. And then we got
43 January and February coming up as the coldest times of
44 the month and the affect it might have on the caribou
45 range and freezes up the ground and the caribou have a
46 hard time. The weather is cold and every once in a
47 while we hit these warm spells where it actually rains
48 in January or February and that's supposed to be the
49 coldest time of the year.

50

1 Hopefully we'll have a report on the
2 population of the Western Arctic caribou herd. I know
3 it's been at a low and still at a low, you know, at a
4 population of over 450,000. In the last few years the
5 count's been at 100 -- 190 to 230,000. And we're very
6 concerned, you know, even though the abundance of
7 caribou is still there, you know, the majority of it,
8 you know, are still around and within the community.
9

10 And then there's concerns about the
11 Ambler Road project, you know because of the migration
12 of the caribou going back south or coming up north with
13 the gold mine and the construction of a road to Ambler
14 which is right in route, you know, for the Western
15 Arctic caribou herd to go south or to go north and the
16 main traffic line, you know. And where there's concern
17 about the caribou being rerouted, you know, to come up
18 north and not go in their natural paths that they're
19 accustomed to for thousands of years, you know.
20

21 There's a lot of concerns in our
22 community and especially with jurisdiction and what we
23 can say and do especially with the ocean. We are --
24 like I said we are the Subsistence Advisory Council for
25 the North Slope appointed by the Secretary of Interior,
26 you know. And a lot of our concerns are, especially
27 the coastal people, you know, we're very concerned
28 about our ocean and the animals and the migration and
29 the currents and the ice conditions.
30

31 Thank you.
32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.
34 Thank you. That was pretty comprehensive and always
35 interesting to listen to your report out of (in Native)
36 over there.
37

38 With that I'm going to check one more
39 time if William has joined us yet, William Hopson.
40

41 (No comments)
42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Well, I'm
44 going to go ahead and just as the Chair, you know, I
45 listen to a lot of subsistence hunters and have my own
46 crew. And thank god this year we're good, we're alive.
47 During spring, you know, our boat was flipped over by a
48 whale and the whole crew was in the water in the
49 spring. But we did harvest a whale, we harpooned it
50

1 and then so we're very fortunate and very blessed and
2 sometimes I cry when I think about what happened out
3 there. And I've seen these things before in like 1979
4 our -- another crew adjacent to us got flipped over too
5 a long time ago when I was a kid. So, you know, we
6 hunt and try to provide food even though it's
7 dangerous, you know, it's important to recognize god in
8 all the things that we do as we go about providing
9 resources for our people.

10
11 So this summer, you know, I think
12 caribou and it was really good and that my son got to
13 go to the cabin. Actually my son got covid, he got
14 covid-19 and I send him out to the cabin and I said
15 there's 11 of us at home, you got to go to the cabin
16 and go heal up up there and then talk to me on your
17 InReach and he did that for over 14 days up there. And
18 then like he got to roam around, he got really fat
19 tuttu, fat caribou roaming around and did a bit of
20 fishing. So he was excited about that.

21
22 And I'm hearing from fishermen that (in
23 Native) is producing again, the -- the big lake that's
24 out of Barrow, about 18 miles out of Barrow. That lake
25 is beautiful, subsistence hunters are doing well. And
26 there's always been a concern -- not a concern, but
27 knowledge about that lake and where the outflow on the
28 eastern, about three-quarters of the way, has a small
29 stream and that goes kind of southeast and then to
30 another lake and then to a river called (in Native).
31 And maybe some of the subsistence hunters may not have
32 known that there's a -- like a spring, like a -- that
33 doesn't freeze. And I've come across it many times in
34 hauling fish from my camp going through (in Native) and
35 there's always this area of wet. But it seems like
36 there the stream that it feeds is noticeably not
37 frozen. I don't know if geothermal activity is
38 increasing there, but all the rivers are -- and, you
39 know, they're putting nets under the ice and this one
40 has got some geothermal activity that's keeping a
41 section of the river stream, it's not -- I think it's a
42 stream that comes out of that lake and visibly thawed
43 out while other sections are frozen solid.

44
45 In any event, yeah, I think the lake
46 fish is some of the prize fish, we love to eat those
47 and also some of my relatives over in Nuiqsut are
48 fishing really good. We interact with our neighboring
49 villages about our subsistence. Their fishing is --
50

1 have started very good. There seems to still be some
2 issues about fish mold in particular for the whitefish
3 around the Colville River over there. And post --
4 there were some fishermen that posted and the abrasions
5 and the sores and stuff on whitefish that has been
6 caught seems to not be affecting the cisco, the Arctic
7 cisco.

8
9 And also abundance of caribou and
10 actually been harvesting and the use of the
11 infrastructure there for harvesting from the road
12 system. So and some of our hunters, they're reporting
13 lots of good caribou hunting out of Barrow on the
14 outskirts and lots of sharing. So my nephews bring me
15 caribou to eat and also was pretty successful
16 throughout the summer.

17
18 I didn't do any fall fishing this year,
19 normally I do that. The last time I went fall fishing
20 the weather did a number on my catch because I catch
21 for community needs and about 80 percent of my catch
22 was affected by warm weather, it got cold, it got
23 really warm, got cold, got really warm and my -- where
24 I store my fish, the fish thawed out and then they
25 stunk up. So I have to be very careful.....

26
27 MS. PATTON: Hello, Gordon, this is
28 Eva. I think we just lost you on the call.

29
30 Are others still online, are you able
31 to hear?

32
33 IN UNISON UNIDENTIFIED VOICES: Yes.

34
35 MS. PATTON: Okay. I think Gordon
36 probably just dropped from the call so we'll just give
37 him a minute to call back in and join us here. So just
38 one minute and I'll try to text Gordon as well.

39
40 MR. OOMITTUK: Are we still online?

41
42 REPORTER: Yes, we are. Yes, we are. I
43 think we're just waiting for Gordon.

44
45 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. Thank you.

46
47 REPORTER: You're welcome.

48
49 (Off record comments - Gordon

50

1 disconnected)

2

3 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, this is Steve,
4 Vice Chair. So I guess we're waiting on Gordon, but we
5 can continue. Was there anybody -- Gordon was giving
6 his report. I don't know if he was done or not.

7

8 Anybody else have any reports, did
9 William come on yet or are we missing anybody yet?

10

11 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Steve. I
12 haven't heard back from William yet and I haven't heard
13 him online so far. And I was just trying to get a text
14 through to Gordon and I'll try again here to hear back
15 from him, if he's able to call back in.

16

17 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. We have no more
18 reports. We can move on to the next item on the
19 agenda. Just for the record this is Steve Oomittuk,
20 the Vice Chair.

21

22 And I couldn't find my -- I didn't make
23 it over to the liaison office and so I don't have my
24 agenda in front of me. But we can move right along.

25

26 Eva -- Gordon, are you back on? I
27 thought I heard something.

28

29 (Off record comments - Gordon
30 disconnected)

31

32 MS. PATTON: Yeah, I -- sorry I was on
33 mute. This is Eva. If we could just take one moment
34 I'm going to try to get a text through to Gordon. And
35 then I will come back on and we can continue with the
36 agenda then. But let me get a text through to Gordon
37 so we can check in with him and see if he can call back
38 in.

39

40 Thanks, everyone. Just one moment
41 here.

42

43 (Off record comments - Gordon
44 disconnected)

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hello, I'm back.

47

48 MR. OOMITTUK: All right, Gordon.
49 Okay. Gordon's back.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, we're in kind
4 of stormy weather and I kind of think that might be
5 hampering us a little bit. I don't even know where I
6 cut off and I said to myself is anybody there, did I
7 talk a long time to myself.

8

9 So, Eva, I don't know where I got cut
10 off if you're still on.

11

12 MS. PATTON: Hello. Welcome back,
13 Gordon. Let me pull up my minutes here. So you were
14 just beginning to talk about your nephew had shared
15 caribou with you and caribou around Utqiagvik and a lot
16 of sharing was going on. And then you were beginning
17 to talk about your fall fishing.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right. Well, anyway.
20 Yeah, I mean, I'm -- that portion -- I still think
21 there's some issues around being able to fish in the
22 way we did in the past. So I'll just leave it there.
23 You got to kind of fish for your needs, in the past I
24 -- we were able to fish for community needs and
25 primarily because the fish -- when you're fishing for
26 community needs and which we did for probably hundreds
27 of years, I mean, that's Ikpikpuk been used for big
28 fisheries -- I mean, there are old communities there
29 like Aulavik that use Ikpikpuk for large scale fishing,
30 lot of families would be at Aulavik area -- just below
31 Chip 1 there's a whole area with cellars and old sod
32 houses. A lot of good stories about them too.

33

34 But the weather kind of dictates us to
35 being able to fish the river when the fish are running
36 for spawning and in particular for whitefish. So I
37 have to be very careful because last time I fished
38 heavily about 80 percent of my catch got spoiled. And
39 when it gets spoiled it's still edible, I mean, most
40 elders like to have (in Native) and things like that.
41 I like to eat it here, but a lot of people prize that
42 fish as fresh fish. And so I have to find a way to
43 keep the fish preserved. At the cabin if I'm going to
44 catch the way I did with my folks in the '60s, '70s,
45 '80s, '90s, it's just very difficult to do that these
46 days because the river doesn't freeze and flows with
47 ice and tears up nets nowadays when you used to be able
48 to put nets under the ice in mid September. And, you
49 know, it was common to get 90 sacks of whitefish and

50

1 then haul them in November and December all the way to
2 January we would be hauling fish to Barrow.

3

4 So that's one thing that's different.
5 My son did fish a little bit and the fish were still
6 good. I don't think there's nothing wrong with the
7 fish, it's just the climate that has impact our ability
8 to do that very well.

9

10 Our neighboring village in Wainwright,
11 you know, I see some posts about a lot of caribou in
12 the (indiscernible - distortion) and I'm seeing that we
13 don't have a representative from Wainwright onboard
14 right now, but I'm seeing that their caribou and
15 hunting is pretty good with the friends I have, with
16 some of their subsistence activities going on.

17

18 So with that I'm going to go ahead and
19 just see if there's any questions from anybody on my
20 own report and any of the Council members' report, Eva.

21

22 MR. OOMITTUK: Just for the record this
23 is Steve. I just wanted to add on something, you know,
24 on my report that you mentioned. And just so that we
25 have a lot of entities out there, you know, especially
26 with Fish and Game and everybody else listening, you
27 know, our subsistence way of life, you know, sometimes
28 we do catch abundance of fish, but and like you said
29 it's not for ourselves. Thanksgiving and Christmas, a
30 lot of our community members that fish, they give a lot
31 to Thanksgiving for the feast and also Christmas time
32 for the feast. And last two years there's been
33 abundance of fish from the river that are given out to
34 the community.

35

36 And, you know, every Thanksgiving we
37 gather in one place and share the abundance of food,
38 all our subsistence animals that are harvested are
39 shared on Thanksgiving day from caribou to fish,
40 muktuk, whale and meat and caribou soup, you name it,
41 seal, it's all about giving and sharing especially when
42 there's an abundance of food. So a lot of our food is
43 distributed amongst the community, especially to people
44 that aren't able to subsist anymore. A lot of our
45 elderly and handicapped and they are provided by a
46 younger generation.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). Steve
2 from (in Native). And that's right, the other aspect
3 of that is the sharing, you know. We will be
4 distributing our whale along with many captains in
5 Barrow. And we're going to do it different this year,
6 we're not going to be in churches, we're going to be at
7 (in Native) site and do open, outdoor distribution of
8 these food resources to the community like a drive-
9 through type just because of the sickness and the
10 hunker down that's going on. The captains up here are
11 challenged to try to keep people healthy and not spread
12 the covid-19 around. But equally the fish and the
13 caribou that are normally staples at Thanksgiving and
14 Christmas at churches to cook soups and stuff, those
15 will probably just be shared so they can cook them --
16 these things at home themselves.

17
18 And that's a big -- one thing that's
19 important to recognize is our culture would never be
20 where it's at today without the sharing and lifting up
21 of our communities, every family, so that they wouldn't
22 be going hungry. And I know there's a difference
23 between the State and the Federal government, the State
24 has a personal use and the Federal government has rural
25 subsistence priority. And I think there's some real
26 distinctions between approaches and how harvesting of
27 resources for communities, especially the way it's been
28 for thousands of years and to recognize it that way.

29
30 With that, I'll see if there's any
31 other questions before we move on to item eight.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So with that we're
36 going to go to item eight, service awards for Steve
37 Oomittuk's five year service award.

38
39 And, Eva, did you want to take the lead
40 on that.

41
42 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 This is Eva. And very pleased to honor Steve Oomittuk
44 of Point Hope with a five year service award for his
45 service on the North Slope Subsistence Regional
46 Advisory Council and representing the community of
47 Point Hope and the North Slope region. Steve is a
48 revered elder and knowledge holder and brings
49 tremendous knowledge, additional knowledge and a
50

1 lifetime of subsistence and community service to this
2 Council. And also an amazing teacher, sharing those
3 traditional knowledge and skills with the younger
4 generation in Point Hope.

5
6 And it has been a real honor to work
7 with you, Steve, and the Council is blessed to have you
8 and the region to serve the Council and subsistence
9 communities throughout the North Slope. And we do have
10 a plaque for you and wish we could have all met in
11 person to present you with that award. Hoping we might
12 be able to meet in person again for the winter or
13 spring meeting, but we will be mailing that plaque and
14 award to you in the mail in the meantime.

15
16 So thank you, Steve, and open it up to
17 other Council members to recognize Steve Oomittuk.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve, you got a
22 speech?

23
24 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. Well, I'm very
25 surprised and thankful. I really appreciate it. And,
26 you know, I'm -- I volunteer my time a lot and
27 subsistence is something I'm very close to and want to
28 ensure that our way of life continues into the next
29 generation and generations to come.

30
31 You know, our way of life has always
32 been very dear to me. You know, my grandparents, my
33 parents, their parents, you know, before we had a cash
34 economy way of life, you know, the gift of giving and
35 sharing in order for us to survive as a people and to
36 ensure that the animals that have fed us, clothed us,
37 sheltered us since time immemorial are protected and
38 continue in their natural migrations to continue
39 feeding us, you know, giving us that nutrition that we
40 need especially in the high Arctic. And, you know, the
41 cash economy way of life is a priority now, but we
42 still subsist because of the high cost of living and
43 the high cost of food and the food sources, you know,
44 ensuring that our food source is healthy.

45
46 Thank you. It's greatly appreciated
47 and a surprise. But I thank you, I'm honored to be
48 receiving this.

49
50

1 (In Native).

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native).
4 Congratulations, Steve. I think it's important to
5 recognize service and it is a community service that,
6 you know, we help to advise on the use of the resources
7 on the North Slope. And (in Native).

8

9 MR. OOMITTUK: (In Native).

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We hope you continue
12 to serve. At the same time we should try to advocate
13 for recruiting hunters and to let them recognize the
14 usefulness of working with the Federal regulations and
15 subsistence management and things like these that
16 affect our region and give lots of advice to those that
17 manage these lands about our current use. And also
18 encourage making sure that communities are represented
19 just like all you're doing, Steve.

20

21 With that I'm going to move onto item
22 nine unless there's any other Council members that want
23 to express the service awards to Steve.

24

25 MR. WILLIAMS: Many more, Steve. This
26 is from Earl and.....

27

28 MR. OOMITTUK: (In Native).

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So item
31 nine, public and tribal comments on nonagenda items
32 available each morning. So this is always an
33 opportunity for the public and/or for any tribe to
34 comment on nonagenda items each morning. And we extend
35 that to the public.

36

37 So is there any appearance request that
38 you know of there, Eva, or.....

39

40 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Mr. Chair
41 and Council. This is Eva. We did not get any specific
42 requests for comment this morning. Again we will have
43 ICAS on in the afternoon and they have other tribal
44 representatives joining us then.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MR. SCHAEFFER: Jack Schaeffer, Point
49 Hope.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Point Hope.

2

3 MR. SCHAEFFER: This is Jack Schaeffer,
4 Native Village of Point Hope. I've really -- I've
5 taken, you know, this Wildlife Department and
6 governmental function for granted as a leader over the
7 years. And then I finally got in back in last October
8 last year and became part of their Wildlife Department
9 there. And so I'm just now learning, you know, the
10 history in regards to, you know, what our -- what we
11 were doing before we had, you know, interference by
12 others, you know, by governing agencies and others, the
13 nuts. And so, you know, it's kind of looking at how
14 things were in dealing with our way.

15

16 A long time ago we had a lot of
17 renewable resources that we -- starvation really wasn't
18 really that imminent I guess. But there were locations
19 that, you know, had that scarcity, you know, as we grew
20 in population and grew in dealing with sustainability
21 and outgrew that sustainability in an area. You know,
22 we expanded and so we were able to communicate with
23 each other all the way to Greenland because of, you
24 know, all those, you know, thousands of years. And
25 then we were forced to go to school and we started to
26 gather together, you know, and establish these villages
27 that are here now. And it's funny looking at that even
28 then dealing with comparing the North Slope with the
29 Yup'iks for example and how congested and how many
30 villages they had around them versus us having to do
31 and when you put it on a map, it's -- you know, it's
32 interesting to see how that was done in regards to us
33 and everyone else, you know, in Alaska that went
34 through that.

35

36 That nonrenewable resources, we had a
37 lot of, you know, ocean and land animals and we were,
38 you know, full of pride and we always, you know, trade
39 with each other, you know, it's been time we would go
40 inland and trade our ocean food and stuff with inland
41 and, you know, we go together, you know, with that
42 relationship. And since that population and renewable
43 resources have declined it's become really difficult to
44 do that. And it still is a major goal because it's our
45 way and difficulty is not good. So, you know, we have
46 a ways to go for all these recoveries and expect that
47 respect in regards to allowing that to occur and
48 dealing with our caribou and fish and our ocean
49 resources availability, our food.

50

1 Anyway, you know, we watch how things
2 had gone over time and dealing with changes and
3 processes that, you know, may have caused some
4 difficulty for us and made things easier for others and
5 we never really were able to evaluate and look and see
6 these changes and practices that have gone on over the
7 past, you know, 150 years. And but that has been done,
8 I mean, I think the Trump Administration had done
9 something in regards to justification and performance
10 in looking at, you know, what they fund, the U.S.
11 government. And I found that really useful. At first
12 I was disappointed or offended and really didn't want
13 to be able to, but then, you know, it did provide some
14 clarity in regards to comangement arrangements and how
15 they worked or didn't work or what adjustments are
16 being made and what's being -- what's being discussed
17 or, you know, over time.

18
19 And so there were things that occurred during
20 this illness and one of them is the definition of and
21 fine-tuning of critical habitat and what type of
22 affects that it does have on us in regards to that
23 definition of habitat or use and other phrases that are
24 included with these definitions that they're trying to
25 define and fine-tune in regards to what is being
26 referred to as management. And I don't know which way
27 that is going, I don't know if I should be worried. I
28 am worried because there was no feedback that was
29 provided by anyone in the social media and so I'm
30 hoping that it's something that's good, but still that
31 worry is there. And so we weren't able to as a tribe
32 to provide feedback at -- you know, September 30th was
33 the deadline or September 4 was the deadline for that
34 definition per the Federal Register. And so I -- you
35 know, I didn't make any comment in regards to that
36 because I didn't get any feedback from the public and
37 so we have to deal with that. And I don't know if the
38 North Slope Borough have made any comments or have in
39 advice in regards to that that had taken place.

40
41 There was a pilot whale that was at
42 (indiscernible - distortion) dead and I, you know, or
43 our department at the Native Village is only part-time,
44 we get very little funding and haven't figured out how
45 to make adjustments in regards to budget justifications
46 and requests for our -- you know, for our better, you
47 know, way of performing that function. So I don't have
48 a vehicle and wasn't able to go down and I didn't know
49 a Wildlife representative for the North Slope or the
50

1 one that is available for, you know, any type of
2 research that takes place in wildlife management of the
3 North Slope Borough was having to be with his wife I
4 guess for lack of a better term, they're having their
5 first kid and so I guess that's always difficult. And
6 so he hasn't been around for a month and so we didn't
7 -- I didn't know that that had taken place. So I tried
8 to get ahold of them to see if he had followed through,
9 but they approached him and because of that one posting
10 of that whale which is kind of rare, black whale, and
11 so I don't know if anyone from the North Slope Borough
12 heard about it, saw it on that posting by one of our
13 members and sent someone down to get a sample. I don't
14 know what their process is or, you know, the
15 communication between the Wildlife at Native Village
16 and Wildlife at North Slope Borough really isn't there.
17 It's been somewhat difficult because of that virus and
18 we don't know when the doors are locked, when they're
19 not locked, when they're available, when they're not
20 available because of this hunker down thing, stay at
21 home thing. And so with that, you know, it's been
22 difficult.

23
24 And, you know, there's been a few
25 things that occurred on the Federal level, the
26 definition of habitat, the discussion of invasive
27 species and their plan to deal with it, the annual
28 planning of oil spill response in the ocean, you know,
29 it looks like the tribes have been left out of that in
30 dealing with the agreement between the U.S. Coast Guard
31 and the Alaska Department of Environmental
32 Conservation. And so if there's any tribal issues or
33 dealing with tribes goes to DCRA's Native liaison
34 offices and I found that really disturbing. At least
35 they're able to review it once a year, resign that
36 agreement and amend it if needed and that was a relief
37 to see. But I don't know what type of input is being
38 provided by others and what feelings in dealing with
39 these things that are occurring during this time and
40 the lack of feedback.

41
42 You know, the fish closures that we're
43 starting -- that we're seeing again in regards to the
44 lack of cooperation for lack of a better term in
45 dealing with commercial fishing and bycatch. And how
46 they're OD'ing on that and causing hardship for
47 villages up the rivers in other locations and seeing
48 the fear that there might be commercial fishing up here
49 if this is an area maturing, you know, where fish come
50

1 and grow, you know, from other regions, you know. And
2 if the -- we are the last area for that and if it's
3 exploited then, you know, how are we going to deal with
4 that because, you know, we like fish too and so it
5 goes.

6
7 Anyway communication's really important
8 and evaluation is something that's good to have occur
9 for those that are younger than us, to know what
10 happened over the past few generations and what
11 adjustments were made and what we need to do to get
12 back to our comfort living. And I do hope that we do
13 have more communication and more outreach and
14 understanding and getting back to that way of survival
15 since hardship is really starting to really materialize
16 now.

17
18 And so thank you for your time. I
19 really didn't know what to say and well, we're still
20 trying to put things together because, you know, we're
21 not getting any younger and those younger ones are full
22 of energy and they want to take over. And we need to
23 help as much as we can and so that history's so
24 important. And the -- if it's possible we really,
25 really would appreciate the recordings of all of the
26 Regional Advisory Council meetings that took place
27 since 1994. Our subsistence management employee for
28 the North Slope Borough is young and I mentioned who
29 our representatives were back in the '90s and what were
30 the viewpoints that they had. And had indicated that
31 that is available and it's not transcribed, but the
32 recordings are there and it's so important because it's
33 intellectual property for each village that have their
34 concerns and speak Inupiat as a result. And his
35 interest and was there and, you know, there are areas
36 that have boundary conflicts and we still need to
37 resolve those types of things and figure out how we're
38 going to make things work between us being tight in
39 between the North Slope Borough and the Northwest
40 Arctic Borough and those boundaries that were
41 established by the Department of Interior that split
42 Point Hope in half.

43
44 And so that's all I have. Sorry for
45 the run-ons.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). We
48 always encourage the tribes to speak on behalf of the
49 tribe and the people and that's why there's a spot
50

1 specifically labeled public and tribal comments on
2 nonagenda items so you're able to speak on the topics
3 that you bring as they are nonagenda items.

4

5 Thank you. (In Native) there, Jack.

6

7 Any other public and tribal comments.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, and
12 we're going to go down the line to old business. And
13 we have the 805(c) report information update from the
14 Council Coordinator and then the Regional Advisory
15 Council application processes that may be or have
16 changed in processing those.

17

18 So, Eva, Madame Coordinator.

19

20 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 This is Eva. And first I'll just give the Council a
22 real brief update on the current status of the
23 applications and nominations process for the Federal
24 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. So that process
25 does take a long time, it's about one year from
26 application, going through the interviews and the
27 Federal Subsistence Board then subsequently making
28 their recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior.
29 So this past year's applications to serve on all the
30 Regional Advisory Councils, including the North Slope
31 RAC, are now at the Secretary of the Interior's Office.
32 Typically appointments are made in December prior to
33 the next year's winter meeting cycle. They have been
34 delayed in the past couple years so we may not get them
35 until later in January, February or March, but we'll be
36 watching for those and we'll be notifying the Council
37 as soon as we do get those new appointments.

38

39 There are currently several vacancies
40 on the Council in the past couple years so appointments
41 have not been made to the Regional Advisory Councils by
42 the Secretary of the Interior, but we do have many good
43 applications in again for this year in hopes that all
44 will be appointed and to help fill those vacancies too
45 where we don't currently have communities represented.
46 So we'll have more news on that coming up this winter
47 when those appointments come in. And in the meantime
48 this is an annual process to reach out and encourage
49 applications to serve on the Council. So we're

50

1 starting the next round before we're able to finish the
2 first. So in your supplemental materials we had mailed
3 out the RAC application packets and we'll be reaching
4 out to all the communities in the region this fall to
5 encourage applications. Again to hopefully be able to
6 fill the current vacant seats and ensure that we have
7 representation from each of the eight communities in
8 the North Slope Region.

9
10 So thank you, Mr. Chair, if there's any
11 questions on that.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions to Eva
14 on the application process and you said the current
15 applications are with the Secretary of the Interior now
16 to review them. And one thing that caught my ear is
17 that on the Federal Subsistence Board also recommends
18 those applications and helps the Secretary of the
19 Interior to select which one the Board is comfortable
20 with, is that what I understood?

21
22 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 So in their summer work session the Federal Subsistence
24 Board reviews all the applicants and the interview
25 process and the -- essentially the narrative and the
26 write-up for each of the applicants, then in turn makes
27 recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior for
28 all the highly qualified applicants to serve on the
29 Council. Ultimately the final decision is made by the
30 Secretary of the Interior. And so that's where the
31 process is at right now. The final step is entirely at
32 the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior.

33
34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. So
37 is there any way to know if any representatives from
38 Wainwright, if any of their applications have made
39 their way to the Secretary or is that once they.....

40
41 MS. PATTON: Yes, the.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER:get past the
44 Federal Subsistence Board?

45
46 MS. PATTON: Yes, Mr. Chair. So we do
47 know that applicants were forwarded to the Secretary of
48 the Interior and so that's where they're at right now.
49 So the.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

2

3 MS. PATTON:the North Slope RAC
4 applicants and all 10 of the Regional Advisory Council
5 have been forwarded on to the Secretary of the
6 Interior's Office at this point. So we'll definitely
7 keep the Council posted as soon as we get notification
8 from the Secretary's Office. Earliest would be
9 December and again those appointments have come later
10 in January, February and even as late as March. So we
11 will definitely keep the Council posted once we get the
12 official notice from the Secretary's Office.

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. All
17 right. Any questions for Eva besides myself.

18

19 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, this is
20 Earl from Anaktuvuk.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Earl, from
23 Anaktuvuk.

24

25 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. I ask Eva about
26 -- is she going to inform the tribal council and city a
27 letter about, you know, that they're looking for
28 another person. And I'm just wondering if she wrote a
29 letter to them about that.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Earl. This is
34 -- this is Eva. For this next round I have not yet
35 written a letter directed specifically to each of the
36 community tribal and city councils. I will be doing
37 that this fall. The application period just opened and
38 we literally just got the applications back from the
39 printer just prior to the North Slope RAC meeting. So
40 I will be reaching out to them directly after this
41 meeting. The application period is open for quite some
42 time so it is open through February of 2021 so there's
43 plenty of time to reach out to folks and encourage
44 applications. Again it's good to have more than one
45 representative from a community where possible and that
46 way we have, you know, kind of an alternate and, you
47 know, additional voices on the Council. So even for
48 the communities where we do currently have
49 representation we still encourage additional

50

1 applicants.

2

3

4 So I'll be reaching out to Anaktuvuk
5 Pass this fall and I'll be sure to let folks know that
6 be aware too that you are the current Council
7 representative for Anaktuvuk Pass and we're very
8 pleased to have you on, Earl. And my apologies that we
9 have not been able to meet in person since you were
10 recently appointed. So we definitely hope to be able
11 to do that soon and welcome you in person and provide
12 that connection with the Council and hope we can do
13 that soon. So again welcome to Earl as our -- one of
14 our newer Council members and very pleased to have you
15 from Anaktuvuk Pass. And I'll stay in touch with you
16 too as I reach out to Anaktuvuk Pass so you're in the
17 loop there too as well, Earl.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. Thank you,
22 Chairman. Thank you. This is Earl.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). Any
25 other questions for Eva concerning the applications
26 process for the RAC.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Hearing
31 none I think that concludes item 10, old business.

32

33 Am I correct, Eva.

34

35 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. So
36 we do have the 805(c) report which you'll find on page
37 9 of your meeting books. And this is a report from the
38 Federal Subsistence Board to inform the Council of the
39 Board's actions at their recent April, 2020 meeting
40 where they took up the -- both the wildlife regulatory
41 proposals and also closure reviews. And I'll provide
42 an overview of that for the Council.

43

44 So section 805(c) of the Alaska
45 National Interest Lands Conservation Act provides that
46 the Board will accept the recommendations of the
47 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council regarding harvest
48 or take unless that recommendation is not supported by
49 substantial evidence; or two, the recommendation
50 violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife

1 conservation; or three, adopting the recommendation
2 would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence
3 needs. And so when -- and this is provided for under
4 title VIII of ANILCA, so when a Council's
5 recommendation is not adopted by the Board, the Board
6 is required by Secretarial regulations set forth in
7 ANILCA that they must provide a factual basis for the
8 reason for their decision to the Council.
9

10 And so that's what this report is, And
11 this year there were 54 proposals total submitted for
12 all of Alaska. And of the proposals that the Board
13 received that were relevant to the North Slope region,
14 primarily they were what are called crossover
15 proposals, so proposals for unit 23 which includes
16 Point Hope and North Slope has customary and
17 traditional use in those areas too. So and somewhere
18 also overlapping proposals addressing Western Arctic
19 caribou herd. So of the -- of the proposals that the
20 Board took up you'll find on page 12. There was one
21 proposal that the Board did not entirely align its
22 recommendation with the North Slope Subsistence
23 Regional Advisory Council. It was aligned with some of
24 the other Councils who had made recommendations through
25 unit 26 -- I'm sorry, unit 20 -- unit 23 and those --
26 and the proposal was WP20-43 which was requesting a
27 year round bull season for caribou in unit 23. And one
28 of the details that they were requesting was that a
29 calf harvest be permitted for caribou in unit 23. So
30 there were actually a set of our proposals and all of
31 them similar. And it was the calf harvest that the
32 Council was concerned about and had recommended to the
33 Board to not adopt that aspect of the proposal. And
34 again that was for Western Arctic caribou in unit 23.
35

36 And so this section 805 shall consider
37 the report and recommendations of the Regional Advisory
38 Councils concerning the taking of fish and wildlife on
39 public lands within their respective regions for
40 subsistence users. So the Secretary has delegated that
41 authority to the Federal Subsistence Board and the
42 Board is directed to defer to the Council's
43 recommendations. And again in these circumstances
44 where there's overlap between multiple councils or if
45 the Northwest Arctic, Western Interior and Seward
46 Peninsula Councils all made recommendations on this
47 proposal. So the Board did concur with some of the
48 other Councils, but did support the taking of calves
49 within unit 23. Then on page 14, the bottom of page 13
50

1 and on page 14 you'll find the Board's justification
2 for that action. And I can read that quickly as well
3 for the Council.
4

5 So the Board supports the position of
6 the Western Interior and Seward Peninsula Councils and
7 the Western Arctic caribou herd working group. The
8 Board supports a year round bull season for caribou in
9 unit 23 as this would increase harvest opportunity for
10 Federally-qualified subsistence users and may also grow
11 the Western Arctic caribou herd by reducing harvest
12 pressure on cows. While there has not -- while there
13 has been repeated testimony in the region that adult
14 bulls are not palatable during the rut, there has also
15 been testimony that the timing of the rut can be
16 variable and that young bulls may still be consumed
17 during this time. Further the Board understands
18 lifting prohibitions on calf harvest is a contentious
19 and complicated issue and the Board heard from both
20 sides of the issue from Regional Advisory Councils and
21 National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commissions.
22 Calf harvest is now legal under newly implemented State
23 regulations in unit 23 and the Board believes that
24 lifting the band on Federal lands makes sense to
25 streamline regulations and help reduce regulatory
26 complexity. The Board understands most people do not
27 target calves and calf harvest is thus expected to be
28 very low and should not affect the conservation of the
29 herd. This regulation will make it legal for hunters
30 to kill and retain calves that are clearly abandoned or
31 mortally wounded. People who are opposed to the taking
32 of calves can still conform to their cultural norms
33 regardless of this new regulation. And so that was the
34 Board's justification for adopting that component of
35 the proposal that the North Slope Council had objected
36 to.
37

38 Thank you, Mr. Chair. And if there's
39 any questions.
40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. Any
42 questions on that report.
43

44 (No comments)
45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none.....
47

48 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, this is
49 Steve.
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing one.

2

3 MR. OOMITTUK: Can you hear me?

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Go ahead,
6 Steve.

7

8 MR. OOMITTUK: You know, I -- we had an
9 informational meeting last week before the meeting.
10 And I had asked the -- who's all on the Federal
11 Subsistence Advisory Council and, you know, we have one
12 representative from the North Slope which is our Chair.
13 And, you know, when we make proposals or anything from
14 the North Slope Subsistence Advisory Council regarding
15 our food source, ensuring that it's stable for our
16 community. And still we're regulated even though the
17 low population with the caribou herds especially with
18 the Western Arctic caribou herd that drop by more than
19 half. And we had passed a resolution that stated that,
20 you know, no hunting by nonresidents or sport hunters
21 to hunt on Federal lands within the -- within the North
22 Slope, you know, and it was denied. And, you know,
23 we're -- we are trying to protect our food sources,
24 especially the caribou. And when you -- you know, when
25 you try to ensure that our way of life continues to the
26 next generation and you have other agencies that, you
27 know, say what we can do and what we cannot do, put
28 regulations on us. And then -- and then, you know,
29 they're always concerned about animals and they're
30 survival and not going extinct. But yet, you know,
31 they don't always agree with us. And they don't live
32 within our area, but they still make decisions on how
33 we can hunt, when we can hunt, where we can hunt, how
34 we can hunt, you know, how much can we get, who can
35 hunt there, who cannot hunt there, you know, and -- you
36 know, as tribal members, you know, we have a government
37 to government relationship, but, you know, we're still
38 governed by the State and, you know, our way of life,
39 you know, we want to ensure to the next generation our
40 food source that fed us for thousands of years, we want
41 to continue that life style, especially with the high
42 cost of living.

43

44 But thank you for that.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.

47

48 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Steve. This is
49 Eva, really appreciate that feedback and.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, sometimes, you
2 know, when we're not meeting in person and at the same
3 time we're kind of challenged to absorb material and
4 especially during the covid period here, it makes it
5 difficult to be more responsive and to look at these
6 documents in a way that would provide more expression
7 and concern about the responses. And just primarily
8 because I think we're like in our situation up here in
9 Barrow we're hunkered down and -- and trying to do
10 things that are difficult without -- in my own
11 situation I have a lot of things to juggle as a
12 director in the planning department here, but in my
13 ability to completely absorb the responses and stuff.
14 It's -- and then so I'm kind of trusting that these
15 responses, they're not detrimental to us and it's
16 important when you read the summary and summarize those
17 responses. In any event just thought I needed to
18 express that.

19
20 Any other questions to Eva on the
21 805(c) report information update.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Do we
26 want to go out -- down to new business.

27
28 I got a question, Eva. We're -- our
29 meetings are scheduled for today and tomorrow, is there
30 a cut off point for today or are we just going to go
31 until we can't take it anymore and then reconvene
32 tomorrow?

33
34 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
35 Council. Typically, you know, we meet roughly 9:00
36 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. And if the Council wishes because I
37 think there is plenty of time tomorrow as well so if
38 you want to break a little earlier later this afternoon
39 there should be time to conclude the agenda tomorrow as
40 well with ample time to not get too worn out with a
41 really, really long day.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I just wanted
44 to check and make sure the Council didn't get too worn
45 out. And just kind of information, you know, we're
46 gusting pretty good here. I could see again, looks
47 like some of the blowing snow went away, but boy the
48 waves are gigantic from my window. I'm pretty sure our
49 road between Barrow and Browerville is going to be
50

1 impacted today. And the only way around might be
2 through the damn road, but I'm not sure. It just looks
3 pretty big, gigantic whitecaps out there. But we might
4 be okay though because some of the edge has
5 accumulation of ice too that kind of -- that have
6 bunched up, but there is no floating ice right now,
7 it's just the ice that form on the beach itself. In
8 any event just thought I'd update on that.

9
10 So we're going to go down to new
11 business

12
13 What's the wish of the Council, you
14 guys want to continue and go through new business and
15 see how far we get before lunchtime?

16
17 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Wanda,
20 you want to say something?

21
22 MS. KIPPI: Yes, I'd prefer to continue
23 while we can.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Okay.
26 Under new business, fisheries closure review, OSM
27 Fisheries/Anthropology.

28
29 MS. VOORHEES: Yes. Hello, this is
30 Hannah Voorhees with OSM. Mr. Chair, members of the
31 Council, I'll be reviewing fisheries closure review 21-
32 04 with you today. This is a small system in Western
33 Interior and I'll explain more why it's being presented
34 at this meeting and I'll try to be brief and you can
35 always ask me for more information.

36
37 This closure review begins on page 16
38 of your book. And before I go further can you hear me?

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, we can hear
41 you.

42
43 MS. VOORHEES: Okay. Great. Before
44 presenting this closure review I just wanted to bring
45 your attention to the Board's closure review policy.
46 Bear with me while I go through this. If the Board
47 deems it necessary to close Federal public lands or
48 waters to subsistence users closures will be
49 periodically reviewed to determine whether the closure

1 is still warranted. When a closure is no longer needed
2 actions to remove it will be initiated as soon as
3 possible. And previously closure reviews would stop
4 with the Councils if the Council's recommendation was
5 to maintain the closure. However as of 2018 the
6 Council's recommendation will be forwarded to the Board
7 even if that recommendation is to maintain a closure.

8
9 As you listen to presentation of this
10 proposal please keep in mind that the Council can
11 recommend that the Federal Subsistence Board maintain
12 the closure, modify the closure or eliminate the
13 closure. And when the area under consideration is in
14 another region this Council can also take no action and
15 defer to the home region which in this case is Western
16 Interior.

17
18 This closure is being presented to you
19 because residents of the Yukon northern area which
20 includes the North Slope have a customary and
21 traditional use determination for freshwater species
22 other than salmon in the Yukon River drainage. Jim
23 River falls partly in Kanuti Refuge and partly on BLM
24 land. Jim River, including Prospect and Douglas Creeks
25 is closed to subsistence fishing for all species year
26 round. The same closure exists under State regulation.
27 However sportfishing is currently allowed under State
28 regulations. So therefore we have a situation in which
29 subsistence is not allowed while sportfishing is
30 allowed. This closure dates to 1992 and it was brought
31 over from State regulation at the beginning of the
32 Federal Subsistence Program and has not been reviewed
33 or modified since.

34
35 Jim River crosses and parallels the
36 Dalton Highway. We're talking about an area in --
37 centered in 24A, unit 24A. Coho, chum and chinook
38 salmon spawn in Jim River and the predominant resident
39 species include Arctic grayling, burbot, round
40 whitefish and slimy sculpin. Communities in the
41 vicinity of Jim River include Wiseman, Coldfoot,
42 Evansville and Bettles.

43
44 So I'll skip to the OSM preliminary
45 conclusion which is to modify the closure to allow the
46 use of rod and reel only for subsistence fishing by
47 Federally-qualified subsistence users. And the
48 justification is that currently this drainage is closed
49 to fishing by Federally-qualified subsistence users,
50

1 but remains open to other users which does not allow a
2 subsistence priority. This system should be opened to
3 limited subsistence harvest under rod and reel in order
4 to protect healthy populations in the system.

5
6 This proposal has already been
7 considered by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Eastern
8 Interior and Seward Peninsula RACs which deferred to
9 the home region of Western Interior. Western Interior
10 supported OSM's modification with an additional
11 modification to have a harvest and a possession limit
12 of 10 grayling a day rather than five which would be
13 the default mirrored sportfishing regulations in this
14 proposal if adopted as recommended by OSM.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 That concludes my presentation.

19
20 Please let me know if you have any
21 questions.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we're seeing this
28 because we have a C&T to the North Slope communities on
29 the Yukon River areas and that's why we see this?

30
31 MS. VOORHEES: That's correct. The way
32 the C&T determination was written, was analyzed and
33 written originally, residents of the Yukon northern
34 area which includes -- so this is the Federal
35 subsistence fishery area which includes the North Slope
36 has C&T that extends into areas of the Yukon River
37 drainage. So therefore any proposals that arise in
38 this area potentially because there's C&T for North
39 Slope communities, you know, they would have a say and
40 could -- you would have a say in considering the
41 outcome of these proposals.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any
44 questions.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
49 you. And that was Hannah, right?

50

1 MS. VOORHEES: That's right, Mr. Chair,
2 Hannah Voorhees with OSM.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. All right.
5 The crossover closure review. And is this an action
6 item on our part or just information?
7

8 MS. VOORHEES: This is an action item,
9 but you can decide to take no action and defer to the
10 home region if you would -- if you so choose. If you'd
11 like me to read the Western Interior, the home region's
12 outcome on this, I -- their decision on this I can read
13 that to you as well again.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. That
16 sounds appropriate. Let's go ahead and read the
17 Western Interior's reaction to that.

18
19 MS. VOORHEES: Western Interior
20 supported OSM's modification which was to modify the
21 closure to allow the use of rod and reel only for
22 subsistence fishing by Federally-qualified subsistence
23 users. But they did make an additional -- they did add
24 to this modification which is that instead of accepting
25 the five a day limit for harvest and possession of
26 grayling they increased the limit to 10 grayling a day
27 thus giving a subsistence priority over sport
28 regulations to Federally-qualified subsistence users.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of
31 the Council. We can defer any commenting to the
32 region's council, the Western Interior Council and
33 leave it at that.

34
35 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 You know, and this is something that I think we talked
37 about several times about jurisdiction and making
38 decisions on places that we've never been before on how
39 they hunt. You know, I would be concerned if someone
40 beyond the Brooks Range made decisions on our way of
41 life. You know, it just -- and then it shows you that,
42 you know, jurisdiction problems and how we deal with
43 things. And even though, you know -- you know, maybe
44 the migration of the caribou that goes further down
45 south and, you know, we're concerned, because the --
46 but in something like this, especially with fishing
47 within their territory or in the Yukon where we -- you
48 know, I just feel uncomfortable making any decisions on
49 this.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.
2 It's still an action item. We do have C&T because of
3 our trading practices and things like that that we have
4 a customary use determination in this area for the
5 North Slope region. That's how come we get to hear
6 that. And it sounds like we will simply defer to the
7 Western Interior Regional Council and leave it at that
8 and defer it and not comment on it.

9
10 But we need that in the form of a
11 motion I think.

12
13 MS. PATTON: And, Mr. Chair and
14 Council, if I may. As the Council is reviewing
15 proposals or closure reviews we usually have a public
16 process where we include everybody on the process. And
17 again you are correct that this is coming before the
18 Council because communities do have customary and
19 traditional use in a region and just ensures that the
20 Council and the communities do have an opportunity to
21 comment if they wish.

22
23 Just very briefly, Hannah Voorhees
24 already provided the other Regional Advisory Councils'
25 recommendations on the closure reviews. Just to let
26 the Council know that there were no tribal or ANCSA
27 comments on these closure reviews. And we hadn't
28 received any written recommendations, but we do give a
29 chance at this time if there's any agency comments from
30 the Federal, State or tribal participants that would
31 like to comment on this closure review.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 MS. PATTON: And hearing none again the
36 Council did receive the Regional Advisory Council
37 feedback on this and the other resource commissions and
38 SRCs did not provide any comments.

39
40 So thank you, Mr. Chair, that concludes
41 the full public process that we normally go over.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. That was
46 an action item on our part and it's -- we have to make
47 some sort of action and either we comment on it or we
48 defer to the comments to the Western Interior Council
49 who has direct use in that area.

50

1 What's the wish of the Council.

2

3 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair. I
4 would suggest -- make a motion that we have the Western
5 Council -- just defer to them as you stated.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
8 the floor to defer comment to the Western Interior
9 Council by Steve Oomittuk on the proposed -- proposal.
10 And that's -- do we need to do the proposal number
11 FCR21-04?

12

13 MS. PATTON: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
14 Chair. Yes, that's helpful to be clear on the record,
15 motion by Steve Oomittuk to defer closure review,
16 fisheries closure review 21-04 to defer to the Western
17 Interior Regional Advisory Council.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. There's a
22 motion on the floor.....

23

24 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER:from Point Hope.
27 Need a second.

28

29 MS. KIPPI: This is Wanda. Second the
30 motion.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any discussion. It's
33 been seconded by Atqasuk, Wanda.

34

35 MR. OOMITTUK: Question.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question's been
38 called for. All those in favor of deferring any
39 comments to the Western Interior Council for FCR21-04,
40 the closure, signify by saying aye.

41

42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
45 nay.

46

47 (No opposing votes)

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The ayes have it,

50

1 it's been deferred.

2

3 So we're now on another one, FCR21-07,
4 closure to Federally-qualified subsistence users from
5 the Yukon Drainage, Nome Creek, Arctic grayling.

6

7 Eva or is that Hannah.

8

9 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 Yes, Hannah Voorhees will be presenting this one as
11 well.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 This is Hannah Voorhees again. So this fisheries
17 closure review follows a similar -- it's a similar
18 situation to the one that we just -- you just
19 considered. And it begins on page 28 of your book.
20 Fisheries closure 21-07 deals with Nome Creek which is
21 a tributary of Beaver Creek. This is a small system in
22 the Eastern Interior, it's accessible by road and it's
23 closed to subsistence fishing for grayling year round.

24

25 Again the closure review is being
26 presented to you because North Slope residents have a
27 customary and traditional use determination for
28 freshwater species other than salmon in the Yukon River
29 drainage. And again this will be an even more
30 abbreviated presentation, but I'm happy to go into more
31 detail if needed.

32

33 Nome Creek is in the White Mountain
34 Special Recreation Management Area administered by BLM
35 about 50 miles north of Fairbanks. Under State
36 regulations the area is closed to subsistence fishing
37 year round -- I'm sorry, closed to subsistence fishing
38 because it is in the Fairbanks nonsubsistence area.
39 And it is -- yes, it is closed year round under State
40 regulations as well for subsistence. Sport fishing is
41 allowed year round, but all grayling must be released
42 so it's just a catch and release fishery for grayling.

43

44 I'm going to skip pretty quickly ahead
45 in this presentation. The OSM preliminary conclusion
46 is to maintain the status quo. The justification that
47 -- is that grayling are a species that are susceptible
48 to over exploitation, Nome Creek is road accessible
49 allowing for easy access and harvest of fish. Allowing

50

1 a subsistence harvest on these stocks has the potential
2 for local depletion or overharvest of stocks.

3
4 This proposal has already been
5 considered by YK-Delta -- I'm sorry, Yukon Kuskokwim
6 Delta and Western Interior RACs, both of which deferred
7 to the Eastern Interior Council which is the home
8 region. Eastern Interior modified the proposal to
9 close to all users. The Council's justification on
10 that was that there's a documented fish mortality
11 during catch and release and that allowing catch and
12 release is giving a priority, an opportunity to
13 sportfishers. The Council also mentioned that many
14 Native cultures consider catch and release to be
15 playing with food.

16
17 So that is the end of my presentation.
18 Again you can recommend that this closure be
19 eliminated, modified or maintained or you can defer to
20 the home region which is Eastern Interior who has
21 already made their decision.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, I have a
26 question.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

29
30 MR. OOMITTUK: I -- you know, here we
31 go again. I was just wondering, you know, do we have
32 any sort of comments on these areas of their
33 suggestions of -- you know, that we might want to
34 follow the leads from the tribes that are within these
35 areas so we can go with their decision.

36
37 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
38 Council. This is Eva. And I can walk through that
39 process again. You know, there's opportunity for
40 tribal consultation and public feedback. And I'll walk
41 through that process and then Hannah Voorhees can
42 provide the Council again with the other Regional
43 Advisory Councils' recommendation. And their
44 recommendations are made through public participation
45 and participation of the tribes in their region as
46 well. So their recommendations are informed by local
47 participation as well.

48
49 And so part of the public process for
50

1 any proposal, regulatory proposal or closure reviews in
2 this case, there is an opportunity for tribal
3 consultation and I had confirmation from Orville Lind
4 again that there was no tribal or ANCSA comments on the
5 -- on this closure review.

6
7 And we'll have an opportunity for any
8 tribal comments participating in this meeting at this
9 time?

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 MS. PATTON: And any comments from
14 Federal agencies participating in the meeting at this
15 time?

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 MS. PATTON: And any comments from
20 ADF&G participating in the meeting at this time?

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 MS. PATTON: And then we do have an
25 opportunity for any public comments participating in
26 the meeting, any comments or recommendations on the
27 fisheries closure review?

28
29 MR. SCHAEFFER: Point Hope.

30
31 MS. PATTON: Yes, go ahead.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Point Hope.

34
35 MR. SCHAEFFER: Does AFN play any role
36 in providing any comments. I tried looking on the
37 internet to see, you know, what their viewpoints are or
38 how far are they going in dealing with our subsistence
39 rights presently and it seemed to be difficult for them
40 based on Google. And so does -- is there an advocacy
41 group or AFN or a intertribal council, there used to be
42 a statewide intertribal council that may be on life
43 support system for lack of a better term and is not
44 that present. And so do they provide input?

45
46 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Jack, for that
47 question. This is Eva. While AFN does take up
48 subsistence issues and engage with the Federal
49 Subsistence Program, for these particular proposals

50

1 oftentimes AFN doesn't engage in the proposal review
2 process as a group. There is a tribal consultation
3 that's initiated with each tribe within the region
4 where the proposal is occurring and usually it's
5 individual tribes and regional Native organizations
6 that participate in the proposal review process both
7 through the tribal consultation which is held
8 separately and then also the public process that occurs
9 at the Regional Advisory Council meetings. And because
10 these particular proposals are pretty unique to both
11 the Eastern Interior region and the Western Interior
12 region, oftentimes it's tribes from those regions that
13 are participating and making their recommendations to
14 their local Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory
15 Council.

16
17 And again we do bring this before the
18 North Slope Council because of that customary and
19 traditional use on the Yukon River and tributaries.
20 But often we may not have tribes that specifically want
21 to comment if they're not directly engaged in the
22 fishery themselves.

23
24 So excellent question. Thank you,
25 Jack. And again usually it's local individual tribes
26 that are participating in the process or regional
27 Native organizations as well.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MR. SCHAEFFER: Thanks.

32
33 MS. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

36
37 MS. VOORHEES: Yes. Thank you. This
38 is Hannah Voorhees again. I just wanted to mention
39 that for the Yukon River drainage, the Yukon River
40 Intertribal Fish Commission and Yukon River Drainage
41 Fisheries Association both have jurisdiction and
42 consult on issues in this region.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Hannah.
47 You know, again, you know, the -- why we see it is
48 sometime way in the past there's a customary use and
49 determination made for North Slope communities in this

50

1 area and I think primarily based on the trade practices
2 that we enjoyed over millennia and that's why we get to
3 see these crossover proposals, just to think about
4 what's happening in that area and it's all very
5 informative. And but at the same time our requirement
6 is to look at it and to act because we have a C&T. I
7 think our practice has been for these kind of things
8 when there's a potential impact to the North Slope and
9 we either can readily see a impact and comment or we
10 defer to the area's Regional Advisory Council and defer
11 to their comments and leave it at that. And that's
12 always been a good neighborly way of saying, you know,
13 it's your jurisdiction and we're glad to take a look at
14 it and you'll have better judgment on how to deal with
15 the proposal from your neck of the woods.

16

17 And so it's an action item and again I
18 think the prudent thing to do is to defer to the
19 Regional Advisory Council in that jurisdiction which is
20 -- Hannah, is that the Western Interior again?

21

22 MS. VOORHEES: This is Eastern
23 Interior.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eastern Interior
26 Regional Advisory Council.

27

28 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Point Hope.

31

32 MR. OOMITTUK: With that said so moved.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Motion on the
35 floor to defer to the Eastern Regional Advisory
36 Council.

37

38 MR. OOMITTUK: And that was Steve.

39

40 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded.

43

43 Any discussion.

44

45 MR. OOMITTUK: Question.

46

47 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chair, Kaktovik.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Kaktovik.

50

1 MR. REXFORD: Who proposed the request,
2 what agency?
3
4 MS. PATTON: Sorry, but.....
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). I
7 couldn't barely hear and didn't understand.
8
9 MR. REXFORD: What agency.
10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did you have a
12 comment, Kaktovik.
13
14 MR. REXFORD: Yes, I don't know if you
15 can hear me.
16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I can hear you now.
18
19 MR. REXFORD: I was just wondering who
20 made the proposal request, what agency?
21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva or Hannah.
23
24 MS. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair and Council,
25 Mr. Rexford. So this is a fisheries closure review.
26 It's different from proposals in the sense that it was
27 not submitted by any entity, it just comes up for
28 review periodically as part of the Board's policy to
29 make sure that closures are not in place any longer
30 than necessary. So it's an internally motivated
31 process within OSM.
32
33 MR. REXFORD: All right. Thank you for
34 that clarification.
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So any
37 further questions.
38
39 MR. OOMITTUK: Question called for.
40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. The question's
42 been called for. All those in favor of deferring the
43 closure of FR -- FCR21-07 and referring to Eastern
44 Interior Regional Advisory Council signify by saying
45 aye.
46
47 IN UNISON: Aye.
48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
50

1 nay.

2

3

(No opposing votes)

4

5

CHAIRMAN BROWER: The ayes have it.

6

It's been deferred to the Eastern Interior.

7

8

Item B. 2022 Fisheries Resource

9

Monitoring Program, OSM. Is that Karen?

10

11

MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council

12

members, can you hear me, this is Karen Hyer with the

13

Office of Subsistence Management.

14

15

CHAIRMAN BROWER: You have the floor.

16

17

MS. HYER: Okay. Hannah and I are

18

going to be presenting the FRMP today. We're going to

19

start off by having two of our investigators talk a

20

little bit about their projects and where they are on

21

their projects. So I think.....

22

23

Beth, are you on the line, Beth Mikow?

24

25

MS. MIKOW: I am, yes.

26

27

MS. HYER: Okay. So we'll let Beth go

28

first and then Brendan Scanlon can go next.

29

30

So, Beth, why don't you tell us a

31

little bit about your work through the FRMP?

32

33

MS. MIKOW: Mr. Chair, members of the

34

Council. Again my name is Beth Mikow, I'm the Arctic

35

regional lead for the Subsistence Division with Fish

36

and Game. And we've had a three year, we're actually

37

in our fourth year, project on Meade River subsistence

38

fisheries and we've conducted research in Atqasuk and a

39

little bit in Barrow. And this project is to document

40

the continuing importance of subsistence fisheries on

41

the Meade River. We do harvest surveys in the

42

community, we're completed with that work. We did one

43

survey each year from 2017 to 2019 and basically those

44

surveys ask about harvest of different kinds of fish,

45

sharing patterns, timing of fish harvest and, you know,

46

also want to get at any comments or concerns that folks

47

have in the community. And another portion of the

48

project involves key respondent interviews with

49

knowledgeable fishers. And we've been able to conduct

50

1 quite a few interviews both in Atqasuk and a few in
2 Barrow for people who use the Meade River. Or
3 Utqiagvik, excuse me.
4

5 So the reason we wanted to update this
6 is existing fish harvest information in Atqasuk is more
7 than 10 years old. And if you have a three year
8 project you can kind of get at any differences that
9 might have happened, you know, in between those years
10 to kind of understand maybe what the baseline harvest
11 is.
12

13 So currently we've completed our
14 surveys like I mentioned and we've completed most of
15 our ethnographic interviews. We've also been able to
16 go fishing with folks which is a great part of this
17 project, just actually you learn a lot more, you know,
18 when you actually get out there with folks. So we were
19 able to do some fishing during the summer fishery and
20 last November, pre-covid, we were able to get out to
21 the community and do some under ice jigging which was
22 great.
23

24 At this point we -- you know, I had had
25 a trip planned for additional interview data
26 collection, but unfortunately like most of us our --
27 our lives changed quite a bit in March with the covid-
28 19 pandemic so I had to cancel the trip that I had
29 planned in April. And I really look forward to hearing
30 the results of this project as soon as we're able to
31 review it with the Atqasuk Tribal Council which I'm
32 hoping to do this fall and early winter. And the final
33 report for this project will be printed and distributed
34 June, 2021. And prior to that publication we want to
35 review the data with the Council to make sure that
36 there -- if there's anything that they see that doesn't
37 look right or things that we should include in the
38 report we're able to do that.
39

40 So with that, that's just a -- kind of
41 a brief rundown of the project and where we're at with
42 it. If there are any questions I'm happy to take them.
43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions.
45

46 (No comments)
47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have to type to the
49 mayor so.....
50

1 MS. KIPPI: Beth, it's Wanda.
2
3 MS. MIKOW: Hi, Wanda.
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER:I have to
6 type.....
7
8 Yeah, go ahead, Wanda.
9
10 MS. KIPPI: Hey, Beth.....
11
12 MS. MIKOW: Uh-huh.
13
14 MS. KIPPI:I have a question on
15 the fish that we're getting here, we just recently got
16 a sucker fish and another pike. Do you know what river
17 or lake or spring they're coming from?
18
19 MS. MIKOW: I actually do not know the
20 answer to that. I know that when I was doing
21 interviews some folks talked about sucker fish last
22 year.
23
24 I don't know if -- I don't know,
25 Brendan, if you have any information on where some of
26 those fish might be coming from.
27
28 MR. SCANLON: Hi, Beth, this is Brendan
29 Scanlon, was that question for me?
30
31 MS. MIKOW: Yeah.
32
33 MR. SCANLON: This is Brendan Scanlon
34 on the North Slope, the northwest area fish biologist
35 for Department of Fish and Game. And I'm afraid I have
36 no information on the Meade River at all. Sorry, I
37 can't help you.
38
39 MS. MIKOW: Oh, okay.
40
41 MR. SCANLON: At this -- you know, more
42 than I do.
43
44 MS. MIKOW: Gotcha. No, and it's been
45 interesting during the interviews some of the changes
46 that people have noted.
47
48 And, Wanda, yeah, the sucker fish I've
49 heard of before and the pike that's very interesting.
50

1 And I wish I had more information, but that's part of
2 the reason we want to, you know, document any changes
3 that people have seen so that we have that information
4 there. So maybe, you know, in the future there can be
5 more research on things like that. And so at this
6 point I guess it's kind of a fact finding situation,
7 but I wish I had more information at this point, but
8 we're definitely documenting that in the report.
9

10 MS. KIPPI: Okay. Thank you, Beth. I
11 hope in the future we could find out where they're
12 actually coming from.

13
14 All right. Thank you.

15
16 MS. MIKOW: Absolutely.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Were you talking
19 specifically about the sucker fish?

20
21 MS. KIPPI: Actually the -- both of
22 them were -- are they coming from the lake, the river,
23 a creek, I'm just curious where they're coming from.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Well, you
28 know, on Ikpikpuk River and that's the adjacent river,
29 there's the Meade River, then there's some other rivers
30 like (in Native) and then the Ikpikpuk and the Chit
31 that meet together there. We don't get them all the
32 time, but I've seen us get those, they look like little
33 sharks with a little sucker on the bottom, right,
34 that's what we're talking about?

35
36 MS. KIPPI: Yeah, they look something
37 like that.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Well, we've
40 always gotten those, you know, fall fishing or
41 something like that and especially during spawning
42 season. And but we know they're around, but there's
43 not many of them.

44
45 MS. KIPPI: I have a question.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anyway.....

48
49 MS. KIPPI:a sucker fish, is it a

50

1 freshwater fish or is it an ocean fish or both?

2

3 MR. SCANLON: Hi, this is Brendan again
4 with Fish and Game. They're strictly freshwater, those
5 suckers. They're pretty ubiquitous, they're found
6 pretty much all over the State except for southeast.

7

8 MS. KIPPI: Okay. Thank you.

9

10 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair, this is Earl,
11 Anaktuvuk.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
14 Anaktuvuk.

15

16 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I grew up with
17 that sucker and northern pike around my hometown back
18 in the day. Pikes are hardy and they're kind of lean
19 to eat, but we always eat the guts, clean the guts out
20 good and clean, they -- they're good for a fry and with
21 onions and sucker we eat those, we boil them. But if
22 you eat the -- eat inside the head of that sucker you
23 will find spoon, moose head, moose -- moose anchors and
24 bous, all kind of little necessities that got in their
25 head if -- it's kind of funny, but we grew -- we always
26 eat that sucker because it's like they -- they suck our
27 people out of. That's the way I grew up on it.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). That's
32 awesome. It's good to hear those kind of things. I
33 remember my mom always tell us stories when she's --
34 when they're eating the head and she's eating it and
35 taking it apart and then she's pulling out little
36 things from the head in -- in the stories. And it's
37 something she grew up with too I think.

38

39 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, everybody always
40 look for that -- there's a toy and they always look for
41 the bow -- I mean, the arrow, but they never find that
42 one yet.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We should
45 always have these little tiny stories on top of these
46 fisheries monitoring reports because we grew up with
47 that kind of stuff.

48

49 All right. Any other questions on the

50

1 2022 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program from OSM and
2 is that an action item or just informational.

3
4 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council
5 members, this is Karen Hyer again. It eventually will
6 be an action item. We're going to ask you to help us
7 develop a list of where our priority research should
8 be, but before we move into that Brendan Scanlon's on
9 the line too and he's going to talk a little bit about
10 his project in the area that was funded through this
11 program. And then when he's done Hannah Voorhees will
12 walk us through the priority information needs
13 selection.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Before we
18 do that it's about five minutes to noon. Did Council
19 want to take a lunch recess?

20
21 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chair.

22
23 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, Mr. Chair.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Eddie.....

26
27 MR. OOMITTUK:this is.....

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER:go ahead, Eddie.

30
31 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah.

32
33 MR. REXFORD: Yes.....

34
35 MR. OOMITTUK: This is Steve here.

36
37 MR. REXFORD: I think I.....

38
39 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, go ahead, Eddie.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, two guys were
42 talking. Let me go to Eddie first so that we're not
43 overlapping on the talking.

44
45 Eddie from Kaktovik.

46
47 MR. REXFORD: Yes, I just wanted to see
48 if we could defer the rest of the agenda until tomorrow
49 morning. I've got an important.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. We have one to
2 recess for the day and reconvene tomorrow.

3
4 And, Steve, you had something else from
5 Point Hope.

6
7 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. Do we have any
8 other action items other than that or -- I was just
9 wondering how long this presentation is going to take
10 because we just had a death in the village. I'd like
11 to be excused. I wasn't sure if there's any action
12 items.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I'll have to
15 go to the Coordinator on that. Do we have any
16 additional action items that while we have a quorum
17 that we need to take up. The community of Point Hope
18 is mourning the loss of a loved one as well. So.....

19
20 MR. SCANLON: Mr. Chairman, this is
21 Brendan Scanlon with the Department of Fish and Game.
22 I -- given the circumstances I can certainly wait until
23 tomorrow to continue.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm not exactly sure
26 if we might have a quorum tomorrow, but I think we were
27 talking about any action items. But I'm hopeful that
28 we'll have a quorum tomorrow. Let me just try to poll
29 the Council members, will we be able to meet tomorrow
30 morning at 9:00 o'clock if we recess until tomorrow and
31 reestablish quorum.

32
33 Maybe Kaktovik. Kaktovik will be able
34 to join us tomorrow morning.

35
36 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,
37 this is Eva. My call got dropped just as the Council
38 was beginning to discuss a break for lunch here. So I
39 missed the conversation where the Council is at now
40 with that discussion.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're discussing
43 whether to recess for the day. There's some concerns
44 about in Point Hope the loss of a loved one and also
45 Eddie Rexford has expressed maybe to leave this until
46 tomorrow and take up the rest of the agenda items
47 tomorrow.

48
49 And I'm getting some feedback now, I

50

1 mean, I -- I hear my voice twice when I'm talking.

2

3 MR. OOMITTUK: This is Point Hope. I
4 would be good with a recess until later on this
5 afternoon. I just need a -- if we can take a lunch
6 break if that's okay to like 2:00 o'clock and
7 reconvene.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
10 the floor to take a lunch break until 2:00 o'clock.

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12 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion, Atqasuk.

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14 MS. PATTON: And, Mr. Chair and
15 Council.

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17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Atqasuk.

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19 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
20 Just so I can confirm with Eddie Rexford.

21

22 So, Eddie, I understand you have a
23 critical meeting for your tribe and community this
24 afternoon. Were you saying you'd be able to rejoin the
25 Council tomorrow morning?

26

27 MR. REXFORD: That's correct.

28

29 MS. PATTON: We could -- we could defer
30 the action items for tomorrow morning and continue on
31 with agency reports this afternoon is one opportunity.
32 I know Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was on this
33 afternoon as well. We might be able to ensure you get
34 those reports tomorrow morning as well is something to
35 consider.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. So
40 if that's okay with Eddie we'll defer the action items
41 until tomorrow and continue with agency reports at 2:00
42 o'clock.

43

44 MR. REXFORD: I'd prefer the agency
45 reports tomorrow also.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

48

49 MR. REXFORD: I might have questions

50

1 for them.

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Thank you.

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And, Steve, if that's okay to recess
now until tomorrow morning at 9:00?

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MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, Mr. Chair. I will
make a motion to rescind my motion and motion to
convene until tomorrow morning at 9:00 o'clock.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Since there
was no final on that motion we'll let that other one
die and there's a motion on the floor to recess until
tomorrow morning at 9:00 by (in Native).

22

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24

MR. WILLIAMS: I second that. Earl
Williams.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by AKP, Earl
Williams. Any discussion.

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MR. OOMITTUK: Question. Question
called for.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
called for. All those in favor of recessing until
tomorrow morning for the Council signify by saying aye.

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IN UNISON: Aye.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
nay.

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(No opposing votes)

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We are in
recess until tomorrow morning at 9:00. So we can play
out.

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MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you, everybody.
Have a good day.

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MS. KIPPI: Thank you. And condolences

1 to Point Hope.

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MS. PATTON: Thank you, everyone. I'll send out an update email to everyone as well and we'll talk with the Council tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. Hopefully William will be able to join us then as well.

Thank you. Take care, everyone.

(Off record)

(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

