

1 SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6  
7 VOLUME II

8  
9 Old St. Joe's Hall  
10 Nome, Alaska  
11 October 15, 2015  
12 9:00 a.m.  
13

14  
15 Members Present:

16  
17 Timothy Smith, Acting Chairman  
18 Fred Eningowuk (Telephonic)  
19 Joseph Garnie  
20 Tom Gray  
21 Theodore Katcheak  
22 Amos Oxereok  
23 Charles Saccheus  
24 Elmer Seetot

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28  
29 Regional Council Coordinator - Karen Deatherage  
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Nome, Alaska - 10/15/2015)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SMITH: Good morning. I'd like to start the meeting. One thing that was suggested this morning is that we go through introductions again. Could the audience members introduce themselves. You don't have to come up to the mic unless you want to. You could if you want to get it on the record. Otherwise just stand up and introduce yourselves.

MS. LAVINE: Robbin LaVine, Office of Subsistence Management, and I'm an anthropologist.

MR. MCKEE: Good morning. Chris McKee. I'm the wildlife division chief for the Office of Subsistence Management.

MR. LIND: Good morning. I'm the Native liaison for Office of Subsistence Management.

DR. CHEN: Aloha. I'm Glenn Chen from Bureau of Indian Affairs.

MS. GRANT: I'm Rosalie Grant with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I'm the new fish and wildlife biologist.

MR. MARTIN: Good morning. I'm the subsistence specialist for Nome Eskimo Community, Jacob Martin.

MS. WORKER: I'm Suzanne. I'm a wildlife biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.

MS. KOELSCH: I'm Jeanette Koelsch, the superintendent of the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.

MR. ADKISSON: Good morning. I'm Ken Adkisson, subsistence program manager for the Western Arctic National Parklands for the National Park Service.

1 MR. RICE: Good morning. Bud Rice,  
2 management biologist, National Park Service from the  
3 Anchorage regional office.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Welcome everybody.  
6 I'll make the floor available for any public testimony  
7 if there's anyone who wants to testify. This would be  
8 on non-agenda items. It's something that the Federal  
9 Subsistence Board does every day and I think it's a  
10 good idea. People like an opportunity to be heard. I  
11 wish there was more people here. We have a hard time  
12 getting people to come to daytime meetings. That's  
13 always a problem. I don't see anybody from the public  
14 wanting to testify.

15  
16 We have some housecleaning measures. I  
17 guess it was my failure yesterday -- well, it is my  
18 failure yesterday to develop a record on two proposals  
19 that we took no action on, so we should go back and  
20 make a motion to adopt and then we can vote them down,  
21 but we need to develop a record as to why we did it.

22  
23 Can you remind us which ones we need to  
24 do, Karen.

25  
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, members of  
27 the Council. I'm going to pull this up here. There  
28 were actually three proposals because one you took no  
29 action on and I wasn't clear on -- it didn't sound like  
30 from what the comments were that that's what the  
31 Council wanted to do. So these were.....

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SMITH: WP16-46, WP16-47.

34  
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: And then there was one  
36 more. I'm trying to get my records.....

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SMITH: 16-44. No. 46, 47  
39 and 44.

40  
41 MR. MCKEE: 34.

42  
43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Bam.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SMITH: 34?

46  
47 MR. MCKEE: 34, yes.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Chris, did you have  
50 anything to add?

1 MR. MCKEE: No.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I'll entertain a  
4 motion to adopt WP16-46, rescind closure for moose Unit  
5 22E.  
6  
7 MR. OXEREOK: I'd like to make that  
8 motion.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Any second.  
11  
12 MR. GRAY: Second.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN SMITH: The motion is made by  
15 Amos, seconded by Tom. Do we have any discussion on  
16 this one.  
17  
18 MR. GRAY: What are we doing here?  
19 What's the motion doing?  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Look at Page 67. It's  
22 a motion to adopt this proposal. We didn't take any  
23 action. We didn't get a motion yesterday, which means  
24 we won't be on the record, so we need to correct that  
25 particularly since it's our proposal. We need to tell  
26 them why we submitted it in the first place and now we  
27 don't support it. So it's fine that we don't support  
28 it, but we need to develop a record on that.  
29  
30 Do you got anything to add, Chris.  
31  
32 MR. MCKEE: No. I just wanted to make  
33 sure that your point is well taken. Unless you guys  
34 take action one way or the other on it, the Federal  
35 Subsistence Board will have no way of knowing what the  
36 Council's thoughts are on it. So it's important that  
37 you guys put something on the record one way or the  
38 other.  
39  
40 MR. OXEREOK: Mr. Chairman. Originally  
41 I was in favor of this proposal, but after receiving  
42 new data from Tony I am now going to oppose this  
43 proposal and I would encourage everyone else to oppose  
44 this proposal. We would like to see what the  
45 population in 22E is going to do with the moose. Maybe  
46 I'll wait a couple years and get hopefully another  
47 population result. If there is going to be continued  
48 growth in that area, maybe we could do some sort of  
49 restricted antlerless harvest in the future, heavily  
50 restricted. But for now I'd like to suggest we oppose

1 this proposal.

2

3 MR. MCKEE: 16-46 is the rescension of  
4 the closure, not the antlerless. That's 47. So the one  
5 you're acting on now is whether you want to open the  
6 closure or not.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah, what it would do  
9 is allow non-Federally qualified users to hunt in 22E.  
10 I'm opposed to it because I think there is a  
11 conservation concern. As Tony told us yesterday, 22E  
12 moose are in very low density. The demand is growing  
13 because of the lack of alternate resources. I think it  
14 will impact -- allowing more hunters in there will  
15 impact other subsistence users unnecessarily.

16

17 I think this recommendation, this  
18 proposal is not supported by substantial biological  
19 evidence or traditional ecological knowledge, so I'm  
20 going to vote against it myself.

21

22 I agree with Amos that if things change  
23 in the future we might want to consider it, but in  
24 recalling what happened with muskoxen there was another  
25 legal voracious exuberance with muskoxen and we brought  
26 in trophy hunters for muskoxen in 22E because the  
27 muskox population in 22E had been very productive and  
28 growing, then all of a sudden it stopped growing and we  
29 don't know why. I suspect that overhunting was a  
30 factor, so we don't want to do the same thing with  
31 moose just because we think the population is healthy.  
32 We really don't have enough data to say that there's a  
33 positive trend in moose numbers up there. Plus there  
34 never has been enough moose to provide what I think is  
35 a reasonable opportunity for subsistence up there.

36

37 Does anybody else have anything to add  
38 to that.

39

40 MR. GRAY: This is Tom. I'm reading  
41 this thing and I'm not  
42 understanding it. It says Proposal 46 requests that  
43 the closure to moose harvest by non-Federal qualified  
44 users in 22E be rescinded. So, to me, that means  
45 you're going to let non-Federally qualified users come  
46 in and hunt in that area and it's going to put more  
47 impacts on that resource.

48

49 I guess I'm concerned that you have one  
50 area on the whole Seward Peninsula right now that has a

1 non-resident hunt basically and is not really concerned  
2 about how many animals there are. I would say we need  
3 to conserve those animals and if somebody comes outside  
4 and they're hunting on that or somebody comes from  
5 Unalakleet that's not a user from that area, you're  
6 going to have impacts on that resource.

7  
8 I'm of the mindset that we need to  
9 protect that resource so it will expand out into other  
10 areas as it grows and gets healthy. So I don't  
11 understand what everybody's doing here, you know, by  
12 not touching this thing and denying it. It's going to  
13 let people come in and hammer that resource. Is that a  
14 wise move.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Other Council members,  
17 do you want to add to it.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SMITH: If not, then I'll call  
22 for the question. All in favor -- okay, maybe we  
23 should understand what we're voting on. If you vote in  
24 favor of the proposal, you'll be doing what Tom says  
25 and allowing non-Federally qualified users to hunt  
26 moose in 22E. If you vote against the proposal, you'll  
27 keep the status quo, which means that they're excluded  
28 during times of shortage. All in favor say aye.

29  
30 (No aye votes)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All opposed same sign.

33  
34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SMITH: So motion fails  
37 unanimously. Now WP16-47, create antlerless moose  
38 season in 22E. This is even easier. On Page 74. What  
39 this would do is establish an antlerless moose season  
40 in 22E. I'll entertain a motion to adopt.

41  
42 MR. GRAY: So moved.

43  
44 MR. OXEREOK: Second.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Moved by Tom, seconded  
47 by Amos. Discussion.

48  
49 MR. OXEREOK: Originally this was --  
50 earlier I had my proposals mixed up. I should have

1 been speaking to this proposal. I'm opposing this  
2 proposal just for the same reason as the other one  
3 based on the new data by Tony and based on what Tom was  
4 saying. We should let this population grow. Maybe in  
5 the future we can do something, but I encourage the  
6 members to oppose this proposal.

7

8

9 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Once again I failed to  
10 recognize Fred in the last one. Fred, do you want to  
11 chime in on this one.

12

13 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes, good morning. I  
14 suppose that's enough (indiscernible) and you guys are  
15 working on which proposal now, WP16-46?

16

17 MS. DEATHERAGE: 47.

18

19 MR. ENINGOWUK: (Indiscernible -  
20 technical difficulties)

21

22 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I've got to stop you  
23 there, Fred. We can't.....

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hang on just a second.

26

27 (Pause)

28

29 REPORTER: Do you want to continue.

30

31 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes. You know,  
32 traditional knowledge from our elders, I heard some  
33 statements from our elders stating that, you know, the  
34 hunters up in our area who are allowed only to harvest  
35 a bull moose. It's traditional knowledge they need to  
36 have bull moose to mate with the cows and there needs  
37 to be a balance, you know, with that moose population.  
38 Our hunters are trying to hunt moose and they can't  
39 find any bull moose and all they run across is the  
40 cows.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Is that all you've got  
43 for now, Fred. You can come back in later if you want.  
44 You can speak to this later, but is that enough for  
45 now. Do you want the other RAC members to chime in.

46

47 Do other RAC members want to address  
48 the proposal. I remember now why we adopted this.  
49 These two came from the traditional council and we went  
50 along with it at the last meeting. I guess we're maybe

1 changing our position now.

2

3 MR. GRAY: I have always been against  
4 shooting cows. You shoot one cow and if you do the  
5 numbers in the life of that cow, that's about 200 moose  
6 you've killed, so I don't want to see cows being shot.  
7 I think Tony Gorn with Fish and Game understands the  
8 animals up in that area and feels that there's enough  
9 bulls to carry on without limiting how many bulls are  
10 being shot in that area. There's an open hunt up  
11 there.

12

13 So, you know, conservation-wise I don't  
14 see an issue, but on the other side of the coin I feel  
15 that if an area gets too many moose, they're going to  
16 bust out and move into other areas. They may be going  
17 into 22D. We heard yesterday Tony talked about moose  
18 going back and forth from 22E to 22D.

19

20 So, anyway, I don't want to see any cow  
21 hunting and I'm going to vote accordingly.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Other Council members.

24

25 MR. GARNIE: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is a  
26 big concern. I, of course, have family and friends that  
27 live in Shishmaref and I hear a lot of their concerns  
28 and also the concerns from just my family and friends  
29 right at home. Yesterday, when Mr. Gorn was here --  
30 you know, this problem, this wanting an antlerless hunt  
31 stems from the community basically not getting enough  
32 moose. Basically not enough red meat coming into the  
33 village.

34

35 I don't know exactly how it works how  
36 many moose we're allowed to take. I guess it's how  
37 many moose are taken out of one area. Like for 22D, us  
38 in Teller, the season was very short and closed very  
39 soon. We didn't get much of a chance at it. That's  
40 where this antlerless season is -- we're feeling a  
41 demand of it is because they're not standing a chance  
42 against basically technology with all this equipment  
43 and hunting and taking a quota before they get a  
44 chance. So that's where the problem is stemming from.  
45 That's why everybody wants an A season is they want red  
46 meat and you can't hardly blame them.

47

48 Yesterday I asked Mr. Gorn, and I  
49 didn't receive the answer that I wanted, I piled too  
50 many questions on top of each other, is the hunting

1 operation that we have in Kelly Creek is that taking  
2 bulls from our communities. Are these out-of-state  
3 hunters. I don't know nothing about it and nobody  
4 seems to know anything about it. We need this  
5 information. I don't think we need out-of-state  
6 hunters there if it's putting this kind of pressure on  
7 our moose.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you, Joe. Can  
12 somebody remind me before the meeting is over that we  
13 take a position on Tier II for moose and decide whether  
14 or not we want to work on a Tier II proposal for moose  
15 before the meeting is over.

16

17 MR. GRAY: You know, up in 22E I know  
18 there's a quota for non-resident hunting, but I don't  
19 think there's a quota for general moose hunting. And I  
20 would say that if there's a concern of locals getting  
21 animals, let's create a winter hunt and reserve a bunch  
22 of animals for a winter hunt. I think that would be a  
23 whole lot more productive by saving 20 bulls or  
24 something or dedicating so many bulls to a winter hunt  
25 than killing a bunch of females.

26

27 You know, I used to own a reindeer herd  
28 and I know what it's like to kill females and I don't  
29 condone it. I will vote against any female hunting.  
30 You're beating up on your resource. If you look at the  
31 Seward Peninsula, 22E, according to Fish and Game, is  
32 the only place that the moose are not in dire straits.  
33 Everywhere else the moose are in dire straits. I hate  
34 to see us go up there and beat up on that and turn that  
35 into a negative thing too.

36

37 So my suggestion is let's dedicate a  
38 winter hunt and make sure that there's opportunity.  
39 When I talk about a winter hunt, I'm talking maybe into  
40 the end of February and maybe it's there, I don't know.  
41 You know, when you're shooting cows, you're shooting  
42 yourself in the leg.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I just wanted to chime  
45 in. Are there other RAC members that want to speak to  
46 this proposal.

47

48 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. Ted Katcheak  
49 from Stebbins. My observation over the years,  
50 especially in 2010, Rock Creek, I was working as an

1 environmental specialist for NovaGold and I served in  
2 March of 2010. I counted 26 females in that Rock Creek  
3 mine area. I'm wondering where all those animals went  
4 and where they came from. That's my question.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Are we ready to vote  
7 on this one.

8  
9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, members of  
10 the Council. First of all, when you do speak, could  
11 you please state your names for the record so that also  
12 the people on the phone can hear.

13  
14 Secondly, thank you, Mr. Chair, for  
15 asking the public if they have any testimony on this --  
16 you did for the last proposal and thank you for doing  
17 that. For this one, I do have one written comment for  
18 this proposal I'd like to read for the Council.

19  
20 Kawerak, Inc. is the regional  
21 non-profit tribal consortium of the Bering Strait  
22 Region. Kawerak's Board of Directors is comprised of  
23 the Presidents of the 20 tribes of the Bering Strait  
24 Region. Kawerak offers numerous programs and services  
25 to the 16 communities in the region. Kawerak, Inc.  
26 promotes economic  
27 development that is both responsible and sustainable.

28  
29 We are offering suggestions for Federal  
30 Wildlife Proposals that are up for your review.  
31 Regarding WP16-47, we do not support a cow moose hunt  
32 for GMU 22E because of the lack of data which would  
33 indicate the need.

34  
35 Please contact Subsistence Resources  
36 Program Director Brandon Ahmasuk to obtain details and  
37 more information.

38  
39 Thank you for your consideration.

40  
41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you, Karen. I  
44 see we're out of order, but would any member of the  
45 public like to testify on this proposal.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Chris, are you  
50 interested in testifying on this.

1 MR. MCKEE: I didn't hear the question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I'm out of order  
4 again. Do you have anything to add?

5

6 MR. MCKEE: No, I don't. I'm just  
7 trying to make sure that we go through the back of the  
8 cards because yesterday things went a little bit too  
9 quick and we didn't get through all this stuff and we  
10 neglected to put the public comments on the record. So  
11 that's kind of the last thing that needs to happen  
12 before the Regional Council's recommendation.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I think we're ready to  
17 vote. I'll call for the question. All in favor say  
18 aye.

19

20 (No aye votes)

21

22 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All opposed same sign.

23

24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Fred, do you want to  
27 vote?

28

29 REPORTER: Fred, say that again.

30

31 MR. ENINGOWUK: I'll vote -- I'll  
32 support the proposal.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SMITH: So the motion fails.  
35 Fred, if you can hear me, could you pass on to the  
36 traditional council that we don't mean any disrespect,  
37 but we think that there is a conservation concern here.  
38 We understand, as Joe said, you need more meat, but we  
39 need to preserve the moose population.

40

41 MR. ENINGOWUK: I understand.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Tom, go ahead.

44

45 MR. GRAY: I think it would be  
46 appropriate if from this Committee a letter went to the  
47 traditional council explaining our position on this  
48 thing.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Can you do that,

1 Karen.

2

3 MR. OXEREOK: Maybe we could also  
4 include Tony's report.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. I guess we'll  
7 move on to WP16-34 on Page 89. What this proposal  
8 would do, it would close Federal lands and a portion of  
9 Unit 18 to the harvest of all big game by non-Federally  
10 qualified subsistence users. We had a map we talked  
11 about yesterday and what we need now is -- I guess we  
12 should ask for agency comments before we make the  
13 motion.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Are there any agency  
18 comments on this one. Go ahead, Drew.

19

20 MR. CRAWFORD: I need to know which  
21 proposal the Chair is talking about. I couldn't hear.

22

23 Over.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SMITH: WP16-34.

26

27 MR. CRAWFORD: 34?

28

29 REPORTER: Yes.

30

31 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, the Department's  
32 preliminary recommendation is to oppose Proposal WP16-  
33 34.

34

35 Over.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you, Drew. Any  
38 other agency reports.

39

40 MR. MCKEE: Mr. Chair. Chris McKee. I  
41 just wanted to let you guys know that also the Yukon-  
42 Kuskokwim Regional Advisory Council also opposed this  
43 proposal.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Any members of the  
46 public or any tribal comments. Jake, do you want to  
47 make a comment on this one.

48

49 MR. MARTIN: No.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Well, then  
2 we're back to discussing the motion. For the record,  
3 let's try to stick with the four items on the right  
4 side of the card under eight and see if we can develop  
5 a record. We need a motion to adopt.

6  
7 MR. OXEREOK: I'd like to make the  
8 motion to adopt Wildlife Proposal 16-34.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Do we have a second.

11  
12 MR. GRAY: Second.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Moved by Amos,  
15 seconded by Tom. Is there discussion on the motion.

16  
17 (No comments)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I think we should put  
20 something on  
21 the record. I don't think there's a conservation  
22 concern for all big game. There can be. And I don't  
23 think the harvest would increase that substantially. I  
24 guess the comment that we did get from the advisory  
25 committee down there is that they opposed it. That  
26 would probably represent traditional ecological  
27 knowledge. It will probably unnecessarily restrict  
28 non-Federally qualified hunters. Some species are  
29 abundant down there, particularly bears, so there isn't  
30 a need to restrict. It would be an unnecessary  
31 restriction, so I'm going to vote against it.

32  
33 Is there any further discussion.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SMITH: If not, then I'll call  
36 for the question. All in favor -- and if we vote in  
37 favor of the proposal, it will prohibit non-Federally  
38 qualified users from hunting in that portion of Unit  
39 18. If we vote against it, it will allow those hunters  
40 to continue to hunt on Federal lands. So all in favor  
41 say aye.

42  
43 (No opposing votes)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All opposed same sign.

46  
47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Fred, do you want to  
50 vote.

1 (No audible response)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. The motion  
4 fails unanimously. That's the housekeeping measures.  
5 Now I think we'll move to the three caribou proposals.

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, thank you,  
8 and members of the Council. We do have one more item  
9 on the housekeeping. That is to revisit the National  
10 Wildlife Refuge System proposed rule. Yesterday the  
11 Council passed a motion to reinstate predator control,  
12 was the title of the motion, and it passed unanimously.  
13 There was concern by the OSM staff that this was not  
14 applicable to the proposed rule and that we want to  
15 make sure we capture the comments from the Council  
16 about how this proposed rule would impact subsistence  
17 hunting in the region.

18

19 The second thing is we certainly would  
20 help the Council, if it chose to do, write a letter  
21 with their comments to the Fish and Wildlife Service  
22 that can be put forth when the proposed rule is  
23 published and public comments are requested.

24

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SMITH: What I'd like to do if  
28 we could is draft a written motion so we know what  
29 we're voting on. I didn't think we were voting for  
30 predator control. I thought what we were doing is  
31 opposing their proposal to close or unreasonably  
32 restrict predator hunting. I don't think that we  
33 intended to promote predator control. What I'd like to  
34 do is if we could get a written motion so we know  
35 exactly what we're voting on.

36

37 Maybe I can make the motion if that's  
38 okay. The motion should be that we oppose the proposal  
39 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to prohibit  
40 predator hunting in the way that they worded the  
41 proposal. I don't think that we're advocating for  
42 predator control directly, but we're opposing not  
43 having that tool available if it's needed. That's  
44 going to be hard to put into a motion. I could write  
45 it a lot better than I could say it probably.

46

47 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. Ted. We  
48 don't have a population census for those predators.  
49 I'm a reindeer herder/owner and I've seen bears all  
50 over my area, so any conservation measure for bears

1 should be liberal because it's our livelihood that we  
2 live on. Reindeer, moose and those animals that we  
3 usually harvest. So in light of this proposal, I'm  
4 against it because I need to see a census telling how  
5 many black bears are in our area and how many brown  
6 bears.

7

8 Just for information, one of the game  
9 biologists back in the '60s informed us that there were  
10 about 300-plus dens in one area south and east of St.  
11 Michael and Stebbins. So the bears are well  
12 established. They haven't been harvested that much, so  
13 the bears are increasing. That's my comment.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Very good, Ted. Your  
16 reindeer do range onto the Refuge, don't they,  
17 sometimes?

18

19 MR. KATCHEAK: Unfortunately whoever  
20 put boundary line didn't consider where a reindeer  
21 herder's range are. When I look at the regulation book  
22 showing the map, it only shows areas where people from  
23 Yukon villages go to and that's north and east  
24 of Stebbins and St. Michael. We always felt that  
25 they're invading our area even though we are related.  
26 These other villages along the Yukon are quite a few.  
27 More than our herders can observe or take care of.  
28 We've always had -- we always work on the big range  
29 because if we have a small area to work with for  
30 herding, it's going to limit our area.

31

32 Thank you

33

34 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thanks, Ted. Do we  
35 have any other comments.

36

37 MR. OXEREOK: I do.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Amos, go ahead.

40

41 MR. OXEREOK: Looking at the Alaska  
42 Refuges possible statewide regulatory changes, they do  
43 state that this will not affect Native subsistence  
44 users. Even so, it's still going to restrict the  
45 opportunity for predators to be managed. So I will  
46 also be opposing this motion if it is to support this  
47 proposal.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Tom, you had your hand  
50 up.

1 MR. GRAY: I missed this yesterday, I  
2 guess, and I was trying to get a feel for what they're  
3 doing here. They talk about prohibiting and they have  
4 a list of things that I don't have a problem with. I  
5 do have a problem limiting subsistence users in Parks  
6 or Refuges or whatever. You know, these things that  
7 they have listed, taking a bear with cubs, baiting  
8 bears, traps, snares, wolves, during a denning season,  
9 you know, this is all common sense.

10  
11 So what they've listed here I don't  
12 have a problem, but, again, you know, I do have a  
13 problem not being able to drive a four-wheeler in the  
14 Park. That, to me, is a tool. Our Native people are  
15 adaptable and we use resources. Our lives change to  
16 what's available to us.

17  
18 You know, White Mountain, for example,  
19 20 years ago didn't have a whole lot of whales coming  
20 into White Mountain. Tom Gray moved there, started  
21 catching whales, now White Mountain is flooded with  
22 whale meat. We're a resourceful people and we use  
23 technology to our benefit.

24  
25 This thing here is trying to step on  
26 technology and you can't do this, that and the other,  
27 then I oppose it, but the things that they have listed  
28 here prohibiting, I'm comfortable with it. But don't  
29 step on my subsistence, how I go get stuff because I  
30 don't want that changed or impacted. You know,  
31 tomorrow if we can use some other technology, great.

32  
33 For example, everybody was using that  
34 State map, caribou map that was being put out. You  
35 now, that overlapped into State and Federal lands and  
36 we all use that map to go get caribou. Well, somebody  
37 got the bright idea that it was illegal, so now we  
38 don't have that map, we don't have that resource.

39  
40 If that's what this thing is talking  
41 about, I'm against it.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Just a second, Chris.  
44 I see we're out of order again. I guess that's why I'm  
45 the vice Chair. We don't have a motion on the table  
46 and I was hoping we could get a written motion. Can  
47 somebody draft us a motion so we know exactly what  
48 we're voting on. That was the problem for me yesterday  
49 is that we weren't voting for -- I wasn't voting on  
50 predator control. I'm just opposing this closure.

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, members of  
2 the Council. What I wrote down from you as a motion  
3 was we oppose the proposal by U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
4 Service to prohibit predator hunting in ways they  
5 proposed. We oppose not having the tools available if  
6 they are needed.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Does everybody  
9 understand?

10  
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: And as a reminder this  
12 does not apply to Federal subsistence hunting  
13 regulations. This is only applying to State  
14 regulations at this time.

15  
16 Thank you.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you, Karen.  
19 Does everybody understand what the proposed motion is?  
20 Do we need to have a motion to adopt then another?

21  
22 MS. DEATHERAGE: You do not. The Fish  
23 and Wildlife Service is actually just simply seeking at  
24 this time comments on this proposed rule. This is not  
25 a proposal, a wildlife proposal, this is just a  
26 proposed rule by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
27 that would affect State hunting regulations on Federal  
28 lands.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. So our motion  
31 will be a recommendation then rather than a motion to  
32 adopt. It's a recommendation. Go ahead, Chris.

33  
34 MR. MCKEE: Mr. Chair. I think what  
35 would be appropriate is for this Council to formulate a  
36 letter that would be submitted in the form of a public  
37 comment on this proposed rule. Karen did make a good  
38 point that these proposed regulations would not apply  
39 to Federally qualified subsistence users.

40  
41 In fact, I could give you a perfect  
42 example. In Unit 25D, the Federal Subsistence Board  
43 last cycle passed a proposal that allowed for baiting  
44 of brown bears by Federally qualified users. This  
45 proposed rule had no effect on that. It would still be  
46 allowed under Federal subsistence regulations. This  
47 would only apply to non-Federally qualified users.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SMITH: So I think it's pretty  
50 unlikely that qualified Federal subsistence users will

1 be allowed to take wolves from aircraft.

2

3 MR. MCKEE: I would not want to speak  
4 out of turn on that.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I just wanted to make  
7 sure that we're in order on this, but the comments will  
8 be on the record then.

9

10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chairman and the  
11 Council, I will be happy to put the comments that were  
12 made today as well as yesterday in a draft letter for  
13 the Council to look at and submit as comments when this  
14 proposed rule is published in the Federal Register.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Joe, do you want to  
19 say anything about impact on reindeer on this proposal.

20

21 MR. GARNIE: Yes, Mr. Chair. On  
22 predator control, I, myself, feel we need predator  
23 control. In the area surrounding our village, we see a  
24 lot of wolf kills on moose. We see a lot of wolf kills  
25 on reindeer and caribou both, bear kills. A lot less  
26 red meat coming into the village because of predators.  
27 So basically everybody I know and talk with at home are  
28 in favor of having predator control.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Joe, do you want to  
33 speak on the traditional -- what people did in the past  
34 in that area. They were asking for traditional  
35 ecological knowledge. People in the past I think did  
36 actually do informal predator management to protect  
37 their food resources.

38

39 MR. GARNIE: Of course, I was born and  
40 raised in Teller. I've lived there all my life. I  
41 spent a lot of my time from  
42 Kuzitrin to Teller and in between there. My  
43 grandparents and a lot of my uncles and other families  
44 did predator control and it most likely probably was  
45 illegal at the time, but there wasn't any real  
46 enforcement for what we were doing, but we'd get  
47 everything from animals that -- predators that even  
48 just preyed on ptarmigan. So we did do predator  
49 control. Predator control was done both on bears,  
50 wolves, ptarmigan hawks. All predators. There was

1 predator control.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Anybody else want to  
4 address this.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. I just  
9 want to make it clear that from what I understand from  
10 Fish and Wildlife Service and in their presentation  
11 this is not a proposal for or against predator control.  
12 This is a proposal that would limit some of the means  
13 and methods on Federal lands and they still are open to  
14 using predator control as a management tool. It is by  
15 land manager that makes those decisions. So I just  
16 wanted to make sure that was clear.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SMITH: And that creates a  
21 problem for us because, you know, we can't use the term  
22 predator control. It's just not a politically correct  
23 term. Even though probably most of us think that it's  
24 a good idea. My concern is this just takes too many  
25 tools away for managers and it elevates predators on  
26 this pedestal where they're just off limits, so you're  
27 heavily hunting prey species and protecting the  
28 predators. We've done that. We did that here on the  
29 Seward Peninsula. It was a bad idea. Now we have no  
30 reindeer, we're losing our moose population and  
31 muskoxen are soon to follow. You can't reindeer  
32 without predator management. I'm convinced of that.  
33 There's no way you can run reindeer with unlimited  
34 wolves and bears in the area. You just won't have a  
35 reindeer herd.

36

37 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. Ted.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Tom and then Ted.

40

41 MR. GRAY: There's two things that have  
42 surfaced here and one is the tools and limiting and  
43 blah, blah, blah. The other one is non-Federally  
44 qualified users. It's going to address those. You  
45 know, earlier I stated don't step on my tools and I  
46 think that goes to everybody else. If we're going to  
47 have wolves in our backyard, I really think the only  
48 way is everybody has the same opportunity. I hate to  
49 say that because it's going to set the precedent, well,  
50 everybody should have the same opportunity for moose or

1 the same opportunity for other animals.

2

3                   You know, I used to own a reindeer herd  
4 and I got beat up very bad by bears and wolves. If  
5 there's two animals I hate, it's bears and wolves. As  
6 we talk about this thing, my position is kind of  
7 wavering here. My biggest concern is I don't want our  
8 subsistence users stepped on and it sounds like this,  
9 whatever you want to call it, a proposal or act or  
10 whatever they're doing here is not going to step on our  
11 people.

12

13                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Teddy.

14

15                   MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. Back in the  
16 '50s they had an extreme predator control. I thought  
17 that was extreme. This was the peak of the reindeer  
18 herd in Stebbins and St. Michael area. They used  
19 poison for controlling predators like wolf and bears.  
20 Unfortunately that worked too well. All kinds of  
21 animals were dying; wolves, fox, ravens and other  
22 animals that prey on each other.

23

24                   So in light of that I thought, well, we  
25 need to have predator control, but predator control  
26 that is managed right using traditional knowledge, what  
27 worked and what didn't work at the time. And that was  
28 the result of the extreme predator control where the  
29 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service I understood used poison  
30 to implant in reindeer and then the animals would feed  
31 on it and next day or two days you see all kinds of  
32 animals all over the tundra.

33

34                   So I would go along with the State's  
35 proposal, but you need to have a good working idea and  
36 also work together on measures like this.

37

38                   Thank you.

39

40                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you, Ted. Any  
41 other RAC members who want to comment.

42

43                   Go ahead.

44

45                   MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig Mission.  
46 On this U.S. Fish and Wildlife proposal it says a need  
47 for predator control must be based on some science and  
48 that's used pretty much by State and Federal agencies  
49 and the staff in order to try to meet the needs of the  
50 subsistence people what's in the communities. We know

1 that the majority of these animals migrate in certain  
2 areas more extreme than the other and we think just  
3 because there's no animals in a certain area that  
4 something is going wrong.

5  
6 Wolves move a lot of animals. In the  
7 Kuzitrin River toward Bunker Hill about five to 10  
8 years ago, in a valley we counted pretty close to 100  
9 moose in one area, one spot and they were driven by  
10 wolves. In reality, a majority of our Council members  
11 are from the communities and they use TEK, knowledge  
12 that is around their community. They know how many  
13 wolves, what kind of predators roam like I stated in  
14 the past. We in Brevig Mission have harvested more  
15 wolves I guess than our fair share.

16  
17 I have seen a pack of 13 whittled down  
18 to four. I have seen many wolves and then also bears  
19 that pretty much roamed the countryside. I think  
20 there's a season for everything. The majority of the  
21 time we just leave the predators alone because that's  
22 how we were taught, not to shoot or waste anything that  
23 we don't need.

24  
25 In reality, I guess community members  
26 within a region pretty much do self predator control.  
27 It's not based on paper, it's based on some science.  
28 In the community, it's pretty much what do you know  
29 about the animals that you use and the animals that  
30 prey on these animals.

31  
32 During the past spring and summer we  
33 had two moose that ran  
34 through town in Brevig Mission and that would bring the  
35 bears. Just kind of leave them alone, just chase them  
36 off. And then early spring there was a bear that went  
37 on the outskirts of Brevig Mission looking for food, so  
38 these are young animals and the majority of these  
39 predators are left alone.

40  
41 When we were growing up, like Joe said,  
42 pretty much everything that did damage to your resource  
43 you pretty much went after it. Sooner or later you got  
44 it or it just kind of moved out, but I think there was  
45 more activity when I was growing up on brown bear take  
46 and subsistence eating of brown bear, which we don't do  
47 anymore. Nowadays we just talk about bear and wolves  
48 preying on our wildlife resources and that's pretty  
49 much -- I think, at least in Brevig, harvest of brown  
50 bears is pretty much non-existent. We don't have no

1 need for subsistence purposes other than DLP, shooting  
2 a bear that might be too close or get used to humans.  
3 And we do have a problem within north spit that's east  
4 of Brevig where pretty much all the fish camps are.

5  
6 I know for a fact that there's anywhere  
7 from five to eight or anywhere up to five bears with  
8 their young within a five-mile radius of Brevig Mission  
9 and those we pretty much just kind of warn residents  
10 when they go berry picking because there's a lot of  
11 berry pickers, plant pickers. The majority of them  
12 women that go on their single foray, but they do notify  
13 the community when  
14 something is amiss.

15  
16 This here is pretty much based on sound  
17 science like it says and, in reality, our communities,  
18 at least for Brevig Mission, we're pretty much actively  
19 pursuing the predators. Pretty much the wolves because  
20 they have cash value. Maybe I should set an argument  
21 with Federal and State biologists on brown bear and  
22 maybe under TEK the brown bear will disappear, but  
23 that's what I have observed.

24  
25 Right now we have at least four wolves  
26 that are on the Kuzitrin River drainage system and then  
27 at least two on the Nuluk side. Our hunters have  
28 pretty much been hunting these wolves but  
29 I know for a fact once you get rid of the wolf  
30 population in a certain area the others will fill that  
31 void. They pretty much  
32 follow the caribou and this was the first time hunting  
33 caribou that we went within 50 miles of Brevig Mission  
34 to harvest caribou. Our snow conditions weren't that  
35 great, but in late April we were able to harvest bulls  
36 that showed at least an inch, inch and a half of fat on  
37 their rump.

38  
39 That's a pretty strange occurrence for  
40 me because the majority of the bulls that I kind of  
41 catch toward Bendeleben Mountains the majority of the  
42 bulls are just recovering from their October rut or  
43 their fall rut. The majority of the caribou harvested  
44 during the winter months are pretty much females. I  
45 think by people that want good meat. However, you can  
46 catch bulls that still have that rutting residue  
47 chemicals and that's not the preferred meat we go  
48 after.

49  
50 One thing I've learned is that moose

1 that are rutting or caribou that have been through a  
2 rut, you know, they have a distinct taste. You can get  
3 rid of that taste just by marinating them or brining  
4 them in vinegar and water. That will take away all the  
5 chemicals and it will taste like meat that you can eat.  
6 From observations in the past people that get bull  
7 moose or bull animals during rut, they pretty much hang  
8 them up to I would say age them. Not really age them,  
9 but at least try to drain the meat of any chemicals or  
10 liquids that give you that distinct taste of rutting  
11 animals.

12

13                   But we from Brevig have been actively  
14 pursuing these animals or these wolves for our own  
15 benefit because the further we go away from our  
16 communities the farther the resources will be. With  
17 the weather changing so rapidly sometimes it takes a  
18 while for us to go out in the country. So whenever we  
19 see predators we leave them alone because they're not  
20 in season, but when they do get in season that's when  
21 we actively pursue them. We don't really go after  
22 brown bears for any purpose. It's pretty much wolves  
23 and -- not so much wolverine but others that prey on  
24 other animals.

25

26                   Thank you.

27

28                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: I wanted to expound a  
29 little bit here. This seems like an appropriate place.  
30 Tom and I talked about it yesterday about sound  
31 science. One of the things that Governor Walker  
32 campaigned on is study hall is over and we need to take  
33 action without sound science and that bothers me. I'm  
34 a wildlife biologist by training. I wish we had sound  
35 science, but we're not going to have it.

36

37                   We still need to manage fish and  
38 wildlife. We're not doing the studies that would give  
39 us what I consider to be sound science and with the  
40 budget situation I don't see that we're going to do it  
41 in a reasonable timeframe, so we need to act on our gut  
42 feelings, TEK, what we do have. What little science we  
43 do have. We can't just afford to sit here and do  
44 nothing. I agree with Governor Walker completely on  
45 that.

46

47                   So taking these tools out is just not  
48 appropriate and also the requirement to base everything  
49 on sound science is just unreasonable. We're not going  
50 to have it.

1                   You had something to add, Chris.

2

3                   MR. MCKEE: Yeah, I just want to say I  
4 think this is a good discussion. I know Karen is  
5 capturing all these comments for her letter, but I also  
6 want to remind the Council that we still have a  
7 tremendous amount of work to get through today. These  
8 caribou proposals are long and complex and I just hope  
9 that we can wrap this up so we can get on to the  
10 proposals.

11

12                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Very good. Are we  
13 ready to vote.

14

15                   MR. GRAY: I suggest that between the  
16 staff and you as the vice Chair, you guys create a  
17 letter and send it down. I think you've captured the  
18 interest of the Board and understand what the Board  
19 wants. So I'll make a motion that we address staff and  
20 the vice Chair to create a letter and send it on to  
21 address this issue.

22

23                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: I think that's enough  
24 for now. Do we want to take a break. Anybody want to  
25 take a break.

26

27                   MR. GRAY: No, keep going.

28

29                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Do we want to move  
30 into caribou now. I think we do.

31

32                   MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
33 Good morning, everyone. My name is Suzanne Worker.  
34 I'm with the Office of Subsistence Management. I'm a  
35 biologist and I'll be going over the caribou proposals  
36 with you this morning. There are three proposals  
37 related to caribou in Unit 22. What I would like to do  
38 is present all three of the proposals to you at one  
39 time. I'll give you a quick overview of what they  
40 request as well as what the OSM preliminary conclusion  
41 is and then I'll do some comparisons between these  
42 proposals from hunt area to hunt area. So my hope is  
43 that if we approach it this way you'll be able to more  
44 effectively get your thoughts on the record.

45

46                   So as I'm sure everyone is aware, the  
47 Western Arctic Caribou Herd has been declining for some  
48 years now. The population peaked in about 2003 and the  
49 population at that time was estimated to be 490,000  
50 animals. At the last census, which occurred in 2013,

1 the population was estimated to be 235,000 animals. So  
2 that's about a 50 percent decline in 10 years or so.  
3 During this time annual adult mortality has increased  
4 and calf survival and recruitment have decreased.

5  
6 So in response to this decline as well  
7 as the decline in the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd, the  
8 Alaska Board of Game has implemented changes to State  
9 caribou regulations throughout Northern and Western  
10 Alaska, so throughout the range of the Western Arctic  
11 and the Teshekpuk Herds. In Unit 22, these changes  
12 included the creation of new hunt areas, the creation  
13 of separate bull and cow seasons and prohibition on the  
14 harvest of calves. These changes were implemented on  
15 July 1st, 2015.

16  
17 On the Federal side of things, the  
18 Office of Subsistence Management received three  
19 proposals to change caribou regulations in Unit 22 for  
20 Federally qualified subsistence users. So, like I  
21 said, I'll go through those three proposals. So the  
22 first proposal is 16-43 and this is on Page 27 of your  
23 books. This proposal was submitted by this Council.  
24 The request is to close Federal public lands to caribou  
25 harvest in Unit 22 south of the Unalakleet River and in  
26 Unit 18 in the Upper Andreafsky drainages.

27  
28 The proponent states that since no  
29 caribou have been present in the area for 15 years or  
30 so that it will not have any effect on subsistence  
31 uses, but will protect caribou and prevent the  
32 intentional or unintentional harvest of privately-owned  
33 reindeer.

34  
35 It's true that there have been no  
36 caribou present in this area for at least 15 years and  
37 there is a reindeer herd that grazes the area around  
38 Stebbins and St. Michael. Unfortunately, the Board's  
39 closure policy doesn't allow a closure of Federal land  
40 solely for the protection of private property. This  
41 policy allows the closures primarily to maintain  
42 healthy fish and wildlife populations or to ensure the  
43 continuation of subsistence uses. This proposal  
44 doesn't meet those criteria. So, for this reason, the  
45 OSM preliminary conclusion is to oppose 16-43.

46  
47 I want to mention that one of the other  
48 proposals does begin to address this concern in a way  
49 that is not in opposition to the Board's policy. So  
50 I'll get to that in a little bit.

1                   The second proposal is 16-45. That's  
2 on Page 54. This proposal was also submitted by this  
3 Council. The request in this proposal is simply to  
4 shift the boundary of the Unit 22E caribou hunt area  
5 westward. It's currently the Sanaguich River and the  
6 request is to shift it west to the Tin Creek drainage.  
7 There's a map on Page 57 of your books that clearly  
8 shows the current hunt area and the proposed hunt area.  
9 It also shows the neighboring reindeer range just for  
10 context.

11  
12                   The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
13 support WP16-45 because it will provide some additional  
14 subsistence opportunity, but is not expected to result  
15 in an impressionable increase in overall harvest from  
16 the Western Arctic Herd. However, this conclusion is  
17 in conflict in a few areas with the proposal that I'll  
18 go over next, which is 16-37.

19  
20                   16-37 is on Page 129. Proposal 16-37  
21 was submitted by Jack Reakoff of Wiseman, Alaska and he  
22 requests that the Federal caribou regulations be  
23 aligned with the recently adopted State  
24 regulations in all or portions of Units 21D, 22, 23, 24  
25 and parts of 26. So that's basically all of the areas  
26 for which the State regulatory changes took place. The  
27 goal here is to aid in the  
28 conservation of the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk  
29 Caribou Herds as well as to reduce regulatory  
30 complexity.

31  
32                   Generally speaking across the units  
33 that I just mentioned, this proposal will restrict bull  
34 and cow harvest at certain times of year, it will  
35 prohibit the harvest of calves and in some areas it  
36 will result in a significant reduction in the daily  
37 harvest limit.

38  
39                   The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
40 support 16-37 with modification. So, in Unit 22, that  
41 would result in the creation of separate cow and bull  
42 seasons in all areas where caribou harvest is currently  
43 allowed, it will prohibit the take of calves, it will  
44 prohibit the take of cows with calves through October  
45 15th, it will result in a couple of new or revised hunt  
46 areas and it would also create a may-be-announced  
47 season in Unit 22 remainder rather than the current no  
48 open season. I'll go through these changes in more  
49 detail here in a minute.

50

1                   So, as I mentioned, OSM's preliminary  
2 conclusion for Proposal 37 and 45 are inconsistent in  
3 some areas. The reason that we didn't try to reconcile  
4 our recommendations was because we wanted to get this  
5 Council's feedback on the proposals rather than trying  
6 to come up with a conclusion that was -- that we  
7 thought you would be in agreement with.

8  
9                   So it's going to be really important  
10 for you to weigh in on these proposals because there  
11 are changes happening throughout Northern and Western  
12 Alaska and I don't think that you can assume that Unit  
13 22 will be exempt from those changes, so it's going to  
14 be important to get your thoughts on the record here.

15  
16                   Like I said, I'm going to walk you  
17 through the differences in the proposals for each hunt  
18 area in Unit 22. There's a handout that you should  
19 have in your books that looks like this. For those in  
20 the audience there's some on the back table. There's a  
21 map on one side and there's some tables on the other  
22 side. If you've had a chance to look at that poster on  
23 the wall, it's the same information as that poster.

24  
25                   So you'll notice that each hunt area is  
26 a different color on the map and then on the back  
27 there's a table of regulations that show the proposed  
28 regulations for both Proposal 37 and 45. The colors on  
29 the map correspond to the regulation on the back.  
30 Let's start with Unit 22 remainder. That's the area  
31 that's in blue on the map.

32  
33                   So the seasons and harvest limits would  
34 not be affected by the adoption of Proposal 16-45 and  
35 this is indicated in the right-hand column of the blue  
36 table on your handout. So right here you can see that  
37 currently, as well as under Proposal 16-45 there would  
38 be no open season.

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: The map is a little  
41 confusing because it includes a lot -- blue covers a  
42 lot more than 22D remainder.

43  
44                   MS. WORKER: In Federal regulation, all  
45 of -- in State regulation each subunit has a remainder  
46 and in Federal regulation it's just called 22  
47 remainder. All of the remainders are called 22  
48 remainder.

49  
50                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay.

1 MS. WORKER: So, you're correct, Mr.  
2 Chair, there are many more hunt areas for caribou under  
3 State regulation than there are under Federal  
4 regulation.

5  
6 MR. GRAY: Is that in the back  
7 somewhere?

8  
9 MS. WORKER: Is it on the back of your  
10 map?

11  
12 MR. GRAY: Oh, okay.

13  
14 MS. WORKER: Okay. So for Unit 22  
15 remainder, if Proposal 16-45 is adopted, the seasons  
16 and harvest limits for caribou would not be affected.  
17 If you look in the left-hand column of the blue table,  
18 you can see if WP16-37 is adopted instead of no open  
19 season, there would be a may-be-announced season. The  
20 authority to open a season would be delegated to the  
21 BLM Anchorage Field Office. The idea here is that  
22 managers would have the flexibility to respond to the  
23 presence of caribou and open those areas to harvest  
24 when caribou are present.

25  
26 If the may-be-announced season were  
27 open, the daily harvest limit would be five caribou,  
28 the harvest of calves would be prohibited, the harvest  
29 of bulls would be prohibited between October 15th and  
30 January 31st. The harvest of cows would be prohibited  
31 April 1st through August 31st and the harvest of calves  
32 would be prohibited September 1st through October 15th.

33  
34 The logic behind the prohibition on the  
35 take of cows with calves through mid October is simply  
36 that if we're trying to improve calf recruitment and  
37 survival, orphaned calves have a greater chance of  
38 surviving if they're weaned, so if we can just push  
39 back that time where we harvest cows that are still  
40 nursing calves, we can hopefully improve calf survival  
41 a little bit.

42  
43 So those are the differences in the  
44 seasons and limits for Proposals 45 and 37. The other  
45 area there is some conflict is in the hunt areas. So  
46 if you turn your map over and look at the map side,  
47 you'll see there's a blue and yellow striped area near  
48 the center of the map. That's the Pilgrim River  
49 drainage. If 16-37 is adopted as recommended in OSM's  
50 preliminary conclusion, the Pilgrim River drainage

1 would be removed from Unit 22 remainder and would  
2 instead be defined as a new hunt area.

3

4                   If 16-37 is adopted, it would also  
5 result in the addition of a portion of Unit 22A south  
6 of the Golsovia River to Unit 22 remainder. So that's  
7 the blue and red striped area at the bottom of the map.  
8 So this is the area that somewhat addresses the request  
9 from this Council that was outlined in Proposal 16-43.  
10 Instead of a closure as requested, if this area is  
11 added to Unit 22 remainder, it would be open only under  
12 a may-be-announced situation only when caribou are  
13 present. I will acknowledge though that it addresses a  
14 smaller geographic area than originally proposed in 16-  
15 43.

16

17                   So the final potential adjustment to  
18 Unit 22 remainder is the striped blue and red area near  
19 the top of your map, but I'll discuss that one a little  
20 bit more when we get to the next hunt area.

21

22                   At this point we can either pause or I  
23 can go over the remaining three hunt areas. It's up to  
24 you, Mr. Chair.

25

26                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: I think we better open  
27 up the floor for questions. This is very complicated.  
28 This is really nicely done here, but it's really  
29 complicated. So I think we should have questions on  
30 this proposal at this time. Are there any questions  
31 from the RAC.

32

33                   MR. GRAY: Of course I have questions.

34

35                   (Laughter)

36

37                   MR. GRAY: The Pilgrim River area,  
38 you're talking it will remain closed unless opened by a  
39 biologist or somebody that has the authority to open  
40 it?

41

42                   MS. WORKER: So currently the Pilgrim  
43 River drainage is included in Unit 22 remainder and  
44 there's no open season there. If Proposal 37 is  
45 adopted by the Board, then that will be its own hunt  
46 area and the authority to open that area would be  
47 delegated to the BLM Anchorage Field Office manager and  
48 that would be open when there was caribou present.

49

50                   MR. GRAY: Okay. And the reason I'm a

1 little curious about this is probably half of this area  
2 in the last few years has had caribou in it. The other  
3 half has not had caribou in it. I own a cabin out  
4 there. I go out there and caribou hunt, so I can  
5 understand a certain portion of it being opened certain  
6 times of the year.

7  
8                   Anyway, I'd feel comfortable with the  
9 idea that if there's caribou in there, we're going to  
10 open it, but just opening it per se -- I think the  
11 reason it's closed is to protect the reindeer in that  
12 area. I do know that part of the Teller herd -- one of  
13 the owners was talking about taking animals over into  
14 this area you're talking about and trying to hold them  
15 there next winter. Whether that happens or not, I  
16 don't know, but the scuttlebutt on the street is he's  
17 going to pull a couple hundred animals over there.  
18 That's going to become an issue.

19  
20                   I have a problem with the dates, the  
21 State set-up dates for hunting. You know, everybody  
22 here in town is waiting for the caribou to get by the  
23 road and we're all going to dash out and shoot caribou.  
24 Well, I've done this for quite a few years and the  
25 caribou that hit the road first are all bulls. There's  
26 no females. You know, as the winter goes on, the  
27 females show up, but the frontrunners are bulls and  
28 we're happy with those animals.

29  
30                   Everybody can say all they want with  
31 rut and blah, blah, blah, but you don't hear  
32 complaining when those animals hit the end of the road  
33 and we're up there shooting. Everybody is happier than  
34 a lark taking those animals. So this no bulls October  
35 15th to January 31st, to me, you're limiting your  
36 subsistence users.

37  
38                   You know, on Federal lands I say leave  
39 it alone. Leave this bull thing alone. We don't need  
40 to align with the State and limit our subsistence  
41 users. The State has stepped out and created rules that  
42 now we have no opportunity to shoot caribou until the  
43 cows show up sometime later on because cow caribou  
44 don't show up until the first part of November, end of  
45 October.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Excuse me, Tom. I  
48 think we should save this for discussion. Right now  
49 we're in questions for the staff. We need a motion on  
50 the table before we can do the discussion so it's on

1 the record. This is not on the record.

2

3 MR. GRAY: Okay. Well, you wanted to  
4 talk about issues on this thing and these are issues  
5 that I'm throwing out. So we can save it for whenever.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Let's stick to  
8 questions right now of the staff and then once we get a  
9 motion then you can go into discussion so that we have  
10 this on the record.

11

12 MR. GRAY: Okay, here's a question.  
13 How do you justify the bull dates?

14

15 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Gray.  
16 Through the Chair. Proposal 16-37 was proposed to  
17 mirror the recently implemented State regulations. To  
18 be honest, I'm not totally sure of the logic behind all  
19 the State seasons. I do know that on the Seward  
20 Peninsula the regulations are complicated and there has  
21 been historically an effort to avoid reindeer and  
22 interference with reindeer and not opening seasons when  
23 caribou aren't present for instance.

24

25 My understanding was it had something  
26 to do with presence of animals in certain geographic  
27 areas, but that is contradictory to what you just told  
28 me, so I don't have a good response for that.

29

30 MR. GRAY: I sit on the caribou board,  
31 the big group, and I was shocked to see these dates  
32 come up because it's not something that that board  
33 talked about. Somebody stepped out of line and pushed  
34 these through without consulting with our advisory  
35 committee down here on the Seward Peninsula. Again, we  
36 can get to this discussion later, but we need to think  
37 about our Federal qualified users. I'm not worried  
38 about the State. I'm worried about our people.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah, let's save this  
41 for discussion. This is the time to ask questions of  
42 the staff. I agree with you, but we need to do it in  
43 order. I guess my question is how many caribou do you  
44 expect to save by these proposals? Does anybody have  
45 an estimate? I think I asked Jennifer Yuhas that one  
46 time. All these proposals combined, how many caribou do  
47 we expect to save on the Seward Peninsula.

48

49 MS. WORKER: So harvest on the Seward  
50 Peninsula represents a very small portion of the total

1 harvest of the Western Arctic Herd. I think it's about  
2 2 percent. So, it's true that the impact of these  
3 proposals in this area will not be as substantial as it  
4 will be in the other areas. I acknowledge that.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Chris.

7

8 MR. MCKEE: Yeah, I just want to say in  
9 response to Tom that's one of the reasons -- your  
10 concerns about the dates for bulls, any closures, those  
11 kinds of things, are exactly the reason why we're here.  
12 These are multiple regional proposals, very complex,  
13 lots of different dates. We are trying to draw a fair  
14 bargain between trying to minimize regulatory  
15 complexity while also recognizing regional-specific  
16 preferences. This is the main reason we're here at  
17 this Council meeting is to get the kind of feedback  
18 from the Council members and see what they think about  
19 the regional-specific differences and maybe adjusting  
20 some of those things to account for regional-specific  
21 preferences and maybe reflect it in the overall  
22 proposal that's going to go before the Board.

23

24 So I just wanted to recognize that as a  
25 very valid point that Mr. Gray is making and that's the  
26 whole reason we're here is to try to make some of these  
27 adjustments so that the local users are not adversely  
28 affected by such a huge proposal.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Are there other  
31 questions for staff. I'd like to keep it to questions  
32 and we'll do the discussion once we got a motion on the  
33 table. So let's just ask questions of the staff now.

34

35 MR. KATCHEAK: I'm Ted Katcheak. When  
36 you write this proposal, did you consider what's going  
37 to happen in the future? Because my experience has been  
38 from the '60s, '70s and '80s. Like Tom Gray said  
39 earlier that the bulls are always first to get to our  
40 area. They go a long way and they go into our reindeer  
41 herd. That one year in the mid '70s I butchered four  
42 bull caribous and three females. It's been happening  
43 over the years, something similar to what I went  
44 through.

45

46 When the reindeers were in a big  
47 population, big numbers back in the '60s, '70s, we  
48 often observe caribou in the herd. They don't have no  
49 limits. These animals, once they go somewhere, they  
50 don't have any limits to stop them. So it was me who

1 stopped the caribou from interfering with our reindeer  
2 herding. Sometimes they run away. As soon as you go  
3 into the herd, you'll recognize them. I did and, you  
4 know, I've been herding most of my life, most of my 68  
5 years of my life, to know this. Those things happen.

6  
7 So I hope the State would reconsider to  
8 have a bull harvest also. It would mitigate some of  
9 the problems that they create. Animals, for some  
10 reason or for no reason, they interfere with our  
11 subsistence or herding.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you, Ted.  
14 Again, are there any more questions for the staff.  
15 We'll have discussion once we get a motion on the  
16 table.

17  
18 Go ahead, Elmer.

19  
20 MR. SEETOT: I notice that the bull  
21 season is at a very -- today is October 15. Is that  
22 date set for, whatchamacallit, harvest when the animals  
23 are around or is that a legal opening date under  
24 regulations or under proposed regulations for the bull  
25 season?

26  
27 MS. WORKER: Thank you for the  
28 question. Through the Chair. So in Unit 22 remainder  
29 there's a may-be-announced season. There's not a  
30 regular season. A may-be-announced season would be  
31 opened if there were caribou present and the bull  
32 season -- in that situation, the bull harvest would be  
33 legal beginning October 15th.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Anymore questions for  
36 Suzanne or Chris.

37  
38 MR. GRAY: I have a question. Looking  
39 at your proposal here, you have October 1st to October  
40 15th for bulls. Those are the dates we can hunt them.  
41 And then February 1st is a date we can hunt for a long  
42 period of time. Have you guys done studies to find out  
43 and make sure that these timeframes animals are  
44 available in this area?

45  
46 MR. MCKEE: Mr. Gray. Maybe the  
47 proposed regulations that you see here -- like I said,  
48 this proposal was submitted by Jack Reakoff of Western  
49 Interior, so a lot of the dates that you see here were  
50 those that were put forward by that individual for

1 those dates. So the proposed regulations are not  
2 something that OSM has decided on in terms of when the  
3 dates should be and when the seasons should or should  
4 not be.

5  
6 I do know and I should say this, it  
7 reminded me again, that for the most part a lot of the  
8 reason for these bull seasons was to try to prevent  
9 wastage because a lot of people have felt in the past  
10 that the bulls are not edible during the rut. I'm not  
11 saying that necessarily applies to your region. I'm  
12 just saying that the motivation behind the proponent  
13 for having some of these dates was not only to align  
14 with State seasons but also an attempt to try to avoid  
15 some wastage.

16  
17 So I can't speak to what the  
18 motivations were for Jack Reakoff, who submitted the  
19 proposal, and I wouldn't try to -- I would very much  
20 hesitate to speak for him.

21  
22 (Laughter)

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SMITH: That's good advice.  
25 He speaks pretty well for himself.

26  
27 (Laughter)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SMITH: You guys probably  
30 haven't met him, but he's a great guy and a real asset  
31 to the Federal Subsistence Program, but I wouldn't  
32 attempt to speak for him.

33  
34 MR. GRAY: I don't know this Jack  
35 fellow, but I fought this battle with the Caribou  
36 Committee and a suggestion, I guess, is we all have  
37 telephones, call us, get our input. This proposal, the  
38 dates that you're proposing, I don't -- I look at you  
39 guys and I think these guys haven't done their  
40 homework.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Tom, this is  
43 questions.....

44  
45 MR. GRAY: I understand. Okay. But my  
46 -- I'm having a hard time trying to formulate questions  
47 to address points.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Save it for  
50 discussion, Tom. It will be better to save this for

1 discussion.

2

3 MR. GRAY: Well, half of this is going  
4 to get forgotten. By the time you run around in  
5 circles here to get to our discussion, it's going to be  
6 forgotten. But this date thing, you're limiting  
7 subsistence users. I guess my feeling is how are you,  
8 with these changes, going to impact Federal users'  
9 lives?

10

11 MR. MCKEE: We're not trying to limit  
12 subsistence users. The dates that you see here and the  
13 proposed regulations were something that was not put  
14 forward by OSM. This was put forward by Jack Reakoff,  
15 who was the proponent who wrote this proposal. OSM's  
16 job is to analyze that proposal and either support it,  
17 oppose it or support with modification. Most of these  
18 caribou proposals we have supported with some  
19 modifications.

20

21 The modifications you see under the OSM  
22 preliminary conclusion are the actual modifications  
23 we've made after doing the analysis. The proposed  
24 regulations that you're seeing here are those that are  
25 put forward by the proponent. We have no control over  
26 what the proponent, what an individual or a RAC or  
27 whatever makes in terms of putting in a proposal to  
28 OSM. Our job is simply to analyze the proposal as it's  
29 written, as it's received by OSM.

30

31 Now the important part of this for the  
32 Councils is to be here at this meeting for you guys to  
33 see these proposals, look at our modifications and to  
34 put on the record what you guys think of either the  
35 proposal or modifications and if you have changes that  
36 you would like to see, let us know about it, put it on  
37 the record and that will be reflected in the public  
38 record so that when it comes time in April for the  
39 Federal Subsistence Board to meet on these proposals  
40 they will know how the Council feels about it.

41

42 So I just wanted to make that clear.  
43 This proposal isn't an OSM proposal. We're simply  
44 analyzing a proposal that's submitted by a user and  
45 that's the job of the Wildlife Division is to analyze  
46 these proposals as they're submitted.

47

48 MR. GRAY: What.....

49

50 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Hang on a second, Tom.

1 Very good, Chris. Let's stick.....

2

3 MR. GRAY: Okay. What modifications  
4 are you supporting to address the dates of bull hunting  
5 in this regulation?

6

7 MR. MCKEE: So if you go to Page -- and  
8 part of the problem with this is that 16-37 -- I've  
9 been with the program for about five years now. 16-37  
10 is without a doubt the largest single analysis that  
11 I've ever seen, so we're already working with a  
12 tremendous amount of information, so I understand the  
13 confusion or if things are not clear in terms of where  
14 you should be looking.

15

16 For 16-37, in your meeting materials  
17 booklet, the OSM preliminary conclusion begins on Page  
18 171 and the Unit 22 modifications start at the top of  
19 Page 172 to about the top third of 173. So those are  
20 the actual changes, modifications that OSM has made  
21 after looking at the proposal and analyzing it. So if  
22 you want to hold us accountable for something, that  
23 would be the area to look. If you have suggestions for  
24 change that you think need to be adjusted, that would  
25 be the place to look.

26

27 Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Very good. I think  
30 what I'd like to do now, unless there's some really  
31 burning questions, in the interest of time, I'd like to  
32 open it up to other agency comments. I promise you,  
33 Tom, we'll get to this in discussion. That's really the  
34 place for it.

35

36 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair. I might  
37 suggest that we continue to go through the regulation  
38 changes for the rest of the hunt areas because I think  
39 the questions that are coming up now are going to be  
40 relevant to the rest of the hunt areas as well.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Very good. Proceed.

43

44 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So  
45 the next hunt area that I would like to go through is  
46 the area on your map that's in red. The regulations in  
47 these areas encompass the majority of the areas in Unit  
48 22 where harvest is currently allowed. The seasons and  
49 harvest limits in this area would not be affected by  
50 the adoption of Proposal 16-45. If 16-37 is adopted as

1 recommended in OSM's preliminary conclusion, there  
2 would be additional restrictions on caribou harvest and  
3 these are similar to the ones we just talked about.

4  
5                   The harvest limit would remain at five  
6 caribou per day, but bulls would only be allowed  
7 harvested between February 1st and October 14th. The  
8 cows could be harvested September 1st through March  
9 31st. The harvest of cows with calves would be  
10 prohibited September 1st through October 15th. The  
11 harvest of calves would be prohibited. Currently in  
12 this area the season is open year round for bulls and  
13 nearly year round for cows.

14  
15                   We can talk about that third proposed  
16 hunt area change at this point, so if you look on the  
17 map side of your handout. If WP16-45 is adopted, the  
18 Unit 22E hunt area boundary would be shifted westward  
19 to the Tin Creek drainage, opening a portion of Bering  
20 Land Bridge National Preserve to caribou harvest. So I  
21 will note at this point, I'm sure Karen will mention it  
22 again, that we received a written comment from the  
23 Native Village of Shishmaref to move that boundary even  
24 farther west to Trout Creek.

25  
26                   The final thing is if 16-37 is adopted,  
27 the area south of the Golsovia River would be included  
28 in Unit 22 remainder as I mentioned earlier and this  
29 would result in a may-be-announced season rather than  
30 the current open season.

31  
32                   So that's all I have for the area in  
33 red. Are there any specific questions about that?

34  
35                   MR. OXEREOK: This is Amos. Is there a  
36 map that shows where Tin Creek is?

37  
38                   MS. WORKER: Yes, there is. If you  
39 look in your books on Page.....

40  
41                   MR. OXEREOK: Excuse me. I meant Trout  
42 Creek.

43  
44                   MS. WORKER: We do have a map of Trout  
45 Creek to project up there, but I'm not sure if we're  
46 hooked up. For those that can't see the map, Trout  
47 Creek is approximately midway between Tin Creek and the  
48 Nuluk River. So if you look at the map on Page 57 of  
49 your books, Trout Creek is actually not on that map  
50 because this comment came after we published the books.

1 Trout Creek is approximately halfway between those two  
2 rivers. The Nuluk River is at the edge of the  
3 Ongtawasruk Reindeer range.

4

5 MR. OXEREOK: Thank you.

6

7 MS. WORKER: You're welcome.

8

9 MR. GRAY: Is there a reason why the  
10 proposal, whoever put it in, didn't go all the way to  
11 the Nuluk River?

12

13 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Gray.  
14 Through the Chair. I was not at this meeting last  
15 year, but I have read the transcripts and my  
16 recollection of that is that there was a lot of  
17 discussion about what the boundaries should be, the new  
18 hunt area boundary. There was concern about using the  
19 Nuluk River as a boundary simply because that's the  
20 edge of the Wales Reindeer range and there was concern  
21 that it could result in take of reindeer.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, if there are no  
24 further questions, does that complete your  
25 presentation?

26

27 MS. WORKER: That's all I have for that  
28 hunt area, Mr. Chair, but I have a couple other things  
29 about the remaining two hunt areas, but they will be  
30 short.

31

32 MR. GRAY: Okay. Why is Trout Creek  
33 being thrown out? Is that something we should be  
34 looking at as an option for a boundary?

35

36 MS. WORKER: Thank you. Trout Creek  
37 was suggested in a written comment from the Native  
38 Village of Shishmaref. The analysis does not consider  
39 that alternative. So I'm not sure that OSM has a  
40 position on that, but I think that certainly if you  
41 think that's a viable option, getting your thoughts on  
42 the record is definitely worth it.

43

44 MR. MCKEE: Again, I think that public  
45 comment came in well after we'd already probably either  
46 almost finished the analysis or finished the analysis,  
47 but, again, this is why we're here. So if you think  
48 this is a valid change or something that you'd like to  
49 see, then put that on the record. Mr. Chair.

50

1 MR. GRAY: If Trout Creek is thrown in  
2 as an edge, the analysis, would there be a long, drawn-  
3 out process or would it be rubber stamped? You know, I  
4 look at this map and, to me, Nuluk River is a  
5 reasonable one. I mean I was a reindeer herder for  
6 20-some years and I don't understand why it didn't go  
7 to the Nuluk River. We can talk about that later, I  
8 guess.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SMITH: We would be able to  
11 amend the proposal to do that. You know, we could do  
12 that if that's the RAC's wishes.

13  
14 MR. MCKEE: We're going to get feedback  
15 from the Councils on this. OSM will look at all of the  
16 Councils' comments. As you can imagine, it's going to  
17 be quite a job for us to take all the comments.  
18 Western Interior hasn't even met yet and they're going  
19 to be going over this. We will make a decision whether  
20 we're going to change the analysis to reflect what some  
21 of the Councils may or may not want, but there's  
22 certainly no rubber stamp. I mean it's important that  
23 you guys put this stuff on the record and if you want  
24 that change, it will be reflected in the record and the  
25 Board will absolutely take that into account when they  
26 deliberate and make their decision on these proposals.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SMITH: In the interest of  
29 time, what I'd like to do is ask for other agency  
30 comments. I see that Drew has one ready.

31  
32 MR. CRAWFORD: Regarding the  
33 preliminary recommendation for Proposal WP16-37, the  
34 Department's preliminary recommendation is to support  
35 with modification to change the bag limits and open  
36 season for caribou in Unit 26A remainder and all  
37 portions of Unit 26B to agree with State regulations.

38  
39 Over.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you.

42  
43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, members of  
44 the Council. If you'd like, I can read that aloud if  
45 people did not hear that.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you very much.  
48 Yes, do that.

49  
50 MS. DEATHERAGE: For Wildlife Proposal

modification to change the bag limits and  
3 open season for caribou in Unit 26A remainder and all  
4 portions of Unit 26B to agree with State regulations.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Are there any  
9 questions for Mr. Crawford.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Hearing none, I'll ask  
14 for other agency comments. So that would be Ken.

15

16 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair, Council  
17 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. The  
18 Park Service supports WP16-45 to adjust the boundary of  
19 the caribou hunt area in 22E westward to the Tin Creek  
20 drainage. We're aware of the Native Village of  
21 Shishmaref's comments and I would say that we probably  
22 don't have a lot of problem with that. I would offer a  
23 couple observations though.

24

25 When you speak of a drainage, you're  
26 talking about sometimes a very large area on both sides  
27 of the creek or the river that you're talking about  
28 because you're talking about everything that drains  
29 into that. If you just simply speak of the creek or  
30 the river, that then becomes the demarcation line.

31

32 It's our understanding that this  
33 proposal had a lot of discussion up in that area  
34 between caribou hunters and the communities and the  
35 herders and what came out of it was a pretty good  
36 consensus of what would be acceptable. In looking at  
37 the maps, you know, I think if the boundary was shifted  
38 to Trout Creek and left at Trout Creek, that would  
39 still provide sort of an ample buffer between the  
40 herder's territory, which is drawn along the Nuluk  
41 River. So it kind of provides a little buffer line  
42 rather than put the two groups right smack next to each  
43 other.

44

45 Like I said, we support the proposal to  
46 include the Tin Creek drainage, which would be  
47 everything on both sides of Tin Creek obviously that  
48 drain into it or choosing the Trout Creek. That would  
49 then put basically everything east of Trout Creek in  
50 the hunt area and omit everything west of Trout Creek.

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Does anyone have  
2 questions for Mr. Adkisson. Just keep it to questions.  
3 We will definitely get to discussion on this.

4  
5 MR. GARNIE: Yes, I have a concern, I  
6 guess, is what it is. A lot of caribou hunters are --  
7 I'm not real familiar with Tin Creek or the grazing --  
8 where the boundaries are where some of the reindeer  
9 herders have grazing permits or have grazing grounds,  
10 but there's a big concern that there hasn't been  
11 reindeer in that area for many years. No reindeer  
12 around, there's no proof of reindeer being there, yet  
13 they can't hunt caribou there and they're being  
14 criminalized for taking a caribou slightly off of the  
15 boundary. So I'm not real familiar. There's  
16 apparently a couple of big grazing areas there that  
17 absolutely have not one reindeer on there, yet it's  
18 illegal to hunt caribou there is what I'm hearing. So  
19 they would like this area opened up.

20  
21 Thank you.

22  
23 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Garnie, through the  
24 Chair. Ken Adkisson again. The one herd that's really  
25 still established and pretty much viable in that area  
26 would be the Ongtawasruk Herd from Wales and their  
27 boundary goes to the Nuluk River. The herd area that  
28 would be east of that would be basically the Weyiouanna  
29 Herd from Shishmaref and that herder has lost most of  
30 his deer. So the people from the communities that put  
31 this proposal together were talking to the herders and  
32 things and working that out, so they pretty much I  
33 think covered the concerns up there in that area, so I  
34 tend to want to listen to them.

35  
36 MR. GRAY: Would the Park have any  
37 problem of establishing that line on I guess the east  
38 side of the Nuluk River and using Nuluk River as a  
39 boundary?

40  
41 MR. ADKISSON: The communities weren't  
42 really asking for that and maybe they feel that there's  
43 some issue. I mean to me  
44 some of this stuff where you have herds that are rather  
45 loosely herded, the closer you get to putting any two  
46 groups together the more likely you're going to have  
47 some overlap.

48  
49 It seems reasonable to me to try to set  
50 up some kind of -- one, a recognizable geographical

1 boundary and, two, maybe put in some sort of a buffer  
2 in it. The original proposal was to include the Tin  
3 Creek drainage. The Native Village of Shishmaref then  
4 later suggested perhaps going as far west. When we  
5 looked at the maps, and we had a lot of discussion when  
6 the original OSM analysis proposal came on that and we  
7 were looking at where the Tin Creek drainage lay in  
8 relation to Ear Mountain and the Nuluk River and where  
9 some of the other drainage -- because the original  
10 thing was, well, it's flat out there and you can't tell  
11 where you're at. Okay, maybe a valid concern, but I  
12 think most hunters from those communities would tell  
13 you they'd know where they're at.

14  
15                   So the question then was, okay, is  
16 there another boundary when you know when you've  
17 crossed out of the boundary you should be operating in.  
18 You know, our thing was, well, if you're using the Tin  
19 Creek drainage, once you get out of that and start  
20 hitting the other drainages, and there are about two or  
21 three of them in there that lay west of Tin Creek and  
22 the Trout Creek was about the last big one, you would  
23 know that you were out of the Tin Creek drainage. So  
24 we were fairly comfortable with most of that, but felt  
25 it was perhaps wise to keep some separation between the  
26 two in the form of a buffer, but that was just our  
27 feeling.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Any other questions  
30 for Mr. Adkisson.

31  
32                   (No comments)

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you, Ken. Do we  
35 have other agencies or tribal -- Jacob, do you want to  
36 make a comment on this?

37  
38                   MR. MCKEE: I just wanted to make sure  
39 that you're remembering to look at the card. So after  
40 Federal agencies it would be Native, tribal, village  
41 and other. So that would be the next.

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Mr. Martin, you wanted  
44 to make a comment on this.

45  
46                   MR. MARTIN: No.

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Are there any  
49 members of the public here who would like to comment.

50                   (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I don't see anybody.

2

3 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair. There are a  
4 couple of more hunt areas that we can go through if  
5 you'd like. If not, you know, they're very similar to  
6 the ones we've gone through.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Please proceed.

9

10 MS. WORKER: Okay. So let's talk about  
11 the Pilgrim River drainage. This is the striped blue  
12 and yellow area on your map. Currently the Pilgrim  
13 River drainage is included in Unit 22 remainder where  
14 there is no open season. If 16-37 is adopted, this  
15 area would be defined as a new hunt area where the  
16 harvest limit would remain at five animals per day.  
17 Bulls could be harvested October 1st through October  
18 14th and February 1st through April 30th cows could be  
19 harvested October 1st through March 31st, although the  
20 harvest of cows with calves would be prohibited through  
21 October 15th. The harvest of calves would be  
22 prohibited and there would be a may-be-announced season  
23 running from May 1st to September 30th with a  
24 prohibition on cow harvest during that may-be-announced  
25 season April 1st through August 31st.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Are there questions on  
28 this proposal. I think this is a controversial  
29 proposal.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair. The final hunt  
34 area is the area that's green on your map. I can just  
35 go through those quickly if you'd like.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay, please.

38

39 MS. WORKER: So this is the portion of  
40 Unit 22B west of Golovin Bay and the Fish and Niukluk  
41 and Libby Rivers. This area was not addressed by 16-  
42 45, so the adoption of that proposal would result in no  
43 changes in seasons or harvest limits or hunt areas.  
44 However, if 16-37 is adopted as recommended by OSM, the  
45 harvest limit would remain at five caribou per day,  
46 bulls could be harvested October 1st through October  
47 14th and February 1st through April 30th. Cows could  
48 be harvested October 1st through March 31st. The  
49 harvest of cows would be prohibited October 1st through  
50 October 15th and the harvest of calves would be

1 prohibited.

2

3

4 So this is very similar to the  
5 regulation in the Pilgrim River drainage. The only  
6 difference is that during the may-be-announced season,  
7 which would also run May 1st through September 30th,  
8 there would be a prohibition on bull harvest October  
9 15th through January 31st and a prohibition on cow  
10 harvest April 1st through August 31st.

11

12 That is all I have for summarizing  
13 regulations.

14

15 Thank you for bearing with me.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SMITH: That was a very good  
18 presentation by both of you. Do you have something to  
19 add, Chris.

20

21 MR. MCKEE: Yeah, I just want to say  
22 hopefully that should be fairly straightforward. No,  
23 I'm just kidding.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MR. MCKEE: I'm glad that Suzanne took  
28 the time to finish going through those hunt areas, but  
29 I also wanted to bring the Council back to the process.  
30 So now that the presentation has been concluded, we've  
31 gotten through Federal agencies, no Native, tribal or  
32 other, the next would be whether there's Interagency  
33 Staff Committee comments. I don't think there are. So  
34 the next phase would be number four here on your sheet.  
35 I just want to make sure that we go through all those  
36 steps before you make your motion to adopt and then  
37 continue with any adjustments. So number four will be  
38 next.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you. You can  
41 proceed.

42

43 MR. MCKEE: If you want me to, I can go  
44 through them. Just say if there any other Regional  
45 Council comments. I don't believe there are.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MR. MCKEE: Any comments from the AC.

50

(No comments)

1 MR. MCKEE: I don't believe so. Or the  
2 SRC. Do we have any SRC comments.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 MR. MCKEE: I don't believe we do.  
7 However, for 43 and 45 I do believe we do have public  
8 comments, so I want to make sure that we don't make a  
9 mistake of kind of going through this process without  
10 making sure we get the public comments. So Karen, I  
11 believe, has public comments on both 43 and 45, so I'll  
12 let her go ahead.

13  
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Members of  
15 the Council. I'd like to go ahead and read a summary  
16 of comments. The first one would be -- bear with me  
17 while I try to get through all this paperwork. This  
18 comment is from Kawerak, Inc. We are in support of  
19 Federal Wildlife Proposal WP16-43 to open caribou  
20 hunting by Emergency Order on Federal Public Lands when  
21 the caribou are present in Game Management Unit 18 and  
22 the southern portion of Game Management Unit 22A;  
23 however we request the following amendment.

24  
25 Instead of GMU 22A "South of the  
26 Unalakleet River" we recommend that it be changed to  
27 GMU 22A "South of the Golsovia River". In doing so  
28 this will align both the Federal and State boundary  
29 lines and hopefully this will eliminate any confusion  
30 as to what area is open and what area is closed. The  
31 Alaska  
32 Department of Fish & Game data indicates that the  
33 Western Arctic Caribou Herd has not migrated south of  
34 the Unalakleet River in 15 to 20 years. Another issue  
35 of concern in northern portion of  
36 GMU 18 and the southern portion of GMU 22A is that  
37 individuals mistake privately owned reindeer for  
38 caribou because the season for caribou is open in both  
39 Units. This causes immense hardship on the reindeer  
40 herd owners by having to take time to go out into the  
41 field to confirm what has happened then report to Law  
42 Enforcement on theft of privately owned reindeer. So  
43 that is from Kawerak, Inc. in reference to WP16-43.

44  
45 Written comment from Kawerak, Inc. for  
46 WP16-45. Regarding WP16-45 we support expanding the  
47 boundary line in GMU 22E for caribou by deleting the  
48 Sanaguich River boundary and adding the Regarding  
49 WP16-45 we support expanding the boundary line in GMU  
50 22E for caribou by deleting the Sanaguich River

1 boundary and adding the Tin Creek Drainage up to the  
2 west headwaters to Ear  
3 Mountain. That's the written comment for WP16-45 for  
4 Kawerak, Inc.

5  
6 Next I'd like to read the written  
7 comments from the Native Village of Shishmaref  
8 regarding WP16-45. Regarding WP16-45 we oppose  
9 expanding the boundary line in GMU 22E for caribou by  
10 deleting the Sanaguich River boundary and adding the  
11 Tin Creek Drainage up to the west headwaters to Ear  
12 Mountain.

13  
14 With comments from the community  
15 members in Shishmaref, we will support to extend the  
16 boundary line in GMU 22E for caribou by deleting the  
17 Sanaguich River boundary and adding the Trout Creek  
18 Drainage up to the headwaters to Ear Mountain. We have  
19 support of Clifford Weyiouanna, who still has grazing  
20 permit for reindeer.

21  
22 Extending the boundary to Trout Creek  
23 is not expected to result in an appreciable increase in  
24 harvest and is not expected to affect the herd overall  
25 and will result in additional opportunities for  
26 Federally qualified subsistence users in the area. In  
27 general, for Wales residents opportunity to harvest  
28 closer to their community. With the boundary to Trout  
29 Creek, that would serve as a buffer zone for the  
30 Ongtawasruk Reindeer Herd, which is permitted to graze  
31 the area west of the Nuluk River.

32  
33 That concludes the written comments  
34 from the Native Village of Shishmaref for WP16-45.

35  
36 Thank you.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you, Karen.  
39 Anything further.

40  
41 MR. MCKEE: Just if there's any public  
42 testimony.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Are there any members  
45 of the public that would like to testify.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Hearing none. That  
50 concludes the staff presentation then. This is

1 complicated. It's very complicated. One thing I want  
2 to note is look at the blue area here. This entire  
3 thing at one time -- it still is reindeer range. This  
4 entire thing is reindeer range. They used to have  
5 reindeer on the whole thing. We're reduced to this  
6 little blue area and getting smaller annually.

7  
8                   It looks to me like we're giving up on  
9 reindeer. Nobody has formally come out and said that,  
10 but it looks like we're giving up on reindeer. Maybe  
11 that's what we want to do, but I think it's happening  
12 little by little. We're slowly deciding not to have  
13 reindeer anymore. You just can't have caribou hunting  
14 and reindeer on the same range. The hunters will  
15 probably eat caribou. They prefer caribou -- or  
16 reindeer, they prefer reindeer.

17  
18                   So I just wanted to note that. We  
19 probably should -- I don't know how we're going to make  
20 a motion on this. This is going to be pretty tough  
21 because we're going to have to amend the heck out of it  
22 whatever we do. Does anybody have any ideas on how to  
23 go.

24  
25                   MR. GRAY: You know, I've been trying  
26 to think of what or how. I need to vote on some of  
27 this stuff.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Tom, let's get a  
30 motion on the table, then we'll discuss it, okay.

31  
32                   MR. GRAY: Tim, what I'm concerned  
33 about is if there's a motion for 37, you know -- okay,  
34 I move that we adopt Proposal 37.

35  
36                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Let's do them  
37 one at a time. I think that's the only way to go. So  
38 we've got a motion to adopt. Is there a second.

39  
40                   MR. OXEREOK: Second.

41  
42                   MR. KATCHEAK: Second.

43  
44                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Moved by Tom, seconded  
45 by Amos. Open for discussion. RAC members, do you  
46 want to discuss this. I'd like to start if you don't  
47 mind.

48  
49                   I'm not going to support any  
50 restrictions on caribou hunting on the Seward Peninsula

1 because I don't think it will have any beneficial  
2 effect to the Western Arctic Herd. We heard from staff  
3 that the harvest is 2 percent. Well, that's the most  
4 we can save. That's the most caribou we can save. If  
5 we completely eliminate caribou hunting on the Seward  
6 Peninsula it saves 2 percent. The counts aren't that  
7 precise. You can't even tell the difference in 2  
8 percent of the caribou.

9  
10                   You probably can't tell the difference  
11 with 50 percent change in the Western Arctic Caribou  
12 Herd. So it's not a significant savings of caribou and  
13 it is a significant impact on subsistence hunters. You  
14 have so few opportunities. Our harvest here is limited  
15 by opportunity. You just don't get a chance at the  
16 caribou very often. You can't predict in advance when  
17 those opportunities will come up.

18  
19                   So I'm not going to support any  
20 prohibitions until I see substantial reductions in the  
21 core area where the harvest is all coming from Unit 23  
22 and some from 26. If they don't reduce their harvest  
23 substantially, there's nothing we can do to help.

24  
25                   The prohibitions on taking of calves is  
26 not sound science. Taking calves is probably the best  
27 way to manage a caribou herd. Cows and calves too. You  
28 can't usually tell if a cow has a calf. I've been  
29 there myself. If you shoot a cow, then you've got an  
30 orphan calf. Like Suzanne says, they don't have very  
31 good survival. You're better off to shoot the calf  
32 too. So I don't see that that's based on sound science  
33 at all.

34  
35                   Opening up these areas like the Pilgrim  
36 River drainage one, I just saw the biggest group of  
37 Davis Herd Reindeer up there this fall that I've seen  
38 for years. They're right in that area, so they'll be  
39 targeted if we open this area up. Bruce Davis is  
40 making a good effort to restore the herd. I think this  
41 would just pull the rug right out from under him if  
42 people would go out there and just kill reindeer  
43 intentionally. So I'm not in favor of that either.

44  
45                   We're going to have to do a lot of  
46 amending, so it's going to take some time to work on  
47 this, but I'd like to hear from some of the other RAC  
48 members. I'm sure Tom has a comment or two.

49  
50                   MR. GRAY: Well, unfortunately, I do.

1 I'm going to start with the Pilgrim River area in the  
2 green area. My understanding is the green area is  
3 being proposed to open that up to caribou hunting with  
4 the regular dates that the other open areas are open,  
5 is that true? Did that make sense.

6

7 MS. WORKER: Mr. Gray, through the  
8 Chair. So currently there is a caribou hunt in the  
9 area in green.

10

11 MR. GRAY: Okay, go ahead. Maybe  
12 there's a Federal hunt.

13

14 MS. WORKER: Currently there is a State  
15 hunt under the newly implemented State regulations.

16

17 MR. GRAY: Okay. This must have just  
18 changed recently.

19

20 MS. WORKER: That is probably true.

21

22 MR. GRAY: Okay. So let me get back  
23 here. I have reservations and we'll fight this at the  
24 next caribou meeting. There has been changes to the  
25 State regulations without even talking to -- I sit on  
26 the advisory board here in Nome for the State. Nobody  
27 has been consulted and there's been changes in the  
28 State system that some of us have not even heard  
29 proposed, so there's a big fight coming in that venue.

30

31 My suggestion in where it was in the  
32 past is the Pilgrim River drainage. In the green area  
33 on this map, my suggestion is it can be opened to the  
34 public by managers if there's a need, if animals come  
35 into this area. These areas were closed because there  
36 was no animals coming into the area in the past and it  
37 was closed to protect reindeer herd, so on and so  
38 forth.

39

40 Now just to be frank, this yellow and  
41 blue striped area, half of that I saw caribou in there  
42 last year and I've seen them in there over the last few  
43 years. So there's some justification later in the  
44 winter, not October 15th. Later in the winter,  
45 February they get down in there, January, but they're  
46 not there early in the season.

47

48 So my suggestion on those two areas is  
49 let the managers open them as need be. Okay.

50

1 MS. WORKER: Sorry to interrupt, Mr.  
2 Gray. Through the Chair. Can I just clarify that you  
3 would support a may-be-announced season in those two  
4 areas to be opened when caribou are present.

5  
6 MR. GRAY: Exactly. And I think that's  
7 really important to the public and the users. I come  
8 from the reindeer industry and I've had reindeer and I  
9 would rather have the public out there pushing those  
10 caribou and hunting those caribou and putting pressure  
11 on them, trying to keep them out of my grazing area,  
12 then not have the people out there. So the reindeer  
13 industry is supportive of having people hunting  
14 caribou. We want people pushing caribou. So, anyway,  
15 I'm supportive of that.

16  
17 This date thing, shooting bulls October  
18 1st to October 14th or whatever it is, if this passes,  
19 you guys are putting together a hunt that there's no  
20 animals there. It's like a false hunt. I don't  
21 believe in that. Again, when the caribou come into  
22 this area, the front runners are always bulls. We shot  
23 bulls for 30 years and we're happy with it. This  
24 restricting the bulls to -- you know, in reality, the  
25 way this is written, my first chance to go shoot a bull  
26 is in February and that's wrong. That's flat wrong.  
27 The amount of bulls that we shoot are not enough that  
28 it's going to impact this herd.

29  
30 So my feeling is let us shoot bulls  
31 year round because they're going to go, they're going  
32 to come. Shishmaref now, they've got bulls that  
33 they're shooting in the summertime up there. According  
34 to this you can't, you know. We don't want to limit  
35 our people just because of some bureaucracy that  
36 doesn't understand our lifestyles. Our lifestyles have  
37 to be part of this decision here. I look at this and I  
38 think nobody is thinking about us.

39  
40 I'll think of some more things.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I just want to say I  
43 agree with tom. I didn't know what was coming either  
44 and that's something we need to deal with. We don't  
45 have any good lines of communication between the  
46 various groups here. The State Fish and Game Advisory  
47 Committee doesn't talk to us pretty much at all and we  
48 don't talk to them. We need to change that.

49  
50 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair. If I could

1 just ask a question for my own edification. What are  
2 the State advisory councils in this region called? Are  
3 those the Norton Sound Advisory Councils?

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Northern Norton Sound  
6 Fish and Game Advisory Committee and the Southern  
7 Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

8  
9 MS. WORKER: Okay. Thank you.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SMITH: And it's split --  
12 where is it split? At Fish River, I think.

13  
14 MR. GRAY: No, I think it's split at  
15 Koyuk. I sit on the Northern Fish and Game Advisory  
16 Committee. I don't know how we're going to get -- you  
17 know, we should have the reindeer industry here. I'm  
18 the president. Ted is a reindeer herder. We've got a  
19 couple of us here, but, you know, our staff isn't here.  
20 Fish and Game should be here listening to this  
21 discussion. You now, Tony wanted in and out of here  
22 real quick. There's a struggling and it's the  
23 subsistence users that are losing.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SMITH: You're next, Elmer.

26  
27 MR. SEETOT: Elmer. This area in green  
28 and red and blue is mostly on the Nome Road system and  
29 it's on the Kigluaik Mountains. I have traveled that  
30 area. Also Salmon Lake. We do not hunt there.  
31 Usually right where Mary's Igloo is, that M right above  
32 Imuruk Basin, that's where last year or last spring.  
33 This was the first time I've ever seen caribou migrate  
34 past the road system. I know that they were migrating  
35 from the Bendeleben Mountains maybe from Death Valley  
36 through McCarthy Marsh through Bendeleben and then go  
37 to Chicken Hill close to Mary's Igloo and then going  
38 down.

39  
40 Once they establish the new route for  
41 feeding and grazing areas, the land west of the  
42 Nome/Kougarok Road is full of winter feed for both  
43 caribou and reindeer and also muskoxen. Like I said  
44 before, this would affect people on the Nome Road  
45 system up north. Our time to harvest is pretty much  
46 after the harvest dates, at least in our area, so it  
47 really doesn't affect -- it affects us mentally. Why  
48 can't we get the caribou the same time that up north  
49 people can get caribou when they cross the river  
50 system. Why can't we? Because, for me, it's a

1 financial burden. I've got other natural resources to  
2 rely on.

3

4 I think with Pilgrim River system it's  
5 pretty much affecting the Nome Road system from what it  
6 looks like up here that it really doesn't affect our  
7 communities of Teller and Brevig very much because it  
8 is above Imuruk Basin. I seen a lot of feed around  
9 hills and new areas. I even seen lush lichen in the  
10 Agiapuk River a couple feet high maybe or even a foot  
11 high where reindeer and caribou have used in the past  
12 and pretty much we don't see that very often in the  
13 Agiapuk system. The majority of the reindeer for  
14 Brevig is around Black Mountain. For Wales, I guess  
15 toward the Potato Mountains.

16

17 An elder told me before his passing  
18 that caribou will be plentiful again in the Seward  
19 Peninsula. Caribou that are coming from the Brooks  
20 Range from up north have used the same migration  
21 corridor for as far as I could remember and they have  
22 depleted their food source along the migration route.  
23 Whenever winds come around, they're able to smell the  
24 food that they're accustomed to.

25

26 A couple years back I went on the Nome  
27 Road system to maybe Taylor -- not Taylor, but Quartz  
28 Creek and there wasn't too much caribou present other  
29 than being east of the road system and then along the  
30 Kuzitrin River flatlands all the way to the lava bed.  
31 So they're finding a new route probably from the east,  
32 Bendeleben. Once they find that food source I know  
33 that we will be within that 50 mile radius at least for  
34 Teller and Brevig to harvest caribou.

35

36 When I first started hunting caribou, I  
37 went anywhere from 100 to I would say 300 mile round  
38 trip. That was the start of our foray into Bendeleben  
39 Mountains, all the way to Boston Creek, all the way to  
40 Independence Mountain, headwaters of the Koyuk River  
41 and then that's where we got our start. Now that the  
42 caribou are starting to come westward, that's what  
43 we're looking for, opportunities to harvest that were  
44 once -- you know, this is our dream, knowing that we're  
45 able to harvest caribou. That's another added meat  
46 source that we're looking into.

47

48 That's a big step from 20 years ago  
49 because the majority of the caribou that we ate was  
50 from Shishmaref. Someone brought it down and that was

1 not hunted by us but a relative or family member. They  
2 were able to share their bountiful harvest with us in  
3 Brevig.

4

5 But that's very good. I see that.  
6 It's just going to affect Nome. Like I said before,  
7 resource is there for everyone and sometimes we just  
8 work for our community too much in trying to preserve  
9 these animals for us. Once you do that, once you claim  
10 the animals as your own, they won't be there for long  
11 for you to subsistence on. That's TEK. You have sound  
12 science, we have TEK.

13

14 I thank you very much.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Go ahead, Ted.

17

18 MR. KATCHEAK: Observing the past  
19 several years when caribou were present in Stebbins/St.  
20 Michael area, I probably was the only happiest reindeer  
21 herder around. Mostly because the caribou is not  
22 present in our area anymore, but I feel happy for  
23 people in Seward Peninsula that have caribou. During  
24 the time when the caribou were present in our area,  
25 four and six hundred thousand, we had a lot of caribou  
26 coming in sick and raggedy and they'd been traveling a  
27 distance and it shows how well they look like.

28

29 Right now I'm happy for people in the  
30 Seward Peninsula because the smaller caribou population  
31 has more healthy than a bigger population. So I feel  
32 that if these areas are open for caribou hunts, it  
33 should be allowed because it's helping the Wester  
34 Arctic Caribou Herd survive. So that's where I come  
35 from. I feel that there should be an open season for  
36 any caribou, female -- I mean cow, calf or bull.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you, Ted. I'm  
39 kind of wondering where to proceed on this. I don't  
40 see this.....

41

42 MR. GRAY: I have a question.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Oh, go ahead.

45

46 MR. GRAY: I have a question for staff  
47 or whoever. I was listening to my neighbor talk about  
48 Brevig area and I'm thinking this proposal is going to  
49 change your hunting techniques. So I went and got a  
50 book and what's in here, I would say this is what we

1 want. What's in here, there's lots of negative things  
2 to our people. The biggest thing that stands out in my  
3 eyes is what can you shoot and when can you shoot it.  
4 You know, I don't have a problem not shooting calves at  
5 a certain time of year and giving them a chance to  
6 survive, but I do have a problem with bulls.

7  
8 The question I have for you guys is if  
9 this 37 proposal goes through, is it going to impact  
10 Brevig, Shishmaref, other areas of Unit 22, especially  
11 with the opening and closing of bulls?

12  
13 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Tom. Through  
14 the Chair. If 37 passes, as it's recommended by OSM  
15 currently, yes, it will affect most of the Seward  
16 Peninsula in terms of harvest limits -- or, sorry, not  
17 harvest limits but seasons and bull/cow restrictions.

18  
19 That's correct.

20  
21 MR. GRAY: Okay. She's not finishing  
22 the story, so I'm going to finish it. Right now you  
23 can shoot bulls year round. According to these  
24 regulations, you can shoot bulls year round. These new  
25 regulations in this proposal that we're talking about,  
26 you will have October 1st to October 15th and then  
27 bulls in February, is that correct?

28  
29 MS. WORKER: That is correct in some  
30 areas. Some areas there is a single season. For  
31 instance, in the red area, February 1st to October 14th  
32 would be the new bull season.

33  
34 MR. GRAY: Okay. And what I'm  
35 concerned about, the red area is -- let me look. I  
36 want to say the red area, the only one that's really  
37 going to be impacted is Shishmaref. But, you know,  
38 Brevig and Nome and White Mountain, all these areas  
39 that animals will migrate in late October and we  
40 finally have a chance to go get animals, the season is  
41 over with.

42  
43 You know, I think we need to understand  
44 -- let's say the green area, what is being proposed.  
45 The blue and yellow striped area, what are the seasons.  
46 Is there a season in -- it doesn't sound like there's a  
47 season in the blue 22E, but there's a season in the  
48 red. If this is too -- you know, I just went through  
49 this, I looked at this and I thought this works for us.  
50 This here doesn't work for us.

1                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Let me break in. Let  
2 me try this. I agree with you, Tom, 100 percent. What  
3 I'd like to do is make a motion that we maintain the  
4 status quo, what's in the book as you pointed out,  
5 except for the extension west of Shishmaref. We can  
6 talk about that later.

7  
8                   I think what we have is an emergency in  
9 the core area. It is an emergency. I counted caribou  
10 at their peak and I thought the number was probably  
11 700,000. I think we greatly underestimated it at the  
12 peak and it's declining fast. We've been here before  
13 and this happened in the mid '70s and it's going to be  
14 down for a long time. But Seward Peninsula hunters  
15 aren't going to have any impact at all on that herd  
16 because I think it's easy to predict that our  
17 opportunities are going to go to nothing, but these  
18 proposals will completely eliminate our opportunities.  
19 Just as Tom says, we'll have no chance to get caribou  
20 or we'll be able to get caribou that we don't really  
21 want.

22  
23                   So I would put in a motion that we  
24 maintain the status quo except for moving the boundary  
25 up by Shishmaref because there seems to be lots of  
26 local support for doing that. If I can get a  
27 second.....

28  
29                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Excuse me, Mr. Chair.  
30 We have a motion on the floor currently already for  
31 Proposal 37. So I think given the complications of  
32 these proposals it would be best to either withdraw  
33 that motion because it sounds like you're also now  
34 talking about Proposal 45 for Shishmaref. So I think  
35 to keep this manageable I think we should take them  
36 proposal by proposal and complete one before we start  
37 the other.

38  
39                   Thank you.

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: What I'm suggesting  
42 then on that is that we vote on 37. I'm going to vote  
43 against it because I don't think it's -- I think it's  
44 only half-baked and I don't think it's appropriate for  
45 the Seward Peninsula. I don't think it will produce  
46 results that people are hoping for. I think where it's  
47 coming from is people want to share the pain and that's  
48 understandable, but the people who need to cut back on  
49 their hunting are the people that are taking the most  
50 caribou now.

1                   We don't need any of this at this  
2 point. It's not an emergency for the Seward Peninsula.  
3 We should take more time, do more analysis and come up  
4 with better proposals. With that, I'd like to turn the  
5 floor over to Fred. I hope we can hear him.

6  
7                   MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes, in regards to  
8 Proposal WP16-37, like what you guys are looking, it  
9 looks like this here proposal will affect only 22A, B  
10 and D and remainder. I was just wondering if it's not  
11 going to affect 22E, and I didn't see any wording in  
12 there for 22E, and just wondering if it will not affect  
13 22E on this here proposal.

14  
15                  CHAIRMAN SMITH: Did you hear that well  
16 enough, Chris and Suzanne, to answer the question?

17  
18                  MR. MCKEE: Suzanne can correct me if  
19 I'm wrong on this, but in the proposal, if you looked  
20 at the OSM modification, basically  
21 22 remainder -- you look at 22A, that portion north and  
22 south, north of the Golsovia, it goes on with the  
23 description, and 22E, that portion east of and  
24 including the Sanaguich River drainage. So that portion  
25 of 22E is mentioned as a separate hunt area and then  
26 the rest of 22E would be included under this remainder  
27 portion.

28  
29                  CHAIRMAN SMITH: Suzanne.

30  
31                  MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
32 There's one thing I would like to comment on in your  
33 motion to support or not support 16-37 and that's just  
34 to remind you that the one part of this proposal that  
35 you might be interested in considering is the addition  
36 of the portion south of the Golsovia River in 22A to  
37 Unit 22 remainder. Because bureaucratically the Board  
38 is not able to address your request in 43, but this may  
39 be some compromise. So I would just remind you of that  
40 before you oppose 37 across the board.

41  
42                  CHAIRMAN SMITH: I'm going to vote  
43 against any harvest restrictions. I would like to  
44 amend 37 to exclude at least the extension west of  
45 Shishmaref and I'd like to hear a little bit more about  
46 the reason that we would want to support the area south  
47 of the Golsovia River. The concern is protecting Ted's  
48 reindeer herd.

49  
50                  MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. Before you

1 finish up with that comment, the reindeer herd in  
2 Stebbins/St. Michael is pretty unique because it's  
3 owned by the community of both villages, including me.  
4 So a lot of our people in Stebbins/St. Michael go out  
5 subsistence hunting reindeer for other people in the  
6 state of Alaska that don't have that privilege. So I  
7 just want to make it clear that it's not just  
8 subsistence for people of Steller and St. Michael, but  
9 it's subsistence hunt for both villages and my family.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Chris.

12

13 MR. MCKEE: I'm hesitant to even speak  
14 on this because things are already complicated as they  
15 are. I understand your issues with 37. However, in  
16 addition to what Suzanne said about it providing some  
17 answer to your proposal on 43, I would actually  
18 recommend that you actually act on 37 as a whole and  
19 try to incorporate -- you're getting some of what you  
20 want from 43 and 37.

21

22 I would also incorporate what you would  
23 like to see from 45 into 37 and make the adjustments in  
24 37 that you think are appropriate for those two  
25 proposals. Anything else in 37 that you don't like you  
26 can also make amendments and just say status quo, but  
27 if you acted on those differences from those two  
28 proposals and made it all one proposal with your own  
29 adjustments, then you could just say you're going to  
30 amend 37 with these amendments to answer some of your  
31 questions for 43 and 45 and pass 37 as amended and then  
32 just take no action on the other two based on actions  
33 taken on 37.

34

35 I know that sounds a little bit  
36 complicated, but in my mind it's easier to just work on  
37 one proposal rather than try to piecemeal three  
38 different proposals because, obviously, it's already  
39 complicated enough. Like Suzanne said, 37 gives you at  
40 least some of what you were wanting from 43. So I  
41 think if you can act on that one proposal, that's the  
42 way I would recommend going.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I couldn't agree more.  
45 Like the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, at a  
46 point like this where things are just too confusing to  
47 understand, they send the  
48 staff back to take another shot at the analysis. I  
49 don't know if we can do that as easily here, but it is  
50 a really good way to deal with something like that.

1 MR. MCKEE: Unfortunately, I mean we do  
2 have the upcoming all-Council meeting in March, but  
3 without being able to speak to what exactly is going to  
4 be included in that meeting, I would say it's important  
5 to act on these proposals now.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SMITH: We have a motion on  
8 the table on 37. I think we need to amend it to  
9 reflect the parts of it that we like. I'm not really  
10 sure on how you feel about this southern area, Ted, but  
11 I think the northern area, in my mind, it's fine to  
12 extend that boundary. There seems to be local support  
13 for it. I can't see anything really problematic about  
14 this. I'd like to hear a little bit more about the  
15 south Golsovia River issue. If there's local support  
16 for that too, we should amend 37 to include it. But I  
17 don't like any of the other provisions of 37 at all.

18  
19 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. I'm in favor  
20 of the proposal with some changes that we presented and  
21 we'd like to be included in case caribou started  
22 showing up in our area again.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Suzanne.

25  
26 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd  
27 like to follow up on that briefly. Earlier Tom  
28 mentioned that he was in support of a may-be-announced  
29 season in the Pilgrim drainage and in the area of 22B  
30 west of Golovin Bay. I'm wondering if the Council also  
31 supports the proposed may-be-announced season in 22  
32 remainder rather than the no open season.

33  
34 MR. GRAY: I'm okay with the yellow and  
35 blue and the green in a to-be-announced. I don't have  
36 a problem with that. I don't know about the rest of  
37 the guys. If there's caribou in certain areas, I want  
38 people in there shooting.

39  
40 MS. WORKER: Thank you.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Amos and then Joe.

43  
44 MR. OXEREOK: With these amendments for  
45 our region, that's all fine and dandy, but this  
46 proposal also includes many other regions where we  
47 don't know their position on it. So just based on the  
48 fact that there's so many regions in here I will be  
49 opposing anything, any amendments or any -- I will  
50 totally oppose this proposal because we don't know the

1 position of any of the regions. I mean if this was  
2 brought up during the all-Council meeting, then we  
3 would all be represented in one area and be able to  
4 hash out a modified proposal. But right now if we make  
5 amendments to our region and we don't include their  
6 amendments, are we going to be hurting their regions  
7 with our approval of this proposal?  
8

9 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Very good point.  
10 Chris.  
11

12 MR. MCKEE: I wouldn't use the word  
13 hurting. Unfortunately the timing of this meeting  
14 comes after only one Council has taken up any of these  
15 proposals and that's Northwest Arctic. We still have  
16 the remaining North Slope and Western and Eastern  
17 Interior to take up some of these things.  
18

19 So what's going to happen is we're  
20 going to these meetings, getting your thoughts, getting  
21 the feedback and trying to record all the amendments  
22 and regional-specific changes that you want to make.  
23 We're going to get all of those from all the Councils  
24 and then we're going to reevaluate our analysis based  
25 on the feedback we get from the Councils.  
26

27 I can't say now how -- the OSM  
28 recommendation may or may not change based on the  
29 feedback, but your thoughts and amendments on these  
30 proposals will still be on the record for the Board to  
31 act on regardless of what the OSM recommendation is.  
32 Remember, the only thing that -- it's just a  
33 recommendation from OSM. As you well know, the  
34 Regional Councils are the driving force behind the  
35 Federal program, so all the Chairs of all the Councils  
36 will be at the Board meeting and be able to voice what  
37 will already be on the record after these meetings and  
38 then the Board can deliberate based on those  
39 communications.  
40

41 So I would not have an issue with you  
42 guys making changes to your own region and then seeing  
43 what the other Councils are going to do. Most of the  
44 time other Councils are very hesitant to take up any  
45 changes to other Councils' regions. Most of the time  
46 what happens is they just take no action on proposals  
47 or areas that are not affected by their region. So  
48 that's why I would say pay attention to your own  
49 region, make the changes or no changes, as Tom is  
50 indicating, that you think are appropriate, put them on

1 the record. We'll go back and look at this and we may  
2 or may not change it based on that feedback, but the  
3 changes will be on the record for the Board to act on  
4 when the time comes at the Federal Subsistence Board  
5 meeting.

6

7 So I would advise against being  
8 hesitant actually. If you think there are changes that  
9 are important for our region, then I would not hesitate  
10 to suggest putting them on the record so the Board  
11 knows how you guys feel.

12

13 MS. OXEREOK: Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Joe is next.

16

17 MR. GARNIE: Yes, Mr. Chair. I'm right  
18 along with Amos. It's hard to, without hearing both  
19 sides of it, making changes on areas we don't know  
20 about. Of course, I'm from Teller I hear and I like  
21 this opening the Pilgrim drainage myself, but I would  
22 like to even see it further extended because we're  
23 seeing caribou all the way right down to the lake,  
24 right down to Imuruk Lake. We're seeing caribou in  
25 there. Anyway, I'm in favor of that.

26

27 I can understand the reindeer issue  
28 also, but I think the reindeer herd would benefit from  
29 us hunting caribou if the boundaries were even extended  
30 a little more. We're beginning to see caribou all the  
31 way from Port Clarence to in our whole area in 22C. We  
32 see caribou at all times. I have a train trail from  
33 Teller that goes along that bank all the way to the tip  
34 of Port Clarence and back home. On many of my runs I  
35 see caribou in there and I can tell the difference  
36 between a caribou and reindeer and I see them there.

37

38 So we're seeing caribou there and the  
39 question is arising why can't we hunt caribou. There  
40 is caribou here. And it would definitely benefit the  
41 reindeer herd. Besides that, the reindeer are  
42 basically staying out of Teller pretty good and not  
43 benefitting the community. The original intent of the  
44 reindeer herd is not being met. It's actually causing  
45 us a hardship. So we're all in favor of seeing more  
46 caribou hunting area opened up, which will basically  
47 put red meat upon our table.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Anything further.

2

3 MR. GRAY: I guess, you know, I  
4 question OSM. Usually when we have a proposal, whether  
5 it's the State or the Feds or whoever, it's a local  
6 proposal that addresses a local issue. All of a sudden  
7 we've got a proposal that's huge and covers almost all  
8 of Alaska. Is this something that you guys recognize  
9 and you're going to play ball with or is this something  
10 that should have been sent back to the guy, hey, break  
11 this down into regional areas and put it back in our  
12 lap again?

13

14 MR. MCKEE: No. It's not OSM's job to  
15 go back to the proponent and tell them how they should  
16 write their proposals. OSM simply gets the proposals  
17 as they're written and analyzes them as they're  
18 received.

19

20 MR. GRAY: But you would think that  
21 there would be boundaries, that the proposal writer has  
22 to stay within these boundaries. The reason I'm asking  
23 this question is, you know, 26, you're talking about  
24 the herd up around Barrow and we're talking about a  
25 different herd totally.

26

27 MR. MCKEE: Proposal 37 covers both the  
28 Teshekpuk and the Western Arctic, as does a proposal  
29 from the North Slope RAC. So, again, we simply analyze  
30 the proposals as they're submitted to us. We are in no  
31 position to dictate to people, whether it be  
32 individuals or the Councils, obviously, how they submit  
33 their proposals. We simply give them the dates, the  
34 time period in which they can submit proposals and then  
35 they just do what they're going to do.

36

37 I can tell you the reason Jack  
38 submitted this 37 was to mirror changes that are  
39 already in effect under State regulations. That was  
40 the reason why this proposal is such a massive, large-  
41 covering area, because he wanted the Federal  
42 regulations to basically mirror what had already been  
43 passed by the State by the time we're meeting now. So  
44 the State regulation is already in effect. The breath  
45 and scope of this proposal is just simply a reflection  
46 of those realities on the State side.

47

48 So we can't go back to him and say, no,  
49 sorry, you need to break this down by unit. That's  
50 just not something we do.

1 MR. GRAY: Okay. Well said. I guess  
2 I'm sitting here at the table as a subsistence user and  
3 my concerns are subsistence users. I'm not sympathetic  
4 to the State and their issues. So, you know, adding  
5 this Pilgrim area and keeping the west of the Niukluk  
6 as an open-as-need basis thing, adding the extra  
7 section of up in Shishmaref and closing the area around  
8 Ted, I'm all in favor of that. The rest of it, let  
9 them worry about it themselves. I think Federal land  
10 and Federal users are being hampered otherwise.

11  
12 MR. MCKEE: And I can also say there's  
13 a good administrative reason I don't want to divine --  
14 get inside Jack Reakoff's head, but I can also tell you  
15 that another reason for this is to reduce  
16 regulatory complexity. Because you can see the  
17 differences in hunt areas between the Federal and State  
18 side, the differences in seasons, so that's another  
19 reason what that was -- in my way of thinking and after  
20 having a few short discussions with him. It was just  
21 to try to reduce some of this complexity because it's  
22 already -- as you've plainly seen for the last two  
23 hours of discussion, it's already complex as it is.

24  
25 I'm not trying to say that we're going  
26 to just go along with whatever the State wants and  
27 that's not what I'm asking you to do either. I'm just  
28 trying to say that that is some of the reason behind  
29 the proponent's submission of this proposal in such a  
30 huge fashion.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I'm feeling the  
33 pressure of the time here. I'd like to get something  
34 on the record here soon. Let me try this. And I agree  
35 with you, Chris, that reducing regulatory complexity is  
36 a very important thing to do, but I'm not really  
37 willing to take a hit for the team, you know. What  
38 this does is pretty much eliminate our opportunity just  
39 so we're sharing the pain. That's what I feel. I  
40 think the biggest failure here was the Western Arctic  
41 Caribou Working Group. You know, it's so Kotzebue-  
42 centric that they never talk to us. We didn't know  
43 anything about the State regs until it was too late. I  
44 objected to that and to the Board support, the staff  
45 for the State.

46  
47 So I would like to propose an amendment  
48 and maybe you can help me get this right. I would like  
49 to amend 37 to extend the boundary, the caribou hunting  
50 boundary to Trout Creek. Then I'll have another

1 amendment if this one passes.

2

3 MR. GRAY: This is Tom. I make that  
4 amendment. So you need a second.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SMITH: We need a second.

7

8 MR. GARNIE: Second.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SMITH: The motion is made by  
11 Tom, seconded by Joe to extend the boundary to Trout  
12 Creek in the portion of 22 remainder. Is there any  
13 discussion on that. I think we discussed it pretty  
14 thoroughly.

15

16 MR. GRAY: She raised her hand.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Jeanette.

19

20 MS. KOELSCH: Jeanette Koelsch,  
21 National Park Service. Chair, Council. If Proposal 37  
22 does not go through and you have attached portions of  
23 44 -- is it 43 and 45? Then what happens to 43 and 45  
24 if you do not act on them singularly and you group them  
25 in Jack Reakoff's 37 proposal? I'd like OSM to explain  
26 what happens.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SMITH: That's a good point.

29

30 MR. MCKEE: You mean what would happen  
31 to those proposals?

32

33 MS. KOELSCH: If you amend 37 to  
34 include portions of 43 and 45 and 37 does not go  
35 through, what happens to the other two proposals when  
36 you could act singularly? If you agree with those  
37 proposals, why not do that? Why amend somebody else's  
38 proposal is my question. If it's for the sake of  
39 easiness on the Federal government, I mean I'm just  
40 asking that question, or should each proposal be acted  
41 upon singularly. That's my question.

42

43 MR. MCKEE: I wasn't trying to propose  
44 sticking these amendments into one proposal to try to  
45 ease any burden on the Federal government. My only  
46 attempt at that was to try to ease some of the  
47 complexity for this Council. It's hard to say what the  
48 Board will act on.

49

50 My vision of this would be that 37

1 covers such a large area that we may very well end up  
2 having the Board being able to act on one proposal and  
3 then take no action based on the action taken on 37,  
4 but you can make sure that the changes that you would  
5 like to see in these other proposals are included in  
6 there and the Board has to take into consideration  
7 amendments made by the Council.

8

9 I mean they have to -- you know, most  
10 of the time they have to give deference to the  
11 Council's recommendations except for a very limited  
12 number of circumstances. You know, changing a hunt  
13 area boundary certainly wouldn't fall into the realm of  
14 something that the Board would not follow by the  
15 Council unless there's a good conservation or  
16 administrative reason for doing so. I can say that the  
17 Board has deferred to the Council well in excess of 97  
18 or 98 percent of the time.

19

20 So I understand the concerns expressed  
21 here, but I would say that if the Council makes their  
22 adjustments and has good reasons for doing so that  
23 don't violate recognized principles of fish and  
24 wildlife management and those kind of things that the  
25 Board, by regulation, has to take deference from the  
26 Councils.

27

28 So I, myself, wouldn't be too worried  
29 about the changes that you would like to make in these  
30 other proposals somehow not going through. They're not  
31 going to -- I would suspect if 37 ends up being the one  
32 massive proposal that they act on, they don't have a  
33 choice but to act on it. They're not going to not do  
34 anything.

35

36 I mean the one thing that's clear is  
37 that something has to be done regulatorily to address  
38 some of these conservation concerns for these herds.  
39 Whether that includes making changes to Unit 22 I can't  
40 say. I can't divine what the Federal Board may do, but  
41 I can guarantee that they will certainly take --  
42 they're required to defer to the Councils with very few  
43 exceptions and I don't think these changes would be an  
44 example where they would have any choice.

45

46 So I'm not too concerned about this not  
47 -- somehow going away because they don't act on 37.  
48 They're going to act on some of these massive  
49 proposals. They have to.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Jeanette, does that  
2 answer your question adequately? Would you like to do  
3 a follow up on that. Okay.

4  
5 MR. MCKEE: I have no interest in  
6 making things easier for myself. I mean that's not  
7 what I'm here to do. I'm here to try to help this  
8 Council and help the subsistence users. That's my job.  
9

10 MR. RICE: Mr. Chair and Council,  
11 thanks. This is Bud Rice, National Park Service. What  
12 Jeanette and some of us were talking about is we  
13 thought tactically it would make more sense for this  
14 Council to address those proposals that deal with Unit  
15 22 first and then modify a big one. You've already got  
16 37 that you're discussing now, but you could table it  
17 and come back to it. You could address 43 and 45, get  
18 them the way you like it and then try to modify 37 to  
19 meet your needs. That's what I would recommend.  
20

21 MR. MCKEE: Okay. That's an excellent  
22 point. I mean that's certainly something that you can  
23 also do. You might want to do that now and then after  
24 we eat and take a little break from this, come back and  
25 go back over 37 and then based on what you did on those  
26 other ones make any adjustments. So that's a good  
27 point, Bud, thank you.  
28

29 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah, I like that too.  
30 If we incorporate a minor change in a major, massive  
31 regulatory proposal, it could get lost. I think  
32 Jeanette made a very good point there. So I think  
33 that's the direction I'd like to go. I think,  
34 actually, I'm ready to vote on the motion on the table  
35 and I'm going to vote against 37 in its entirety. You  
36 know, myself. I'm not the final say. You guys may  
37 have a different opinion, but I would vote against it  
38 in its entirety.  
39

40 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair. If it's not  
41 inappropriate for me to speak at this point, it's my  
42 understanding that the Board generally supported those  
43 may-be-announced seasons in the Pilgrim River drainage  
44 in Unit 22 remainder and those can only happen through  
45 the adoption of Proposal 37.  
46

47 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I think it would be  
48 fine to amend this if the Council wants to include the  
49 Pilgrim River drainage and this area south of the  
50 Golsovia. What we would need to do is amend 37 to take

1 out the parts we don't need and save the ones that we  
2 do if you guys want to open up caribou hunting in the  
3 Pilgrim River drainage and the area south of Golsovia.

4  
5 MR. OXEREOK: Mr. Chair. To get some  
6 of what we want and not to hurt ourselves, why don't we  
7 just wait another regulatory cycle and make the  
8 proposals of what we really want. It doesn't have to  
9 be in this proposal where we're going to give and take.  
10 If we want to open up hunting in this area, we should  
11 make our own proposal limited to just this area.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Very good.

14  
15 MR. MCKEE: I would very much warn  
16 against doing absolutely nothing because if you don't  
17 do anything, I guarantee you the Board is going to do  
18 something.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, I think we're  
21 going to do something. My recommendation is to vote  
22 down 37 in its entirety because it's not an emergency  
23 situation. I agree with Amos.

24  
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: May I make a  
26 suggestion that was talked about earlier is why don't  
27 we go ahead and table 37 now and then go and take  
28 action on 43 and 45 and then come back to 37 after  
29 you've done that. I think that might work a little  
30 better because then what you want will be done for  
31 those areas and then you can look at 37 in a very  
32 different light after you have what you need.

33  
34 Thank you.

35  
36 MR. MCKEE: I tend to agree. We can  
37 come back after lunch, but let's address the larger  
38 proposal after you had a little bit of time on the  
39 other two.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Then I think we  
42 should recess for lunch. Can we come back at 1:30.

43  
44 MR. GRAY: I have one question.  
45 Something that we haven't talked about is this Pilgrim  
46 area and the green area. How much Federal lands are in  
47 there, if any?

48  
49 MS. WORKER: That is a very good  
50 question and I don't have a good answer for you right

1 off the bat.

2

3 MR. GRAY: Can you come back after  
4 lunch with it?

5

6 MS. WORKER: Well, I won't be able to  
7 have percentages for you, but I will take a look at the  
8 unit map.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Personally, Tom, I  
11 don't think that's particularly important, just like  
12 with the bear proposal. We're making a point and  
13 eventually we want the State and Federal regs to align,  
14 but not this way. Not the way that they're doing it  
15 with 37. I think the best tactic myself is what Karen  
16 suggested, is to deal with those other proposals and  
17 see if we can get what we want out of those and then  
18 just vote down 37.

19

20 MR. MCKEE: I would only suggest that  
21 you maybe table 37 for now, but still act on these  
22 other two proposals before you break for lunch. I mean  
23 I know we all are tired.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Can you walk us  
26 through 43 and 45, how this will work for us. First we  
27 need to table the motion.

28

29 MR. GRAY: So I make a motion that we  
30 table Proposal 37.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SMITH: We don't need a second  
33 to table, do we. No. That's it. It's tabled. Can  
34 the staff give us a briefing on 43 and 45.

35

36 MS. WORKER: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
37 I'm happy to review those. Proposal 43 is requesting a  
38 closure in the southern portion of Unit 22A south of  
39 the Unalakleet River and in the Upper Andreafsky  
40 drainages in Unit 18. A closure request of that nature  
41 is not allowed by the Federal Subsistence Board's  
42 closure policy, so OSM cannot support that. I think  
43 the Board's hands are tied on that one.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SMITH: That was 43 or 45?

46

47 MS. WORKER: That was 43.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SMITH: 43. Let's go on to 45  
50 and see if that will do what we want.

1 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To  
2 recap, Proposal 16-45 simply requests a westward shift  
3 of the caribou hunt area boundary in Unit 22E from the  
4 Sanaguich River drainage to the Tin Creek drainage. As  
5 we heard, the Native Village of Shishmaref provided a  
6 written comment proposing that the Trout Creek drainage  
7 would be perhaps even a more appropriate boundary.  
8 There would be no changes to seasons or harvest limits  
9 under that proposal.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Ted, do you understand  
12 -- let's go with 43 first. Do you understand how that  
13 will affect this area down here?

14

15 MR. KATCHEAK: Explain that to me  
16 again.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Maybe Suzanne can.

19

20 MS. WORKER: Mr. Katcheak. The  
21 proposal to close that portion of land down there near  
22 your reindeer herd administratively isn't possible, but  
23 it is possible to, instead of creating a closure of  
24 Federal lands, to create a may-be-announced season and  
25 that can happen under Proposal 37.

26

27 MR. GRAY: It can't be incorporated  
28 into 43?

29

30 MS. WORKER: I don't think we can move  
31 forward that way. I think that a better approach is to  
32 selectively support parts of 37, the parts that you  
33 think will be good for you, to voice your opposition to  
34 the parts that you do not think will be good for you  
35 and to support 37 with modification.

36

37 MR. MCKEE: 37 is going to give you  
38 some of what you were asking for in 43, but 43 is not  
39 going to pass. I can guarantee you that.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Let me ask you this,  
42 Ted. How important is it to get this closure? Do you  
43 think that's something we really need?

44

45 MR. KATCHEAK: So I'd like to express  
46 my feelings about that. If changes are made, drastic,  
47 I might as well give up reindeer herding and just do  
48 subsistence hunting. That would mean the reindeer herd  
49 would be lost in Stebbins and St. Michael so our  
50 opportunity for doing reindeer husbandry in the area

1 would  
2 be no longer possible. I've been at this for over 60  
3 years of my life. It took us a while to understand  
4 what our situation is, us versus State of Alaska  
5 hunting regulation. So it's defeating -- if there's  
6 any changes or opposition to our proposal, I will just  
7 say I'd give up. I'm not herding no more. My village  
8 is no more reindeer herding. We'll just depend on  
9 caribou. So that's how I feel.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I've got to say I'm  
12 not sure how -- I understand how 16-37 is going to  
13 affect that portion of the Golsovia. It seems like I  
14 thought that there was going to be a closure on.....

15  
16 MS. WORKER: Currently the portion of  
17 Unit 22A south of the Golsovia is included in the hunt  
18 area that's in red, which is half or more of the Seward  
19 Peninsula. Under Proposal 37, that portion will be  
20 added to Unit 22 remainder. So that's how that can  
21 work in your favor.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, then that might  
24 be something we want to retain from 37. Do you think  
25 it's a good idea to also extend the boundary in 22E in  
26 37 by amendment?

27  
28 MS. WORKER: So based on Jeanette's  
29 comment and Bud Rice's comment I think that it might be  
30 more appropriate to address that in 45, just support  
31 that proposal if you're in support of it. The Board  
32 may configure things a little bit different in their  
33 decisions, but I think it will be important for you to  
34 get your decision about 45 and about that boundary  
35 change very clearly on the record. It can't hurt to do  
36 it independent of all these other moving parts.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. I like that  
39 suggestion. I was just wondering if we want to do it  
40 in both 37 and 45. Maybe that's no good though.

41  
42 MS. WORKER: Doing it in 45 should be  
43 sufficient.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SMITH: So we need to amend 37  
46 then.....

47  
48 MR. MCKEE: You've already tabled 37,  
49 so let's act on 45.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: 45, okay. Do we have  
2 a motion to adopt WP16-45.

3

4 MR. GRAY: I make that motion.

5

6 MR. OXEREOK: Second.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Motion by Tom,  
9 seconded by Amos. Let's have discussion on 45. We've  
10 already heard from Ted. Do you want to restate your  
11 position for the record.

12

13 MR. KATCHEAK: I get kind of emotional  
14 when we go to proceedings like this. It's because we  
15 worked on it and we didn't bring the reindeer to our  
16 area. Dr. Sheldon Jackson did. To deal with a thing  
17 like this that would be detrimental to some people that  
18 subsist, it's very hard to try to make a good sense of  
19 it because one side says, yeah, you can do it, the  
20 other side say no. One side says it's good for you and  
21 the other say it's not good for you. So if you're a  
22 reindeer herder, it would probably be more sense to you  
23 about what you got in your land and that's where I'm  
24 coming from.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I'm confused, Ted. 45  
27 is the 22E proposal, so we're talking about moving the  
28 boundary west in 22E in 45, is that correct.

29

30 MR. KATCHEAK: I would please ask my  
31 colleagues to make that decision. I think I would be  
32 out of line to do it.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Does somebody want to  
37 amend this proposal to extend the boundary further  
38 west.

39

40 MR. GRAY: I'll make that motion to  
41 amend to go to Trout Creek.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Is there a second.

44

45 MR. OXEREOK: Second.

46

47 MR. GARNIE: Second.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Motion by Tom,  
50 seconded by Amos to amend Proposal 45 to extend the

1 boundary to Trout Creek. Is there any discussion on  
2 that motion.  
3  
4 MR. OXEREOK: We've already gone  
5 through the comments, right, on all these proposals  
6 earlier today?  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Correct.  
9  
10 MR. OXEREOK: Okay. So we don't need  
11 any public comment on this. Okay.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN SMITH: As a group. So I  
14 think we're probably ready to vote on this.  
15  
16 MR. OXEREOK: Call for the question.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All in favor say aye.  
19  
20 IN UNISON: Aye.  
21  
22 MR. ENINGOWUK: Aye.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All opposed same sign.  
25  
26 (No opposing votes)  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN SMITH: The motion passes  
29 unanimously. Thanks, Fred. Go to 43.  
30  
31 MR. GRAY: Hold on. We just voted on  
32 the amendment.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Oh, yes. Okay. So  
35 we're voting on the main motion then as amended.  
36  
37 MR. GRAY: Question.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All those in favor say  
40 aye.  
41  
42 IN UNISON: Aye.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All opposed same sign.  
45  
46 MR. OXEREOK: Fred.  
47  
48 MR. GRAY: Tim must be hungry.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Fred, do you want to

1 vote in favor of the proposal as amended.

2

3

MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes.

4

5

CHAIRMAN SMITH: The motion passes  
6 unanimously. Let's move to 43. I was confused last  
7 time. 43 would be the area south of Golsovia that's on  
8 Page 27. Do we want to amend this proposal.

9

10 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair. I might just  
11 remind you that the Federal Subsistence Board is not  
12 going to be able to act on this proposal. So I'm not  
13 sure if it's best to take no action or to -- and then  
14 incorporate your desires in Proposal 37, an amendment.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Jeanette, would you  
17 like to comment.

18

19

MS. KOELSCH: Jeanette Koelsch,  
20 National Park Service. Chair and Council. If you can  
21 amend 43 to remove the closure language and add the  
22 language about a season to be announced by emergency  
23 order similarly to Proposal 37, you can do that I'm  
24 pretty sure. That way you have the emergency and it  
25 also could take care of the remainder, which is the  
26 section that you talked about in the Pilgrim River.  
27 Does that make sense? And I think you can do that.

28

29 MR. GRAY: I guess, again, you're  
30 talking about hit two birds with one stone and yet we  
31 still have the west of the Niukluk River to address.  
32 If we're going to be addressing things and changing  
33 them, you know, I want to make sure we cover everything  
34 and not just tidbits here and there. So we need to be  
35 square on what we're doing here and I'm confused at  
36 this point.

37

38 MS. KOELSCH: It would include the  
39 remainder. Remember in 22 the remainder is those two  
40 sections that you're talking about, but it doesn't  
41 include the larger area proposed within 43, I think,  
42 right. So I'm just giving a suggestion that you can  
43 amend your own proposal to fit your own needs and you  
44 don't have to do it in 37, if that's okay.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I like that. I think  
47 that would do exactly what we want. I think it's a  
48 good way to go myself.

49

50 MS. WORKER: If I might clarify though,

1 Mr. Chair. The area west of Golovin Bay and the  
2 Niukluk River is not part of 22 remainder. It's its  
3 own hunt area. The Pilgrim River drainage, Jeanette is  
4 correct, it is currently included in 22 remainder.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Though I think that  
7 for the southern portion south of the Golsovia or south  
8 of Unalakleet River 43 does do what we're trying to do.  
9 We just need to change the reason for it, don't we, the  
10 justification for it. We can't do it to protect  
11 reindeer, but we could do it for other reasons.

12  
13 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair. It's my  
14 understanding that the rub is that we can't request a  
15 closure to protect reindeer. Now whether or not we can  
16 request that there be no open season, that is  
17 allowable. It's a technicality, but it's one that will  
18 be important in the way that this works out in the end.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SMITH: The language here  
21 seems to allow an opening by the in-season manager and  
22 it seems to do everything we need to do. It seems to  
23 me the only problem is in the general  
24 description where we say to prevent the incidental  
25 harvest of reindeer. If we just deleted that, it seems  
26 like we would have what we want.

27  
28 MS. WORKER: A closure is much  
29 different than having no season. So that's the  
30 important distinction. Is that correct, Chris?

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Can we amend it enough  
33 so that we don't have a closure? We just save the part  
34 that it can be open by in-season manager. Would that  
35 do it?

36  
37 MR. MCKEE: My concern is that there is  
38 such a -- as Suzanne has already mentioned, there is a  
39 fairly substantial difference between a closure and no  
40 open season and that is not something that's been  
41 analyzed by OSM. It's a big enough change in the  
42 original proposal that it's just too much of a change.  
43 It would be a whole other analysis.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SMITH: What are the wishes of  
46 the Council then. Yes, Karen.

47  
48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, Council  
49 members. I just got the report from the Yukon Delta  
50 Regional Advisory Council meeting on WP16-43. Just for

1 your information they took no action and their  
2 justification was the Council determined this proposal  
3 was outside the authority of the Subsistence Board and  
4 took no action.

5  
6 Thank you.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SMITH: And that's what we're  
9 hearing. So in order to adopt it, we'd need to amend  
10 it somewhat. If we want to salvage it by amendment, we  
11 can do that. Otherwise we can just try to deal with it  
12 in 37.

13  
14 MR. MCKEE: Yeah, I would also say 37,  
15 like Suzanne has already mentioned, does give you some  
16 of what you were asking for in 43. Certainly not all  
17 of it, but some of it. So it's better in my mind to  
18 get some of what you want rather than none of what you  
19 want.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SMITH: We've got a motion on  
22 the table to adopt.

23  
24 MR. MCKEE: I don't think you've made a  
25 motion to adopt yet.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SMITH: We need a motion to  
28 adopt.

29  
30 MR. GRAY: So moved

31  
32 MR. OXEREOK: Second.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Moved by Tom, seconded  
35 by Amos. Is there any additional discussion. We need  
36 to develop some discussion on this. We need to develop  
37 a record on this. I can start out. We're hearing that  
38 the Federal Subsistence Board can't adopt a closure.  
39 We do want provisional managers to be able to open and  
40 close the season, so I think we probably should vote  
41 against our own proposal and vote it down. I think  
42 I'll vote against it and try to make something useable  
43 in 37.

44  
45 MR. OXEREOK: The way we developed this  
46 proposal pretty much ensured that it wasn't going to be  
47 approved by OSM, so I think we have to oppose it.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Further discussion.  
50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Call for the question.  
4  
5  
6 MR. GRAY: Question.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN SMITH: If we vote in favor,  
9 we retain the proposal. If we vote no, then the  
10 proposal is off the table and we'll deal with it in 37.  
11 So all those in favor say aye.  
12  
13 (No aye votes)  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All those opposed same  
16 sign.  
17  
18 IN UNISON: Aye.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Did Fred weigh in.  
21  
22 MR. ENINGOWUK: I am the last vote.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All right. We voted  
25 against our own proposal unanimously. So let's take a  
26 break and come back at 2:00 and we'll deal with 37.  
27  
28 (Off record)  
29  
30 (On record)  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Could we come back to  
33 the table and resume. I need a motion to return WP16-  
34 37 to the table.  
35  
36 MR. GRAY: So moved.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I don't think we need  
39 a second on that. So we're back on the record on WP16-  
40 37. I have a plan, and if you look at your map, I  
41 don't think we need to do anything about 22E because  
42 it's got the season dates that we like and we've  
43 already moved the boundary. So I think the two  
44 important ones are the Pilgrim River drainage and this  
45 green one, west of Council and White Mountain. Then we  
46 might want to change season dates and the sex of the  
47 legally harvested animals in this south of the Golsovia  
48 River proposal. The two main ones are -- we could  
49 probably live with what's on the books there. The two  
50 main ones are going to be this green area and the green

1 with the blue slashes.

2

3 To address that -- have we done all the  
4 agency comments and public testimony and everything we  
5 need to do?

6

7 MR. MCKEE: Yes, Mr. Chair. We went  
8 through that when we kind of went through these  
9 proposals as a whole.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SMITH: So if you guys want to  
12 chime in any time just feel free to jump in because  
13 this is so complicated we're going to need help with  
14 it. What have we amended on 37 so far, Karen,  
15 anything?

16

17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. You had  
18 amended it originally and then taken it off the table  
19 and then it was just moved to adopt 37 as is and it was  
20 seconded by Amos, which led to the discussion. And  
21 then you, Tim, would like to amend the motion to  
22 include the area west of Shishmaref, but wanted to hear  
23 more about why we would open up the area to the south.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I've changed my mind on  
26 that since we adopted 45. Go ahead, Tom.

27

28 MR. GRAY: I guess I have a question  
29 for somebody. Is there any reason why we can't have  
30 this extension in both of these proposals? In case one  
31 gets shot down, it's going to come up again and be  
32 reviewed by folks a second time.

33

34 MR. MCKEE: Well, you're referring to  
35 what you did in 45? Yeah, well, you're already on the  
36 record as passing that proposal. OSM could very well  
37 incorporate that extension into 37, but you would still  
38 have 45 there as it was. So if for whatever reason 37  
39 got shot down, at least that portion of it, they would  
40 still be able to act on 45.

41

42 MR. GRAY: So OSM is going to go ahead  
43 and incorporate that action into 37 irregardless.

44

45 MR. MCKEE: Well, I can't say for sure  
46 yet. 37 is something that because -- like I said  
47 before, because it falls under so many different  
48 regions we're going to have to come back and see what  
49 all the Councils did before we kind of decide what kind  
50 of large-scale changes we're going to be making to 37,

1 so I can't answer that question at this point.

2

3 MR. GRAY: Did we get a question on the  
4 land status or an answer on the land status?

5

6 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Tom. Through  
7 the Chair. I just took a look at the unit map and it  
8 looks to me based on the map that you all have as well  
9 if you have the handy-dandy. It's on Page 100. It  
10 looks to me like there is very little Federal land in  
11 the Pilgrim River drainage and in the hunt area that's  
12 west of Golovin Bay, the Niukluk/Fish/Libby Rivers  
13 area.

14

15 MR. MCKEE: It's mostly just a  
16 smattering of BLM land if I'm not mistaken.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Tom, I don't think  
19 that's important. I think it's important to make a  
20 statement and then hope the State will see it our way  
21 sometime in the future.

22

23 MR. GRAY: I guess, Tim, I'm trying to  
24 figure out how to get through this process. A  
25 suggestion maybe is to make a motion or an amendment to  
26 this thing that addresses the Shishmaref area, these  
27 two areas on the Seward Peninsula and the one down by  
28 Ted. Even though this 45 addresses the Shishmaref area,  
29 we kind of tell everybody, hey, this is what we want.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Let's hear from Karen  
32 on that.

33

34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Just a clarification,  
35 Mr. Chair. Tom, you did amend 37 to extend the  
36 boundary to Trout Creek and it was seconded by Joe  
37 Garnie, so that is on the tape.

38

39 MR. GRAY: I amended it, but it wasn't  
40 voted on. So if it's going to stay in there, we need  
41 to vote on it.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SMITH: We need to change the  
44 dates too. So we need to amend the amendment to change  
45 the date if you want to do that. I think the dates in  
46 37 -- 37 will be different than the status quo we have  
47 now?

48

49 MS. WORKER: Yes, Mr. Chair. For the  
50 most part that is true if 37 passes as recommended by

1 OSM.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: So we need to amend  
4 the amendment to change the dates if that's what the  
5 Council wishes.

6

7 MR. GRAY: My issue with the dates is I  
8 would like to see whatever we got on Federal lands  
9 today left alone.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay, this is kind of  
12 a belt-and-suspenders move. We could do it or not do  
13 it. I think what Chris says is probably okay, but  
14 let's just do it quickly and move on to the next two  
15 areas. Can we amend the amendment that's on -- was it  
16 your amendment?

17

18 MR. GRAY: Yeah.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. So you and the  
21 second can probably amend it.....

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Joe Garnie was the  
24 second.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. If you guys  
27 agree, we can do it as a friendly amendment. We don't  
28 even have to vote on anything. Do you want to add the  
29 dates.

30

31 MR. GRAY: Yeah, well, I definitely  
32 want to leave the dates alone and not take in their new  
33 dates into this whole thing. And also the -- it seems  
34 to me they've added and changed animals you can shoot  
35 and can't shoot and whatever we have in the Federal  
36 regulations, let's leave that alone.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SMITH: My suggestion would be  
39 to do what it says in 45 and that is July 1 -- July  
40 31.....

41

42 MR. MCKEE: July 1 to June 30, I  
43 believe. It's year round.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SMITH: It would be a year  
46 round season either sex. That would be my suggestion is  
47 just make it the same as what we just did in 45.  
48 Actually, I think we can probably just ignore it and go  
49 on to the next.

50

1 MR. GRAY: You want me -- I'll be happy  
2 to amend it.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Go ahead then.

5  
6 MR. GRAY: So I make that amendment for  
7 shooting animals July 1st to June 30th and that goes  
8 for all animals.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SMITH: It would be just  
11 caribou and no reference to sex and year round.

12  
13 MR. MCKEE: In what area are you  
14 speaking of just for my clarification.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SMITH: This will be the 22E  
17 extension area.

18  
19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. To Trout  
20 Creek. Thank you.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SMITH: And to Trout Creek.  
23 Do you agree, Joe?

24  
25 MR. GARNIE: Yes.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SMITH: With that motion on  
28 the table, do we need any further discussion. We  
29 probably do to make a record. The reason we're doing  
30 this is we don't think there's a conservation  
31 concern because the harvest will not significantly  
32 affect conservation of caribou. It will be  
33 unmeasurable. It's supported by substantial biological  
34 evidence. Just based on survey information alone,  
35 there's never been enough Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
36 in that area to make any difference. If you killed all  
37 of them, you still wouldn't affect the health of the  
38 Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

39  
40 Will the recommendation be beneficial  
41 or detrimental to subsistence needs and users. It will  
42 be beneficial to the subsistence users because it will  
43 give them more opportunity. They'll be able to take  
44 advantage of caribou migration patterns.

45  
46 Will it unnecessarily restrict other  
47 uses. It won't because, as I said previously, it won't  
48 have any effect on the status of the herd itself. It  
49 will be a small number of animals. Those are my  
50 justifications.

1 Is there any further discussion.  
2  
3 (No comments)  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I'll call for the  
6 question then.  
7  
8 MR. SEETOT: Elmer with SPRC. Is the  
9 proposal rated for next year or is that for the next  
10 regulatory year what we're working on?  
11  
12 MR. MCKEE: Yes.  
13  
14 MR. SEETOT: We shouldn't really worry  
15 about the dates so much because this year has been very  
16 different in the way the weather has been. Up in  
17 Brevig or that area we do not have snow right now on  
18 the ground. Some water has frozen due to temperatures.  
19 It's supposed to be an El Nino year. So what we're  
20 seeing right now in the present might not be there. I  
21 mean it's not the same every year. But at least they  
22 got -- I think the harvest dates are good right now  
23 with the amendment because it pretty much goes without  
24 saying, oh, this is a closed season, you've got to wait  
25 for it to open. Like many people up in that area, I  
26 guess with the price of gas and with weather being a  
27 problem, many hunters are opportunistic. Not only that  
28 but they hunt animals in season, not when they're not  
29 edible or stuff like that.  
30  
31 Thank you.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN SMITH: One more thing we've  
34 got to do is extend the boundary to Trout Creek.  
35  
36 MR. OXEREOK: I thought we did that.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay.  
39  
40 MR. GRAY: That was part of the motion.  
41 We've got an amendment and a motion -- or two  
42 amendments.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Let's vote then. All  
45 those in favor of the amendment say aye.  
46  
47 IN UNISON: Aye.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Is Fred on the phone.  
50

1 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes, I'm here.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: So the amendment  
4 passed unanimously. Now we need an amendment covering  
5 the Pilgrim River drainage. I don't know where to go  
6 on that, so I'll leave it up to you guys.  
7  
8 MR. GRAY: Well, I make a motion that  
9 -- I make an amendment that these two areas, the area  
10 west of the Niukluk River and the  
11 Pilgrim area that is proposed to be created both are on  
12 an as-needed basis when the caribou are in that area  
13 and the staff will open that as needed.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Is there a second on  
16 that amendment.  
17  
18 MR. OXEREOK: I'll second.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Moved by Tom, seconded  
21 by Amos. Discussion.  
22  
23 MR. GARNIE: Yes, Mr. Chair. So with  
24 this amendment who makes the call if caribou are  
25 present in the Pilgrim drainage? If hunters see this,  
26 do we call it in and ask for a season and it gets open  
27 or does this committee have to put in a proposal? By  
28 then the caribou are long gone.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I guess Chris or  
31 Suzanne can answer that.  
32  
33 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Garnie. So  
34 in this situation the authority to open that season  
35 would be delegated to the BLM Anchorage Field Office  
36 but I don't really have enough experience to tell you  
37 how that process will work, so it looks like Tom Gray  
38 maybe has some insight into that.  
39  
40 MR. GRAY: The agreement that the  
41 reindeer industry had with folks was Joe Garnie saw 10  
42 caribou out on the range. Joe would call whoever, Fish  
43 and Game, call somebody and say, hey, there's animals  
44 here, I want to go kill them. I'm sure that Fish and  
45 Game would call the reindeer industry. Our stand is if  
46 there's caribou there, we want them killed. We want  
47 people chasing them, so we're not going to stop that.  
48 It will be an automatic thing. I think if you call up  
49 one day within a day or two, that place is going to be  
50 open. I really think that.

1                   What we had in the past, and this is a  
2 deal we had with the State, there was nothing open  
3 until like the 15th of October. After the 15th it  
4 automatically opened. Before the 15th they could open  
5 it if they needed to and we never had to exercise that  
6 right because the caribou never showed up. I don't see  
7 the reindeer industry stopping an opening. They're  
8 going to be supportive of it.

9

10                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: We don't have to go  
11 that route. I mean that's just one way to go. Do you  
12 want to follow up on that.

13

14                   MR. KATCHEAK: Thank you. I'll make my  
15 decision when we get to 45.

16

17                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: My feeling on this is  
18 that -- I've got really mixed feeling on it. I think  
19 it's going to have an impact on both the Davis Herd and  
20 Kakaruk Herd, but there doesn't seem to be a lot of  
21 support for continuing to manage reindeer and I tell  
22 you that makes me very sad. The reindeer are a really  
23 good animal for Alaska. They started out here and it's  
24 a shame that we're just writing them off, but maybe  
25 that's all we can do.

26

27                   MR. GRAY: You know, as far as the  
28 reindeer industry, I'm the president of the reindeer  
29 industry. I don't think Davis or Kakaruk or anybody  
30 that's involved in this industry wants to see the  
31 industry fail, but, you know, again, we also don't want  
32 people out there shooting reindeer at certain times of  
33 year when there is no caribou there and that's the  
34 reason we're discussing this, is how are we going to  
35 protect the reindeer industry.

36

37                   I mean the State snuck in and changed  
38 this green area. We had no idea this was coming. On  
39 State lands, it's open from what I'm seeing here. On  
40 Federal lands, I would like to see us be a little bit  
41 more reserved. Again, the reindeer industry, our  
42 attitude is if there's caribou, go kill them. We want  
43 them dead. Irregardless, people are going to get them  
44 anyway.

45

46                   Sitting at this table I need to keep  
47 coming back to I have to represent the Federal  
48 subsistence users. Granted, I sit on a lot of boards  
49 and I make a lot of decisions in different arenas, but  
50 this one here I've got to think I'm a subsistence user,

1 a Federal user, what's best for my clientele.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Any further  
4 discussion.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I guess we're ready to  
9 vote on the amendment. Can you tell us what we're  
10 voting on, Karen.

11

12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Tom Gray  
13 amended Proposal 37 to west of the Niukluk River and  
14 the Pilgrim area that's going to be created will be  
15 opened on a to-be-announced basis.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Oh, we're doing both  
18 of them because I'd prefer to do them one at a time if  
19 we could.

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: So you want to  
22 separate the Niukluk River and the Pilgrim area to two  
23 different amendments or do you want to keep them in the  
24 same. He spoke them.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay, okay.

27

28 MS. DEATHERAGE: That's the amendment  
29 on the table. Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All in favor of the  
32 amendment say aye.

33

34 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. Before we  
35 vote I want to make clear this is only 37 or both 37  
36 and 45.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Only 37.

39

40 MR. KATCHEAK: Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SMITH: So we're ready to vote  
43 on the amendment, which would cover both the green area  
44 and the blue/yellow area. All in favor say aye.

45

46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Did Fred vote?

49

50 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes. Fred said aye.

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All opposed same sign.

2

3 (No opposing votes)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SMITH: The amendment passes  
6 unanimously. Now we'll move down to the area south of  
7 St. Michael. I think the only thing we need to look at  
8 are the dates and the sexes of the legally harvested  
9 animals.

10

11 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair. Currently that  
12 area is not included in Unit 22 remainder, which means  
13 there is harvest allowed. So the Council needs to  
14 decide whether or not they want that area to be defined  
15 as a separate hunt area from the rest of the area  
16 that's marked in red on your map. Currently it's part  
17 of the red area.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SMITH: So that's something  
20 that we have to do in addition if we want to add it to  
21 22E?

22

23 MS. WORKER: If you want that area to  
24 be a may-be-announced season, then it needs to be  
25 either defined as a new hunt area or included in Unit  
26 22 remainder, which is what 37 proposes.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Speaking for myself, I  
29 think that's a good -- leaving it in what 37 says is  
30 the right way to go.

31

32 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair, Ted. As I'm  
33 looking back on my experience with caribou coming down  
34 south of Unalakleet, we had  
35 caribou coming down around October and November.  
36 That's when we hear Unalakleet people are hunting  
37 caribou, so November and October. And then later on in  
38 February -- or rather March and April, late March and  
39 April, that's when the caribou started going north from  
40 Golsovia. I'm sorry, that word is Golsovia. In this  
41 case the G is silent and the rest you have to imagine  
42 what it means. Anyway, we should take those into  
43 consideration, those months that caribou started coming  
44 down from Koyuk and Shaktoolik area.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Looking at the  
47 proposal, the part that's going to be problematic, I  
48 think, is no cows from April 1 to  
49 August 31 because I know that's what the hunters are  
50 going to be seeking at that time, a pregnant cow in

1 April. There probably won't be -- I'm sure there won't  
2 be any hunting in that area. There probably won't be  
3 hunting after April, so it's probably not very  
4 important. Even when the Western Arctic Herd came that  
5 far south they didn't stay until April. So there's  
6 going to be no opportunity to kill cows during that  
7 timeframe, so it's not a big deal. We probably don't  
8 have to worry about it.

9

10 Is the bull season okay. It would be  
11 October 15th through January 31 would be closed.  
12 That's when the caribou are going to be there. So  
13 nobody is going to really get a chance to hunt.  
14 There's no opportunity for hunting there because of the  
15 migratory patterns.

16

17 MR. GRAY: You know, I think that we  
18 need to make sure that -- and part of that remainder --  
19 the remainder is the pink, is that true?

20

21 CHAIRMAN SMITH: No.

22

23 MS. WORKER: Mr. Gray. The remainder  
24 is the blue.

25

26 MR. GRAY: Red or whatever. It goes  
27 all the way up to Shishmaref. That's the remainder?

28

29 MS. WORKER: The remainder is blue.

30

31 MR. GRAY: Oh, I'm sorry.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SMITH: The simplest way to do  
34 this I think would be to include this area in 22  
35 remainder, as Suzanne suggested, and then just  
36 eliminate the reference to no bulls, no cows, no cows  
37 with calves and just keep it five caribou a day. That  
38 would be the simplest way to do what we're trying to  
39 do. And then if the caribou are there, hunters have an  
40 opportunity to take them and it won't be enough animals  
41 to worry about I don't think.

42

43 MR. MCKEE: Am I hearing also correctly  
44 that you wanted to remove those season dates as well  
45 or.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah. Remove all  
48 those lines. Under a may-be-announced season, remove  
49 all four of those lines and then  
50 it may be announced five caribou per day. So all we

1 would need to do then is include this area in 22  
2 remainder and eliminate those four lines and I think we  
3 accomplish what we're trying to  
4 accomplish. And we didn't do that with the other three  
5 areas, so we need to revisit that. I wonder if we  
6 couldn't just put all this into one motion.

7  
8 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair. So what I've  
9 been hearing is -- this is my understanding of  
10 everything that you just said and the last two motions.  
11 Unit 22 remainder, which is blue, the Pilgrim River  
12 drainage, and the area west of Niukluk would all be  
13 open on a may-be-announced basis only with no season  
14 restrictions. No?

15  
16 MR. GRAY: That wasn't the intent of my  
17 motion. My motion to to be announced would be the  
18 Pilgrim River area and the Niukluk area, not the  
19 remainder. The remainder, I'm not going to open that  
20 can of worms.

21  
22 MS. WORKER: Okay. Thank you for that  
23 correction. That's what I heard Tim say. So the first  
24 two, the Pilgrim River and west of the Niukluk were the  
25 first two motions and then adding what Tim was saying  
26 about remainder how I understood it.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah, I'd like to  
29 clarify what I said. I think the simplest way to do  
30 this would be to include all these areas in the blue,  
31 22 remainder. I didn't think of it earlier, but the  
32 Pilgrim River, the area east of Solomon and the  
33 southern area if it's all included in the remainder.  
34 Remove all reference to sex and age and season date and  
35 then to be announced because otherwise there's really  
36 no opportunity in any of those areas.

37  
38 You're just never going to have very  
39 many bulls in there prior to October 1 and you're not  
40 going to be able to shoot cows because they won't be  
41 there either, cows or calves. If we don't change that  
42 part, it's not going to provide any opportunity.  
43 That's what I think anyway. If we include all those  
44 areas in 22 remainder and they open by announcement,  
45 that should cover all the bases and it gives maximum  
46 flexibility to the managers.

47  
48 MR. GRAY: I guess my feeling is I'm  
49 not so much worried about you can't shoot a calf, you  
50 can't shoot a cow. I think that the regulations should

1 say you can shoot five animals a day, amen, it's over  
2 with. You know, the managers I'm sure have other  
3 loopholes. If they see problems out there, they can  
4 say you can only shoot one animal a day, blah, blah,  
5 blah.

6  
7 You know, for the record, I think any  
8 Federal lands should not have ties to them hamstringing  
9 Federal people to what the State is doing right now. I  
10 don't like what the State's done. And they slipped  
11 this in under everybody's noses. Nobody knew what  
12 happened.

13  
14 So, again, my feeling on what you can  
15 shoot should be left alone in the regulation. I mean  
16 we've got it so it goes from July to June and you can  
17 shoot anything. My feeling is that ought to be left  
18 alone. We shouldn't be -- you know, if we adopt this  
19 October 1st to October 14th, you're selling something  
20 that there's no animals here anyway. So it's kind of a  
21 false illusion so to speak.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah. It's like  
24 having a year round passenger pigeon season.

25  
26 (Laughter)

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SMITH: But now we've got a  
29 Robert's Rule of Order problem. We need to undo what  
30 we've already done and just have one motion, I think,  
31 for the whole bunch. Do we need to do that? No?

32  
33 MR. GRAY: I think we're okay.

34  
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. We're  
36 okay. The amendment made that I see is the west of the  
37 Niukluk River and the Pilgrim area being created is  
38 open on a to-be-announced basis and you left the other  
39 lines there, so it would be either sex and no season  
40 and five caribou.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I think we need to  
43 include these three southern areas in the 22 remainder.  
44 It would make it simpler and then they could all be  
45 managed as a unit. I think we do need to add that. We  
46 need to undo what we did in 22E and make an amendment  
47 that would include all those areas in 22 remainder.

48  
49 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair, if I may. I  
50 think that it's okay if you like the two amendments

1 that you just made. You can simply make a third  
2 amendment. If we need to clean up the regulatory  
3 language, that can happen later, but the intent of the  
4 regulation will not change. I think that will be  
5 simpler than going backwards at this point.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Maybe I didn't  
8 understand, but I think we still want to include these  
9 southern three areas in 22 remainder, don't we. Not  
10 necessary?

11  
12 MS. WORKER: I think where we're at is  
13 the Council needs to decide which areas they want to  
14 include in Unit 22 remainder and what seasons and  
15 harvest limits they want in Unit 22 remainder. If it  
16 happens that those seasons limits line up with the  
17 other things, the other hunt areas that we've already  
18 decided on, that's neither here nor there.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. So we voted on  
21 Pilgrim and east of Solomon. No, okay. Is there any  
22 further discussion on that amendment.

23  
24 MR. GRAY: I'm looking up 22 remainder  
25 to see if there's seasons. Bear with me.

26  
27 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair. Currently in  
28 Unit 22 remainder there is no open season.

29  
30 MR. GRAY: Okay. So if we added these  
31 three areas or four areas to 22 remainder with the  
32 stipulation that it could be opened on a need basis,  
33 we're going to be okay.

34  
35 MS. WORKER: That is correct. Proposal  
36 37 proposes opening Unit 22 remainder on a  
37 may-be-announced basis only, although it does impose  
38 restrictions, bull and cow restrictions. So you'll  
39 need to make your desires clear.

40  
41 MR. GRAY: Okay.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Tom, I think we  
44 decided we don't need to add those to 22 remainder. We  
45 can just do them independently.

46  
47 MR. GRAY: Okay. Well, I'm going to be  
48 looking for a blanket coverage for 22 to get rid of  
49 this bull and this other stuff too for the whole unit  
50 and it applies to all the whatevers.

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Oh, that's going to  
2 take -- let's see, that's going to take another  
3 amendment too, isn't it?

4  
5 MR. GRAY: Yes.

6  
7 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. I have a  
8 question. It's Ted. Does that mean remainder of Unit  
9 22A would be open for if there's a caribou present?

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Ted, that's what we're  
12 proposing to do is to make that open by announcement.

13  
14 MR. KATCHEAK: And one other thing.  
15 Like I said earlier, consideration is we need to take  
16 note of this from October to April. That's when  
17 caribou was present when the caribou herd was larger or  
18 bigger, but since we don't see the caribou herd  
19 expanding more or again, those times we usually  
20 observe, at least the people of Unalakleet do, what did  
21 they see at that time in October, how many caribous are  
22 in that area. We know that eventually they're going to  
23 come down towards Golsovia. So October to April, yeah,  
24 should be open for hunting.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SMITH: If I'm not totally  
27 lost, we need an amendment to south of Golsovia River  
28 to eliminate the reference to season dates and sexes.  
29 Am I wrong? I looks like I am.

30  
31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. There  
32 still is an amendment on the floor, so we might want to  
33 clean that up before you do another amendment. Right  
34 now it's awaiting a vote from the Council and this is  
35 the one to amend west of the Niukluk River and the  
36 Pilgrim area being created to be open on a  
37 may-be-announced basis, no season or sex limits, five  
38 caribou per day.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Let's just do a  
41 friendly amendment and add  
42 the south of Golsovia River if that's okay with the  
43 proponent and the second if we can do that.

44  
45 MS. WORKER: I thought you already  
46 voted on the Pilgrim drainage and west of the Niukluk.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SMITH: That's what I thought  
49 too.

50

1 MR. GRAY: I don't think we voted on  
2 it. We've been in discussion. Again, I'm ready to  
3 make an amendment that says any areas open to caribou  
4 hunting in Unit 22 will have -- will be open July 1st  
5 to June 30th and you can shoot any animals. That  
6 covers any areas that are to be opened or any areas  
7 that are open at this time. Right now the State has  
8 these ridiculous openings that hamstring our people.

9  
10 So, anyway, I think let's clean up this  
11 open and closed area and then move on to the dates  
12 afterwards because I think we can cover everything in  
13 one amendment to cover the whole Peninsula.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I think there's a  
16 technical problem there because if I'm right 22  
17 remainder is closed until opened, so we can't have  
18 season dates on it. It's closed until.....

19  
20 MR. GRAY: And Pilgrim is closed until  
21 open, but if we have an amendment that says any areas  
22 open to caribou hunting will have this criteria, you  
23 can shoot one, five bulls a day, whatever it is, you  
24 know, the BLM or whoever's managing Federal lands opens  
25 up Pilgrim, these numbers jump into the system and  
26 they're working until that area -- while it's closed  
27 there is no numbers.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I think there's a  
30 technical problem, do you see it.

31  
32 (Pause)

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I don't see how you  
35 can have season dates in an area that's closed to  
36 hunting.

37  
38 MR. MCKEE: Well, I was under the  
39 impression that the first amendment you guys made was  
40 to make a year-round season in that area that you  
41 extended in 45, so you've already acted on that one,  
42 the extension to Trout Creek. You've already done  
43 that. So you have a year-round season there. So it  
44 wouldn't make sense to make another amendment to change  
45 everything, you know, when you've already made it for  
46 that portion. Now, if you want to do that for  
47 everything else, that's another matter, but you've  
48 already -- you'd kind of be doing the same thing twice  
49 for that area, so.....

50

1                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, you understand  
2 what we want to do, is just -- we need to figure a way  
3 to do it, that's all. But I agree with, Tom, that's  
4 what we want, we just have to figure out the easiest  
5 way to do it.

6  
7                   MR. MCKEE: Well, just because it's  
8 closed now, I mean you can -- this Council can decide  
9 to make a year-round season for all of 22 and apply to  
10 that area that's currently closed and the Board will  
11 either agree or not agree when they act on it at their  
12 meeting in April.

13  
14                   That's how I see it.

15  
16                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: How do you open an  
17 area by announcement if it's already open though?

18  
19                   MR. MCKEE: Well, I mean you're talking  
20 about an area that's currently closed, you're -- I just  
21 want to make clear on what you're talking about, you're  
22 talking about 22 remainder, is that the portion you're  
23 talking about now or I am I confusing things.

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: We're all confused.  
26 We're just talking about the three remaining areas that  
27 are not in 22 remainder. We decided -- I think we  
28 decided not to try to add those to 22 remainder, so  
29 we're talking about these three southern areas that  
30 we're opening. Maybe I'm wrong but it seems to me that  
31 if you have an area that's closed -- well, let's see,  
32 well, wait a minute, those won't be -- are those closed  
33 until opened or are they opened.

34  
35                   If they're not in 22 remainder then  
36 they might not be closed, and then they would go with  
37 the same seasons in the rest of 22, wouldn't they.

38  
39                   MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair. I believe --  
40 my understanding of the two amendments that we just  
41 passed, although there seems to be some confusion about  
42 whether we passed the Pilgrim River and west of the  
43 Niukluk amendment or not, in those two areas we did --  
44 we pass them, okay, so that amendment, which we passed  
45 is a may be announced season with no season  
46 restrictions, no bull harvest restrictions.

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay.

49  
50                   MR. GRAY: Well, then.....

1 MS. WORKER: Okay. So.....  
2  
3 REPORTER: Turn a mic on somebody.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Can we just -- well,  
6 if we've -- we did vote on that so if we got -- we --  
7 then we did everything we needed to do on those two, we  
8 just need to deal with the south of Golsovia River now  
9 then.  
10  
11 MS. WORKER: We've done -- yes, you've  
12 addressed those two areas. The next area that we were  
13 talking about was 22 remainder, which is the area in  
14 blue.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. So, all right,  
17 then what we want to do then is extend the season and  
18 eliminate the reference to bulls, cows and calves,  
19 right.  
20  
21 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair. There's  
22 currently no open season in 22 remainder, but Proposal  
23 37 proposes a may be announced season that has  
24 restrictions but it sounds like the Council is  
25 interested in a may be announced season without season  
26 and bull/cow restrictions; is that correct?  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN SMITH: That's correct.  
29 Because doing it with the restrictions that are in 37  
30 would provide no opportunity at all.  
31  
32 MR. MCKEE: So I think you just need to  
33 make an amendment to that effect.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN SMITH: But we want -- let's  
36 see we want to cover the pink area, too.  
37  
38 MR. GRAY: Okay, let me take a stab at  
39 this because I think we can finish this up and I can  
40 get out of here.  
41  
42 Okay.  
43  
44 I make an amendment that for all of  
45 Unit 22, that we have the status quo regulations on  
46 bulls, cows, whatever, that it doesn't change for all  
47 of Unit 22, even 22 remainder will establish these  
48 regulations for Unit -- the remainder. We also  
49 establish this for the -- we also establish south of  
50 Golsovia, that this will be a to be announced area, and

1 it will have the same criteria on animals that is  
2 status quo now.

3

4 MR. GARNIE: Second.

5

6 MR. GRAY: Does that make sense?

7

8 Can somebody make a deal out of that?

9

10 MS. WORKER: I think I understand where  
11 you're trying to go with that but I think it's best if  
12 we leave the Pilgrim River drainage and the Golsovia  
13 hunt areas out of that amendment because we've already  
14 taken action on them.

15

16 MR. GRAY: Okay. And we'll leave  
17 whatever areas we've taken action out of this amendment  
18 to satisfy the system.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well.....

21

22 MR. GRAY: You know, I'm the kind of  
23 guy -- I was a Mayor for 18 years so I made my own  
24 rules. You know, I struggle with the system in the  
25 sense that in Unit 22 we want this, and this is we  
26 don't want people telling us we can't shoot bulls a  
27 certain time of year and blah, blah, blah, that's  
28 blanket coverage over the whole unit. And if we got to  
29 pick and piecemeal and do this throughout the thing  
30 it's -- it's kind of unwarranted, I feel. There should  
31 be a way to do the whole thing and be done with it.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I don't think there  
34 is, though, unfortunately. I'm fumbling -- the one  
35 thing I'm concerned about is, or another thing I'm  
36 concerned about is that we take care of -- that we do  
37 what Tom's trying to do, I think we need to cover this  
38 -- this -- make sure that this pink area has, you know,  
39 a year-round season and no restrictions on bulls, cows  
40 and calves too, and so.....

41

42 MR. GRAY: That's what I just said.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 CHAIRMAN SMITH: .....and I'm just  
47 checking to see -- and I'm just checking to see if it  
48 does.

49

50 MR. OXEREOK: Mr. Chair. I think we

1 can handle this in three steps. Remove south of  
2 Golsovia River to 22 remainder, take care of 22  
3 remainder as a whole, using the criteria that when it's  
4 open it's five caribou a day, open as needed; and then  
5 we handle the remainder of 22 as a whole to apply that  
6 same coverage of no closed season and five caribou per  
7 day.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, I thought that  
10 was a good idea too but we -- but Suzanne talked me out  
11 of it so -- so I -- I don't think we -- and I thought  
12 that was the way to go too but it isn't.

13

14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. I think  
15 that that would be purely acceptable. I don't see a  
16 problem, and my colleagues may disagree with me, in  
17 repetition. If that's what it takes to get your intent  
18 across then that's what we should put in the amendments  
19 and get -- get this on the books. Because if -- you  
20 know, you're looking at 37 in a microcosm for the Unit  
21 22 and -- and I think that you just need to look at  
22 what's going to matter, and however you want to do it,  
23 if you have to repeat things in your amendments do it.  
24 So if -- if -- if Tom wants to put in there all of 22,  
25 status quo, bulls, caribou, whatever animal you want to  
26 shoot, whenever it's open, that's fine, and then if you  
27 have another amendment that says just this area is  
28 going to be put into the -- the -- open it up on a may  
29 be announced basis because it's currently closed, and  
30 just bulls -- or bulls, cows, whatever you want to  
31 shoot, whenever you want to shoot them, that's fine,  
32 too. I think that that would be acceptable because the  
33 intent is there and the Board will understand that when  
34 they receive your comments and your motions.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I just took the time  
39 -- I just looked at the proposal and it doesn't do  
40 anything for Unit 22 as a whole so it looks like that's  
41 not -- not really a concern, so -- I mean we don't have  
42 to worry about this pink area, I don't -- if I'm right.  
43 It doesn't -- 37 doesn't change anything there.

44

45 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair. There will be  
46 more restrictions on bull and cow seasons under the new  
47 proposal.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. So that brings  
50 us back to where you're coming from Tom. We need -- we

1 need -- yeah, we need a proposal for unit-wide maybe --  
2 maybe -- unit-wide that we will have -- it'll be five  
3 caribou a day and -- in the areas that -- the areas --  
4 these areas that are not in 22 remainder, and 22  
5 remainder, all we need to do is change it to -- you  
6 know, that -- well, we don't even need to do that, we  
7 can do unit -- yeah.

8

9 Did anybody understand what I said?

10

11 MR. GRAY: I didn't. But, you know,  
12 again, it sounds like we've addressed two of these  
13 areas, maybe three areas, the Wales one, or the  
14 Shishmaref one, I'm going to withdraw my amendment and  
15 let's just start with Ted's area and I -- I make an  
16 amendment that we -- we need to designate this somehow  
17 to -- so we can open and close it as needed. So what  
18 -- I need to put it in remainder -- 22 remainder or  
19 what do I need to do here?

20

21 MS. WORKER: Through the Chair. Mr.  
22 Gray. Is your intent to add Unit 22A south of the  
23 Golsovia to Unit 22 remainder or to.....

24

25 MR. GRAY: Okay. The question.....

26

27 MS. WORKER: .....create.....

28

29 MR. GRAY: .....I asked you is I want  
30 to be able to open and close this area through -- I  
31 want to be able to pick up the phone and say, man,  
32 there's 10,000 caribou I want to go hunting, somebody  
33 picks up the phone and says, okay, it's open, go  
34 hunting; how do we do that?

35

36 MS. WORKER: Do you mean like  
37 procedurally how does that work or -- or are you  
38 asking.....

39

40 MR. GRAY: No. I'm -- I'm asking, do  
41 we need to move this into 22 remainder, can we  
42 designate Golsovia south is -- is an area now that is  
43 open and closed by picking up the phone and some  
44 manager decides that; that do we accomplish this?

45

46 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I see that -- I see  
47 that Karen has an inspiration for us.

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Perhaps Amos can  
50 repeat what he said, if you recall what you said,

1 because I think that those three steps made sense to me  
2 and it might help resolve the issue.

3

4 MR. OXEREOK: Mr. Chair.

5

6 All right. I'm just going to go ahead  
7 and make the amendment, all right.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, we got -- before  
10 we do that.....

11

12 MR. OXEREOK: Oh, we still got.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN SMITH: .....you got a -- Tom,  
15 are you withdrawing your amendment or.....

16

17 MR. GRAY: I already did.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SMITH: .....you withdraw.....

20

21 MR. GRAY: I did.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay, Joe, you good  
24 with that?

25

26 MR. GARNIE: Yes.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. So the  
29 amendment is off the table.

30

31 MR. OXEREOK: Which amendment is that  
32 again.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SMITH: We'll have a new  
35 amendment. It's gone, so make yours.

36

37 MS. DEATHERAGE: The amendment was to  
38 have for all of 22, that we have a status quo  
39 regulation on bulls, cows, et cetera and five caribou  
40 per day and that is now withdrawn from the table.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MR. OXEREOK: Okay. My idea is to do  
45 this in several steps.

46

47 Move the south of Golsovia to 22  
48 remainder and then take care of all of 22 remainder the  
49 way you wanted to.

50

1                   So I'll do the first step.  
2  
3                   I make a motion to amend -- I'd like to  
4 make an amendment, so where we move south of 22 -- or  
5 in 22A, south of Golsovia River to 22 remainder.  
6  
7                   MR. GRAY: I second.  
8  
9                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well -- or discussion  
10 -- or moved by Amos, seconded by Tom. Do you want to  
11 do the same thing with these two areas?  
12  
13                  MR. OXEREOK: Later.  
14  
15                  CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. So is there  
16 discussion on that amendment.  
17  
18                  (No comments)  
19  
20                  CHAIRMAN SMITH: All those in favor of  
21 the amendment say aye.  
22  
23                  IN UNISON: Aye.  
24  
25                  MR. ENINGOWUK: Aye.  
26  
27                  CHAIRMAN SMITH: All opposed, same  
28 sign.  
29  
30                  (No opposing votes)  
31  
32                  CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. The amendment  
33 passes.  
34  
35                  Amos.  
36  
37                  MR. OXEREOK: Okay. Now we can -- now  
38 that we're -- now that we've moved that area to 22  
39 remainder, we can handle all of 22 remainder now.  
40  
41                  CHAIRMAN SMITH: Uh-huh.  
42  
43                  MR. OXEREOK: So let's see I got to  
44 think about how to do that.  
45  
46                  CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, all we'd need to  
47 do then was remove all reference to -- if we -- if --  
48 that's a good idea, all we need to do is remove all  
49 reference to bulls and cows and calves and make -- and --  
50 and have the season year-round and then we're done in

1 22 remainder.  
2  
3 MR. OXEREOK: It's 22 remainder here  
4 as.....  
5  
6 REPORTER: Amos, your mic.  
7  
8 MR. OXEREOK: 22 remainder is opened as  
9 -- for -- how did you -- clarify that.  
10  
11 MS. WORKER: Sure. Under Proposal 16-  
12 37 Unit 22 remainder would be opened on a may be  
13 announced basis only.  
14  
15 MR. OXEREOK: I'd like to.....  
16  
17 MR. GRAY: Let me -- can I -- if we  
18 want sections of 22 remainder opened let's take the  
19 Golsovia area, can that happen if -- or do you have to  
20 open the whole 22 remainder?  
21  
22 MS. WORKER: Through the Chair. That's  
23 a great question, Tom. And that's, I think, what you  
24 were trying to get to earlier.  
25  
26 So when -- with the amendment that you  
27 just made adding Golsovia south of -- or sorry, Unit  
28 22A south of the Golsovia to 22 remainder, when Unit 22  
29 remainder opens, the whole thing will open. So those,  
30 you know, subunits of Unit 22 remainder will not be  
31 managed separately under the scenario that we are  
32 currently at.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN SMITH: So that's what --  
35 that's what we got talked out of the first time, yeah.  
36  
37 Now, what, do we want to withdraw -- do  
38 you want to withdraw your motion, your amendment?  
39  
40 MR. OXEREOK: Let me, for  
41 clarification, so if the -- so if there's caribou down  
42 there now, south of Golsovia and we say we want to hunt  
43 down there, they'll say, no, we're going to open it for  
44 all of 22 remainder.  
45  
46 MS. WORKER: That's right.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN SMITH: The -- the real danger  
49 there though is that they'll open south of Golsovia  
50 prematurely, you know, because the -- the first caribou

1 are going to show up up here in Shishmaref and so, you  
2 know, it'll get -- south of Golsovia will get opened  
3 prematurely and it may end up affecting Ted's reindeer  
4 so I'm kind of against that myself.

5  
6 MR. GRAY: Okay. I -- I -- how -- you  
7 see what we're trying to do, how can we -- we've done  
8 this in Pilgrim River and Niukluk River without being  
9 in the remainder, how can we do that down here without  
10 it being in the remainder.

11  
12 MS. WORKER: Chris might correct me on  
13 this, through the Chair, but I believe that you can  
14 request -- you can amend this so that that is a  
15 separate hunt area, we could just call it Unit 22A  
16 south of the Golsovia River, and.....

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SMITH: That's a.....

19  
20 MS. WORKER: .....it could be managed  
21 independently of all of the other defined hunt areas  
22 for caribou on Unit -- in Unit 22.

23  
24 MR. GRAY: Okay. And.....

25  
26 MS. WORKER: Does anybody need to  
27 correct me on that?

28  
29 MR. MCKEE: That's correct.

30  
31 MR. GRAY: .....and somebody's going to  
32 have to inform us how we withdraw all of what we just  
33 did, adding this to the remainder.

34  
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Member Gray, through  
36 the Chair, we just have one amendment I think that we  
37 have to withdraw, which would be, make an amendment to  
38 move 22A south of Golsovia River to 22 remainder, you  
39 would just withdraw that amendment and.....

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SMITH: No.....

42  
43 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....then you would  
44 establish that as a separate hunt area; am I  
45 correct.....

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SMITH: No, we already voted  
48 on it.....

49  
50 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....on.....

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: .....so we're going to  
2 have to have a motion to reconsider because we voted on  
3 it so we need a motion to reconsider our last  
4 amendment.

5  
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: I knew that, I was  
7 just testing you.

8  
9 (Laughter)

10  
11 MR. OXEREOK: Okay. I'd like to make a  
12 motion to reconsider our last amendment moving south of  
13 Golsovia River to the 22 remainder.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Second.

16  
17 MR. GRAY: I second.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Moved by Amos,  
20 seconded by Tom. All in favor of withdrawing say aye.

21  
22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Fred.

25  
26 MR. ENINGOWUK: Aye.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Motion -- the --  
29 passes unanimously. Amos, we'd like a new motion.

30  
31 MR. OXEREOK: I'd like to make a motion  
32 for the area south of Golsovia River, to have a hunting  
33 season, to be its own area, a to be opened as needed,  
34 five caribou per day.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Perfect. Second.

37  
38 MR. GRAY: Second.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Moved by Amos,  
41 seconded by Tom. All in favor of the amendment say  
42 aye.

43  
44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45  
46 MR. ENINGOWUK: Aye.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All opposed, same  
49 sign.

50

1 (No opposing votes)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Motion pass -- or the  
4 amendment passes unanimously.  
5  
6 And now back to the -- we need to do  
7 something about 22 remainder.  
8  
9 We need a motion to extend the season  
10 and remove the refer -- and make it five caribou a day.  
11  
12 MR. GRAY: 22 -- 22 remainder is closed  
13 and I.....  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SMITH: But we.....  
16  
17 MR. GRAY: .....guess my -- my -- and  
18 it can be opened, from what I understand, through  
19 certain things, but my -- my next concern is that I  
20 want to ensure that all of 22, areas that are opened,  
21 we can shoot five caribou a day year-round, so -- and  
22 to justify some of this, is -- is you've got Shishmaref  
23 people shooting caribou middle of the summer up  
24 there.....  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, see the -- 37  
27 will open 22 remainder but you'll have restrictions on --  
28 on seasons and -- and harvest so.....  
29  
30 MR. GRAY: So it's.....  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN SMITH: .....it's closed now  
33 but they're going to -- but 37 will open it. If you  
34 want you could eith -- you either can move to keep it  
35 closed, the way it is now, or open it by announcement  
36 like we did with the other areas, and so it's kind of --  
37 I -- I can see a good reason for keeping it closed.  
38  
39 MR. OXEREOK: This is kind of weird  
40 because this overlaps right into the area we wanted to  
41 stay out of, just as a comment. 22 remainder includes  
42 all areas west of Nuluk River.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah.  
45  
46 MR. GRAY: You know, what's being  
47 proposed here is October 1st to the 14th, February  
48 through April 30th and all through this document if --  
49 if this proposal goes through, everywhere on the Seward  
50 Peninsula on 22 is going to have changes that's going

1 to impact animals; I'm against it. I don't want to see  
2 Shishmaref people, for example, not able to hunt  
3 animals, you know, not able to hunt animals in August  
4 or early in the season and -- and if you look at this,  
5 on bulls, bull season, 37 -- February 1st to October  
6 14th so that -- but prior to -- prior to that, I'm not --  
7 I'm not understanding -- anyway we're going to get  
8 impacted if -- if we let this process go through, it's  
9 not only Shishmaref but it's going to be all of us are  
10 going to be impacted and -- and I think as this process  
11 goes forward, you know, there's going to be come back  
12 and everybody's the -- the -- I know the caribou  
13 committee is going to say, well, we're below 200,000  
14 animals, this kicks in automatically, and so there's  
15 going to be -- we're at the -- just the tip of the  
16 iceberg of a big bomb blowing up. And, you know,  
17 having the changes that we just talked about go into  
18 place, I -- I don't foresee leaving our -- our harvest  
19 levels alone for a year or two are going to impact  
20 anything. And it's going to give people time to talk  
21 about the changes and -- and whatever.

22  
23 Again, my concern is I -- there's  
24 nothing worse than -- than, yeah, Shishmaref, they can  
25 go hunt certain time of year and -- and they get to  
26 hunt all year, Nome people, oh, you got two months out  
27 of the year, White Mountain people you got three-  
28 quarters of a month, and that's where this system is  
29 going. If you look -- open up a moose -- moose  
30 regulations, there's so much different regulations and  
31 micro-managed it's ridiculous, so I don't know. I --  
32 again, I'm -- we need to cover the whole Unit 22 with,  
33 you know, five animals a day and no -- no holding back  
34 on it.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Do you have a -- did  
37 you figure out what you want to do Amos?

38  
39 (Pause)

40  
41 MR. OXEREOK: In the new proposal -- I  
42 think we're trying to discuss 22 remainder. In the new  
43 proposal.....

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah.

46  
47 MR. OXEREOK: .....there would be a  
48 season, five caribou a day, I know we're all against  
49 the -- the dates and the gender restrictions, but if  
50 you look at it, currently there is no open season in 22

1 remainder.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah.

4

5 MR. OXEREOK: What's the wishes of the  
6 Council.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, if we -- I don't  
9 think there's -- actually I don't think there would be  
10 a big danger in making it open.....

11

12 MR. OXEREOK: Because that includes, I  
13 mean.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I don't think there'd  
16 be any danger in making it a year-round season, to be  
17 announced, and just trust the managers would do the  
18 right thing, I think that would be the simplest thing  
19 and -- and -- that's what we did with the other areas.

20

21 MR. GRAY: And, you know, I'm  
22 comfortable with that because until caribou come in an  
23 area there's -- a little justification for opening it  
24 up, again, it -- as you look at this document, I'm not  
25 in favor of piece-mealing this together and having a  
26 two week season and then wait three months for another  
27 season, and so on and so forth.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, can we make it --  
30 make a motion for 22 remainder to do basically the  
31 same thing we've done with the other areas.

32

33 MR. OXEREOK: We could do one that  
34 covers all of 22, even if it's -- even if it's  
35 overlapping.....

36

37 MR. GRAY: That's what I tried to do.

38

39 MR. OXEREOK: Yeah.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SMITH: It's not necessary  
42 because 23 -- or 37 doesn't change the rest of 22.

43

44 MR. GRAY: It does.

45

46 MR. OXEREOK: It does.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SMITH: It does?

49

50 MR. OXEREOK: Yeah. It changes

3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Oh, you're right.  
4  
5 MR. OXEREOK: So I'd like to make a  
6 motion to amend all of Unit 22 to be five caribou.....  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yes.  
9  
10 MR. OXEREOK: .....per day July 1 to  
11 June 30, no restrictions on gender.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Is there a  
14 second.  
15  
16 MR. GRAY: Second.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Moved by Amos,  
19 seconded -- seconded by Tom -- by second -- so -- so  
20 can we vote on the amendment -- all in favor of the  
21 amendment say aye.  
22  
23 IN UNISON: Aye.  
24  
25 MR. ENINGOWUK: Aye.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Motion -- the  
28 amendment passes unanimously. And now on to -- now we  
29 need to deal with.....  
30  
31 MR. OXEREOK: 22 remainder, we  
32 just.....  
33  
34 MR. GRAY: The main motion.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay, we got -- we  
37 took care of Golsovia. Okay, so now the main motion.  
38 Here's what I -- here's what I would suggest, that we --  
39 that we -- we vote on -- to adopt 37 as amended for --  
40 all references to Unit 22, and then take no actions on  
41 the other areas.....  
42  
43 MR. GRAY: Defer.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN SMITH: .....because we.....  
46  
47 MR. GRAY: Defer.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN SMITH: .....really don't know  
50 enough about them.

1 MR. GRAY: Isn't the word defer action  
2 or something.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Just take no action on  
5 the others because we don't really know enough about it  
6 and it's not our -- our -- our neighborhood so that's  
7 what I would suggest, that we just adopt -- adopt --  
8 move to adopt 16-37 as amended for Unit 22 and take no  
9 action on the rest of the areas that are cons --  
10 included in 37.  
11  
12 MR. GRAY: Okay.  
13  
14 MR. MCKEE: Correct.  
15  
16 MR. GRAY: Question.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN SMITH: No, a motion.  
19  
20 MR. GRAY: That's what started this  
21 whole can of worms, wasn't it.  
22  
23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tom called the  
24 question, so you need to vote.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Did somebody  
27 second it.  
28  
29 MR. OXEREOK: Yeah, we already went  
30 through all that.  
31  
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN SMITH: No, no, we didn't --  
35 we -- we haven't even got a second on this motion.  
36  
37 MR. GRAY: No, no.....  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I really shouldn't  
40 even be making the motion.  
41  
42 MR. GRAY: No, you're not making a  
43 motion, the original motion, if she goes back in her  
44 stuff, you're going to find that there was a motion to  
45 adopt Proposal 37. And that's what got into all these  
46 amendments and so on and so forth, now we've walked  
47 through the amendments, we need to vote on the Proposal  
48 37, and I'm agreeable that -- that we support all the  
49 amendments and defer the rest of it or we take no  
50 action on the rest of it.

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Member Gray, through  
2 the Chair. We do have -- we moved to bring -- you  
3 moved to bring 16-37 off the table and it was seconded,  
4 so it's still out there, that motion, so.....

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SMITH: But -- but the way we  
7 have it it would -- it would affect all the areas that  
8 are included in 37 and -- and I was hoping that we  
9 would take no action on.....

10  
11 MR. GRAY: Okay. I.....

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SMITH: .....the other -- the  
14 areas other than 22.

15  
16 MR. GRAY: .....I -- I make an  
17 amendment that we will go forward with our amendments  
18 for Unit 22, but defer any action to the other areas  
19 that don't affect us.

20  
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Gray, through the  
22 Chair, I would recommend that you not defer action at  
23 this point because that -- that.....

24  
25 MR. GRAY: Okay.

26  
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....represents that  
28 you're going to come back to this issue at another  
29 time, I would recommend that you take no action if  
30 you.....

31  
32 MR. GRAY: I.....

33  
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....if you -- if the  
35 Council feels like this is an area you -- you should  
36 not take action on.

37  
38 Thank you.

39  
40 MR. GRAY: We take no -- or my  
41 amendment will say we take no action.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Do we have a second.

44  
45 MR. OXEREOK: Second.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. There's  
48 probably -- we probably discussed this enough, I think  
49 we probably created enough of a record that somebody  
50 could.....

1 (Laughter)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: .....clean it up  
4 to.....  
5  
6 (Laughter)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN SMITH: .....make it useable.  
9  
10 MR. MCKEE: I'll probably be spending  
11 most of Christmas break looking at transcripts so.....  
12  
13 (Laughter)  
14  
15 MR. MCKEE: .....I think you may have  
16 repeated yourself in a few things but it'll be our job  
17 to look through the transcripts and tease everything  
18 out. And you'll hear more at the Board meeting,  
19 obviously.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Let's vote then, all  
22 in favor of the amendment say aye.  
23  
24 IN UNISON: Aye.  
25  
26 MR. ENINGOWUK: Aye.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN SMITH: The motion passes  
29 unanimously. Thank you very much, let's take a quick  
30 break.  
31  
32 (Off record)  
33  
34 (On record)  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I hate to break up the  
37 conversation but we've got quite a lot to do yet.  
38  
39 (Pause)  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Could we go back on  
42 the record.  
43  
44 REPORTER: We are.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN SMITH: It's been pointed out  
47 to me that we need to vote on the main motion as  
48 amended, so I will entertain a motion to -- let's see,  
49 we don't even need a motion do we, so I'll just call  
50 for the question.

1 All those in favor of the main motion --  
2 to adopt WP16-37 as amended, say aye.

3  
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5  
6 MS. LAVINE: Fred.

7  
8 MR. ENINGOWUK: Aye.

9  
10 MS. LAVINE: Fred said aye.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Motion passes as  
13 amended unanimously, very good. That brings us to  
14 WP16-49/52, and I'm going to turn this over to Chris  
15 real quick, I think we can deal with this very quickly.

16  
17 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair. This is  
18 Suzanne Worker again. And I'll just very briefly go  
19 over this proposal because I'm sure that everyone here  
20 has listened to me talk about caribou enough today.

21  
22 (Laughter)

23  
24 MS. WORKER: Proposal 49 and 52 concern  
25 caribou regulations in Unit 23. 49 was submitted by  
26 the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory  
27 Council, and 16-52 was submitted by the Upper and Lower  
28 Kobuk Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

29  
30 These proposals request a reduction in  
31 the harvest limit in Unit 22, one of them requests a  
32 reduction from the current 15 caribou per day to five  
33 caribou per day. The other one proposes a reduction to  
34 seven caribou per day.

35  
36 As we've talked about at length today,  
37 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd is in a conservation  
38 concern status and the OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
39 support WP-49 with modification to add a new hunt area  
40 to prohibit the harvest of calves to align this season  
41 with the State regulations and to simplify the  
42 regulatory language a little bit. The OSM preliminary  
43 conclusion is to take no action on 16-52 because all of  
44 the issues were addressed in the action taken on 16-49.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SMITH: My suggestion -- or my  
47 suggestion as advised by Chris would be that we take no  
48 action on this since it's a Unit 23 proposal. So I  
49 guess we need a motion to adopt.

50

1 MR. MCKEE: You need to start off with  
2 a positive so you need a motion to adopt first.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah, we need a motion  
5 to adopt.  
6  
7 MR. OXEREOK: Do we need to go through  
8 all the steps first, step ones, comments and all that?  
9  
10 MR. MCKEE: Yes, we do. Thank you.  
11  
12 (Laughter)  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Do we have any  
15 tribal, or do we have -- I guess we'll hear from the  
16 State first if Drew is still on the phone.  
17  
18 MS. LAVINE: Drew, are you still there.  
19  
20 (No comments)  
21  
22 MS. LAVINE: Is Drew still on the line  
23 for the State.  
24  
25 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, this is Drew.  
26  
27 MS. LAVINE: Excellent. Drew, we're  
28 looking for comments for.....  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN SMITH: We're looking for  
31 comments on WP16-49/52.  
32  
33 MS. LAVINE: WP49/52.  
34  
35 MR. CRAWFORD: I'm getting a lot of  
36 background noise right now.  
37  
38 Over.  
39  
40 REPORTER: Drew, sorry, it's someone  
41 else's line, we're doing the best we can here. Hold on  
42 a minute, Drew, just hold on a minute.  
43  
44 Can I please have whoever else is on  
45 the line please mute themselves, we are getting a lot  
46 of background noise and cannot hear those wishing to  
47 speak.  
48  
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. I can read  
50 the recommendation by the Department because it was

1 emailed to me by Drew if that would work for you.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Very good.

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: For Wildlife Proposal  
8 16-49/52 the Department of Fish and Game preliminary  
9 recommendations are to support Proposal 16-49 as  
10 modified by the OSM, and to take no action on Proposal  
11 16-52.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Do we have anybody  
16 else here from an agency or tribal organization that  
17 would like to comment.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Hearing none, Advisory  
22 Regional Councils, Fish and Game Advisory Committees,  
23 Subsistence Resource Commissions.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Public. Members of  
28 the public.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Is there any written  
33 public testimony.

34

35 MR. MCKEE: No, there isn't.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Then we're  
38 moving to discussion.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN SMITH: No, we don't even have  
43 a motion on the table.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN SMITH: We need to move to  
48 adopt.

49

50 MR. OXEREOK: I'd like to make a motion

1 to adopt Wildlife Proposal 16-49/52 as amended, with  
2 the OSM changes.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Is there a second.

5

6 MR. KATCHEAK: Second.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Moved by Amos,  
9 seconded by Ted.

10

11 Is there discussion.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I'd like to start out.  
16 I think we probably would be best to defer action -- or  
17 is to take no action on both of these proposals  
18 because, one, 52 doesn't seem to be necessary and 49 is  
19 a Unit 23 proposal and I think that, you know, I'm fine  
20 with just letting them handle that.

21

22 MR. OXEREOK: Mr. Chair. Can I get  
23 Chris' advice please.

24

25 MR. MCKEE: That's my advice and you  
26 guys have already acted on your areas, specifically the  
27 reason this is a crossover is because some people in  
28 Unit 22 have C&T for caribou in Unit 23 but I would  
29 just -- my suggestion would be to take no action on  
30 this proposal.

31

32 Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SMITH: In addition,  
35 personally, I want to see Unit 23 drastically reduce  
36 their harvest, I'm not convinced they're going to, you  
37 know, and I want to see if that really happens.

38

39 MR. MCKEE: Well, I will say that both  
40 the proposal, as amended by OSM and 49/52 and all the  
41 other Unit 23 related proposals and the one that the  
42 Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council just passed  
43 themselves does reduce the harvest limit from 15 to  
44 five caribou.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SMITH: But in the field it  
47 may not work out that way.

48

49 MR. MCKEE: Well, I can't speak to  
50 that.

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah.  
2  
3 So I think that -- I'm fine with just  
4 taking no action on this and waiting to see what  
5 happens.  
6  
7 Let's see, how do we take no action --  
8 just a motion to take no action -- no, a motion to  
9 adopt.  
10  
11 REPORTER: You already have a motion on  
12 the table to adopt.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN SMITH: A motion to adopt.  
15  
16 MR. MCKEE: You just need to take no  
17 action -- you'd vote to take no action.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN SMITH: We'd have to do it in  
20 the positive don't we. We'd have to.....  
21  
22 MR. MCKEE: You already did. Right.  
23  
24 REPORTER: You've already put a motion  
25 on the floor to adopt as amended with OSM changes.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN SMITH: And so.....  
28  
29 MR. MCKEE: Yes, you already did.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN SMITH: And so we would.....  
32  
33 MR. OXEREOK: So we would just all vote  
34 on it.  
35  
36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. The  
37 Council has moved to adopt and it has been seconded,  
38 these proposals, so you can call the question.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Call the question.  
41 And then if nobody says aye to either adopt or -- okay.  
42 All those in favor say aye.  
43  
44 (No aye votes)  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All those opposed,  
47 same sign.  
48  
49 (No aye votes)  
50

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay, so we take no  
2 action on that.

3  
4 Okay, that moves us to identifying  
5 issues for the 2015 annual report, and that's -- I  
6 think the issues -- from my point of view the issues  
7 that we identified are still on the table, none of them  
8 have been resolved. And I think our annual report was  
9 very good last year, and we may want to add to it. And  
10 we will want to change things slightly, but we might  
11 want to add to it. And we talked about something  
12 yesterday but I'm darned if I can remember what it was.

13  
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. One of the  
15 issues that you all discussed yesterday to add to your  
16 annual report were your comments on the FRMP process.  
17 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

18  
19 Thank you.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SMITH: That's it. I think we  
22 do want to add a strong section on the need for more  
23 research and, specifically talk about the Fisheries  
24 Resource Monitoring Program. We did talk about the  
25 need for more research but in the -- in the last annual  
26 report, but we didn't specify that program. So I think  
27 we discussed it pretty -- we're discussing already --  
28 we need a -- we don't need a motion for this annual  
29 report, do we, no. No.

30  
31 So we're in discussion already.

32  
33 Let's at least add that portion and  
34 anything else anybody wants to add to it.

35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SMITH: You know, I think we  
39 can go on as long as we want.

40  
41 The purpose of the annual report, you  
42 know, for the new members or people that haven't  
43 followed this before, is to inform the Federal  
44 Subsistence Board of what our needs are and then they  
45 respond to each point by point what they can do for us,  
46 and most of the time they can't do anything for us, but  
47 we need to still get it on the table.

48  
49 So is there anything else we want to --  
50 I would like to add -- I would like to add a section on

1 reindeer. We spent an awful lot of time talking about  
2 reindeer. And reindeer used to be the meat and  
3 potatoes for the Seward Peninsula. There was -- when I  
4 came here there was 25,000 reindeer or more, probably  
5 -- maybe as many as 35,000 reindeer. Now, I doubt if  
6 there is even 5,000, you know, and it's not -- the  
7 future is not looking very bright. So I think there is  
8 -- even though they amended the Reindeer Act -- the '37  
9 Reindeer Act to remove the Federal trust  
10 responsibility, I think there still is a Federal trust  
11 responsibility and I've asked about that with BIA and  
12 they haven't really given me a very satisfactory  
13 answer, but I think they are responsible for protecting  
14 the reindeer industry. And so I'd like to add that to  
15 the annual report.

16

17                   And the reason is we're looking at the  
18 end of the reindeers. If things go the way they're  
19 going, there won't be any herded reindeer in 20 years,  
20 I'm sure, not on the Seward Peninsula.

21

22                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. For the  
23 annual report, this is an excellent topic, actually,  
24 for the annual report, because it generally covers  
25 things that are outside of the regulatory process. One  
26 of the recommendations, though, is if you do put this  
27 in your annual report you are informing the Board of  
28 your concern, you might want to put down what you  
29 intend to do, if there's any agency or any way that you  
30 can resolve this issue beyond the Board's control, what  
31 that might be and how the Board and the OSM may help  
32 you do that.

33

34                   MR. GARNIE: Excuse me, what was that  
35 again.

36

37                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Do you want to add  
38 something -- a section on reindeer, you have something  
39 you want to put on the section on reindeer for our  
40 annual report.

41

42                   MR. GARNIE: I just -- yeah, it's a  
43 real crying shame where it's -- where it is today from  
44 where it was. And it definitely needs -- definitely  
45 needs a review, I think, and assistance if it's  
46 possible but boy, with the way the land ownership is  
47 today it's -- land ownership is a real nightmare on the  
48 whole Peninsula.

49

50                   But there is one more thing I would

1 like to see added to the annual report, it would be,  
2 you know, basically our king salmon have gone extinct.  
3 If there's some way we can get king salmon reintroduced  
4 into our system, this would be a substantial  
5 accomplishment.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I want to add  
10 something else, too. I firmly believe that the Federal  
11 government has a responsibility for restoring the  
12 reindeer industry, you know, they started it, they  
13 promised that it would be here to feed Alaska Natives  
14 for in perpetuity, and it seems to me they're speaking  
15 with a forked tongue at this time. And so I think the  
16 Federal government has a responsibility, as they have  
17 the responsibility for subsistence. The problem is the  
18 buck never stops.

19

20 You know, I asked at the -- the last  
21 Federal Subsistence Board meeting I went to I asked the  
22 Federal solicitor there, who is responsible for  
23 protecting subsistence and he didn't know. Somebody  
24 has to be. Somebody in the Federal government has to  
25 be responsible. Maybe it's the President. I don't  
26 know. But somebody has to be responsible. And I was  
27 at the meeting where the Commissioner of Fish and Game,  
28 Sam Cotten, asked the Federal solicitor, Lauren Smoker  
29 [sic], who advises the Council, the same question and  
30 she didn't know either.

31

32 The buck has to stop somewhere, with,  
33 you know, both protecting subsistence and protecting  
34 the reindeer industry and we need to find out who is  
35 responsible. And so I -- that's what I'd like to  
36 include in the annual report, and, you know, a question  
37 to the top.

38

39 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. I'd like to  
40 expand on what was said about our reindeer and why it's  
41 useful to some of the people in the villages.

42

43 We have -- like I said, reiterate what  
44 I said earlier, we have a unique situation, aside from  
45 Savoonga, that we have community herd, Stebbins and St.  
46 Michael both have herds. Now, they use that resource  
47 for potlatch, Christmas and they even give out reindeer  
48 meat to each household at -- whenever they feel that  
49 there's enough reindeer to accommodate that. So it's --  
50 for me, as a private-owned herder, I want to make

1 money and -- but I also have to consider those two  
2 herds, Stebbins and St. Michael, they're both  
3 subsistence. I always gather my subsistence. Because  
4 they're both non -- owned by non-profit or by both  
5 villages. So if there's a need for identification or  
6 for what is -- what resource are we going to use for  
7 our subsistence, I think reindeer is one of those and  
8 I'd like to see that be recognized by this Council and  
9 even the Federal Subsistence Board, that, you know,  
10 it's both profit and non-profit.

11  
12                   You cannot -- I don't think anybody  
13 here even -- the other herders, they're not rich,  
14 they're poor people, we are. We can't even butcher  
15 reindeer unless there's snow on the ground, that's  
16 because the State mandates or State of Alaska say,  
17 well, it's not sanitary to butcher reindeer on the  
18 ground because then those people that eats it will be  
19 probably contaminated or get sick but growing up with  
20 reindeer herd and being around it, at times it seemed  
21 to be very hard when there's a lot of caribou.

22  
23                   But what I'd like to see also is a  
24 census made on the Stebbins/St. Michael and Katcheak  
25 herd, count, need to see where -- where do we stand.  
26 Some people say we have 10,000, some other people say  
27 20,000, those figures I cannot see because we don't  
28 have big enough coral to hold the reindeer herd and  
29 count them as a whole. It would take days and days and  
30 probably weeks to round up all that 20,000 reindeer  
31 they're talking about. I've personally handled 4,000  
32 heads two or three years ago, 4,000 reindeer in a  
33 coral, so I think there's a need for the Federal  
34 government to recognize and stipu -- or let us know  
35 that they're responsible for us and they recognize us  
36 as a legitimate herds.

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you, Ted.

39  
40                   Is there any other.

41  
42                   MR. OXEREOK: Mr. Chair. Amos. I'd  
43 like to see more studies and surveys on all subsistence  
44 species in the Seward Peninsular region, including  
45 predators. I would like to encourage any agency with  
46 funding to gather data and present it to this Board.  
47 Together with TEK, we can make more informed decisions  
48 concerning the Seward Peninsula region.

49  
50                   Thank you.

1                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Very good. And then  
2 one thing -- another thing I'd like to see added is,  
3 you know, talk about the issue of food security. You  
4 know, Joe and I talk about this all the time,  
5 particularly in his steambath, and we're so insecure  
6 now it's unbelievable. People in rural Alaska have  
7 never been more insecure than they are today. If  
8 something happens to the food stamp program it'll be  
9 impossible to live in rural Alaska. If something  
10 happens to energy supports, it's going to be impossible  
11 to live in rural Alaska. If the -- there's just so  
12 many things that could just destroy life as we know it  
13 here and we're -- and then we're just so insecure  
14 because we don't have enough fish and wildlife  
15 resources.

16  
17                   Food security is a civil right. And  
18 it's something that the Federal government needs to  
19 take more seriously.

20  
21                   MR. SEETOT: I think one of the issues  
22 I think that needs to be also addressed along with the  
23 populations is our changing weather, temperatures, you  
24 know, for the salmon.

25  
26                   A couple years ago, I think there was a  
27 news article, up towards Noatak River where salmon were  
28 found floating or salmon were dead maybe because of  
29 warmer water and stuff like that. Either a baseline  
30 study or maybe information from other agencies or  
31 groups that deal with water temperatures or the  
32 ecosystem of the fish.

33  
34                   Like I said before Norton Sound has a  
35 commercial fishery that was their decision, the  
36 decision with our elders in Port Clarence Bay was to  
37 nix all commercial fishing and go for subsistence where  
38 it's the benefit of all people. Right now I think  
39 we're -- they tried to do a dollar value on fish too  
40 much, commercial fishing you know exact amount.

41  
42                   Along with that, we have been stewards  
43 of Port Clarence Bay, Teller and Brevig, of anything  
44 that pretty much goes in the water or flies through the  
45 air, or it migrates through, in keeping our environment  
46 clean and to make sure that something that is not  
47 natural in the ecosystem is addressed. One of the  
48 things, I guess, is this water temperature, what will  
49 the fish do -- what will the residents of, I would say  
50 Subunit 22D, do if they have no salmon. I think we're

1 providing an economic value on subsistence, one. There  
2 was a total of about -- maybe 300 -- over 360 permits  
3 for the Pilgrim River for the sockeye salmon, this was  
4 the first year in my lifetime that I have seen or heard  
5 of 35,000 plus reds making it to Salmon Lake and what --  
6 with that much crowding in the lake, our -- is there  
7 any disease or invasive species that ride on the fish,  
8 you know, to contaminate or alter Salmon Lake. But by  
9 being stewards of Port Clarence Bay I think we provide  
10 an economic value to the subsistence lifestyle of Nome  
11 because they don't have to buy fish, sockeye salmon is  
12 a preferred fish meal for our residents. And with  
13 ADF&G opening Pilgrim River for Nome area residents it  
14 -- the pressure of salmon fishing for residents of --  
15 especially Teller and also people in the north spit  
16 area of Brevig.

17  
18 So probably -- not probably but need to  
19 address weather extremes that we are seeing right now,  
20 and that includes the water ecosystem of the salmon.

21  
22 Thank you.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Anything else. That's  
25 a pretty hefty annual report.

26  
27  
28 (No comments)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I don't think it's  
31 appropriate but I would like to see -- I really believe  
32 we need to Federalize fisheries on the Yukon area.  
33 Well, it kind of is our area isn't it. I've pushed --  
34 I really pushed the Federal Subsistence Board -- we do  
35 have C&T for the Yukon River so I pushed the Federal  
36 Subsistence Board to Federalized, last year, they did  
37 the Kuskokwim, not the Yukon, and I think this summer  
38 they need to take over management -- subsistence  
39 management of king salmon on the Yukon River, so I'd  
40 like to add that to our annual report, too.

41  
42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. One of the  
43 places where there'll be a good opportunity to discuss  
44 that and the results of the issues on the Kuskokwim  
45 River, it is at our All Councils meeting in Anchorage.  
46 We're actually going to have dedicated sessions at that  
47 meeting for both of those rivers and the fisheries  
48 issues that are going on. And some of the unique  
49 things in co-management issues that are being tested  
50 out and how they might be working. So good opportunity

1 to talk about it at that meeting.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I think back to the  
4 '60s and, you know, what if the Federal government  
5 wouldn't have Federalized for the Civil Rights  
6 Movement, you know, what if they hadn't done that, what  
7 if they hadn't desegregated the school, it wouldn't  
8 have happened -- it would have happened eventually, it  
9 had to, but it would have taken a heck of a lot longer,  
10 it had to be done. And this is -- to me, this is a  
11 Civil Rights issue. The Yukon River, Kuskokwim River  
12 salmon runs are, you know, wonders of the world and  
13 they're dying, and along with it the communities that  
14 depend on it. So the Federal government has an  
15 obligation to step in.

16

17 Is there anything else on this issue.

18

19 MR. GARNIE: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Joe, go ahead.

22

23 MR. GARNIE: I hate to bring up another  
24 issue here but I brought it up earlier when Mr. Gorn  
25 was here, was -- and he informed us that the moose in  
26 22E are very stable and producing and stabilized, but  
27 he also informed us that the moose cross back and forth  
28 between 22D, 22E and back and forth. So, you know, we  
29 have a real moose shortage and I'm still -- I'm still  
30 at loss on how we can allow commercial hunting of moose  
31 in our area when there's such a shortage for moose in  
32 our local communities. It's just still beyond me how  
33 we're having this in our neighborhood and put on us.  
34 It just doesn't make any sense to have it operating.  
35 I'd definitely like to see it closed until we're at  
36 least minimally reduced until the moose are stabilized  
37 and people in the village can have moose to hunt.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Very good, Joe, thanks  
42 for reminding me. But in addition to that, I think  
43 that should go in the annual report -- but in addition  
44 to that, can somebody find out what the proposal  
45 deadline is for game proposals, we need to get a State  
46 proposal in on that.

47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Smith -- Mr.  
49 Chair. I did look that up and the proposal deadline  
50 for the three year cycle that'll cover the Interior,

1 the Arctic and the Western Region for the Board of Game  
2 is 5:00 o'clock p.m., on Friday, April 29th, 2016. So  
3 that would give you an opportunity. We will be having  
4 individual Council meetings at the All Council meeting  
5 and you can certainly prepare a proposal at that time  
6 to discuss what you thought about earlier as a Tier II  
7 moose hunt or any other issues you'd like to bring  
8 before the Board of Game.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Do we want a  
13 resolution of the Council now supporting that question.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I would entertain a  
18 motion then to resolve to direct the Staff to help us  
19 prepare a proposal to shut down non-resident hunting in  
20 portions of 22.

21

22 MR. GARNIE: I move so.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SMITH: A second.

25

26 MR. ENINGOWUK: Second.

27

28 MR. OXEREOK: I'll second.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Moved by Joe Garnie,  
31 seconded by Amos, is there any further discussion.

32

33 MR. OXEREOK: Mr. Chair. I think Fred  
34 got the second before me.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Is there  
37 further discussion for the record.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I think Joe said it as  
42 well as it could be said.

43

44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Is.....

45

46 MR. OXEREOK: Could you please repeat  
47 the motion.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SMITH: The motion would be to  
50 resolve to direct the Staff to prepare a proposal to

1 stop -- to shut down non-resident hunting in portions  
2 of Unit 22, and the portion we're thinking about is the  
3 western part of 22D.

4

5 MR. GARNIE: Yes.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. So all in favor  
8 of the motion say aye.

9

10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11

12 MR. ENINGOWUK: Aye.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SMITH: It passes unanimously.

15

16 That brings us to agency reports.

17

18 Tribal governments.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Native organizations.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN SMITH: National Park Service  
27 next. It's in the agenda, we don't have to do it that  
28 way.

29

30 MR. ADKISSON: Here we go. Mr. Chair.  
31 Council members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service.  
32 I'll make this very quick.

33

34 First of all I just wanted to let you  
35 folks know that we've had a major Staff change on  
36 Bering LandBridge National Preserve. Earlier this  
37 summer we suddenly lost, very suddenly and  
38 unexpectedly, Fred Tocktoo, who passed away this  
39 summer. Fred was a long time member of our Staff, he  
40 joined us in 1990 at the beginning of the increase in  
41 the Federal program and for many, many years was a  
42 major factor in our participation through the Federal  
43 Program by serving on the InterAgency Council applicant  
44 review panels, providing logistic support at various  
45 times to the Councils and was an integral part of our  
46 program in terms of our village outreach and liaison  
47 program, did a lot of interpretive work with the youth  
48 and everything and was really a -- sort of like a  
49 subsistence conscious for a lot of us on the Staff to  
50 keep the Park Service honest and sort of dedicated to

1 the work. So we really miss Fred. And right now with  
2 some reorganization issues the Park is undergoing, we  
3 don't have any immediate plans to replace his position.

4

5                   So just to let you know about that.

6

7                   The other thing real quickly, Tony Gorn  
8 did a good job in providing, I think, the biological  
9 overview and the various projects and we haven't been  
10 extremely active down in 22 this year other than the  
11 muskox survey and composition work that Tony mentioned.  
12 But we spent a lot of time up north in the Unit 23 area  
13 on InterAgency wildlife surveys and monitoring the  
14 activities. Helped with an InterAgency moose survey in  
15 23 South West in the Buckland/Deering area. Another  
16 one in the Selawik area, another moose project in the  
17 Selawik River area. And we conducted a sheep survey in  
18 the western Baird Mountains. And down here we also  
19 participated, of course, in the bear project that Tony  
20 mentioned and that data is still undergoing some  
21 analysis and the report, hopefully, should be out for  
22 the next RAC meeting. And we also worked on a Unit 23  
23 Cape Thompson muskoxen population survey and  
24 composition work for that. And we'll be doing more  
25 composition and population work especially on muskoxen  
26 as a result of some Federal proposals that were  
27 submitted for the 2016/18 cycle by the Northwest Arctic  
28 RAC.

29

30                   So that's just about it unless there  
31 are any questions.

32

33                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Have any questions for

34 Ken.

35

36                   (No comments)

37

38                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay, then that brings  
39 us to BLM.

40

41                   MR. ADKISSON: Hum?

42

43                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you, Ken.

44

45                   I guess BLM is up next.

46

47                   MR. ADKISSON: Yep, okay, thanks.

48

49                   MR. SPARKS: I think I'll try to keep  
50 mine as short as Ken's, good to see you folks again.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. SPARKS: I got a little highlight  
4 I'll pass out to you guys. My name is Tom Sparks. I'm  
5 the manager here at the Nome station.

6

7 Just want to give some highlights of  
8 BLM activities.

9

10 We have various programs that we run  
11 out here.

12

13 The biggest change, I think, for us,  
14 this year in January of 2015, the district boundaries  
15 changed between Fairbanks and Anchorage and the  
16 Anchorage Field Office expanded all the way to  
17 Kivalina. So we took on all Unit 23, all the Nulato  
18 Hills, so literally millions of acres of Federal land  
19 has been switched from the Fairbanks District to the  
20 Anchorage District. So it's put a lot of capacity  
21 issues on our Staff. And we're trying as best we can  
22 to see what the future may hold.

23

24 Also we lost a position in Kotzebue.  
25 We've kept the station running there but it's been  
26 unmanned for almost a year now. And we haven't decided  
27 what to do yet as far as that position goes.

28

29 So with that, just run over some  
30 highlights.

31

32 For fisheries, I've got a contact  
33 number for you here, but we ran the Unalakleet weir in  
34 cooperation with Fish and Game. And we did some Imuruk  
35 Basin salmon studies on the red salmon with USGS.

36

37 With grazing, we continue to monitor  
38 the reindeer ranges out on the Peninsula, concentrate  
39 on the southern part of the Seward Peninsula.

40

41 With mining we have two notice level  
42 applications on the Peninsula currently and that's less  
43 than five acres of property involved and less than  
44 5,000 cubic yards, there's two of those on the  
45 Peninsula. One at Rainbow Mine, which is at the  
46 headwaters of the Nagspalik River, and then the other  
47 one is Graphite over by Imuruk Basin. And Graphite  
48 didn't do any drilling in 2015, and the only drilling  
49 that we're allowing so far is to determine their  
50 validity on their claims. There is about 12 Federal

1 claims and then the rest of the land is surrounded by  
2 State land.

3

4 With wildlife I'm going to defer to  
5 Bruce.

6

7 On the lands portion, we grant various  
8 authorizations, I just thought I'd mention a few that  
9 are on the Peninsula that might be something you folks  
10 are interested in.

11

12 We gave the Department of Fish and Game  
13 authorization to run a weir at the Inglutalik River,  
14 southeast of Koyuk, and they're relocating that weir  
15 and we're working on that authorization.

16

17 And also in Unalakleet there is egg  
18 take for king salmon eggs, also a proposal by the  
19 Department of Fish and Game.

20

21 And we continue to work with GCI on the  
22 Terra Project, the broadband communication sites. They  
23 have another proposal in front of the BLM that's going  
24 to take the existing infrastructure and move it east  
25 into Fairbanks. So that'll be a loop of the  
26 communication site along the Haul Road.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I'll just have you  
29 stop.

30

31 MR. SPARKS: Yep.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SMITH: What's the proposal on  
34 the Unalakleet River from Fish and Game.

35

36 MR. SPARKS: It's to take eggs, king  
37 salmon eggs.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Oh, Fish and Game's  
40 going to do it too.

41

42 MR. SPARKS: In cooperation with NSEDC,  
43 uh-huh.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay.

46

47 MR. SPARKS: And then the other thing  
48 that's locally driven is the city of Nome has a  
49 repeater on the Kigluaik Mountains for the Ham radio  
50 club and we're processing that reauthorization.

1                   And then the other major component we  
2 do is recreation. We replaced the outhouse out at  
3 Salmon Lake, just got that done this year so if any of  
4 you guys are driving up north, please stop by.

5  
6                   (Laughter)

7  
8                   MR. SPARKS: And we authorized one new  
9 commercial guiding outfit and that's a guide that's  
10 working primarily 22B and that's for bear. That  
11 individual is out of Montana and his name is Wimerman,  
12 so you folks may see him, he bought property in  
13 Council.

14  
15                   So maybe not as short as Park Service  
16 here.

17  
18                   The only other thing I mentioned last  
19 year is that we have a new land use plan that's going  
20 to be in effect in the next few years, it's called the  
21 Bering Sea Western Interior, it goes from Unalakleet  
22 South so it does affect the Southern Norton Sound. We  
23 came up with some preliminary alternative development  
24 in August and that's going to be an ongoing project,  
25 probably be a couple years out.

26  
27                   So kind of got a little sheet here with  
28 just those on there and contact numbers and stuff and  
29 our website, too, so be happy to answer any questions.  
30 I know it's a lot of information, but I wanted to keep  
31 it short, I know you guys have been here a long time.

32  
33                   MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. Tom. Mr.  
34 Chair.

35  
36                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Go ahead.

37  
38                   MR. KATCHEAK: Ted. You said you've  
39 been doing census on Unalakleet River for fish, is  
40 there any other counts being done in the Norton -- or  
41 southern Norton Sound area besides Unalakleet.

42  
43                   MR. SPARKS: For fish, the Inglutalik  
44 River is the second one that -- and we just permitted  
45 that one. But the one in Unalakleet, we're actively  
46 involved in it. But usually if it's on Federal land,  
47 if a weir is on Federal land then we permit the  
48 activity through, you know, the State or NSEDC, and if  
49 it's not then we're not involved.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Any other questions  
2 for Tom.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I guess not. Bruce,  
7 did you have anything.

8  
9 MR. SEPPI: Hi, I'm Bruce Seppi. Mr.  
10 Chair. Members of the Council. I'm Bruce Seppi, a  
11 wildlife biologist and Federal subsistence specialist  
12 for the Anchorage Field Office.

13  
14 Just quickly, I'll point out that we  
15 offered six Federal muskox permits in 22B and 22D this  
16 fall. Three were in 22B west, one was in 22D  
17 southwest, and two were in 22D remainder. We did that  
18 on a lottery system. We contacted all the eligible  
19 villages and said to apply right -- tell us, either by  
20 email or phone if you're interested and then we did a  
21 lottery and put those six permit winners out August 1st  
22 when that hunt opened. There were no -- as of this  
23 point there's been no muskox harvested on those six  
24 permits but one went to White Mountain, and the rest of  
25 them went to residents of Nome.

26  
27 BLM will also be helping Fish and Game  
28 down in 22A with a moose census, a geo-spacial moose  
29 census next February or March. We tried to get that  
30 done last year but there was no snow, I mean literally  
31 no snow as you guys know, so it was cancelled. And  
32 then just about that time we were trying to do a muskox  
33 survey on the Seward Peninsula, which Tony had  
34 mentioned and we got this snow just at the last minute,  
35 literally and we were able to pull that off in several  
36 days. I was involved with that and sat in the back of  
37 a Cub for three days and counted muskoxen and did  
38 mostly in 22B and 22D and we did get that accomplished  
39 and we worked pretty closely with Fish and Game, both  
40 with moose and muskox.

41  
42 Also down in 22A we issued permits,  
43 there's unlimited numbers of permits but for a moose  
44 hunt there there's a quota of 22 bulls between State  
45 hunt and a Federal hunt there in the Unalakleet  
46 watershed. I was in Unalakleet and issued permits and  
47 then we had a local person, had them available for the  
48 rest of the hunting season. That season did go until  
49 the end of September, 14th, I believe, but the full  
50 quota was taken, there was 22 bulls, and I believe 23

1 were harvested.

2

3                   Also BLM has been organizing and I have  
4 personally been putting together a contract for the  
5 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group that will be  
6 happening -- that meeting will be happening December  
7 15th through 17th in Anchorage. We've had help -- it's  
8 quite an expensive meeting to put on to get everybody  
9 there and just the logistics of it and so we actually  
10 hired a contractor to do that and got that done  
11 literally up to the last minute with our procurement  
12 deadlines but we did get it done, it will happen  
13 December 15th through 17th in Anchorage. That venue  
14 has not been chosen yet but it will be shortly and it  
15 will be advertised widely where that will be.

16

17                   BLM funds that but we also got help  
18 from Fish and Wildlife and the Park Service and Fish  
19 and Game hires a facilitator to do that so it should be  
20 a good meeting and hope you folks can be involved with  
21 that in some way or at least find out what was talked  
22 about. I know Mr. Gray is on that Board and will be  
23 there.

24

25                   That's all I have if there are any  
26 questions.

27

28                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Do you know who we go  
29 to to ask who in the Federal government is responsible  
30 for protecting subsistence?

31

32                   MR. SEPPI: Who you go to, gee.....

33

34                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: It's a joke because  
35 everybody I've gone to says it's not me.

36

37                   MR. SEPPI: .....yeah, is that a loaded  
38 question.

39

40                   No, I don't know. It's too large of a  
41 question to go to any one person, I think.

42

43                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, that leaves  
44 subsistence users going to door to door and getting  
45 turned away. And, you know, we can't afford to do it.

46

47                   MR. SEPPI: Well, that is part of my  
48 job. I spent a whole heck of a lot of time not only in  
49 this region but in Northwest Arctic now and in Western  
50 Interior and to some degree in Yukon Delta and the

1 Peninsula listening to those issues so it's not as  
2 though we're not listening.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SMITH: But the problem is,  
5 nobody says that it's their responsibility, the buck  
6 never stops. That's my problem, is the buck never  
7 stops. You go to the -- you go to the North Pacific  
8 Fishery Management Council and ask them well who's  
9 responsible for protecting king salmon, subsistence  
10 fishing on king salmon; it's not them. You go to the  
11 Board of Fisheries, it's not them. And so who do we go  
12 to. It's -- asking these questions is tough, it's  
13 expensive.

14  
15 MR. SEPPI: If you want a short answer,  
16 I think, and I'm not trying to be funny, the short  
17 answer is the agencies that uphold ANILCA and that's  
18 the Department of Interior agencies. So it's not just  
19 one particular person or agency.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SMITH: It's not a question I  
22 expected you to be able to answer because nobody else  
23 has been able to answer it. I've asked it at the  
24 highest levels I've been able to get to so far.

25  
26 MR. SEPPI: I'd have to give that a  
27 little more thought to come up with a better answer.

28  
29 (Laughter)

30  
31 MR. OXEREOK: Bruce, you said you were  
32 at Unalakleet, were you there during the end of the  
33 season?

34  
35 MR. SEPPI: I was not. Although I was  
36 talking closely with Fish and Game here in Nome, Peter  
37 Nanelk, we had hired to actually -- in Unalakleet to  
38 issue permits and it got down -- it actually was  
39 extended a few days there at the end because they were  
40 coming close to the quota but it wasn't met and then in  
41 that last few days, over the weekend, it was -- the  
42 quota was met and it closed.

43  
44 MR. OXEREOK: Yeah, I was there at that  
45 time and I just want to let you know, I seen a lot of  
46 people all getting out of town and trying to get that  
47 last one, or the last two, and it looked like a little  
48 bit of a frenzy going on.

49  
50 MR. SEPPI: Yeah, well, I was hoping it

1 would be spread out a little more than that but I hope  
2 people got the animals that they wanted so.  
3  
4 MR. OXEREOK: With that extra one they  
5 probably did.  
6  
7 MR. SEPPI: It went a little over,  
8 yeah.  
9  
10 Any other questions.  
11  
12 (No comments)  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you.  
15  
16 MR. SEPPI: Thank you.  
17  
18 MR. SPARKS: Thank you.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN SMITH: We'll be at ADF&G, if  
21 -- I don't think Bruce can really.....  
22  
23 MS. DAGGET: Hello, can you hear me.  
24 My name is.....  
25  
26 (Cell Phone)  
27  
28 MS. LAVINE: Just one moment.  
29  
30 (Pause)  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yes.  
33  
34 MS. DAGGET: This is Carmen Dagget,  
35 board support section. I've been listening to your  
36 meeting the whole time. There were several concerns  
37 that a couple of the RAC members had brought up that I  
38 wanted to address.  
39  
40 First of all, a couple of things that  
41 you should be aware of, first of all, none of the  
42 Advisory Committee's have met yet for this region and  
43 so their comments on those proposals are going to be  
44 limited to basically submitted to the Subsistence  
45 Board, so that's part of the reason why you didn't get  
46 comments about particular proposals because they  
47 haven't met yet.  
48  
49 The Northern Norton Sound Advisory  
50 Committee's meeting is supposed to be happening October

1 27th at 2:30 in the afternoon at Old St. Joe's Hall.

2

3

(Laughter)

4

5 MS. DAGGET: So everybody on the RAC is  
6 welcome to listen in. And I believe that several of  
7 these proposals will be presented at that meeting along  
8 with a wide variety of other State proposals.

9

10 And Karen mentioned the deadline for  
11 the Board of Game proposals is April 29th at 5:00  
12 o'clock p.m., so I just wanted to reiterate that. I  
13 know you guys seem to be rather bothered about the  
14 outcome of the caribou proposals and believe me it was  
15 not easy (indiscernible - cell phone break up) there's  
16 a lot of hard work from a variety of different people  
17 to try to come to a final conclusion about that  
18 particular proposal and so if you have adjustments that  
19 you would like to make to that, feel free to submit  
20 those on the proposals. I would actually recommend  
21 trying to get that done before the AC meetings so that  
22 the AC could read through it, and that they be -- you  
23 know, if the ACs gave it support that, you know, you  
24 guys could work together on that particular item.

25

26 I also wanted to mention a few things  
27 so that you guys realize what tools are at your hands.  
28 There is an online public notice page where I post all  
29 of the notices for all the Advisory Committee meetings  
30 for your region and for all the Arctic region actually.  
31 And on that public notice page there also will be  
32 minutes posted from every meeting and agendas and  
33 announcements. So I emailed the link for that online  
34 public notification to the Chairman and to RAC member  
35 Tom Gray so that you can obtain that information should  
36 they ever want to reference it in the future. In  
37 addition, I also emailed the link for the page where  
38 you can listen to Board meetings. There is an online  
39 community access to anyone who is a member of the  
40 public for Board meetings. And I would also like to  
41 remind you that if you happen to be listening to those,  
42 that you can still submit written comments to the Board  
43 through me or through Juneau and have those comments  
44 submitted to the Board as things are coming about. So  
45 if you have comments about changes in regulations that  
46 are happening, there are lots of opportunities for you  
47 to participate, you just have to take them.

48

49 So with that there's also the Arctic  
50 Yukon Kuskokwim fisheries meeting that's coming up and

1 it's going to be happening in January this year. And  
2 so there'll be many proposals affecting the Norton  
3 Sound area at that particular meeting and the comment  
4 deadline for that meeting is December 28th, the meeting  
5 occurs January 12th through the 17th in Fairbanks.

6

7 So.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Could you say.....

10

11 MS. DAGGET: Are there any questions.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Could you say again  
14 the date for comments on AYK proposals.

15

16 MS. DAGGET: December 28th.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SMITH: And the meeting date.

19

20 MS. DAGGET: January 12th through the  
21 17th.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you. Any  
24 additional questions for Fish and Game.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you.

29

30 REPORTER: Thank you.

31

32 MS. DAGGET: You're.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Future meeting dates.

35

36 MS. DAGGET: .....welcome.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, we need an  
39 update on the All Council meeting.

40

41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Members of  
42 the Council. If you turn in your meeting books to --  
43 I'm trying to find it.....

44

45 MR. MCKEE: I believe the next.....

46

47 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....Page 265 of the  
48 meeting book for the All Councils meeting.

49

50 MR. MCKEE: I believe the next item on

1 the agenda is the OSM report.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, I'm sorry.

4

5 MR. MCKEE: I'm sure you all want to  
6 see my smiling face again up here at the table but.....

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. MCKEE: .....I assure you I will  
11 try, my best effort to be brief.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MR. MCKEE: So first of all just a  
16 quick Staffing update for you guys.

17

18 I'm not sure how many of you remember,  
19 but just a couple of years ago OSM was severely under  
20 Staffed. As a matter of fact, the Wildlife Division  
21 itself was operating on half a Staff, me and one other  
22 person, luckily within that time we've hired a couple  
23 of new excellent biologists but we still have several  
24 positions to fill. In fact, by my account, somewhere  
25 near about a dozen.

26

27 But in the interim time, since that  
28 time, we've hired both Robbin LaVine, who you've had  
29 the pleasure of seeing, as an anthropologist with OSM,  
30 and she's helping to fill in a critical gap for the  
31 Anthropology Department, and also Aimee Howard just  
32 recently joined OSM as our new subsistence policy  
33 coordinator, in July of this year. So that fills a  
34 position that has been vacant for boy probably two or  
35 three years, and one that is critical in a lot of the  
36 intricacies of our program and a lot of other Staff  
37 have had to kind of make up for that absence. So with  
38 her being around now that really fills out a critical  
39 role in the kind of leadership team at OSM.

40

41 But we're also looking to hire another  
42 Council coordinator, an anthropologist, a biometrician,  
43 two fisheries biologist, a pathways student, a grants  
44 management specialist, IT specialist and administrative  
45 assistant. So OSM has done an excellent job at  
46 aggressively trying to fill these positions, but,  
47 obviously we're still in the process of doing that.  
48 And, I, myself, am actually trying to hire the last  
49 single biologist position within the Wildlife  
50 Department but the -- as you can imagine with most

1 things in the Federal government, things don't move at  
2 light speed so it takes quite a while to get these  
3 things, through, both at a regional level and at a  
4 national level but OSM is making very, what I would  
5 consider, very aggressive efforts to try to fully Staff  
6 OSM and so we can better serve subsistence users in the  
7 way that we're supposed to be doing.

8

9                   So that's pretty much all I had in  
10 terms of Staffing.

11

12                   I would also report that an update at  
13 its April 2015 meeting in Anchorage, the North Pacific  
14 Fishery Management Council took action to reduce  
15 bycatch of both chinook and chum salmon in the Bering  
16 Sea commercial pollock fishery taking a combination of  
17 actions, which were looking at lowering the caps in all  
18 times of low abundance, combine chinook and salmon  
19 bycatch management and place additional requirements on  
20 industry incentive plans in the reapportionment of the  
21 pollock catch between seasons. So I know a lot of  
22 attention was paid to that and it was quite a long  
23 meeting. In addition to -- so overall they put actions  
24 in place to further reduce bycatch basically in all  
25 times of abundance and to insure in periods of low  
26 chinook abundance that the pollock fishery be limited  
27 to a lower level of bycatch. So I know that's  
28 something that's been at the attention of more than one  
29 Council, and I think that's a move in the right  
30 direction.

31

32                   Also both the Fish and Wildlife Service  
33 and the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program,  
34 the ANSEP program were awarded a National Fish and  
35 Wildlife Foundation Grant to help kind of establish a  
36 lost connection between Federal land managers and rural  
37 communities on the Yukon Kuskokwim and Doyon regions,  
38 and funds from this grant are being used to increase  
39 outreach opportunities and expand the Refuge  
40 information technician program, which does, as many of  
41 you know, hires local people to kind of operate with  
42 local subsistence users on the ground. So that grant  
43 should be a tremendous help for on the ground local  
44 users. And also funds from this grant are also helping  
45 to support ANSEP students participating in biological  
46 internships with the Yukon Kuskokwim and Doyon regions.

47

48                   And then finally OSM has submitted  
49 requests to the Secretary of Interior to make the  
50 following changes to the Council appointment process,

1 and I think we've probably been over this before but  
2 just to recap, that, wanting to shift from a three year  
3 to four year appointment term, and allow for  
4 appointment of alternates and to provide for a 120 day  
5 carryover term for incumbents in the event that  
6 appointment letters are not timely issued. As some of  
7 you may know we've had some issues with getting the  
8 appointment process through folks in DC, it's not in  
9 OSM's hand to finalize those appointments, so our hands  
10 are kind of tied by folks in DC., and the only real  
11 update on that that I can tell you is that we're still  
12 waiting to hear back an official response from the  
13 Secretary and we're not going to be able to implement  
14 any of these changes that I just mentioned during the  
15 2015 appointment cycle. So, again, we would like to  
16 see some of these changes be implemented but it's kind  
17 of beyond the power of OSM at this point and we're  
18 basically waiting for the Secretaries to take action on  
19 it.

20  
21 So that's kind of the quick and dirty  
22 update from OSM, and that's pretty much all I had for  
23 you.

24  
25 Thank you.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Any questions.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I'd like to make a  
32 comment.

33  
34 I was at the meeting where they  
35 addressed bycatch and they did make a substantial  
36 reduction in the king salmon hardcap, I think it came  
37 out at 45,000.

38  
39 MR. MCKEE: Yes.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah, that's a  
42 substantial reduction. But what's not clear is that  
43 they're letting chum salmon bycatch run wild. You know  
44 they're going -- the priority is protecting king salmon  
45 which means that they're going to catch more chum  
46 salmon because nobody else but us is having a chum  
47 salmon problem. Everybody else has enough chum salmon  
48 and we weren't really very well represented. And so  
49 our king salmon are gone, our chum salmon are going to  
50 be sacrificed in order to protect the other king salmon

1 runs so I think we need to keep that clear.

2

3 MR. OXEREOK: It's good to see that  
4 you're filling your Staff. And regarding the  
5 appointment process, it's good to see that they're  
6 going to start streamlining that. Like for me,  
7 personally, I got the letter that said my application  
8 was denied and then I went on this little emotional  
9 roller-coaster, several weeks later I got another  
10 letter saying that I was appointed so I went from a low  
11 to a high real quick like.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MR. OXEREOK: I just wanted to let you  
16 know about that one.

17

18 MR. MCKEE: Well, again, you know, we  
19 -- nobody in our office is even aware whether  
20 somebody's either -- the reasons for somebody not being  
21 appointed or appointed, you know, I think you might  
22 stand a better chance of finding out where Jimmy Hoffa  
23 is buried.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MR. MCKEE: So, again, it's beyond us,  
28 and we don't really get a chance to weigh in on that  
29 and know why or why not somebody's appointed. But I'm  
30 glad to hear that that happened for you in a relatively  
31 quick manner.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 CHAIRMAN SMITH: My last appointment  
36 took longer than the appointment for the new CIA  
37 director, and I don't know if I should be proud of that  
38 or not.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MR. MCKEE: Well, it just shows you the  
43 importance of your role in the process.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. You  
48 mentioned king salmon bycatch and in your estimation  
49 how many times did they exceed the bycatch.

50

1 MR. MCKEE: I was not at that meeting  
2 and don't really -- I can't really answer that  
3 question, I'm not familiar with those numbers  
4 unfortunately.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SMITH: They did -- they  
7 haven't exceeded a hardcap yet if you believe the  
8 bycatch numbers. But I don't really. And so I just  
9 think that the hardcaps have been too high and I think  
10 45,000 is still too high. But to answer your question,  
11 no, they haven't done it -- they haven't exceeded it --  
12 they haven't exceeded a hardcap but this hardcap was  
13 67,000, that was an awful lot of fish.

14  
15 MR. KATCHEAK: Thank you.

16  
17 MR. MCKEE: That's it for me, thank  
18 you.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SMITH: So here we are on  
21 future meeting dates and All Council meeting update.  
22 So who's going to do that, you.

23  
24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Members of  
25 the Council. If you'll turn to Page 265, again, of  
26 your meeting book.

27  
28 In there is a very draft agenda for the  
29 All Councils meeting that's planned for March 7th, 2016  
30 in Anchorage. The venue has been decided, we have got --  
31 we're going to be in the Egan Center in downtown  
32 Anchorage, that's where the meeting will be held.

33  
34 I think it's interesting to note after  
35 listening to several of the concerns today, as well as  
36 some of the items you're putting in your annual report,  
37 that the agenda items for the All Councils joint  
38 meeting on the first time are climate change, food  
39 security, Federal Subsistence budget, revisions to the  
40 FRMP, hunter education youth engagement, the pollock  
41 bycatch update is going to happen there at this  
42 meeting, fisheries management overview and the  
43 processes of OSM; so there's going to be a lot of  
44 relevant issues that first day.

45  
46 After that we're going to have multiple  
47 breakout sessions, and this was done -- and they're  
48 going to be repeated because the Councils are each  
49 going to have a day to meet as an individual Council at  
50 this meeting, and so there'll be opportunities to

1 attend panels on -- and training on ANILCA, cross-  
2 cultural communications, one of my favorites, Roberts  
3 Rules of Order, regulatory processes, Federal Indian  
4 Law, and C&T versus Section .804. There will be panels  
5 for the processes, holistic management, tribal  
6 consultation, dual management. The different Federal  
7 subsistence systems that you have to wrangle through  
8 like the Migratory Birds and halibut and Marine Mammals  
9 and OSM, you know, we're going to try to lay that out  
10 and make that a little clearer and easier to the best  
11 of our abilities. The Western Arctic Caribou Herd will  
12 have a report at this meeting, as well as Yukon salmon  
13 and Kuskokwim salmon. There'll be reports on what's  
14 been happening there. You talked about Federalization  
15 of the Yukon River, these are panels that I think -- or  
16 reports that I think would be of interest and I  
17 certainly encourage you to attend.

18

19                   If you had any questions, we're going  
20 to be -- we're going to be tearing right into this as  
21 soon as this RAC meeting cycle ends and get ready for  
22 it, but, certainly, if you have any questions today  
23 I'll try to help you otherwise we'll be in touch. Your  
24 input is important, and we'll be hoping to make travel  
25 arrangements for all of you to come to the big city.

26

27                   Thank you.

28

29                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: That's going to be  
30 really good. For all of you who haven't been to a  
31 Federal Subsistence Board meeting it's really a good  
32 process to watch and it'll be a good thing. The Board  
33 will be there, I assume.

34

35                   MS. DEATHERAGE: The Federal  
36 Subsistence Board will be there but they won't be  
37 meeting there, they will be there as support actually  
38 for the Councils and to work with you through some of  
39 these issues.

40

41                   CHAIRMAN SMITH: But you'll see that  
42 the system is supported really well by the Federal  
43 government compared to the State system, which is not  
44 supported at all now.

45

46                   So thank you Karen.

47

48                   I guess this brings us to fall 2016  
49 date and location. Do we have a calendar somewhere.

50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: The calendar, Mr.  
2 Chair, is immediately following on Page 269, and then  
3 270, but we have gotten recent updates because several  
4 Councils have met before you and there also -- this  
5 year I asked that the AFN conference be put on the  
6 calendar so there wouldn't be a conflict like we found  
7 this year, and so we've got that on there, too.

8  
9 I can tell you the dates that are  
10 currently taken by the other Councils and the AFN date  
11 if you'd like, to mark it on the calendar that you have  
12 in your book.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay.

15  
16 MR. OXEREOK: Mr. Chair. Regarding  
17 publication of our next meeting, making a post here  
18 locally on Nome-Post, on FaceBook, and then again on  
19 Nome Announce, at the suggestion of Tom Gray, the  
20 comments that I received back were like, please let us  
21 know about it sooner and advertise it more. So if you  
22 need help, I can definitely help publicizing it earlier  
23 in this region.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, thank you for  
26 the offer, we do need help. I did a much better job  
27 last year than I did this year, I had a lot of other  
28 stuff happening, so I didn't do a very good job, but,  
29 yeah, definitely appreciate that help.

30  
31 So when is AFN Karen.

32  
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: The AFN Conference  
34 will be held October 20th to October 22nd in Fairbanks.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SMITH: The other RAC  
37 meetings, when are they.

38  
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Kodiak/Aleutians will  
40 be meeting September 28th and 29th.

41  
42 The Northwest Arctic will be meeting  
43 October 5th and 6th.

44  
45 And then Yukon Delta will be meeting  
46 October 12th and 13th.

47  
48 Thank you.

49  
50 (Pause)

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Does anybody have any  
2 preferred dates here.

3  
4 (Pause)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SMITH: A little later in  
7 October would be better for me, I -- you know, there's  
8 always a zillion things to do just before freeze up so  
9 just a little later in October would be handy for me.

10  
11 MR. OXEREOK: I think that would also  
12 give a chance for these biologists and their studies to  
13 prepare their reports and we'll be able to have more  
14 data at the meeting.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SMITH: How about November 1  
17 and 2.

18  
19 (Pause)

20  
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Those dates are  
22 currently open.

23  
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25  
26 (Pause)

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Or the other option  
29 would be -- well, that would interfere with AFN, yeah,  
30 1 and 2 would be good for me, if nobody has any  
31 objections.

32  
33 What's that going to do to your NSEDC  
34 meeting, is that going to -- anybody else like those  
35 dates -- okay, let's go with that then.

36  
37 (Council nods affirmatively)

38  
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Location.  
40 Certainly the Council always has the option of meeting  
41 in Nome, but it's my understanding that our leadership  
42 team is interested in learning about other locations  
43 that you think might be important to meet at to reach  
44 out to the communities. They're going to be looking at  
45 opening up perhaps a little bit more. So it's  
46 something that you can consider for this meeting cycle,  
47 I mean for the fall 2016 meeting cycle, at least to  
48 request, that doesn't mean you'll get it, but you can  
49 certainly request it if you wish.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: It doesn't usually  
2 work out too well because of weather, that's the  
3 problem, you know, and doing it at that time of the  
4 year, I know we'll have a lot of problems getting  
5 people back and forth plus none of the other  
6 communities have enough infrastructure to really  
7 support -- we could do it but it would be harder. I  
8 don't know what the rest of the people think about it.  
9

10 MR. OXEREOK: How many total are we  
11 talking that would be attending that meeting?  
12

13 CHAIRMAN SMITH: It would be just the  
14 same as this only at a different location.  
15

16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Just for  
17 the record, for the history of this Council I did go  
18 back and look, the Council has met in Shishmaref and  
19 also Unalakleet on one other occasion, otherwise it's  
20 been in Nome, and once in Teller.  
21

22 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Teller is easier than  
23 any place else but the facilities there are pretty  
24 limited for supporting a meeting this size so I think  
25 it would be hard. We could get there easier. And  
26 Unalakleet is just -- the weather is just going to be  
27 too much of a problem.  
28

29 Anybody object to just continuing to  
30 have it here.  
31

32 (Council agrees)  
33

34 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I think it's easier  
35 for everybody.  
36

37 MR. OXEREOK: Regarding audio  
38 difficulties, we might want to.....  
39

40 (Laughter)  
41

42 MR. OXEREOK: .....consider changing  
43 the venue in Nome.  
44

45 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, this is a good  
46 location. It's centrally located, people can see that  
47 we're meeting here, we'd be better off to rent some  
48 cars and park out there because the number of vehicles  
49 kind of indicates how big the meeting is and we don't  
50 have enough vehicles. So this is -- I like this

1 location for a meeting, we need to work on the phone  
2 line, but we can do that before the next meeting, we  
3 will definitely have that looked into.

4  
5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I  
6 don't know if everybody heard this but it did turn out  
7 to be the telephone line for this building, that was  
8 the issue, it was not the equipment that we brought.  
9 So I mean it's always a gamble, it did work in the  
10 winter time for the winter meeting, and it can go bad  
11 anywhere, so if the Council would like to continue  
12 meeting in this venue that's certainly an option.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, we'll make sure  
15 that it gets fixed, we have to have it here so we will.  
16 I don't mean to say that we have to meet here but.....

17  
18 (Laughter)

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SMITH: .....we have to have a  
21 working phone line in this building, we have to have  
22 that, we spent too much money on this building not to  
23 be able to use the phones so I just want to restate  
24 that.

25  
26 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. I'd like to  
27 make a suggestion, Pioneer -- Pioneer.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SMITH: That's okay too.

30  
31 (Pause)

32  
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. We'd be  
34 happy to look at any other venues if you're interested.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I guess we'll go to  
37 closing comments. Do you want to start us out, Joe.

38  
39 MR. GARNIE: Yeah, I'd like to just say  
40 I am thankful for being able to participate here and  
41 helping in making some of the decisions in our region.  
42 And just thank you all.

43  
44 MR. SACCHEUS: Once again, we went  
45 through a lot of politics the past two days and I kind  
46 of enjoy seeing all you people, all the smiling faces  
47 and I hope you have a good Thanksgiving and Christmas  
48 and holidays and may God bless you all.

49  
50 Thank you.

1 MR. KATCHEAK: Once again I express my  
2 feelings. When I started with the Federal Subsistence  
3 Advisory Council I was very enthusiastic and I was  
4 younger.

5  
6 (Laughter)

7  
8 MR. KATCHEAK: And we've had three --  
9 through the years that I've been involved I've helped  
10 propose three different proposals.

11  
12 The first one was moose. When we were --  
13 the moose was only by permit only and then later on we  
14 made a proposal for subsistence purpose -- for  
15 subsistence hunt.

16  
17 And the other one -- the second one was  
18 bear. As you recall some years ago the State  
19 regulations stated one bear every four regulatory years  
20 and I was very adamant about that issue because it  
21 affects just -- not only the herders but also the  
22 people of the village, in Stebbins and St. Michael.

23  
24 The third one was caribou. This  
25 caribou proposal that I submitted and some really  
26 adopted, could be one of the regulations, I -- I feel  
27 that I have accomplished some things that I wouldn't  
28 do.

29  
30 So, once, again, I'm always very  
31 excited about participating in this Advisory Council.  
32 And I wish everybody a safe trip home and you hopefully  
33 will enjoy the rest of the year.

34  
35 Thank you.

36  
37 MR. OXEREOK: I'm really excited about  
38 this Council. And I'm really looking forward to going  
39 out to the different communities, especially with my  
40 new job and hearing what the Federal subsistence users  
41 issues are, and just hearing about what they're taking  
42 for subsistence and listening to the hunting stories.  
43 And I'm really looking forward to learning more about  
44 the area and bringing their concerns to our Council  
45 meetings.

46  
47 I'm really, really honored to be here.

48  
49 Thank you for having me.

50

1 MR. SEETOT: I'd like to thank Staff  
2 for your patience. I think we had a fine time here in  
3 the past two days.

4  
5 Weather changes so be careful in  
6 everything that you do, especially the ones out in the  
7 villages, sometimes it just comes out in a hurry. Like  
8 I said in the past, meetings are publicized at least a  
9 month, two weeks in advance to a RAC meeting, but like  
10 when I first came here in '95 it was pretty much Staff  
11 was all who was present that was supposed to be  
12 supporting the Council, and over the years it kind of  
13 streamlined in a way that the money for these meetings  
14 were kind of hit and miss at times, and then I seen a  
15 lot of changes over the past years since 1995, and I  
16 would like to see more involvement from the State side.  
17 I guess we bash State of Alaska too much, you know, for  
18 their past regulations and what made it -- where they  
19 hardly come to our meetings and I am assuming that just  
20 because we're elected officials from our community  
21 we've got to represent all the interests of all our  
22 users but we're not, and that's important for us to put  
23 the information out to our community members when we do  
24 get home.

25  
26 And last of all, mail service is very  
27 slow, at least from the community, trying to mail  
28 something to Nome, it takes -- I just received  
29 notification of my travel about a week ago, so that --  
30 but they notified me about a month ago on the meeting  
31 dates and where we'd probably be meeting at, so you  
32 need to be aware, our mail service is very slow right  
33 now in this region.

34  
35 I thank you.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Sorry, I had my mic  
38 on. At the last Federal Subsistence Board I attended  
39 and my good friend Greg Roczicka was there from Bethel,  
40 and about the only time I see him anymore is at  
41 meetings and he made a comment I think is worth  
42 repeating here is that:

43  
44 We're getting better at meetings.  
45 Subsistence users are getting much better at meetings.

46  
47 He's a perfect example of it, he's  
48 very, very skilled at it. And this Council here is an  
49 excellent example, the progress that's been made in the  
50 last few years, you know, we're getting to be

1 professional meeting goers. The problem is we're no  
2 longer professional subsistence hunters and fishermen,  
3 we're spending too much time at meetings complaining  
4 about not having any resources and that's got to  
5 change.

6  
7 And the other problem is we're out-  
8 classed. You know, we have opposition, a lot of  
9 opposition. The industrial commercial fishing industry  
10 is, you know, just the pollock industry alone is \$1.3  
11 billion a year. You know, I can't testify alongside  
12 Paul McGregor, he's a professional, he knows what he's  
13 doing, he's good at it, really good at it, you know,  
14 I'm getting a little bit better at it, but it's like  
15 playing in the NBA when you don't even know how to  
16 dribble, when you don't understand the rules. And so --  
17 and plus it's a rigged system. The industry controls  
18 it. And the answer to that is for us to continue to  
19 get better but also to work together, and that's one  
20 thing we're not doing.

21  
22 You know, one of the things that made  
23 Alaska great is a -- a rugged individual, you do your  
24 own thing and you were able to do your own thing, we  
25 had a lot of freedom for a long time, but our freedom  
26 is getting squeezed down by these other competitors and  
27 we're going to have to get together. We're going to  
28 have to put aside our differences and work together or  
29 we're just going to get ground under.

30  
31 So that's my advice, is that we find  
32 ways to work together better.

33  
34 So this was a very good meeting and  
35 thank everybody for attending. Do we have a motion to  
36 adjourn.

37  
38 MR. ENINGOWUK: Hello.

39  
40 REPORTER: Did you want to hear from  
41 Fred.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Oh, yes.

44  
45 MR. ENINGOWUK: Is the meeting  
46 adjourned.

47  
48 REPORTER: No, not yet, do you have any  
49 closing comments first.

50

1 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes, thank you. Thank  
2 God for your technology here and I'm able to attend  
3 today through teleconference. I'm looking at the date  
4 for our winter meeting, I'm glad there is climate  
5 change on the agenda and food security, you know, with  
6 climate that things are changing, and I'm sure glad  
7 those two items are on the agenda.

8  
9 On behalf of Shishmaref, I thank the  
10 Council members for honoring their request on making  
11 sure we have their hunting area for 22(ph) although  
12 it's not final yet, it has to go through the Board.  
13 I'm sorry I couldn't make it for the meeting but was  
14 able to attend by teleconference.

15  
16 I wasn't quite prepared to have any  
17 closing comments.

18  
19 (Laughter)

20  
21 MR. ENINGOWUK: Thank you.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you, Fred.

24  
25 REPORTER: Thanks, Fred.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Now do we have a  
28 motion to adjourn.

29  
30 MR. OXEREOK: So moved.

31  
32 MR. KATCHEAK: Second.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay.

35  
36 MR. OXEREOK: That last picture I took  
37 was of Tina and Fred.

38  
39 (Laughter)

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay, we're adjourned.

42  
43 (Off record)

44  
45 (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 110 through 255 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the 15th day of October 2015 at Nome, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 25th day of October 2015.

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