

NORTHWEST ARCTIC SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

TELECONFERENCE
November 3, 2020
9:00 a.m

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Kramer, Chairman
Enoch Shiedt, Chairman
Barbara Atoruk
Thomas Baker
Replogle Swan

Regional Council Coordinator, Zach Stevenson

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2
3 (Teleconference - 11/3/2020)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: This is Mike Kramer,
8 Chairman of the Rural Advisory Council for Alaska. I'm
9 hereby calling this meeting to order.
10
11 Madame Secretary, can you do roll call.
12
13 MS. ATORUK: Okay. Enoch Shiedt.
14
15 MR. SHIEDT: Here.
16
17 MS. ATORUK: Thomas Baker.
18
19 MR. BAKER: Here.
20
21 MS. ATORUK: Mike Kramer.
22
23 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Here.
24
25 MS. ATORUK: Raymond Lee, Jr.
26
27 (No comments)
28
29 MS. ATORUK: Reppi Sawn.
30
31 (No comments)
32
33 MS. ATORUK: Louie Commack at the
34 moment is in the ANMC Hospital so he's excused.
35
36 And myself. We have one, two, three,
37 four on line out of one, two, three, four, five, six,
38 out of seven. You have a quorum, Mr. Chair.
39
40 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Thank you. We'll go
41 ahead and start off our morning with an invocation or a
42 moment of silence. Do we have anybody on line to do an
43 invocation.
44
45 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair, can we do a
46 moment of silence, please.
47
48 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay, we'll do a
49 moment of silence starting now.
50

1 (Silence)
2
3 MS. ATORUK: Okay, thank you.
4
5 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay, everybody,
6 thank you. Good morning to everybody and hope you guys
7 had a great summer. I know that this summer's been --
8 summer and fall and early winter's been pretty
9 challenging to the state of Alaska. It's been very
10 challenging here in Northwest Alaska.
11
12 Right now we'll go with No. 4, welcome
13 and introductions.
14
15 This is Mike Kramer, Chairman of the
16 Rural Advisory Council for Northwest Alaska.
17
18 MS. LUKIN: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
19 Do you want us to just introduce ourselves. I can --
20 this is Maija Lukin, Superintendent at Western Arctic.
21 My Staff can go next if that's okay.
22
23 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Yes.
24
25 MR. FRONSTIN: This is Ramie Fronstin,
26 wildlife biologist, Western Arctic.
27
28 MS. FRONSTIN: Martha Fronstin, biology
29 technician, Western Arctic.
30
31 TROOPER CANTEEN: Trooper Steven
32 Canteen, Alaska Wildlife Troopers in Kotzebue.
33
34 MS. ATKINSON: Hi, this is Hannah
35 Atkinson, the cultural anthropologist for Western
36 Arctic National ParkLand.
37
38 MR. YOUNG: This is Justin Young,
39 archeologist with the National Park Service, Western
40 Arctic National ParkLand in Kotzebue.
41
42 MR. JOLY: Hello, Mr. Chairman. This
43 is Kyle Joly. I'm a Park Service biologist with Gates
44 of the Arctic National Park.
45
46 MS. OKADA: Hi, good morning. This is
47 Marcy Okada, subsistence coordinator for Gates of the
48 Arctic National Park and Preserve.
49
50

1 MR. SCHAEFFER: Good morning, this is
2 Damon Schaeffer with NANA.
3
4 MS. GEORGETTE: Good morning. This is
5 Susan Georgette. I'm the Refuge Manager at Selawik
6 National Wildlife Refuge with Fish and Wildlife
7 Service.
8
9 MR. REAM: Good morning. This is
10 Joshua Ream, the Regional Subsistence Program Manager
11 for the National Park Service out of Anchorage.
12
13 MS. NELSON: Good morning. This is
14 Christina Nelson. I'm the wildlife Refuge specialist
15 at Selawik National Wildlife Refuge up in Kotzebue.
16
17 REPORTER: I'm sorry, could you repeat
18 your name please.
19
20 MS. NELSON: Christina Nelson.
21
22 REPORTER: Thank you. Next.
23
24 MS. MAAS: This is Lisa Maas. Acting
25 Policy Coordinator and Wildlife Biologist with the
26 Office of Subsistence Management.
27
28 MR. GUSSE: Good morning, this is
29 Walker Gusse out of Anchorage with the Bureau of Land
30 Management.
31
32 MS. HYER: Good morning. This is Karen
33 Hyer, Fisheries Biologist with the Office of
34 Subsistence Management.
35
36 MR. LIND: (In Native) Good morning.
37 This is Orville Lind, Native Liaison for the Office of
38 Subsistence Management.
39
40 MS. VOORHEES: Good morning. This is
41 Hannah Voorhees, Anthropologist with Office of
42 Subsistence Management.
43
44 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning. George
45 Pappas, State Subsistence Liaison for the Office of
46 Subsistence Management.
47
48 MS. LAVINE: Good morning. Robbin
49 LaVine, Anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
50

1 Management.
2
3 MR. SPARKS: Good morning. Tom Sparks,
4 Bureau of Land Management, Nome Field Station.
5
6 MS. PETRIVELLI: Good morning. This is
7 Pat Petrivelli with BIA out of Anchorage.
8
9 MS. ATORUK: Good morning. This is Barb
10 Atoruk, Council member from Kiana.
11
12 MR. HANSEN: Good morning. Alex Hansen
13 here, Fish and Game, Caribou Biologist here in
14 Kotzebue.
15
16 MR. SHIEDT: Good morning, Attamuk from
17 Kotzebue.
18
19 MS. JOCHUM: Kim Jochum.
20
21 REPORTER: I'm sorry, can you say your
22 name, again, please.
23
24 MS. JOCHUM: Kim Jochum.
25
26 REPORTER: Thank you.
27
28 MS. ATORUK: Say your name again,
29 please, I didn't hear -- only garbling.
30
31 MS. JOCHUM: Okay, I'm not trying to --
32 okay, Kim is my first name, J-O-C-H-U-M is my last
33 name.
34
35 REPORTER: You're going to have to go
36 just a little bit slower. Go ahead, spell your name.
37
38 MS. JOCHUM: J-O-C-H-U-M.
39
40 REPORTER: Thank you.
41
42 MS. ATORUK: Jochum -- okay, never
43 mind.
44
45 CHRISTY: Good morning. This is
46 Christy (Indiscernible), Wildlife Biologist, Alaska
47 Department of Fish and Game, Kotzebue.
48
49 MR. CARTER: Good morning. Bill
50

1 Carter, Fish Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
2 Kotzebue.

3

4 MR. BURCH: Hello. This is Mark Burch
5 with the Department of Fish and Game in Palmer.

6

7 MS. HUGHES: Good morning. This is
8 Letty Hughes, Bering LandBridge National Preserve, Park
9 Service based in Nome.

10

11 MR. SCANLON: Morning. This is Brendan
12 Scanlon, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks.

13

14 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Anyone else.

15

16 MR. STEVENSON: This is Zach Stevenson
17 with the Office of Subsistence Management. In mid-
18 March I suffered a stroke which affected my speech a
19 little bit. Right now I'm in speech therapy. I've
20 been told to talk slow and to really enunciate so
21 people can understand me. If you can't understand me,
22 please let me know I won't be offended. It's my job to
23 serve and I want to be very clear with everybody so
24 please let me know if you can't understand me.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 Thank you for your support, you've been
29 awesome. I feel your love, I love you right back.

30

31 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Is there any more
32 introductions.

33

34 MS. ATORUK: I think we also have
35 Thomas Baker out there. I didn't hear him.

36

37 MR. BAKER: Hi. This is Thomas Baker,
38 RAC member for Kotzebue.

39

40 MS. ATORUK: Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Is there anyone else.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay.

47

48 MS. ATORUK: I think everyone has
49 signed in.

50

1 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay. Hearing none,
2 we'll go ahead and go into No. 5, review and adopt
3 agenda. So we'll take a few minutes to review the
4 agenda.

5
6 (Pause)

7
8 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

9
10 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Yes.

11
12 MS. ATORUK: In the future, please, No.
13 1, could we change that to moment of silence instead of
14 invocation.

15
16 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Yeah, we can do that.

17
18 MS. ATORUK: Okay. Would that be in a
19 motion form or is that just paperwork.

20
21 (Pause)

22
23 REPORTER: Paperwork.

24
25 MS. ATORUK: Okay, thank you. Today is
26 a voting day. I don't know why we set up a meeting
27 date on a voting day but on the cover of this booklet I
28 have November 4 and 5, but then in our past minutes of
29 this meeting we had set up our meeting for November 3
30 and 4. If we're asked any future meetings and then
31 this happens again, please have someone to remind us if
32 there's any holidays or any other stuff that needs to
33 be done by all, please remind us. This shouldn't have
34 happened, but it happened already so I'm just speaking
35 out.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MR. STEVENSON: Noted. Thank you very
40 much, Barb.

41
42 MS. LUKIN: Mr. Chair, this is Maija.

43
44 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Yeah, go ahead.

45
46 MS. LUKIN: Did you want a report from
47 Western Arctic National ParkLands, I don't see it in
48 here. And I'm not sure if the packet wasn't received,
49 but we do have a wildlife report and, et cetera.

50

1 MR. STEVENSON: Yes, please.
2
3 MS. LUKIN: We can go under.....
4
5 MR. STEVENSON: Yes, you're welcome to
6 share your report, thank you.
7
8 MS. ATORUK: There is a National Park
9 Service.
10
11 MS. LUKIN: Yeah. I do see that Gates
12 of the Arctic National Park and Preserve has a space, I
13 just wanted to know if you wanted one from Western
14 Arctic National ParkLand.
15
16 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Yes, we do.
17
18 MS. ATORUK: Yes, Ma'am.
19
20 MS. LUKIN: Okay.
21
22 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay. Has everybody
23 had enough time to go ahead and review and approve for
24 the agenda.
25
26 MR. SHIEDT: Okay, Mike, Attamuk here.
27 Maija, on No. 12, there's Park Service on No. 12, right
28 above Gates of the Arctic Preserve.
29
30 MS. LUKIN: Okay. I must have an older
31 agenda. I only see Gates of the Arctic and I know that
32 our packet was provided. I just want to make sure that
33 the RAC members have it.
34
35 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Actually from what I
36 see here we have two 11s, two 12s, and one 13, somebody
37 skipped a few things there.
38
39 (Laughter)
40
41 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Yeah, we'll go ahead
42 add National Park Service, Kotzebue right in under
43 Gates of the Arctic.
44
45 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair, George Pappas,
46 OSM. I do have one missing item here and that is
47 voting for officers. We need to elect some officers
48 for this go around. We didn't have it last meeting and
49 it's imperative that we get it done at this meeting.
50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 MS. ATORUK: Yes, Sir. Can we set that
4 up -- Mr. Chair, can we set that up on No. 11, or do we
5 need to put that under old business, election of
6 officers?

7

8 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Yeah. I'd leave it
9 up to the Board as to whether they want it under new
10 business or old business because I know it's been
11 tabled the last several meetings due to issues.

12

13 MS. ATORUK: Okay. I'll move that we
14 put it under 10 then under old business and get that
15 out of the way right away.

16

17 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay.

18

19 MS. ATORUK: Election of officers under
20 10, before .805(c).

21

22 MR. STEVENSON: Do we have a second.

23

24 MS. ATORUK: I think it's just an add
25 on, I just said moved.

26

27 MR. STEVENSON: All right.

28

29 MR. SHIEDT: I'll second it.

30

31 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Attamuk.

32

33 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: All those in favor.

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: That's three, aye,
38 four, need one more.

39

40 MR. STEVENSON: Any opposed.

41

42 MS. ATORUK: You have the majority.

43

44 REPORTER: Yep, you're good Mike.

45

46 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay.

47

48 MS. ATORUK: You're good.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: So the majority to
2 move election of officers under 10A and it's
3 unanimously passed. Is there any more additions or
4 reviews or any other add-ons we'd like to add on to the
5 agenda.

6
7 MS. ATORUK: I'll make a motion to
8 adopt the agenda as presented with additions.

9
10 MR. SHIEDT: I'll second with the way
11 it was revised. Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay, we have a
14 second. All those in favor.

15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17
18 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: That's three. That's
19 three.

20
21 MS. ATORUK: Yep, that's majority.

22
23 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay.

24
25 MS. ATORUK: I don't know where Thomas
26 is, Thomas are you there?

27
28 MR. BAKER: I voted aye if you can hear
29 me.

30
31 REPORTER: I got you Thomas.

32
33 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay.

34
35 MS. ATORUK: Okay, we didn't hear you,
36 sorry.

37
38 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay. So the agenda
39 has been reviewed and adopted with modifications.
40 That's No. 5. No. 6, we'll go ahead and go into review
41 and approve previous meeting minutes.

42
43 MS. ATORUK: I reviewed it and read it
44 so I make a motion to approve the minutes as read,
45 that's just for myself.

46
47 MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk here, I'll second
48 it.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay. We have a
2 second on the floor. All those in favor of adopting
3 the past meeting minutes say aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: That's four.
8 Unanimously voted to adopt the previous meeting
9 minutes.

10
11 Okay, reports, Council members. And
12 this is reports regarding, you know, your past hunting
13 season, this fall hunting season and everything else,
14 all your gatherings of subsistence resources within the
15 last -- between this meeting and the last meeting so
16 we'll go ahead and go with Barbara.

17
18 MS. ATORUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
19 this region this year, for the very first time in a
20 very long time caribou didn't come in. They didn't
21 cross the range. They stayed on the other side. Never
22 came on this side. Everybody waited, even the wolves
23 and the bears waited. They are trickling in now as we
24 speak just in small bunches, very small bunches. And
25 they are harvesting some and sharing some with the
26 people in the village, and that we are thankful for.

27
28 Fishing was good.

29
30 Salmon came in kind of late. They
31 didn't hit Kotzebue until later on in the month of July
32 or first week of August or something and then they came
33 up here -- they came up the river pretty late but we
34 harvested enough for our supplies. And the ice stayed
35 open, the river stayed open for until the first week of
36 October, I think. And then gillnets were still out
37 getting whitefish, started getting whitefish with eggs
38 and everything. And, yet, still after it froze they
39 set their nets out and still bringing us whitefish.

40
41 So we're very appreciative at the
42 moment, even if we didn't get our caribou. The hunters
43 started harvesting moose at the late -- last minute,
44 and shared with us some moose and that's what we are
45 living on right now, is moose.

46
47 Covid has hit us hard. But so far
48 Kiana just a few, but keep getting well, and I think
49 it's because of all our dietary food that we eat, heavy
50

1 on meat, vegetables and from off the land. I was able
2 to get some rhubarb from home, some blueberries,
3 cranberries and that I'm thankful for. I'm not a
4 picker, but I have enough to share and for my family
5 here in Kiana.

6
7 I think I wanted to say that if it
8 hadn't been for our way of being taught to share and
9 give and look out for each other, Covid would have been
10 harder, but then these people here, here in Kiana, or
11 any other regions that I've been following up on, know
12 how to share and give, and they know who needs, and
13 that's the strong part of our traditional values that
14 were taught to us, instilled to us by our forefathers
15 and our parents. So I'm thankful for that today. And
16 I'm good. I'm being good. Behaving. So you have a
17 nice day.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Thank you, Barbara.
22 Okay, Thomas Baker.

23
24 MR. BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If
25 everybody can hear me all right. It was a pretty lean
26 fall. I'm sure everybody can say the same. I can
27 probably count on one hand the people that I know that
28 were able to get any caribou this year. My family, we
29 didn't get anything up at our cabin on the NorthFork of
30 the Squirrel and no caribou, no moose, there was some
31 bear activity and tracks. A lot of outside outfitters
32 flying outside hunters to the north, what looked like
33 towards the headwaters of the Noatak and I believe
34 that's part of the reason why we had such a low year
35 for the caribou coming down.

36
37 Down here in Kotzebue we had a pretty
38 warm fall and as was mentioned, you know, not a very
39 good salmon run. I can't too many people that had a
40 very successful run. Some people made out good in a
41 few spots, and some didn't. Overall not too much
42 subsistence -- successful subsistence out of the
43 Kotzebue area from what I've seen.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Thank you, Thomas.

48
49 Attamuk.

50

1 MR. SHIEDT: Okay, good morning, all.
2 I'll start with oogruk time. It was different. We did
3 get oogruk, don't get me wrong, but the break up was
4 different, the ice was solid, it did not break up. A
5 couple of hunters got caught, because it was solid and
6 they tried to make it and they didn't make it out to
7 the other side and they got caught. It's a completely
8 different season starting from oogruk time. They get
9 their oogruk don't get me wrong, and we get it, but it
10 was scary out there. I never received so much calls on
11 asking what to do and I just say when you go out there
12 make sure there's water behind you, that way you could
13 always save yourself.

14
15 And our salmon was late, I mean big
16 time. The water was too warm, you could tell. And
17 there was a lot of -- I got a call from Point Hope
18 earlier and they said they were getting a lot of salmon
19 but they never come in until late, even our fall, when
20 they come in, even our commercial fishermen were
21 hurting this summer, big time due to the salmon not
22 coming in. It's one of those years where it's extra
23 lean.

24
25 Berries were scarce. Salmonberries and
26 blueberries here in Kotzebue area and Noatak, even at
27 my camp at Noatak.

28
29 And our fall, caribou did not come. We
30 spend about close to a month at Noatak camp and we saw
31 only one caribou but that caribou was running for his
32 poor life and it was coming towards from Sisolik not
33 from Aggie side, from my side of the cabin. I mean
34 when we hit the river he didn't even stop. So we know
35 he was being chased. And there was bears, there was a
36 lot of wolves and they're all hungry. When they do see
37 caribou, what I heard, they were going after them, even
38 wolves, and moose. I think for our caribou, I think we
39 need to meet with the RAC Council members because we're
40 being affected by, not the guides, but the transporters
41 and outfitters are putting game hunters right in the
42 path of our migration of the caribou. We need to meet
43 with North Slope and all the way to Nome area,
44 together, and try to find a plan together. Yes, I know
45 they have to go out, but the numbers are down on
46 caribous, is what I heard. But we need to meet
47 together and we're being affected big time from the
48 North Slope side, I'm pretty sure due to transporters
49 and outfitters dropping off hunters right on the path
50

1 of the migration. We even see helicopters at my camp
2 and going down and landing at Aggie, but due to that --
3 it was on the other side of the hill and planes landing
4 in the mountain and taking off. I mean that's how
5 desperate they were going, they told me there was about
6 5,000 caribou going through Aggie from Squirrel River
7 area and from the Flats coming from Noatak and we did
8 not see them, I think because they got migrated -- I
9 mean they got changed because the transporters were --
10 I mean they were landing in the mountains, like I say,
11 before. And who's suffering, we are. So what little
12 fish we get we try to share with everybody here in
13 Kotzebue. And we need that caribou for our diet.

14
15 And I think what we need to do, Mike,
16 is need to set up a meeting with North Slope and try to
17 work away transporters and outfitters and I think the
18 Park Service, Selawik, Noatak Preserve and the Monument
19 need to cut their limit of how many people could land
20 in our Parks. I think it could be done. And we, as
21 the Board members, could tell the Park Service and
22 Bering LandBridge and Selawik National Wildlife Refuge
23 to take the numbers down because we need this diet.
24 Caribou is our main diet.

25
26 And this is the first time I did not
27 see any sheep in my camp. I used to see sheep before
28 but this year, nothing. Nothing.

29
30 But earlier, I forgot there was a lot
31 of geese and stuff that's coming and so we get our
32 geese. But we are people in season diet, and when an
33 elder -- how many elders call me up. Attamuk if you get
34 caribou can you share with us, I would share, but not
35 this year, I'm not stingy, I didn't get any completely
36 myself.

37
38 Thank you all.

39
40 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: All right, thank you,
41 Attamuk. I guess I'll be doing the Chair report.

42
43 I know that at the beginning of spring,
44 goose hunting went well. A lot of birds came through.
45 Egg harvesting went pretty well.

46
47 Oogruks, yeah, it was kind of tough out
48 there, there was a lot of broken up ice. You know, it
49 covered most of the Bay. We lucked out and sneaked

50

1 through the Cape Krusenstern side and get on the
2 Espenberg side of the ice and we were pretty successful
3 there.

4
5 As for summer, you know, the harvesting
6 of fish, you know, salmon, from what I hear was pretty
7 poor. I know we had a very, very poor run. You know
8 it's kind of -- it'll be kind of interesting to see
9 what kind of a report they have. You know, I was
10 hearing from people that this is like a parent run,
11 like that one fall we had crazy abnormal warm
12 temperatures, warm waters and a lot of fish, you know,
13 didn't get to spawn, that they died on the side of the
14 river. You know, it's up and down the Kobuk and Noatak
15 River, and dead on the beach.

16
17 I did hear some people had some success
18 in the fall, they did pretty well.

19
20 A lot of birds came through. A lot of
21 birds appeared to be pretty healthy. I didn't see -- I
22 only seen one or two, or I was given a couple of
23 reports that one or two birds with something called,
24 rice belly, I'm not too sure.

25
26 And as for the caribou, it was a pretty
27 difficult fall. You know all these transporters.....

28
29 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Yes, so okay.....

32
33 MS. ATORUK: Excuse me, Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Go ahead.

36
37 MS. ATORUK: Mike.

38
39 REPORTER: So, Mike.

40
41 MS. ATORUK: Mike.

42
43 REPORTER: Your phone line.....

44
45 MR. SHIEDT: Mike, your phones got
46 heavy static.

47
48 MS. ATORUK: You got a lot of static on
49 your speaking, we can barely hear you, your phone line,
50

1 are you using a cell phone.

2

3 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Yes, that's the only
4 thing I have.

5

6 MS. ATORUK: There's a lot of static on
7 your line, we can't hear you. If you have a landline
8 phone that would even be better.

9

10 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: I don't have a
11 landline.

12

13 REPORTER: Okay, Mike, this is Tina.
14 So maybe you could hang up and redial in, sometimes
15 that helps. We'll just wait for you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay.

18

19 REPORTER: Okay, thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: I was already
22 disconnected a little bit ago but I'll go ahead and try
23 it again.

24

25 REPORTER: So I'm going to call the
26 operator right now also to see if she can single out
27 that line.

28

29 (Pause)

30

31 MR. SHIEDT: I could still hear that
32 static out there.

33

34 (Pause)

35

36 MR. SHIEDT: Now, it's clear finally.

37

38 REPORTER: Yeah, I think that was Mike's
39 phone so we'll just wait for him to get back on.

40

41 (Pause)

42

43 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay, this is Mike,
44 I'm back, how am I now.

45

46 MS. ATORUK: Awesome.

47

48 MR. SHIEDT: You sound like Mike now.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay.

2
3 (Laughter)

4
5 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: I'm not too sure, you
6 know, what all you guys heard of my report. I think I
7 stopped at caribou hunting.

8
9 REPORTER: Yes, that's where you left
10 off.

11
12 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay. Caribou
13 hunting here in Kotzebue, you know, the hunters that
14 went up were -- a lot of hunters that went up were
15 pretty unsuccessful. I know that Noatak did awesome.
16 But the question I have is, you know, all fall the
17 village of Noatak was harvesting caribou why didn't
18 they come through the Kobuk, you know, what's holding
19 them up back there in between the Noatak and Kobuk
20 River, I mean is it too warm, or are they just eating,
21 or just lounging around, I'm pretty sure Fish and Game
22 will have to come up with a good answer.

23
24 I know I've asked for a Commercial
25 Services report, very, very expect them to be done by
26 the time they come up to give their reports.

27
28 A lot of transporter activity, you
29 know, during this Covid time. I know that I tried to
30 put in a special action request to shut down hunting in
31 Northwest Alaska to non-rural residents, but that was
32 shot down by the Federal Subsistence Board stating that
33 it was beyond their control. And as for hunters coming
34 up here, there was a lot of discriminatory things
35 stated, you know, when they came into Kotzebue there
36 was a lot of disrespect towards the people, you know,
37 them being at the grocery stores with no masks and
38 everybody else in the store had masks, a lot of issues.
39 A lot of very, very serious issues. You know just
40 seeing all this stuff just makes me think that money
41 has more power over human life. You know and what
42 makes them essential. You know what makes these
43 hunters coming up here essential, essential travel, you
44 know, that's pretty ridiculous. You're talking about a
45 Native breed that is very susceptible to disease, as in
46 our past, these epidemics that we've overcome. I was
47 very much expecting that the Federal agencies and the
48 State agencies would have taken it upon themselves to
49 say, you know what let's protect the people that we
50

1 have here, let's protect this subsistence food
2 resource, let's consider food security as priority one
3 but instead it was money was priority one.

4
5 I'm pretty disgusted, you know, with
6 the decisions. I'm not happy at all. You know I'm
7 just not happy, sorry, but, you know, I have to say
8 that.

9
10 You know with the Covid numbers rising
11 and continuing and continuing to rise, you know, under
12 these circumstances, you know, we've already had
13 several deaths from people within the region and, you
14 know, the numbers are climbing and the big winter is
15 coming now, a lot of people are going to be piled up at
16 home, you know, and the virus is going to spread more
17 rapidly.

18
19 As for moose hunting, I see a lot of
20 people had success. I wasn't able to go out. I had
21 major eye surgery. And in May I was blessed with a
22 newborn baby boy. You know this fall I noticed a lot
23 of people having issues with wolves. I seen one post
24 where a lady was being stalked by a wolf, where her
25 boyfriend had to shoot it. I seen another one where
26 two black wolves were, you know, crouching up to a
27 person on the side of the river watching, looking for
28 caribou, luckily these people did notice them and their
29 actions were taken.

30
31 You know as for bears, I've heard a lot
32 of people have had run-ins with bears.

33
34 So another good thing and the very
35 coolest thing I've ever seen was the first time ever
36 the report of a stellar sea eagle up on the Noatak
37 River, a pair of them. You know that's something we
38 never see here and they were up in the Aggie country
39 and these are pretty big eagles. They looked like they
40 were doing fairly well, you know, we hope to welcome
41 them back again next fall.

42
43 It's been a pretty difficult year for
44 our region.

45
46 You know I have a lot of questions for,
47 you know, State Fish and Game, the caribou biologists
48 as to why the caribou stayed in between the Noatak
49 River and the Kobuk River because all fall the village
50

1 of Noatak had great success and I'm very pleased that
2 they had success.

3
4 I see that we have three vacant seats,
5 you know, and I pray that we have someone from Noatak,
6 you know, put in for -- a couple of people from Noatak
7 put in for our Council.

8
9 As for that, so far right now that's
10 about everything I have.

11
12 Is there any other comments.

13
14 MS. ATORUK: Well, I have a question,
15 Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Yeah, go ahead,
18 Barbara.

19
20 MS. ATORUK: I know you put in that
21 request to stop all hunters but then when I read that
22 thing it had -- it wasn't temporary, it was for 12
23 months, for a year, and I think that might have been
24 the part of that the Board looked at. If we're going
25 to do a temporary closure, please reach out to us too
26 first before you do that and then that way we have an
27 idea and give you some pointers in helping put in a
28 temporary closure, which would be sometimes three to
29 four months, is usually allowable, like from August to
30 December, or further than that, July on.

31
32 And then the other thing I'm -- since
33 you were talking about the permits, I'd like to know
34 who gave out those permits to have those transporters
35 go out and hunt up on the Squirrel or Noatak. And as I
36 read on FaceBook, and a lot of people don't like
37 FaceBook because of it, but then the Native people of
38 Kotzebue were speaking out, how they were being
39 treated. They were being called names by those
40 transporters that came in, verbally. And one of them
41 followed that person up at the airport directly, and
42 spoke to that person. Those are the kind of people
43 that you guys are bringing in as transporters, and we
44 need to know who's giving out the permits for those
45 transporters to be up here. We are just a very few
46 people here in this region, if that Covid should come
47 in, and it's coming in, more so now, we need to be
48 careful, we need to go out and protect our people, that
49 is so important, we have very, very few elders in this
50

1 region anymore, we have lots of our people, due to
2 other health issues, and some to Covid, so we need to
3 look into that, and that question is a big one, who's
4 giving out permits.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Thank you, Barb.
9 Just to let you know that when that special action
10 request was put in it was due -- it was put in by me,
11 personally, not as Chairman. If I would have
12 known.....

13

14 MS. ATORUK: Oh, okay.

15

16 CHAIRMAN KRAMER:during the
17 meeting, at our spring meeting, I probably would have
18 put it in then but, you know, at the time, you know,
19 Coronavirus wasn't that predominate here in the state
20 at that time, before that -- prior to that time, but
21 when I did put it in I wanted to protect the people of
22 Northwest Arctic and their food security and the
23 overall general health of the people here. And I put
24 that in personally so.

25

26 MS. ATORUK: Okay. Thank you. But
27 next time, I know there will be a next time, because
28 this needs to happen. If you have it come from the
29 Council it has a little bit more teeth.

30

31 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Yeah.

32

33 MS. ATORUK: And for Staff, our Staff
34 there at OSM are there to help us, word these special
35 actions, they will help us to find a way to help us
36 with any special actions that we request and put
37 forward. So we will be listening.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Thank you, Barbara.
42 Is there any further questions from the Council.

43

44 MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk here.

45

46 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Go ahead.

47

48 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, Barbara is right,
49 Mike. If you informed us ahead of time we would have

50

1 recommended maybe we should go this route or that
2 route, Barbara's right, we need to go through OSM,
3 that's their job to help us. Also, due to the way the
4 policy is being written here in Kotzebue, in and around
5 Kotzebue, for Kotzebue we have to go through the city
6 of Kotzebue for the people from out of town to come in
7 and the city, we have to, together as a team, we have
8 to approach the city, say if a transporter, if a hunter
9 come in, I mean, and the hunter come in, what we need
10 to do with city, we need to put a recommendation that
11 if they can go to their hunting site the same day, like
12 us, get a test and if they have it they'd be
13 quarantined for 14 days. I mean that's 'the only way we
14 could stop them from coming in. As Federal we can't do
15 anything, we have to go through the city. And the
16 villages have to go through the Northwest Arctic
17 Borough. I'm just saying that, that's what I've been
18 hearing, that's what I did, I called the Borough and I
19 called the city and that's what I was told. So we need
20 to do this the right way the next time. There's going
21 to be another next time, this looks like it's not going
22 to go away for awhile. So we need to do more research,
23 Mike, away from this meeting and do it.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Thank you, Attamuk.
28 Yeah, just to remind you guys I did this by myself, it
29 has my name, Michael Kramer, resident of Kotzebue.
30 Zach was helping me through the process, helping me to
31 write it up and helping me getting it ready to be
32 submitted, you know, we had back up, like the past
33 pandemics that we went through here in Northwest Arctic
34 and in the State of Alaska, you know, as a backbone. I
35 also had support letters from NANA.....

36

37 MR. STEVENSON: The Federal.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN KRAMER:and.....

40

41 MR. STEVENSON: The Federal -- yeah,
42 there was great support from the villages Northwest
43 Arctic was huge because they knew years ago were
44 affected by the Spanish flu and people died and that
45 memory was still very fresh in people's mind. That's
46 all I want to say, thank you, Mike.

47

48 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Thank you, Zach. We
49 also had tuberculous come through and take many lives

50

1 from this region. You know I had support letters from
2 NANA, Kotzebue IRA, Representative Lincoln out of
3 Juneau and I also had Donny Olson, Senator Donny Olson,
4 you know, who was willing to help, step in and help us
5 but by that time it was already shot down. Northwest
6 Arctic Borough at first was hesitant and I was called
7 to several of their meetings but, you know, the only
8 thing I can do is advise them that, you know, it was
9 shot down already, there was really nothing we could
10 do, you know, I mean when you got that much support
11 behind you and they shoot it down anyways that's just a
12 proven thing, money over human life.

13
14 But it's up to the Council, you know,
15 if you guys wanted to put another special action
16 request this early, we could put it under new business,
17 you know, for this coming fall for food security.

18
19 MR. STEVENSON: Actually, Mike, you
20 could put it in the annual report to the Board.

21
22 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Would the Board like
23 to put that in the annual report?

24
25 MS. ATORUK: Put it on the annual
26 report to request for a special action? To put it on
27 the annual report to request for a special action?

28
29 MR. SHIEDT: Mike, she's asking you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Yeah.

32
33 MS. ATORUK: To put it on the annual
34 report -- you know that would take awhile. If we just
35 do it directly and ask for a special action report be
36 written -- I mean a special action be taken and then we
37 can discuss that into saying how many months we want it
38 or how temporary we want it, ahead of time, we can get
39 it started now instead of putting it on the annual
40 report, because that annual report that we request,
41 Zach would have to write it up to answer us and then it
42 goes through the channels to get approved to see how it
43 will be written.

44
45 So if we ask for a special action we
46 need to do it now and then we just go from there.

47
48 MR. STEVENSON: Resubmit. So the
49 question is, does the Council want to resubmit?

50

1 REPORTER: I'm sorry, Zach, could you
2 repeat please.
3
4 MR. STEVENSON: My question for the
5 Council is does the Council wish to resubmit the
6 special action.
7
8 REPORTER: Thank you.
9
10 MS. ATORUK: I make a motion that we
11 resubmit or resubmit a new special action request that
12 the Council will do a special action to close,
13 temporarily close the fall hunting season for
14 transporters.
15
16 MR. STEVENSON: All right.
17
18 MS. ATORUK: Is there any other
19 additions, Council members.
20
21 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Is that for the fall
22 hunting season of 2021?
23
24 MS. ATORUK: Yes.
25
26 MR. SHIEDT: Yes.
27
28 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay, there's a
29 motion on the floor.
30
31 MR. SHIEDT: I'll second it. Attamuk.
32
33 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: There's a second.
34 All those.....
35
36 MR. STEVENSON: Any opposed.
37
38 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: in.....
39
40 REPORTER: Go ahead and call it again,
41 Mike, please take the vote.
42
43 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay. All those in
44 favor of resubmitting a special action request, all
45 those in favor with modification -- all those in favor
46 please say aye.
47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.
49
50

1 REPORTER: Thank you.
2
3 MS. MAAS: Mr. Chair.
4
5 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Go ahead.
6
7 MS. MAAS: Thanks. This is Lisa Maas
8 with OSM and I just would like to clarify a few things
9 on your special action request.
10
11 So Barbara said the transporters, do
12 you mean to all non-Federally-qualified users, or
13 specifically only transporters.
14
15 MS. ATORUK: We can do both. Can we do
16 both, in doing the transporters and the non-
17 Federally.....
18
19 MR. STEVENSON: Qualified users.
20
21 MS. ATORUK:qualified users.
22
23 MS. MAAS: Typically closures are to
24 all non-Federally-qualified users. I'm not sure if the
25 Federal Program is able to really differentiate between
26 non-Federally-qualified users, so I don't think they'd
27 be able to only close to transporters.
28
29 MS. ATORUK: Okay. So that would
30 include the non-Federally-subsistence hunters then,
31 right?
32
33 MS. MAAS: Correct, yeah, closures
34 under the Federal Program are just to all non-
35 Federally-qualified users.
36
37 MR. SHIEDT: Yes, that's the way it
38 would be.
39
40 MS. ATORUK: And then another question.
41 We have the State side, would we have to ask the
42 Advisory Committees on the State side to ask them to
43 join in on this special action or ask them to do one on
44 their own?
45
46 TROOPER CANTEEN: Trooper Canteen here,
47 Mr. Chairman, may I speak?
48
49 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay, go ahead,
50

1 Trooper Canteen.
2
3 TROOPER CANTEEN: Yes, sir, so is the
4 question being posed to the State whether or not it
5 would participate in a selective hunting season
6 closure?
7
8 MS. ATORUK: Yes, Sir.
9
10 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Barbara.
11
12 MS. ATORUK: Yes, Sir.
13
14 TROOPER CANTEEN: Okay. So from the
15 State side, Ma'am, the State does not differentiate
16 between zip codes when it comes to hunting closures.
17 So we have resident and non-resident hunts, but within
18 the State there's no discrimination made between a
19 resident of a community and somebody say from
20 Anchorage, if that makes sense.
21
22 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, that makes sense. I
23 understand that but what I'm talking about is Lower 48.
24 There are some hunters coming up under the State side.
25
26 TROOPER CANTEEN: Yes, Ma'am. So as to
27 that.....
28
29 MS. ATORUK: Local is all State of
30 Alaska hunters, and sometimes they are the problem too.
31
32 TROOPER CANTEEN: Okay. So I can't
33 speak to whether or not the State as a whole would move
34 that, from the Department, I only speak to enforcement.
35 But you could submit that then, if you wanted to
36 request a non-resident hunting season closure. That
37 could be submitted before the Board of Game.
38
39 MS. ATORUK: Okay. So if we do this
40 special action then, can we also submit it.....
41
42 TROOPER CANTEEN: Trooper Canteen,
43 Ma'am.
44
45 MS. ATORUK:to the Board of Game
46 or does it have to go through their Advisory Committee?
47
48 TROOPER CANTEEN: The proposal would
49 have to be submitted to the Board of Game, whether you
50

1 chose to do that through your Regional Advisory
2 Committee is -- I believe that's the normal channel.
3 But ultimately the proposal has to go before the Board
4 of Game which will then vote on it. And may I -- so
5 I'm not a Federal agent, but if I may speak before a
6 vote is made to the Federally-qualified subsistence
7 users, those go by community, so just to throw this out
8 there. If somebody has a cousin that grew up in
9 Kotzebue, that currently resides in Anchorage, they are
10 no longer a Federally-qualified subsistence user. So
11 if you do move to close a hunt to non-Federally-
12 qualified subsistence users, people that are
13 traditionally from this area, from the community but
14 have moved to say Anchorage or another non-Federally-
15 qualified subsistence community will not be eligible to
16 come up and hunt with you.

17

Just a thought.

18

19

20 MS. ATORUK: So can we leave that out
21 and then just.....

22

23

MR. STEVENSON: Barbara, the.....

24

25

26 MS. ATORUK:aim it towards the
transporters then?

27

28

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No.

29

30

31 MS. ATORUK: The local State
32 transporters that do come up here from the State --
within the State?

33

34

35 TROOPER CANTEEN: Is that question
36 being posed to the State or the Federal representative
here, Ma'am?

37

38

MS. ATORUK: To the State.

39

40

41 TROOPER CANTEEN: So for transporters,
42 the short answer is not really, you can't discriminate.
43 Again, the State doesn't make discrimination based on
44 zip code and the transporters, per state, they have
45 certain areas they can use but we don't have the same
46 permitting system that the Federal government does. So
47 transporter, whoever, let's say Transporter Smith comes
48 up, he does not have any requirements per the State to
49 get a permit to operate in a certain area whereas the
Federal -- the Park Service has a permitting system

50

1 that it provides -- it's required for transporters to
2 operate within the Park and the Preserve. So -- and I
3 know they've been involved in citing some people that
4 have not had that requisite permit in recent years.
5 But from the State side we don't have any such tool.

6
7 MS. ATORUK: Okay. So even if we
8 shared our special action with the State, they're not
9 going to do nothing about it unless it comes from their
10 Advisory Committee. They're just.....

11
12 TROOPER CANTEEN: So that would be
13 something you'd want to.....

14
15 MS. ATORUK:going to put it on
16 the side, that's how BOG works. But if we submit it to
17 our Federal Board they will look at it and discuss it.
18 I was just asking a question to see if we can involve
19 the State but then you guys have a different style for
20 hunters, maybe that's where the permits are coming in
21 from, from the State side.

22
23 TROOPER CANTEEN: The State doesn't
24 issue permits to transporters the way the Federal
25 government does, Ma'am, so we license but we don't
26 issue permits to operate on certain Parks and
27 Preserves. So the only permitting that is done up in
28 Unit 23, the hunting unit here we have, is done through
29 the Park Service, if I understand correctly and that is
30 for -- they have two different levels of permitting,
31 one is for the guides, and there are three guides that
32 operate in the Noatak National Preserve and then they
33 have a permitting system for the transporters as well
34 and that's strictly for operating within the Federal
35 lands that are here. So State lands, that permitting
36 is irrelevant.

37
38 MS. ATORUK: Okay, thank you. And.....

39
40 TROOPER CANTEEN: Yes, Ma'am.

41
42 MS. ATORUK:since everybody is
43 here on the Federal and State side, what kind of monies
44 are coming in from these hunts anyway, from the
45 transporters, what do they pay?

46
47 TROOPER CANTEEN: I will defer to the
48 Federal side.

49
50

1 MS. ATORUK: Is it thousands, I hear
2 the -- the last one I heard was like 10,000 for
3 whatever.
4
5 TROOPER CANTEEN: Do we have anybody
6 from -- Officer Doll.....
7
8 MS. LUKIN: Good afternoon, this is
9 Maija.
10
11 MS. ATORUK: So.....
12
13 REPORTER: Okay, hang on, hang on.
14 This is the reporter. So I need only one person to
15 talk at a time, so Barb asked a question and I think
16 Maija's going to give the answer, correct?
17
18 MS. ATORUK: Yes.
19
20 MS. LUKIN: Thank you.
21
22 REPORTER: Thank you. Go ahead, Maija.
23
24 MS. LUKIN: Thank you. So Trooper
25 Canteen is right we do have two separate permitting, I
26 guess opportunities for people who want to take people
27 out hunting in Noatak National Preserve, Cape
28 Krusenstern National Monument and Kobuk Valley National
29 Park. We have category 3 guides and we have three of
30 those. And then we have what's called transporters,
31 Big Game transporters and air taxis. And we give the
32 report every year on the air taxis and we give a
33 commercial use report every year to the RAC on both the
34 guides and transporters with the commercial use
35 authorization permits that we give out.
36
37 So I'm not sure, the question was what
38 monies that they bring in.
39
40 What the Park Service sees for the
41 commercial use authorizations is just about \$300 per
42 year, which is the permit cost for a commercial use
43 authorization. So you would apply for a permit and I
44 believe it's \$100. My computer is restarting, I
45 actually was looking it up really quickly. But it's
46 \$100 for the filing fee, I believe, and then \$200 for
47 the yearly fee and it could be backwards, it could be
48 200 for filing and 100 for the yearly fee. But -- so
49 what the Park Service sees is that. And then there's a
50

1 percentage paid afterwards, after the reports are due,
2 which is not until, I believe, November 15th, or the
3 end of November for the regulatory year. So the 2020
4 hunting year, the reports for the CUAs and the guides
5 are not due until November so we won't have that
6 information for this meeting, however we have the
7 information for 2019 year. And then we usually report
8 that in the spring. So we did report in the spring, I
9 believe reported in the spring, the commercial use
10 authorization for 2019, and if we didn't we're going to
11 do it today. So we're not seeing the numbers, you
12 know, the \$10,000 that you talked about.

13
14 MS. ATORUK: Okay. So that would go to
15 the transporter itself then for taking those people
16 out, he's just the one that has the permit to take them
17 out.

18
19 MS. LUKIN: Right. Yep.

20
21 MS. ATORUK: Okay.

22
23 MS. LUKIN: So they get a permit and
24 then they pay a certain fee. So for CUAs we only get
25 that fee, we only get the filing fee and the yearly fee
26 that it costs, and then for the guides we get a
27 percentage of their -- we get a percentage of their, I
28 guess, income that they make off of the permitted
29 guides.

30
31 MS. ATORUK: Okay. That's what I'm
32 after, that percentage that you get from the
33 transporters is quite a bit. And then would Park
34 Service be able to put their permits on hold, do we
35 need to go through the channels to request that you put
36 your permits on hold for at least one to two years,
37 during this Covid time that we need and then the
38 caribous didn't cross over here. I mean there were --
39 I just heard there was just lots of transporters that
40 just went up back and forth to Kotzebue, one plane load
41 like they were saying, there was about 20 hunters that
42 came in on one plane and that's one far too much. And
43 Park Service needs to hear this if they have the powers
44 to give out trans -- permits, they also have the powers
45 to hold back the permits and not give any out at all
46 for awhile.

47
48 I mean we are begging. We're not
49 asking, we're begging. The whole region didn't get
50

1 caribou this year except for Noatak and now they're
2 just trickling in for a little bit at a time and this
3 is what we live off of. We're not real heavy moose
4 meat eaters anymore but we are doing it that way right
5 now. I don't have one piece of fresh caribou meat in
6 my freezer this year. I gave all mine away since
7 August was coming up, to the people that needs some
8 here in town, the homeless with homes (ph) I give away
9 boxes and then this happened and I'm just a sitting
10 duck, but then that's okay, that's why I'm asking Park
11 Service to see if you guys would hold your permits off,
12 that wouldn't hurt you.

13

14 Thank you, Maija.

15

16 MS. LUKIN: You're welcome. I will
17 check -- I mean I will check into the possibility but I
18 will say that the only way that we can reduce the
19 amount of people coming in is for a full closure, so,
20 you know, when Trooper Canteen was talking earlier, the
21 full closure on Federal land would only be -- for the
22 Park Service anyway it would only be for the eastern
23 part of the Noatak National Preserve. The western part
24 of the Noatak Preserve is already closed for a certain
25 amount of time, and then we also have that closure
26 that's still in place, I believe the Squirrel drainage,
27 Aggie, and then the eastern part of -- I'm mean sorry
28 the western part of the Noatak Preserve. And then Cape
29 Krusenstern and Kobuk Valley are always closed for non-
30 Federally-qualified subsistence users there. We're
31 going to hear later on about customary and traditional
32 use, but Cape Krusenstern National Monument and Kobuk
33 Valley National Park are always closed to non-local
34 people, and by local I mean in our Unit 23 region.

35

36 MS. ATORUK: Okay. We'll discuss this
37 more later, thank you, Maija, and we'll just go on with
38 the meeting.

39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41

42 MR. SHIEDT: Maija, Attamuk.

43

44 MS. LUKIN: Hi.

45

46 MR. SHIEDT: Hi, could I ask you a
47 question, Maija, through the Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Go ahead.

50

1 MR. SHIEDT: Maija, how many
2 transporters are you allowing to the Noatak Preserve,
3 the Park Service?
4

5 MS. LUKIN: Let me get it. I just
6 restarted my computer since I couldn't get that open.
7

8 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Okay. My question
9 is this, you allow so many hunters to come in, if we
10 can close it, can we reduce your limit, even down by 50
11 percent? That way we could let transporters, somehow,
12 we're trying to find a way for them not to come in, but
13 Barbara, Maija, I think due to the caribou numbers are
14 down, we could close most of everything. If the
15 numbers are down for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
16 under the caribou management plan, there's a way for
17 transporters and outfitters and guides to be closed,
18 not to go in Unit 23. Look into that and I think it
19 could be done. I know they didn't do a count last year
20 but we heard the numbers are down, and last year when
21 they put the numbers up, they used the Teshekpuk Herd,
22 not just only the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. And
23 they will say hard to tell the difference. I could
24 tell the difference even when I get a call from Noatak
25 saying, Attamuk, these caribou are a little bit
26 different, I said, yeah, that's the Teshekpuk Herd, the
27 hair is a little bit darker and the legs are a little
28 bit shorter, almost like a reindeer but they don't
29 migrate like caribou, that's why their legs are like
30 that. That's what I was taught as an elder -- and from
31 the elders, because I've been -- since I was 9 I've
32 been hunting with elders and they teach me a lot.
33

34 And I will tell you that right now, I
35 think we could find a way but we need to go through the
36 city for transporters coming in and our limit.
37

38 Thank you.
39

40 MS. LUKIN: Okay, so you did have a
41 question, Attamuk, and I think Joe Dollemolle, our
42 District Ranger, can answer the question about how many
43 operators that we had for both transporters and guides
44 this year.
45

46 MS. LUKIN: Let's go back to the
47 meeting, we can do that later.
48

49 REPORTER: Okay, so where are we, is
50

1 Joe going to speak?
2
3 MS. LUKIN: That's up to the Chair.
4
5 REPORTER: Okay, Mike.
6
7 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Yes, I'm here.
8
9 REPORTER: So are we going to Joe?
10
11 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Yeah, let's go ahead
12 and go to Joe, but we need to make sure we keep point
13 of order. I believe we still have a motion on the
14 floor.
15
16 REPORTER: Correct.
17
18 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: And I did put it in
19 also for modification. We'll go ahead and go with Joe
20 and then I'll go ahead and speak after.
21
22 REPORTER: Great, okay.
23
24 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Go ahead, Joe.
25
26 RANGER DOLLEMOLLE: Thank you. This is
27 Joe Dollemolle, District Ranger with the National Park
28 Service. I'll be very brief since we can provide
29 further information and answer other questions about
30 some of these numbers and questions that are coming up.
31 But I believe one of Attamuk's questions was how many
32 transporters operated this year, we had four
33 transporters that operated this year and two out of the
34 three guides operated this year within Noatak. The
35 guides themselves are limited to 12 clients a year
36 each. So although we don't have numbers reported in
37 yet for this year, there would have been less than 24
38 clients in total for the guides that operated within
39 Noatak National Preserve. Transporters, I cannot speak
40 to that, those numbers at this time, we know that it
41 was less clients, less hunters were coming in via
42 transporters than last year, of course, because of the
43 pandemic, and last numbers, although I don't have
44 number of clients from last year specific to Noatak, I
45 do have number of caribou taken by all commercial means
46 in Noatak, so transporters and guides, 165 caribou in
47 total were taken out of Noatak.
48
49 MS. ATORUK: 165?
50

1 RANGER DOLLEMOLLE: 165 caribou were
2 taken by hunters that were transported into Noatak
3 National Preserve, either through transporters or
4 guides, and mostly that's transporters.

5
6 Yeah, I can't -- if I were to, you
7 know, guess a number you could probably increase the
8 amount of hunters that came in maybe by 100, I mean I'd
9 venture to say there were probably less than 300
10 hunters that came in and used transporter services last
11 year, but I don't have a breakdown of the numbers of
12 actual clients on those flights that came in. And we
13 can go into those statistics and that data a little bit
14 more during our report if you would like.

15
16 MS. ATORUK: Okay.

17
18 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay. Thank you,
19 Joe. One thing I don't see in here on our agenda is
20 our public safety section in there, where we'd have our
21 public safety officers, BLM, Fish and Wildlife, Park
22 Service, State, I don't see that in our agenda anywhere
23 so I wanted to see if we could also add that under
24 agency reports.

25
26 MS. MAAS: Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Yeah, go ahead, Lisa.

29
30 MS. MAAS: Yeah, thanks. Lisa, with
31 OSM. And just FYI, there are several clarifications
32 that are still needed with this special action in order
33 for it to be complete for OSM to understand your exact
34 rationale and time period so I don't know if you want
35 to address that now or later in the meeting, but if the
36 Council plans to submit it there's several other things
37 that need to be clarified.

38
39 MS. ATORUK: We can fix that up later.
40 I just suggested it and motioned it in so we can
41 started, and start thinking about it, and we'll discuss
42 it later on.

43
44 MS. MAAS: Okay, thank you.

45
46 MS. ATORUK: And you can note it
47 please, and we'll just go on from here maybe, Mr.
48 Chair.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay. Keep in mind
2 there still is a motion on the floor unless you guys
3 wanted to table it to either old business or new
4 business.

5
6 MS. ATORUK: You mean the special
7 action?

8
9 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Yes, your motion for
10 a special action.

11
12 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, I motioned it and
13 Attamuk seconded it and we can add it on under new
14 business and discuss it further. So from now until
15 then it happens, then the people that are to work with
16 us, with it, over it, about it, will be thinking about
17 it, if they have any questions to help us fix it,
18 please.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 And we need to vote on it.

23
24 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Do you want to do the
25 voting when that time comes up or do you want to go
26 ahead and -- because I still have modifications to add
27 to that also.

28
29 MS. ATORUK: I think we just need to
30 start with a new special action then we can use that
31 one that you had already there as a backboard, and use
32 some words from it to put into the new special action.
33 It's hard to try to do a special action, but it's
34 already there and try and modify it, it's better that
35 you start off with a brand new sheet and with all the
36 people that would be involved in the special action,
37 put their words in and then get them to approve and
38 edit it, that way it works better.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay. So from what
43 I'm understanding is you want to go ahead and table it
44 to 11D.

45
46 MS. ATORUK: Yes. Yes, Sir.

47
48 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay. Special action
49 request for 2021 will be added to 11D. As for Council
50

1 reports, is there any other Council member reports that
2 they'd like to put in, I already did my Chair and we're
3 done with that one.

4
5 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Go ahead, Barbara.

8
9 MS. ATORUK: We had a motion. I made a
10 motion, Attamuk seconded it, we need to vote on it
11 please.

12
13 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay. We'll go ahead
14 and do a roll call vote and keep in mind it is with
15 modifications.

16
17 MS. ATORUK: Okay.

18
19 MS. MAAS: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Yes, go ahead, Lisa.

22
23 MS. MAAS: I think it'd be useful for
24 the motion to be restated so everyone's clear on
25 exactly what they're voting on and like I said my
26 understanding is there's several additional
27 clarifications that need to be decided before it's a
28 complete special action request.

29
30 MS. ATORUK: I made a motion that we
31 will do a special action, a brand new special action,
32 we will need your help in writing it up, it will be
33 brand new. So I make a motion, it will be from the
34 bottom up.

35
36 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay, the motion's on
37 the floor.

38
39 MR. SHIEDT: All second it again with
40 the clarification.

41
42 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Attamuk seconds.
43 Okay, we're doing a roll call vote.

44
45 MS. ATORUK: Enoch Shiedt.

46
47 MR. SHIEDT: Yes.

48
49 MS. ATORUK: Thomas Baker.

50

1 MR. BAKER: Yes.
2
3 MS. ATORUK: Mike Kramer.
4
5 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Yes.
6
7 MS. ATORUK: And Barbara, yes. You
8 have the votes, Mr. Chair, it's approved.
9
10 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay. Unanimous vote
11 for a special action request 2021.....
12
13 MR. STEVENSON: Question. I have a
14 question for Lisa -- a question.
15
16 REPORTER: Go ahead, Zach.
17
18 MR. STEVENSON: Lisa, this is Zach, I
19 have a question for you, are you there?
20
21 MS. MAAS: Yep, go ahead.
22
23 MR. STEVENSON: Is it possible for you
24 to restate your clarifications for the record.
25
26 MS. MAAS: Yeah, so is it the intent of
27 the Council to take this special action up and hammer
28 out the details later on in the meeting?
29
30 MR. STEVENSON: Yes.
31
32 MS. MAAS: Yes.
33
34 MR. STEVENSON: On 11D.
35
36 MS. MAAS: Okay. All right, sounds
37 good. Yep, I'll be on standby.
38
39 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.
40
41 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay, Lisa, this is
42 Mike Kramer. Is there a possibility that we can either
43 send my personal special action request to each of the
44 Council members for their review and possibly we can,
45 you know, mirror a lot of the verbiage that is on
46 there, and I will have to go through.....
47
48 MS. ATORUK: Mike.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: and I'll have to
2 request letters of support from all the organizations
3 again to be mailed out.
4
5 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair.
6
7 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Yes, go ahead,
8 Barbara.
9
10 MS. ATORUK: We are doing a brand new
11 one.
12
13 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Yeah.
14
15 MS. ATORUK: We're just going to use
16 your special action as a backboard, just to look at it,
17 not to -- well, we'll do a brand new one, we'll work
18 together and start over.
19
20 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay.
21
22 MS. ATORUK: We have enough time, until
23 next fall, to work on this the whole winter and this
24 way, you know, it'll probably come up at our winter
25 meeting just to see where we're at with it and at the
26 time -- at that time, if there is anything that we need
27 to fix, we'll fix it again, to reword, so let's go
28 about it that way.
29
30 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay.
31
32 MR. STEVENSON: That sounds good.
33
34 MS. ATORUK: If everyone is in
35 agreement.
36
37 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay. So it's fully
38 supported by the Council members, unanimous vote.
39 Let's go ahead and go on to No. 8, service awards, it
40 doesn't say as to who's going to be doing that so we'll
41 go ahead and go into service awards.
42
43 MR. STEVENSON: Michael, I'll address
44 that if you're willing, today. We have two service
45 awards, for yourself, Mike Kramer, the Chair and for
46 member Louie Commack who's in the hospital.
47
48 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay. So there was
49 two service awards?
50

1 MR. STEVENSON: Yes, for you -- for you
2 and for Louie.

3
4 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay.

5
6 MR. STEVENSON: I'm bringing it up
7 right now, one minute please.

8
9 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair, this is George
10 Pappas. If you want to discuss those service awards, I
11 can present it to you. It'll be about a minute of text
12 here, Sir.

13
14 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay.

15
16 MR. PAPPAS: Okay. With your
17 permission. Mr. Chair, we have the service awards for
18 the Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council.

19
20 And the first one goes to Michael
21 Kramer. Mike Kramer, the Chair here. I would like to
22 present this 10 year service award to Michael Kramer of
23 Kotzebue. Since the meeting is via teleconference, we
24 will mail the actual award to you, however we would
25 like to recognize you at this meeting for your years of
26 service.

27
28 Mr. Kramer has lived a subsistence
29 lifestyle in the region for over 40 years and was first
30 appointed to the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional
31 Council in 2010. Mr. Kramer, I remember, I was there
32 when you became appointed for your first day. In his
33 time on the Council, Mr. Kramer has served as Vice
34 Chair and recently took on the role of Chair. Mr.
35 Kramer has also served on the Kotzebue Sound Fish and
36 Game Advisory Committee for the State of Alaska. Mr.
37 Kramer has served as a volunteer firefighter for 22
38 years, volunteering for such Search and Rescue for 20
39 years. Mr. Kramer grew up learning the traditional
40 subsistence practices from his grandparents, uncles,
41 aunts and parents, and once lived with his relatives at
42 a subsistence camp located in the Cape Krusenstern
43 National Monument where he learned to harvest and
44 process fish and wildlife. Mr. Kramer actively teaches
45 his children how to live a subsistence way of life and
46 mentors youth sharing traditional knowledge of hunting
47 and processing fish and wildlife. Mr. Kramer also has
48 experience working as an assistant hunting guide for
49 several years and has a good understanding of the
50

1 conflicts that are taking place between guides and
2 subsistence users. Mr. Kramer is very knowledgeable
3 and an actively contributing leader of the Council. We
4 want to thank him for his 10 years of service.

5

6 Now, I don't know how we're going to
7 clap on this, but everybody want to unmute and clap,
8 great.

9

10 (Applause)

11

12 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you very much, Sir.

13

14 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Thank you, everybody.

15

16 MR. PAPPAS: We have another service
17 award, that's for Louie. We would like to present this
18 five year award to Mr. Commack of Ambler. He has lived
19 in the NANA region his whole life as a subsistence
20 user. He hunts for moose, bear, caribou, water fowl,
21 fishes for salmon, whitefish and sheefish. Mr. Commack
22 has been involved with the Kilbuk Valley Subsistence
23 Resource Commission for over 30 years and has been the
24 Chair. He has served on the Gates of the Arctic
25 Subsistence Resource Commission for three to four
26 years, and was appointed to Northwest Arctic
27 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council in 2015. He also
28 served on the Upper Kobuk Advisory Council for the past
29 27 years. Mr. Commack is knowledgeable on the
30 subsistence resources and their use as well as fish and
31 game rules and regulations on the State-wide level as
32 well as the Federal level and contributes his knowledge
33 freely during the Council discussion of various issues.
34 We want to thank Mr. Commack for his five years of
35 service to the Council.

36

37 Thank you very much.

38

39 (Applause)

40

41 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair, I'd
42 like to turn it back over to you, Sir.

43

44 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: All right, thank you.
45 Thank you, everybody. It's been a pleasure. It's been
46 quite the rollercoaster over the past how many years,
47 hopefully the next 10 to 20 years is a little bit
48 easier.

49

50

1 Okay, with everything being said and
2 all the service awards done, Mr. Commack, hopefully
3 will get his and hopefully he'll be able to join us
4 sometime soon.

5
6 We're going to No. 9 public and tribal
7 comments on non-agenda items. And this is available
8 every morning. Do we have any public or tribal
9 comments.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Is there any public
14 or tribal comments.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Hearing none, we'll
19 go ahead and go to No. 10 old business.

20
21 Lisa, did you want to take up election
22 of officers right now or .805(c) report.

23
24 MS. MAAS: Yeah, that's a question for
25 Zach, but I think you guys decided to put the election
26 of officers first before the .805(c) report.

27
28 MR. STEVENSON: Yes, that's correct.

29
30 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay.

31
32 MR. STEVENSON: Yes.

33
34 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: So I'll go ahead and
35 go to old business. A, election of officers.

36
37 MR. STEVENSON: So we have the election
38 of Chair, Vice Chair first. Any nominations.

39
40 REPORTER: Any nominations for Chair.

41
42 MS. ATORUK: For Vice Chair is open?

43
44 REPORTER: Zach, are you going to do
45 Chair first?

46
47 MR. STEVENSON: Sure.

48
49 MS. ATORUK: Do the Chair first because

50

1 the Chair will take over if he is elected.
2
3 MR. STEVENSON: Yes.
4
5 REPORTER: Yes, let's start with Chair.
6
7 MR. STEVENSON: Yes. We have the
8 position of Chair on the floor, any nominations for
9 Chair. Any nominations for Chair.
10
11 REPORTER: Nominations for Chair.
12
13 MS. ATORUK: Okay, nomination's now
14 open for Chair. I'll make a motion to nominate Enoch
15 Shiedt.
16
17 MR. STEVENSON: Anyone else.
18
19 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Is there any more
20 nominations.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 MS. ATORUK: If there are none I
25 request a unanimous consent.
26
27 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay, we'll go
28 through a roll call vote.
29
30 MS. ATORUK: Unanimous consent. Oh,
31 okay, roll call vote.
32
33 Enoch Shiedt.
34
35 MR. SHIEDT: Yes.
36
37 MS. ATORUK: Thomas Baker.
38
39 MR. BAKER: Yes.
40
41 MS. ATORUK: Mike.
42
43 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Yes.
44
45 MS. ATORUK: And Barbara, yes. We have
46 a new Chair, Mike, Enoch Shiedt.
47
48 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay. And will he be
49 taking over now or do you want me to finish through the
50

1 elections.
2
3 MS. ATORUK: He takes over and then we
4 vote for a Vice Chair.
5
6 CHAIRMAN KRAMER: Okay, Attamuk, the
7 floor is yours. Thank you, everybody.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, wow, thank you
10 all for your nomination and being elected as Chair. We
11 need a Vice Chair. I open the floor.
12
13 MS. ATORUK: For Mike. I make a motion
14 to nominate Mike Kramer for Vice Chair and make a
15 request to make that unanimous consent.
16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I second that.
18
19 MS. ATORUK: So do you want me to do a
20 roll call vote.
21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Please.
23
24 MS. ATORUK: Enoch Shiedt.
25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.
27
28 MS. ATORUK: Thomas Baker.
29
30 MR. BAKER: Yes.
31
32 MS. ATORUK: Mike Kramer.
33
34 MR. KRAMER: Yes.
35
36 MS. ATORUK: And me, Barb, yes. We
37 have a new Vice Chair, Mr. Kramer. Thank you.
38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Is there any more on
40 the election, do we need a Secretary and Treasurer.
41
42 REPORTER: Yes, you need a Secretary.
43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, just a
45 Secretary, I think.
46
47 REPORTER: Yes, a Secretary.
48
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I don't have it on my
50

1 agenda here for secretary, do we need to have election
2 on Secretary.
3
4 MS. ATORUK: Yes, you do.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, I don't have it
7 on my agenda here, okay. So the floor is now open for
8 a Secretary. I nominate Barbara Atoruk.
9
10 MR. BAKER: I second that.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone else.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We'll have an
17 election -- or verbal for Barbara's nomination.
18
19 MS. ATORUK: A roll call vote.
20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, okay, for the
22 roll call vote, go ahead Barbara call it.
23
24 MS. ATORUK: Enoch Shiedt.
25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.
27
28 MS. ATORUK: Thomas Baker.
29
30 MR. BAKER: Yes.
31
32 MS. ATORUK: Mike Kramer.
33
34 MR. KRAMER: Yes.
35
36 MS. ATORUK: And, me, yes. Thank you,
37 I'll be your Secretary/Treasurer. My term is up as of
38 the 21st so I don't know if I'm going to reapply or not
39 but I'll be.....
40
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, you are going to
42 reapply.
43
44 MS. ATORUK:your Secretary for a
45 month. Thanks.
46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, okay. Now,
48 we're -- update me, where are we at on the agenda, old
49 business.
50

1 MR. STEVENSON: No. 9. No. 9. Public
2 and tribal comments on non-agenda items.
3
4 REPORTER: So actually we're on old
5 business, second item.
6
7 MS. ATORUK: You're under old business
8 10, .805(c) report.
9
10 REPORTER: Correct.
11
12 MS. ATORUK: Thank you.
13
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Whoever is
15 going to give a report on it please give the report and
16 say your name.
17
18 REPORTER: Okay, wait a second before
19 you start, whoever's giving the .805(c) report. I
20 don't know if this is you, Enoch, but if you have your
21 TV on, could you lower it a little bit because since
22 you took over I can now hear the TV.
23
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Oh, yeah, yeah, I
25 forgot.
26
27 REPORTER: Yeah. Okay, thank you.
28
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah.
30
31 REPORTER: Okay, so whoever's doing the
32 .805(c), it's your turn.
33
34 MR. PAPPAS: Hey, Zach, I have it right
35 here if you'd like me to do it, would you like me to
36 present it. This is George Pappas, present the .805(c)
37 report.
38
39 MR. STEVENSON: Go ahead George. Go
40 ahead George.
41
42 MR. PAPPAS: Okay. So this is George
43 Pappas, OSM. We have the .805(c) report presentation.
44 The Federal Subsistence Board .805(c) report could be
45 found on Page 8 of the Council meeting materials book.
46
47 The Board prepares .805(c) reports to
48 the Councils on an annual basis following the Board's
49 regulatory public meeting during which the Board
50

1 deliberates and takes action on the wildlife and
2 fisheries proposals and closure reviews.

3

4 The Board considers the Council's
5 reports and recommendations in making its decisions on
6 proposals and closure reviews. If the Council's
7 recommendations are not adopted by the Board, ANILCA,
8 Section .805(c) requires the Board to set forth factual
9 basis and reasons for these decisions.

10

11 In 2020 the Board agreed with the
12 Council's recommendation in whole or with modifications
13 on 48 of the 54 submitted proposals. Furthermore, the
14 Board accepted recommendations of the Councils on all
15 17 wildlife closure reviews, voting to maintain the
16 status quo of 13 of them.

17

18 Directly concerning the Northwest
19 Arctic region, the Board deferred the Council's
20 recommendations on four out of the four proposals
21 affecting the region. The Board rejected the statewide
22 proposal WP20-08 requiring traps and snares to be
23 marked with names or stated identifying numbers. As
24 for the remaining proposals affecting the region, the
25 Board took action somewhat consistent with the
26 Council's recommendations. The Board adopted the OSM
27 modification of WP20-47 to eliminate the cow moose
28 season in Unit 23. The Board further modified 20-47 by
29 deleting the State permit requirement. The Board
30 adopted WP20-46 to provide a year-round bull caribou
31 season and cow -- excuse me -- allow calf harvest in
32 23. The Board took no action on WP20-43, 44 and 45.
33 The Board action on wildlife closure review for the
34 region were also consistent with the Council's
35 recommendations. The Board adopted to maintain the
36 status quo for Wildlife Closure Review WCR20-19, which
37 reviewed the muskox hunting closure in Unit 23 south of
38 Kotzebue Sound and west -- and including the Buckland
39 River drainage, except by Federally-qualified
40 subsistence users. And identifying issues for the FY20
41 -- oh, excuse me, that's all I have for the .805(c)
42 report.

43

44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45

46 Turning it back to you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Any
49 questions for him from the Board.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, let me go
4 back to the agenda, I'm on Page 8. Okay, under 11, new
5 business 2012 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
6 OSM. Who's going to speak on it.

7

8 MR. STEVENSON: Karen Hyer. Karen Hyer
9 will speak to the issue.

10

11 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council
12 members, can you hear me.

13

14 MS. ATORUK: Yes.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.

17

18 MS. HYER: Okay. My name is Karen
19 Hyer, and I'm a fisheries biologist with the Office of
20 Subsistence Management and I'm going to be speaking on
21 this today and Hannah Voorhees, and she's an
22 anthropologist with OSM and I'm going to review the
23 FRMP Program with you and then Hannah is going to join
24 us for the discussion of developing the priority
25 information needs.

26

27 But before we begin that discussion I
28 want to just highlight the whole process for you
29 because it's a long process and I just want to kind of
30 remind you where we are in it.

31

32 So every two years, the Office of
33 Subsistence Management announces an opportunity for
34 researchers to apply for money to fund fisheries
35 research and management projects that address data
36 gaps. This announcement is called the Notice of
37 Funding Opportunity, or as we say at OSM, we call it
38 the NOFO. The researchers interested in submitting
39 projects will look at the priorities identified by your
40 Council, these priorities will inform investigators of
41 what data gaps the Council thinks are important and
42 these data gaps then guide the money spent on fisheries
43 research in your region. This is very important,
44 because your input guides the program. So a list of
45 research priorities that we will develop today will be
46 combined with the research priorities developed by the
47 Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council and the
48 North Slope Regional Advisory Council. This combined
49 list will be called the 2022 Priority Information Needs

50

1 for Northern Alaska and it will highlight the data gaps
2 identified by the three Regional Councils. This will
3 be included in the 2022 notice of funding opportunity,
4 or NOFO that we are going to publish in November.

5
6 And since it's a long process, this
7 money will -- or the priority information need list
8 will guide the research that begins in 2022. So the
9 process is long and the projects are a little bit out
10 but we're at the very beginning of the development of
11 the priority information needs.

12
13 So the NOFO will go out in November and
14 then investigators will have a chance to develop their
15 proposals and the deadline for these proposals will be
16 in March. So in March, or before, the investigators
17 will submit proposals to us at the Office of
18 Subsistence Management. And then once these proposals
19 have been gathered by the Office of Subsistence
20 Management they will go to our Technical Review
21 Committee and be evaluated on five criteria.

22
23 And the criteria that they're evaluated
24 on is strategic priority; technically scientific merit;
25 investigators ability in research -- ability and
26 resources; partnership capacity building; and cost
27 benefit.

28
29 Then during the winter 2021 Council
30 meeting you will be presented with the same list of
31 proposed projects that went to the TRC. And during
32 that meeting your Council will be given an opportunity
33 to comment on each project. The Technical Review
34 Committee's evaluation and your comments will then be
35 combined and presented to the Federal Subsistence Board
36 who will make a recommendation on which projects to
37 fund. Then these projects will begin operation in
38 2022.

39
40 So since the beginning of the Fisheries
41 Resource Monitoring Program and this process, a total
42 of 54 projects have been funded in Northern Alaska.
43 And you can see these projects on your meeting list on
44 Page 11 and 12 of your meeting book. And so that is
45 hat has been done in the past. And now we're going to
46 move forward with what we want to do in the future.

47
48 And so before we begin talking about
49 these priority information needs, I just want to take a
50

1 moment and ask the Council if they have any questions
2 about the process.
3
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone have a
5 question.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, go ahead.
10
11 MS. ATORUK: I have a question.
12
13 MS. HYER: Absolutely.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Barb.
16
17 MS. ATORUK: Karen, I was just
18 wondering, I've lived in Kiana now for about 10, 11
19 years, and no one around here ever harvest or jig for
20 grayling.
21
22 MS. HYER: Grayling?
23
24 MS. ATORUK: Grayling, in and around
25 Kiana here, but they do up river.
26
27 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.
28
29 MS. ATORUK: And I was just wondering
30 is grayling do pass here or are they -- I know there
31 was a study done a few years ago by Fred DeCicco about
32 the grayling because of that Wulik or some place in
33 Point Hope and his advice was to just harvest enough
34 for your family to feed on. And they hardly ever eat
35 it up river, but then in the falltime is when they jig
36 for it because it's good eating. But here in Kiana I
37 haven't seen any grayling at all. Period. Even when
38 you're -- even if I go down to the beach and get in one
39 of the boats and just look out in the water, usually
40 you see grayling trying to feed on some stuff that's
41 thrown out there, and then I haven't seen any grayling
42 at all. So I would just like to have information to
43 see where the grayling do go at all.
44
45 MS. HYER: Okay.
46
47 MS. ATORUK: Thank you.
48
49 MS. HYER: Okay, that's great, Barb.
50

1 And let's hold that thought for a minute because I'm
2 going to go -- once the process, if there's any more
3 questions about process, I'm going to start with the
4 list and we can add grayling to the list.

5
6 So I guess if there are no questions
7 we'll move into the priority information list. And so,
8 again, this list results in the priority information
9 needs for 2022. So I have several bullets in front of
10 me and I just want to work through them with the
11 Council and I want to get your input, and Hannah's here
12 as an anthropologist so if we have any questions that I
13 can't answer she can help. And I just want to remind
14 you this is a discussion and then at the end we're
15 going to have some bullet points we feel are important
16 for guiding researchers and then I'm going to ask for a
17 motion so this is an action item.

18
19 So I think what I'll do, if it's
20 agreeable with the Council, is to start we have a
21 couple of priority information needs that are
22 carryovers from 2020 and I want to visit with those
23 with the Council and see if those are still important,
24 and then I've heard a little bit about -- I just heard
25 from Barb and I heard a little bit earlier about the
26 salmon and I have two bullets that are related to those
27 discussions. So I think we'll just jump in and then
28 I'll pause after each bullet and the Council can give
29 me feedback as to whether they think it's important,
30 whether they'd like to modify it or maybe if they don't
31 think it's important it should go off the list.

32
33 So we'll start with the bullets that
34 were on the 2020 priority information needs list and
35 there was no project submitted that was going to answer
36 the questions posed in the bullet.

37
38 So the first one I have is inventory
39 and baseline data of fish assemblages in major rivers
40 tied to subsistence use. Areas of interest include
41 Northern Seward Peninsula and the North Coast. When
42 possible, applicants are encouraged to include
43 fisheries proximal to communities of Shishmaref,
44 Buckland, Deering, Kivalina and Point Hope.

45
46 And I will let the Council comment on
47 that bullet and they can give me feedback if they think
48 that's still important or it should be changed or
49 removed.

50

1 MS. ATORUK: I'm sorry, Karen, what was
2 that on?

3
4 MS. HYER: So that was on, just
5 collecting baseline information on fish in major rivers
6 tied to subsistence use.

7
8 MS. ATORUK: Okay.

9
10 MS. HYER: And they listed five
11 communities, Shishmaref, Buckland, Deering, Kivalina
12 and Point Hope. And that is a carryover from 2020.
13 The priority information need didn't -- there was no
14 projects for that. So is that still important to the
15 Council or are there other things that are more
16 important?

17
18 MS. ATORUK: I think that's important
19 to the Council. That's my feeling anyway.

20
21 MS. HYER: And what about the
22 communities. Do you think that those -- that's a good
23 list of communities, should we add or should we take
24 away or do you think that list is pretty accurate?

25
26 MS. ATORUK: Shishmaref, Buckland,
27 Kivalina, Point Hope. How come Kobuk and Noatak are
28 not on there, can we add those?

29
30 MS. HYER: Well, you could add those.
31 I have Kobuk down -- we could add Kobuk and Noatak,
32 sure, I actually have them on the list later, too, but
33 we're going to go over the whole list again so I'd be
34 happy to add those.

35
36 MS. ATORUK: Okay, thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Attamuk here.
39 You mentioned Point Hope, are we talking about the
40 trout in Point Hope or the whitefish?

41
42 MS. HYER: So it doesn't say. It
43 leaves it open to be whitefish or trout.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Could I give
46 you my two cents, what I'm hearing from Point Hope.
47 That they're getting more and more trout at Point Hope,
48 at the main Kupuk River. Also that they go around the
49 bluffs and they go quick, and they go down and they get

50

1 more rout right there, that's on the ocean side. And I
2 got a concern they're seeing more and more trout. But
3 when I talked to elders, my grandma is from Point Hope,
4 she said Point Hope used to -- at the Kupuk, they used
5 to have a lot of trout at one time but they declined a
6 good 30, 40 years.

7

8 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And they are coming
11 back.

12

13 MS. HYER: Oh, that's good news.

14

15 MS. ATORUK: Okay, that's another one
16 on the grayling in Point Hope. When -- if I remember
17 right, Fred DeCicco said they were depleting their
18 grayling in the river up there in Point Hope area, so
19 we need to keep Point Hope in there to do the fish
20 studies, what fishes are going up the river there, we
21 share trout and then there should be grayling and there
22 should be whitefish. So it's good to keep Point Hope
23 in.

24

25 MS. HYER: Okay. All right. Okay, if
26 there are no more comments I'm going to read the second
27 bullet to you because it also has a list of
28 communities.

29

30 MR. KRAMER: Hi, this is Mike Kramer, I
31 had a question.

32

33 MS. HYER: Yeah, hi, Mike.

34

35 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, hi. One thing I
36 wanted to -- you know, was brought up to me was, you
37 know, I think this fall, or was it last fall, that
38 sheefish failed to spawn in the river up near Ambler
39 but they did spawn in the Hunt River due to the warm
40 temperatures. I was wondering if you guys can do
41 somewhat of a temperature study within all of our main
42 drainages because I know that the temperature, higher
43 temperature in the waters does have a serious impact on
44 spawning, sheefish, salmon, grayling, char. I think
45 that would be a very vital study because we know that
46 the temperatures are being warmer.

47

48 I also was advised that there was at
49 least three to five encounters with salmon sharks. One

50

1 was in the Kobuk. Several was up the coast near Point
2 Hope or Point Lay. And I know that there was another
3 couple more that were brought up to me. You know their
4 presence is starting to be pretty much a normal thing,
5 people are seeing them. The one up near Point Hope or
6 Point Lay, they had just pulled their net and a salmon
7 shark came up and grabbed a salmon right out of the net
8 and went back into the water.

9
10 MS. ATORUK: Oh, my God.

11
12 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, and just keep in
13 mind that these things are roughly about eight feet and
14 they are the cousin of the great white, so.

15
16 MS. ATORUK: Yeah.

17
18 MR. KRAMER: That was my question for
19 you Karen. Thank you.

20
21 MS. HYER: Okay, Mike, thank you. So I
22 think water temperature is really important and I
23 actually have a bullet on that already here. It's
24 going to be the last one on the list so you're just a
25 little bit ahead of me. But we've heard that from a
26 lot of our land managers too.

27
28 Salmon sharks. I don't know what to
29 say about anything on salmon sharks. I don't believe
30 we have any jurisdiction on salmon sharks, but,
31 certainly if there was some traditional -- it'd be very
32 interesting if somebody was interested in doing
33 something in combination with some of these other PINS
34 that address changes.....

35
36 MS. ATORUK: Yeah.

37
38 MS. HYER:from a traditional
39 knowledge.

40
41 MS. ATORUK: Yep.

42
43 MS. HYER: I think if it was combined
44 with something else that would be really interesting.

45
46 MS. ATORUK: Yep.

47
48 MS. HYER: Because people are seeing
49 things that -- because of this change people are seeing

50

1 things that they haven't seen before. So that's a
2 really good point.

3

4 MS. ATORUK: Yes. Hey, Karen. Hello
5 Karen.

6

7 MS. HYER: Hi, can you hear me?

8

9 MS. ATORUK: Yeah. The upper Kobuk
10 people were also taking pictures of fish they were
11 getting that they've never seen before and they didn't
12 know what they were, which were like the king, reds,
13 and silvers, and the lake trout. So those are coming
14 up through our river and then they're getting up in the
15 gillnets up here. They're getting them here in Kiana
16 too.

17

18 MS. HYER: Okay.

19

20 MS. ATORUK: More, some kings, some
21 reds and silvers. And the spawning, they still had
22 eggs when we were -- a friend of mine here puts out --
23 keeps a net out until it's freezing and then he was
24 still getting salmon with eggs in them and we were
25 having caviar up the ying-yang until it started
26 freezing and then so some salmon did not spawn. Or if
27 there's a spawning area around Kiana, I don't know. I
28 know there is up river. But then around Kiana, I don't
29 know.

30

31 Okay, thank you.

32

33 MS. HYER: So, Barb, I just want to
34 follow up with you. I'm going to skip ahead here and I
35 have another priority information need that says
36 identify spawning areas, critical habitat and range
37 expansion for broad whitefish, least cisco, northern
38 pike and sheefish, should I stick salmon in there too,
39 do you think?

40

41 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, could you, please.
42 That would be helpful.

43

44 MS. HYER: Yes, and salmon.

45

46 MS. ATORUK: Yes.

47

48 MS. HYER: Okay. All right. I do want
49 to point out to the Council that we're sending out a

50

1 list of what we consider important and we don't have
2 any control over who applies to do research.

3

4 MS. ATORUK: Yeah.

5

6 MS. HYER: We just send it out to every
7 investigator we can think of and hope that they'll
8 apply and you have a pretty large list here.

9

10 MS. ATORUK: Yeah.

11

12 MS. HYER: And that's why if we don't
13 get a project that answers these questions, we can come
14 back and revisit it with the Council and hopefully send
15 out, the information need again. So the Council just
16 has to keep that in mind because we're just creating a
17 list that investigators will read and this list helps
18 focus where we want the research to be done.

19

20 Okay, so that was very helpful, thank
21 you.

22

23 So I'm going to go ahead and read my
24 third bullet here and it says, changes in species
25 composition, abundance, migration timing, especially of
26 Dolly Varden, and whitefish species in the Northwest
27 Arctic to address changing availability of subsistence
28 fishing resources. When possible applicants are
29 encouraged to include fisheries proximal to communities
30 of Kotzebue, Deering, and Noatak.

31

32 So that would address Dolly Varden and
33 whitefish near Kotzebue, Deering and Noatak.

34

35 MS. ATORUK: Why Noatak.

36

37 MS. HYER: Good question, I don't know.
38 This is an old priority information need between 2020
39 and I know that there's been work that's been done up
40 on the Noatak and it could be -- I know that we have
41 Deering in the priority information need that we just
42 talked about so I don't know if this is old and it
43 should be taken out or what the Council feels about it.

44

45 MS. ATORUK: If it's regarding
46 whitefish, I know I've heard that for a long time on
47 whitefish, but I was just saying why Noatak, because if
48 they're going to do the coastal villages like Deering
49 and Kotzebue then I would include -- I would take

50

1 Noatak out and include Kivalina and Point Hope. I know
2 Point Hope don't -- I don't think they get whitefish do
3 they?
4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Barb. Barb, for your
6 information away from Kupuk, there's up the river -- I
7 mean down the coast -- up the coast -- sorry, up the
8 coast, they do get whitefish but I never did understand
9 which kind. But they tell me they were big whitefish
10 they used to get them there. That's what my Ana used
11 to say.
12

13 MS. ATORUK: Okay.
14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: This is just for your
16 information. I don't know how many numbers were taken.
17

18 MS. ATORUK: Okay. So, Karen, for your
19 question that this is coastal, like in Deering and
20 Kotzebue are coastal, we can take Noatak off and put
21 Kivalina and Point Hope, go up that way. But I don't
22 know -- I know Noatak seine further up river from their
23 villages, I watched that on FaceBook, where they were
24 seining for whitefish so they do get whitefish at
25 Noatak but do they get salmon.
26

27 MS. HYER: Okay. So they -- I think
28 they do and that is a little bit farther in my list. I
29 have a chum salmon bullet.
30

31 MS. ATORUK: Oh, okay. Okay.
32

33 MS. HYER: So I'll keep salmon, at
34 least for the moment out of here. So this is
35 specifically whitefish and Dolly Varden.
36

37 MS. ATORUK: Oh, okay.
38

39 MS. HYER: Directed to whitefish and
40 Dolly Varden.
41

42 MS. ATORUK: Okay.
43

44 MS. HYER: And right now I have
45 Kotzebue and Deering. Do you think that something else
46 needs to be in this list?
47

48 MR. KRAMER: This is Mike.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Mike.

2
3 MR. KRAMER: This is Mike through the
4 Chair. I know that the reason why we had Noatak on
5 there was because, you know, trout up there in Noatak
6 was a very, very vital part of their subsistence
7 resource that they depend on and I think that was one
8 of the main reasons why Noatak was kept on there,
9 because their trout migrate out of the Noatak River and
10 out into the ocean and come back in the fall. So that
11 was one of the reasons why we had Noatak on there.

12
13 MS. ATORUK: Yeah. Yep. And I
14 remember when they did trout studies a few years ago
15 they said all the trout from every region, anywhere,
16 even from Russia, do come over to Wulik River, that's
17 Kivalina.

18
19 MS. HYER: Yeah, that's actually.....

20
21 MS. ATORUK: That's why there was so
22 many trout over there. So all the trout from all
23 different areas, even Russia, do come over to Wulik.
24 So we need to keep Noatak in then, not take it out.

25
26 MS. HYER: Okay.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think the concern
29 they had about the Noatak at the time, if I remember
30 right, that's one year they come in weak and that's why
31 they were concerned on the Noatak on the trout, on the
32 char.

33
34 MS. ATORUK: Okay, thank you.

35
36 MS. HYER: Okay, all right. So then
37 I'm going to go ahead and jump down here because we
38 were talking about salmon and we have -- this is
39 something some of the managers have mentioned as
40 important also; evaluate the changing -- and I also
41 heard the RAC talking about their salmon being late --
42 so evaluating the changing chum salmon distribution,
43 abundance, migration timing in river drainages of
44 Kotzebue Sound, and I have here the Noatak and the
45 Kobuk River drainages as my note.

46
47 MS. ATORUK: Yeah. Do salmon go up
48 Noatak, I think I asked that awhile ago, I forgot.

49
50

1 MS. HYER: Yeah. Yeah. And there used
2 to be a chum hatchery up the Noatak a long, long time
3 ago.

4
5 MS. ATORUK: Oh, that's right, that's
6 right. So why don't we include Noatak then since we're
7 doing -- or I know Selawik doesn't have salmon.

8
9 MS. HYER: I do have Noatak, Barb. I
10 have the Noatak and Kobuk River.

11
12 MS. ATORUK: Okay. Okay, thank you.

13
14 MS. HYER: So if that's good.

15
16 MS. ATORUK: Yeah.

17
18 MS. HYER: Okay, so is there anything
19 that needs to be added to that list, or are those the
20 two main salmon producers.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Enoch here, Attamuk.
23 I hear from Kivalina they're getting more and more
24 salmon every year when they go up the river to get
25 char, and they do get more falltime before the spawning
26 season at Kivalina. And I think the spawning areas are
27 expanding like any other resources of ours in the
28 different rivers.

29
30 MS. HYER: Right. And so that would be
31 -- that would be covered, I think, by our first PIN
32 that has Kivalina, when we're asking for an inventory
33 and baseline data, because we're asking there for
34 expansion and we have all fish in that one.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Go
37 ahead.

38
39 MS. HYER: Okay. And then I have
40 another one here that would cover it too. And so this
41 is the bullet Barb and I talked about a little bit
42 before, it says: identifying spawning areas, critical
43 habitat, and range expansion for broad whitefish, least
44 cisco, Northern pike, and then I added salmon in there
45 and we have sheefish.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Any
48 questions.

49
50

1 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, this is Mike,
2 through the Chair.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Mike.

5
6 MR. KRAMER: This fall some people
7 talked to me that they had salmon nets out up to
8 freezing, they were still catching salmon. And one of
9 the concerns was they still had eggs, and this is here
10 near Kotzebue. You know I know this spring was a
11 pretty poor subsistence harvest of sheefish near
12 Kotzebue because everybody was wondering where they
13 were, you know, and that'd be a good question -- or a
14 good answer we'd like to get because this spring we
15 didn't get normal sheefish runs right out here in front
16 of Kotzebue. But the concern also was that the salmon
17 still had eggs, female salmon up here near Kotzebue
18 where people were catching them for either dog food or,
19 you know, these are spawned our -- these are salmon
20 that are just -- that just looked spawned out but they
21 were still carrying eggs up to freeze up. So that was
22 one of the major concerns I was advised of.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Mike, for your
27 information on that spawning salmon, when they're
28 changing colors, even they have eggs because I grew up
29 in Noatak they will spawn in their spawning area, yet,
30 the body will start deteriorating because of the way
31 Mother Nature works at falltime. The body will start
32 dying yet they got to have their eggs, that much I
33 know.

34
35 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, these ones were
36 still carrying eggs up to freeze up. They still had
37 eggs in them when they were out here near Kotzebue
38 Sound, right up to freeze up.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, they will have
41 eggs in them until late fall. We get them even under
42 the ice before when I used to live at Noatak. The body
43 would be well deteriorated but the eggs were still
44 there.

45
46 So go on with your report if you have
47 more.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Maybe she got
2 disconnected. We'll give her a minute to call back.
3
4 REPORTER: Karen, you still there?
5
6 MS. ATORUK: Can we take a five minute
7 break.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Take your five minute
10 break everyone.
11
12 MS. ATORUK: Thank you.
13
14 MS. HYER: Hello, I'm back, can you
15 hear me?
16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, we could hear
18 you. Yeah, like me, you're hitting the wrong button to
19 go mute.
20
21 MS. HYER: No. No, my phone hung up.
22 So I'm not sure what happened there and it was just me,
23 right, not everybody else got disconnected.
24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, it was just
26 you. It's all right, it's the things we have to live
27 with today, the phone problems.
28
29 MS. HYER: Yes, so, okay, I was talking
30 about evaluating.....
31
32 REPORTER: So wait, Karen. Karen.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Excuse me, we're on
35 five minute break.
36
37 REPORTER: Karen, we're on a five
38 minute break.
39
40 MS. HYER: Five, all right. I'll
41 standby.
42
43 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 We're on a five minute break, we'll be back at 11:16.
45
46 Thank you.
47
48 (Off record)
49
50

1 (On record)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, I'll call the
4 meeting back to order. Go ahead, Karen, you have the
5 floor.

6

7 MS. HYER: Okay. Mr. Chairman and
8 Council members. I think we left off on water
9 temperature. So I have one more bullet to talk about
10 and then I'll go over everything I have and take the
11 Council's input on the total.

12

13 And this last bullet was a carryover
14 from the 2020 priority information needs. The effects
15 of expanding beaver populations and range on
16 subsistence fisheries in Northwest Arctic, it includes
17 the effects of dams on fish migration, and effects of
18 changes to water quality on fish. And I'm wondering if
19 that is still a priority for the Council.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The way I hear it
22 from the villages, even Point Hope it's a priority
23 because the beavers are affecting -- I know the
24 agencies like beaver dams because they'll help the
25 moose population, but the agencies got to understand
26 that not only it affects the moose -- it's better for
27 the moose but it's bad for the others as our fish, they
28 got to leave the river and the lakes to go, they do the
29 summertime and come back to spawn. That's why beavers
30 are having a big affect on us. That's why that's
31 important, that's why we need to -- I know it's us
32 Natives that got to harvest them but they're getting so
33 many that they're expanding all over.

34

35 MS. HYER: Right.

36

37 MS. ATORUK: And they do a lot of ruin
38 on the water because of their urine.

39

40 MS. HYER: Right.

41

42 MS. ATORUK: And they're up river, I
43 noticed they were damaging the dams They were doing a
44 lot of damage on the dams that they were blocking the
45 whole stream. So those people up river before they put
46 nets out they were doing damage on the -- trying to do
47 the damage on the dams but then they would be repaired
48 within a few days.

49

50

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MS. ATORUK: So -- but they were still
4 trying to do it.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: They're amazing
7 engineers. They're a hard thing to battle because
8 they're doing their thing for survival but yet we have
9 problem with them.
10
11 MS. HYER: Right.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I don't know how else
14 to solve it.
15
16 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.
17
18
19 (Pause)
20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Karen, I
22 had it on mute.
23
24 MS. HYER: Oh, okay. All right, Mr.
25 Chairman and Council members. I think at this point I
26 should read the whole list and then you get an idea of
27 everything that's on this list. I just want to remind
28 you that when we feel like we have the final list I
29 will need a motion from the Council. But let me go
30 over everything one more time in case something has
31 been forgotten or you want to add something to the
32 list.
33
34 So I'm just going to start.....
35
36 MS. VOORHEES: Karen.
37
38 MS. HYER: Yes.
39
40 MS. VOORHEES: This is Hannah.
41
42 MS. HYER: Hi Hannah.
43
44 MS. VOORHEES: Sorry, I'd like to chime
45 in really quickly.
46
47 MS. HYER: Absolutely.
48
49 MS. VOORHEES: Hi. Okay. So on the
50

1 beaver PIN, I just wanted to mention that that's had
2 trouble being funded in the past, I think because of
3 the language focusing on beavers and it just kind of
4 attracts attention because, you know, obviously this is
5 a Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and it sounds
6 silly but I'd recommend or suggest just for your
7 consideration, to think about maybe focusing, like
8 rewording it to focus on changes in water levels,
9 water, you know, temperature, maybe just like the
10 environment in general, maybe, you know, other aspects
11 of like Ph or whatever, I -- you know, I'm not a
12 fisheries biologist, but just to reframe it a little
13 bit and also maybe to include some traditional
14 ecological knowledge aspects. I know this has been a
15 PIN that's been on our list, you know, a few cycles and
16 hasn't been funded yet, and I just want to make sure
17 that if that's something that's important to people
18 that it does get funded, eventually.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MS. HYER: So, Hannah, I just want to
23 repeat what I think I heard from you. Is that, you
24 think that the idea of the PIN is still good, but you
25 think that we need to reword it so it's focus is on
26 more fisheries, because it is part of the Fisheries
27 Program, that will help guide investigators towards
28 something that would be specific enough that it would
29 be approved for funding. Did I hear that right?

30
31 MS. VOORHEES: Yes. I guess I'd just
32 kind of put it in the broader context of trying to --
33 the fishery environment. I mean the Council can, you
34 know, take it or leave it, I just wanted to chime in on
35 that, but you've characterized that well.

36
37 Thank you, Karen.

38
39 MS. HYER: So I guess at this point I'd
40 say if the Council thinks that's an important PIN to
41 leave on the list, you and I can work later on fine-
42 tuning the wording, if the Council and you are
43 comfortable with that.

44
45 MS. ATORUK: Yes.

46
47 MS. VOORHEES: That would.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes. Yes.

50

1 MS. HYER: Great. Great. And then,
2 Hannah, if there's anything else you think that -- if
3 you'd like to chime in on anything else, of course,
4 with the understanding that before we submit the final
5 list we'll be wordsmithing it to make it flow more
6 eloquently but what we're really interested in is
7 getting the spirit of the Council's wishes for these
8 information needs.

9
10 MS. VOORHEES: Perfect. Thank you,
11 Karen.

12
13 MS. HYER: Thank you. If there's
14 nothing else I'll go ahead and I'll start reading
15 through the list and then I'll pause after each PIN and
16 you can let me know if you think we've captured the
17 spirit of it or if there's something you want to add or
18 take away. So I'll go ahead and start at the top.

19
20 Inventory and baseline data of fish
21 assemblages in major rivers tied to subsistence use.
22 Areas of interest include Northern Seward Peninsula and
23 the North Coast. When possible applicants are
24 encouraged to include fisheries proximal to the
25 communities of Shishmaref, Buckland, Deering, Kivalina,
26 Kobuk, Noatak and Point Hope.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.

29
30 MS. ATORUK: Do you want us to just
31 agree or you want us to vote?

32
33 MS. HYER: No, I'm going to need the
34 vote at the very end.

35
36 MS. ATORUK: Oh, okay. Okay, thank
37 you.

38
39 MS. HYER: If you disagree, it's the
40 time to disagree too. And I just want to go over
41 everything and then if we've got the list like you want
42 then you can make a motion.

43
44 Okay.

45
46 MS. ATORUK: Thank you.

47
48 MS. HYER: Yeah, the feedback is good
49 because I can't see you so at least I know that I

50

1 haven't been disconnected again.
2
3 Okay, so.....
4
5 MR. KRAMER: Karen, this is Mike.
6
7 MS. HYER: Hi, Mike.
8
9 MR. KRAMER: Through the Chair. Is
10 this just the village of Kobuk, Barbara, or are we
11 doing the villages on the Kobuk?
12
13 MS. ATORUK: Kobuk River.
14
15 MS. HYER: Thank you, that's important.
16
17 MR. KRAMER: That's what I wanted to
18 clarify. Thank you.
19
20 MS. HYER: So are we talking about the
21 Kobuk and the Noatak Rivers?
22
23 MS. ATORUK: I thought that's what it
24 was about, the Shishmaref River, Buckland River,
25 Kivalina River, Point Hope River, Kobuk River and
26 Noatak River.
27
28 MS. HYER: Okay. So the way I have it
29 worded now is I have fisheries proximal to the
30 communities of Shishmaref.....
31
32 MS. ATORUK: Oh, okay.
33
34 MS. HYER: So that would be like for
35 the community of Noatak it would be the Noatak River.
36
37 MS. ATORUK: Okay.
38
39 MS. HYER: So if that wording works or
40 if you want it to specifically read the Noatak River
41 but I have -- because those are subsistence
42 communities, is where they travel to fish.
43
44 MS. ATORUK: So there's a difference
45 then? I understood it to be the rivers.....
46
47 MS. HYER: Right.
48
49 MS. ATORUK:and that would
50

1 include the villages all along the Kobuk, all the
2 villages around -- well, there's just Noatak, but
3 that's still important.

4
5 MS. HYER: Okay. Absolutely. So I
6 will include the villages along the Kobuk.

7
8 MS. ATORUK: Yes.

9
10 MS. HYER: And the villages along the
11 Noatak.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 MS. HYER: Yeah, no, that's good. That
16 was a very good point of clarification.

17
18 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, thank you, Mike.

19
20 MS. HYER: Okay. So then I have
21 changes in species composition, abundance, migration
22 timing especially of Dolly Varden or trout, and
23 whitefish species in Northwest Arctic addressing
24 changing availability of subsistence fisheries
25 resources. And here I have, when possible, applicants
26 are encouraged to include fisheries proximal to
27 Kotzebue, Deering and Noatak.

28
29 MS. ATORUK: If I am reading it right
30 then, can we add -- I don't know if the outer villages
31 are getting lake trout or not.

32
33 MS. HYER: Okay.

34
35 MS. ATORUK: I know up the Kobuk, Upper
36 Kobuk is getting a lot of lake trout.

37
38 MS. HYER: Okay.

39
40 MS. ATORUK: And they've been wondering
41 where they were coming from, they didn't know -- a lot
42 of them at first were throwing them away because they
43 didn't know what they were. They've never seen them
44 before.

45
46 MS. HYER: So, Barb, right now I have
47 Kotzebue, Deering, and Noatak, so I should add Kobuk on
48 there.

49
50

1 MS. ATORUK: Yes, add Kobuk.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.
4
5 MS. ATORUK: Because we're curious
6 about the lake trout.
7
8 MS. HYER: Okay. And I put lake trout
9 in there also.
10
11 MS. ATORUK: Yep.
12
13 MS. HYER: Okay, very good. All right,
14 on to chum salmon. Evaluate changing chum salmon
15 distribution, migration timing in river drainages of
16 Kotzebue Sound and then I have in parenthesis, the
17 Noatak and Kobuk River drainages.
18
19 MS. ATORUK: Okay. Can we also include
20 in that study to be -- to add kings, reds, and silvers.
21
22 MS. HYER: Okay. So the easiest thing
23 to do with that is just take out chum salmon and just
24 make it salmon in general.
25
26 MS. ATORUK: Yes.
27
28 MS. HYER: And then that opens it up to
29 all salmon species.
30
31 MS. ATORUK: Yes.
32
33 MS. HYER: Okay.
34
35 MS. ATORUK: Please.
36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.
38
39 MS. HYER: Very good. Okay. All
40 right, then I have identify spawning area, critical
41 habitat and range expansion for broad whitefish, least
42 cisco, Northern pike, salmon again, grayling and
43 sheefish.
44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.
46
47 MS. ATORUK: Yes. I was just wondering
48 about when Northern pike was going to get here because
49 they are getting -- they do get them a lot here in
50

1 Kiana and they're huge.
2
3 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.
4
5 MS. ATORUK: They're almost as big as
6 sheefish.
7
8 MS. HYER: Wow.
9
10 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, they're big.
11 They're almost as big as sheefish. They called me and
12 said Ana you want siliks, I said, yeah, just bring them
13 over here and I thought they would be as small as the
14 ones that we do get up river and then I got 15 huge
15 siliks and I said, holy cow, so they are big here in
16 the region. And then my husband said they set a net a
17 little up further Squirrel right here, not too far from
18 here and then that's where they always get them and
19 then even after the ice froze when they did under ice
20 they were still getting them and then they would call
21 me because hardly anybody here in the village eats the
22 silik because of the bones.
23
24 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.
25
26 MS. ATORUK: And they always -- I'm the
27 dumping place for siliks.
28
29 (Laughter)
30
31 MS. ATORUK: And they brought them over
32 to me, they brought me four and they were huge.
33
34 MS. HYER: Wow.
35
36 MS. ATORUK: So I'm glad you have the
37 Northern pike in there as for study and it includes
38 Kobuk. And the other river that should be included
39 here since there's Northern pike, is Selawik. Selawik
40 is the home for Northern pike. In fact, it's Eskimo
41 name is silivik (ph), meaning silik, where silik is
42 born or made or whatever. So we need to include the
43 Selawik River.
44
45 MS. HYER: Okay. Okay. So then I have
46 evaluate changes in water temperature in major river
47 systems associated with subsistence fishery resources
48 in Northwest Arctic.
49
50

1 MS. ATORUK: That would be the same as
2 -- I didn't know we're including Shishmaref, but then
3 there should be Buckland, Kivalina, Point Hope, Kobuk,
4 Noatak.

5
6 MS. HYER: This one doesn't have rivers
7 specifically listed but it says the major river system
8 associated with subsistence fishery resource in the
9 Northwest Arctic. So we're talking about the major
10 river systems.

11
12 (Teleconference interference -
13 participants not muted)

14
15 MS. ATORUK: Major river systems
16 meaning?

17
18 MS. HYER: Meaning, I think -- I think
19 that they -- the land managers are really interested in
20 this and then I heard some comments from the Council
21 but they need to put temperature loggers in so I think
22 they're looking for places where they can actually
23 access the systems to put these temperatures in and
24 then be able to monitor them. And so I think we might
25 be better off just leaving it non-descript.

26
27 MS. ATORUK: Okay. Since it says major
28 rivers, there's hardly any major rivers but so that
29 includes all -- and all the other rivers they can check
30 is included, so that's good then.

31
32 MS. HYER: Yeah, I think that it -- it
33 kind of depends on how you interpret major rivers but
34 they're the ones associated with subsistence fisheries,
35 rivers that people are harvesting from.

36
37 MS. ATORUK: Yes, Ma'am.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Hey, Attamuk, I'm at
40 a meeting, but what's your dad's river, that one there,
41 that's got hardly any whitefish anymore. You know the
42 one you guys -- the one that -- that Noatak River, oh,
43 okay, I couldn't think of the Eskimo name. Thank you.

44
45 MS. HYER: All right. And then the
46 last one was the PIN that Hannah just made the comment
47 and we'll work on wordsmithing this but it's basically
48 the population of.....

49
50

1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants not muted)
3
4 MS. HYER:beaver expansion is
5 affecting the subsistence fisheries in Northwest Arctic
6 and the effects that they're having on the fish
7 migration and water quality and fish health.
8
9 That was the last PIN I have.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Attamuk here.
12
13 MS. HYER: Yes.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, could I add
16 Sivsolutuk (ph) because it's a little ways up the river
17 from my camp, we used to get lots of whitefish and last
18 two years we get hardly any due to there's so much pike
19 now. That's all we get now even last summer, even
20 another guy said Attamuk, he was there, he was trying
21 to find a whitefish, he never find them too. I'm
22 talking about Otto, and he tried to get whitefish at
23 Sivsolutuk, nothing this year, but so much pike, he said
24 even about a mile up the river at Sivsolutuk, that's just
25 below the hatchery.
26
27 MS. HYER: Okay. And that's on the
28 Noatak?
29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That's on the Noatak.
31
32 MS. HYER: Okay. So the Noatak River
33 drainage?
34
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, it's just below
36 the hatchery above my camp.
37
38 MS. HYER: Okay.
39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We used to get a lot
41 of whitefish. Two years we never get any now.
42
43 MS. HYER: Okay. Okay.
44
45 MR. KRAMER: Karen, this is Mike.
46
47 MS. HYER: Mike.
48
49 MR. KRAMER: Through the Chair. Yeah,
50

1 the reason why I wanted to do, you know, a temperature
2 study was because, you know, I wanted to find out, you
3 know, if the biologists who do that study, if they
4 could like give a report on a yearly basis, you know,
5 the temperatures throughout the year, you know, and
6 what's the prime spawning temperature for salmon,
7 sheefish, char, pike, any of the species that we'll be
8 studying. That's one of the reasons why I wanted to
9 have temperature reports, you know, because it's a very
10 interesting thing and it's a very important thing that
11 we know that, you know, what the temperatures are in
12 our rivers because I know that last year, I believe,
13 you know, there were several hundred thousand salmon
14 just pooling right around by Kiana because the water
15 was too warm up the river for them to go spawn and so
16 they were pooling up right there in front of Kiana.
17 That's one of the reasons why I wanted to do a
18 temperature study because, you know, we know that the
19 temperature is rising and, you know, salmon, char and
20 all these other species are very important subsistence
21 resources to our region.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council
26 members. So I will add into the bullet about
27 evaluating water temperature. I'll add verbiage about
28 reporting back on how these changes will affect the
29 subsistence resources. And so always just a note we
30 can bring any investigators to talk to the Council and
31 I'll specifically pay attention to that bullet and make
32 sure it gets reported back to you. Because we're on
33 line we don't have as many as presentations as we
34 normally would because it's difficult and it's much
35 nicer when we're all in person and we can have the
36 presenters present, but I will make a special note on
37 that one.

38
39 Hopefully our Covid situation will pass
40 and we'll all be back together again soon.

41
42 All right. Mr. Chairman. Council
43 members. Are there any other comments to this list?

44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No, I think you did a
46 pretty good job on it and explaining it to the Council
47 members.

48
49 Thank you.

1 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman and Council
2 members, I appreciate your input. It's very important
3 to help guide the investigators. And, if we're at the
4 point where we don't have any more comments then I
5 request a motion to support the list.

6
7 MS. ATORUK: So moved.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'll second it. Okay
10 it's been seconded by Attamuk. All in favor signify by
11 saying aye.

12
13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Passed. Thank you.

16
17 MS. HYER: Okay, thank you, Mr.
18 Chairman and Council members. That is all I have so
19 we'll carry on to the next bullet.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Okay, the next
22 one is 11B, issues for 2020 annual report. Council
23 coordinator.

24
25 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair. This is
26 Zach speaking. Addressing the annual report.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

29
30 MR. STEVENSON: The annual report is a
31 way for the Regional Advisory Council to speak to the
32 Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture
33 once a year. This is the report and bringing attention
34 to the Secretaries of the Council. Last year we
35 brought several issues to the attention specifically
36 the following on Page 15.

37
38 1. Impacts to Federally-qualified
39 users from the proposed Ambler Road.

40
41 2. Support for the development of a
42 youth education program to provide training for greater
43 participation in Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils
44 and the Federal regulatory process.

45
46 3.

47
48 No, that's it.

49
50

1 So the Board responded to each of those
2 items and you'll note their responses in your report.
3 This gets a very high level of attention so this is a
4 chance for this Council to report any issues that would
5 be of interest to report. You'll have a chance to
6 review it before it goes to the attention -- does this
7 Council wish to put anything in the annual report, and
8 if so what are the issues?
9
10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11
12 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.
13
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, Barb.
15
16 MS. ATORUK: We need to complete a
17 special action for FY2021 to be in place by either July
18 or August. So we will need to discuss that. And I
19 know we are requesting to do that and if I worded it
20 wrong, please edit.
21
22 MR. STEVENSON: Is it because of
23 Corona?
24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah -- yes.
26
27 MR. STEVENSON: All right, thank you.
28
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anybody -- yeah,
30 Barbara, you're right it needs to be on our fall
31 meeting.
32
33 MR. STEVENSON: And the report will be
34 drafted by then for the Council's review.
35
36 What else?
37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anybody have
39 questions for Zach.
40
41 MS. ATORUK: That's the only one I can
42 think of right now.
43
44 Thank you.
45
46 MR. STEVENSON: All right, thank you
47 guys.
48
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Anyone else
50

1 have questions for Zach.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, are we done
6 with C?
7
8 MR. STEVENSON: Yes.
9
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.
11 Okay, we will go to agency reports. They have 15
12 minutes, tribal governments. Anyone.....
13
14 MS. MAAS: Mr. Chair.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT:from the tribal
17 governments out there.
18
19 REPORTER: Hang on.
20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: What?
22
23 REPORTER: Go ahead, Lisa.
24
25 MS. MAAS: Yeah, this is Lisa, I just
26 wanted to notify you that you just finished up 11B,
27 annual report and then next on the agenda is 11C,
28 National Park Service subsistence eligibility for
29 customary and traditional use determinations.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, sorry about
32 that, I overlooked C. Thank you. Go ahead National
33 Park Service.
34
35 MS. ATKINSON: Hi, this is Hannah
36 Atkinson. Can everyone hear me?
37
38 MR. STEVENSON: You're loud and clear.
39
40 MS. ATKINSON: Okay. Happy Tuesday.
41 This is Hannah Atkinson. I'm the cultural
42 anthropologist for the National Park Service office in
43 Kotzebue. And I am going to present about the
44 subsistence eligibility permits and individual and
45 customary and traditional use determinations. So the
46 materials for this would be, I believe it's Page 19,
47 and there's three things provided to guide this
48 discussion.
49
50

1 There is a delegation of authority
2 letter to the Regional Director of the National Park
3 Service from the Federal Subsistence Board.

4
5 There is a document titled Standard
6 Operating Procedures for Issuance of Subsistence
7 Eligibility Permits and Individual and Customary and
8 Traditional Use Determinations.

9
10 And there is a table that was provided
11 as a supplemental document and it's -- at the top of
12 the table, it's one page, it says Comparison of Current
13 and Proposed Review of Processes for National Park
14 Service, Individual Customary and Traditional Use
15 Determinations.

16
17 So in order to present this I'm going
18 to read from the letter delegating the authority and
19 then we'll go through this table and then the standard
20 operating procedures are there for you to look through
21 but we won't go through in detail unless you have
22 questions.

23
24 But just going to the letter first.

25
26 This letter delegates specific
27 regulatory authority from the Federal Subsistence Board
28 to the Alaska Regional Director of the National Park
29 Service to adopt individual customary and traditional
30 use determinations for those individuals authorized to
31 engage in subsistence uses in National Parks or
32 Monuments including those holding an NPS subsistence
33 permit issued pursuant to 36 CFR 13.440 and those
34 living within a resident zone community. This
35 delegation only applies to subsistence uses of fish and
36 wildlife in National Parks and Monuments subject to
37 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Title
38 VIII jurisdiction. For the delegation of authority.

39
40 1. Delegation. The Alaska Regional
41 Director of the National Park Service or his or her
42 designated representative is hereby delegated authority
43 to adopt individual customary and traditional use
44 determinations for those individuals issued an NPS
45 13.440 subsistence permit or living within a resident
46 zone community as outlined under the scope of
47 delegation. Individual C&T is governed by Federal
48 regulation 36 CFR with the Federal codes. And National
49 Park Service subsistence permits are governed by
50

1 Federal regulation at 36 CFR 13.440.

2
3 2. Authority. This delegation of
4 authority is established pursuant of 36 CFR
5 242.10(d)(6) and 50 CFR 100.10(d)(6) which allow the
6 Board to delegate certain management decisions to
7 agency field officials within a framework established
8 by the Board. Authority to recognize which rural
9 Alaska areas or communities have customary and
10 traditional subsistence uses of specific fish and
11 wildlife populations is established under those Federal
12 codes.

13
14 3. Scope of Delegation. The
15 regulatory authority hereby delegated is limited to the
16 following authorities within the limits set by the
17 regulation at the following Federal codes. And;

18
19 To adopt individual customary and
20 traditional use determinations for those individuals
21 issued a 13.440 subsistence permit or those living
22 within a resident zone community.

23
24 Individual C&T determinations may be
25 issued only to holders of subsistence permits and are
26 limited to National Parks and Monuments as described in
27 the Federal regulation.

28
29 4. Effective Period. This delegation
30 of authority is effective from the date of this letter
31 and continues until superseded or rescinded.

32
33 5. Guidelines for Delegation. You
34 will become familiar with the requirements for issuing
35 individual C&T determinations. You will develop a
36 process to evaluate individual C&T applications that
37 incorporates the factors exemplifying customary and
38 traditional use as described at 36 CFR 100.16 and 50
39 CFR 100.26. You will provide subsistence users in the
40 region a local point of contact to facilitate
41 communication about this process and its requirements.

42
43 You will issue decisions and notify C&T
44 applicants in a timely manner. You will notify the
45 Board, the InterAgency Staff Committee, the Office of
46 Subsistence Management and the appropriate Federal
47 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils about new
48 individual C&T determinations and you will maintain a
49 list of existing individual C&T determinations for each
50

1 Park unit.

2

3 6. Support Services. And we'll be
4 working with the Office of Subsistence Management.

5

6 So following the delegation of
7 authority we came up with the standard operating
8 procedures and basically following No. 5 of this letter
9 and have streamlined the process. And so this is
10 something that has already existed and is a part of,
11 you know, it's in the referenced Federal codes, and
12 part of ANILCA, customary and traditional use
13 subsistence that goes on in the Parks and Monuments.
14 But the process is just changing now and the ways that
15 the process are changing is outlined on this table.
16 And so I think that if you have questions about the
17 13.440 permit or the individual customary and
18 traditional use, that -- those designations are already
19 in place so we can explain more what is meant by that.

20

21 But what we're bringing to the Council
22 today is a different process that's going to be changed
23 in these ways that we hope will make it easier for
24 people who are going through this process to get this
25 permit.

26

27 I guess do we want to start with any
28 questions about individual customary and traditional
29 use determinations or 13.440 permits.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Any questions for
32 Hannah.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MS. ATKINSON: Okay. I will move to
37 the table explaining how the process is changing and we
38 can come back to questions after we go through that.
39 So if everybody is looking at that table, one of the
40 changes is that the application window in the current
41 process to get this permit is a narrow window during
42 the call for regulatory proposals every two years. And
43 so our new process is open continuously.

44

45 The next change is in the application
46 review. In the current process has the proposals --
47 part of it is that the proposals may be invalidated if
48 there's incomplete or the 13.440 permit is needed. And
49 so in the updated process that we're proposing, the NPS

50

1 Staff that's working with the individual seeking the
2 permit will interview the applicant to ensure that all
3 information regarding eight factors is documented and
4 processed, 13.440 permit applications, if needed.
5

6 Next change is a proposal -- is to the
7 proposal analysis. And currently it follows the
8 standard format for customary and traditional use
9 proposals using eight factors. The analysis is
10 prepared by NPS Staff in combination with OSM Staff.
11 And our proposed change is to follow the standard
12 format for customary and traditional proposals using
13 eight factors, and the analysis is prepared by NPS
14 Staff.
15

16 The next change is to the Advisory
17 Committee review. So currently the Federal Subsistence
18 Regional Advisory Council is reviewing these
19 applications. And the proposed change is that the
20 National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commission
21 would be reviewing these changes.
22

23 And we will be presenting the process
24 -- proposed change in the process to the Subsistence
25 Resource Commissions.
26

27 Then the next change is the
28 decisionmaker currently is the Federal Subsistence
29 Board. And the proposed process is changing in that
30 the NPS Alaska Regional Director would be making the
31 decision.
32

33 And then lastly, the decision timeline.
34 Currently it is a fixed schedule and at the annual
35 regulatory meeting. The proposed change is for it to
36 be a flexible schedule following the receipt of SRC
37 recommendation.
38

39 Are there any questions about either
40 the permits themselves or the proposed change to the
41 process. We are looking for feedback from the Regional
42 Advisory Council. The Federal Subsistence Board
43 requested the presentation of this topic at every RAC
44 in the state and to all the SRCs and so the feedback
45 and decision is something that they're looking for.
46

47 MS. ATORUK: Hannah, do we have these
48 in these packet that we received? Do we have this
49 report in this packet that we received from OSM?
50

1 MS. ATKINSON: That would be a question
2 for OSM, the OSM Staff that sent it out, I believe that
3 it was included in the packet.
4
5 MS. ATORUK: I don't seem to see it, if
6 I am looking at the right page. I'm looking under
7 Western Arctic National ParkLand.
8
9 MS. ATKINSON: So it wouldn't be under
10 the Western Arctic National ParkLand report. It would
11 be its own item.
12
13 MS. ATORUK: Okay. So I don't have it
14 then.
15
16 MS. ATKINSON: I'm sorry about that,
17 that definitely makes it difficult to.....
18
19 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, that's why I'm
20 asking because when I was going through these papers I
21 hadn't seen nothing from Park Service here and I was
22 just asking.
23
24 MS. ATKINSON: Uh-huh.
25
26 MS. ATORUK: Okay.
27
28 MS. VOORHEES: This is Hannah Voorhees,
29 through the Chair.
30
31 MS. ATORUK: Oh, right here, it's Page
32 37.
33
34 MS. VOORHEES: Yeah, on Page 19 -- oh.
35 I just wanted to mention I think it's on Page 19 in
36 your book.
37
38 MS. ATORUK: Yeah.
39
40 MR. STEVENSON: Yeah, it's on Page 19.
41 Mr. Chair, this is Zach. It's on Page 19 of your
42 meeting book.
43
44 (Pause)
45
46 REPORTER: So did you get that, it's on
47 Page 19.
48
49 MS. ATORUK: It's here.
50

1 MS. VOORHEES: Okay.

2

3 MS. ATORUK: I just didn't think it
4 would be in our booklet, I thought it would be in one
5 of those loose-leafs. It's here for a request for
6 National Park Monument subsistence eligibility permit
7 and all that other good stuff is here.

8

9 MS. ATKINSON: Oh, great, okay. So I
10 encourage you to look at the table because I think it
11 lays it out really well, the changes to the process.

12

13 MS. MAAS: Yeah, this is Lisa. Just a
14 clarification, the table is not in the meeting book,
15 but the standard operating procedures are in the
16 meeting book.

17

18 REPORTER: Is it on the website?

19

20 MR. PAPPAS: Yes.

21

22 REPORTER: It's on the website if you
23 have access to that.

24

25 MS. ATKINSON: Okay. It sounds like it
26 is listed on the website.

27

28 (Pause)

29

30 MS. ATORUK: Okay. So this is the
31 permit that a person applies for to get into the Park
32 Service?

33

34 MS. ATKINSON: No.

35

36 MS. ATORUK: Into the Monument?
37 Eligibility permit?

38

39 MS. ATKINSON: Let me see if I can put
40 it simply. I -- so for Kobuk Valley and Cape
41 Krusenstern, the only hunting there is subsistence --
42 Federal subsistence hunting and so if someone is a
43 Federally-qualified subsistence user in the Park unit,
44 if they are a resident of a -- if they live in a
45 resident zone community for the Park or the Monument,
46 so that's all the villages in the Northwest Arctic
47 Borough, so everyone here -- there's no permit
48 required.....

49

50

1 MS. ATORUK: Yeah.

2

3 MS. ATKINSON:if you're a
4 Federally-qualified subsistence user and what we're
5 talking about is for -- there's a couple other ways
6 that you can be qualified to hunt in the Park or
7 Monument. So if you don't live within the Northwest
8 Arctic Borough.....

9

10 MS. ATORUK: Then you apply.

11

12 MS. ATKINSON:you could live in a
13 community that has customary and traditional use for
14 the Park or the Monument, so we have resident zone
15 communities, but there are other communities that have
16 customary and traditional use, but if you're an
17 individual who is in a community that does not have
18 customary and traditional use, you can apply for a
19 13.440 permit or an individual customary and
20 traditional use permit and that is another way to be a
21 Federally-qualified subsistence user if you have an
22 established pattern of use. So it's not that anybody
23 can apply for this, it's if you have an established
24 pattern of use in that unit and you would have to be
25 like pre-ANILCA, and the standard operating procedures,
26 like this application process is what someone would
27 have to go through in order to prove that they have
28 customary and traditional use in the unit. And people --
29 you can only do this if you're from a rural community
30 that is Federally -- is able to participate in Federal
31 subsistence. So people from Anchorage and Fairbanks
32 are not able to do it.

33

34 So I think that's like the basic
35 important points and I hope I got all of those right.
36 Joshua Ream is also on the phone if we have any
37 questions or if I got anything wrong.

38

39 Anything to add Josh.

40

41 MR. REAM: No, I think you captured it
42 Hannah, but I'm happy to help answer any questions that
43 arise.

44

45 MS. ATKINSON: Okay. So back to
46 Barbara and the Council members, does that clear up
47 what this permit is for?

48

49 MS. ATORUK: Yes.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you,
2 Hannah. Anyone else have questions for Hannah.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not you must do a
7 good job, Hannah, thank you.

8
9 MS. ATKINSON: Well, thank you, but we
10 are looking for a decision from the Council on whether
11 or not you support the changes that are proposed to the
12 process. So that would be the changes outlined in the
13 table showing, you know, that it will narrow -- it will
14 be open continuously and that it would be the SRCs as
15 the Advisory Committee rather than the RACs, the
16 Regional Director would be the decisionmaker, it's
17 going to be on a flexible schedule, it's going to be
18 following the standard operating procedures that we
19 included.

20
21 So if you feel prepared and informed on
22 the issue, if it looks good to you, we're looking for a
23 decision.

24
25 MS. ATORUK: Can we say we'll leave it
26 up to the SRC to decide and follow suit with whatever
27 they decide?

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MS. ATKINSON: The Council can decide
32 whatever they would like to, that would work.

33
34 MS. ATORUK: Okay. So my thinking is,
35 not to decide on anything that is set forth, but leave
36 it up to what the SRC will say and follow suit with
37 what they say. Is that clear or needs edits or do a
38 new one, whatever, but those are my thoughts. Do we
39 try to say something and then change -- take something
40 out and stuff and then not go right with the SRC, we
41 just get bottled up, but if we leave it to SRC for
42 their decision and follow on what they want to do and
43 say then it's all clear because they know more about
44 this stuff than we do.

45
46 Mike.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Sorry about that, I
49 had phone connection problems just for a little while.

50

1 MS. ATORUK: Okay. So do I have to say
2 it over again.
3
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No, I caught the tail
5 end of it.
6
7 MS. ATORUK: Okay. What do you say
8 Mike.
9
10 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, that sounds good.
11 This is Mike, through the Chair.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Mike.
14 Okay, Barbara, are you done asking for input. That's
15 the trouble with the teleconference, I lost phone
16 contact for a little while.
17
18 MR. STEVENSON: Barb, are you making a
19 motion to defer to the SRC?
20
21 MS. ATORUK: Okay. I move to leave the
22 decision up to SRC and whatever SRC plans or decides on
23 this case then we follow suit in what they say -- what
24 they are saying, or what they want, because they have
25 more understanding of what is being said here than we
26 do.
27
28 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Barb.
29
30 (Pause)
31
32 REPORTER: So a second?
33
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Do I hear a second.
35
36 (No comments)
37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'll second it.
39
40 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Attamuk.
41
42 MS. ATORUK: Question.
43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Question's been
45 called for.
46
47 MR. STEVENSON: Question.
48
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If there's no
50

1 questions, all in favor signify by saying aye.

2

3

IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, all four, thank
you. I was off connection for a little while, Attamuk
here -- is there anything else?

7

8

9

MS. ATORUK: You need to state the
order and say so moved.

10

11

12

13

14

15

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. All in favor
-- it was all in favor, so moved, thank you. I'm
losing this one, I'm not used to teleconference in a
long time.

16

17

18

19

20

MS. LUKIN: Attamuk. Or Mr. Chair,
this is Maija. Several of us got cut off, could you
restate that, please. I think four of us got cut off
and we just got back on.

21

22

23

24

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I was one of
them that got disconnected.

25

26

27

REPORTER: Barb, why don't you go ahead
and say what you said again.

28

29

30

31

32

MS. ATORUK: Okay. For whatever Hannah
presented and asked us to speak up on this, I said,
we'll leave it up to the SRC to decide on what they
want to do about this and we will follow suit because
they have more understanding on it than we do.

33

34

35

36

37

REPORTER: Thank you. Okay, Maija, so
that was what she proposed, that was the motion, and
then they voted on it. So for those of you that were
cut off, that was the motion and vote.

38

39

40

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, and it was
passed, all in favor.

41

42

43

REPORTER: Correct.

44

45

MS. LUKIN: Thank you.

46

47

MS. ATKINSON: Thank you, Council.

48

49

MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Maija.

50

Thank you, Hannah.

1 REPORTER: Okay, Enoch, now you're
2 going to agency reports.
3
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay.
5
6 MR. KRAMER: Court reporter, Tina.
7
8 REPORTER: Yeah, wait a second Enoch.
9 Yes, Mike.
10
11 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, just to update you
12 guys under new business we did put the D, the special
13 action request for modification.
14
15 REPORTER: Right. I wondered if you
16 were still doing that, apologize. Okay, Enoch -- Mike,
17 go ahead and tell Enoch.
18
19 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, Enoch.
20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah.
22
23 MR. KRAMER: Before you took Chair I
24 did make a note under new business, Item D, for this
25 new special action request with modification to shut
26 down hunting to non-Federally-qualified subsistence
27 users in Northwest Arctic. And that was the special
28 action request that Barb brought up.
29
30 MR. STEVENSON: Because of Covid,
31 right?
32
33 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, it's the request
34 that I asked that we do a new special action request to
35 temporarily close and we have to make a word for
36 transporters or does that include non-Federally.....
37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Qualified users.
39
40 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, qualified users. We
41 need to -- somebody said that if we include that then
42 we will set our own people off and they won't be able
43 to hunt there, we don't want to do that. But then this
44 is Federally-qualified subsistence users usually
45 includes the State of Alaska, right, I was thinking
46 about the outsiders, Lower 48 people. So we need to
47 put that verbiage in there and make it temporary and
48 this special action needs to be in place before fall of
49 2021.
50

1 So we need to start working on it now
2 and then bring it out again at our winter meeting,
3 clean it up then and our Staff will help us and then we
4 can put it forth to the Federal Board. I don't know
5 when the Federal Board meets. I think they meet in
6 March or April.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, I hear you
9 Barbara. Let me ask the Staff there, I think we can't
10 legally say it's for the State or other people, I think
11 it's got to be under non-Federally-qualified people,
12 even our relatives from Anchorage; am I right or wrong?
13 Correct me somebody.

14
15 MS. MAAS: So, Mr. Chair, this is Lisa.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

18
19 MS. MAAS: And if you submit it to the
20 Federal Subsistence Board we only distinguish between
21 Federally-qualified users and non-Federally-qualified
22 users, and non-Federally-qualified users include people
23 from Anchorage and Fairbanks as well as from the Lower
24 48. If you only want to exclude people from the Lower
25 48 that would be considered non-residents, and you
26 could submit a proposal or appeal to the State just to
27 close to non-residents. And, again, for -- if you
28 submit a special action request on the Federal side
29 that, of course, only applies to Federal public lands,
30 people that are shareholders in Anchorage would still
31 be able to hunt on state-managed lands, such as NANA
32 lands, but they would not be able to hunt on the
33 Federal public lands, whereas if you close on the State
34 side to non-residents, that would apply to all lands in
35 Unit 23.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. So it's
38 only for non-residents only on Unit 23.

39
40 MS. MAAS: If you only want to close to
41 non-residents that would be a State proposal, not a
42 Federal special action.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, gotcha.

45
46 MS. ATORUK: And if we want to do that,
47 you know, the transporters fly them in above -- way
48 above Noatak, that would be including on the North
49 Slope region, right?

50

1 MS. MAAS: It would be up to the
2 Council to decide what areas they wanted to include,
3 whether it's only Unit 23 or also, for example, Unit
4 26A.

5
6 MS. ATORUK: But we would need to talk
7 to the North Slope Council before we even do that and
8 they would follow suit with us to file that special
9 action.

10
11 MS. MAAS: It would not be necessary to
12 discuss that with the North Slope but that's certainly
13 something the Northwest Arctic Council, you know, could
14 choose to do.

15
16 MS. ATORUK: Oh, okay. So this special
17 action, if we did it, including 26A, would go through
18 the Council of North Slope, it would be presented at
19 the North Slope meeting, at the winter meeting?

20
21 MS. MAAS: It really depends on the
22 timing of the request. If you only want to exclude
23 non-residents, that's a State process and I can only --
24 there's probably someone else on line that can advise
25 you to the State process. But if you choose to do non-
26 Federally-qualified users under a Federal special
27 action, it would just depend on the timing of the
28 request and the analysis on whether it would be
29 presented to Councils or not.

30
31 MS. ATORUK: Oh, geez.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, it's getting
34 harder.

35
36 MS. ATORUK: Yeah.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I remember I
39 said earlier that we need to get with North Slope to
40 find out what we could do because transporters and
41 outfitters were being affected from Anaktuvuk Pass
42 down.

43
44 MS. ATORUK: Yep. Can we.....

45
46 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead -- go ahead,
49 Mike.
50

1 MS. ATORUK: We can also request a
2 meeting with North Slope and Seward Penn and Northwest
3 to meet together, whenever this Covid is over and done
4 with and that's probably a year away from now, but we
5 need to meet somehow and talk about this because it
6 affects us all and that's caribou.

7

8 But go ahead, Mike.

9

10 MR. KRAMER: Yeah. My suggestion is,
11 is we go through with our special action request on the
12 Federal side and I think we, as a Council, could submit
13 a proposal to the State Board of Game to see if there's
14 a possibility they could either limit or if possible,
15 shut down commercial services in this Northwest Arctic
16 region, Game Management Unit 23 for outside hunters and
17 non-local residents.

18

19 It's up to the Council. I mean that's
20 what I was suggesting.

21

22 MS. ATORUK: We could do that too. We
23 can do a special action for Unit 23 and then do a
24 proposal to the State and see what they would do with
25 that. So I would agree with you, and then let's think
26 about, we could -- if we want to also include 26A,
27 because that's where all the transporters are going, is
28 further up, away from Unit 23 but coming in through
29 Unit 23. They're not coming in through Barrow, they're
30 coming in through Kotzebue. Because our transporter,
31 we have a couple transporters there that have permit to
32 take them out and that's from under Park Service, I
33 think.

34

35 Okay, thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I hear you
38 guys all, we have a lot concerns. They're being
39 dropped off somewhere in the upper Noatak, right on the
40 boundary line of that area and they're hurting our
41 migration of our caribou. So OSM we need you guys help
42 in wording it right and we need to meet with Barrow
43 because we need their support completely.

44

45 (Teleconference interference -
46 participants not muted)

47

48 MS. MAAS: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
49 Lisa again. And I just wanted to clarify again that

50

1 under the Federal special action process, that would
2 not specifically address transporters at all.
3 Transporters, as you discussed this morning are handled
4 on Federal public lands by individual agencies, so for
5 example the Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and
6 Bureau of Land Management have permits for guides and
7 transporters on their specific agency lands. So under
8 the Federal special action process it wouldn't really
9 get at the transporters specifically.

10

11 MS. ATORUK: So how are they flying
12 out, are they chartering their own flights then without
13 the permit, they're just chartering a plan from
14 Kotzebue up to Noatak, the headwaters of the Noatak,
15 they're not using transporters?

16

17 MS. MAAS: I mean hypothetically they
18 could fly in with their own private planes.

19

20 MS. ATORUK: No, they're not. They're
21 flying into Kotzebue and flying out from there.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, Barb's right.
24 There's a lot of outside hunters coming in with Alaska
25 Airlines. We see that big time this summer.

26

27 (Pause)

28

29 MS. ATORUK: Maybe our Wildlife
30 Defenders know that, are they involved in this to see
31 who comes in and who goes out and also who comes back
32 and how they come back, which airlines they come back
33 with. I don't know but we need to get this special
34 action going and then with what Mike said, we can go
35 with that. So I'm good with that.

36

37 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, me too. We
40 need to find something. Because I see me -- me and my
41 family see a lot of planes going through Aggie and
42 going way up the Noatak and the Squirrel River. I mean
43 some days busy all day long until dark.

44

45 MR. STEVENSON: Questions for the
46 group, on the clarification, Lisa, did you have any
47 questions.

48

49 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman, this is

50

1 Mike.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Mike.

4
5 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, one other concern
6 that was brought up to me throughout the fall hunting
7 season was I seen numerous, numerous pictures of bags
8 of meat being dumped in people's personal trash cans,
9 dumpsters, commercial dumpsters, all over Kotzebue.
10 That big old van driving around dumping meat or
11 whatever it was, you know, that was being dumped into
12 people's personal trash cans. You know that's kind of
13 ridiculous. I mean I don't know whether they were
14 investigated or not, but I know that we were pointed
15 towards reporting it to Fish and Wildlife Officers,
16 State and, you know, Federal and whoever, maybe that
17 was supposed to look into it. But numerous, numerous
18 counts of people dumping bags, black trash bags with
19 meat and stuff. Because one of the main factors that
20 they noticed was, you know, the big flock of seagulls
21 and ravens, you know, just piling up around these trash
22 cans and dumpsters.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, Mike, you're
25 right. You remind me of the time that Buckland was
26 trying to send me a picture about game being dumped off
27 at Buckland at the airport and he -- for some reason he
28 had to pull it -- and he was told not to comment or
29 send me anything so he had it on FaceBook and he pull
30 it, he was sending it to me. But you're right. But
31 what I think we need to do, we need a proposal, all
32 transporters -- if we're losing we need to put a
33 proposal in, no game shall be taken to Kotzebue in
34 plastic bags, they need to be in game bags, that way
35 they take less time to spoil. That way maybe somebody
36 could use them if they're not too far gone.

37
38 MS. ATORUK: If they know how to take
39 care of them they shouldn't be too far gone at all, but
40 they're not taking care of their catch, they're just
41 going out for the horns and just not caring how they
42 take care of that meat.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, that's why I
45 said, probably we need to put a proposal or something
46 that they can't take meat in trash bags, they got to
47 take them in game bags.

48
49 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, we can add that on
50

1 to this special action, or we're trying to cut them out
2 so we can do a proposal.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That's what I'm
7 saying, we need to find something, the more we put, the
8 less outsiders we get because we depend on the meat
9 heavily.

10

11 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair, George Pappas,
12 I have a recommendation for you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

15

16 MR. PAPPAS: Good afternoon here. So
17 the Federal Subsistence Board can control on Federal
18 public lands who gets to hunt and it sounds like you
19 want a special action, wildlife special action to close
20 Federal public lands to non-Federally-qualified. Non-
21 Federally-qualified would include everybody who doesn't
22 live locally. The Federal Subsistence Board does not
23 have the authority to control transporters, but they
24 just have the ability to control who hunts. And don't
25 forget, there's a lot of people, private pilots in
26 Alaska, that have their own airplanes and they come in
27 too, so that might be added to all the planes you see
28 coming and going.

29

30 So my recommendation is to put a
31 Federal special action to close Unit 23, as I
32 understand all the discussion so far is the entirety of
33 Unit 23, not just parts of it, but all of it, and
34 you're concerned about 26A. If you also request 26A
35 then an analysis will come forth from Office of
36 Subsistence Management which will cover both 23 and 26A
37 and at that time, at the winter meeting the North Slope
38 can actually review the analysis and decide whether or
39 not they want to join your effort or not, so they don't
40 have to request their own, it'll already be requested
41 for a closure, maybe they don't want all of 26A, maybe
42 they want a half of it or a quarter of it or I don't
43 know, so to make it very clean, a Federal special
44 action to close Unit 23 -- A [sic] -- to all non-
45 Federally-qualified, if it comes out of this Regional
46 Advisory Council and you come up with some dates, we
47 can get an analysis for you and you can vote on it at
48 your next winter meeting. And at that next winter
49 meeting, the State will hear loud and clear what you're
50

1 concerns are here and the Board of Game does not meet
2 on the Northwest Arctic area for another two years, so
3 you could form -- or start to form a proposal to the
4 Board of Game at that time at the winter Northwest
5 Arctic meeting.

6
7 I hope I'm clear there, sir.

8
9 MS. ATORUK: Yes, Sir, that's it.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, you're real
12 clear, thank you.

13
14 MS. ATORUK: Okay, that's what we want.

15
16 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair,
17 this is Mike.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

20
21 MR. KRAMER: I know that when I
22 personally had submitted that special action request it
23 pretty much caused an uproar throughout the State for
24 other Councils to submit closures. I know ours was
25 denied, was the other Regional Advisory Council's
26 special action requests passed to close down their game
27 management unit to non-Federally-qualified subsistence
28 users during this Covid. Because I mean mine was
29 denied. And I was just wondering what was the status
30 on all the other regions that submitted special action
31 requests to shut down commercial services within their
32 game management unit. That was a question I had for
33 OSM.

34
35 MS. MAAS: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

38
39 MS. MAAS: This is Lisa, and I can
40 respond to Mike's question.

41
42 So first of all I just wanted to
43 clarify that Mike's request was not analyzed by OSM, it
44 was -- the term we use in OSM was considered invalid,
45 and that doesn't mean the concerns and request was
46 invalid, it just means that the Board's -- the reasons
47 for the request fell outside the scope of the Board's
48 authority. Because the reasons presented in the
49 request was to prevent the spread of the disease, which
50

1 is an epidemiological issue, OSM, you know, we're
2 biologists and anthropologists, we're not
3 epidemiologist, so that's really outside our scope of
4 expertise. But more importantly as Attamuk pointed out
5 earlier in the meeting, you know, preventing people
6 from flying into Kotzebue, that's a city or borough
7 issue, the Federal Board has no control over people
8 flying into Kotzebue for river floating, backpacking,
9 bird watching, hunting on State managed lands, things
10 like that. So it really didn't seem like preventing
11 the spread of the Covid19 that a special action was the
12 best avenue to get at that issue.

13
14 And so for the other requests OSM
15 received for closures, it was a similar thing, where it
16 just while the Board has the authority to close to non-
17 Federally-qualified users, the rationale and
18 justifications for those closures really fell outside
19 the scope of the Board's authority. So all requests
20 for closures because of the Covid19 pandemic were
21 considered, quote, invalid, similar to Mike's request.

22
23 And the Board, just another point of
24 information, the Board is currently paused on all
25 actions concerning the Coronavirus. This comes from
26 way above OSM, from Washington D.C., and the Department
27 of Interior has decreed that all special actions
28 concerning the Coronavirus are currently on hold or on
29 pause and it's not clear when they will consider those
30 special actions again. That's not to discourage you
31 from submitting one but it's not clear if you submit
32 one when the Board will actually act on it.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair.

37
38 REPORTER: Go ahead, Barb, I think
39 Enoch is either on mute or got cut off.

40
41 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead. Go ahead.
44 I couldn't hit the button.

45
46 MS. ATORUK: Okay. Thank you for that
47 statement. So we need to say in that special action
48 that we are submitting, we need to give a time limit,
49 if it's going to be a temporary special action we need
50

1 to say how many months. And we also need to state why
2 we are doing this special action. That's another one
3 that we need to think of. She has just told us we
4 can't use Covid19. And I think that's what was being
5 used in that other special action, so we need to find
6 another word, take another course and stating why we
7 are submitting this special action. And I can't think
8 of one right now, somebody else will.

9
10 (Teleconference interference -
11 participants not muted)

12
13 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair, this is George
14 Pappas.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

17
18 MR. PAPPAS: So if I heard from the
19 reports from the Council members today it sounded like
20 there was a problem with continued subsistence uses.
21 It sounded to me that no one got meat. It sounded like
22 -- one of the Council members even said they don't have
23 a single scrap of caribou meat in their freezer. So
24 continuance of subsistence uses is a fully justifiable
25 reason for submitting such a special action where folks
26 that are Federally-qualified subsistence users are not
27 meeting their needs and, you know, that's one. The
28 other one could be for conservation purposes. I also
29 heard a Council member today say there was an issue
30 with conservation with the Western Arctic Caribou Herd,
31 you know, with the total number of available animals.
32 So those two issues are No. 1 and No. 2 that you can
33 use for justification. Or public safety issues. In
34 recent, the Federal Subsistence Board did issue a
35 closure to non-Federally-qualified in Unit 13 for
36 public safety issues as part of the justification.

37
38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39
40 It does sound like continuation of
41 subsistence uses might be applicable in accordance with
42 what I've heard today from the Council.

43
44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45
46 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

49
50

1 MS. ATORUK: Thank you, George. We can
2 use that for a reason why. And now we need to discuss
3 the length, do we want a year, do we want four months,
4 do we want three months, do we want two months. What
5 is the hunting season, like starting from August to
6 October, that would be August, September, October,
7 three months. We can't do a year unless you have a
8 good reason why you want it for a year. If it's a
9 temporary special action.

10
11 MR. STEVENSON: Barbara, I think.....

12
13 MS. ATORUK: I think it has more bite.

14
15 MR. STEVENSON: Barbara, you can get
16 the special action, it's -- you could always change the
17 timing.

18
19 MS. ATORUK: What'd he say George.

20
21 MR. PAPPAS: Well, through the Chair.
22 Barb, well, I'm looking at the State hunting
23 regulations on Page 126 in the regulatory summary. It
24 looks like the State's hunt begins on August 1st and --
25 well, actually there's even one here in 23 that starts
26 on July 1st.

27
28 So you have two options.

29
30 If you ask for up to 90 days then that
31 does not require public meetings, that's something the
32 Federal Subsistence Board can do.

33
34 If you want more than 90 days you'll
35 have to have.....

36
37 MS. MAAS: 60.

38
39 MR. PAPPAS: Sorry, Lisa, my bad, I
40 apologize. 60 days, not 90 days, my bad.

41
42 So 60 days you don't need extra
43 meetings. More than 60 days you do need extra
44 meetings.

45
46 And I'll turn it over to Lisa.

47
48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49
50

1 MS. ATORUK: So more than 60 days
2 you'll need what?
3
4 MR. PAPPAS: You'll have to have public
5 hearings on it.
6
7 MS. ATORUK: Oh, okay. Because if we
8 do a 60 day we can put it right in the middle of the
9 main hunting season time and can't you always ask for
10 an extension on a special action -- an emergency
11 extension?
12
13 MS. MAAS: It would be a new special
14 action, you would submit another special action. But
15 the Council -- it's up to you to decide how long you'd
16 like to submit it but it would be best to clarify that
17 time period now so OSM knows how to analyze the
18 request.
19
20 MS. ATORUK: Okay.
21
22 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chair.
23
24 MS. ATORUK: Well, I would suggest we
25 do it right in the middle of the hunting season, that
26 would be August and October -- I mean August and
27 September.
28
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: August and September.
30
31 MS. ATORUK: Because caribou start
32 going into rut like in October 10. I learned that here
33 in Kiana, everybody keeping track of when the rut
34 season starts and they said October 10. So the middle
35 of the hunting season would be August and September,
36 right?
37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Right.
39
40 MS. ATORUK: So for 60 days it would be
41 August and September, and I move.
42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And I will second it,
44 yeah, for 60 days.
45
46 MS. MAAS: Mr. Chair.
47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Lisa.
49
50

1 MS. MAAS: There's one more point of
2 clarification, is the intent of the Council to only
3 close the caribou hunting season?

4
5 MS. ATORUK: I think that's what we're
6 focusing on. Every other animal is healthy. We'd like
7 to shoot all the bears and all the wolves.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 MS. ATORUK: But they have a lot of
12 protection on them. They're the ones that are really
13 getting dangerous is the wolves. Where the kids are
14 not allowed to be walking around outside because they
15 were coming into the community. And same with the
16 bears, they were hungry this summer. They were chasing
17 bears -- there's three of them over here above -- on
18 the side of Kiana, one up towards the hill, one over
19 here and one over there, this fall. And there were a
20 pack of wolves also on that side being seen and chasing
21 the bears. And the caribou was on the other side of
22 the range, they were just milling around and eating on
23 the other side when they were checking them and then in
24 the meantime Wainwright was sending us notes and saying
25 we have caribou all over the place here even in our
26 graveyard. And they're just all over up north, they
27 just never even bother coming over. They just started
28 trickling in just a little, just within a couple weeks
29 or so here in Kiana, and the hunters are trying to go
30 out to get bulls, and we are telling them, no, don't
31 shoot bulls now, they're in rut. You have to shoot the
32 next ones down so it's a real hard hurtful fall. We
33 don't have any meat at all in our freezers, and we
34 don't know how the winter will be. And we haven't seen
35 that much either, yet, as of today, and the ice is
36 about 14 inches thick already right here in front of
37 Kiana. I asked yesterday and that's how far it was.
38 And already considering to pull out their under ice
39 nets.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Barb.

44
45 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman, this is
46 Mike.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

49
50

1 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I think we should
2 put it for caribou and moose because we do know that
3 our moose are, you know, in somewhat of a decline. You
4 know this special action request will mainly concern
5 moose and caribou. You know the caribou, Noatak they
6 got caribou all fall from, you know, almost from August
7 all the way into September, and they -- you know a lot
8 of people filled their freezers in Noatak. But what
9 concerns me is, you know, all those caribou crossed and
10 this was in August and September and now they're
11 finally starting to get them in Ambler and Kiana, you
12 know, Selawik hasn't even seen any caribou yet. I know
13 that some people went out. I'm unsure as to whether,
14 you know, they had anybody harvest any. We don't have
15 a Selawik Council member on here nor a Noatak. But,
16 you know, the concern is, is that, you know, right now
17 until the Fish and Game gives their report on caribou,
18 how their overall condition is, you know, what their
19 satellite collars are saying whether they're just
20 mingling around eating due to warm temperature climate
21 or are they just shy of, you know, coming down through
22 the mountains into the Kobuk. You know there's a
23 number of things that can delay them from coming down.

24
25 But I think we should at least put this
26 special action request in for caribou and moose,
27 completely cut out the Covid thing because if we could
28 shut down those subsistence resources that we depend on
29 and see such a delay -- there's so many people here in
30 Kotzebue that never got any caribou and once the time
31 passed they said, well, we'll just get them when they
32 come through in the wintertime and last year that
33 happened, this year it's going to happen because I know
34 they're probably going to come through here again.
35 Everything is delayed, but it's like why.

36
37 Why are they delayed, was it the
38 pressure that the transporters were putting up there in
39 the mountains, you know, north of the Noatak River, we
40 don't know. But we know that Noatak, you know, they
41 allowed the first caribou to come through, they filled
42 their freezers and now everybody else south of the
43 Noatak is delayed. Why is there a delay. Where are
44 they. Are they just mingling around eating due to the
45 warmer climate, you know, and that's one thing that the
46 Fish and Game caribou biologist will have to answer to
47 us here sometime soon once we get to the agency
48 reports.

49
50

1 So I think if we just go ahead and cut
2 out that whole Covid thing because, you know, it's
3 beyond their control, the Subsistence Board's control.
4 So I think if we just mainly concentrate on, you know,
5 our subsistence resources. Because I know that once
6 caribou start coming through, you know, the villages
7 that haven't even harvested caribou, we know that
8 they're going to get hit hard and right now, I believe
9 it's next year they'll be doing another census on the
10 caribou. I believe their last census they were at
11 230,000 maybe shy, I'm not sure. And we'll also be
12 able to find out the cow mortality, the calf mortality,
13 you know, and the bull, the calf ratio, and calf ratio.
14 So once I think we go ahead and hear from the caribou
15 biologist then we'll be able to get a better idea what
16 to base this special action request on.

17
18 And then we could look at getting
19 support from, you know, regional corporations, village
20 corporations, IRAs, you know, the House of
21 Representatives, our Representative, our Senator, you
22 know, then we could start looking at letters of support
23 to help us and guide us to be able to make it to where
24 we can, you know, cause an easier pathway for our
25 caribou to migrate down and not be so hindered by
26 aircraft traffic.

27
28 That's all I have.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, Mike, thanks,
33 you're right.

34
35 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

38
39 MS. ATORUK: Thanks, Mike. We can
40 include moose. Caribou and moose then in this special
41 action. And I kind of hate to say this but then I'm
42 going to anyway because this has been done in the
43 history, in the past, way back, where there was some
44 (In Native) on this caribou and then they never came
45 down. They quit coming down this way. Until 1946 they
46 came back down. Because somebody from down this way
47 broke the curse. And when this started happening, I
48 started thinking about that and thinking, I wonder, so
49 I'm still wondering but I needed to put this out right
50

1 now so you guys can have an idea of what went on in the
2 past and then Selawik people mentions it, the Upper
3 Kobuk mentions it and they knew about it. I think even
4 Anaktuvuk people used to live in the Upper Kobuk before
5 they moved back over that way, they knew about it.

6
7 So this has happened before, it could
8 happen again, it might have happened again.

9
10 So that's just for you to think about.
11 It might not have happened, I hope it didn't happen.

12
13 So those are just my thoughts on this
14 caribou thing today.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 So we'll include -- I'll add into my
19 motion to add caribou and moose for that special
20 action.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Do
23 we need to put this in proposal form?

24
25 MS. MAAS: Mr. Chair. Yeah, I'd like
26 to -- can I restate the motion to make sure OSM is
27 clear on the request.

28
29 MS. ATORUK: Okay. Northwest Arctic
30 Regional Council will do a special action for 60 days
31 to prevent the non-resident hunters in coming into Unit
32 23 and 26A on moose and caribou.

33
34 MR. STEVENSON: For conservation and
35 continuation of subsistence use.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You mean add the word
38 subsistence.

39
40 REPORTER: Zach, did you say for the
41 continuation of subsistence uses?

42
43 MR. STEVENSON: Yes.

44
45 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, and also
46 conservation reasons. Well, George has it, George has
47 the wording for that.

48
49 MR. STEVENSON: Yes, that's correct.

50

1 Yes, thank you, Tina.
2
3 REPORTER: Thank you, Zach.
4
5 MS. ATORUK: Thank you. George 1 and
6 2, what you said earlier, please. Thank you.
7
8 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, for continued
9 subsistence uses and conservation purposes. I
10 understand you're looking at Unit 23 and 26A for moose
11 and caribou. Yeah, we'll need the Chair, I believe, is
12 the one who seconded it, to agree with that
13 modification so we can make it official.
14
15 MR. KRAMER: Okay, this is Mike real
16 quick.
17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Mike.
19
20 MR. KRAMER: Do we have to rescind the
21 previous motion on the proposal, prior to this.
22
23 MR. STEVENSON: No, Michael, this
24 is.....
25
26 MS. ATORUK: No, we're just modifying
27 it.
28
29 MR. STEVENSON: The Council is
30 resubmitting.....
31
32 REPORTER: Okay, so the way I
33 understand where I'm at right now is that -- George is
34 this right, that Enoch needs to agree with that
35 modification as the seconder?
36
37 MR. PAPPAS: Correct.
38
39 MS. ATORUK: Okay.
40
41 REPORTER: Enoch, do you agree?
42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, Ma'am, I did, I
44 said I agree.
45
46 REPORTER: Thank you.
47
48 MS. ATORUK: Question.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Question's been
2 called for. All in favor signify by saying aye.
3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. It
7 passed, thank you all. Anything else on the subject
8 there.
9
10 MS. ATORUK: No.
11
12 MR. BAKER: Mr. Chairman, this is
13 Thomas.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, OSM, for
16 trying to help us big time.
17
18 MR. BAKER: Mr. Chairman.
19
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.
21
22 MR. BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
23 This is Thomas Baker. Circling back, George, to what
24 you said earlier when it comes to the transporters and
25 it's really a city/borough issue, would you and anybody
26 else in the OSM Staff be able to draft something up to
27 kind of summarize this discussion we've been having and
28 send that to the city of Kotzebue and to the Northwest
29 Arctic Borough so that we can open that line of
30 communication so that the city and the borough
31 understand that they have a part they can play to help
32 bolster this because what I'm afraid of is if we do
33 this and it goes through there will still be the
34 loophole of somebody can go out because they're not
35 preventing them from going to Kotzebue and then flying
36 out as the claims are made every year that people see
37 planes with their tail numbers covered and what not,
38 but if there was a way that just so that we can clarify
39 what the jurisdiction of the RAC is with this special
40 action request and what the jurisdiction of the
41 municipalities and the local entities in Kotzebue, the
42 City of Kotzebue and the Northwest Arctic Borough so
43 that they can play their parts to help with this
44 effort.
45
46 MR. PAPPAS: Through the Chair. Lisa,
47 I think you have captured that, too, Hannah, and
48 Robbin, you captured that too so we'll also have the
49 transcripts in hand. That is way out of our lane but
50

1 we can specifically send a note describing the
2 authority of the Federal Subsistence Board and cover a
3 little bit more than that, capturing your intent to say
4 if someone in the Borough or City wants to go above and
5 beyond that it would be in their wheelhouse. But we
6 can definitely make it very clear to them what we do
7 not have authority for and what we do have authority
8 for which will help them build their side bins to focus
9 their efforts.

10

11 Will that help? It's not specifically
12 what you're asking but it will help.

13

14 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

17

18 MS. ATORUK: That's why we have Attamuk
19 and Thomas Baker there in Kotzebue, they're
20 representing Kotzebue. You guys can do your write up
21 and give it to them and they can go present it at the
22 assembly meeting or the Council meeting in Kotzebue.
23 That's why we're on the Council.

24

25 MR. BAKER: Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You forgot about
28 Mike.

29

30 MS. ATORUK: Oh, and Mike. We're
31 Kotzebue heavy so -- and then there are three abled
32 gentlemen that can go and present it in front of these
33 other Councils, the North Slope -- I mean the Kotzebue
34 assembly, Northwest Arctic assembly, and the city
35 Council or whoever holds the higher powers there in
36 Kotzebue.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: For Kotzebue.....

39

40 MR. BAKER: Mr. Chairman.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT:it would have to
43 be the city, for the villages the Borough.

44

45 MS. ATORUK: The city, yeah.

46

47 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, this is Mike through
48 the Chair. I agree with Thomas. You know, the one
49 question I have for like the city of Kotzebue, you

50

1 know, since they are a commercial service, are they
2 being charged city sales tax, you know, because I think
3 if we hit them harder and higher in their back pockets,
4 they won't want to come here because they ain't going
5 to be able to make very much money running a commercial
6 services here. So if the city is charging them 6
7 percent sales tax on the money that they make off of
8 these non-residents and, you know, non-local residents,
9 hunters that are being transported by these
10 transporters, if we hit them harder in the back pocket
11 then, you know, they ain't going to want to operate up
12 here because they're not making much money. And I
13 think what the Park Service needs to do.....

14

15 MR. BAKER: Mr. Chairman.

16

17 MR. KRAMER:instead of charging
18 \$100, it should be \$100,000, just tap them in the back
19 pocket, you know, don't be cheap, nail them, let's get
20 them. We need to make sure that.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Somebody wanted --
23 did somebody want to say something, I heard them say
24 Chairman, go ahead, who are you.

25

26 MR. BAKER: This is Thomas. Just
27 getting back to responding to George. Yes, George,
28 that's kind of what I was getting at, what you said,
29 was -- I understand it's out of your wheelhouse to go
30 kind of above and beyond where I was, but if there was--
31 just so that there could be a clear definition of what
32 our organizations here on this call are in charge of
33 and their jurisdictions, or at least so far as OSM, and
34 sending that over and just saying, if the city wants to
35 do something, we're covering our part, feel free to
36 look into what things you can do.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thomas, I think if
39 the OSM draft that letter real quick, even if it's not
40 passed yet, we could approach the city with our
41 thoughts together as a team, me, you and Mike.

42

43 MR. BAKER: Mr. Chair. That's what I
44 was getting at. Was just having the Staff get that
45 drafted and give that either to us or to the city so
46 that we can do that. It just needs to come from the
47 Staff specifically saying what this organization can
48 and cannot do, what our jurisdiction is.

49

50

1 MR. STEVENSON: Roger that, Thomas.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Zach.
4
5 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.
6
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Come again, Zach.
8
9 MR. STEVENSON: (Indiscernible) with
10 Attamuk, he'll say it for me there, too.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.
13
14 MR. PAPPAS: Sounds good. Sounds like
15 an assignment from the Regional Advisory Council to OSM
16 to assist with defining what our jurisdiction is, et
17 cetera. We can do that the best we can, as explained,
18 we can do it.
19
20 Thank you, very much.
21
22 MR. BAKER: Thank you.
23
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thomas, I'll give you
25 my number later when this meeting is over with.
26
27 MR. BAKER: Okay.
28
29 MR. PAPPAS: And, Mr. Chair, I've had
30 many communications coming into my direction and that
31 is specifically concern about using the word non-
32 resident. So the action that was just voted on,
33 special action, from my understanding, you're talking
34 about non-Federally-qualified, which.....
35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.
37
38 MR. PAPPAS:includes.....
39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Non-Federally-
41 qualified.
42
43 MR. PAPPAS:and non-locals,
44 correct?
45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Non -- how did I
47 write it. Let me put my glasses on, non-Federally-
48 qualified only.
49
50

1 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you very much, Sir.
2 The record's clear.
3
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anything
5 else.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It looks like,
10 correct me if I'm wrong, are we done with this subject.
11 I know it's a big issue here.
12
13 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, we're done.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Then we are
16 done with 11D.
17
18 MR. KRAMER: This is Mike, Mr.
19 Chairman.
20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah.
22
23 MR. KRAMER: I make a motion we break
24 for lunch.
25
26 MS. ATORUK: Yes, please, thanks, Mike.
27
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, yeah, okay
29 we'll break for lunch. We'll meet again at 2:00
30 o'clock.
31
32 MS. ATORUK: Okay, thank you.
33
34 MR. KRAMER: Okay, 2:00 o'clock.
35
36 (Off record)
37
38 (On record)
39
40 MR. KRAMER: Okay, we're back up and
41 running and reconvening at 2:03 and right now we're at
42 Item 12, agency reports. Since we are back on record,
43 we do have Reppi on the phone also, one of our Council
44 members, welcome Reppi.
45
46 Right now we have tribal governments,
47 it's the slot for tribal governments, NANA or any other
48 tribal governments who want to speak right now is a
49 good time.
50

1 MR. SCHAEFFER: Good afternoon, Mr.
2 Chair and RAC members. This is Damon Schaeffer with
3 NANA. I don't typically report on the trespass program
4 until your guys' February meeting and that's because
5 that's when we've got the end of season report
6 completed and we share that with the group as well as
7 with all the other organizations but I'd be happy to
8 provide just a very short brief update this afternoon
9 on this year's season if that's okay with the RAC.

10

11 MS. ATORUK: It's okay, go ahead.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

14

15 MR. SCHAEFFER: Okay, great, thank you.
16 So we were able to have a program this year. Because
17 of the pandemic there were definitely some challenges.
18 One of those challenges was training for officers.
19 Typically we fly all of our officers into Kotzebue and
20 we put on a four day intensive training and that
21 training is accepted by the State of Alaska to receive
22 their certification as an unarmed officer. We weren't
23 able to do that this year because of the travel
24 restrictions. But NANA Management Services, who
25 administers our program, they worked extremely hard on
26 creating a virtual and teleconference training so we
27 were able to still provide that needed training for the
28 officers which was accepted by the State to receive
29 their certifications. So great job to be able to do
30 that and complete our training for the people that we
31 hired.

32

33 MR. STEVENSON: Good job.

34

35 MR. SCHAEFFER: Okay, I'll continue on.
36 The funding it was from NANA as well as the Northwest
37 Arctic Borough so really appreciate the funds to run
38 the program. We received a little more funding from
39 NANA for this year's season so we were able to hire
40 more officers. We've been, in the past I think when we
41 first started the program we had one officer in each
42 community and we've been slowly ramping up and this
43 year we were able to employ two officers in most all
44 communities. We did struggle with recruiting, again,
45 because of the pandemic. At the time we were
46 recruiting our NANA village offices were closed and
47 they are a big part of our program when it comes to
48 recruitment. But I think at one point in time in the
49 season we had 21 officers employed which, from my short

50

1 time overseeing the program it's been the most people
2 that we've employed in a single season, which is good
3 news. And because of that increased funding we were
4 able to extend the length of the season so we started
5 our training at the end of July. We had our first
6 patrol start the first week of August and we ran
7 through the second week of October before we shut down,
8 temperatures dropped, and ice starts freezing and it
9 becomes a little bit too dangerous to do the patrols,
10 so we shut down I think the week October 8th.

11

12 We also have the Red Dog services that
13 we provide up there that I've shared with the group in
14 the past. We have the hunter shack post and the
15 caribou monitoring post. The hunter shack post is
16 where Kivalina hunters, they can access the road to
17 subsist off of the road. So they go in, they check in
18 at the hunter shack, they receive a briefing and safety
19 gear and then that information's relayed over to the
20 tech operations who notifies the traffic on the road
21 that there are going to be people hunting on the
22 road, just for safety measures.

23

24 And then we have our caribou monitoring
25 post that basically they patrol up and down the road
26 looking for migrating caribou and if they see any
27 migrating caribou it's documented, and then that is
28 also relayed back to the traffic operations on the road
29 to make them aware of the migrating caribou so that
30 they know to stop.

31

32 Because of the pandemic, there was some
33 issues at Red Dog this summer with the Coronavirus, we
34 did have to suspend those services a little bit earlier
35 than we would have liked and that was just to ensure
36 safety of our officers as well as safety for our
37 communities, and that happened in -- oh, I think the
38 second week of September that we suspended those
39 services for this season. But all other patrols
40 continued to go on.

41

42 We didn't issue any citations this year
43 which is a good thing so we didn't have any trespass
44 violations as well. We continue to work with the other
45 land managers in the region, the Park Service, Fish and
46 Wildlife, BLM as well as the Alaska State Troopers.
47 And we've gotten the working group, I think Joe's going
48 to talk to you guys about that a little bit later and
49 provide an update but we still have our Northwest

50

1 Arctic Conservation Law Enforcement Working Group and
2 that's been real beneficial for NANA and I think as
3 well for the other land managers trying to better
4 communicate some of the issues that we're experiencing
5 in the communities. Like we've heard about the low
6 flying aircraft, lots of transporter traffic that may
7 be impacting subsistence and the migration of the
8 caribou. So it's good for us, as a group, to get
9 together, to talk about those issues as we're made
10 aware of them and try to come up with solutions in some
11 of those issues that we're having, or that might be
12 impacting subsistence hunting.

13
14 I do want to mention, and I didn't
15 mention this early on, so we didn't have a meeting
16 before because of the pandemic so last year in our end
17 of season report we have the opportunity to show
18 appreciation to a leader who's done work surrounding
19 subsistence and the protection of our lands. So last
20 year's award, it's the Sugaun award, and that Sugaun is
21 Raymond Stoney's Inupiaq name from Kiana for all the
22 work that he's done for the trespass program, so last
23 year's award went to Walter Sampson. So Walter has
24 done -- he's been a very big advocate for the
25 protection of our lands and resources as -- I mean many
26 of you know he's been -- he's worked for NANA for 40
27 years, he was there when this program was created, the
28 trespass program, and he was a big part of it and so we
29 really wanted to thank Walter for all the work that
30 he's done and if you guys do see him, please
31 congratulate him.

32
33 And that's my update for now unless
34 there are any questions.

35
36 MS. ATORUK: Thank you.

37
38 MR. KRAMER: Is there any questions
39 from the Council.

40
41 MS. ATORUK: No. Thank you.

42
43 MR. KRAMER: Is there any other tribal
44 government that would wish to speak. Thank you, Damon,
45 and good report.

46
47 MR. SCHAEFFER: Thank you.

48
49 MR. KRAMER: Hopefully we'll see you

50

1 here when you guys do the law enforcement one.

2

3 MR. SCHAEFFER: I will be on the line
4 when Joe delivers the report, thank you.

5

6 MR. KRAMER: Okay. Quick question on
7 the agenda. I don't see the law enforcement report on
8 the agenda for agencies.

9

10 MS. LUKIN: Mike, this is Maija.

11

12 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, go ahead.

13

14 MS. LUKIN: Thank you. Joe will be
15 giving his report for the law enforcement work group
16 under the Park Service's report. However, he is
17 unavailable until 3:30 so he'll do it after 3:30.

18

19 MR. KRAMER: Okay. Because I remember
20 we had a law enforcement working group, right?

21

22 MS. LUKIN: Yes.

23

24 MR. KRAMER: And I'm trying to think of
25 a spot where we can put them where it would be more
26 feasible for him to be able to -- him and Damon and the
27 other Bureau of Land Management, and Fish and Game, and
28 Fish and Wildlife can do their reports along with it,
29 the law enforcement portion. For those of you that
30 have the agenda, I think we should go ahead and put
31 them in between Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
32 Office of Subsistence Management. I don't have an
33 asterisk as to where that would go, so it'd be between
34 the last two items under agency reports.

35

36 MS. LUKIN: Okay. Do you want -- I
37 just want to make sure that he can do his -- both his
38 transporter and guide report for the Park Service and
39 the update from the law enforcement work group at the
40 same time.

41

42 MR. KRAMER: Okay. That could be --
43 yeah, we could go ahead and put that between -- would
44 that be at the same time.....

45

46 MS. LUKIN: After Alaska Department of
47 Fish and Game?

48

49 MR. KRAMER:as your guys,

50

1 National Park Service.
2
3 MS. ATORUK: No, it's still after
4 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
5
6 MS. LUKIN: Thanks Barb.
7
8 MS. ATORUK: We should be there by
9 3:30.
10
11 MR. KRAMER: Okay, that sounds good.
12 So is there any more tribal governments that would wish
13 to speak.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 MR. KRAMER: Any Native organizations.
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 MR. KRAMER: Hearing none. U.S. Fish
22 and Wildlife Service.
23
24 MS. GEORGETTE: This is Susan
25 Georgette. I'm the Refuge Manager for Selawik National
26 Wildlife Refuge in Kotzebue, which is part of the U.S.
27 Fish and Wildlife Service. I believe my written report
28 is in your materials somewhere on there, I'm not quite
29 sure exactly.
30
31 MS. ATORUK: It's here.
32
33 MS. GEORGETTE: So our Staff is the
34 same as earlier this year for the most part except we
35 have a new addition recently named Christina Nelson,
36 she's on the call today. She's recently graduated
37 college and she was an intern with us last summer in
38 2019 and enjoyed working here and in the villages so
39 much that she agreed to come back and join us so we're
40 happy to have her.
41
42 With the pandemic, almost all our --
43 virtually all our field work, aviation and travel has
44 ceased since March, and so we're still working but we
45 have not been in the villages out of respect for all of
46 the mandates and we've continued to support them
47 however we can, but we've been in the field almost not
48 at all.
49
50

1 As you know when the sporthunters
2 arrived this fall it created wide spread public concern
3 as we talked about for most of the morning. And I
4 guess I -- after listening this morning, again, I just
5 felt like I wanted to say something that, you know,
6 I've lived in this region a long time and I feel like I
7 have an understanding of how important caribou are to
8 people, and I know that this whole region is the
9 traditional homelands of the Inupiaq and that there's
10 this tremendous sense of loss when caribou aren't
11 available and people's freezers are empty. And it's --
12 I mean for me, too, it's really strange to be out there
13 in September and October and not see a single caribou
14 on the land, it feels -- it just feels very strange. I
15 mean I don't know myself, absolute, for sure why the
16 caribou aren't coming through, I know, like Barbara was
17 saying, 100 years ago caribou did not come through our
18 area and whether it's sporthunters and airplanes or
19 changing migrations or some combination of them all,
20 but I do know that as a land manager it's been really
21 frustrating for me to have this issue come up at every
22 meeting and to feel that we can't -- we've been unable
23 to address it in a satisfactory way for local users.
24 And it's -- you know it's not that we don't hear you or
25 I don't hear you, it's that -- there's all these
26 jurisdictions, and as we talked this morning, you know,
27 the Federal Board can only do certain things, and only
28 apply to Federal lands, and the State can't
29 discriminate amongst State residents, and it just goes
30 on and on and there's just like no one entity that can
31 close our region to transporters, and it seems like an
32 easy request but it's really not an easy thing to do.

33
34 So in any case, there was some
35 confusion in our region too this fall about what
36 restrictions there were on sporthunters, and I think
37 there was a sense that there were new restrictions on
38 them but, in fact, they were the same restrictions that
39 we've had for a couple years now for different closures
40 of different parts of the region, and Park Service has
41 different closures and there's -- you know, moose
42 hunting is closed to non-residents throughout the unit.
43 And one thing we did was towards the end of our written
44 report we put together just a short fact sheet on
45 hunting restrictions on non-local hunters in our unit
46 and Park Service worked with us on this. And we just
47 tried to summarize what really are the closures, or
48 some of the closures at least, and, you know, moose
49 hunting closures and Noatak Controlled Use area, so we
50

1 tried to contribute in that way to accurate
2 information. And we worked with the city and the
3 borough, and Park Service and the State and all the
4 local organizations who were in that, figuring out who
5 has what jurisdiction and what can be done and how to
6 get information out to hunters coming and to local
7 residents.

8
9 (Teleconference interference -
10 participants not muted)

11
12 MS. GEORGETTE: And then on to other
13 things, a few other things I wanted to point out. And
14 this is not the work only by any means of the Selawik
15 Refuge, but the Western Arctic Caribou Herd has a
16 revised management plan that's available now. And
17 that's from the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working
18 Group, Cyrus Harris is the Vice Chair and Vern
19 Cleveland is the Chair and there is 20 subsistence
20 users and transporters and conservationists and
21 reindeer herders and all that sit on this group. So
22 that's available, and there's a link to that or we'd be
23 happy to send you a copy of it.

24
25 We also put in our printed packet, an
26 updated fact on caribou hunting regs. So some things
27 changed over the course of this year. Bull caribou
28 season is now open year-round, so people who want to
29 take young bulls at this time of year or mid-winter can
30 do that. We've also been working with Dr. Ken Tape at
31 the University of Alaska on a project to map active and
32 inactive beaver ponds in Selawik Refuge. And we've
33 done this in response to local concerns about beaver,
34 trying to get a handle on how they've moved and where
35 they're most densely settled and figuring out what the
36 next steps we could do in beaver work.

37
38 Bill Carter, on our Staff, worked with
39 Alex Whiting at the Native Village of Kotzebue to
40 monitor algae blooms. That's that lime green algae
41 that shows up in the water sometimes, especially in
42 Kobuk Lake and down towards Selawik Lake. And there
43 wasn't much field work, there was a little bit where we
44 went out in a boat, but we worked with a Columbia
45 University professor who uses satellite imagery to
46 figure out what conditions create these algae blooms so
47 he can look at the weather for the few days, and the
48 temperature and then when these algae blooms form and
49 they're mostly in August and September. They've become
50

1 more common in recent years. And if there's a really
2 large bloom it can kill fish by depleting oxygen so
3 we're going to continue to work on that and hopefully
4 do more field work after the pandemic clears.
5

6 We were able to do -- well, Selawik did
7 the Science Cultural Camp that we've been doing every
8 year. It was in a reduced form but we were still able
9 to help support it financially. We were disappointed
10 not to be able to participate, but we were happy that
11 they figured out a way to get young people out and
12 about in the fall.

13
14 And guides and transporters. I can
15 just give a quick update of the data we have so far
16 from this year. We have four permits for transporters.
17 One of them took two moose hunters this year. And one
18 took no one -- or two of them took no hunters to the
19 Refuge. And the guide we have has not operated there
20 for the last three or four years because he mostly took
21 moose hunters, the non-resident's been closed so
22 there's really no hunting available.

23
24 So that's all I have.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 MR. KRAMER: Hi, this is Mike. I had a
29 question. I know that this summer, you know, the
30 Peninsula here around Kotzebue had eroded quite a bit,
31 there was a lot of sluff, so I was kind of wondering
32 did you guys do any, you know, looking over the sluff
33 up there on the Selawik River that happened in the past
34 and has there been any change to it or is there new
35 ones that might impact sheefish spawning.

36
37 MS. GEORGETTE: Thanks Mike. I saw that
38 on the Peninsula too. It was really dramatic I thought
39 how much more sluffing and erosion there was. We had
40 hoped to get up to that big slump this year but we
41 weren't able to because of the pandemic. We monitored
42 it some from satellite photos. So there's satellites
43 that go over our region, or the whole -- I don't know,
44 they go over all sorts of areas, but in our region
45 every few days there's a satellite that goes over and
46 takes pictures and if it's a clear day you can look at
47 them and see how things have changed, and so we did do
48 some of that this year, look at the satellite images up
49 there. And it has -- it became active again last
50

1 summer and so it had really overgrown -- had become
2 overgrown with vegetation and very stabilized and now
3 it looks again like it did when it started, meaning
4 there's a lot of mud and steep head wall, and it didn't
5 look like -- it didn't look like there was as much mud
6 actually going into the river as there was initially,
7 you know, 10 years ago, but we're hoping to get up
8 there next summer and look at it more closely.

9
10 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, the other question I
11 had was I know this spring we had pretty poor
12 sheefishing, subsistence harvest out here in front of
13 Kotzebue, and a lot of people didn't get very many
14 sheefish, I mean I'm just kind of wondering, you know,
15 were they held up up the river. Because I noticed,
16 someone had brought up to me that in the Kobuk River,
17 I'm not too sure, I believe it's the Maniilaq River or
18 Ambler River where they normally spawn, I know that
19 they weren't there, you know, it was reported that not
20 very many arrived there or didn't even show up there,
21 but they ended up spawning in the Hunt River. And I
22 know the Hunt River only goes so far back up in there.
23 I was just wondering if there was any kind of, you
24 know, any data that you guys might have. Because I
25 know some of the sheefish had -- I don't know if they
26 were satellite transponders on their back or, you know,
27 what was the -- it's a big question that I'm still
28 trying to find out as to why didn't the sheefish show
29 up down here like they normally do.

30
31 MS. GEORGETTE: That's a good question,
32 Mike. I don't know. Bill or Brendan, do you, are you
33 guys on line and do you know anything.

34
35 MR. CARTER: This is Bill. So, you
36 know, winter movements of sheefish are really
37 determined by food sources so, you know, they're always
38 following the herring and smelt and other small fish
39 that they're looking for so if conditions close to town
40 aren't favorable for that food then they're going to
41 move. We don't have any current studies going on. The
42 big aging and sonar work finished in 2018 on the
43 Selawik and I'm pretty sure that ADF&G doesn't have
44 anything. And I'm not aware of any satellite tags that
45 have been put on sheefish, at least, recently.

46
47 So, yeah, we don't have any current
48 sheefish work going on but I suspect with this FRMP
49 we'll probably put something in.

50

1 MS. ATORUK: Hi. Susan.

2

3 MS. GEORGETTE: Hi, Barb.

4

5 MS. ATORUK: Yep. Even Fish and Game
6 when they did their fishing this summer for salmon,
7 they didn't -- they just gave out whole -- they didn't
8 take any testing from the salmons [sic] like they used
9 to, splitting the sheefish head in half, they weren't
10 doing that they just gave the fish away. And from all
11 the sheefish that I got this summer, their stomachs
12 were empty, totally. And we -- the guys that have
13 gillnets out were still getting them into the late
14 September, when they set their gillnet out across here
15 on that eddy in that sand bar, they were getting a lot
16 of sheefish but they were long and straggly by then and
17 then they just threw them away because they were so
18 skinny then. But during the course of the summer,
19 after that first batch that hit, where I got some from
20 Fish and Game, then I got some later on and then they
21 were fat, the second bunch were fat. And I didn't get
22 any more in the later times except for a couple, but
23 those two were fat, they were kind of small. But the
24 bigger ones that we got earlier on were -- had empty
25 stomachs and I was wondering the same, too, since they
26 were getting lots when they were setting their gillnets
27 down here in September. And they said they were
28 getting like 20 or 30 sheefish, and I said, gee, that's
29 so late, I said they didn't make it all the way up
30 river and they said, we don't know.

31

32 So that's all I know about that
33 sheefish stuff.

34

35 MS. GEORGETTE: Well, thanks, that's
36 good information. Like Bill said, we are thinking now
37 about our projects for the coming year and all and
38 that's all valuable to know. Thank you.

39

40 MR. CARTER: Barbara, this is Bill. So
41 the -- when ADF&G was cutting the heads and taking the
42 otoliths, that was part of the project that was in
43 coordination with the other project that we were doing
44 on the Selawik so we could compare ages in each of the
45 rivers.

46

47 MS. ATORUK: Yeah.

48

49 MR. CARTER: So that project stopped in

50

1 2018. And then as far as sheefish having food in their
2 stomach, it is very, very, very unusual for sheefish or
3 any of the whitefish that are heading to spawn to
4 actually have food in their stomach. In the 10 years
5 that we did the sheefish project on the Selawik we
6 found on sheefish that had a small pike in it and every
7 other fish, you know, almost 2,000 fish, or 4,000 fish
8 that we looked at had nothing in their stomachs so
9 that's not unusual for fish that are on their spawning
10 grounds. And then the skinny fish that you might catch
11 later, those could be post spawning fish that are
12 headed down stream and especially in late September.
13 That could be post spawning fish. But, yeah, the
14 fatter fish you should be seeing in that late August,
15 September timeframe, and then once they spawn they
16 could be really skinny because they -- they don't eat
17 during their whole spawning time.

18
19 MS. ATORUK: Oh, so when they leave
20 Kotzebue they don't eat all the way up?

21
22 MR. CARTER: Yeah, so the.....

23
24 MS. ATORUK: All the way up to the
25 headwaters of Kobuk?

26
27 MR. CARTER: Yeah, so the fish that are
28 spawning, and this is all over, all the spawning areas
29 have this, the Yukon and Kuskokwim, when they start
30 their spawning run, so once they leave Kobuk Lake they
31 don't eat.

32
33 MS. ATORUK: Oh, my gosh.

34
35 MR. CARTER: In the Kobuk Delta they
36 have -- you have a mixed stock there. You have some
37 spawning fish and some not spawning fish and some
38 juvenile fish that are all in the Delta there that
39 might be feeding, so if you find sheefish that have
40 food kind of late in the season that are caught maybe
41 down closer to Noorvik, those fish aren't going to be
42 spawning that year. So yeah once they leave their
43 feeding grounds in the lakes they don't eat again until
44 they go back to the lakes under the ice.

45
46 MS. ATORUK: Oh, okay. Do they eat on
47 their way back down after spawning?

48
49 MR. CARTER: Probably not because

50

1 there's not a whole lot in the river to eat. There's --
2 you know, they eat things that are of a particular
3 size so they kind of wait until they get down to where
4 they can find big schools of smelt and herring and
5 young sheefish and young other whitefish that's usually
6 in the lake.

7

8 MS. ATORUK: Okay, thank you much.

9

10 MR. KRAMER: Any further questions for
11 Susan.

12

13 (Teleconference interference -
14 participants not muted)

15

16 REPORTER: Okay, hey, Pat, is that you,
17 could you mute please.

18

19 MS. PETRIVELLI: Sorry.

20

21 REPORTER: Thank you.

22

23 MR. KRAMER: Okay. So is there any
24 further questions for Susan.

25

26 MR. SCANLON: Mr. Kramer, this is
27 Brendan Scanlon with Fish and Game. I could talk a
28 little more about sheefish if you wanted to continue to
29 talk about them.

30

31 MR. KRAMER: Oh, yeah, sure.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I got a question for
34 Susan.

35

36 MR. SCANLON: Do you want to hear from
37 Enoch first, Susan.

38

39 MS. GEORGETTE: Sure. Go ahead,
40 Attamuk.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Susan, you said you
43 guys don't discriminate against transporters and
44 outfitters and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, right?

45

46 MS. GEORGETTE: Well, we have permits
47 for them.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Maybe to help

50

1 us, Susan, is it possible for you guys to reduce how
2 many permits you give out for the season, that would
3 help us, that way we won't have so many transporters
4 and outfitters being dropped off in where we get our
5 resources from?

6
7 MS. GEORGETTE: I will look into it. I
8 mean my understanding is that there's -- I mean it's
9 not just a decision for me to make, there's a lot of
10 process and public input and there has to be reasons
11 and all but I will look into it. Our transporters take
12 very few hunters, I think last year they took two
13 hunters among all four of them because there aren't
14 caribou on the Refuge in the fall and the moose hunting
15 is closed to non-residents so there's not much hunting
16 opportunity, but I will look into it and find out what
17 the answer is to that.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. I
20 was trying to find somebody that'll say, yeah, I could
21 reduce it that way we could ask the Park Service to
22 reduce theirs. I'm trying to find a way, that way I
23 could say Selawik is doing it, why can't you do it.

24
25 MS. GEORGETTE: I think Maija and I are
26 in the same boat on this one more or less.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, nice to hear
29 that.

30
31 MR. KRAMER: Okay, Attamuk, you're
32 back.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I heard her
35 report, Susan's report.

36
37 Thank you, Susan. Anyone else have
38 questions for Susan, Susan Georgette, U.S. Fish and
39 Wildlife Service.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Scanlon, I think you
44 were trying to answer something there.

45
46 MR. SCANLON: Thank you. I just wanted
47 to elaborate a little bit on some of the sheefish
48 questions. Our best information we have is that the
49 spawning on the Kobuk occurs at about a 40 mile stretch
50

1 of the main stem Kobuk, and they don't seem to spawn in
2 the tributaries but in years when the water is really
3 hot, and we noticed this in 2019 when we were up there
4 near Ambler doing some Dolly Varden work, there were
5 thousands of sheefish in the lower stretches of the
6 Hunt and Salmon Rivers. And we don't think they were
7 spawning or feeding there, just that the main stem
8 Kobuk was so warm that I think they went in there to
9 cool off because it was noticeably cooler in the
10 tributary streams. So I suspect that those large
11 groups of fish in some of the tributaries like the Hunt
12 were there just to cool off to wait for some rain or
13 some cooler weather to continue their travel up stream.

14
15 And we did have a sonar project going
16 on similar time that Fish and Wildlife Service had one
17 on the Selawik River, and our last complete estimate of
18 spawning fish moving up to the Kobuk River was 2018 and
19 it was over 35,000 fish. And it's important to note
20 that when sheefish get sexually mature around eight or
21 nine or so they don't spawn every year normally, some
22 of them do, some don't, so if only about half of them
23 spawn every year when they become sexually mature, that
24 means there was maybe another 35,000 mature sheefish
25 that stayed down in Hotham Inlet for the summer. So
26 the latest information that we have on the Kobuk seems
27 to say that the population is good, there's lots of
28 large fish and the fishery seems sustainable.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anyone
33 else have questions for him.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not I have a
38 comment on the sheefish. At Aggie, at our camp after
39 we work on oogruk in June, sheefish always come down, I
40 mean swarms of it. My wife and I, we put a little net
41 about 60 feet long, by the time I stretch it out it was
42 already sunk with fish, sheefish, I mean big ones. So
43 maybe they're moving to Noatak too. Because twice now
44 we've seen it like that where there's high numbers
45 right at our camp coming down, they were coming down.
46 I mean the river was raining, we see it.

47
48 Okay. Anyone else have questions for
49 Fish and Wildlife Service.

50

1 MS. ATORUK: That's right, Attamuk.
2 Noatak doesn't -- they don't go up the Noatak River,
3 sheefish, as far as I can remember, it was always by
4 the mouth of the Noatak.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I know. But like I
7 say, when we were at camp, after we work on oogruk,
8 when we were at camp they were coming down, big, four
9 footers, three footers, big fat ones.

10
11 MS. ATORUK: Wow. Wow. So they are
12 going up the Noatak now too now then.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, they go out in
15 June, that's what I'm trying to say.

16
17 MS. ATORUK: Oh, okay.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: But I mean around the
20 bend, going around, Michael been there in our camp and
21 when you look around the corner you could see it coming
22 down like raining, because I was -- I was out there and
23 I said gee that river is raining with fish and by the
24 time they get to our -- in front of our camp we set a
25 net and started pulling it's sinking with fish.

26
27 MS. ATORUK: Hum, wow, I didn't know
28 that.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, that's unusual
31 but they do, I don't know maybe they go -- I don't know
32 where they go.

33
34 MS. ATORUK: So maybe a study needs to
35 be done. I think we have it in one of those studies
36 that Karen Hyer was putting out, that Noatak was
37 included and I think sheefish is on there too but she
38 can check into that because I thought Noatak literally
39 never had sheefish because of the water in it it comes
40 from the mountain, or glacierized, glacier water.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I hear what you're
43 saying. I said that a few years ago too when I first
44 saw that.

45
46 MS. ATORUK: Yeah. Okay, thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Mother Nature will
49 surprise us what she do.

50

1 MS. ATORUK: Yep.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Anybody else
4 have questions for Fish and Wildlife Service.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, go ahead,
9 Park Service.

10

11 MS. LUKIN: Thanks, Mr. Chair, who do
12 you want to go first, Gates or Western Arctic.

13

14 MS. ATORUK: It's your choice.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Your choice.

17

18 MS. LUKIN: Well, since I talked, this
19 is Maija, Superintendent at Western Arctic National
20 ParkLands. (In Native).

21

22 It's been a very interesting meeting
23 over teleconference and unfortunately this is kind of
24 how it has to be due to Covid and, you know, it's
25 really frustrating for me because we're not able to
26 help you guys and talk during breaks and things like
27 that so I apologize for that, just from my Staff.

28

29 So for Western Arctic National
30 ParkLands, you should have our report in your packet.

31

32 For me, we have three new Staff at
33 Western Arctic in Kotzebue. We have Deanna who is a
34 Park Ranger in the interp and education department.
35 And then we have Jay, who's the facility operations
36 manager in the maintenance department. And then on the
37 line right now we have Carlos who is the natural
38 resources cultural resources manager, and Carlos, do
39 you want to introduce yourself real quick.

40

41 CARLOS: Hi, thank you. Thank you,
42 Team. And very interesting to hear. This is my first
43 RAC meeting and I really appreciate the details. My
44 name's Carlos, I've been in Alaska over 30 years
45 working in mostly in resource management issues. I've
46 worked all over the state but this is the furthest
47 Northwest that I've worked in Alaska. And I've worked
48 a lot for Fish and Wildlife and Fish and Game and many
49 other Parks, or many other locations. But, anyway, I'm

50

1 very interested in the different types of issues and
2 concerns you have here. I think it's an extremely
3 invaluable historic information the Inuit people have
4 here and the way they've lived off the land and
5 survived so incredibly. So such a wealth of knowledge
6 and information, that would be great to continue and
7 help in the current management of resources, and
8 appreciate all the great thoughts. And I also
9 appreciate the concerns that everybody has for the
10 Covid and the need to adapt and I'm really interested
11 in helping further your mission and goals, and thank
12 you for your time and thanks to be involved in your
13 communications.

14

15 MS. LUKIN: Thanks, Carlos. So like
16 everybody else we've been affected by Covid and the
17 closures. If you're in Kotzebue you know that the
18 Heritage Center has been closed to the public since the
19 end of March, the beginning of April. All of our Staff
20 except for the essential Staff that were determined by
21 both the Regional Office and the management are working
22 from home, which means we're teleworking via our email,
23 our phones and teams on line, so it's been difficult
24 for everybody, I think. We've been trying to figure
25 out how to keep in communication with subsistence
26 users, with tribes. We've been trying to participate
27 in their teleconferences, having conversations with the
28 Northwest Arctic Borough, the incident management team
29 and the city of Kotzebue specifically for Covid
30 mitigations for transporters and guides, we had several
31 meetings this summer. And I believe one of those
32 meetings was aired on KOTZ radio. We have also -- or I
33 have also presented at the Northwest Arctic Borough
34 Assembly regarding the mitigations that our, and by
35 our, I don't mean we own them, our -- what I mean is
36 the transporters and/or guides that are permitted in
37 Western Arctic National ParkLands. So I presented on
38 the mitigations that our guides and transporters have
39 been taking. And by and large they have been extremely
40 compliant -- or they have been 100 percent compliant
41 with all of the local mandates that have been --
42 mandates and emergency orders that have been passed in
43 both the city and the borough.

44

45 Let's see.

46

47 I wanted to talk a little bit about the
48 transporters and guides for Western Arctic National
49 ParkLands but I wanted Joe to take care of that and

50

1 he's not available until 3:30, and so I just ask that
2 when he gives his law enforcement work group update
3 that he can also provide that information for you. We
4 don't see ourselves opening back up until other places
5 open back up and so right now we're still under an
6 emergency order with the city of Kotzebue to hunker
7 down based on the number of cases in Kotzebue. And I'm
8 not sure if you knew but I, personally, had Coronavirus
9 in early October and our family was in quarantine for
10 24 days actually, and so I know how difficult it is to
11 try to get over that and, you know, still provide for
12 our family. So I do want to make sure that everyone
13 understands that our guide and transporter reports are
14 not due until November so all of the information that
15 Joe will be giving you is going to be from 2019, that
16 information.

17
18 So also we had -- unfortunately we
19 didn't have any culture camps that we participated in
20 because of travel restrictions and trying to ensure
21 that our Staff and other community members and
22 communities stayed safe so our Staff wasn't around them
23 so we didn't have any culture camps this year. We are
24 trying to work on virtual things and we understand the
25 broadband limitations for most people and so we're
26 trying to figure out what we can do, and that may
27 include, you know, packets and that may include
28 thumbdrives that people can watch on their computers
29 that are provided by the school and we're just trying
30 to figure that out right now.

31
32 So with that I will -- because Joe
33 can't present yet I will move over from myself to --
34 we'll go Ramie with wildlife, Martha with the
35 permitting, Hannah with hers and then Joe. So Ramie go
36 ahead.

37
38 MR. FRONSTIN: Hi. This is Ramie
39 Fronstin, wildlife biologist. It's good to hear you
40 guys, sorry we can't see you face to face, but -- I'm
41 going to go real quick and let you know, first, the
42 wildlife report is -- should have been attached in your
43 supplemental reports in an email so all of the Western
44 Arctic National ParkLands had a packet and the wildlife
45 report is at the end of that packet along with an
46 additional page with more specific information on dall
47 sheep and on the muskoxen survey. And so all of the
48 information that I have to give you are in there.

49
50

1 And for brevity, I will just talk on a
2 few things and if you have questions about additional
3 things, let me know.

4
5 So I'm going to let Alex from Fish and
6 Game talk about caribou, which he does later.

7
8 Regarding moose, we were -- ADF&G did a
9 moose composition survey -- or I'm sorry, they did a
10 moose count in Unit 23 southwest this spring and the
11 survey results are in Table 2. Basically it looks
12 stable. There was a slight increase in moose in that
13 area. But we were -- we wanted to do a survey in Upper
14 Noatak however we couldn't do it because of Covid. And
15 the composition surveys for the fall are in the
16 planning phase right now.

17
18 Regarding dall sheep. Again, from last
19 year we did the expanded sheep survey and we found that
20 it seems like those -- the sheep numbers have been
21 relatively stable in the expanded area for the last six
22 years. We had a core survey planned this year but,
23 again, due to Covid we weren't able to complete that
24 survey. So we're going to try again next year. But
25 you can see the previous year's result in that -- in
26 the figures, Figures 1 and 2 under dall sheep.

27
28 With muskoxen. This year was the
29 expanded muskoxen abundance survey and it was
30 completed, due to weather it took several months
31 actually, but they were able to complete it. And for
32 the expanded area, we found that in 2016 the numbers
33 for the expanded area were estimated at 556. In 2020
34 this time they were estimated at 911. So it does seem
35 like there was a pretty dramatic increase in the number
36 of muskoxen in the expanded area. In the core area,
37 however, it looks like it has been relatively stable in
38 the past few years. So it looks like the increase in
39 population is not happening in the core area it's
40 happening outside in the expanded area. And you can
41 see the areas that we surveyed in Figure 3. The core
42 area is the area just along the Cape Thompson area and
43 Cape Krusenstern, and then the expanded area is
44 everything else.

45
46 Let's see. We did have a brown bear
47 survey scheduled for this year on the Seward Peninsula
48 but, again, it was postponed for Covid so they're going
49 to try again.

50

1 And then we just began our pilot study
2 for wolves. And the purpose of this study is to try
3 and gain more knowledge about local wolf demographics.
4 Due to Covid we had to change the methods this summer a
5 little bit and instead of collecting DNA samples, we
6 used some local knowledge and resorted to locating
7 active dens from fixed wing in Noatak National
8 Preserve. And so our preliminary results, we had about
9 71 hours of flight time and we found six active dens
10 within Noatak. Three of these dens were really close
11 together which suggests that they were from multiple
12 litters from the family same group and that can happen --
13 sometimes it happens in undisrupted groups and most of
14 the time it happens when groups are disrupted. So
15 therefore we found about four or five active wolf
16 family groups in Noatak. We certainly don't presume to
17 have found all of the active wolf groups but -- and
18 believe that that will probably take a few years before
19 we have a true handle on what the wolf population looks
20 like. But just wanted to let you know that we are, you
21 know, starting to look into that and hope to get more
22 information for you soon on that.

23
24 And then that's it, unless you have
25 questions. The rest is in the pamphlet.

26
27 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman, this is
28 Mike.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Mike had questions
31 for you, one of you.

32
33 MR. FRONSTIN: Sure.

34
35 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, on the wolves, you
36 know, this year it was brought to my attention that
37 there were several instances where people were looking
38 for caribou and they were being stalked by a couple of
39 wolves. I know one grey one was shot because it was
40 too close to a lady who was spotting for caribou,
41 looking for caribou out of binoculars and just got a
42 weird sense and turned to her right and there was a
43 wolf right there stalking her. She took a run towards
44 her boyfriend or husband and he ended up shooting the
45 wolf. But I know there was another instance somewhere
46 where there was two black wolves creeping up on a
47 couple of hunters that were, you know, glassing for
48 caribou, you know, they're starting to get pretty brave
49 and it's beginning to get somewhat out of control. I
50

1 hope that, you know, we never have an instance where,
2 you know, someone gets hurt over it. I know that
3 Kiana's had issues with wolves right around the
4 outskirts of Kiana. You know, I mean are you guys
5 going to start looking into having specific groups
6 collared to where you know where their range is.

7
8 MR. FRONSTIN: Well, we are going to
9 look into ranges. We aren't doing collars at the
10 moment, it's really expensive to do collars. It
11 involves a lot of flying and helicopter work and other
12 things. So we're trying to figure out -- we're trying
13 to use DNA to see if it's feasible to use DNA to look
14 into their -- the population sizes and territories and
15 such but it's still -- like it's just started and,
16 hopefully, right now USGS, is who we're working with to
17 do the DNA work, and their labs are closed because of
18 Covid so they're not even able to do that right now and
19 we haven't been able to collect because of that. But
20 we're trying, you know, like I said this summer we did
21 that first phase. If we can at least locate active
22 dens, and hopefully once Covid is not as much of a
23 concern we can reach out more to, you know, local
24 villages and subsistence users for their help, but if
25 we can locate active dens and we -- that will get --
26 then we can get a much better handle on it because we
27 could get some really good DNA samples from those. And
28 also from, you know, people who have hunted wolves
29 and/or trapped and we can even just take small, small
30 tissue samples would be helpful as well. Because we
31 can run pedigrees with enough DNA, which would give us
32 a lot of information.

33
34 But, yeah, I agree with you, I hope
35 that, you know, it doesn't become a concern. I'm sure
36 if the caribou aren't coming around, you know, to their
37 normal areas like, you know, for subsistence users, the
38 wolves in those areas are probably wondering where they
39 are as well. Maybe -- they're very smart animals as
40 you know and it's possible they know that hunters are
41 going after caribou and maybe they want, you know, to
42 take advantage of something you've hunted, hopefully
43 not take advantage of people though.

44
45 MR. KRAMER: Yeah. I think one thing
46 that you guys can do to make it, you know, a lot more
47 public, if you were to send fliers out to the villages
48 and say, hey, if you catch a wolf, you know, can you
49 give us a little sample of the, you know, whether it's
50

1 meat or whatever it is, or something that they can
2 collect DNA from and keep it frozen and send it to you
3 somewhere. That way you're getting a lot of community
4 involvement and user involvement.

5
6 MR. FRONSTIN: That is definitely a
7 plan. And just because the labs have been closed we
8 haven't really, you know, gotten the kits to be able to
9 send those out. Because that's exactly what we plan to
10 do, send little vials out with, you know, some buffer,
11 so if you catch -- if anyone has wolf tissue they could
12 just put it in the buffer and send it to us or we can
13 pick it up. So we definitely are planning on doing
14 that.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 MR. KRAMER: Thank you.

19
20 MR. SWAN: Hi, this is Reppi Swan.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Reppi.

23
24 MR. SWAN: What kind of sample is it,
25 any kind of sample, meat or something like that?

26
27 MR. FRONSTIN: Yeah, like a little piece
28 of muscle or, you know, skin is best. But we can
29 actually even get DNA from hair follicles. It can't be
30 like cut fur, it has to be like straight from the -- we
31 have to have like the follicle. But the best thing is
32 probably just any kind of skin or, you know, meat, any
33 kind of muscle. Preferably not fat, though, just like
34 red muscle or skin. And it doesn't take a lot at all.

35
36 MR. SWAN: Okay.

37
38 MR. FRONSTIN: We're even going to look
39 into doing one -- you know, when the lab's finally open
40 we're doing a pilot study on getting DNA from snow
41 prints, you know, the paw prints in the snow which they
42 sound -- you can get DNA from that, we're not sure, you
43 know, how well it will work but we're going to try.

44
45 MR. SWAN: Okay.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.
48 Maybe you explained a little bit, when you go to get
49 the muscle, the meat, how clean does your knife have to

50

1 be, I mean if you ask for this, you got to tell them
2 how you want to take the sample, that way they won't be
3 contaminated.

4
5 MR. FRONSTIN: Yeah, that's exactly what
6 we'll do, we'll try to get some good guidance when we
7 do that.

8
9 (Teleconference interference -
10 participants not muted)

11
12 MR. KRAMER: Okay. I think another
13 thing that would help is if you send those fliers out,
14 you know, with instructions on how to preserve it,
15 freeze it, I think would be good information to also
16 have on that flier, that could be passed out to the
17 community, their buildings and stuff like that, or even
18 mailed, you know, something.

19
20 MR. FRONSTIN: Right. Yeah, appreciate
21 all those comments and ideas.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MS. ATORUK: Freight collect. Is that
26 possible where they could send it freight collect?

27
28 MS. LUKIN: Yes.

29
30 MR. FRONSTIN: Oh, yeah, sure,
31 absolutely.

32
33 MS. ATORUK: Okay. Put that in your
34 flier, too.

35
36 MR. FRONSTIN: Definitely. I'm glad
37 there's so much interest, thanks.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

40
41 MS. LUKIN: Attamuk, are you ready for
42 our next one.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes. I thought
45 somebody was just going to say something, the way I
46 hear it, unless it was just background -- go ahead Park
47 Service.

48
49 MS. LUKIN: Thank you. Just another

50

1 quick note that Ramie's Inupiaq name is (In Inupiaq) so
2 you can call him (In Inupiaq) and he'll answer. Our
3 next report is from Martha who does our compliance,
4 she's our bioscience tech who does all of our
5 compliance and I wanted her to give just a quick report
6 on the projects that were permitted this year.

7
8 MS. FRONSTIN: Thank you, Maija. Yep,
9 like Maija said my name is Martha, Martha Fronstin.
10 I'm a biological technician and, yeah, I do permitting
11 and project coordination. And so first I just want to
12 let you guys know a lot like Fish and Wildlife Service
13 a number of projects that we had in our ParkLands were
14 drastically reduced this summer because of Covid. And
15 the handful of projects that did occur, we ensured that
16 they met a couple of key criteria.

17
18 The first is that there were no outside
19 people coming in and going to any of our rural
20 communities, and, two;

21
22 That they coordinated with people
23 inside the Park Service so that they had emergency
24 contingency plans to be flown outside of the region in
25 case of, you know, they became sick, so we wouldn't tax
26 the local resources or expose local people.

27
28 And so with those considerations in
29 mind we had a small number of projects.

30
31 Let's see, we had -- well, Ramie spoke
32 about his introductory phase one of the wolf study,
33 which was done by a local pilot by himself spotting
34 from a fixed wing plane.

35
36 And Alex Hansen will talk about the
37 caribou collaring that they've done.

38
39 And there were -- in terms of cultural
40 resources, Justin Young got out into the Park and did
41 some surveying on two cabins. One in Cape Krusenstern
42 and one in Noatak so that they can be repaired and
43 become more useable for people in the future.

44
45 And there was Scanlon's project in the
46 Noatak River studying Dolly Varden.

47
48 There was, let's see, Patty Sullivan at
49 the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, had a very reduced
50

1 tree study, snowline event (ph) study, he did not go
2 through any villages and he went out there and took a
3 few samples, tree cores, but, again, it was drastically
4 reduced field work this year.

5

6 And there was some seed collection in
7 Cape Krusenstern for a future habitat restoration along
8 the Red Dog Mining Road.

9

10 And there was a film for a hunting TV
11 show in September.

12

13 And that, honestly, is it. So, yeah,
14 just a handful of projects this year.

15

16 MR. STEVENSON: Quick question, Mr.
17 Chair.

18

19 MS. FRONSTIN: Are there any questions.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Anyone have
22 questions for, I think it was Martha.

23

24 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

25

26 MS. FRONSTIN: Yes, Fronstin.

27

28 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair, a question.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

31

32 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair. I was
33 wondering if we had anything to share regarding SRC
34 appointments. This is Zach, thank you.

35

36 MS. LUKIN: Thanks, Zach. We'll cover
37 that in Hannah's report next.

38

39 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you very much.

40

41 MR. SWAN: I have a question, Reppi
42 Swan.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead Rep.

45

46 MR. SWAN: Do you guys collar reindeer
47 in Krusenstern area?

48

49 MS. ATORUK: No.

50

1 MS. FRONSTIN: No. Alex will
2 definitely be able to answer that question more
3 sufficiently than myself but to my knowledge, no.
4
5 MR. SWAN: Okay. Because right now we
6 have about 500 to 1,000 reindeer near Portside, between
7 Portside and Kivalina and kind of wondering where those
8 come from because that's a lot of reindeer over there
9 between here and Portside.
10
11 MS. FRONSTIN: Yes.
12
13 MS. ATORUK: Wow.
14
15 MS. FRONSTIN: Okay, thank you. Yeah, I
16 would defer to Alex.
17
18 MR. SWAN: Okay, thank you. Because I'm
19 wondering where those reindeers come from, first time
20 we have a lot of reindeer in between Kivalina and
21 Portside.
22
23 MS. FRONSTIN: Okay, thank you. Any
24 other questions.
25
26 (No comments)
27
28 MS. FRONSTIN: Okay, thank you for
29 having me.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.
32 Who's next, Alex.
33
34 MS. LUKIN: Hannah. Hannah's next after
35 this.
36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Oh, Hannah, okay.
38 Hannah it is. Go ahead, Hannah.
39
40 MS. ATKINSON: Okay. I'll give my
41 report. This is Hannah Atkinson, cultural
42 anthropologist for the National Park Service. But also
43 I think, Reppi, you should ask your question again when
44 Alex is giving his presentation, because that's
45 interesting.
46
47 MR. SWAN: Okay.
48
49 MS. ATKINSON: So I'm the subsistence
50

1 coordinator for Kobuk Valley National Park Subsistence
2 Resource Commission and Cape Krusenstern Subsistence
3 Resource Commission. We provided a summary of the
4 spring meeting at your spring meeting because we had
5 our spring meeting in February. And then our fall
6 meeting will be next Tuesday, November 10th and it
7 starts at 9:00 a.m., and will be a teleconference. And
8 we're going to do the Kobuk Valley SRC and Cape
9 Krusenstern SRC as a joint meeting because it's a lot
10 of the same reports and wanted to make it a little bit
11 easier for everybody to call in and get that
12 information at the same time. So, anyway, that's when
13 we'll be discussing subsistence issues as they're
14 specific to the National Park and the National
15 Monument. If anybody wants to call into that who is
16 not on it, because I'm already talking with you, let me
17 know and I'll definitely share that teleconference
18 information with you and the agenda.

19
20 I would like to request some -- a
21 decision from the Council for reappointment of
22 Subsistence Resource Commission members that were
23 appointed by the Regional Advisory Council.

24
25 So I'll start with Cape Krusenstern
26 Subsistence Resource Commission. I'll let you know who
27 is on the Commission.

28
29 We have Larry Westlake from Kiana.
30 Hannah Loon from Kotzebue. Hilda Booth from Noatak.
31 Alex Whiting from Kotzebue. Enoch Shiedt, Sr., from
32 Kotzebue. Enoch Adams from Kivalina. Enoch Mitchell
33 from Noatak. Cyrus Harris from Kotzebue.

34
35 We would like -- so the Regional
36 Advisory Council appointments are Alex Whiting, Enoch
37 Shiedt, Sr., and Enoch Adams. So we are recommending
38 them for reappointment.

39
40 MS. ATORUK: So moved.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So moved by Barbara.
43 Do I get a second.

44
45 MR. SWAN: Second.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay.

48
49 MS. ATORUK: Question.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Say again.
2
3 MS. ATORUK: Question.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Question's been
6 called for, all in favor of appointing, Attamuk, Cyrus
7 and who the other one was, Hannah.
8
9 MS. ATKINSON: Attamuk, Alex and Enoch
10 Adams.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Oh, Enoch Adams, I
13 thought it was -- one of them was Hannah Loon, okay,
14 for the three. All in favor signify by saying aye.
15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.
17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It passed, thank you.
19 Thank you, it's all passed. Anything else Hannah.
20
21 MS. ATKINSON: Yes. The Kobuk Valley
22 Subsistence Resource Commission, we also have some
23 reappointments.
24
25 The members of the Kobuk Valley
26 Subsistence Resource Commission are Enoch Mitchell of
27 Noatak, Glenn Miller of Kiana, Sonny Westlake of Kiana,
28 (Indiscernible - breaking up) of Shungnak, Louie
29 Commack of Ambler, Rosa Horner of Kobuk, (Indiscernible
30 - breaking up) of Shungnak, Gordon Newlan of Noorvik
31 and Sheila Downey of Ambler.
32
33 And the RAC appointments that are up
34 are Louie Commack and Rosa Horner.
35
36 MS. ATORUK: So moved.
37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It's been moved, do I
39 hear a second.
40
41 MS. ATORUK: I so move.
42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It was on mute.
44
45 MS. ATORUK: I so move.
46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, I'll second it.
48
49 MR. SWAN: Second.
50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: All in favor signify
2 by saying aye.
3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: All in -- thanks, you
7 have your appointment list now Hannah.
8
9 MS. ATKINSON: Thank you, Council.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, anything else
12 there, ladies.
13
14 MS. ATKINSON: That is all that I have.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: How about you Lukin.
17
18 MS. LUKIN: I think Justin's report
19 there in the packet and if you have questions he's
20 available for questions for the cultural resources.
21 And then Joe's our last one but he'll give his
22 presentation or his information during the law
23 enforcement work group update.
24
25 If anyone has any questions for me, I'm
26 here, if not, thank you.
27
28 MS. ATORUK: Thank you.
29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Do you think
31 Joe will come back by 3:30 today?
32
33 MS. LUKIN: Yeah, he'll be back at
34 3:30.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, we'll take a
37 break until 3:30.
38
39 RANGER DOLLEMOLLE: It's Joe
40 Dollemolle, just to let you know I just got back on the
41 call so I am available.
42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, go ahead, I
44 guess you could give your report then.
45
46 Thank you.
47
48 RANGER DOLLEMOLLE: Okay, whatever
49 works for you, if you'd like to take a break or you'd
50

1 like me to give the report now, is that correct?

2

3

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Give your report.

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RANGER DOLLEMOLLE: Am I correct, you want me report right now; is that correct?

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REPORTER: Yes, give your report.

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RANGER DOLLEMOLLE: Okay. So thank you for having me, this is Joe Dollemolle, District Ranger for the National Park Service and I'm based in Kotzebue. I grew up here in Kotzebue. I've been in this job for about three years now and in the Park Service in the same capacity for about the last 12 in different parts of the country. So glad to be home and thanks for having me today.

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24

I'll try to keep my report brief, it sounds like there'll probably be some questions, a lot of questions regarding CUAs and commercial activities, so I'll try to reserve most of my time for those types of questions and hopefully some of the information I provide to you can answer some of those questions.

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Give me a moment, I'm just pulling a couple things up here.

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So I wanted to just sort of recap, for those that aren't familiar with what we do, the National Park Service has a law enforcement arm similar to the Alaska Wildlife Troopers. We have two rangers based in Kotzebue, myself and Ranger Jim Hahns (ph), he's been here for about three years as well in Kotzebue. We are tasked with patrolling and enforcing Federal laws and public safety matters such as search and rescue, EMS and firefighting duties within the Western Arctic National ParkLands, Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Noatak National Preserve and Kobuk Valley National Park. We have some authority on other Federal lands as well. And if there are incidents on Fish and Wildlife lands or BLM lands that the State Troopers can't handle then if we're requested we can act out on those lands as well. But mainly our focus is on National Park Service lands. We patrol those areas throughout the year, some by snowmachine, a little by boat or fourwheeler, but mainly we rely on airplanes either vendor aircraft or especially in hunting season fleet aircraft, National Park Service

1 pilots or from other Federal agencies to patrol those
2 lands.

3
4 During the fall hunting season is our
5 main time that we're out there performing those aerial
6 patrols. As long as we have the airplanes and pilots
7 for it we're trying to be out there every day,
8 particularly in Noatak National Preserve. As most of
9 you know that's, of course, where we get more of the
10 fly-in hunters, the folks that are coming from outside
11 of this area and flying into areas that we can't access
12 by other means. So we're primarily out there from mid-
13 August through mid-to late-September is when we see
14 most hunters coming up and flying into those areas. So
15 we try to be in there and have a heavy presence during
16 that time. Not only the National Park Service but at
17 certain years we have other agencies such as the BLM or
18 Fish and Wildlife Service and support those same
19 patrols over our lands as well and assist us. We also
20 have access to other rangers and pilots and special
21 agents that come in from elsewhere to assist us and
22 primarily we'll see that during the hunting season.

23
24 Special thanks to the Alaska Wildlife
25 Troopers. You know we have one Wildlife Trooper based
26 here in Kotzebue and he spends a lot of his time
27 focusing on those areas, including the Noatak National
28 Preserve as well. So it's not just us, but also the
29 State is in those areas contacting a lot of the same
30 hunters and looking in those same places during that
31 time of the year.

32
33 So this year I can't get into too many
34 ongoing cases. A lot of the types of cases we make are
35 kind of ongoing, they take a little bit more
36 investigation to kind of wrap it up and issue charges.
37 We had a number of contacts this year, probably about
38 40 hunters in the field, maybe double that as far as
39 contacting hunters, and groups here in town, mainly at
40 the airport coming off of their flights or getting out
41 of the field. In the field, what we're looking for is
42 just compliance with all the laws and regulations, make
43 sure that when we land and contact hunters that they're
44 doing everything that they're supposed to be doing.
45 And what we find for the most part most hunters are in
46 compliance. Most transporters and guides are in
47 compliance with all the laws and regulations as well as
48 stipulations for any permits that they may have, and
49 I'll get into that a little bit here in a bit.

50

1 There are several incidences, of
2 course, that occur every year. We get occasionally
3 throughout the years, the National Park Service or the
4 Wildlife Troopers may receive reports from hunters
5 themselves, or from the transporters or guides that are
6 taking those clients out in the field of violations and
7 they're self-reporting, or they're reporting their
8 clients. So I believe there's a lot of honesty there
9 coming forth. There are probably things, of course, we
10 are missing, things that aren't being reported to us,
11 but, you know, we're thankful that most people try to
12 do the right thing and it's usually mistakes that they
13 make and they bring out antlers before the meat on two
14 separate flights, go back for the meat, they may have
15 problems salvaging all the meat, or run into problems
16 where they encounter in the field and usually those are
17 what we consider a little bit more minor if they report
18 them to us, and try to do the right thing, try to
19 salvage all the meat and try to do everything right.
20 Of course there may be charges issued in those cases as
21 well.

22
23 This year I can speak to several
24 incidents, we had three airplane accidents throughout
25 the ParkLands, two up in the Noatak National Preserve,
26 one airplane accident in Kobuk Valley National Park at
27 the sand dunes. There were a couple backpackers
28 rescued. And then there was one violation within one
29 of the closed areas, a non-Federally-qualified
30 subsistence user, a resident of Anchorage flew in with
31 a private plane to the Noatak River within the Federal
32 closure area and shot and killed a caribou right off of
33 the river. He didn't realize that that was a -- that
34 that closure was in effect, an area where him and his
35 group had been coming to for many years and
36 specifically hunting caribou. He was charged with that
37 violation, we confiscated the meat and he's going to
38 pay upwards of \$1,000 in a fine for that kill. There
39 were a couple other incidences that I can't really go
40 into now but they'll be hopefully on our next report,
41 if we can wrap up those charges, and then some other
42 just minor violations in the field, such as maybe a
43 hunter not stamping their ticket or punching their
44 harvest tag the moment they kill a caribou, getting it
45 back to their camp, starting to cut it up and then
46 tagging it. That type of thing. But for the most part
47 we didn't -- being out there myself, didn't see anybody
48 that was failing to salvage the meat or wanton waste,
49 for the most part hunters are pretty good about -- in
50

1 fact, this year every hunter that I contacted was great
2 about preserving that meat in a way that it can be
3 salvaged once they come out of the field.

4
5 Hunters that we contacted here in
6 Kotzebue at the airport, every hunter that I contacted
7 had properly salvaged meat. There were no violations
8 or no issues of getting them out of the field that we
9 ran into. I know that there was a comment earlier
10 about folks using trash bags and putting meat in trash
11 bags and so forth and of course as we know that can
12 lead to issues with the meat and we don't experience
13 too much of that. I've seen it, you know, a couple of
14 times, usually that's a case where hunters are just
15 packaging something -- packaging their meat into the
16 trash bag to keep an airplane clean or something of the
17 sort but for the most part all the meat that I've seen
18 and, particularly, this year all the meat that I've
19 seen coming into Kotzebue was still salvageable and in
20 good condition.

21
22 I know another concern that was raised
23 earlier today was transporters or their clients coming
24 into the field and disposing of meat rather than
25 donating it or salvaging it and bringing it back
26 themselves. That could be occurring. We know that
27 it's occurred in the past. There have been cases,
28 particularly, that the Alaska Wildlife Troopers have
29 made in those regards. This year and in the last
30 couple of years since I've been here I haven't
31 encountered that. We have a pretty good working
32 relationship with most of our transporters and guides
33 that we work with. We're in constant communication
34 with them leading up to the hunting season and to the
35 end of the hunting season as well, throughout the
36 hunting season. And one of the things that we've tried
37 to do, not just the National Park Service but the other
38 agencies involved in this enforcement, including the
39 NANA Trespass Program, you know, we've really had to
40 focus on contacting hunters before they go into the
41 field and then talking to the transporters and the
42 guides, passing on a lot of the traditional knowledge
43 and kind of procedures for caring for meat and salvage
44 donation requirements so a lot of that information has
45 come out from the hunter success working groups and
46 we're trying to take that message and really, you know,
47 get that out to these transporters and guides to let
48 them know, you know, here are some considerations,
49 please pass these on to your hunters, this is how you
50

1 can keep your meat preserved in the field, to get it
2 out, whether you want to keep it and transport it out
3 of Kotzebue with you, that's up to you, if you'd rather
4 donate it to somebody we provide information on places
5 and individuals and organizations here in Kotzebue and
6 a couple of the villages that hunters can donate that
7 meat to. And for the most part, talking and working
8 with most of the transporters and guides they're pretty
9 good, I believe, about passing that information on to
10 their clients and making sure that their clients
11 properly take care of the meat as far as the
12 responsibilities of the transporters and particularly
13 the guides. We know that a lot of the hunters do take
14 meat or some of their meat out of Kotzebue and take it
15 home with them to wherever they reside. We also know
16 that the transporters we work with and the guides are
17 really good about donating that meat or finding
18 individuals here in town to donate that meat to and
19 keep it preserved once it's out of the field.

20
21 With that, I wanted to, I guess, since
22 I missed the last hour, instead of repeating some
23 information, if you can tell me if the -- the
24 differences between guides and transporters and the
25 permits that we have was discussed?

26
27 MS. LUKIN: We did not discuss that,
28 Joe.

29
30 RANGER DOLLEMOLLE: Okay. I'll try to
31 keep it a little bit brief. Before I go on too much, I
32 just wanted to provide my phone number, I'll do that
33 again at the end if anybody has questions specifically
34 for myself, for our law enforcement program at the
35 National Park Service they can reach me at 907-385-
36 8234. Again, that's 385-8234, that is my work cell
37 phone so feel free to disseminate that number and, you
38 know, give me a call if there's any questions or
39 concerns or input on how we're doing our jobs, if
40 anybody has any input on how we can best organize our
41 resources and be doing our duties out here, please get
42 a hold of me.

43
44 So we have -- I'll spend a little more
45 time talking about guides and transporters and kind of
46 dedicate probably the rest of my presentation to that
47 and hopefully have plenty of time for questions for
48 folks. I know that's been a big issue today.

49
50

1 I have numbers and statistics and some
2 questions were raised, I compiled a few other numbers
3 this morning during the meeting that hopefully will
4 shed some light on that.

5
6 Before I get into numbers and
7 statistics and the data, we have, within the ParkLands,
8 I just wanted to point out that we have numerous types
9 of commercial services that operate in the National
10 ParkLands up here. And some of those are not hunting
11 related so of course we get commercial services that
12 are bringing in rafters or backpackers or sightseers,
13 air taxis that will drop some of those folks off, or
14 researchers or other people that aren't involved in any
15 kind of hunting activity.

16
17 For the commercial services that
18 provide such services to hunters, those are Big Game
19 guides and Big Game transporters. And there is a fair
20 difference between the two.

21
22 A Big Game guide is an individual
23 licensed by the State of Alaska to perform services in
24 the field and within that they, of course, take out
25 hunters or have hunters transported to them, mainly out
26 of Kotzebue, as has been pointed out, into the field.
27 And in those cases the guides must stay with their
28 clients at all times while they're hunting. A guide
29 can have licensed assistant guides, who can support
30 those operations and be with those hunters as well, but
31 all working under one guide.

32
33 MR. SWAN: I have a question about
34 that, this is Reppi.

35
36 RANGER DOLLEMOLLE: Sure.

37
38 MR. SWAN: Yeah.

39
40 RANGER DOLLEMOLLE: Go ahead.

41
42 MR. SWAN: In our area, Kivalina area,
43 when I see some hunters that the sports guides would
44 scare the caribou towards the hunters and we'd -- and
45 that made it a whole lot harder for us to get caribou,
46 there was a problem last summer and the other summer,
47 too, that the guides were guiding the caribou to the
48 hunters and we weren't able to get caribou then. So
49 are they allowed to do that or no?

50

1 RANGER DOLLEMOLLE: And so the quick
2 answer to that is no, no they're not allowed to do
3 that. You're not allowed to push caribou, to push
4 animals towards your clients in any way whether by
5 aircraft or on the ground.

6
7 And without getting into that too far,
8 you have some -- understand some of those concerns,
9 particularly from last summer, coming out of the
10 Kivalina area, those are common concerns that you folks
11 have up in those parts and we -- I can't speak for the
12 other agencies, since the National ParkLand doesn't
13 really extend up to the Kivalina and Wulik Rivers, we,
14 at the National Park Service, don't spend too much
15 time, obviously over those lands, but when we have a
16 BLM presence up here as we did last year, that was an
17 area where they focused a lot of attention as well as,
18 of course, the Wildlife Troopers will spend a fair
19 amount of time when hunting is occurring up there, in
20 the hopes of addressing some of those concerns.

21
22 Yeah, guides are restricted in a lot of
23 ways by the State of Alaska, you know, having those
24 licenses means they can charge a lot more for some of
25 their services, they can perform services in the field
26 where the transporter cannot. And as a result they're
27 held to some pretty high standards. There are and have
28 been some guides in this area in the past that have
29 done things illegally, they've gotten in trouble for
30 it, and they face very, very stiff penalties including
31 losing their businesses as a result of those. What --
32 I can't speak to what might be going on up in the
33 Kivalina area, I would, however, say that, you know,
34 please reach out to myself, I can pass that along, or
35 the Wildlife Trooper that we have in town, Steve
36 Canteen, maybe pass that information along, if you or
37 others feel that it's the same guide or the same
38 service that has been doing that or certain times then
39 we'd like to try to get ahead of that in future years,
40 maybe be out there, keep an eye on these folks, and,
41 you know, either prevent that or catch them doing it,
42 you know. So, you know, please reach out to one of us
43 and maybe we can talk further about those specific
44 incidents up there.

45
46 The guides, we have three guide
47 services, three companies that can operate and guide
48 Big Game hunters within Noatak Preserve. Kilbuk Valley
49 National Park and Cape Krusenstern are off limits to
50

1 non-Federally-qualified subsistence users. So, you
2 know, if you're not a Federally-qualified subsistence
3 user you cannot be hunting within Kobuk Valley or Cape
4 Krusenstern. So mainly what I'm going to be talking
5 about for the rest of this presentation is all focused
6 on Noatak National Preserve. With that said, we still
7 continue our patrols in Cape Krusenstern or Kobuk
8 Valley throughout the fall, throughout the hunting
9 season, we don't put all of our effort up in the Noatak
10 Preserve but we really don't see too many outside
11 hunters coming in and doing things wrong in Kobuk
12 Valley or Cape Krusenstern.

13
14 So within Noatak National Preserve, we
15 do have three guide services that are allowed to
16 operate. Those guide services are under what we call a
17 concessions contract. So it's not a year to year
18 permit, but it's actually a 10 year contract that
19 they've entered in with the National Park Service. We
20 only allow three guide services to operate within
21 Noatak National Preserve. At the end of 10 years the
22 next period will be in 2028, other guide services can
23 bid, through a number of different criteria to try to
24 be one of those three services that provides guiding
25 services within Noatak National Preserve. The three
26 that we have have been operating for many years. One
27 is new to the Noatak National Preserve but is not new
28 to our region up here in Game Management Unit 23. The
29 others have been operating for more than 30 years
30 within Noatak National Preserve. One of the -- so the
31 National Park Service has even more stipulations and
32 restrictions on what guides can do beyond what the
33 State requires of them and holds them to.

34
35 So when they operate within National
36 ParkLands there's a number of additional conditions.

37
38 One of those is, is that they cannot
39 have more than 12 clients a year within the Preserve.
40 And so with that said, if we have three guide services
41 operating, the maximum number of clients that a guide
42 -- all the guides combined can have within the Preserve
43 is 36 clients a year. We find that usually the
44 majority of the types of hunters who are coming in, are
45 coming in to hunt bears. Some will come in
46 specifically to hunt caribou or they may take a caribou
47 if that's readily available to them but mainly they're
48 up here hunting bears.

49
50

1 I'll throw out some numbers here -- get
2 something pulled up and I've got some numbers, so our
3 guides this last year -- so I would point out as I get
4 into some of this data and statistics that I have, we
5 don't have current data for 2020. We know that there
6 were a number of cancellations with transporters and
7 with guides this year because of the Covid pandemic.
8 Of course, as folks around Kotzebue and the other
9 communities have seen there's still plenty of hunters
10 coming in, but those numbers we anticipate to be less
11 than what they've been in years past because of the
12 pandemic. So the numbers that I have are from 2019,
13 and we'll have new data in the early spring, hopefully
14 before the next RAC meeting we'll have good statistics
15 and data to give to you on what occurred during this
16 hunting season in 2020. But in 2019, the guides that
17 were -- you know, three guide services allowed to
18 operate, only two of them operated this year, one opted
19 not to operate because of the pandemic. When that
20 particular guide operates usually he brings in one or
21 two clients a year and that is it. But the two that
22 did operate in 2019, well, in 2019 all three of them
23 operated, one of them brought in two clients. The
24 other two brought in a total of 17 clients. And in
25 total there were six bears taken, 10 caribou taken, one
26 moose taken and two wolves taken through those guide
27 services.

28
29 I'll explain the difference between a
30 transporter here in a second and give you some of those
31 numbers for comparison.

32
33 So a Big Game transporter must be
34 licensed by the State of Alaska to provide those
35 services. Those transporters must be permitted by the
36 National Park Service. Those permits are usually one
37 or two years in length and they must renew them at that
38 point. Typically we have five or six Big Game
39 transporters that operate in Noatak National Preserve
40 each year. This year we had only four that operated.
41 And because of an ongoing criminal case last year there
42 is one operator that has historically operated in
43 Noatak National Preserve and he is not been -- his
44 permit was not renewed for 2020 so he was not operating
45 in 2020 as a result of that and those violations.

46
47 So a Big Game transporter differs from
48 a guide in the fact that a Big Game transporter just
49 transports hunters to the field, picks them up from the
50

1 field. They're not allowed to provide any services in
2 the field. They can't help with salvaging an animal,
3 they can't help on a hunt, they can't guide a hunt,
4 they can't provide any type of services. So all
5 they're doing is dropping hunters off and picking
6 hunters up. The transporters themselves are not
7 responsible in any way for the activities that the
8 hunters do once they're dropped off or after they've
9 been picked up and are out of the field. Whereas a
10 guide does share responsibility on what their hunters
11 do. The guide shares that responsibility of making
12 sure that their clients are abiding by all laws.

13
14 So there are -- like I said, in 2019
15 five Big Game transporters operated. Those
16 transporters, the permits that they must get from the
17 National Park Service is a \$300 fee. Roughly,
18 depending on how many years they get a permit for, it
19 could be two to \$300. One of those transporters is
20 based in Kotzebue and the four other operators are
21 based in other parts of Alaska and come up in August
22 and September and perform those services out of
23 Kotzebue. In 2019 there were a total of 213 hunters
24 transported by Big Game transporters into the Noatak
25 National Preserve. Out of that there were 180 non-
26 resident hunters and 33 resident hunters, and one of
27 those resident hunters being a Federally-qualified
28 subsistence user. Out of those hunters there were 135
29 caribou taken by non-Alaskan residents and 24 caribou
30 taken by Alaska residents. There was one bear taken by
31 a non-Alaskan resident and five bears taken by Alaska
32 residents. There were three wolves taken by non-Alaska
33 residents and six moose taken by Alaskan residents that
34 used Big Game transporters to access Noatak National
35 Preserve. And, again, I'll just point out that this is
36 only for Noatak National Preserve, it doesn't apply to
37 Kobuk Valley or Cape Krusenstern because, you know,
38 non-Federally-qualified users are not allowed to hunt
39 within those areas and I do not have numbers for non-
40 National Park Service lands so I really can't help you
41 with any data that may be occurring outside of the
42 ParkLands.

43
44 What I have come to understand is
45 probably the majority, at least 50 percent or more of
46 most hunters that are flown in by transporters and
47 guides is most likely occurring within Noatak National
48 Preserve. Some of that occurs in Game Management Unit
49 23 on BLM lands, Fish and Wildlife Lands and, of
50

1 course, State lands as well.

2

3 With that, give me a moment just to
4 pull up a couple other numbers.

5

6 Maybe I'll forgo that in lieu of
7 questions but before I do that I would like to point
8 out that there are three closures in effect that affect
9 Noatak National Preserve. Closures or restrictions we
10 can call them.

11

12 In the packets that you have, I'm not
13 sure if you have these in there but if you look at the
14 National Park Service section within the materials that
15 you have, hopefully you'll have a page listed as Game
16 Management Unit 23 at the top, it says hunting
17 restrictions 2020/21 followed by three pages, it
18 contains some maps of the closure areas. If you'll
19 bear with me I'd just like to read them verbatim to
20 you, they're kind of short here and after this I'd like
21 to just open it up to questions you may have for me.

22

23 So there is a Federal caribou closure
24 in effect enacted by the Federal Subsistence Board and
25 it states:

26

27 All Federal lands within a 10 mile wide
28 corridor, five miles on either side along the Noatak
29 River from the western boundary of Noatak National
30 Preserve up stream to the confluence of the Cutler
31 River within the northern and southern boundaries of
32 the Eli and Aggie River drainages and within the
33 Squirrel River drainages are closed to caribou hunting
34 except by Federally-qualified subsistence users.

35

36 That's one closure.

37

38 And that closure is in effect
39 throughout the year.

40

41 The Noatak Controlled Use Area is a
42 restricted area put in effect by the State of Alaska
43 and that is a corridor extending five miles on either
44 side of and including the Noatak River beginning at the
45 mouth of the Aggie River and extending up stream to the
46 mouth of the Mimie River. This area is closed from
47 August 15th to September 30th, which ultimately is most
48 of the non-resident hunting season to the use of
49 aircraft in any manner for Big Game hunting, including

50

1 transportation of Big Game hunters, their hunting gear
2 and/or parts of Big Game, however, this does not apply
3 to the transportation of Big Game hunters or parts of
4 Big Game between publicly owned airports, such as
5 picking up a hunter in the village of Noatak. And
6 people can hunt there, people can fly there, but people
7 cannot use airplanes in any manner to support Big Game
8 hunting operations during that period of time. And
9 along the Noatak River when it hits the Preserve, that
10 same area that -- it overlaps with that first closure,
11 that Federal closure for caribou hunting that I
12 mentioned earlier.

13
14 Yeah, and the National Park Service has
15 a special commercial use area within Noatak National
16 Preserve and that states that a permit holder is
17 prohibited from dropping off or picking up non-
18 Federally-qualified subsistence caribou hunters within
19 the restricted area in the western Noatak National
20 Preserve in accordance with the map. And this year
21 that was in effect until September 22nd, the majority
22 of the non-resident hunting season. And what that area
23 is is really the western portion of Noatak National
24 Preserve. I think on the north side of the river it
25 goes out to the Kugruk River, if I'm correct and then
26 it encompasses the Eli and Aggie River drainages, the
27 Hugo Mountain area. And so what that means is
28 transporters and guides cannot operate and bring in
29 non-Federally-qualified caribou hunters. And as a
30 result we spent a lot of time that specific area, that
31 special commercial use area this year and on every
32 patrol, you know, scouring those lands we did not find
33 any hunting groups, any hunting parties other than
34 along the river, folks coming from the village of
35 Noatak by boat, which, of course, is allowed, but,
36 yeah, no violations of that, no concerns whatsoever.

37
38 I did mention the one case that we had
39 from this year that, you know, where we had landed on a
40 hunting party within that Federal hunting closure along
41 the Noatak River and in that case we had an individual
42 from Anchorage that was hunting caribou when he was not
43 a Federally-qualified subsistence user but that was the
44 first case of its kind within that closure that the
45 Federal government has discovered.

46
47 So with that I guess I'd just open it
48 up to questions.

49
50

1 MS. ATORUK: Joe.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Any questions
4 for Joe.

5
6 MS. ATORUK: I have a remark maybe or
7 not really a question but maybe Joe knows about it
8 already but I'd like to say it.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

11
12 MS. ATORUK: Joe, you know whatever
13 happens over in the Noatak area affects the hunters
14 here in the Kobuk region. Even if it's further up in
15 the headwaters of the Noatak and you guys put hunters
16 up there, look, they got 124 caribou, we got nothing.
17 I don't have one piece of caribou in my freezer from
18 this fall and that affects us when you guys put hunters
19 up there in the headwaters of the Noatak. It affects
20 the people over here on this side of Noatak. So Noatak
21 people were lucky to harvest caribou this fall, we were
22 happy about that but we didn't get to harvest anything.
23 And that's what we're trying to ask to stop all this
24 permitting stuff. Stop all this putting hunters out
25 there. We need to survive. We grew up with this meat,
26 they didn't. They live from whatever they can get down
27 there and they come up here and hunt our caribou, I
28 will say our caribou because we grew up with them. Some
29 of them are probably 71 years old like me. So we need
30 to do something, we need your guys help to curb that.
31 We need your guys help to stop that. We need your guys
32 help to prevent that.

33
34 And the other thing is did you actually
35 see the meat that they are handling when you are out
36 there in the field. And another requirement that you
37 guys should give them is put them in game bags because
38 game bags don't bleed on to the plane and that blood
39 can be washed, and they put them in the plastic bags,
40 they're the ones that don't want to -- they have no
41 interest in the meat like we do.

42
43 Thank you for that good report.

44
45 RANGER DOLLEMOLLE: Yes, thank you.
46 I'll try to address what I can in there. I can't
47 really -- you know not my position in any way to
48 address one way or the other any further closures that
49 may affect that area. But I understand what you're
50

1 saying. I would address your question, do we look at
2 the meat when we drop into hunters and we talk to them,
3 yes, we do that every time. So if we -- you know what
4 we look for when we're flying around, I can't speak to
5 the Wildlife Trooper but I imagine he probably conducts
6 business in a similar manner, and I just mention him
7 because he's out there in those areas where those
8 hunters are contacting them in the same manner that we
9 are, you know, almost daily during that hunting season
10 for non-resident hunters. What we're looking for is we
11 fly over is to, you know, we look for hunters that look
12 like they've taken game, you know, we'd love to just
13 fly in and land on every hunter, everywhere, and talk
14 to them numerous times, you know, but we don't want to
15 disturb those hunts. We'd like to catch -- we try to
16 catch them at the airport in Kotzebue before they leave
17 or work through the transporters and guides to pass on
18 information on best practices before they go out
19 hunting. When we're flying over head we look for any
20 kind of signs or indication whatsoever that they may
21 have killed an animal. And at that point we'll drop
22 in, we'll land on that site, we'll contact those
23 hunters, we'll look at hunting licenses, we'll take
24 that information, document that information, any
25 aircraft they're using, who they flew in with and most
26 particularly we will inspect the meat and ensure that
27 the meat has been properly salvage, that it's being
28 properly preserved. We'll make sure that it was a
29 legal kill, the correct sex of an animal and all the
30 other laws that we look at to ensure compliance. But
31 probably one of the biggest things we look for is the
32 legality of that meat salvage and that requirement.
33 And from, you know, particularly this years and the
34 vast, vast majority probably 98 percent of the contacts
35 that I've had in the field or at the airport in
36 Kotzebue, upon returning from the field, the meat has
37 been salvaged properly, it's been preserved well, I can
38 think of maybe only one instance that I recall where
39 hunters actually had placed meat in a trash bag, in a
40 non-game bag and all other cases they're using game
41 bags, or something similar to properly preserve that
42 meat. So that's just not something that I'm seeing.
43 In that case it was described, it was a private party
44 and they were worried about getting blood over their
45 airplane, they put it in a trash bag, they were going
46 to take it out of the trash bag upon landing and upon
47 opening it up, the meat was still salvageable it was in
48 good shape. They had obviously just put it in there
49 and they'd been out in the field letting it hang from
50

1 their airplane for a couple of days before they left
2 the field and so I'm just -- I know folks are sharing
3 that as a concern and it may be occurring more than
4 what I've seen but I'm just not seeing that as an
5 issue, I'm seeing good salvage taking place in the
6 field and upon return to Kotzebue. Exactly what they
7 do with it after that I can't say but no incidents have
8 been reported to me and as far as I know not to the
9 Troopers of anybody disposing of good meat into trash
10 bins in town here. It very well could be occurring, if
11 it is and people are hearing about that, or have reason
12 to believe that it is, please, please let us know, let
13 the Wildlife Trooper know and we'll take that very
14 seriously to look into that matter.

15

16 Hopefully that answers your questions.
17 If I missed anything in there please let me know.

18

19 MS. ATORUK: Thanks, Joe.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Joe, Attamuk
22 here. Hello, Joe, Attamuk here.

23

24 RANGER DOLLEMOLLE: Yes, Attamuk, thank
25 you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I just got a
28 question for you and I said this earlier. Is it
29 possible for us to help you if we put a proposal
30 together that we could ask the transporters and
31 outfitters to put their game in game bag only, not
32 trash bags, that way hopefully they don't get spoiled
33 by the time they get to us. Would that hurt, or does
34 that make any sense or not to put a proposal such
35 thing, to put the game in game bags only.

36

37 RANGER DOLLEMOLLE: Yeah, yeah,
38 absolutely. What I find most helpful is conversations
39 like this and forums such as the RACs and the SRCs,
40 they see and, you know, other public meetings where
41 these issues are being brought up. In previous years I
42 don't think the issue of -- the concern of meat being
43 put into trash bags and not preserved has been, you
44 know, brought up too much that I can recall but now
45 that it is that's something I'm definitely going to
46 communicate, I'm going to pass on to our other agencies
47 in the law enforcement working group, that we include
48 in our public massaging. I think that's something
49 worthwhile to discuss at the hunter success working

50

1 groups as well. But, again, I'm just -- I haven't been
2 seeing that, I haven't been experiencing that as an
3 issue at all. And in the one case that I can recall
4 the meat was still salvageable, they had just done it
5 as a precautionary measure in the airplane, but that's
6 absolutely -- that and, you know, all the rest of the
7 input that I hear out of these meetings and from other
8 folks in the community, I, you know, really take to
9 heart and we try to include in our public outreach and
10 right now that public outreach is focused a lot on
11 talking with the transporters and the guides and their
12 hunters and trying to talk to hunters before they get
13 on those planes and get out into the field. We find
14 folks are pretty receptive of that. A lot of outside
15 hunters, non-resident hunters coming in from outside of
16 Alaska that aren't familiar with some of the uniqueness
17 of preserving some of the meat up here or the
18 difficulties, the differences on hunting on the tundra
19 versus deers in Forests down south find it pretty
20 welcoming to hear about some of the local practices on
21 both hunting and preserving the meat. And, again, a
22 lot of that comes out of those hunter success working
23 groups as far as that type of massaging.

24
25 So I will include that in the massaging
26 that we do. And, yeah, I think, you know, give me a
27 call any time, again my number is 385-8234 if anybody
28 has any advice or input that they'd like to see out
29 there, you know, please get a hold of me individually,
30 or in these meetings and let me know. So I appreciate
31 that Attamuk.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

34
35 RANGER DOLLEMOLLE: Before we move on
36 to questions I just wanted to reiterate again that the
37 numbers that I'm giving, that data and those statistics
38 were from last year, they're not from this year, we
39 don't have those numbers yet. They'll be available
40 hopefully by the next RAC meeting in the spring, and we
41 expect those numbers to be probably significantly less
42 than they were this year, mainly due to the Covid
43 pandemic.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Joe.
46 Anybody else got questions for Joe.

47
48 MS. ATORUK: Thank you, Joe. Say hi to
49 your mom.

50

1 RANGER DOLLEMOLLE: I sure will, thank
2 you. And if there's any other questions there's still
3 plenty of time if -- well, I'm sure I've gone over my
4 time, but more than happy to answer other questions but
5 before we do move on, I just wanted to drop a note
6 about the Northwest Arctic Conservation Law Enforcement
7 Working Group. And, again, point out that since my
8 arrival up here three years ago I've been working very
9 closely with Damon Schaeffer and the NANA Trespass
10 Program, the Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Bureau of Land
11 Management and the Fish and Wildlife Service,
12 particularly the law enforcement elements of those
13 agencies and what we did three years ago -- just about
14 three years ago now was formed this working group in
15 order to better accomplish our mission, to increase
16 coverage and effectiveness of our patrols, hunter
17 education, community engagement, and to better support
18 each other with the resources that we have, whether
19 that be patrol-based, logistical, or just local
20 knowledge. And so that working group and that forum
21 has been, I think, really successful. We're the only
22 ones in the state to be doing that and, particularly,
23 to be including, you know, Native corporations, such as
24 NANA Trespass Program in that which I have to say is
25 just instrumental to the work that we do. As most
26 folks know, the NANA Trespass Program has officers in
27 each village in the NANA region during the hunting
28 season and we, honestly, rely a lot on their eyes and
29 ears and their local advice on doing our job. A lot of
30 the reports that we get come either first hand through
31 a trespass officer that happens to be out there
32 patrolling nearby some of our lands or a community
33 member reporting to a trespass officer, and, of course,
34 with their local knowledge it's just been instrumental
35 in helping us with our jobs and as a result of this
36 working group, all of these agencies and the law
37 enforcement arms have been working a lot better to
38 accomplish a lot of the goals, the same goals as the
39 RAC and other public bodies have in mind.

40
41 So thank you to everybody for
42 supporting that and I'd like to thank the RAC for
43 supporting what we do within that working group and we
44 hope to continue building that.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Joe.
49 Thank you, Joe.

50

1 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chair, this is Mike.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.
4
5 MR. KRAMER: Hey, Joe, for your guys
6 law enforcement group, the whole thing about the trash
7 bags was they were dumping, you know, trash bags with
8 either meat or bones, I'm not too sure. I know that
9 they were advised to contact Fish and Wildlife, either
10 State or the Park Service for a bunch of people's trash
11 cans, you know, they went out wondering why there's big
12 flocks of seagulls hanging around and they opened up
13 their trash can and there's a trash bag in there with a
14 whole bunch of legs and all kinds of other stuff. You
15 know they didn't even want to bother to check to see if
16 it was full hindquarters of meat. But they did do a
17 lot of reporting about that one specific transporter
18 van, you know, doing it late at night in the hours of
19 the dark dumping off whatever. I know they probably
20 weren't even looked at, you know, I mean who knows.
21 You know but they were advised to contact law
22 enforcement to go and check those issues out.
23
24 RANGER DOLLEMOLLE: Okay.
25
26 MR. KRAMER: And then another thing, as
27 of right now I just seen several pictures of caribou
28 out on front street in Kotzebue.
29
30 (Laughter)
31
32 MR. KRAMER: They're here.
33
34 RANGER DOLLEMOLLE: I just passed a
35 hunter pulling two in a sled back, so, yep, that's a
36 good sign.
37
38 But, yeah, thank you.
39
40 TROOPER CANTEEN: Trooper Canteen here.
41
42 RANGER DOLLEMOLLE: Go ahead.
43
44 TROOPER CANTEEN: This is Trooper
45 Canteen here, if you -- I'd like to jump in as far as
46 reporting the meat wasting, I don't want to jump the
47 gun but if you want I can jump in and speak to that
48 now.
49
50

1 RANGER DOLLEMOLLE: Oh, absolutely,
2 please, Steve.

3
4 TROOPER CANTEEN: So as far as
5 reporting, the Wildlife Trooper in Kotzebue got up here
6 in July and got to see the country quite a bit this
7 summer but not had any reports of meat being dumped
8 into the trash cans locally that have been relayed to
9 me. But we are a bone-in salvage area so all the
10 hunters that've taken caribou out in the field are
11 required to bring it back on the bone, and that's just
12 to ensure that all the meat is salvaged properly and
13 they're not leaving bits and pieces but that does
14 result in the potential for bones and everything that
15 are cleaned out before it gets put on the plane being
16 disposed in town. If there are verified instances of
17 meat being wasted in town, I would urge you to pass
18 them on to me or to Joe, whoever you see first, and we
19 will look into them.

20
21 RANGER DOLLEMOLLE: Yeah, I'd just like
22 to add to that too, Mike. You know pass on to
23 everybody, get the message out, call us, call us, call
24 us. If it turns out to be nothing that's fine, we'd
25 rather know and look into something that's nothing than
26 miss the things that turn out to be violations. You
27 know we can't always respond to every incident, you
28 know, there's only a couple of us up here. There's
29 Steve and I between two agencies responsible for some
30 different things, right, and, you know, in the summer
31 we have one additional Ranger.....

32
33 (Teleconference interference -
34 participants not muted)

35
36 RANGER DOLLEMOLLE: Yeah, so we try to
37 respond and take everything seriously. The sooner we
38 know about it and the more we know the better chances
39 that we can look out to something and look for that so
40 please encourage people to call even if they're not
41 sure if it's a violation, if they just have concerns,
42 please reach out to one of us. You know my
43 jurisdiction is specifically on National Park Service
44 lands, to some extent on other Federal lands as well
45 that I could respond to, I can assist the Troopers if
46 I'm requested but, you know, for things specifically
47 occurring in Kotzebue, you know, the Wildlife Troopers
48 are the best to get a hold of, but if anybody reaches
49 out to me or, you know, even a NANA Trespass officer,
50

1 or anybody, you know, within law enforcement or within
2 one of our land management agencies, we will of course
3 pass that report on, pass that information on to the
4 appropriate authority that can investigate that
5 potential violation.

6
7 So, thank you, Mike. Appreciate it.

8
9 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, because with this
10 whole Covid thing going on, you know, there's a lot of
11 -- you know a lot of Covid relief funds out there and
12 I'm pretty sure a lot of different organization, you
13 know, got a lot of money stored up, because a lot of
14 people are working cut back hours. Just not too long
15 ago I seen four rib eye steaks over at AC for \$81, four
16 of them, \$81. AC's, you know, shelves are pretty skim,
17 if you're going to go there and figure out something
18 for dinner, you got to have at least have four
19 different choices because you're not going to find
20 everything for dinner.

21
22 MS. ATORUK: Wow.

23
24 MR. KRAMER: You know it is getting
25 tough up here. I mean people are just buying stuff off
26 the shelves. For one pound of ground hamburger meat,
27 \$16.

28
29 MS. ATORUK: Yep.

30
31 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, this economy here in
32 NANA region is just not -- you know it's just not
33 meeting the needs of the people, the people here are
34 getting broke, their hours are cut back, everything is
35 still going up. I go back in the day when the price of
36 fuel went up, they said, oh, it's just going up because
37 of the price of fuel, well, now that the price of fuel
38 has dropped everything is still going up. So, you
39 know, my suggestion is to our future Senator and our
40 future Representative to put in a bill to reconfigure
41 Northwest Arctic's cost of living and minimum wages,
42 you know, because the way things are right now people
43 aren't going to survive. You go to the store right
44 now, there's a lot of empty stuff on the shelves,
45 there's a lot of empty shelves, people are packing in
46 there and buying stuff, you know, this is all about
47 food security. This is one of the reasons why we want
48 this special action request to pass because there's --
49 I'd have to say probably about 50 or 60 maybe even 70
50

1 percent of this region, or more, hasn't even gotten any
2 caribou. So this is all about food security.

3
4 I could care less about transporters,
5 outside hunters, you know, they don't need to be here,
6 we need to be able to go out there and harvest those
7 animals, especially when they're on the decline. We
8 should be more important, we live here, they don't.
9 So, you know, when we get this thing passed we need to
10 make sure we get letters of support from our future
11 Senator and our future House of Representatives because
12 if we can't get nothing passed on the Federal side,
13 well, they should pass a bill that'll pass in the
14 Congress, you know, because these agencies, I haven't
15 heard of one, you know, one entity who polices the Park
16 Service, the Fish and Wildlife, the BLM, the State of
17 Alaska, nobody. There's got to be somebody that tells
18 them, hey, you need to start deciding on the people who
19 live there, their subsistence resources, their grocery
20 shelves are empty, you know. A pound of hamburger meat
21 is \$16, you know, something's got to get figured out
22 here because a lot of people here are going to suffer
23 and go in debt, and, why, because of the cost of living
24 here in this region.

25
26 So another way to buffer that is to not
27 allow transporters and guides to come here and hunt
28 when we don't even have our freezers full, something's
29 got to happen and it better be good to benefit us, the
30 rural subsistence users within this region of Game
31 Management Unit 23. It's getting ridiculous. It's
32 like we're a second class group of citizens and then
33 some. It's got to change. Discrimination is the key
34 to that. They put that before us, money, over human
35 life. Something's got to change and it better start
36 changing.

37
38 That's all I have to say for right now,
39 thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Thank you,
42 Joe.

43
44 RANGER DOLLEMOLLE: Yes, thank you
45 everybody.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, to continue.
48 Maybe we could finish if we speed it up a little bit.
49 Are you done Park Service?

50

1 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair, this is Marcy
2 Okada with Gates of the Arctic.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, go ahead.

5
6 MS. OKADA: Okay.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I was asking if Park
9 Service is done.

10
11 MS. LUKIN: Well, Western Arctic is
12 done but Gates of the Arctic has their report now.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, go ahead. Go
15 ahead, Gates.

16
17 MS. OKADA: Okay. So I have a written
18 update, it's on Page 40 of your meeting packet. This
19 is Marcy Okada, Subsistence Coordinator for Gates of
20 the Arctic National Park and Preserve and I'm just
21 going to hit the highlights of the update.

22
23 We had a Subsistence Resource
24 Commission meeting this past April, via teleconference
25 where first we heard updates on wildlife projects from
26 Park Staff and updates on the Ambler Mining District
27 Road project. Our next meeting is coming up on
28 November 18th to 19th. And Louie Commack is the RAC
29 appointment to our SRC.

30
31 There's the Western Caribou Herd
32 project that was supposed to occur this past April, it
33 was to collect caribou pellets in order to analyze
34 their diet. This was delayed due to Covid and it's
35 rescheduled for April of next year.

36
37 Recently a paper just came out on how
38 bugs affect caribou, how the bugs increase the
39 movements of the caribou and how the caribou spend time
40 evading and running away from the bugs out on the
41 tundra. So this paper just shares information on how
42 bugs cause physiological stress on caribou.

43
44 There's been a couple studies on
45 grizzly bears up in the Brooks Range. Results from the
46 study came from the 2014 to 2017 bear collaring
47 project. This collaring effort showed that a large
48 number of bears feed on salmon. Salmon is a large
49 component of their late summer diet. And so from this

50

1 information, looking at bear movement, Park Service was
2 able to identify streams where salmon were previously --
3 where streams were previously unmapped that have
4 salmon in them and so the Park Service is working with
5 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in order to
6 catalog these streams in the anadromous stream catalog.

7
8 And then lastly there's an article
9 showing analysis of grizzly bear diet and how
10 information can be taken from bear hair samples.

11
12 This past July, Gates of the Arctic was
13 able to survey dall sheep in the Itkillik Preserve
14 which is the northeastern corner of Gates of the
15 Arctic. This was a pilot only survey due to Covid.
16 Unfortunately the entire Preserve was not.....

17
18 (Teleconference interference -
19 participants not muted)

20
21 MS. OKADA:completely surveyed
22 due to poor weather and surveys are planned for next
23 year in order to just collect more information on how
24 the dall sheep are doing in Gates of the Arctic.

25
26 And, lastly, for the Ambler Mining
27 District Road update, a Record of Decision has been
28 made for the access route and right-of-way that goes
29 through the Preserve Unit of Gates of the Arctic. The
30 decision was based on an environmental economic
31 analysis, and the route selected across the Kobuk
32 Preserve Unit follows the route selected by the U.S.
33 Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Land
34 Management Record of Decision.

35
36 In your written update there's two web
37 links that provide more information on the Ambler
38 Mining District Road.

39
40 Do folks have any questions.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone have
43 questions.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not must be a good
48 report if nobody got a question, wow.

49
50

1 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Mike.
4
5 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, hi, Marcy, welcome.
6 They pretty much are decided to go ahead and continue
7 this road project, you know, I mean there's going to be
8 a lot of issues coming up once that road starts getting
9 built and it gets completed. Is the Park Service
10 planning on having a gate or a checkpoint where they
11 have to -- you know, where these mining vehicles and
12 not public access.
13
14 MS. OKADA: There will be mitigation
15 measures to protect subsistence hunting and fishing
16 activities, also to protect fish habitat and wildlife
17 habitat and wetlands. As to what those mitigations are
18 going to look like it's still to be determined.
19
20 MR. KRAMER: Okay. Because I think,
21 you know, if they're going to cross Park lands, you
22 know, they should also involve NANA, you know, NANA
23 should be able to have their own checkpoint also to be
24 able to protect the lands where we subsist our
25 resources, in order to protect them, got to be
26 something or else they're going to run it rampede.
27
28 Thank you.
29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.
31 Thank you. And I think what we need to do, we need to
32 have someone in the RAC from Shungnak, that way they
33 could put their two cents, what the village want to do.
34 That's why earlier I said we need to have people from
35 Upper Kobuk for this Ambler Road.
36
37 MS. ATORUK: You have Louie from.....
38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Because they're going
40 to open it no matter what we say.
41
42 MS. ATORUK: Yeah.
43
44 MR. KRAMER: The other thing, you know,
45 that I had a concern of -- the other concern that I
46 have, you know, I know earlier part of the Covid issue
47 we had within the last six months, you know, one of the
48 villages up there, I can't remember if it was Ambler,
49 Shungnak, you know, had like a 10,000 gallon diesel
50

1 spill, or more, I'm not sure, but I mean I was just
2 wondering how was that taken care of and, you know,
3 that being within the borough, you know, who took care
4 of the spill, was it properly taken care of, was there
5 any spillage into the Kobuk River, or other drainages
6 or other water sources, water resources, or anything,
7 you know, that's a big concern, that's a lot of fuel,
8 and that's a long ways up the Kobuk River to affect
9 everybody down stream.

10

11 MS. ATORUK: Yep.

12

13 MR. KRAMER: That needs to be seriously
14 looked into.

15

16 MS. ATORUK: Reppi. Hello.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Yeah.

19

20 MS. ATORUK: On that oil spill somebody
21 did go up from the borough, I guess, and went up there
22 and then they took care of it, they dug to the bottom
23 of it and it did not go into the river. They were able
24 to save it from going into the river, is what I was
25 told.

26

27 MR. SWAN: Right on, thank you. That's
28 what I needed to hear.

29

30 MS. ATORUK: Thank you. Thank you for
31 asking, I would have brought that up and then Louie
32 Commack is from the up river, representing up river,
33 but he's pretty ill right now and I think in a critical
34 condition care at ANMC now as we speak so keep him in
35 your prayers and thoughts.

36

37 Taikuu.

38

39 MR. SWAN: Okay.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, anyone else.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, if not we will
46 continue on, we're down to BLM, right.

47

48 MS. ATORUK: Yep.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, anyone from
2 BLM.

3
4 MR. SPARKS: Yeah, hi, this is Tom
5 Sparks with the Anchorage Field Office. Can everybody
6 hear me okay?

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.

9
10 MR. STEVENSON: Loud and clear, thank
11 you, Tom.

12
13 MR. SPARKS: Great, thanks so much.
14 Just a way of introducing myself again. Tom Sparks,
15 I'm stationed in Nome. I'm part of the Anchorage Field
16 Office. I think we still have three people on board
17 from our Anchorage Staff, Bonnie Million who's our
18 field manager; Walker Gusse, our law enforcement; and
19 Bruce Seppi with our -- he's our subsistence Staff
20 member, all out of the Anchorage Field Office. I'll
21 try to make my report brief. We did not include a
22 written one, but if anybody needs to get a hold of me
23 in Nome, my email address is tsparks@blm.gov. And I'm
24 at 443-2177. We're still in the old phone books in the
25 blue government section so it'd be welcome to hear from
26 you. I appreciate all the comments that I've heard
27 thus far today.

28
29 I just wanted to mention some things
30 that have come up in the past. One is the Squirrel
31 River management plan, that was put on hold lat year. I
32 know Bonnie Million gave a report at your winter
33 meeting last year in Anchorage. We were asked to put
34 that on hold by our State office, and I'm hoping that
35 we can pick that back up. That's what does guide our
36 transporter and guide program. So far we're still
37 under the Kobuk/Seward Management Plan, it was done in
38 September of 2008 and as many of you know, I have given
39 this report before, that plan limited our guides to 10
40 and transporters were required to obtain a permit, and
41 that was the only place that I'm aware of BLM does that
42 besides our Haines area, which was really dealing with
43 Heliskiing there, the problem with some of the goats in
44 that area and the impacts of heliskiing on the goats,
45 primarily that was the issue.

46
47 We have had some changes to our Staff
48 at the State office and also at Nome. The Nome office
49 had a position, a wildlife position and Brian Ublacker
50

1 is his name and he transferred to Anchorage in July of
2 2019 but he's still with us, he was stationed in Nome
3 for a couple of winters so he got a good taste of Bush
4 life and I hope that'll help him out a little bit when
5 he's in Anchorage.

6
7 We also have at our statewide office,
8 we hired Chris McKee as the new BLM Alaska subsistence
9 coordinator. He comes from OSM.

10
11 So I wanted to mention those two
12 changes.

13
14 Like a lot of the agencies you've heard
15 from, we were very much hamstrung by the Covid
16 situation. We basically didn't do any of the field
17 work that we normally do in terms of compliance work.
18 But we have done a lot of on line, there's a series of
19 things that we have put up and most of the time I tell
20 people just Google BLM, but as you're all aware the
21 Black Lives Matter certainly has a lot on there, so I
22 now say BLM.gov. But we have a lot of district
23 learning programs that are put up in our Campbell Creek
24 Science Center, I encourage folks to look at.

25
26 We also have a Veteran's Allotment Act,
27 a new one, that has come up. That program is a lot
28 different from the previous Veteran's Allotment Act.
29 The Veterans that qualify don't have to use proof use
30 and occupancy, which is very much different than all
31 the other allotment acts. That was part of the Dingle
32 Act that was passed in 2019 and they're are about 2,000
33 letters that have gone out to potentially qualifying
34 Veterans. There's a five year period that they have to
35 apply for and there's a great interactive program on
36 line, very few lands are currently available though.
37 They are tied up in what we call the D1 withdrawals.
38 But if anybody has some specific questions I'd be happy
39 to go over that.

40
41 We also have given reports in the past
42 about the last land use plan for our field office, the
43 Bering Sea Western Interior Resource Management Plan.
44 Most of those lands are from Unalakleet south, although
45 there are some that butt up against the Refuge and do
46 go a little bit north. The last stage for that plan is
47 to release a final environmental impact statement and
48 then once that is released it starts a 30 day public
49 protest period. And there's a link on that plan on our
50

1 website.

2
3 Other things I just wanted to mention,
4 like I said, we have been trying to, you know, do the
5 best we can with Covid, out of local respect we didn't
6 go up to the Squirrel River and do any compliance but
7 we have -- I've gotten a couple reports back from our
8 transporters, thus far only two of them have reported
9 and they didn't bring any clients. We currently have
10 about six guides that are permitted in Unit 23 and two
11 guides and six transporters. I also recall people
12 asking questions about how much money they pay, and in
13 our regulations it's a special recreation permit and
14 commercial they pay three percent of gross. There are
15 some deductions if they qualify for, so -- and there's
16 an annual minimum that's up to \$115 currently and that
17 gets adjusted periodically.

18
19 So I did want to keep my report rather
20 short but I'd be happy to answer any questions that may
21 come up. I know with our other programs we've had some
22 (indiscernible - fades out) hear about those reindeers
23 and I would ask if (indiscernible - fades out).....

24
25 REPORTER: Hey, hang on, stop, Tom --
26 excuse me.

27
28 MR. SPARKS: Sure.

29
30 REPORTER: Tom, is that still you?

31
32 MR. SPARKS: Yes.

33
34 REPORTER: Okay, sorry, you faded way
35 off there and I couldn't hear you at all.

36
37 MR. SPARKS: Oh, okay.

38
39 REPORTER: So sorry for the
40 interruption, please, go ahead.

41
42 MR. SPARKS: Oh, no, I'm sorry, can
43 everyone hear me now?

44
45 REPORTER: Yes.

46
47 MS. ATORUK: Now we can.

48
49 MR. SPARKS: Okay. Apologize for that.

50

1 Yeah, I don't know if everybody heard that, reindeer
2 permit, we did have one up in the Kotzebue area for
3 John Walker and we've cancelled that permit. He hadn't
4 had reindeer in many years. I was really interested in
5 the reindeer that were spotted up north, if there's any
6 that have ear tags I'd be particularly interested if
7 you saw any colored tags because the Reindeer Herders
8 Association down here in Nome would be very interested
9 in that and I could pass that information along.

10
11 So with that I'd be happy to answer any
12 questions.

13
14 MS. ATORUK: Thank you, Tom.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone have any
17 questions for Tom.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MR. SWAN: Well, if we were to get a
22 reindeer with reindeer tags where would we have to send
23 them.

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 MR. SPARKS: Well, you mean the tag
28 itself.

29
30 (Laughter)

31
32 MR. SWAN: I guess, I don't know this is
33 the first time we ever had this much reindeer up here
34 between Kivalina and Portside.

35
36 MR. SPARKS: Yes, I was very surprised
37 to hear that. All I can tell you is that, you know,
38 since the caribou came down into the Nome area they
39 took a lot of reindeer away and they've scattered in a
40 lot of different areas but there were a lot of tags,
41 they were done at annual roundup. So I bill the
42 Kakarak herd as black tags, the Davis herd has blue
43 tags, those are the most prevalent as far as numbers.
44 So I think, you know, again, the Kawerak Reindeer
45 Herders Association is the main contact for the
46 individual herders but I know that we try to pass along
47 information because those are privately owned, it's
48 just been a real tragic scene here with the loss of
49 that industry. But I'd be very interested, like I

50

1 said, if there's any, you know, ears, and some that are
2 notched as well so if you get close enough that you can
3 see any of those I'd be very interested in passing that
4 information along.
5
6 Thank you, very much.
7
8 MR. SWAN: Okay. If we see any I'll
9 try to get one and send it.
10
11 (Laughter)
12
13 MR. SPARKS: Appreciate that.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Just the tag, not the
16 meat.
17
18 MS. ATORUK: Take a picture.
19
20 (Laughter)
21
22 MR. SWAN: I'll send the tag but I
23 won't send the meat, I'll take the meat.
24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'll intercept the
26 meat.
27
28 MS. ATORUK: Take a picture Reppi.
29
30 (Laughter)
31
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, anyone else
33 have questions for BLM.
34
35 MS. ATORUK: No. Go to Fish and Game.
36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Okay, Fish and
38 Game, you got the floor.
39
40 MR. HANSEN: Hello, this is Alex
41 Hansen, Alaska Department of Fish and Game here in
42 Kotzebue I work with the Western Arctic Herd. Can
43 everyone hear me okay?
44
45 MS. ATORUK: Yeah.
46
47 MR. SWAN: Yeah.
48
49 MR. HANSEN: So as has been mentioned,
50

1 we did not conduct a census, we did not count the
2 caribou herd this summer, so our last count was last
3 summer and our count was 244,000 animals, which was
4 down slightly from the previous estimate in 2017 of
5 259,000 animals. We intend to do a photocensus this
6 coming summer. So those plans are in the works.

7
8 Another thing that we looked at very
9 closely is adult female survival. We've had fairly
10 high survival in the last few years, one of the higher
11 mortality rates that we've had was in '17 and that was
12 about 36 percent of the collared adult cows died, that
13 had gone down a little bit to 23, and then about 25 now
14 this most recent year, so we're about average now,
15 things are looking okay there. We'd like to see a
16 little bit higher survival but we're in a fairly safe
17 area.

18
19 Our recruitment surveys, this is a
20 survey that we conduct every year in the spring and so
21 what we're doing, we're looking at a segment of the
22 population and just estimating the number of calves
23 that survived through the winter based on, you know,
24 sighting those individuals and comparing the number of
25 juveniles to the number of adults out on the landscape.
26 So our short yearling recruitment, the most recent one,
27 spring of 2020 was 17 calves to 100 adults which is
28 fairly average, and come down a little bit in the past
29 few years, kind of experienced pretty high, 15, 16, 17
30 up in the low 20s so we're still in a relatively good
31 spot there. Our calving surveys, or parturition rates,
32 this is a survey that we do each spring up on the North
33 Slope on the calving grounds, and we've had really high
34 calving rates in the past few years, this past spring
35 was about average, down to about 67 percent so a little
36 bit lower than what we've seen in the recent past but
37 still okay, in the safe range.

38
39 Another -- you know, I'll go ahead and
40 speak to collaring as, you know, most folks in the
41 region have suffered from the lack of caribou
42 movements, we've been affected by that as well with the
43 lack of caribou crossing the Kobuk River we have been,
44 you know, unable to collar caribou like we have done in
45 the past. And in the past four years we've only had
46 one year that was good, and we were able to put out 49
47 collars last year and we attempted to collar caribou on
48 the Kobuk this year and didn't see a single caribou.
49 So that put us in kind of a challenging spot. We rely
50

1 very heavily on our collars and we've got to be able to
2 put those out so that we can do those surveys including
3 the census to get our count and understand what's going
4 on with the population and understand movements of the
5 caribou herd. And so we're going to have to consider
6 some alternate methods of capture this year and we were
7 kind of forced into that for the first time in the
8 spring of 2019. So in the spring of 2019 we were in a
9 similar situation and we ended up collaring 31
10 individuals using a helicopter and a net gun. So we're
11 kind of stuck with that platform moving forward right
12 now to transition to helicopter captures. And so part
13 of what I want to talk about today is just kind of get
14 the understanding of what the local perspective is on
15 that and the two options that we have to use.

16
17 So the two options we have are net
18 gunning as I mentioned, you know, this has been done
19 here in the spring of 2019, it's done elsewhere in the
20 state. And the second option is chemical
21 immobilization or darting, so, you know, kind of think
22 about that. And if people have comments, you know,
23 feel free to share them now or, you know, during the
24 question section or approach me, you know, give me a
25 call at the office and we can talk about it as well.
26 But, you know, those are kind of the options that we
27 have, we've got to get those collars out and so that's
28 what we'll be looking to do this spring. Certainly
29 we'll do everything we can in our power to, you know,
30 work outside of close contact of where people are,
31 where villages are, just kind of be out of sight, out
32 of mind and get those collars out.

33
34 I guess I would say the one potential
35 down side to darting is, you know, those animals will
36 be inedible for a short period of time, about 30 days
37 and they'll be marked as such, so if we do go that
38 route, you know, we'll certainly get that information
39 out to the public, you know, if you find a collared
40 animal then maybe try not to shoot it so we can prevent
41 shooting animals that might be infected with the drug,
42 which will only last a short period of time.

43
44 So moving on from that, talk a little
45 bit about reporting.

46
47 Our harvest reporting is something that
48 we've been working on a lot the last number of years.
49 Beginning in 2017 we came out with RC907, which is the
50

1 harvest ticket for residents for caribou and 2016 the
2 RC800 came out. RC800 is largely the Seward Peninsula
3 and RC907 is Unit 26A and 23, so more local here. So
4 our permit issuance started out pretty good at 1,855 in
5 2017, it's gone down a little bit, 1,283 in 2018 and
6 then about 1,200 in 2019. So we're working very hard
7 to get to the public and share the need for that
8 information. It's been very challenging, obviously
9 this year with the inability to travel to villages and
10 respecting travel restrictions due to Covid. RC800 has
11 gone down considerably over the last few years and I
12 think this is largely due to the fact that, you know,
13 fewer caribou are spending time on the Seward
14 Peninsula. Harvest reporting is pretty good when we
15 get those permits out, people are very good at getting
16 the information back and we certainly spend a lot of
17 effort, you know, calling folks and sending emails to
18 get that information. So anything we can do to
19 encourage folks to return those reports is very
20 valuable to us, it helps us understand, you know, kind
21 of the differences of harvest, especially in these lean
22 years that we can't detect without these permits, you
23 know, being distributed and returned to us.

24
25 And, you know, on that note, most
26 villages in Unit 23 have vendors and we work hard,
27 Cathy in our office works hard to make sure that those
28 vendors are up to speed and that we make sure we have
29 vendors in each village and you can also get those
30 permits on line so that's something we've been doing a
31 lot this year. With the Covid restrictions, you know,
32 is referring people to our website, ADF&G.alaska.gov,
33 and you can get those permits on line.

34
35 And that's really kind of what I wanted
36 to cover here today.

37
38 I'm happy to take any questions or we
39 can go into something a little deeper if someone would
40 like to.

41
42 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, this is Mike, Mr.
43 Chairman.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, Mike.

46
47 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, you know, the Onion
48 Portage tagging area, or collaring area being pretty
49 poor, I think it's time to shut down that operation
50

1 there and move it up on the Noatak, you know, where
2 they are coming through. I mean, you know, that Onion
3 Portage hasn't been very productive in the last several
4 years other than last year you said, right.

5
6 MR. HANSEN: Yeah, to Member Kramer,
7 that is correct. We -- you know I've been here for
8 four years and we've only been able to collar caribou
9 in abundance one year and so that's kind of our point
10 of transition right now is we're just going to move
11 away from Onion Portage. And, you know, not to say
12 that we wouldn't fall back on that if it really
13 presented itself as an opportunity, but we'll look at
14 other options and move away from that. It's costly to
15 go try and to fail and then we have those budget issues
16 to consider.

17
18 MR. KRAMER: Yeah. Budget issues with
19 Covid relief, you know, that should be able to really
20 help you guys, in cutting back hours, you know, I mean
21 there should be a lot of funds available for you guys
22 to be able to do that up on the Noatak.

23
24 MR. HANSEN: Yeah, and I'd be happy to
25 discuss the Noatak operation with somebody with more
26 experience up there. We've -- you know, kind of the
27 understanding is that the river is fairly narrow and
28 shallow so it might be a little bit hard for us to, you
29 know, have the time to work up a bunch of caribou but
30 happy to discuss it if someone has better knowledge
31 about that area than I do.

32
33 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, there's a lot of
34 good hunters up there in Noatak so, you know, if you
35 wanted to reach out to people there's a lot of people
36 that go up that way and go hunting and, you know, if
37 you have a jet boat you could make it up there pretty
38 easy following a group of hunters. And the other good
39 thing is to be able to involve the hunters, you know,
40 involve some hunters, if they bring their kids, you
41 know, have their kids go help the guys get a couple
42 caribou and collar them. You're not only collaring
43 them you're teaching the younger generations about
44 their subsistence resources. The Onion Portage thing
45 has been pretty poor the last quite a few years.

46
47 And the other thing -- the other
48 question I have is, you know, since Noatak has been
49 really harvesting them, you know, from somewhere in
50

1 August to pretty much to mid-September to almost the
2 end of September, you know, they harvest quite a few
3 animals up there, you know, why haven't they come
4 across -- are they still mingling around in the
5 mountains according to your satellites, or are they
6 still north, or are they -- you know are they just
7 eating, or is it too warm for them to migrate. You
8 know something's got to be pushing them back or, you
9 know, something's got to be making them shy, I wonder
10 if it's the air traffic. But, you know, in Noatak they
11 have a pretty good respect for caribou, you know, it's
12 their subsistence resource, it's their main subsistence
13 resource. Because back in the day when Noatak wasn't
14 getting them and people on the Kobuk River were getting
15 them, they were pooling about 10 families money
16 together and get about eight boats to go up and go
17 harvest them on the Kobuk. And now I haven't heard of
18 any Kobuk hunters going up to Noatak area this year to
19 go harvest caribou because that's a long ways to
20 travel. And a lot of people, you know, at \$14 a
21 gallon, that's pretty spendy especially if they're
22 going up there and I know the first portion of their
23 hunting season was obscured by airplane traffic. And,
24 you know, these people are spending \$14-something a
25 gallon for gas to go up there and come home with
26 nothing because of airplanes cruising back and forth
27 back in those valleys in the back mountains up in
28 there, and the Schwatkas and the Delong Range. Yeah,
29 it's -- something's got to happen because, you know,
30 and these caribou, it would be real wise to be able to
31 try and see what's going on with them, why haven't they
32 hit the Kobuk yet, what's going on. Has there been
33 anybody out there flying, you know, just to see if they
34 can locate sections of the herd or see whether they're
35 moving or they're, you know, just mingling around
36 eating or something's got to be holding them back.

37

38 That's my concern.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MR. HANSEN: Yes, thank you, Member
43 Kramer. Yeah, kind of speaking to a little bit of
44 that, you know, kind of a lot of stuff there. But, you
45 know, as Member Atoruk mentioned earlier in the
46 meeting, you know, local collective memory is that, you
47 know, caribou weren't present in this area for a long
48 time, you know, back in the day and, you know, perhaps
49 caribou are just doing what caribou do. I don't -- and

50

1 they're changing migration patterns, they're changing
2 movements for whatever reason, and I wish I had, you
3 know, all those answers but, you know, largely I don't
4 understand what they do. Certainly we've looked at
5 those caribou this year and, you know, obviously our
6 satellite collars but also as we were preparing to go
7 to Onion Portage to collar, you know, we had our Staff
8 out looking at caribou briefly to see what they were
9 doing and they were kind of in the upper Kobuk -- or,
10 sorry, the Upper Noatak just milling around and really
11 weren't moving. You know we really saw a big push last
12 year kind of late in the game when we were able to
13 collar caribou because we had some big snow storms come
14 in and it just pushed them out of the mountains. But,
15 you know, the temperatures and the weather has been
16 fairly mild up there and they just, in my opinion,
17 don't really have any reason to move. Now, we're
18 starting to see some movement across the range,
19 basically, we have caribou scattered from, you know,
20 the Bairds to the west all the way to Anaktuvuk Pass
21 throughout the Central Brooks Range and there's just
22 caribou, you know, based on the collar location, all
23 throughout the area. There's also a -- you know there
24 was a lot of caribou that spent time up on the Slope,
25 there's still a lot of caribou at Point Lay,
26 Wainwright, up on that west coast, northwest coast, and
27 they spent a lot of time on the Slope this year so
28 finally as I've heard, you know, there's starting to be
29 a few caribou coming closer to town and closer to the
30 villages. It looks like we might see some coming
31 through now so I think, you know, people will be able
32 to capitalize on that.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. And
35 for your information there at the (Indiscernible) Point
36 right now.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 MR. HANSEN: There you go.

41
42 MR. KRAMER: Another question I had,
43 how about the moose, you know, what was your guys --
44 what does the moose population look like for this year
45 and possibly into next year.

46
47 MR. HANSEN: So, yeah, great question.
48 Actually Christy Auburn is going to be filling in for
49 Brandon Saito and she'll be sharing that information
50

1 next, if we have time today, and she'll talk about
2 that. But basically, you know, the moose population
3 has been declining for a number of years.

4

5 MS. ATORUK: Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

8

9 MR. HANSEN: No problem.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So who's next.

12

13 CHRISTY: Hi, my name is Christy Auburn
14 (ph) As Alex just mentioned I'm standing in for our
15 area biologist, Brandon Saito today. And I was just
16 going to do a brief update on muskox and moose if you
17 guys are ready to proceed.

18

19 MS. ATORUK: Go ahead.

20

21 CHRISTY: Okay. So I'll start with
22 muskox. Ramie did an excellent job earlier, actually,
23 of covering most of the same material so I'm going to
24 keep this fairly brief.

25

26 So I'll start with muskox. We have two
27 herds within Unit 23. That's the Cape Thompson Herd in
28 the northern portion of the unit, and then the Seward
29 Peninsula Herd in the southern portion of the unit.
30 Typically two types of surveys are conducted for these
31 populations, abundance estimate and a herd composition
32 survey that determines animal sex and age classes. We
33 try and conduct these surveys together and they're done
34 collaboratively with the Park Service.

35

36 Ramie spoke earlier to the survey that
37 was done on the Cape Thompson population a little
38 earlier today so I'll go ahead and skip over that
39 information, I think he has most of it detailed in the
40 packets that you guys received. Instead I'll just give
41 a brief update on the Northern Seward Peninsula
42 population. This population wasn't actually surveyed
43 this year. It was last surveyed in 2017. And the
44 population estimate from the 2017 survey was 247 muskox
45 with 11 percent mature bulls and 14 percent short
46 yearlings. These compositions were compared both to
47 surveys in previous years and basically going back to
48 2002. Abundance and composition surveys of the
49 Northern Seward Peninsula population are planned for

50

1 this upcoming spring. So old information from 2017 but
2 just wanted to let you know that Northern Seward
3 Peninsula is up for rotation this spring so we should
4 have more info for you soon.

5
6 For both of these populations harvest
7 remains in the Tier II status. So the State issues six
8 bull only permits in total for the 2020 regulatory
9 year. Three of those are for the Cape Thompson
10 population in the north, and then three are for the
11 Seward Peninsula population in the south. As of last
12 week, I think only one of those permits has been
13 fulfilled so far but the season will remain open
14 through March 15th. As a Tier II hunt the application
15 period for next coming year opens November 1st and will
16 close December 15th and we will again be issuing six
17 bull only permits. So just a reminder, if anyone is
18 interested in those Tier II hunts that that period is
19 now open and will remain so until December 15th.

20
21 That's all I have for muskox. If there
22 aren't any questions there I'll move right into moose.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHRISTY: Okay, so.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone have any
29 questions.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

34
35 CHRISTY: Okay. So on to our moose.
36 As Ramie mentioned earlier we surveyed the northern
37 Seward Peninsula. That area generally encompasses the
38 southwest portion of the unit and it includes the
39 communities of Buckland and Deering. Two surveys of
40 this area were completed. A composition survey this
41 last fall determined bull/cow ratios and then this
42 spring was a trends count for short yearling
43 recruitment. The fall composition survey that
44 happened, as I said, last fall, so this would have been
45 2019 fall resulted in 52 bulls per 100 cows and that's
46 an increase relative to the last fall composition
47 survey that occurred there in 2014, which found only 34
48 bulls per 100 cows. For the spring trend count that
49 occurred this early, early spring 2020 we observed 317
50

1 moose and 19 percent short yearlings, which is up from
2 the 12 percent that was seen in 2015. This is an
3 encouraging metric for a population which was in a full
4 decline over the last few years. The last overall
5 population estimate for Unit 23 was 5,600 moose and
6 generally appears to be declining. There are two State
7 moose hunt opportunities to Alaska residents for Unit
8 23. As mentioned a little earlier today there is no
9 non-resident moose hunting opportunity. The two Alaska
10 resident hunts are a general season hunt for a single
11 bull moose with an antler restriction of minimum 50-
12 inch spread or four or more brow tines. This hunt runs
13 from September 1st through the 20th and as of this --
14 earlier this week no one had hunted under the general
15 harvest permit. The second hunt is RM880 -- I'm sorry,
16 let me correct myself, no one had reported success
17 under the general harvest ticket. And then the second
18 hunt is the RM880 registration permit, that hunt is for
19 any antlered bull and a season for the majority of the
20 unit, at least, runs from August 1st through December
21 31st. So that is a hunt that is currently ongoing for
22 anyone who has the RM880 registration permit.

23
24 For harvest overall, last fall, a total
25 of 150 moose were reported harvest, however in previous
26 years subsistence household surveys estimated that that
27 was probably a little closer to 300 moose actually
28 harvested. And the majority of the harvest appears to
29 occur in the lower Kobuk with 62 moose being harvested
30 there last year. That followed the 30 moose that were
31 harvested out of the lower Noatak and 26 moose that
32 were harvested out of the Selawik area. So as of this
33 week 17 moose have been reported as harvested under the
34 RM880 permit. Like I said that season will continue to
35 remain open until December 31st and no harvest has been
36 reported under the general harvest.

37
38 And that kind of concludes what I have
39 for you. I know that Warren Hansen, our moose research
40 biologist out of Nome, I believe is still on the line
41 and he might be able to talk a little bit more in
42 detail to any ongoing studies that we have in the Kobuk
43 area the last couple of years.

44
45 If anyone has questions or I can turn
46 it over to Warren.

47
48 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman, this is
49 Michael.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

2
3 (Teleconference interference -
4 participants not muted)

5
6 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I had a question. I
7 know the last quite a few years you guys have been
8 doing a moose study and I know that you guys had at
9 least roughly about 100 cows that had collars on them,
10 you know, they've been doing kind of a calf mortality
11 rate study on that, I was just wondering, you know, has
12 anything been -- or is it still ongoing or is it not
13 going on anymore.

14
15 CHRISTY: Yes, that is correct.
16 Actually there was a study and this will be the perfect
17 segway into Warren, if he's on the line, will talk
18 about the Kobuk calf study and then any collared moose
19 that we might want to talk about on the Seward
20 Peninsula.

21
22 (Teleconference interference -
23 participants not muted)

24
25 MR. HANSEN: I am still on the line,
26 thank you, Christy. I am Warren Hansen in Nome and can
27 everybody hear me okay.

28
29 REPORTER: Yes, we can, but I want to
30 just check with people on line, I'm getting some
31 feedback from somebody's phone if everybody could check
32 to make sure we're muted.

33
34 Go ahead.

35
36 MR. HANSEN: Thank you. Like Christy
37 said I am a Fish and Game biologist in Nome and for the
38 past three years we have been conducting a study of
39 moose morality in the Lower Kobuk. So as most of you
40 know the Lower Kobuk moose population has been
41 declining. From 2006 to 2017 the population has
42 declined by 12 percent annually by our best estimates
43 of the population and we wanted to better understand
44 limitations to moose recruitment, causes of mortality
45 and monitor the population for signs of nutritional
46 stress. So we captured newborn moose by hand using a
47 helicopter starting in 2018 and this spring would be
48 the third year that we captured moose calves in the
49 Lower Kobuk including the Squirrel River. So we have
50

1 two complete years of data, of mortality data from
2 moose in that region. Our third year is still
3 currently underway so the results of the data that we
4 have are still somewhat preliminary as these numbers
5 can change as we continue to collect data into next
6 year.

7
8 What we initially had noticed right
9 away is that the mortality rate of calves dropped
10 precipitously almost immediately after they're captured
11 and collared and their survival rate decreases to
12 around 35 percent by the end of August. So that means
13 about 55 percent of the calves die by the end of
14 August, and then after August very few moose die in the
15 fall and almost none of the moose that we have captured
16 die over winter until spring. And to date we have been
17 visiting these mortality sites and we have captured a
18 little bit over 200 moose calves in the past three
19 years and of all the mortalities that have occurred, we
20 attribute 77 percent of those mortalities to grizzly
21 bear, 8 percent to wolves, 9 percent to drowning, and 6
22 percent were causes that we weren't able to identify by
23 the time we visited the mortality site. The main
24 differences we've seen between years, 2018 and 2019
25 were very similar in their rates of mortality and
26 causes of mortality where, in those first two years, we
27 only recorded two wolf mortalities, wolf caused
28 mortalities accounting for less than two percent of the
29 total mortality rate caused by wolves but this year
30 we've seen an increased number of wolf caused
31 mortality, and the number of wolf caused mortalities
32 this year alone accounts for 25 percent of all
33 mortalities in 2020. We've also observed or recorded a
34 single black bear caused mortality.

35
36 Other pieces of information that we've
37 collected are the twinning rates of the moose, the
38 average twinning rate over the past four years has been
39 right around 42 percent between years, which is
40 considered to be a healthy twinning rate for moose,
41 suggesting that the moose population is not
42 nutritionally stressed, in addition our moose calf
43 weight that we measured is 45 pounds. Compared to
44 other studies across Alaska that appears to be a
45 relatively heavy calf weight, again, suggesting that
46 the moose population is not likely to be nutritionally
47 stressed.

48
49 And then finally one of the interesting
50

1 parts of the study that we've identified is that due to
2 the declining rate of the population and the mortality
3 rate we've observed among the moose calves and the
4 recruitment rates and population size, that in order
5 for this population to be declining at a rate of 12
6 percent is not solely due to a poor recruitment rate in
7 the moose calf mortality that we've been observing and
8 that a large proportion of our adult moose population
9 is dying or moving out of the study area resulting in
10 this 12 percent population decline. And it's then a
11 surprising artifact of the study to see that the adult
12 mortalities might be higher than we ever expected and
13 could be a key component to looking into this
14 population into the future.

15
16 So that is a quick summary of what
17 we've learned so far in two and a half years of this
18 three year study.

19
20 If there's anything anybody doesn't
21 understand or that I maybe said too quickly I'd be
22 happy to take any questions about anything that anybody
23 has now or followup later.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anyone
28 have questions.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MR. HANSEN: It doesn't sound like it.

33
34 REPORTER: Enoch, are you still there.

35
36 MR. STEVENSON: Attamuk.

37
38 MS. ATORUK: Hello.

39
40 MR. STEVENSON: Attamuk.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

45
46 MS. ATORUK: He must have dropped off
47 again. Mike.

48
49 MR. STEVENSON: Mike Kramer.

50

1 MS. ATORUK: Okay. Does anyone have
2 any questions.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Sorry about that,
5 Attamuk here, I disconnected myself, I hit the wrong
6 button.

7
8 MR. STEVENSON: George Pappas next with
9 OSM.

10
11 MR. KRAMER: Okay, any questions for
12 that guy. Yeah, this is Mike.

13
14 How much longer is your guys moose
15 study going to continue.

16
17 MR. HANSEN: So this particular moose
18 study we will not be capturing any more moose calves so
19 we currently have a small surviving subset of moose
20 calves that we captured in 2020 and we will continue to
21 monitor them all fall, winter and into the spring, and
22 their radio collars are expected to fall off sometime
23 in June most likely, early May, June their radio
24 collars will start falling off and then that will
25 conclude any bit of field data that we're able to
26 collect from the study.

27
28 MS. ATORUK: Wow. Thank you.

29
30 MR. HANSEN: Yes, thank you, really
31 appreciate your time.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.
34 Anyone else have questions.

35
36 MS. ATORUK: OSM.

37
38 MR. STEVENSON: George Pappas.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, we'll go down
41 to OSM now.

42
43 MR. STEVENSON: That's George Pappas.

44
45 MR. SCANLON: Excuse me, Enoch, this is
46 Brendan Scanlon, fish biologist with Fish and Game. Do
47 we have a moment to talk about fish or do you want to
48 move on.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

2
3 Go ahead.

4
5 MR. SCANLON: Okay, thank you. I'll
6 start off with just a quick recap of the commercial
7 fishery just because that kind of tells the story of
8 the subsistence fishery for salmon this year.

9
10 As you could guess that we were way off
11 our pre-season forecast of 450 to 650,000 fish
12 harvested in the commercial fishery, in fact, we only --
13 the final harvest was 149,000 fish which was the
14 lowest since 2007. The total ex-vessel value of
15 540,000 was the first time since 2015 that it had been
16 below a million dollars, and the recent 10 year average
17 has been over 1.3 million fish annually.

18
19 So I'd just like to point out that it
20 wasn't just a Kotzebue area problem this year. There's
21 15 escapement goals for chum salmon between the
22 Kuskokwim drainage and Norton Sound and only four of
23 those were met. There seemed to be a low survival of
24 age four fish. Those are fish we would have seen in
25 the trawl sample in the Bering Sea that runs from
26 Shishmaref down to St. Matthews. In 2017 there was
27 very few juvenile chums captured in the sample. The
28 good news is in 2018 and 2019 fish that we would
29 presume to come back as four and five year olds, the
30 next two years, that catch in the trawl sample was
31 really high so this hopefully is just a blip, so
32 juvenile survival in the ocean and the next two years
33 we should bounce back with our chum harvest goal.

34
35 I'm going to move on to trout just real
36 quick. As part of our monitoring program with Red Dog,
37 hopefully you have the handout that I sent out, that
38 got included in your meeting materials with some
39 colored pictures that are pretty dramatic, if not, I'll
40 just talk about them a little bit.

41
42 So part of the monitoring program we
43 have with Red Dog is to monitor the fish and wild
44 resources that come in the water below the mine
45 outfall, and my part of it is to count Dolly Varden
46 from a helicopter right before freeze-up when
47 conditions are really good and fish need to come back
48 in the water -- the fresh water to spend the winter
49 because they can't handle the super cold water in the
50

1 ocean and the water is generally clear. This year for
2 the first time we saw a lot of this really turbid
3 orange iron colored water that was originated from
4 seeps it looked like, near the (Indiscernible -
5 garbled) River, and it made it pretty impossible to
6 count for a long way down. If you have that handout, I
7 don't know if you do, but there's some colored pictures
8 that show you how orange the water is and you can see
9 where fish had been holding but they were gone, and
10 what a lot of these fish did, was they moved up stream
11 past Ikluklok River to water they don't normally spend
12 the river because it's really small water up there,
13 really skinny water, to get away from that iron colored
14 water. The concentrations of zinc, oxide and nickel
15 were really high so it's a metals kind of seep and it
16 doesn't appear to be originating at the mine at all,
17 it's just kind of bubbling up out of the ground along
18 the tundra and this is something similar to what we
19 seen on the North Slope streams from Ivishak over to
20 the HulaHula River and those rivers are the important
21 spawning locations for people of Nuiqsut -- not for the
22 people of Nuiqsut but for the fish that the people in
23 Nuiqsut and Kaktovik eat. It seemed to be a phenomenon
24 that's on the North Slope and we're not sure what's
25 causing it. I would caution to not just directly
26 attribute it to climate change, it could be some
27 springs that have just reached their charge, they're
28 just so full they just had to break out this nasty
29 water. The good news is is that it appears to clear up
30 in the winter. So it appears to -- the water runs
31 clear in the winter, the spring seems to lock up and
32 that's good that the fish don't have to breath that all
33 winter because it's not an immediate acute kind of
34 death, it's kind of a chronic condition, it's like
35 living near a plane with a smokestack where it kind of
36 reduces their fitness, they can't breath as well, their
37 spawning success probably goes down because this
38 turbidity, all this material will cover up eggs and
39 suffocate them. So one thing I'm really concerned
40 about is that we may not see any changes in the fishery
41 in the next couple of years but as the larger older
42 fish die and get caught, we may see a lot less smaller
43 fish coming into the population.

44
45
46
47
48
49
50

And the Wulik River is important, you know, it's outside of Federal area but most of those fish in the Wulik River in the wintertime are not Wulik River fish, there's only about 2,000 fish that spawn in the Wulik, most of those fish are from the Noatak, from

1 Norton Sound streams, and some from the Kobuk and
2 Russian streams, so it's not a great spawning stream
3 but it's very important for overwintering Dolly Varden
4 throughout the North Pacific and in some years there's
5 well over 100,000 fish that we count. And there's
6 probably maybe twice that actually end up there in the
7 wintertime. So this is really something we're keeping
8 an eye on and really notice about, there's not much we
9 can seem to do about it right now, it's happening along
10 the North Slope in several places, but anyway it's got
11 us really pretty nervous.

12
13 I have some more information on that
14 out of the Red Dog report that I can share with the
15 Council, I just got this today. But we do -- we were
16 going to start an OSM FRMP project this summer on the
17 Noatak as Martha mentioned earlier. We were going to
18 do some life history stuff on trout there. The
19 information we have on age at spawning, age at first
20 ocean migration, frequency of ocean migration and
21 genetics of the subsistence harvest. Everything we
22 have is -- either we don't have it or it's 30 years old
23 or older. So we were going to start this project this
24 year but with the Covid we could not travel. We did
25 get this money forward funded so we'll begin again in
26 2021 and look forward to.....

27
28 (Teleconference interference -
29 participants not muted)

30
31 MR. SCANLON:to coming up and
32 sharing information and we're probably going to hire
33 some people in Noatak and Kivalina to help us collect
34 some things.

35
36 MS. ATORUK: Bad connection.

37
38 MR. SCANLON: Excuse me.

39
40 MS. ATORUK: Real bad connection, your
41 phone line is.....

42
43 (Teleconference interference -
44 participants not muted)

45
46 MR. SCANLON: I'm sorry, did you miss
47 all that.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I think

50

1 somebody's phone wasn't muted.
2
3 MS. LUKIN: I was able to hear most of
4 it.
5
6 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, we heard some of it.
7
8 MR. SCANLON: I'm sorry about that. Is
9 there anything anyone would like me to go back over or
10 do you have any questions.
11
12 REPORTER: So Brendan, maybe just don't
13 talk so close to your phone.
14
15 MR. SCANLON: Okay, I'm sorry, I'll
16 hold it away.
17
18 REPORTER: That's perfect.
19
20 MR. SCANLON: Okay, is there any
21 questions, or does anybody want to clarify anything I
22 just said.
23
24 (Teleconference interference -
25 participants not muted)
26
27 (No comments)
28
29 MR. SCANLON: Okay, then I guess that's
30 all I got for now. Thank you.
31
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, anyone else
33 have questions.
34
35 (No comments)
36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone else before we
38 speak with OSM.
39
40 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 George Pappas with.....
42
43 MS. MIKOW: Excuse me, Mr. Chair. I
44 don't know if we have time, this is Beth Mikow with the
45 Subsistence Division with Fish and Game and I just had
46 a.....
47
48 MS. ATORUK: Hello.
49
50

1 MS. MIKOW:brief update on
2 upcoming research.
3
4 MS. ATORUK: Hello.
5
6 REPORTER: Hello, is that you Barb. I
7 think you might have to.....
8
9 MS. ATORUK: Hello. I'm hearing
10 nothing but garble.
11
12 REPORTER: Barb. Maybe why don't you
13 try to hang up and redial back in.
14
15 MS. ATORUK: Okay. It's my phone then.
16
17 REPORTER: Yep.
18
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It's not nobody's
20 fault it's our phone connections.
21
22 REPORTER: Yep.
23
24 (Pause)
25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, I had it on
27 mute again. We have not much left to go and we're
28 almost done with this meeting, should we just finish.
29 I hate to start over tomorrow.
30
31 MR. STEVENSON: One more update and
32 then we have to select future meeting dates, that's it,
33 and closing comments. We're just about done.
34
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Just about
36 done, okay, before we go to closing comments we need to
37 confirm our -- are you done also OSM.
38
39 MR. STEVENSON: We have a report.
40
41 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair, we have two
42 more presentations. We have the Subsistence Division
43 who has an update for you from Fish and Game. OSM has
44 a three minute update. And then we have to vote on
45 when the Council meeting dates will be and then we have
46 closing comments. So we have a total of four things. I
47 would assume we can probably do this in 20 minutes.
48
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, we'll give it a
2 try to finish in 20 minutes, I'm game. Okay, who's
3 left on OSM.

4
5 MS. MIKOW: This is -- I'm actually.....

6
7 MR. PAPPAS: Division of Subsistence.

8
9 MS. MIKOW:this is Beth Mikow
10 with the Subsistence Division of Fish and Game and I
11 have a very short update that I can just get through
12 really quickly if that's okay.

13
14 Should I go ahead or?

15
16 REPORTER: Enoch, do you want her to go
17 ahead.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 REPORTER: Yes, go ahead.

22
23 MS. MIKOW: Yes.

24
25 MR. PAPPAS: Yes.

26
27 REPORTER: Yes.

28
29 MS. MIKOW: Okay. Teleconferences are
30 so fun. So I'll just go through this really quickly.

31
32 So last year like most everyone else
33 Covid impacted our research, we were going to conduct
34 caribou herd monitoring surveys for our annual harvest
35 survey in Noatak, Kobuk, Kiana and Shishmaref. And we
36 had received approval from all of the tribal
37 governments in those communities but that was right
38 before Covid hit in March, so we did not do that field
39 work. Kiana was also going to be a comprehensive
40 harvest survey where we ask about all resources funded
41 by the National Park Service but all of that work has
42 been pushed forward, you know, due to the pandemic for
43 the safety of communities and Staff.

44
45 For the caribou herd monitoring survey
46 project we're looking into remote ways to do the work
47 this coming spring. We always work with local
48 researchers, assistants in the communities but usually,
49 you know, Staff are out there helping them with the

50

1 project, but we may try to do that remotely with some
2 remote training and some shortened survey forms.

3
4 The other project I have a -- for the
5 FRMP I actually have a Dolly Varden and whitefish
6 traditional ecological knowledge project. That would
7 be focused on Kotzebue, Deering and Noatak. Again, due
8 to Covid we can't do the research probably this spring
9 and so the plan is to consult with those communities,
10 we're still going to be seeking approval for the
11 project but to potentially postpone the field work,
12 especially since it's, you know, interviews and we want
13 to be in person talking with folks.

14
15 So I guess my main update is we're kind
16 of in a holding pattern with our field research at this
17 moment but we're trying to make some adaptations for
18 the caribou herd survey to see if we can't get this
19 work done this spring.

20
21 And that's all I have.

22
23 (Pause)

24
25 REPORTER: Enoch, are you back?

26
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I'm having
28 phone connection problems, I'm here, go ahead.

29
30 MS. MIKOW: That was just my short
31 presentation, I don't know if anyone has any questions.
32 But other than that that's my update.

33
34 MS. ATORUK: Thank you. I'm back on.

35
36 REPORTER: Great.

37
38 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair, if I don't hear
39 any questions, this is George Pappas, OSM, I have my
40 presentation. And I'd like to first of all introduce
41 the new Assistant Regional Director for the Office of
42 Subsistence Management, Sue Detwiler. Sue, are you on,
43 do you have a few seconds.

44
45 MS. DETWILER: Yes, thank you, George.
46 This is Sue Detwiler, new Assistant Regional Director
47 for OSM. Appreciate just the opportunity to quickly
48 introduce myself, I know it's late in the day. So
49 let's see, it's actually not my first time at OSM, it's
50

1 actually where I started my career back in the 1990s, I
2 worked for 10 years in OSM when it was first getting
3 started. I do remember Barb Atoruk from back then, so,
4 hi, Barb. I've been in Alaska since 1981, lived in
5 different parts of the state, like Aniak, Fairbanks,
6 Nenana, Juneau, Anchorage. Worked for different
7 agencies. I just came over from EPA as their Alaska
8 Operations Director, was very happy to come back to
9 OSM. So, anyway, I just wanted to keep it short and
10 say thank you for letting me just quickly introduce
11 myself.

12
13 So back to you, George.

14
15 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 I'll be very brief.

17
18 Starting off with teleconferences.
19 We're doing all the Regional Advisory Council meetings
20 via teleconference right now. This decision was made
21 with the utmost consideration and concern for the
22 health and safety of Council members, families, rural
23 communities, the public, and Staff who are all part of
24 this process. And safety is our number 1 concern. We
25 recognize face to face is the way to go and we are
26 fully committed to resuming in person Council meetings
27 across Alaska as soon as it's possible.

28
29 We've had a lot of Staff changes.

30
31 So we have a brand new boss, Sue, and
32 her assistant, Tom Doolittle, will be retiring in two
33 weeks.

34
35 The Fisheries Division lead, Greg
36 Risdahl, has taken a job as a Forest Service
37 representative on the InterAgency Staff Committee.

38
39 Chris McKee, who was OSM's wildlife
40 division supervisor also took a job on the InterAgency
41 Staff Committee member for BLM. So that's good, we
42 have three people that have trained up in OSM and now
43 on the InterAgency Staff Committee.

44
45 We also lost a couple of wildlife
46 biologists. And currently Lisa Maas, who is a wildlife
47 biologist for OSM is acting OSM policy coordinator.

48
49 We lost a couple of fisheries biologist

50

1 and gained a couple of fisheries biologist.

2

3

We have a new admin position.

4

5

6

And also we finally have, after multiple years, Dr. Brent Vickers will be the new supervisory anthropologist and his pedigree is very impressive.

8

9

10

So for policy changes from the Board.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

During the August work session of the Federal Subsistence Board they approved changes to the closure policy and the non-rural determination policy which Councils were previously briefed on. The Board also approved revisions to the special action section of the tribal consultation implementation guidelines. Copies of these documents are available upon request as well as on the OSM website.

20

21

22

23

24

25

Cutting to RealIDs for travel. Everybody's aware of the challenges of the RealID, it's been delayed for another year. This is important that all the Council members do have the correct identification for travel next fall.

26

27

28

Now, this I have to read verbatim. This is about the lawsuit from the State of Alaska.

29

30

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On August 10th the State of Alaska filed a lawsuit against the Federal Subsistence Board after it adopted Emergency Special Action, WSA19-14, this allowed the village of Kake to engage in a community harvest of two antlered bull moose and five male Sitka blacktailed deer. Also included in the lawsuit was a Temporary Special Action WSA20-03, which closed Federal public lands in Units 13A and B to non-Federally-qualified moose and caribou hunters. As part of the lawsuit the State asked the court to issue two preliminary injunctions. One, to prevent the Unit 13 closure from taking effect, and another vacating the Kake hunt and prohibiting the Board from allowing any additional emergency hunts related to the impacts of Covid19. On September 18th, the U.S. District Court denied the State's request for a preliminary injunction on the Unit 13 closure. The Court found that: "Because the State has not demonstrated either a likelihood of success or serious questions on the merits of its claims, the Court need not consider the

1 remaining elements of the preliminary injunction
2 analysis."
3

4 As of this writing, the Court has not
5 yet ruled on the request to enjoin the Kake hunt or the
6 adoption of other Covid19-related emergency actions.
7

8 A ruling on the preliminary injunction
9 does not resolve the litigation. Barring a settlement
10 with the State, the questions raised by the State
11 concerning the Board's authority to take these actions
12 will be argued over the coming months. The Solicitor's
13 Office estimates that the briefings should be complete
14 in late winter or spring of 2021 and the Court will
15 issue its decision in early summer.
16

17 Based on legal guidance, Program Staff
18 do not comment on any active litigation directed
19 against the Federal Subsistence Board beyond what has
20 just been stated here, and that includes me.
21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's my brief,
23 brief presentation. Any questions, I'm standing by.
24

25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone have
26 questions.
27

28 (No comments)
29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, no questions.
31 Anyone else out of OSM.
32

33 MR. PAPPAS: That concludes our
34 presentations.
35

36 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair. That's it
37 for presentations, we need to select future meeting
38 dates next.
39

40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. The way I hear
41 you Zach, we are to confirm winter meeting and
42 location?
43

44 MR. STEVENSON: Yes, sir.
45

46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Go down to the
47 last page, my phone is about going dead and I'm going
48 to give it my best shot the last few minutes. If you
49
50

1 go back to your packet in the back there's the dates
2 that we could have meetings this winter, there in the
3 last few pages.

4
5 MS. ATORUK: Meeting dates. Hello.

6
7 REPORTER: Barb, say that again.

8
9 MS. ATORUK: I'm back on line again.
10 Are we on the meeting dates now?

11
12 REPORTER: Yes.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes. I'm trying to
15 find the calendar in my packet. I was looking at it
16 earlier, now I need it and I lost it.

17
18 MS. ATORUK: Page 42.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, 2021 it looks
21 like we're open for February 18 and 19,
22 Thursday/Friday, that's in.....

23
24 MS. ATORUK: Yes.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Northwest Arctic.

27
28 MS. ATORUK: That's our winter meeting
29 date, November, winter 2021.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, that's what I
32 mean, I thought we were on those dates for the next
33 meeting -- okay, I'm wrong. I'm getting ahead of
34 myself.

35
36 MS. ATORUK: We just need to confirm
37 those two dates.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.

40
41 MS. ATORUK: I so move.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Come on phone, it's
44 going dead. My phone's going dead. Mike, if you could
45 hear me take over, my phone is.....

46
47 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: You want your
48 charger?

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I got my charger on
2 all right.
3
4 MR. STEVENSON: We need the fall
5 meeting dates.
6
7 REPORTER: Okay, so Barb put a motion
8 on to confirm the winter dates.
9
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'll second it if you
11 guys could hear me.
12
13 REPORTER: We can hear you.
14
15 MS. ATORUK: We can.
16
17 MR. KRAMER: We can hear you.
18
19 MS. ATORUK: Question.
20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Question been called
22 for, all in favor for February 25, 26 confirm.....
23
24 MS. ATORUK: No, February 18 and 19.
25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You're right, I'm
27 wrong, I'm looking under the -- okay, February 18 and
28 19. Thursday/Friday? Okay, on those dates, okay,
29 Thursday and Friday.
30
31 REPORTER: Get the vote Enoch.
32
33 MS. ATORUK: Aye.
34
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Signify by
36 saying aye. I'm playing with my dead phone.
37
38 (Laughter)
39
40 IN UNISON: Aye.
41
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Zach, we've
43 been confirmed February 18 and 19 for our meeting,
44 Thursday and Friday.
45
46 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.
47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, what's next.
49 Wait, let me go back.
50

1 MR. STEVENSON: We need the fall
2 meeting dates.
3
4 MS. ATORUK: Fall 2021.
5
6 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. I have the
7 most updated -- this is George Pappas -- I have the
8 updated calendar. Right now for the fall dates it
9 looks like November 1, 2, 3 and 4 and 5 is open, or
10 September 27, 28, 29, 30, October 1. So the last week
11 of September or the first week of November is available
12 for meetings, Sir.
13
14 MS. ATORUK: 21 and 21 is taken?
15
16 MR. STEVENSON: November 2nd and 3rd is
17 open and November 3rd and 4th.
18
19 MR. PAPPAS: The rest of the RACs, we
20 have two meetings scheduled per week, we try not to
21 have more than two meetings.
22
23 MS. ATORUK: Okay.
24
25 MR. PAPPAS: There's only one
26 meeting.....
27
28 MS. ATORUK: Okay.
29
30 MR. PAPPAS:on September 27th on
31 and then November 1st to November 5th is open.
32
33 MS. ATORUK: I make a motion for
34 November 1 and 2.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'll second it,
37 Attamuk here. Hello, can you hear me, no?
38
39 REPORTER: Yes. Get the vote Enoch.
40
41 MS. ATORUK: I can.
42
43 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I can hear you.
44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: All signify by saying
46 aye.
47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, we'll do that.
2 See you guys in November.
3
4 MS. ATORUK: Okay.
5
6 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, very much.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay.
9
10 MR. STEVENSON: Closing comments.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'll say thank you
13 everybody and I'm done, goodnight.
14
15 MS. ATORUK: Goodnight. I make a
16 motion to adjourn.
17
18 MR. KRAMER: Second.
19
20 MS. ATORUK: Thank you.
21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Meeting is adjourned.
23 Thank you everybody, I know we're all tired.
24
25 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, okay, bye.
26
27 REPORTER: Bye Barb.
28
29 MS. ATORUK: Bye, thank you.
30
31 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Kramer, thank you for
32 serving as Chair.
33
34 (Off record)
35
36 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered ___ through ___ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTHWEST ARCTIC SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically on the 3rd day of November 2020;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 2nd day of December 2020.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22