

1 NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME I

7
8
9 Buckland School Library
10 Buckland, Alaska
11 October 6, 2015
12 9:00 a.m

13
14
15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16
17 Enoch Shiedt, Chairman
18 Percy Ballot
19 Michael Kramer
20 Hannah Loon
21 Enoch Mitchell
22 Calvin Moto
23 Raymond Stoney
24
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26
27 Regional Council Coordinator, Melinda Burke

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Buckland, Alaska - 10/6/2015)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Good morning to everyone here. This morning we'll start with a prayer. We'll ask Alice Barr to give us a prayer, please.

MS. MELTON-BARR: Good morning.

(Invocation)

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Welcome everyone and staff and guests. We'll have students later. That's what they're telling me. Close to about 20. So I think we'll need more chairs if they're coming. We'll keep it open to the public to come any time they want.

At this time we'll have the roll call and establishing a quorum.

MS. LOON: Raymond Stoney will come in later. Austin Swan is excused. Hannah Loon, present. Michael Kramer.

MR. KRAMER: Here.

MS. LOON: Percy Ballot.

MR. BALLOT: Here.

MS. LOON: Verne Cleveland, Sr.

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Verne called to be excused.

MS. LOON: Enoch Shiedt, Sr.

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Here.

MS. LOON: Enoch Mitchell.

MR. MITCHELL: Here.

MS. LOON: Calvin Moto.

MR. MOTO: Yeah.

1 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, we have a
2 quorum.
3
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.
5 Thank you, Melinda. Just a minute.
6
7 (Pause)
8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I was trying
10 to get myself straight here on the agenda. We'll start
11 with introductions from the board here. We'll start
12 with Calvin.
13
14 MR. MOTO: Good morning. Calvin Moto
15 from Deering. Glad to be here in Buckland. My Eskimo
16 name is Kohanuk (ph). When I go to meetings, I always
17 make sure they know my Eskimo name.
18
19 Thank you.
20
21 MR. MITCHELL: (In Inupiaq) Enoch
22 Mitchell, Noatak.
23
24 MR. KRAMER: Michael Kramer, Kotzebue.
25
26 MR. BALLOT: Good morning. Welcome to
27 Buckland. Percy Ballot. I'm really glad we're all
28 here. It's really important that we go to the villages
29 and I'm real glad the Federal Subsistence Board always
30 sees fit that we go to the villages and have our
31 meetings and discuss things and share our information
32 that we can with the villages. So thanks for coming.
33
34 MS. LOON: Taikuu, Buckland, for
35 inviting us to come here. Buckland is my roots and I'm
36 sorry I didn't attend the feast last night because I
37 was engaging in cutting caribou and I love to get my
38 hands on caribou and cutting caribou. My host was
39 cooking three meals in one night and the family came
40 over.
41
42 Thank you.
43
44 My name is Hannah Loon from Selawik,
45 Alaska. Taikuu. Have a good day.
46
47 Good to see all of you.
48
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Morning, everyone.
50 Attamuk, Enoch Shiedt. Retired from the school in

1 Maniilaq here. The reason why I mentioned my wife,
2 yesterday we've been married 40 years. She always
3 encourages me to attend these meetings because we need
4 to pass on and preserve our culture. That way our
5 future generation could enjoy what I do, harvesting for
6 our food. That's why I like to mention her. I was
7 ready to retire about five years ago and she said, no,
8 you're not going to. We've still got grandchildren
9 that are growing up, so keep it up. That's the reason
10 why I mentioned her and that's why I'm here. I just
11 called her this morning, my last meeting. She said,
12 no, you're not. So hopefully everything works out
13 fine.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 Welcome everyone.

18

19 MS. BURKE: Good morning. My name is
20 Melinda Burke. I'm the Council's coordinator. I live
21 in Anchorage and I work for the Office of Subsistence
22 Management.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, the guests.

25

26 MR. LIND: Good morning, Mr. Chairman
27 and board members. My name is Orville Lind. I'm the
28 Native liaison for the Office of Subsistence
29 Management. It's really an honor and pleasure to be
30 here.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MS. ATKINSON: Uvlaalluataq. I'm
35 Hannah Atkinson from Kotzebue and I work for the
36 National Park Service as a cultural resource
37 specialist.

38

39 MR. FOX: Good morning. I'm Trevor
40 Fox. I'm out of Anchorage with the Fish and Wildlife
41 Service and I'm an Interagency Staff Committee member.

42

43 MS. GEORGETTE: Good morning. I'm
44 Susan Georgette. I'm the Refuge Manager for Selawik
45 Refuge in Kotzebue.

46

47 MS. PETRIVELLI: Good morning. I'm Pat
48 Petrivelli and I'm the anthropologist for the Bureau of
49 Indian Affairs Subsistence Program and I live in
50 Anchorage.

1 MS. SWEENEY: Good morning. Brittany
2 Sweeney with Selawik Wildlife Refuge in Kotzebue.
3
4 MS. MAAS: Good morning. Lisa Maas,
5 wildlife biologist with the Office of Subsistence
6 Management.
7
8 MS. BRAEM: Good morning. I'm Nikki
9 Braem. I'm a subsistence resource specialist with
10 Division of Subsistence in Fairbanks.
11
12 MS. ROBISON: Good morning. My name is
13 Hillary Robison. I'm a wildlife biologist with Western
14 Arctic National Parklands and I'm pleased to be here.
15
16 MS. KOELSCH: Good morning. I'm
17 Jeanette Koelsch. I'm the superintendent of Bering
18 Land Bridge National Preserve and I live in Nome.
19
20 MR. FROST: Good morning. My name is
21 Bert Frost. I'm the Regional Director for the National
22 Park Service out of Anchorage and I'm a member of the
23 Federal Subsistence Board.
24
25 MS. JOHNSON: Good morning. I'm Marci
26 Johnson. I'm a biologist with the National Park
27 Service in Kotzebue.
28
29 MS. THOMAS: I'm Patti Ann Thomas. I'm
30 public. Welcome everybody.
31
32 MS. MELTON-BARR: Good morning. My
33 name is Alice Melton-Barr. I'm with the Buckland IRA.
34 Welcome.
35
36 MS. HYER: Good morning. I'm Karen
37 Hyer and it's always a pleasure to be meeting with the
38 Northwest Council and I am with the Office of
39 Subsistence Management.
40
41 MS. HARDIN: Good morning. My name is
42 Jennifer Hardin and I'm the Anthropology Division Chief
43 with the Office of Subsistence Management. I'm really
44 happy to be here.
45
46 MS. LAVINE: Good morning. My name is
47 Robbin LaVine and I'm also an anthropologist with the
48 Office of Subsistence Management. Thank you so much for
49 hosting the meeting here and for the opportunity to
50 come and share the meeting with you.

1 MS. BURKE: If we could get the folks
2 online to introduce yourself really quick. Why don't
3 we start with the State, BLM, Park Service and then
4 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

5
6 MR. CRAWFORD: Good morning. This is
7 Drew Crawford with the Alaska Department of Fish and
8 Game in Anchorage. I also have with me Lisa Olson.

9
10 MR. SHARP: Good morning. This is Dan
11 Sharp with Bureau of Land Management in Anchorage.

12
13 MR. RICE: Good morning. This is Bud
14 Rice, National Park Service in Anchorage.

15
16 MS. TONNESON: Good morning. This is
17 Heather Tonneson with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
18 Service in Anchorage.

19
20 MS. OKADA: Good morning. This is
21 Marcy Okada calling from Fairbanks, subsistence
22 coordinator for Gates of the Arctic National Park and
23 Preserve.

24
25 MR. ADKISSON: Good morning. This is
26 Ken Adkisson with the Subsistence Program for Western
27 Arctic National Parklands and I'm based in Nome.

28
29 MR. MCKEE: Chris McKee with OSM in
30 Anchorage.

31
32 MS. RATTENBURY: Kumi Rattenbury,
33 ecologist with Arctic I&M Program, Park Service,
34 Fairbanks.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone else out
37 there? Welcome. Good morning.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, thank you
42 everyone. We'll go to number five, review and adopt
43 agenda and make amendments if needed.

44
45 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Ballot.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

48
49 MR. BALLOT: I'm sorry. Alice is going
50 to do a welcome. Can we do that, please? I had Gary

1 Hadley set to do a welcome to you guys for the meeting
2 here.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Alice.

5

6 MR. BALLOT: For those of you out
7 there, I wish you were here because Buckland is
8 surrounded by BLM lands and State lands. It's real
9 important that we've got some things we're concerned
10 about and hopefully down the line we'll be able to talk
11 about those things that we see around here.

12

13 MS. MELTON-BARR: Good morning. Again,
14 my name is Alice Melton-Barr. I'd like to say welcome
15 to the Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council,
16 staff and guests, also telephonic, State, Bureau of
17 Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and
18 Wildlife Service, National Park Preserve and others.

19

20 We are honored and privileged to host
21 this important group to Buckland. I especially thank
22 and welcome with gratitude our regional voice: Calvin
23 Motor, Enoch Mitchell, Michael Kramer, Percy Ballot,
24 Hannah Loon and Enoch Shiedt. Welcome.

25

26 On behalf of the community and IRA
27 members we welcome you and I hope you feel at home.
28 Welcome again.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Alice.
31 Sorry about that, but it wasn't on my little packet
32 here. Now we'll go to number five, adoption of the
33 agenda and amendments if needed.

34

35 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

38

39 MR. BALLOT: I move to adopt the agenda
40 as presented.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: There's some that
43 need to be done here on this agenda.

44

45 MS. BURKE: Just a couple small ones.
46 Mr. Chair, Council. We would like to move up the FRMP
47 discussion from Karen Hyer. We were supposed to do
48 this towards the end of the meeting, but Karen is going
49 to be able to go to some of the classrooms and do a
50 fisheries project, so we'd like to try to do that

1 presentation this morning under item number nine, old
2 business. Let's add item (c) FRMP. That way we can
3 free up Karen to go do as many classes as possible and
4 thanks to Karen for having that great interaction with
5 the school here.

6

7 Also if you would just make a note
8 under the proposals on Page 2, we're going to group
9 together the different resources as we discuss them.
10 So we'll be doing the caribou proposals first, so if
11 you just want to put a number one next to proposals
12 49/52, which is actually labeled number 2 in your book.
13 Number 37, it's number 6 in your book. 61 to 64, which
14 is number 9. Then we've got 43 and 45, which are
15 numbers 7 and 8. Then number 48, which is actually
16 number 1. So we'll lump all those caribou proposals
17 together and then we'll take up these sheep and muskox.
18 I think it will help us to stay a little more organized
19 and a lot of the biological information is very
20 similar, Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.
23 With those amendments on the agenda.....

24

25 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

28

29 MR. ADKISSON: This is Ken Adkisson
30 with the Park Service. The Park Service has a couple
31 RAC appointments to the Cape Krusenstern Subsistence
32 Resource Commission. If we could just have that added
33 under new business. I don't think it would take long,
34 but it would be greatly appreciated.

35

36 MS. BURKE: Yeah, thanks, Ken. Mr.
37 Chair, if you'd like, we can add that as item number
38 10(b) Cape Krusenstern SRC appointments.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay.

41

42 MR. ADKISSON: That would be super.
43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,
46 Ken. Anyone else out there need to make amendments to
47 the agenda.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, we will make
2 a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Go ahead,
3 Percy.
4
5 MR. BALLOT: Oh, I'm sorry. Mr. Chair,
6 I move to approve the agenda as amended.
7
8 MR. KRAMER: Second.
9
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Moved and
11 seconded by Kramer.
12
13 MS. LOON: Question.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Percy.
16
17 MR. BALLOT: Just for the record, Mr.
18 Chairman. I made a motion a while ago and then we
19 added those things on. It still would have been on
20 record. Just wanted to make that known. When I made a
21 motion, it was seconded and we added this stuff, it
22 would have been the same as what we're doing now.
23
24 Thank you.
25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Hannah called
27 for the question. All in favor signify by saying aye.
28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
32 Review and approve the previous minutes on Page 5.
33 Anyone want to make changes to it, you're welcome to do
34 so at this time.
35
36 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chair.
37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Calvin.
39
40 MR. MOTO: I read the minutes last week
41 and everything seems like it's in order, so I make a
42 motion that we approve the minutes.
43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So moved by Calvin.
45
46 MR. BALLOT: Second.
47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Seconded by Percy.
49 Do I need more time to look at the minutes?
50

1 MS. LOON: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question has been
4 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

5

6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,
9 everyone. Council reports. I will start it off,
10 simple and sweet. This fall our caribou hunting was
11 successful. I tell you one thing, this year they were
12 fat and they come in staggered numbers. It wasn't as
13 bad as it was last year in Kiana. In fact, I got two
14 calls. It worked out great this year for everyone.
15 Kiana got their caribou first and everyone was happy
16 how we harvested. There was no battle out there, not
17 like last year. Last year they come in late and they
18 come in just a short area that they were all trying to
19 go after their caribou last year. This year was
20 different. It was great. Everybody was happy. I
21 heard Noatak got theirs. Buckland is here now. That's
22 what we're worried about. Hopefully they come here
23 before they're in rut. It was good.

24

25 Hannah, you're next.

26

27 MS. LOON: Thank you, Attamuk. Our
28 salmonberry season last summer wasn't so good as
29 before. However, the blueberries were really good and
30 cranberries were good this year in Selawik. We had a
31 really good brief, how many weeks, of good drying
32 season, so we were able to dry dried fish, iqalugruaqs
33 or whatever you call those in Selawik Fish River, so
34 that's good. Everybody have chance to get whitefish
35 and pike.

36

37 Again, I don't know how many years we
38 had our two-week Selawik Science Cultural Camp in
39 Selawik on the week of September 14 and I'd like to
40 thank the Davis Ramoth School and Selawik Fish and
41 Wildlife for always being there. The Native Village of
42 Selawik, the first week I was very fortunate by my
43 supervisor to go participate and work with kindergarten
44 through fifth grade on hunting and berry picking and
45 eating whitefish and working on scaling fish.

46

47 It's a busy day all day when we bring
48 the kids in from the IRA beach. Their regular teachers
49 always have to be there with them, so some regular
50 teachers do participate in scaling the fish and cutting

1 the fish. It's really fun. You just forget all about
2 your hats, many kinds of hats what you have in Selawik
3 and go out there and work with kids. Those are my
4 favorite times, is in September.

5
6 And I didn't hear any complaints about
7 caribou season. Just like everybody got their caribou
8 and their moose. It's just this weather that is
9 constantly wet, but we adjust to it anyway. Thankfully
10 people know how to adjust in the villages to go out and
11 gather even though it's snow and rain and snow and
12 rain.

13
14 Thank you, Attamuk.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.

17
18 Go ahead, Percy.

19
20 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. We're
21 really glad the caribou finally came in. Just like
22 three, four, five days ago we finally started seeing a
23 lot, but we were hunting for the last two or three
24 weeks and people were getting one here, one there and
25 stuff like that. It was never enough for the whole
26 town. They'd be gotten on the same day or same hour
27 that the caribou would go through. So at least we know
28 they're healthy and we know we've got a little bit of
29 time to hunt right now. We probably won't see much
30 hunters here.

31
32 We've been seeing a plane down there.
33 There was about three boats last week down there on the
34 coast and we saw a yellow plane with blue stripes or
35 something like that flying around buzzing the caribou
36 and the migration route. We were wondering why they're
37 on the river side and pushing the caribou back that
38 way. That's what it looks like anyway. It went around
39 the coast and went up there and pushed some more. If
40 they go further back, then they're not going to hit our
41 coast where we hunt and that's where we have five to
42 ten boats sometimes a day waiting all day long from
43 early in the morning or spending overnight waiting for
44 the caribou. So to see something like that hurts.

45
46 We saw or heard -- some of the hunters
47 told me that they saw two planes that were landing in
48 Elephant Point and that's State land. I think this
49 place that I'm talking about it's still State land too.
50 So I don't know if the State knows what's going on on

1 their lands or who's playing around and doing what. I
2 hope I have a report before the meeting is over on what
3 kind of activities has been going on with guides and
4 whoever is down there doing that stuff.

5
6 I have hunters here if they want to
7 speak up or have anything they want to share. I'd like
8 to give them the opportunity. They're from Buckland.
9 You guys got anything you want to share?

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 MR. BALLOT: Is that good enough for
14 now? But, yeah, we are concerned. I think somebody's
15 got to have some answers for us hopefully. We know
16 we're not supposed to harass the caribou. If you're
17 doing that, it's -- we got some numbers on the plane.
18 I was hoping Jim Dau would be here, but I'm sure we'll
19 get to talk to him and I hope we have some kind of
20 explanation of what's going on down there because once
21 you hunt that whole land, it brings the caribou way up
22 that way where we can't get to unless we have
23 rainwater. So that's why everybody is out there really
24 right now hopefully trying to get caribou because we
25 don't have much time to get any. We have a lot of --
26 we have a big town.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy.

31
32 Go ahead, Kramer.

33
34 MR. KRAMER: It's good to be here in
35 Buckland representing the region. This year so far
36 it's pretty good for me in Kotzebue. Me and my kids we
37 put a lot of salmon away, geese and bearded seal. The
38 spring and summer went very well. As for my fall, it
39 was somewhat interesting. A little bit too much
40 caribou in my boat, sank it, but we got her back and
41 got her home and got all our meat home. We had one
42 loss, one caribou that we lost to water and spoilage.

43
44 Other than that, you know, I'd like to
45 thank my brother Lance Kramer with NANA Regional
46 Corporation because he made a serious effort into going
47 up there to shut down the Red Dog Road to allow caribou
48 to move through the Red Dog Road and into the Noatak
49 Valley, to which we haven't seen caribou move through
50 that valley and the Lower Noatak Valley in, jeez, the

1 better part of 12, 13 years.

2

3 One of these day I'm going to corner
4 that caribou biologist and I'm going to make sure he
5 admits to me that, you know, that Red Dog Road has an
6 impact on our caribou herd. It's been proven. I'm
7 very glad that my brother gave them animals the
8 opportunity to move through. I think we should make it
9 mandatory that Red Dog shuts that road down with NANA
10 trespass officers monitoring the caribou herd and the
11 road, you know, to allow caribou to be able to move
12 freely through their migration route.

13

14 Other than up in Kiana, my other
15 hometown of Kiana, it's been pretty good. I got a lot
16 of reports from people that it was pretty good. It was
17 pretty at ease. There was no massive rush, no
18 craziness, no severe ability to get caribou. Everybody
19 kind of came in in waves, harvested their animals, went
20 home. They came back in another wave, harvested their
21 animals. The herd wasn't as pressured as it was like
22 last year.

23

24 Where I was up in the Upper Kobuk over
25 below Ambler there was a lot of wolves. I noticed a
26 lot of wolf problem up there. We'd watch a herd of
27 about 100, 200 animals come down to the river and then
28 wolves would start howling and then all of a sudden
29 they'd about face and go right back up into the trees
30 and back up into the hill. They'd just keep diverting
31 them several places along the river. There was just
32 solid packs of wolf. We saw 11 of them this fall just
33 during that 10-day hunt.

34

35 I'm hoping that we could take care of a
36 lot of issues today and tomorrow. It's good to be here
37 in Buckland.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Kramer.
42 I'd like to, yeah, thank your brother for putting
43 himself on the line. He works for NANA, yet he closed
44 down Red Dog for a few days so the caribou could cross.
45 I mean that takes something to do it. I don't know. I
46 hope he keeps his job and keep it up. I mean we should
47 be thankful in Kotzebue and Noatak. The caribou are
48 now at Sisolik, the ones that caused the haul road. I
49 would like to thank him. If I see him personally, I'm
50 going to thank him. I know who he is. It takes

1 someone with guts to go against his own company where
2 they make money out of it and he put himself there.
3 That's an extra effort.

4

5 Thank you, Kramer.

6

7 Go ahead, Enoch.

8

9 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 Thank you, Buckland, for hosting and welcoming us. For
11 Noatak, we had one wildland fire. It burned some of
12 the lichen for the caribou. That's one of the winter
13 feeding grounds for the caribou. For berries this
14 year, we had none of the blueberries, hardly any
15 aqpiks.

16

17 For predators, a lot of bears this year
18 and a lot of bears been seen along the river, upriver
19 all the way down to Noatak. There was two bears
20 running into town this year. We get them out. Pretty
21 much the same with the wolves. There was a lot of
22 wolves. We're seeing them -- we never see them before.
23 I mean like fall time we'd hunt and hardly see them,
24 but we've been seeing them quite a bit now. So they're
25 populating quite a bit. We'd request that there be
26 predator control. Also request you bring back the wolf
27 bounty that they used to have.

28

29 So the caribou is pretty healthy.
30 Pretty healthy this year. They're pretty fat. These
31 past few years I've been keeping a close tally of our
32 caribou for the past three years now. Out of
33 44 boats, 21 boats was successful with caribou. One
34 boat got five, two boats got one, two boats got two.
35 All the rest of these 21 boats all got three. A bunch
36 of the boats hunting for two or more families. A few
37 caribou were caught in August and all the rest were
38 caught in the second and third week of September.

39

40 I got a lot more information over here
41 about the names, the places, how many caribou and
42 whatever is caught. We saw a lot of caribou above
43 Seppings, but they wouldn't come down due to a lot of
44 local camps really bunched up. They kind of worked
45 their way down the hill, but the movement on the other
46 side of the river from the non-local camps, then they
47 would go back up and wouldn't come back down for the
48 rest of that day.

49

50 Like I said there was too much

1 non-locals above Seppings. We also had phone calls
2 that people observed these planes herding the caribou
3 to these non-local camps. Had two or three phone calls
4 for that where it's herding caribou to these non-local
5 hunters.

6
7 We requested to close the Squirrel
8 river and Ag River to protect our subsistence uses for
9 the villages of Noatak and Kivalina.

10
11 Lots of boats on September 28. A lot
12 of our hunters pulled our boats up due to snow and very
13 shallow water. It get very shallow this year, maybe
14 record low this year. Pretty early.
15 But after it warmed up all the snow melted and then
16 rained. I guess maybe yesterday probably maybe they're
17 going to start boating again because the river probably
18 got back up again. It got pretty shallow to where they
19 couldn't reach the caribou there this fall. They lost
20 a lot of parts, props, so it got pretty rough going up
21 there.

22
23 As for the fish, we didn't get much
24 trout this year. We get a lot of salmon, a lot of
25 whitefish, but we had to look around for our trout.
26 Where we usually qaaktuq, where we usually go seine for
27 the trout, the beaver making dams over there now. We
28 didn't know what happened to the trout or where they
29 go. We'd like to request to do a study and research on
30 the trout and the beaver for the Noatak River.

31
32 I think that's about it.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Enoch.

37
38 Go ahead, Calvin.

39
40 MR. MOTO: Good morning. Calvin Moto,
41 Ipnatchiaq. That's the name we're trying to use for
42 our village. Our concern right now is predators. We
43 see more bear in the area because of the climate
44 change. First time in a long time we see 45 above zero
45 in January. Can you imagine? Harder to get to hunt
46 sometimes because we've been getting rain all the way
47 through January sometimes. So that's why right now our
48 hunters are trying to get as much caribou as they could
49 because we never know what it's going to be like down
50 the road for the weather.

1 On the bears, they've been encountering
2 bears in January. Can you imagine? Because it's warm.
3 Because they're supposed to be sleeping we thought.

4
5 We also have an abundance of wolf
6 coming into our village. They killed three or four
7 wolf right in the town. Fox, another problem. I don't
8 know whether it's because it's warmer or they're able
9 to come down, but they're finding a hard time to get
10 some what they usually get. We don't see as much
11 rabbit as we used to see.

12
13 Ptarmigan. These are things that we
14 grew up on when I was young. We relied on the
15 ptarmigan and the rabbit if we couldn't get caribou. I
16 like to be able to hear them in the morning. You know
17 you can hear them. They go (ptarmigan sound). When we
18 were kids we had to learn how imitate the animals,
19 especially when we hunt. Our elders taught us.

20
21 We're real concerned of the climate
22 change because it's changing the pattern of the food,
23 the animals we rely on for food. Moose is getting
24 scarce too.

25
26 We're trying to get changes in the
27 hunting regulations because we couldn't use
28 snowmachines on government Park lands and land bridges.
29 We're not really that concerned because the land
30 bridges for the -- we have more State land than Park
31 land. The land bridge is there.

32
33 That's another thing. Several years
34 ago Park Service said they were thinking about putting
35 a shelter cabin for the hunters when the weather gets
36 inclement there on Lane River, which is not too far
37 from the Bering Land Bridge. We haven't heard about
38 anything ever since. We were wondering how come.
39 These things are important.

40
41 Also when we have no snow it's harder
42 to use our snowmachines anyway and it's hard to use the
43 other motor travel because the ground is too soft or
44 too soggy to hunt. We're
45 fortunate that there's a corral about 11 miles.
46 Sometime the caribou come down there and bed there.

47
48 The decline of caribou is very
49 concerning with some of us hunters. Especially the
50 decline is very significant. I know we had the same

1 problem in the '80s when there was over 100,000
2 caribou. Then all of a sudden, two or three years
3 later, it jumped up to three, four hundred. So I asked
4 Fish and Game did the caribou have triplets or
5 something.

6
7 But, you know, what happened is most of
8 our reindeer got taken away at that same time. Manley
9 had 10,000 reindeer. Buckland had a herd of reindeer
10 taken away. Deering, two different herds taken away.
11 It took us a while to get used to caribou because we
12 grew up on reindeer. Now we have to rely on very
13 seriously I don't know what's going to happen next year
14 or this year hunting.

15
16 The muskox, we're having problems with
17 them destroying some of our grave sites. We were told
18 they were going to put up a fence, but they haven't put
19 it up yet. There's so many different things going on
20 that we're concerned, you know. I could sit here all
21 morning, but I just wanted to name the ones that we
22 think are important.

23
24 Our people have subsisted all their
25 lives for thousands of years. In 1988, we were
26 building the water sewer line. We dug. We found a
27 place where there were caribou bones on one side of the
28 table and all the different types of bones on the other
29 side of the table. Took pictures of it. A picture
30 will say a thousand words. They always ask us how do
31 you know they hunted if it's not documented. I say we
32 don't need it documented. Here's the proof. So I
33 wrote our people have relied on subsistence. Your
34 people relied on subsistence. Otherwise we wouldn't
35 all be here. Think about it sometime. Your
36 forefathers had to be subsistence hunters when they
37 first came to America and Alaska. That's what I always
38 tell the people when I was in Anchorage. Just think
39 about it. We're all survivors of subsistence hunting
40 and food gathering.

41
42 Thank you all.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin.
45 Percy had requested something. Go ahead, Percy.

46
47 MR. BALLOT: I want to recognize our
48 Mayor Glenna Parrish. She will have a meeting tomorrow
49 at the city council office. As you all know, we're
50 having elections. October 6 is election day for the

1 whole region. Do you want to say a few words of
2 welcome if you want.

3

4 MS. PARRISH: Yes.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You have the floor.
7 You have to come up to the mic.

8

9 MR. BALLOT: Thank you, Glenna.

10

11 MS. BURKE: Just one second. There's
12 somebody who is not on mute on the phone. We can hear
13 banging and paper shuffling. If you can please make
14 sure to mute yourself or push *6 it would be greatly
15 appreciated.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, you have
20 the floor.

21

22 MS. PARRISH: Taikuu. I welcome all of
23 you to Buckland and it's good. Even when I see the
24 brochures and the paperwork here, it's informational.
25 And begin to hearing you guys speak, I really believe
26 you guys have a loud voice for our region and I'm
27 thankful because we do see changes here too in our
28 land. To come with material and to work with each
29 village in our region and put input. I don't know who
30 all is here, but this is a good picture. Times are
31 changing and we have to flow along with the changes.

32

33 Again, I welcome all of you to
34 Buckland. Hope you enjoy your stay here. You guys
35 have warm weather. This is unusually warm. Again,
36 welcome to Buckland.

37

38 Taikuu.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Mayor.
41 Thank you. Well spoken. Okay. Our students came in
42 and we'll give them time. Introduce yourself, please,
43 one by one. Thank you. We'll have the mic on. Try to
44 speak loud and clear. Hopefully she could pick it up.
45 Go ahead and start.

46

47 MR. DENTON: Mr. Chairman. I'm Jay
48 Denton. I'm a science teacher here with Buckland
49 School. These are our student council members and our
50 youth leaders. Hopefully they will be the leaders of

1 this community someday. All right. If you would,
2 let's start and do what I told you to do. Stand and
3 introduce yourself. Say it nice and loud, please. Go
4 ahead.

5
6 MS. THOMAS: Hi, my name is Angelina
7 Thomas.

8
9 MS. SWAN: Alexandra Swan.

10
11 MR. THOMAS: Hi, my name is Bradley
12 Thomas.

13
14 MR. TICKET: My name is Floyd Ticket,
15 III.

16
17 MS. CARTER: Daralynn Carter.

18
19 MR. WEBER: Jacob Weber.

20
21 MS. PETE: Kirsten Pete.

22
23 MS. SAGE: Alice Sage.

24
25 MS. HADLEY: Della Hadley.

26
27 MS. THOMAS: Sherrell Thomas.

28
29 MS. WASHINGTON: Sarah Washington.

30
31 MS. MELTON: Kylah Melton.

32
33 MS. JONES: Taylene Jones.

34
35 MS. BARGER: Mildred Barger.

36
37 MR. DENTON: Our other student council
38 advisor is Ms. Marisa Bateman, who's accompanying me.

39
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: thank you. I would
43 recommend that you give the list to our receptionist
44 here. That way when she does the minutes she'll have a
45 list of all the students. We need to have the students
46 involved in every village because they're our future.
47 People that will sit at this table. I'll tell you that
48 right now.

49
50 Okay. We went through the Chair's

1 report. I gave my brief report as a Chairman. Now I'm
2 going to do it as a resident of Kotzebue.

3
4 I have Kotzebue hunters that went up to
5 the Noatak and they saw and they talked to a lot of
6 people from the Interior, from Bettles and others
7 saying they were out to harvest trout, yet they were
8 getting caribou and that's the problem. We blame the
9 transporters and outfitters too. I think we need to
10 look into individuals from the Interior that come into
11 Noatak disturbing our caribou.

12
13 I get another one from Kotzebue locals,
14 young boys, no older than 30 years old, I know a couple
15 of them that were about 22, there was some other
16 hunters from Kotzebue that were in Cabela clothes and
17 they were shooting at caribou, yet they weren't -- when
18 they shoot they, they didn't finish killing them. So
19 they told me that they went over there. They were
20 around the bend from them. They could hear them
21 shooting and they could see them. They went there and
22 they finished killing the caribou because they were
23 just wounding them and not finish harvesting them.

24
25 These are the people that are hurting
26 us in the long run and I wish something would be done,
27 especially from BLM and Noatak Monument, Preserve,
28 whatever you want to call it. They need to take
29 control of the area hunting.

30
31 The loophole is this. They use fishing
32 for an excuse and they go out to harvest caribou. I
33 think these need to be amended and they need to be
34 taken care of by our people as local as we are.

35
36 The other one is there are a lot of
37 bears. From Sealey Point all the way up to Noatak they
38 were destroying camps. My camp is one of them. They
39 were even at Sisolik across. They had to shoot them
40 and I'd tell them this is my policy now. You see them
41 near your camp, shoot them and don't even say nothing.
42 Harvest them. Don't even tell nobody nothing because
43 there's so many bears now. They're destroying
44 everything. And we're competing for the caribou with
45 the bears and the wolves.

46
47 There's a lot of wolves out there, like
48 Kramer said. I was up the Aggie and I mean I took my
49 dog and my dog was scared to go out after hearing all
50 them howling. I mean that many. It's getting to be

1 too much if this keeps up. We need to open the area
2 hunting for wolves in Northwest Alaska on a limited
3 basis that maybe we'd open it to locals only.

4
5 The other one is, like Enoch stated,
6 there's hardly any trout, but as a commercial
7 fisherman, Enoch, they came in July. That was really
8 unusual that they came in early because they usually
9 come in late due to water temperature. Even last year
10 we noticed the same thing. I told a couple commercial
11 fishermen I would watch next year what happened. They
12 came in early again in July. In mid July we were
13 getting trout at Kotzebue. That's really unusual. We
14 used to get them in August.

15
16 For your information, these are the
17 things we need to take care of and we need to take care
18 of them now because we need the future generation able
19 to enjoy what I did.

20
21 Okay. Thank you all.

22
23 Go ahead, Melinda.

24
25 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, we're down to
26 number eight, public and tribal comment on non-agenda
27 items. I see we've got some community members that
28 have joined us and I just wanted to let folks know that
29 this is the time if there's any issues that would like
30 to be brought up whether on the agenda or off the
31 agenda. The floor is open to the public if anybody
32 would like to speak.

33
34 MR. BALLOT: If there's anything you
35 want to share, information or a question, it's a good
36 time for you to do that. Introduce yourself.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Turn your mic on.

39
40 MR. THOMAS: Good morning. I'm
41 Lawrence Thomas. I got hired this summer in May as a
42 subsistence advisor for Buckland while Shell was
43 working up here. They hired people from all along the
44 coast all the way up to Barrow. So I'm going to be
45 working as a subsistence advisor for UMIAQ. They're
46 the ones that hired me and that's out of Anchorage. We
47 will be working until November 15, but Shell already
48 pulled out, but they had a contract with us.

49
50 So all I'm doing for our village of

1 Buckland is I do give a subsistence report to UMIAQ and
2 they give it to Shell. That way we would not have no
3 conflicts with Buckland and with Shell operations
4 that's going on. Like if we had problems with hunting,
5 then I would notify them or any kind of hunting,
6 caribou, ugruk, whatever we hunt for as subsistence
7 around here, I report it to them. That way they would
8 not bother our subsistence activities that we have here
9 in Buckland. I believe that we did a good job and they
10 did a good job working along with us.

11
12 That's all I had to say to you guys,
13 that I worked with them and it's been a good
14 experience, and I welcome you all to Buckland.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. You'll thank
19 Shell for at least hiring someone from Buckland and the
20 villages. That way they could always get input of the
21 issues and concerns about our harvesting of resources
22 we get here.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 MR. THOMAS: Yeah. Another thing I
27 wanted to point out is that I believe we had between 70
28 and 80 people that were hired through Shell Company as
29 people that stay on the boats to observe any animals
30 out there. They stay out there in the boats. As
31 myself, I do just work in the village and I do
32 subsistence report here and I will be doing that under
33 November 15 or until they tell me we're done. All
34 right, thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
37 Anyone else.

38
39 MR. BALLOT: Hey, Lawrence, you got any
40 bad reports concerning reports from the public on your
41 reports?

42
43 MR. THOMAS: No, I don't believe I had
44 any real problems, but, you know, as hunters, as
45 myself, I wouldn't like to give away all my information
46 of where I do all my hunting. It's pretty hard to get
47 interviews.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

1 MR. THOMAS: But I do my best and let
2 them know that we do hunt here and we do use our
3 subsistence hunting real seriously up here and they do
4 know that. All right.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

9
10 MR. BALLOT: I just wanted to remind
11 you, Lawrence, when you're from Buckland, you work for
12 Buckland, not for Shell. You worry about our -- if
13 there's something concerning you out there that people
14 are doing, we want to know. That's all.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
17 Anyone else. You have the floor.

18
19 MS. PARRISH: Taikuu. Glenna Parrish.
20 What I've seen or what I've heard from our local
21 hunters there's some small planes that are flying
22 around. They actually told me they actually saw a
23 plane. There was a small herd coming towards our area
24 and the little plane was turning them. I don't know if
25 they're guide hunters or whatever, but, you know, in
26 the past when we have a beluga hunting season, we
27 worked with them and made a regulation that no barges
28 to come to our area, come to Buckland, until June 15 of
29 each year and that would not interfere with our beluga
30 hunting.

31
32 If there's some way, this is just a
33 suggestion, that if we could make like -- if you guys
34 could make something like a no-fly zone or something
35 like that just to help us. Because we wait, we wait,
36 and then we hear these kinds of reports. It's a
37 discouragement. Our people are using a lot of gas.
38 They try to go hunting and even through tough weather,
39 snow and raining, it's just to fill the freezers before
40 winter. You know, these changes, these hardships, if
41 there's regulations to be made.

42
43 Also another thing I wanted to mention
44 to is our weather pattern, our seasonal foods, what we
45 get off from our land, it's earlier. An example, we
46 were going to pick aqpiqs. We were thinking, oh, maybe
47 they're ripe, maybe they're ripe. When we went down,
48 no one is in the open areas. They already ripe and we
49 were surprised, like it was such an early time because
50 we have that pattern of how we used to follow our

1 grandparents and our parents. It was August or
2 September we would start picking.

3
4 Then hunting, our hunting has changed
5 too. I mean the weather changed too. You know,
6 regulations and whatever, whatnot, should follow the
7 new change of weather and climate.

8
9 I thank you guys for listening to me.
10 Taikuu.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Can you
13 have those students turn off that mic, please. Just
14 press the button. Thank you. Go ahead, Melinda.

15
16 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I had forgotten
17 during the Council member reports to relay some
18 information from Mr. Austin Swan. He is our Council
19 member from Kivalina. He's not able to be here with us
20 this week due to work commitments, but he had wanted to
21 relay to the Council and to the Staff that there have
22 been some issues with -- he believes there are
23 transporters. Similar comments to some of what we've
24 been hearing today. There have been flights right
25 where the caribou are migrating. He's gotten several
26 phone calls that the planes are flying so low that
27 they're actually turning the caribou away from their
28 intended route. He hasn't been able to get any
29 identification numbers off of the planes, but he has
30 been hearing reports from his community members that
31 that is happening. So I forgot to mention that
32 earlier.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. For you
37 people in Buckland, if you see any planes out there, if
38 you could give us tail numbers and call Fish and Game
39 or call Percy or me, I'm in the phone book, to call me
40 and report it, but I need tail numbers, date and time
41 and location. That way we could at least try to talk
42 to them not to do what they're doing. Because I think
43 the people of the region come in first.

44
45 Go ahead, Kramer.

46
47 MR. KRAMER: Any of you guys, if you
48 get complaints of aircraft doing commercial business in
49 certain areas, one of the best ways to do that is to
50 either find out if that's State or Federal lands and he

1 should be able to contact them and then give them the
2 general area and they should be able to find out who
3 has permission for commercial use in that area. Then
4 you can corner the commercial user. Any commercial
5 user that is operating out of their commercial use
6 area, that's illegal.

7

8 So if they're in one specific area,
9 let's just say Glenna Parrish said she was in that area
10 and there was a plane flying around and landing, well
11 there's only one commercial person that's allowed to
12 operate within that area and you'll be able to find out
13 who that is by contacting either the State or Federal
14 government as to who has permission or who is granted
15 to use that area for commercial use, then you'd be able
16 to corner that specific person.

17

18 Taking pictures and trying to recognize
19 the color of the aircraft also really helps too. You
20 know, a lot of you people out there are our eyes. We
21 can't see everything. That's why we have these open
22 sessions. It's a good thing that we can really target
23 a lot of these transporters who do illegal things.
24 Eventually I'd like to see them eliminated. Other than
25 guides who are one on one with their hunters.

26

27 I'd like to see if any of the youth has
28 any concerns. It's a pleasure having all of you youth
29 here.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Kramer.

34

35 Go ahead, Hannah.

36

37 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
38 Maybe Lance can tell the students what's the difference
39 between a guide and a transporter for the students or
40 everybody out there.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Lance. You
43 were requested by Hannah.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 MR. KRAMER: I guess I have two names,
48 Michael and Lance. A transporter is a commercial
49 entity that just a person pays for his service to bring
50 him from one hub town or community such as Kotzebue to

1 a place out in the middle of the country where he has
2 his own commercial use area. There are a lot of
3 commercial use areas and they're only allowed to be
4 able to operate within those commercial use areas. I
5 know some share. It's just like a taxi cab, we bring
6 you from here to here and drop you off and we have
7 nothing more to do with you unless we come back and
8 pick up your meat or pick you up in seven to ten days.
9

10 A guide is a person who is one on one
11 with his hunter. I'm with my hunter at all times. A
12 hunter is not allowed to go hunt without a guide.
13 That's the difference between a transporter and a
14 guide. A transporter just kind of means taxi. He just
15 brings them there, drops them off, comes back and
16 checks on them or comes back and picks them up. As to
17 a guide, it's one on one with the hunter for 10 to 20
18 days.

19
20 That's the definition of them.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Kramer.
25 Okay. For your students' information, also a lot of
26 guides are turning into transporters and outfitters
27 because there's more money in it. I tell you that
28 right now. I know two guides that I know of for the
29 last few years that they turned into transporters.
30 There's more money in it because guides you could
31 pretty much control how many hunters they could have.
32 Transporters is completely different and outfitters.

33
34 Thank you. Go ahead, you have the
35 floor.

36
37 MR. LEE, JR.: My name is Raymond Lee,
38 Jr. I have a question here. On the female moose, all
39 my life I hunt them September 15, so I don't know what
40 day they have it on now. It's pretty hard to
41 understand these readings. I asked several people at
42 the village and tried to help me understand. I think
43 it opens November 1st and that's when we're frozen, but
44 the way how it explains it. I'm trying to find out
45 what day the female moose is open.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. On what page
48 -- I don't have the packet. Go ahead, Percy, you have
49 the packet.
50

1 MR. BALLOT: It's November 1 to March
2 31.

3
4 MR. LEE, JR.: So you guys are here and
5 you guys can always change that back to when we hunt
6 them? Because we normally hunt them September 15 and
7 that's what I've been doing all my life. I know it's
8 changed.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think he's
11 referring to the State of Alaska regulation. Are you
12 referring to State or Federal? What packet do you
13 have? We have two we have to deal with. One is State
14 of Alaska. Oh, that's the Federal. Thank you. I
15 don't have the packet with me, so I can't.....

16
17 MR. BALLOT: You're asking about female
18 moose.

19
20 MR. LEE, JR.: Yeah.

21
22 MR. BALLOT: Your question is when can
23 you hunt female moose.

24
25 MR. LEE, JR.: Yeah. In the past, I
26 used to hunt them September 15, so I would like to see
27 if you guys can change that back to September 15th.

28
29 MR. BALLOT: It's August 1, right, to
30 March 31, but you can't get one with a calf from
31 November 1 to March 31. I'll let him tell you.

32
33 MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Trevor
34 Fox with the Fish and Wildlife Service. There's three
35 different hunt areas in Unit 23. The area within the
36 Noatak River drainage has the specific time. The
37 overall season is August 1 through March 31. The
38 harvest limit is one moose. However, you can only take
39 an antlerless moose, which would include cows, from
40 November 1st through March 31st. The other two hunt
41 areas, whatever the season is, you can take any moose.
42 Hopefully that helps.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'm pretty sure
45 helps. For you students where you're trying to figure
46 this out, Northwest Alaska is so large that it's --
47 Buckland is different compared to Noatak and Upper
48 Kobuk. That's why sometimes it gets complicated and we
49 have to try to make it understandable. We have mainly
50 one regulation for over all Alaska for Northwest

1 Alaska. It's a gifted area.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. BALLOT: You're telling him that
6 for Unit 23, which is Buckland area, he wants to know
7 about the Buckland area. The female, he could get a
8 female from August 1 to November 1. November 1 to
9 March 31 you can't get a female with calf, but you
10 could get it from August to November 1. Correct? For
11 Unit 23.

12

13 MR. FOX: Through the Chair. So Unit
14 23 remainder you can take a cow or a bull August 1st
15 through March 31st; however, you cannot take a cow
16 accompanied by a calf on Federal lands.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'm trying to explain
19 it to the students that when they see remainder of Unit
20 23, that under our reference is Buckland area. That
21 way you will know what we're talking about. I'm not
22 trying to complicate you. I'm trying to make you
23 understand.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 Anyone else from the public.

28

29 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I think the
30 confusion here is in the information of how we put it
31 on the harvest limits. I think it needs to be a little
32 more clearer by what we put on there so that what you
33 just said reflects to what they could understand when
34 they go out hunting. That's why they were confused
35 about when they could hunt a cow because we have that
36 last sentence that says no person may take a calf -- or
37 a cow if it's accompanied by a calf. So we need to
38 kind of clarify those sentences so that people can
39 understand when you could get a moose, a female moose.

40

41 MR. FOX: Through the Chair. So, yes,
42 you could take a cow any time between August 1st and
43 March 31 unless it has a calf with it. That's just to
44 protect the calves. But as far as the area right
45 around Buckland most of that area is State land, so
46 that would be under State regulations, not Federal.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead,
49 Hannah. Who's out there on State? Is somebody going
50 to speak for the State. Go ahead, Nicole.

1 MR. BALLOT: I already clarified this
2 so that our people understand. We don't want to break
3 the laws around here. We're kind of law-abiding over
4 here.

5
6 MS. BRAEM: Good morning. This is
7 Nikki Braem for the record. The confusion about the
8 season is because it depends on whose land you're
9 standing on, who's managing the land. So the dates of
10 the Federal season are different than the dates when
11 you can get a cow on State lands. Do you want me to go
12 into that? I was actually talking to the gentleman in
13 the back about the.....

14
15 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, we want to see it
16 because it's a question that's asked by the public.
17 We're on tribal comments. I think we should clarify
18 that and show that to them.

19
20 MS. BRAEM: Fair enough. So, again,
21 because of the way the system is, we have the Feds and
22 the State managing lands. The seasons don't always
23 coincide. A lot of places they do, but when it comes
24 to cow moose in Unit 23, it's not the same. So in Unit
25 23 there is a registration hunt, which just means you
26 say, hey, get in touch. You don't pay anything, you
27 just register to hunt RM880. Under RM880 you can take
28 a moose, presumably any moose, but if you want to get a
29 cow, that's how you get it on State land, is under this
30 hunt, which occurs between November 1st and December
31 31st in a portion of 23.

32
33 I know this is complicated because you
34 just want to go out and do what you're going to do. I
35 really appreciate dual management isn't so helpful.
36 The only restriction is that you can't take a cow with
37 a calf in that hunt. That's the restriction.

38
39 Now the Federal regs are different.
40 The season on the Federal lands, Susan can just pop up
41 and talk about the Federal regs.

42
43 MS. GEORGETTE: Thank you. Susan
44 Georgette. Nikki is right about the State and Federal.
45 So on State lands you can get a cow moose from November
46 1st to December 31st. On Federal lands you can get a
47 cow moose for the whole season, August 1 to March 31,
48 but you have to be on Federal lands. So it varies with
49 the villages. Some villages have Federal land really
50 close and some don't, so it does depend whose land

1 you're on.

2

3 MR. BALLOT: So the question he asked
4 was when can you get a female on State land.

5

6 MS. GEORGETTE: The season where you
7 could take a cow is November 1st to December 31st.

8

9 MR. BALLOT: Okay. So you can't get it
10 all the way August to.....

11

12 MS. GEORGETTE: Not on State land.

13

14 MR. BALLOT: So what does he need to do
15 to introduce a proposal? He could do it himself
16 or.....

17

18 MS. GEORGETTE: Anybody can. I mean
19 sometimes a RAC will submit a proposal. There's a
20 State advisory committee for this area. It could
21 submit a proposal. Individual people. Anybody who's a
22 State resident can introduce a proposal. Of course,
23 sometimes it's a little confusing navigating the system
24 of what do I say and how do I put it together and who
25 do I submit it to. You can call up your Federal -- you
26 can call up the State office in Kotzebue and Fairbanks.
27 You know, you could call my office. You could call and
28 talk to Jim Dau and they could give you some direction
29 on how to put it together and when it's due. Because,
30 you know, they only take proposals -- you know,
31 there's like a cycle of when they hear any proposals
32 usually. But, you know, there's a lot of people who
33 are willing to give technical assistance in getting a
34 proposal in to the Board.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

37

38 Go ahead, Hannah.

39

40 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
41 just want to tell the students that, you know, there's
42 -- like you say, Buckland is under BLM, right?

43

44 MR. BALLOT: State land and BLM lands
45 are way farther up.

46

47 MS. LOON: Yeah. So you are on State
48 and BLM land. In Selawik, we are Selawik Fish and
49 Wildlife area. There's two books. One is State of
50 Alaska Fish and Game regulations and there's Federal

1 subsistence regulations. Those are the two and it's
2 confusing even to us. That's why when we go home we
3 always hide around and don't tell when we get news.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 MS. LOON: And we're not supposed to
8 tell. That's why we can't understand this one boundary
9 or what boundary. I mean we get it and we hide around.
10 We can't help it because at home we get tired of eating
11 fish every day.

12

13 I just wanted to say thank you,
14 students. I just wanted to say to State and Federal
15 put a cheat sheet for us. This is what the red line
16 say, this is Federal moose and this is State moose and
17 BLM and then caribou Federal, State and BLM, where we
18 are, like Noatak, Kivalina and us, so we hunt according
19 to my legal. Who's going to have papers this kind when
20 you're hunting out there.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MS. GEORGETTE: Brittany in our office
25 has put together a real nice one-page fact sheet on
26 moose hunting that she's trying to print off now. We
27 also have one on caribou hunting that's on the counter
28 there that summarizes State and Federal. Because it's
29 confusing for us too. It's really difficult.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Maybe we need to
34 paint different areas in different colors where who's
35 Federal and who's the State. I know it gets confusing.
36 I'll tell you that right now. I do get confused.
37 Maybe in the future what we need to go is put Nicole
38 and Susan and Jim Dau together and amend this in the
39 regulation. That way we will have one regulation for
40 all. The State, the Federal and different areas
41 together into one. That way we won't say you're on
42 State land, you're on Federal land.

43

44 To me, it's all my Native land. The
45 State and the Federal came in after we did. They
46 shouldn't be telling us you're on Federal land. This
47 is our land to begin with. We should just say Native
48 land. If the resources are there, just take it. If
49 they're not, just put a regulation to reduce the take.
50 Very simple. That's the way I feel about it. That's

1 why maybe we need to put it in our agenda to talk about
2 it for the future generation. Right now it's not so
3 confusing, but in the future, when these kids are
4 adults, it's going to get confusing and then we're
5 going to have more enforcement.

6

7 The reason why I say that, the Coast
8 Guard is coming and they're coming to Kotzebue. I tell
9 you one thing, if they come to Kotzebue, it's going to
10 be like Nome. There's going to be enforcement all over
11 whether we like it or not. They're going to be here
12 and they're going to have enforcement all over the
13 state.

14

15 Someone had their hand up. Go ahead,
16 Percy.

17

18 MR. BALLOT: I just wanted to thank
19 Larry for bringing that up. Like I say right now for
20 caribou hunting, we only got two week opportunity and
21 that's why we're concerned about being able to hunt the
22 moose. Because if we get moose in August and stuff
23 like that, it helps us get through that summer, the
24 whole village. One moose could -- two of them can feed
25 the whole town. So we need to look at that. The
26 process would be -- you said we go to our State
27 advisory boards, which Mona and I and Nathan Hadley are
28 a part of, to putting a proposal to change the hunting
29 date for females. We could do that or you could do
30 that on your own with her. And you'll give him your
31 number, your card and everything.

32

33 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Calvin.

36

37 MR. MOTO: I was wondering, you know,
38 they have different branches of Federal government
39 lands here. Do the BLM and the Park Service carry the
40 same mandates on their hunting regulations or are they
41 separate from -- I know that sometimes BLM will open
42 areas where the Park Service won't. So this is my
43 question. I just wondered if anybody would know
44 anything about that.

45

46 One time they closed an area for some
47 type of activity and they opened it up for commercial.
48 It was BLM that did that. So I was wondering if each
49 of the government entities had the same regulation laws
50 or different.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin.
2 For the public, there's two packets out there on the
3 table that you could pick up. Hopefully you'll
4 understand it.
5
6 Go ahead, Melinda. We need to get back
7 to the agenda.
8
9 MS. BURKE: Yes, sir. I heard a couple
10 of beeps when we were in discussion earlier. If
11 there's anyone brand new on the teleconference who's
12 not identified themselves, can you please state your
13 name and where you're calling from.
14
15 MS. KENNER: Hi, Melinda. This is
16 Pippa Kenner with OSM in Anchorage.
17
18 MS. BURKE: Thank you, Pippa. Any
19 other new callers on the line?
20
21 MS. MCBURNEY: Yes. Good morning,
22 Melinda. This is Mary McBurney with the National Park
23 Service. I'm also calling from Anchorage.
24
25 MS. BURKE: Good morning, Mary.
26
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Good morning, ladies,
28 and welcome.
29
30 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. If it's okay
31 with you, I think it would be a good time for us to
32 take a short break, mingle with the students. I also
33 want to know what the kids know. For the Staff in the
34 room who hasn't seen them yet, there's some maps there
35 in the back. Some of them we'll be using for the
36 caribou presentations a little bit later on. I also
37 have some of our Council books for the students and we
38 have extra reg books as well if you'd like to check out
39 some of these regulations. If you have any questions
40 for the Council members or any of the staff in the
41 room, we have biologists, anthropologists, we've got
42 our new Native liaison with Office of Subsistence
43 Management Orville Lind.
44
45 Also, really quickly, while I have the
46 floor, I'll point out that we have our student art
47 contest going on right now, so if any of you are
48 interested in participating, I'm going to leave some
49 packets here with your teachers. Every year at the
50 winter meeting the Federal Subsistence Board votes on

1 the various artwork by students around the state and
2 you could have your picture put here on the cover of
3 the book and they're also found throughout the book as
4 well. So we'd love to see a lot of entries from this
5 community. I'll be here until Thursday, so if anybody
6 wanted to work on something, I'd be happy to go ahead
7 and take it to the office so you don't have to put it
8 in the mail.

9

10 Mr. Chair, I think this would be a
11 great time for a short break.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We'll resume
14 the meeting in 15 minutes.

15

16 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chair. You could also
17 remind the students that we'll be here for two days.
18 If you don't have any questions today, maybe you might
19 have a question tomorrow. Don't be afraid to ask a
20 question. The only dumb question is the one that's
21 never asked. Okay, remember that.

22

23 MS. BURKE: Thanks, Calvin. Also,
24 everyone, including the students, we keep a public
25 record. We travel with a court reporter and there is a
26 sign-in sheet there in the back. So if at some point
27 all the traveling staff could make sure we sign up on
28 that, that would be great.

29

30 Thank you so much and welcome.

31

32 (Off record)

33

34 (On record)

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We'll resume the
37 meeting at 10:33. Orville, you have the floor.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 MR. LIND: Quyana. Thank you, Mr.
42 Chairman. Good morning, board members, audience. I'd
43 just like to commend you folks here for inviting and
44 involving all your students. As we know, as we get
45 older, we like to see young people take over. I'm very
46 pleased to see that's happening here in Buckland.

47

48 My job here, Mr. Chairman and board
49 members, is to give you an update on rural
50 determination. As you remember the work session held

1 last July 28th, the Federal Subsistence Board took
2 action on the rural determination process.

3

4 MR. BALLOT: Just for clarification,
5 can you explain rural determination for the students.

6

7 MR. LIND: Rural determination?

8

9 MR. BALLOT: Yeah.

10

11 MR. LIND: Good question. The history,
12 background, Trevor, do you want to help out on this
13 one, or Pat.

14

15 MR. SCANLON: Hello.

16

17 MS. BURKE: Yes, who's on the line?

18

19 MR. SCANLON: This is Brendan Scanlon,
20 Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks.

21

22 MS. BURKE: Oh, hey there. We're on a
23 different agenda item now, so if you could just mute
24 yourself for a couple minutes, we'll get there real
25 soon to FRMP.

26

27 MS. PETRIVELLI: Hello. This is Pat
28 Petrivelli with the Bureau of Indian Affairs,
29 subsistence anthropologist. The reason we're talking
30 about rural determination is that ANILCA provides a
31 preference for subsistence use on Federal public lands,
32 but it provides the priority for rural residents. So
33 the Federal Board has a responsibility to determine who
34 is a rural resident in the state of Alaska. They made
35 that initial determination in 1991.

36

37 Then they said that the populations
38 changed, so they said they're look at it every 10 years
39 when the census came out. There was a lot of concern
40 when the determinations were made in 2007 in part of
41 the Secretarial review. The Secretaries of Interior
42 and Agriculture asked the Federal Board to look at it
43 again and see what they were doing. So for the
44 determination process the Board had questions in a
45 review and that's what -- but it's just part of the
46 Federal Board's responsibility to determine who is a
47 rural resident. Orville is just talking about the
48 outcomes of that review.

49

50 MR. BALLOT: So, in other words,

1 Buckland being rural, Anchorage not being rural.
2 That's what we're talking about.

3

4 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yes.

5

6 MR. LIND: I'll continue. The Board
7 divided the rural determination process into three
8 phases. The Phase I addressed the Board's
9 recommendation on the current Secretarial proposed
10 rule. The Board votes to recommend to the Secretaries
11 to adopt the proposed rule as written. That was the
12 Phase I. Phase II was determining a starting point for
13 nonrural community areas. The Board voted to publish a
14 direct final rule adopting the pre-2007 nonrural
15 determinations. Phase III was a direction on future
16 nonrural determinations. The Board voted to direct
17 staff to develop options to determine future nonrural
18 determination for the Board's consideration. All three
19 requests passed unanimously. OSM staff is expected to
20 have draft options for the Board by the January 2016
21 meeting.

22

23 Currently the Secretarial final rule
24 and the Board's direct final rule are being reviewed by
25 the ISC.

26

27 MS. LOON: Can you please direct us
28 which page you're talking about.

29

30 MR. LIND: Oh, Page 12. I'm sorry.

31

32 MS. LOON: Thank you.

33

34 MR. LIND: ISC is the Interagency Staff
35 Committee. Following their review, the documents will
36 be forwarded to Washington, D.C. for final review and
37 publication in the Federal Register. Each document
38 will become effective upon publication. After the
39 Board provides guidance in January 2016 on which option
40 it decides to pursue for future nonrural
41 determinations, the Office of Subsistence Management
42 staff will draft either a policy or a proposed rule and
43 present it to the Councils for input and
44 recommendations to the Board.

45

46 That concludes the update, Mr.
47 Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Any
50 questions. Percy.

1 MR. BALLOT: So they'll be up in 2016.
2
3 MR. LIND: That's correct.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anyone
6 else on this. Any questions on this from the board.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, thank you.
11
12 MR. LIND: Quyana. Thank you.
13
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We'll go to (b)
15 proposed rule on hunting by.....
16
17 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. Susan Georgette
18 will be providing that presentation. If you could turn
19 to Page 15 in your books and I'll be running around and
20 slipping in an extra sheet for everyone else. Page 15,
21 please.
22
23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Susan, you have the
24 floor.
25
26 MS. GEORGETTE: Thank you, Mr.
27 Chairman. My name is Susan Georgette. I'm the Refuge
28 Manager for Selawik National Wildlife Refuge. Heather
29 Tonneson is on the phone, I believe. I was going to
30 give this presentation, but she has worked on this
31 issue in great detail and can answer any questions.
32 Are you there, Heather, still?
33
34 MS. TONNESON: Yes, I'm here. This is
35 Heather Tonneson with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
36 Service.
37
38 MS. GEORGETTE: Okay. Thank you,
39 Heather. I want to give the RAC a quick update on what
40 is called the proposed new rule for wildlife refuges in
41 Alaska. For the benefit of the students, I could just
42 say that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is a
43 Federal agency and one of its jobs is to manage
44 wildlife refuges across the country. So there's more
45 than 500 wildlife refuges in the country.
46 Selawik National Wildlife Refuge is one
47 of those. The Fish and Wildlife Service is charges
48 with protecting and conserving America's wildlife for
49 future generations. Alaska has 16 wildlife refuges.
50 So we're part of this really big national network that

1 protects habitat and conserves America's wildlife.

2

3 A proposed rule means that it's being
4 proposed to be a new regulation for all of Alaska's
5 wildlife refuges. We've talked about this to the RAC
6 in two earlier meetings, so this is just an update.
7 This rule is making its way through the channels and
8 it's been adjusted over the last year and a half based
9 on tribal consultations and RAC input across the state.
10 So it's getting to its final form.

11

12 There are three sections to it that
13 I'll just go over real quickly. It's important to know
14 this only applies to the refuges. So in our area it's
15 only the Selawik Wildlife Refuge, which is the Kobuk
16 delta and most of the Selawik valley. It also does not
17 apply to subsistence, so that's important to remember.
18 This is for non-subsistence hunting. So the three
19 parts of it, the first part is that predator control
20 will not be allowed on refuges in Alaska except when it
21 meets refuge purposes and is consistent with Fish and
22 Wildlife Service's mission.

23

24 One of the things that the law requires
25 for refuges, and these are a lot of big words, is to
26 conserve natural diversity, biological integrity and
27 environmental health. The Fish and Wildlife Service
28 believes that predator control does not meet those, so
29 prohibiting predator control on the refuges would put
30 into Federal law the existing mandates we have to
31 protect the diversity and biological integrity.

32

33 The second part of the rule prohibits
34 certain kinds of methods and means for hunting for non-
35 subsistence. These are listed on the second column on
36 that Page 15. For the most part, they're all illegal
37 right now and not something that goes on on the refuge,
38 so it includes taking of brown bears over bait;
39 taking of brown bears using traps or snares; taking of
40 bear cubs or sows with cubs; taking of bears from
41 aircraft or same day airborne; and taking of wolves and
42 coyotes during the spring and
43 summer denning season.

44

45 The third part of it updates public
46 participation and closure procedures. That's on Page
47 16, I think, on the back and there's a lot of details
48 about how long closures would last, what's the process
49 for review of closures, requirements for tribal
50 consultation, use of internet for advertising closures.

1 Closures are not something we really have done on the
2 Selawik Refuge. So closures mean -- like the Refuge
3 Manager can close an area to trail use if there's some
4 issue or you could close an area to camp, you could
5 close an area to certain kinds of hunting, but it's not
6 something that the Selawik Refuge has done, but could
7 do.

8

9 We're at the point with this that it's
10 going to go to public review in October for 90 days.
11 There's going to be a 90-day period where the public
12 can comment on this rule. In Kotzebue, we're going to
13 hold a public hearing on November 17th for anyone who
14 wants to provide input on it.

15

16 Heather, do you have anything to add to
17 that?

18

19 MS. TONNESON: No, thank you. That
20 covers it.

21

22 MS. GEORGETTE: So that's all I have.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Susan.
25 Any questions from the board. Go ahead, Hannah. Percy
26 will be next.

27

28 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
29 You say this is for non-subsistence, right?

30

31 MS. GEORGETTE: Correct.

32

33 MS. LOON: We always hear of people
34 trying to sell bear bladder and you are aware of that.
35 We all are aware of it.

36

37 MS. GEORGETTE: Right.

38

39 MS. LOON: How come -- if it's not for
40 non-subsistence, how come it's not here about
41 underground. I don't know what the English word is.
42 Black Market.

43

44 MS. GEORGETTE: It's already illegal to
45 sell those parts, so this isn't addressing that. It's
46 already illegal under State and Federal regs.

47

48 MS. LOON: Okay. Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: What Hannah is

1 referring to is that some people will try to sell the
2 bladder out of a bear. She's saying that that's
3 illegal to sell. Go ahead, Percy.

4

5 MR. BALLOT: I was just wondering when
6 you said predator control, is bounties predator
7 control?

8

9 MS. GEORGETTE: You know, I think we
10 talked with the State wildlife trooper about that.
11 Well, I don't know if we talked about whether it's
12 predator control, but whether you could allow that.
13 It's not legal to have bounties. Heather, do you know
14 if you would consider that predator control?

15

16 MS. TONNESON: This is Heather Tonneson
17 at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I don't know
18 specifically as to that question, but what I can say is
19 we're not getting into details on that. Essentially
20 this proposed rule would define what is considered
21 predator control. And we would talk about, you know,
22 in cases where it is consistent with Federal mandates,
23 it might be allowed on a refuge, but in cases that are
24 inconsistent with Federal mandates it would not be
25 allowed on refuges. So, given that, I would assume
26 that, you know, in cases where there is a bounty that
27 would not be compatible or consistent with Federal
28 mandates.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Percy.

31

32 MR. BALLOT: The refuges a question
33 too, but for State land, do you have an idea of how
34 many wolves are out there in our region? I know in
35 Buckland we got 60, 70 last year. So any time they
36 walk into town they don't last very long. But when we
37 hear about what other villages are going through, we
38 have a lot of hunters here and they're always on the
39 go. Every day we have hunters looking for wolves.

40

41 But I was just wondering about bounties
42 to encourage more hunting. I brought that up a couple
43 of times, but I've never really got a -- even a tribal
44 bounty or something like that. I'd like to find out
45 what can be done. I know there's still a lot of wolves
46 out there and bears. There's a lot of bears. Like I
47 say, we have a lot of kids around here. We seen twin
48 bears and twin moose and stuff, so I don't know what's
49 going on around here, but there's a lot of animals
50 here.

1 MS. GEORGETTE: The Fish and Wildlife
2 Service fully supports subsistence harvest of wolves
3 and bears and all under the current regulations. I
4 think we did talk at the last RAC meeting, Percy, about
5 tribal bounties whether the tribe could provide fuel,
6 for instance, to hunters in exchange for wolves. I
7 remember the State wildlife trooper said that would not
8 be legal under current regulations.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So I think what we
11 need to do is watch our wording, how we translate it to
12 the enforcement, the troopers, to make them understand
13 we need bounties on certain animals because the
14 predators are hurting us. They're hurting our caribou
15 in the long run. I think we need to try to find out
16 how to rephrase it to make them understand that we
17 bounties to help the hunters to take the predators
18 because of reduction in caribou.

19
20 You students, for your information,
21 Selawik Wildlife Refuge will even go out of their
22 refuge, like when the salmon were dying in the river.
23 They're the ones that was up there to take samples.
24 Not from the State and other places. I mean they went
25 out of theirs toward Kiana, which is not their region.
26 They went there to take some samples last year when
27 they died of natural causes. There were so many. I'll
28 commend Selawik on that. They will if they have
29 concerns about the resources. Even if it's not in
30 their region, they will go there to help out.

31
32 Thank you, Susan.

33
34 Anyone else have questions on Susan.

35
36 (No questions)

37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, good
39 explanation.

40
41 MS. GEORGETTE: Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Back to the agenda.
44 Go ahead, Melinda.

45
46 MS. BURKE: We will now take up the
47 FRMP. We have Karen Hyer, fisheries biologist from the
48 Office of Subsistence Management. I believe we also
49 have one or two participants on the phone who will be
50 speaking on this matter. Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Karen, you have
2 the floor.

3
4 MS. HYER: Good morning, Chair and
5 Council members. For the record, I'm Karen Hyer with
6 the Office of Subsistence Management. Today I'm going
7 to talk to you a little bit about the FRMP and where we
8 are in the process. For the benefit of the students, I
9 think I'll give kind of a general overview of what it
10 is and the process and then we can go back to the
11 specifics. I'm going to need Council input.

12
13 First off, starting off, the Fisheries
14 Resource Monitoring Plan is part of our Fisheries
15 Resource Monitoring Program. The plan is made up of
16 several individual projects put together to provide
17 Federal managers with information to manage and monitor
18 Federal subsistence fisheries. So this money is
19 completely fisheries related. Every two years we
20 announce a call for proposals and we ask people to
21 submit proposals to us and then we go through a review
22 process. To guide that proposal submission we ask the
23 Councils to give us what they feel are strategic
24 priorities in their area.

25
26 We worked on this when we met in Kiana
27 together and then we take those strategic priorities
28 and we also talk to the managers in the area. Once we
29 come up with a final list we put that together and we
30 announce that along with our call and people submit
31 proposals. Some that are addressing strategic
32 priorities, some that are addressing other issues that
33 they feel is important in the region. If it's not on
34 our strategic priority list, then it's just up to the
35 investigators to tell us why these projects are
36 important.

37
38 So we put out a call and we received
39 our proposals and we're at that place now where we're
40 reviewing our proposals. So those proposals are first
41 reviewed by our Technical Review Committee and our
42 Technical Review Committee reviews them for technical
43 merit. I'll go over that in a little bit specifically
44 what they review them for. And then after they're
45 reviewed by our Technical Review Committee I come out
46 here to you and I'm going to ask you to give me your
47 input about what's important to you as subsistence
48 users and what's important to the region out here.

49
50 Then we'll take all that information

1 back and the next group that will look at it is our
2 Staff Committee and they are Staff to the Federal
3 Subsistence Board and they'll take your information and
4 they'll take the technical review committee information
5 and they'll put it all together and they'll also
6 develop a recommendation. All that goes to the Federal
7 Subsistence Board and the Federal Subsistence Board
8 then will make a recommendation as to what projects to
9 fund. That will happen this January and then we will
10 actually fund those research projects for up to four
11 years.

12
13 Currently we have projects that are
14 funded and in the water and then we will add the new
15 projects to it. It's a continuous process, so we
16 always have fisheries research going on. So that's
17 kind of the overview of the program just to remind you
18 and to inform the students.

19
20 So now in your books if you turn to
21 Page 235, that starts the information on the Fisheries
22 Resource Monitoring Program. This is all background
23 information, the first few pages, so I'm going to go
24 ahead and let you review that on your own. It
25 basically goes over what I just talked about. Then I'm
26 going to refer you to Page 244.

27
28 The first five bullets on Page 244 were
29 the priority information needs that we developed from
30 our meeting in Kiana. So I'm just going to read them
31 to remind you what in our past meeting we thought was a
32 priority because that guided what the investigator
33 submitted. So I'm just going to start with the first
34 bullet.

35
36 Understanding differences in cultural
37 knowledge, beliefs, and perceptions of subsistence
38 resources between fishery managers and subsistence
39 users in Northwestern Alaska.

40
41 Document rural residents beliefs,
42 attitudes, and knowledge about beavers and perceptions
43 of changes to fish habitat related to beavers.

44
45 The third bullet says spawning
46 locations for broad whitefish in the Northwest Arctic
47 Region.

48
49 The fourth bullet says
50 traditional/local knowledge of subsistence fish,

1 including application to Federal subsistence
2 management such as identifying critical habitat,
3 refining range maps and shedding light on ecological
4 relationships. Whitefish on the northern Seward
5 Peninsula in the communities of Buckland, Deering and
6 the north coast in the community of Kivalina. Dolly
7 Varden in the communities of Noatak, Kobuk, and
8 Kivalina.

9

10 The last one was Selawik River clams,
11 freshwater mussels, traditional harvest and use,
12 abundance and life history.

13

14 Before I go on I just want to mention
15 that what I refer to as Dolly Varden is what you refer
16 to as trout. What you refer to as sheefish, I refer to
17 as inconnu. I've tried to tailor my discussion, but
18 sometimes I lapse into my old ways.

19

20 So those are the priorities that we
21 actually sent out that we posted with the notice and
22 that went out to the investigators. That was what
23 guided them in submitting their proposals.

24

25 Now if you turn to Page 239, the very
26 first step in reviewing these proposals is our
27 Technical Review Committee. That committee is made up
28 of individuals from the five Federal agencies that work
29 with us and from the Alaska Department of Fish and
30 Game. They review these proposals and they're the
31 first step of evaluating and they evaluate them based
32 on these criteria. The first one is strategic
33 priority, the second one is technical and scientific
34 merit, the third one is investigator ability and then
35 the fourth one is partnership and capacity building and
36 the fifth one is cost benefit.

37

38 So they met this summer and they looked
39 at the proposals and they rated the proposals just
40 based on those criteria. So now if you turn to Page
41 245, you can see the proposals we received and the TRC
42 ranking. So that's where we are in the process. Now
43 I'm going to introduce these projects to you. I have
44 the investigators either here in the room or on the
45 line and they're going to give you a brief overview of
46 these projects and then I'm going to ask you to tell me
47 what's important to you as a Council from a subsistence
48 perspective and from a regional perspective.

49

50 So now it's your turn to evaluate these

1 projects. Because Northern involves three Councils,
2 not all of these projects are in your region, but the
3 projects that are in your region is the first one, the
4 Kobuk River sheefish abundance. The one that has a
5 five by it, the Northwest TEK whitefish, cisco and
6 beavers. The sixth one, Kobuk River Dolly Varden
7 genetics and then the eighth one, the Selawik inconnu
8 age abundance. Again, that's sheefish.

9
10 So I'm going to go ahead and give a
11 brief overview and then let the investigators that are
12 on the line and Susan Georgette is in the room, I'm
13 going to let them talk a little bit about the projects.
14 Then it will be your turn to talk to me.

15
16 So the first project addresses the
17 Kobuk River. The sheefish in the Kobuk River and the
18 Selawik River both migrate down near Kotzebue for the
19 winter and they're subjected both to sport fisheries in
20 the river and mixed subsistence fishery down in Hotham
21 Inlet and Selawik Lake. It's a very important resource
22 for the area and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
23 has done abundance estimates and the last abundance
24 estimate they completed was in 1997. So they have
25 submitted a proposal to look at that stock again to get
26 an abundance estimate for that stock and that river.

27
28 The next one on the list is the
29 Northwest TEK whitefish, cisco and beaver project.
30 That project is going to look at whitefish, cisco in
31 the Buckland and Deering area and document the local
32 knowledge of those fish. In addition to that it's
33 going to examine the beliefs, perceptions about the
34 effects of beaver. We've been hearing a lot about
35 beaver and the importance of beaver and how they're
36 affecting fish in this area. Today we heard about
37 trout and beaver on the Noatak. While this isn't
38 addressing that, it is addressing whitefish and beaver.
39 So it's entirely possible that some of what we learn
40 from that project can affect other areas too.

41
42 The third one is the Kobuk River Dolly
43 Varden genetics. That project is going to take genetic
44 samples from the Kobuk River. We know that a majority
45 of these fish winter in the Wulik and we're trying to
46 figure out what proportion come from different rivers
47 because we know it's a mixed stock up there. If we
48 have genetic information, then we can sample up on the
49 Wulik and we can start to figure out the proportions of
50 fish up there.

1 The final one is the Selawik River
2 sheefish project and that one is an ongoing project,
3 the two I told you about -- or the three I told you
4 about before our new projects, but this project has
5 been in the water and they've been collecting age
6 samples from the sheefish up on the Selawik. Again,
7 these fish are part of the mixed stock fishery out of
8 Kotzebue. But there's been a slump up on that river
9 and they're concerned because of climate change that
10 this slump has affected the ability of these fish to
11 successfully spawn.

12
13 They're at a point now where they've
14 collected enough information that they're starting to
15 see the return of the fish to the area. So they have
16 one year of information about the proportion of fish
17 that are returning. If this project was successful, it
18 would fund the remaining year so they would be able to
19 see if the slump really had an effect on the
20 population. So that's that fourth project.

21
22 So at that point I think I'll ask Susan
23 to come up and give a little bit of a background on
24 that project and then I'll ask the investigators on the
25 line to speak.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Susan. You
28 have the floor.

29
30 MS. GEORGETTE: Thank you, Mr.
31 Chairman. That sheefish project is really a pretty
32 cool project. They're up there right now still. They
33 being our fish biologist and some local guys and some
34 technicians. They go up to the far upper Selawik in
35 early September and they catch about 200 male fish that
36 they kill to get the ear bones out, which tells them
37 how old the fish is. They cut the fish and then boat
38 them back to the village and give them out and people
39 love getting them. They all show up to get these
40 sheefish.

41
42 The second part of that project is
43 starting in late September. They have a sonar counter
44 on the Upper Selawik where you can actually see the
45 fish going by on a computer and they can count how many
46 spawning sheefish there are. A couple years ago when
47 we had a late freeze-up they were able to count the
48 whole migration out. So the sheefish spawn, turn
49 around and go back out to Kobuk Lake. They counted
50 24,000 sheefish just in the Selawik.

1 I think about 18,000 of them went by in
2 three days. So this is what the elders always say
3 about sheefish, that they spawn, they turn around real
4 fast and they go down. So they're gone in a matter of
5 days. The other thing the elders say is that they
6 travel at night. I'm not sure the biologists really
7 believed it, but when they came back after that year
8 when they could see them all, they said they did not
9 even bother to look at the sonar counter during the day
10 because there would be, you know, a couple dozen fish
11 would go by or some real small number, but at night
12 there would be thousands of sheefish going downriver.

13
14 So it's a pretty neat project. I
15 think we've talked before about that big mudslide that
16 happened on the Upper Selawik in 2004, so it's more
17 than 10 years ago now and that put a lot of sediment
18 into the river right above the spawning grounds, which
19 is why this project got started. Sheefish live a
20 really long time, like 40 years or more. They've
21 learned in the past three or four years on this project
22 that sheefish are nine years old before they return to
23 the spawning grounds. So that means that those
24 sheefish that were hatched or born or whatever in 2004
25 when the slump happened would have just been showing up
26 last year in the spawning population.

27
28 So I think the project that's going on
29 now has gone on for three or four years, but they're
30 just right now at the point where they could tell if
31 sheefish are coming back from that mudslide or not
32 because it's taken that long for the sheefish to grow
33 up and return. So they're right at the edge of knowing
34 if sheefish are coming back. Those 200 fish they
35 catch, they had not yet caught any nine-year-old fish,
36 but they don't know if that means they're not there
37 because of the slump or if it's just because they
38 haven't caught them because there aren't that many
39 young ones compared to the older ones. On the Kobuk
40 River project they have caught I think three nine-year-
41 olds. So they're right at the point of trying to
42 figure out have they just not caught any of those nine-
43 year-old fish or are there not many from the slump back
44 then.

45
46 You can only apply for four years of
47 field work at a time. So when they first started this
48 they got four years, but now they really need these two
49 or three more years to really figure it out. One of
50 the things about the project that I really like is that

1 it's just this wonderful way for the village to engage
2 with Fish and Wildlife on research.

3
4 So we had six guys from the village who
5 work on that project in varying ways. Some of them
6 spend the two weeks up at camp helping fish and cut
7 fish. Some of them freight fish back and forth. We
8 paid six people anywhere from \$300 to \$2,500 in early
9 September to help on that project and people come up to
10 me in the village all the time wondering if we have
11 work like that because it's just perfect for the
12 village. They see what we do, they know the river, they
13 know the fish and it's really neat. It's a real group
14 effort.

15
16 So we, of course, would love to see
17 this project funded another couple years because we're
18 right at the edge of learning something really
19 interesting that has to do with sheefish and the
20 climate change. It's really a great way to engage with
21 the community.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Susan.

26
27 Go ahead.

28
29 MS. HYER: I was just going to say if
30 anybody has any questions now would be a great time to
31 ask Susan.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: All right. I'll
34 start off the questions for Susan. On the numbers you
35 said when they come back within nine years. So what
36 you're saying is the numbers are -- you're seeing low
37 numbers for the nine-year-old returning spawners is
38 what you're saying. The numbers are low. Can you find
39 out from the -- this would have to happen this summer,
40 the 10-year-olds, right?

41
42 MS. GEORGETTE: Right. So this year
43 they'd be the nine and 10-year-olds because you'd have
44 the nine-year-olds from 2005 and the 10-year-olds, so
45 they take all those ear bones, but it's over the winter
46 that you have to slice them and look under a
47 microscope. So by, I don't know, next spring we'll
48 know if there's any nine or 10-year-olds that they
49 caught.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I had a few hands up
2 there. Go ahead, Calvin.

3
4 MR. MOTO: I was wondering, you know, a
5 couple years ago when they had the slump, did it affect
6 any of the spawning places or was that far enough away
7 from the gravel up on the Selawik River where that
8 slump started? And was this close to any of the
9 spawning areas? That's what I was wondering. Also has
10 there been any indication of how much grayling and
11 burbot in all the inland waters, fresh waters, you
12 know? Has there been any kind of study on those?
13 Because we have a considerable amount of grayling and
14 some burbot. I was wondering if other rivers had the
15 same species.

16
17 MS. GEORGETTE: Well, the mudslide took
18 place several miles above the spawning grounds. I
19 don't know exactly if it was like.....

20
21 MR. MOTO: Burbot, some four years ago,
22 I guess, when that one hill went into the river part.
23 I'm talking about, you know, whether the condensation
24 of the dust or the silt from that affected area?

25
26 MS. GEORGETTE: That's what we are
27 trying to figure out in this project because it
28 happened in 2004 when that whole hill collapsed into
29 the river and it was just a few miles above the
30 spawning grounds and that's what we're trying to figure
31 out in this study if it had an effect.

32
33 MR. MOTO: Okay.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin.

36
37 Go ahead, Hannah.

38
39 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40 Ms. Susan. I'm comparing the salmon in the Upper Kobuk
41 River. Old salmon always go there to their spawning
42 area and die and it becomes food for the little babies.
43 You say sheefish always goes in there and release their
44 sperm to the eggs and then go back out. So I just need
45 for my understanding and for the student's
46 understanding. I'm learning too.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 I just want to get an understanding of

1 it.

2

3

MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

4

5

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.

6

7

Go ahead, Percy.

8

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MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I just wanted to say it's about time and I really like to hear that we're utilizing local knowledge, traditional knowledge and what you're hearing from them have been what they've been telling the scientific communities for years and years and it's about time it's being recognized for what it is because we can create far better management processes and decisions between each other from what we know from our people and what the scientific people know.

I think this is a real good time for us to embrace it and use it as much as we can because when you hear about all these studies about sheefish and then we're wondering what Calvin said about what was going on with the whitefish and we've got trout and we've got different stuff. We've only seen -- since I've been on this board 15 years, I've seen only one or two studies that involve Buckland River and the resources because we know when we see seals out there, they're not that fat. We have river seals coming into the river because they're looking for food when they're supposed to be out in the deep water.

So there's something going on out there with cold climate or with the weather, with the animals that we need to understand more. What happens on land affects the ocean. So it's important that we use what we can and share as much as we can. I'm hoping that we can see the Technical Review Committee. I see they're all experts and stuff. I'm just wondering how they come up with what's important and what's not.

I know we spend a lot of money on the sheefish, which is fine because we need to understand them, but we have other fish out there that we need to understand more too of what their health is and the abundance you have out there, like the Dolly Varden, the arctic char, grayling. There's a lot of other ones, they intermingle. Not only just the sheefish but all the other fish. Then we've got the pike and then the pike eat the little stuff and the other stuff, so

1 on and so on. We're trying to collaborate or
2 understand each other more and work together more.
3 That's what I want to see more.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy.
6 Don't go now. I'm not done with you, Susan. I have a
7 couple of these here that came up. The other one is
8 the Kobuk Valley generic studies that they're going to
9 do on the char. I know it's not going to be a real
10 long project because we have DNA samples from Noatak,
11 Kivalina, Wulik and other places, Russia and Unalakleet
12 where our trout go. That project I would like to see
13 done and see what is done.

14

15 I think the one we were concerned about
16 with the Salmon River having a lot of char, but they go
17 in that certain time and they go in around the end of
18 September to go up to the Salmon River and they were
19 concerned because they do get a lot of char at a
20 certain time.

21

22 The other one is sheefish. I just got
23 a call about sheefish, that they want a commercial for
24 fishing, commercial fishing. I know we have a limit of
25 25,000 pounds, yet they're pushing for high numbers. I
26 know if there's fishing going to be under commercial on
27 sheefish, they're going to push for higher stake of not
28 getting 25,000 pounds. They're going to push for 50
29 because I was asked already.

30

31 So this is what I told the commercial
32 fishermen. I'm the co-chair. They were questioning me
33 through the chair and I told them if you have buyers
34 that want to come in, I don't want to hear rumors. I
35 want the buyers to call me. So we would start worrying
36 about it now because I don't want commercial fishermen
37 --- because they need the money, I understand that
38 part, but they can't overharvest our resources of
39 sheefish. We've got to save it for us to live on as
40 Natives. Because I don't need them to be like salmon
41 where they overharvest them. They told me it's going
42 to be a high number per pound.

43

44 The other two I will have concern that
45 I will completely support is the Upper Kobuk and the
46 Selawik sheefish studies be ongoing because we need to
47 know and find out more. Sure we might be done with the
48 study and if you're happy with it, we could stop it,
49 but I don't want to completely stop it. I would like
50 to follow up two, three years later to see if there's a

1 decline or anything going on with our sheefish because
2 we depend, Upper Kobuk, Selawik and Kotzebue, depend
3 heavily on sheefish because we share it with our
4 villages.

5
6 When we get it, I like to hook them,
7 but I don't like to waste them, so I try to give them
8 away. Percy know I give them away left and right
9 whenever they go to Kotzebue. Just get a bag. You're
10 welcome to take it because it's better than halibut.
11 I'll tell you that right now. It's better than
12 halibut. These are the things we need to save for the
13 future and I want to see it keep going on.

14
15 The TEK on beavers and fish that --
16 there's beginning to be too many beavers out there.
17 That's why they were thinking about opening a bounty
18 because they're damming the creeks and the rivers.
19 Like we broke one up just below my camp. We found a
20 beaver dam in a little creek. Me and my boy break it
21 up. Within three days they had that thing rebuilt.
22 They must be all night or all something. They rebuilt
23 it just within three days. When we went back, it was
24 all completed. That's what we're saying. If the
25 beavers keep killing our fish, we won't have nothing to
26 talk about in the future and our generation won't be
27 able to eat it like we did.

28
29 So is there anything else out of this
30 report you want us to support or what do you want us to
31 do?

32
33 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council
34 members. I actually have two more investigators online
35 and I'd like them to tell you about their projects and
36 then we'll circle around and that's when I'd really
37 like to hear what you think about them. If you have no
38 other questions for Susan, I'll go ahead and let Ross
39 -- Ross, you're online, right?

40
41 MR. SMITH: Yes, I'm here.

42
43 MS. HYER: Okay. I'll go ahead. He's
44 the primary investigator on the Northwest TEK
45 whitefish/cisco and beaver project. I'll let him tell
46 you a little bit about it and then I'll let Brendan
47 tell you about the other two and then if anybody has
48 anymore input, I'll take all that then. That would be
49 great.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

4

5 Ross, you have the floor.

6

7 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Karen. Thank
8 you, board, for the invitation to speak this morning.
9 Like Karen said, my name is Ross Smith. The focus of
10 the project that we're proposing is documenting
11 traditional ecological knowledge of subsistence
12 whitefish and cisco and then the attitudes and
13 perceptions of the community towards beavers and their
14 potential impacts on fishing in the region.

15

16 So the way that we are proposing to
17 approach that is to work with the community to document
18 whitefish and subsistence harvest information from
19 Buckland and Deering and build upon the traditional
20 ecological knowledge study that was completed by Susan
21 Georgette and Attamuk Shiedt in 2005.

22

23 Our interest in that research would be
24 to document the specific harvest, locations and timing
25 of whitefish harvest on Federal land. The time period
26 that we're looking at is looking about the last 20
27 years in order to help build up some knowledge of how
28 that's changed over time. And then also look at
29 quantifying current whitefish use with community
30 members on that.

31

32 Second, as I mentioned, we'd be
33 documenting residents attitudes and beliefs and
34 perceptions about the effects of the beaver population
35 growth and habitat expansion in Selawik, Buckland and
36 Deering with an emphasis on documenting how the
37 communities perceive beavers affecting access to
38 fishing sites, changing fish habitats or directly
39 affecting fish populations.

40

41 To carry out this study we're proposing
42 to work with local community members to identify key
43 respondents to assist with the data collection and to
44 provide translation and interpretation assistance as
45 well. The goal from my perspective, one of the longer-
46 term goals of this study is to work with communities to
47 improve local capacity for conducting research projects
48 using qualitative research methods, such as reviews,
49 and developing databases and using databases to track
50 the information that comes out of that so that can be

1 shared with Federal land managers.
2
3 I'll go ahead and pass it back to Karen
4 now if there's no questions and go from there.
5
6 Thank you, Karen.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Karen. You
9 have the floor.
10
11 MS. HYER: I was just going to say if
12 anybody has any questions, now is the time to ask.
13
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think you heard me
15 earlier, my questions. Go ahead, Percy.
16
17 MR. BALLOT: You're saying you're going
18 to be studying all the three species, the whitefish,
19 cisco and the beavers?
20
21 MR. SMITH: Yes, that's correct.
22
23 MR. BALLOT: We've been doing some
24 studies over the past, so we do have some people that
25 have been going around doing some survey work and
26 stuff. That's what you're going to be doing, right?
27 Are you working through -- any entities that you have
28 in mind for the study?
29
30 MR. SMITH: If we're funded for this
31 project, we'd be reaching out to the community and to
32 the individual community councils to help us identify
33 individuals within the community that can assist with
34 this project. Since you already have folks who are
35 doing that kind of work, we'd definitely like to get in
36 touch with them and see if they can assist us with this
37 project.
38
39 MR. BALLOT: So these five projects --
40 it's number five on the ranking, the Technical Review
41 Committee ranking. Are we making recommendations in
42 regards to top five or are they all included for us to
43 consider?
44
45 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council
46 members. You will be making recommendations on.....
47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Karen, excuse me.
49 Whoever's mic is on there, except for the speaker on
50 the phone, can you put your mic on the mute please

1 because we can hear knocking in the background and we
2 can't hear what she's trying to say here at the
3 meeting. It's not here. It's somebody on the radio.
4 Go ahead, Karen.

5
6 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council
7 members. We have one more investigator online and I'll
8 let him talk and then I'm going to be very interested
9 in what your comments are about these projects. The
10 numbers that you see were just the rankings that the
11 Technical Review Committee had and they ranked on those
12 criteria I talked about earlier. So I'm going to be
13 interested in your input because you're going to tell
14 me what's important from a subsistence perspective and
15 what's regionally important. I already got some
16 information, but if anybody else has anything else to
17 add, that would be fabulous.

18
19 If nobody has any specific questions
20 about this Northwest TEK whitefish project, we'll move
21 on to Brendan.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 MS. HYER: Brendan, if you're there,
26 you can go ahead.

27
28 MR. SCANLON: Good morning, everybody.
29 My name is Brendan Scanlon. I work for Department of
30 Fish and Game. I'm the area management biologist for
31 Sport Fish division for Northwest and North Slope.

32
33 As Karen said, I have two projects to
34 speak about today. I can speak about the first one,
35 the Kobuk River sheefish abundance project. This
36 project is similar to what is being requested for the
37 Selawik. From recent telemetry projects we have
38 detailed information on spawning migration timing and
39 location of important spawning areas and timing of
40 outmigration. We don't have a good handle on the
41 abundance of spawners each year.

42
43 We purchased a sonar unit as part of a
44 project funded by DOT through the Ambler Road project,
45 but that funding was pulled. We think this project is
46 really important and we'd like to continue it.
47 Essentially we'd like to go up to the Upper Kobuk in
48 the fall time in September through mid October.

49
50 Down stream of the spawning areas we

1 would like to set up two DIDSON sonar units, one on
2 each bank, to share with each other and count down the
3 outmigration of these spawners are done spawning and
4 move back out to Hotham Inlet in the fall.

5
6 The pilot work we did as part of the
7 funding from the Ambler Road money we found out it
8 works out pretty well and one question we had was how
9 do you know that you're counting sheefish going by and
10 not whitefish or pike. An excellent question.

11
12 One thing we do is periodically we run
13 beach seines below the sonar unit to look at species
14 population. There was really nothing large and moving
15 downstream at that time other than sheefish and almost
16 everything we catch is sheefish, so we feel pretty good
17 that the counts are almost all sheefish.

18
19 Like Karen said, we haven't had any
20 abundance information on Kobuk sheefish since the mid
21 1990s. The last estimate was from a mark recapture in
22 1997 of about 32,500 fish. From the radio telemetry
23 data we have we know that about 50 percent of the adult
24 sheefish spawn every year. So essentially a count of
25 sheefish moving out to Hotham Inlet from the spawning
26 grounds on the Kobuk represents about half of the total
27 population of mature sheefish in the Kobuk River.

28
29 So this project we already have some
30 infrastructure built. Like I said, we have sonar units
31 purchased, we have a boat already in Kobuk, we have a
32 lot of contacts in Kobuk and Shungnak from our previous
33 telemetry studies. We have also built in some funding
34 to -- we'd like to hire students from the Alaska Native
35 Science and Engineering Program. However, this project
36 will go into fall when school is in session, so we
37 could use this money to maybe hire somebody from Kobuk,
38 pay for some boat transports and land lease money.

39
40 Essentially that's the gist of that
41 project and I can take questions on that or I can move
42 on to the Dolly Varden genetics.

43
44 MR. BALLOT: I have a question. You
45 mentioned that about 50 percent of them spawn. How do
46 you come up with that?

47
48 MR. SCANLON: Well, we put out about
49 300 radio tags over four years on sheefish that were
50 moving up above Kobuk to the spawning grounds. These

1 tags were in for about four years, so over the next
2 several years we were able to see what proportion of
3 fish that spawned in one year spawned the next year.
4 Males tend to do it a little more than females, but a
5 lot of females do it too, so we were able to see that
6 about 50 percent of the time we saw spawning in
7 consecutive years.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.
10 Anyone else. Go ahead, Mike.

11

12 MR. KRAMER: With the project that you
13 guys have, including beavers, is there any
14 possibilities to increase that budget by about 50,000
15 for youth involvement in trapping classes for beavers?
16 I think that would be a great idea to start involving
17 our youth and a lot of the control of a lot of these
18 problem animals and have it in a classroom where they
19 can get credit for learning how to harvest problem
20 animals that have an effect on some of our subsistence
21 resources.

22

23 To define the slump that happened up on
24 the Selawik to our youth, silt -- when sheefish lay
25 eggs and they're fertilized and silt covers them, it
26 suffocates the eggs and that's what kills the eggs and
27 that's a definition as to why we're so concerned about
28 that big slump up on Selawik and we're trying to find
29 trends to see if that has any difference in the
30 population.

31

32 As they stated earlier, the nine-year-
33 olds are ones that spawn to define this for our
34 students that we have here in the meeting. I think
35 it's a great thing to involve our youth in a lot of our
36 studies and to help them learn a lot more about our
37 resources. I think it would be great to increase that
38 to about 50,000 to involve Selawik, Buckland and all
39 the other villages to be able to have beaver trapping
40 class for them to learn how to trap these animals and
41 to be able to help drop their numbers in critical
42 spawning areas.

43

44 MR. SCANLON: Thanks, Mike. I think
45 the beaver project you speak of is germane to the guy
46 that spoke right before me, the TEK whitefish, cisco
47 and beaver project. There's not a beaver component to
48 this one.

49

50 As far as the Selawik silt goes, Susan

1 Georgette can probably speak to that one as well, but
2 to my understanding the thaw slump is almost done
3 spewing silt into the river. It's really gone far
4 enough off the river that there's not much material
5 moving into the water. The sheefish spawn after the
6 ground has started to freeze up, so actually the water
7 clears up just before they start to lay eggs. It's
8 great timing. But maybe Susan could add a little bit
9 more about that Selawik thaw slump.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

12

13 Go ahead, Calvin.

14

15 MR. MOTO: The question I'd like to ask
16 is, you know, I'll always come back to the environment.
17 I know this summer there was an abundance of salmon
18 going upriver, a bunch of other fish. Since it was so
19 warm a lot of them perished. What effect did this have
20 on the water or even on the spawning area up there?
21 Because there was a significant amount of salmon went
22 upriver this year because the commercial fishermen
23 didn't get to fish like they did before because of fish
24 buyers. A lot of salmon, I seen some mud sharks and
25 some other species died because of overabundance and
26 suffocation in the water. What effect did it have on
27 other species?

28

29 MR. SCANLON: Well, I do understand
30 that there was a problem with not getting a buyer this
31 year to increase the harvest in the commercial fishery.
32 I'm not aware of any problems like we had in 2014 with
33 the fish die-off in the water. We have a station in
34 Kiana where we measure water depth and turbidity and
35 temperature and there was a little bit of hot water in
36 mid July, but then it cooled off to more normal levels.
37 We don't have an escapement goal per se for the Kobuk
38 River. It's such a large river it's hard to get a real
39 idea of how many chum salmon spawn there every year. I
40 don't know that over-escapement is a problem.

41

42 I guess I would like to say that the
43 die-off we had in 2014 really opened our eyes and made
44 us realize we don't have a real coordinated response to
45 something like that and that's something that I would
46 like to work on. I've spoken to Bill Carter with the
47 Selawik Refuge and our pathology lab in Anchorage. So
48 that in the future we'll have some sort of response
49 plan set up to where we can get fish samples, water
50 samples in a more timely manner to see what's going on.

1 MR. MOTO: So you won't find out until
2 maybe next year and see if the conditions are the same
3 or different. Will that determine how the river is
4 affected by overages of salmon? It will probably take
5 a year or two for the investigators to figure out
6 what's going on, right?

7
8 MR. SCANLON: Well, yeah. Chum salmon
9 up there are essentially a 4-year fish, so fish that
10 spawned in 2014 we won't see their recruits until 2018,
11 2019. It's not something you can measure the effect of
12 right away necessarily. These last 10 years or so have
13 just been off the charts good for chums and not just
14 the Kobuk area, but Norton Sound and parts of the Yukon
15 as well. I don't anticipate there's going to be any
16 problems.

17
18 MR. MOTO: Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin. I
21 have a quick question. Attamuk here. Did you say you
22 were going to sonar count fish when they're heading
23 back to Kotzebue at the fall time or did I
24 misunderstand you?

25
26 MR. SCANLON: No, that's correct.
27 After they spawn, they spawn up around the upstream and
28 downstream and then they leave pretty quickly, within
29 like a week or 10 days. All of them will go back down
30 to overwinter in Hotham Inlet and that's when we'll
31 count them. We won't need to kill any at all. We'll
32 do a little bit of seining just for species
33 apportionment and size composition. Yeah, it will be
34 essentially what they do on the Selawik.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So the sonar is going
37 to be in the Upper Kobuk because they'd be going
38 further down below Kiana. There's so many different
39 drainages that you'd never count them all.

40
41 MR. SCANLON: Yeah. With sonar we
42 really only get a good count if the river is within
43 about 200 feet across or smaller. The river gets
44 pretty big pretty quick once you get below say Ambler.
45 So the spot we have is about 25 miles up from Kobuk
46 village and it works out pretty well.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. So,
49 Karen, you're down to our questions. I think I gave my
50 questions earlier already.

1 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Brendan has
2 one more project to talk about and then.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Sorry,
5 Brendan, I thought you were done. Go ahead.

6
7 MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8 The last project I'm going to speak of is Kobuk River
9 tributary Dolly Varden stock ID. What we'd like to do
10 here is collect some genetic samples from juveniles or
11 spawning fish in some of the tributaries that you
12 mentioned earlier of the Kobuk River where we have no
13 information, particularly the Hunt, the Salmon and
14 maybe Tutuksuk Rivers all upstream Ambler.

15
16 So Dolly Varden in Noatak, Kivalina and
17 Kotzebue, they're very important. Most important in
18 Kivalina and Noatak. People harvest about, we think,
19 30-50,000 fish a year. In rivers, these are mixed
20 stock aggregations. So, for example, folks in Kivalina
21 go upriver to seine. There may be 100,000 fish up
22 there to overwinter, but there's only 3-4,000 fish that
23 spawn in the Wulik River and most of the others spawn
24 in Noatak drainages and the Kobuk, some Norton Sound
25 drainages, Russia and probably the Buckland River.
26 We're learning a little bit about Dollies in the
27 Buckland these days.

28
29 So we have genetic stock ID information
30 from a lot of the
31 Northwest rivers, most of the Noatak tributaries,
32 Kivalina, Wulik, some North Slope stuff, but we don't
33 have any stock ID information from the streams on the
34 Kobuk River. This project would just entail us going
35 into these tributaries. We'd like to time it so it's
36 right before the sonar project just to save money on
37 travel.

38
39 We could go up there and use the metal
40 traps and we'll get a seine, maybe hook and line just
41 to collect fin clips from fish in these rivers. This
42 project budget is really small. It's only 21,500 total
43 and most of that is just for the analysis cost of the
44 samples at the gene conservation lab in Anchorage.

45
46 So it will add another piece of the
47 puzzle what rivers that these fish live in that people
48 are harvesting from. So we'll have some kind of idea
49 what proportion of Kobuk River fish show up in the
50 harvest in Noatak and Kivalina.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.
2
3 Go ahead, Percy.
4
5 MR. BALLOT: So what do you really know
6 about the Dolly Varden, they go up there and they go
7 out and they spawn?
8
9 MR. SCANLON: In the Kobuk, we don't
10 know very much honestly. We have good information on
11 the Wulik and Noatak in terms of spawning,
12 overwintering and movements, so it's probably similar
13 behavior in the Kobuk. We have had Floy-tagged fish
14 from the Wulik River get caught in the Kobuk River, but
15 we don't have any information on spawning abundance or
16 overwintering locations. The Hunt, Salmon and Tutuksuk
17 River, none of them are huge, but we do hear from
18 people that they go up there to target Dollies in the
19 fall. This project will get some more information on
20 some kind of magnitude of the size of the population
21 and these genetic samples will go a long way.
22
23 MR. BALLOT: Okay. I just wanted to
24 let you know what's told by the elders around here.
25 Right now you could get Dolly Varden and arctic char up
26 by the forks with rod and reel. During the winter they
27 always tell us if you go up there far enough where it's
28 shallow and you see a ball of ice making a ball, there
29 will be fish in there and the bigger ones they make
30 holes in the mud so that they are able to have a spot
31 of water and hang around up there and then they go out
32 in the springtime. So we're told if you really need
33 fish you could go up there and find those places where
34 they hang out in the shallow waters where the ice stays
35 deep.
36
37 MR. SCANLON: Okay, thank you. Yeah,
38 like I said, we don't know much and I was hoping to
39 spend a little bit of time in Ambler talking to people
40 that fish and get some idea of where to go and what
41 kind of timing we can expect. So, thank you. That
42 helps.
43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Is he
45 done now or do you have anything to add, Brendan?
46
47 MR. SCANLON: I don't -- we're also
48 hoping to maybe get an ANSEP student in on this project
49 too. This one is going to be a really short, just
50 three or four days, and it will probably be after

1 school starts, but maybe we can get some folks from
2 Ambler to come up and help us and spend a little time
3 and buy a bunch of boat gas and groceries and maybe
4 even speak to the school kids about what we're doing.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Go
7 ahead, Karen, you have the floor.

8
9 MS. HYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 Council members. So that ends our investigative
11 presentation. So now I've already heard from you a bit
12 about what's important, but now is your time to tell me
13 and I'm going to gather all the information and take it
14 back to our Federal Subsistence Board.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. For me, I said
17 what I said already. I just rephrase for time involved
18 where I don't have to repeat myself on the questions I
19 said earlier.

20
21 Does anyone else have anything for
22 Karen on this here on Page 245.

23
24 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council
25 members. I just want to remind you we're talking about
26 the projects that have a number 1, a number 5, a number
27 6 and a number 8 by them. Those are the four that we
28 just talked about.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Mike.

31
32 MR. KRAMER: Chairman. As he spoke
33 earlier about commercializing sheefishing, I think
34 that should be put on hold until we can find out
35 whether that Selawik slump has an effect on the future
36 populations of sheefish as we spoke to Karen yesterday
37 about it. Because if we take out the breeding stock
38 now and the spawners now, then future stocks will have
39 a serious impact on a lot of the subsistence resources
40 in the future. It would be wise to put that on hold
41 until further notice, until we get more documentation
42 as to whether nine-year-olds or 10-year-olds are
43 returning.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Mike.
46 That's what I stated earlier, that if there's going to
47 be a commercial on sheefish, I want to hear from the
48 buyers themselves. Kotzebue might be trying to start a
49 rumor and trying to push it. That's why I tell them in
50 return let the buyer call me and we'll worry about it

1 because we have a limit of 25,000 pounds, but if we
2 increase it, we won't be able to harvest our resources
3 to share with the people in Northwest Alaska within the
4 state.

5
6 Thank you. Is there anything else?
7 You want to put in a motion or what do you want to do
8 here?

9
10 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, it doesn't
11 need to be in a motion. I will just collect all the
12 information and take it back.

13
14 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

17
18 MR. BALLOT: What we're doing here
19 before we take any action, I talked to my partner over
20 here, but I want to make sure I understand what it is
21 we're trying to stop before -- because I understand we
22 have five projects that we're asking to be supported
23 for. Number one, number five, six, seven or just
24 eight?

25
26 MS. HYER: Just eight.

27
28 MR. BALLOT: Okay, four. So I want to
29 ask my co-partner here what is he asking to delete from
30 these.

31
32 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council
33 members. You don't need to delete anything. What I
34 need from you is your knowledge about the area and if
35 these are important, they can all be important. If
36 there's one that's not important, you can tell me. As
37 a subsistence users, you can tell me what you're
38 saying. I'm basically seeking information and your
39 input on these projects.

40
41 Melinda.

42
43 MS. BURKE: Karen, would it be stronger
44 if it was in the form of a motion from the RAC versus
45 just gathering individual comments?

46
47 MS. HYER: I don't think so. I think
48 the individual comments are strong enough. We're
49 really just interested in what the RACs have to say, so
50 that's really what I'm interested in.

1 MR. BALLOT: Okay. Speaking for myself
2 from Buckland I think they're all important to do and I
3 would like to see this project happen.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I'd like to see
6 these ongoing just the way, you know, we talked about
7 it earlier because these are important. I'd hate to
8 see them stop now with being incomplete. If you could
9 follow up later because the Federal sometimes after
10 they're done they don't work on it for how many years
11 and if they have concerns, sometimes it's too late, but
12 to keep it on top would be nice.

13
14 Thank you, Karen.

15
16 Is there anything else you want to add.

17
18 Go ahead, Hannah.

19
20 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In
21 Susan's and I's previous studies before about caribou,
22 there was no moose, beaver or caribou around 1930s.
23 Most of our communities were relying mostly on fish,
24 whitefish, rabbits and ptarmigan. There was no beaver,
25 no moose, no caribou. Now we have abundance of
26 sheefish and sheefish has been with us for a long time,
27 even whitefish in Selawik.

28
29 It's good that we study the sheefish
30 from the changing climate. Now the elder told me in
31 Selawik we are three weeks ahead of time from our
32 seasons. She tell me that. So we have to start doing
33 this now or start getting ready now. While it's windy
34 go ahead and set your net and do it now. So that's
35 what we did.

36
37 Beaver, since their arrival, are a
38 pest, a nuisance and they contaminate our water. We
39 don't drink directly water now from the river, only get
40 ice. Only get ice in wintertime for making tea. Some
41 older people don't like treated water from city water
42 because it has Clorox or something, so they prefer ice
43 or snow. The beaver have beaver fever and we're afraid
44 of that. The meat is good. We spend lots of money on
45 supporting North American fur sales in fur exchange.
46 It's easier for us skin sewers to buy that when that is
47 already tanned. We don't have to go out and go get
48 them and club them. I used to be a clubber, by the
49 way, when we'd go hunt beavers a long time ago.
50

1 So they are a nuisance to us, like the
2 bear. It's just for your information. They're going
3 to Noatak, Kivalina, to unusual places where they were
4 never -- they don't know how to eat them down there.
5 They don't know how to treat them, so it's good if they
6 learn about how it's treated and tanned because the
7 Kivalina people if they can tan ugruk skin for hard
8 bottoms, these beavers should be real easy for them
9 because they sure like to have beaver parka ornaments
10 -- I mean parka parts. So that is good to study the
11 beaver, how it's tanned. And the beaver meat is good
12 when it's in season.

13
14 Dolly Varden is very important to us
15 because we love trout even though it's not common in
16 Selawik River. It's common in Kobuk River, Noatak
17 River, Kivalina, Deering and Buckland. How many of you
18 students like trout with seal oil and carrots and
19 kimchi? See, we have to support the trout. We have to
20 support it. Those villages, Kivalina, Noatak, they
21 have the best. Even Buckland and Deering and Kotzebue.

22
23 In Upper Kobuk River when Susan and I
24 did camp with elders, there are places called (in
25 Inupiaq). That means it's a place where only trout can
26 be seined. And there's one for (in Inupiaq) only for
27 whitefish in September. And there's certain areas only
28 for sheefish where you could seine them. You even have
29 to plug their -- so the eggs won't go out, you have to
30 get willows and sharpen up real fast and plug them so
31 they won't and then they'll put them away to age. That
32 one is really good. All of it. We know that stink
33 sheefish is very good for everybody for Upper Kobuk.
34 So these are important.

35
36 Studying them where they -- and the
37 beavers block their sloughs and I see some beaver dams
38 in Rabbit Creek close to Noatak and Kivalina. Flying
39 to Kivalina one time I see a long beaver dam from here
40 to the door, maybe even longer. They blocked the whole
41 Rabbit Creek. I wonder even if that's where trout live
42 or whitefish live. So those are good to understand.

43
44 I like Percy's idea of involving you
45 kids to go out and trap, beaver traps. They like
46 willows for food. I was glad -- one summer in Selawik
47 we flooded so much. It rained and rained. Remember
48 that rain all summer in September and it flooded some
49 of the beaver houses and it killed all the family and
50 we were happy. Yay, we won't see them anymore, but

1 they show up someplace else.

2

3 Anyway, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.

6 Well said. Anything else, Karen.

7

8 Go ahead, Calvin.

9

10 MR. MOTO: On the same line, I'd like
11 to pass on why I'm so adamant on subsistence. When I
12 was your age, our junk food was dried fish, dried meat.
13 We didn't have pizzas. We didn't have all the other
14 junk food that's floating around now, but, you know, we
15 were happy. That's why I am so much on subsistence. I
16 grew up in a time we had no table. We put rugs on the
17 floor, put paper on the floor, drag in a poke of dried
18 fish and a poke of dried meat, and we sat down. We had
19 little pieces of cardboard paper and that's how we ate
20 in them days on the floor. We never had tables, but
21 you know we were happy. We worked for it and we were
22 happy.

23

24 We had to learn how to hunt from the
25 time we could pull a slingshot. How many know what a
26 slingshot is? Okay. We used to walk from Deering to
27 Takichak (ph), which is three miles over the hill, for
28 our slingshot rock because over there they had real
29 nice rocks just right for a slingshot. Then when we
30 turned 10 either our grandpa or our uncle gave us a
31 plinger. How many know what a plinger is? .22 short.
32 We used them to kill muskrats. We're the ones that
33 killed the muskrats, the squirrels, the ptarmigan. The
34 adults said that was kids hunting. So that's what we
35 had to do.

36

37 Anything we killed, if we told our
38 grandma, she'd let us cook it and we had to eat it,
39 whether it was a bird or whatever. But this is the type
40 of life we had in the '40s. I was born in 1938 when
41 the tingashoon came. How many know what a tingashoon
42 is? Airplane.

43

44 I'll never forget the story I heard
45 about the one old fellow. He heard this thing coming,
46 he walked, he kept walking, he fell on his back. He
47 said, tingashoon (ph), noisy bird. But you know them
48 days we lived totally on subsistence and we never ever
49 mentioned what we were going to go hunt. We always
50 said we're going to go out and get something. The

1 elders used to tell us if you say what you're going to
2 go hunt, you won't find it. That's how it is.

3

4 About 20 years ago they found a circle
5 of rocks way up over there about 12 miles east of
6 Deering. They said what should we do with it. I said
7 just leave it. They said what was it. I said hunters
8 of years ago down used to go there and sit. All they
9 had was a thing of water they sat that called for
10 caribou stay there for a long time until the caribou
11 came. Sometimes they sat in that circle for maybe a
12 couple years. Can you imagine sitting down waiting for
13 caribou that long? That's the way it was years ago.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin.
16 Due to the time involved I think we need to get back --
17 sorry, Calvin, we need to get back to the agenda.
18 Melinda, what time are we going to go on lunch break --
19 or are you done, Karen?

20

21 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. I'm done with
22 this if there are no more comments about the FRMP. I
23 do have the Partners. Do you want to do that before
24 lunch?

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: (Nods affirmatively)

27

28 MS. HYER: Okay. So we're done with
29 the FRMP and Melinda is passing out a flyer for our
30 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program. This is
31 just a quick update. In addition to the Fisheries
32 Resource Monitoring Program, we have a Partners for
33 Fisheries Monitoring and it's unfortunate that the
34 names are so close, but this particular funding goes to
35 rural organizations and we fund an anthropologist or an
36 educator and natural resource expert out in Native
37 organizations.

38

39 We just finished or closed a call for
40 this particular program and I this program we got 13
41 proposals. One of those proposals was submitted by
42 Hannah Loon and her organization, and I see Hannah's
43 eyes get really wide. I was just hoping that Hannah
44 could share a little bit about what she submitted to us
45 if that would be okay. But before I turn the floor
46 over to Hannah, I just wanted to let you know the
47 proposals will be reviewed October 16th and soon after
48 that we will know who is successful. We have enough
49 funding to fund five positions and we had 13
50 applicants.

1 That's all I had. I'll turn the floor
2 over to Hannah.

3
4 MS. LOON: Thank you. We were given
5 some information about grant projects that tribal IRAs
6 and non-profits. I work for Aqqaluk Trust since March
7 and something caught my eye about the resources that we
8 have in Aqqaluk Trust are the written tapes from 1970s,
9 elders' voices that were printed and taped and we have
10 an Inupiaq technician digitizer that currently works
11 with us recording this information. He hears these, so
12 he's moving them into a larger memory size thing.

13
14 Anyway, what caught -- I worked with a
15 program grant writer out of Anchorage. She doesn't
16 know that much about how we live in Selawik or never
17 step her foot on our boggy area in Selawik, but
18 something caught our -- how can our Inupiaq students
19 learn about making hard-bottom soles or tanning beaver
20 or learning about local ecology, traditional knowledge.
21 How can they learn.

22
23 The blueberries will be ready when --
24 or the whitefish will be ready to go seining when the
25 blueberries are just about ripe. These are indicators
26 from local knowledge from elders that we get as we were
27 growing up. So we're asking for an educator -- to fund
28 the educator to help us research into the data that we
29 have that are already translated to develop a seasonal
30 calendar for all the subregions, for instance Kivalina,
31 Noatak, Kobuk upriver villages, Selawik, Noorvik, Kiana
32 and Buckland, Deering, Kotzebue on what they do in
33 their seasons according to the elder voice from the
34 tapes that were collected and digitized. Also to write
35 a field guide book for all the students when they are
36 going to go out to do beaver trapping or setnetting for
37 whitefish or cutting salmon and sheefish. There are
38 different ways to do it and putting voices into them
39 and how to do it hands on. So these could be included
40 into the Smart Board and all the school districts have
41 Smart Board now. They teach their students how to do
42 math on Smart Board. They teach their students how to
43 do English on Smart Board. I believe that's it right
44 there.

45
46 So we want to follow along with the
47 school districts and partner with the school districts
48 and Chukchi College to let the students hear the
49 elder's voice, how to say the beaver or sheefish and
50 whatnot. This educator may not be from Buckland or

1 someplace, but have some field in Western science. We
2 will learn the whole caribou. We will learn the whole
3 part of the caribou. We will learn the organs in
4 English. We will learn the organs in Inupiaq, what's
5 edible and what's not, including the nails inside.
6 They're good for their food as well.

7
8 And using local knowledge from the
9 collected tapes because we have tapes of elders that
10 have long gone past to research that. The educator
11 will research and help us -- oh, this will fit here and
12 then we'll have our Inupiaq specialist there to help
13 her understand and then we'll plug them into the
14 lessons. So it will be seasonal calendars and field
15 guide books.

16
17 The program director say use your own
18 voice and I used my own voice to try to explain
19 everything in the narrative and summary. When it comes
20 to budget I was, you know, like (shrugging). But there
21 are staff that could understand those. So thank you
22 for addressing this.

23
24 I think it will be a blessing even to
25 the non-speakers and those that will learn local
26 knowledge when the fur is ready, you know there is a
27 star in Ambler when you get up early in the morning and
28 you know the fur is just right and fluffy and white and
29 pure of the animal when that star is right there. It
30 has to be. Now is the time to do that and you use
31 weather signs and celestial things to indicate when is
32 a good time to do those. So we will collect those and
33 make those available to everybody.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.
38 Anything else, Karen?

39
40 MS. HYER: No, Mr. Chairman. That's it
41 for me.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Enoch.

44
45 MR. MITCHELL: I mentioned earlier on
46 my report about our trout, having a hard time finding
47 our trout, and the beavers making homes to where the
48 trout lives. I asked a request to do research on our
49 trout and beaver. Got anything on that?

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think what he's
2 trying to tell us is the signs of trout and reduction
3 is now happening at Noatak and I think he's trying to
4 say the beavers are affecting our trout in the area. I
5 think he's trying to request maybe we need to start
6 having funding to do a study on the trout versus the
7 beaver in the Noatak. I'm originally from Noatak. I
8 feel it too. If he feel it, I feel it.

9
10 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council
11 members. I would just like to make the point that it's
12 not too long before I'll be back asking you for your
13 strategic priorities for the next call. So I have
14 documented that and we do have a project before us that
15 has beaver and whitefish and we may learn something we
16 can take elsewhere.

17
18 Also please always be thinking about
19 what's important to you as subsistence users and what's
20 important to your region. It's always important to
21 tell us when we come out because we're continually
22 collecting this information and we will be putting out
23 another call again very soon. It's a long process. I
24 do note that it is important to keep relaying that
25 information back to us because we continually have
26 funding available for research projects. So thank you
27 very much for your input.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, thank you.
30 I've got a simple one for you. I used to be with the
31 National Pacific Fisheries Board and they do have
32 concerns about fisheries happening that drains out to
33 the ocean. The trout goes out to the ocean, the salmon
34 do, to grow up. You ever hear about that National
35 Pacific Fisheries Board?

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I was part of it. I
40 was one of the few that was in there for a while and I
41 was wondering if they're still in existence. That's
42 why I'm asking. Nobody here? Okay. Probably they're
43 no longer because they were running into big things.
44 There were so many concerns about fisheries. There was
45 a lot of money that they thought they had and they
46 didn't have enough to begin with. Maybe that's why
47 they don't exist no more.

48
49 Okay, thank you. I was just wondering
50 because I never heard from them ever since the first

1 two years we met. Okay, thank you. Is there anything
2 else?

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Before you go
7 I think you hear our support of these projects that are
8 happening up in Kobuk, Selawik, the trout genetics. I
9 think you hear that we are supporting you and keep the
10 project ongoing.

11

12 Thank you. Anything else, boss,

13 Melinda?

14

15 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. The students
16 have cooked up a meal, so lunch is going to be served
17 over in the culture room. There will be a basket out
18 for donations. The money that is collected from the
19 snack table, the lunches and for the staff staying here
20 at the school is going to go into the student activity
21 fund. We just really would like to express things to
22 the school and to the students for being great hosts to
23 the community of Buckland. I believe lunch is ready.
24 Mr. Chair, I would suggest a start time of 1:30 if
25 that's okay with you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We'll start at 1:30.
28 We don't have to go run to Walmart this afternoon.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We'll have
33 lunch and resume at 1:30.

34

35 (Off record)

36

37 (On record)

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We'll call the
40 meeting back to order, right, Melinda?

41

42 MS. BURKE: Yes, sir. Raymond is here
43 now. Can you introduce him.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Now Raymond is
46 here, Raymond Stoney from Kiana, one of our Council
47 members. He drifted with the wind riding here. He
48 brought the wind. Remember we came yesterday, nice and
49 calm. Easy on us now, Raymond.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Karen, you
4 have the floor. We're going to go back to what we had
5 earlier before lunch.

6

7 MS. HYER: Thank you, Chairman and
8 Council members. On break it was pointed out to me
9 that probably encompassing your comments within a
10 motion would be much stronger taking it forward, so I'm
11 back with your comments, which I will read to you and
12 then you're welcome to make a motion. That is a lot
13 easier to present to the Board.

14

15 The first proposal on Kobuk River
16 sheefish is important because the population is large
17 and you're worried about it overpopulating its habitat
18 and there's talk of commercialization of sheefish and
19 it's important to know what the population is and what
20 the abundance is before any actions would be taken with
21 the commercial fisheries, so we deem that project
22 important.

23

24 Then the project in Northwest which
25 will incorporate traditional knowledge of whitefish and
26 cisco and beaver and beaver continue to be an issue in
27 the region. You've got concerns about the negative
28 effects of beaver on fish populations.

29

30 You have concerns about the
31 investigators partnering with the communities for
32 ongoing work because there's actually some whitefish
33 and cisco work ongoing in the area at the moment.
34 There was stated a wish for more youth involvement with
35 beaver and the fish interaction and the effects of that
36 and how possibly to control the beaver population.
37 There's also concern because of the climate change, how
38 that will affect the abundance of the beaver and how
39 the abundance of the beaver will impact the fisheries
40 resources that you're utilizing.

41

42 And then the Kobuk River Dolly Varden
43 trout genetic sampling. I heard you say the trout were
44 really important in this area and there's not enough
45 known about them. There were areas this summer where
46 you were used to seeing trout that you hardly saw any
47 trout.

48

49 Finally, the fourth project, the
50 Selawik sheefish abundance project. You stated that

1 continuation of this project is important so that you
2 can realize the effects of the slump and that the
3 population now is on the verge of having their age
4 cohorts return, so it would be very important to
5 continue this and see actually what the effects of the
6 slump were. Then there's interest in studying the
7 population because, again, it's a very important
8 population and you want it to be continuing to grow and
9 be a healthy population.

10

11 So that's what I have in my notes. Is
12 there anything else you want to add?

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So what she's asking
15 for to put it on a proposal. That way it will be
16 stronger when she goes back to her superiors. So
17 anybody want to make a motion to put it in proposal
18 form.

19

20 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. Thanks for
21 all that information and I think these are all good
22 projects that we're going to be supporting. I'm very
23 hopeful that down the line when we look at -- you said
24 we'll be looking at new ones in 2016 next spring or
25 next summer?

26

27 MS. HYER: The next call will be for
28 2018, but the next meeting I think we'll start talking
29 about what's important for the priority information
30 needs.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So we need a motion
33 and a second.

34

35 MR. BALLOT: So I move that there be
36 proposal 1, proposal 5, 7 and 8. Those are the ones?

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Let's put it
39 this way, as mentioned, to make it easier on the
40 people. So do I have a second.

41

42 MR. KRAMER: Second.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Seconded by Kramer.
45 Thank you. All in favor signify by saying aye.

46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I have an addition,
50 what I'm going to say about this trout. When we're at

1 Sisolik, we used to get a lot of trout. We know that
2 now they're at Rabbit Creek. There's a lot of beavers
3 at Rabbit Creek. The last two years we hardly get any
4 trout at Sisolik, less and less.

5
6 Last year they went up to Goverhorns
7 (ph) camp. That's about a mile and a half from mine.
8 And this summer they get a few, but the majority of
9 them were way down, about seven miles away further down
10 even. So maybe the beavers are affecting the trout
11 from Rabbit Creek that migrate to our Sisolik where we
12 used to get some summertime. That's one of our
13 highlights of camping there besides eating ugruk and
14 trying to get belugas, get trout. That's one of our
15 highlights right there. That's why we need to worry
16 about the beavers now. They're starting to make an
17 impact.

18 Thank you.

19
20 Okay, anything else on it.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, thank you,
25 Karen. I see Lisa Maas's name tag is up there. Are we
26 going to go back to the agenda for her regional
27 proposals?

28
29 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I think it
30 would be good to go ahead and take up the Cape
31 Krusenstern SRC appointments that Ken Adkisson had
32 asked us to add earlier. I think it would be a quick
33 agenda item and then we can let the folks who are
34 appointed know as soon as possible if that's
35 acceptable.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It would be up to the
38 one that second the agenda, right, to make.....

39
40 MS. BURKE: Yes, we added it after the
41 wildlife proposals, but.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Oh, you're just
44 moving it up.

45
46 MS. BURKE:could we just move it
47 up a little bit?

48
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay.

50

1 MS. BURKE: Okay, great.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So we'll go to that.

4

5 MS. ATKINSON: Chairman, members, thank
6 you. I'm Hannah Atkinson for the National Park
7 Service. I've been working with the SRCs and so the
8 two appointments that we have are Alex Whiting, whose
9 term expired November 4th, 2014 and Attamuk, whose term
10 expired November 4th, 2015.

11

12 Both of the terms are for three years
13 and both of the gentlemen have expressed to the Park
14 Service that they have an interest and willingness to
15 continue serving on the Cape Krusenstern SRC. Both are
16 eligible for reappointment by the RAC by virtue of
17 their membership on local Fish and Game Advisory
18 Councils or the Northwest Arctic RAC and both are well
19 known to this Council.

20

21 Both bring to the SRC years of relevant
22 experience, including their ability to work with the
23 interagency environment on subsistence issues. They're
24 long-serving members. Because the Cape Krusenstern SRC
25 is going to be seeing some change in membership and
26 older and longer serving members are going to be
27 stepping down, Attamuk and Alex's experience is
28 especially valuable right now and can contribute to a
29 successful transition. So the Park Service supports
30 their reappointment.

31

32 MR. BALLOT: Who is the name?

33

34 MS. ATKINSON: It's Attamuk Shiedt and
35 Alex Whiting are the two members.

36

37 MR. BALLOT: Did I hear you say you
38 need a motion for one name or both names? Am I
39 misunderstanding?

40

41 MS. BURKE: One motion for both.

42

43 MR. BALLOT: Oh, okay. Got it now.
44 So, Mr. Chairman, I move to appoint Alex Whiting and
45 Attamuk Shiedt to the Kobuk Valley SRC.

46

47 MS. ATKINSON: It's the Cape
48 Krusenstern SRC.

49

50 MR. BALLOT: Cape Krusenstern. I'm

1 trying to move you guys up. That's my motion.

2

3 MR. KRAMER: Second.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Second by Kramer.

6

7 MS. LOON: Question.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question has been
10 called for. All in favor signify, except me, I guess,
11 signify by saying aye.

12

13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, people,
16 for having confidence in me to serve for you in this
17 board here -- in both boards. Let's put it that way.
18 I enjoy doing it and I do it for the young people and
19 for my grandkids too. I'll be happy to serve again.

20

21 MS. ATKINSON: I thank the RAC for
22 supporting the SRCs.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you so much.
25 Okay, Melinda, from here we go back to the agenda.

26

27 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. We will go
28 back to the agenda. We're going to be covering the
29 current cycle's Federal wildlife proposals. We have
30 our new biologist, Lisa Maas, who is coming to the
31 table. Also, since Raymond wasn't here this morning, I
32 want to let Raymond know we've had about 20 students
33 that joined us this morning from about 9:00 right up
34 until about lunchtime and some have chosen to come back
35 and stay with us, so hopefully we'll have some
36 questions.

37

38 I wanted to let the students know too
39 don't be shy. If you have any questions about
40 anything, feel free to raise your hand, be acknowledged
41 by the Chair and we're happy that they're here. So I
42 just wanted to let Mr. Stoney know about that.

43

44 As I mentioned earlier, we're going to
45 be going just a little bit out of order and I have
46 inserted some extra maps and tables that Lisa has
47 provided. I went ahead and put them right there in
48 your book. They should be right around Page 39. We'll
49 start with Proposals 49/52.

50

1 MS. MAAS: Hello, Mr. Chair, members of
2 the Council. My name is Lisa Maas and I'm a wildlife
3 biologist in the Office of Subsistence Management.
4 I'll be presenting the summary of the analysis for
5 Wildlife Proposal 16-49 and 16-52, which begin on Page
6 39 of your RAC book.

7
8 Wildlife Proposal WP16-49 submitted by
9 this Council requests reducing the harvest limit for
10 caribou in Unit 23 from 15 to 5
11 caribou per day, restricting the bull season during the
12 rut and the cow season during calving and prohibitions
13 on the take of cows with calves.

14
15 Wildlife Proposal WP16-52, submitted by
16 the Upper and Lower Kobuk Fish and Game Advisory
17 Committee, requests reducing the caribou harvest limit
18 from 15 to 7 caribou per day.

19
20 The Council believes the declining
21 Western Arctic Caribou Herd warrants conservation
22 measures, including reductions in the daily harvest
23 limit and the protection of pregnant cows and cows with
24 calves to improve recruitment. The Council also
25 believes
26 bulls should not be taken during the rut when their
27 meat is inedible and that allowance of the take of cows
28 without calves provides for increased harvest
29 opportunity.

30
31 The Upper and Lower Kobuk Advisory
32 Committee states that the reduction in the daily
33 harvest limit for caribou is needed to
34 enhance the recovery of the caribou population, a
35 crucial subsistence resource.

36
37 Two other proposals, 16-37 and 16-61,
38 concerning caribou harvest regulations in Unit 23, were
39 submitted for the 2016 regulatory cycle. As the
40 outcome of these two other proposals may effect or even
41 conflict with the outcome of this proposal, I recommend
42 considering these proposals together.

43
44 The two other proposals include
45 proposed regulations for Units 24, 26A and 26B. WP16-
46 37 also proposes regulations for Units 21D and 22. I
47 suggest focusing on Unit 23 and making a unified
48 recommendation for this unit across all proposals
49 before considering any other unit.

50

1 The tables and maps in your binder and
2 on the back table, as well as the posters on the wall,
3 are intended to help highlight the differences between
4 the various proposals and may aid in discussions.

5
6 I will give a brief overview of the
7 regulatory history, biology and harvest of the Western
8 Arctic Caribou Herd as well as the OSM preliminary
9 conclusion before beginning proposal-specific
10 discussions.

11
12 Some general things to keep in mind
13 about caribou is that their populations naturally
14 fluctuate over time, roughly in a 10-year cycle.
15 Calves orphaned after weaning in mid-October have a
16 greater chance of survival over calves orphaned while
17 they are still nursing. The Teshekpuk, Western Arctic
18 and Central Arctic Caribou Herds have overlapping
19 ranges and the degree of mixing between herds seems to
20 be increasing.

21
22 The caribou map provided in your binder
23 is not perfect, but sufficiently depicts not only where
24 the different herds are in space but also in time. For
25 example, you can see the Teshekpuk Herd calving area is
26 concentrated around Lake Teshekpuk in northern Unit 26A
27 while the Western Arctic calving area is in
28 Southwestern Unit 26A. Realizing and understanding
29 these differences in herd distribution could help in
30 understanding the differences in the proposed
31 regulation changes.

32
33 The Western Arctic Caribou Herd is the
34 only caribou herd in Unit 23, so I'll focus on this
35 herd. However, the decline of the Teshekpuk Caribou
36 Herd also spurred proposed regulations changes in other
37 units. The Western Arctic Caribou Herd is the largest
38 caribou herd with the largest range in Alaska. The
39 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group developed a
40 herd management table which can be found on Page 130 of
41 your RAC meeting book. Referring to this table may aid
42 in understanding management of the Western Arctic Herd
43 as well as the proposed regulations.

44
45 Since 2003, the Western Arctic Caribou
46 Herd has declined 50 percent from a peak of about
47 490,000 animals to about 235,000 animals, which is
48 within the conservative management level of the table.
49 The primary factors contributing to this decline are
50 increased cow mortality and decreased calf survival and

1 recruitment. Wolf predation is a major source of
2 mortality for both herds while hunting has historically
3 been a minor factor. However, as the herds decline and
4 harvest remains the same, hunting represents a larger
5 and larger percentage of caribou mortalities.

6
7 Estimated harvest is within the
8 conservative management levels specified by the Western
9 Arctic Working Group. Local residents account for 94
10 percent of the Western Arctic Herd harvest with
11 residents of Unit 23 harvesting the most.

12
13 In summary, the Western Arctic Herd
14 population has declined substantially since 2003 and
15 harvest of this herd has remained within management
16 objectives. This is the first time in the history of
17 the Federal Subsistence Program that restrictions to
18 the harvest of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd have
19 been proposed.

20
21 In March 2015, the Alaska Board of Game
22 adopted regulations that restricted harvest limits and
23 hunting opportunities for residents and nonresidents.
24 In June 2015, the Federal Subsistence Board approved a
25 special action that restricted harvest limits and
26 hunting opportunities for regulatory year 2015.

27
28 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
29 support Wildlife Proposal 16-49 with modification to
30 add the Singoalik River drainage hunt area, prohibit
31 the harvest of calves, align with State season dates
32 and simplify regulatory language; and to oppose
33 Wildlife Proposal WP16-52.

34
35 Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the
36 Council. That concludes my presentation. Again, the
37 associated maps and tables are intended to help one
38 compare the various proposals and understand the
39 differences. I'd be happy to go through these
40 materials with the Council if that's deemed useful and
41 I'm happy to take questions.

42
43 Thanks.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Lisa. Any
46 questions for Lisa.

47
48 MS. BURKE: Really quick. This is
49 Melinda, the Council Coordinator. We're still hearing
50 bumping and paper shuffling. If you have not pushed

1 mute on your phone, please do so now or you can do the
2 same by pushing *6.

3

4 Thank you so much.

5

6 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

9

10 MR. BALLOT: I'm hearing you say our
11 regulations we're proposing, which you've been working
12 on for a while, are now going to be reflecting near or
13 as the State reg regarding harvest restrictions.

14

15 MS. MAAS: The OSM recommended
16 regulations are the same across all proposals, so that
17 includes 37, 49, which was this Council's proposal, 52
18 and 61. So if you're asking about the differences
19 between the OSM recommendations and what this Council
20 proposed, the difference is in hunt areas and that's
21 based on the State. The State had separated that
22 northern corner, that's actually not part of this
23 region, into a separate hunt area. That's the
24 Singoalik River drainage.

25

26 The harvest limit is the same. The
27 seasons for this area, for the remainder area, which is
28 the Buckland area, are the same. Then we have -- oh,
29 I'm sorry. That was for 37. So the season is a
30 shorter season for cows than the OSM recommendations
31 and that's again reflecting the State regulations.
32 Then we also have that cow with calf closure, which was
33 recommended by this Council. So, in summary, the
34 differences are the hunt areas and then the cow season.

35

36 MR. BALLOT: That's fine. Now I just
37 want to, Mr. Chairman, recognize Nate Hadley, Sr. Him,
38 myself and Calvin are part of the few that represent
39 Buckland/Deering on the Seward Peninsula Advisory
40 Committee. We do State things, so I just wanted to
41 recognize him. So we're aware of the proposals that
42 are going on.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,
45 Lisa. Any comments or questions for Lisa from the
46 board.

47

48 Go ahead, Raymond.

49

50 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 I may have a question or maybe it's a comment. On the
2 bag limits for previous years it's been for the Fed was
3 15 a day and then for State it's five a day. Now we're
4 going to change the bag limit to five per day. A
5 question came to our attention in our area, like in
6 Kiana, now if you're authorized five caribou a day,
7 that's daily. Now the question is that if you take
8 five of your kids on a hunting trip that day, of course
9 you're legally allowed to get five a day, otherwise you
10 have to get 25 caribou a day if you take five of your
11 family. Is that how it's going to affect us? If you
12 take your family and there's five of you, they have to
13 get five caribou each a day. Is that going to work
14 that way?

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You want me to try to
17 answer it? Raymond, I understand what you're saying,
18 that's five a day per person. If you take five of your
19 family, you get 25.

20

21 MR. STONEY: Twenty-five.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It's not that,
24 Raymond. We know, as Natives, we never get more than
25 what we could work on in a day. But what we're trying
26 to do is make it legal for someone to go out there and
27 if he could get five in a day, you know, that's no more
28 higher per person per day. I know what you're saying.
29 I go with my boy, but I never get 15 in a day because
30 we could no more than handle a lot less than that. We
31 can't put them all away. I understand what you're
32 saying. The numbers are scary because somebody could
33 translate easily and say we could -- like me and Percy,
34 if we could handle it, we could get 15.

35

36 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman, the question
37 came before us because it's not written on the memo
38 like that. It's not written that way. It says five
39 per day, otherwise you take additional people in your
40 boat that get five also, that's some clarification on
41 that.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Then what I'm
44 hearing from you, you want to take five a day and you
45 want to put a cap on it, no more than what you could
46 catch in a day is what you're saying?

47

48 MR. STONEY: Otherwise it could put in
49 maybe five per boat or trip, otherwise we are
50 completely confused. If you take five of your kids, of

1 course they have to get five caribou also and that's
2 25. So it's not understandable. It should be written
3 and make it clear how you want to put that out, either
4 by the snowmachine or your boat.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Before I
7 support what you're saying I have to get back and ask a
8 few people I could talk to in Kotzebue and the
9 villages. I understand what you're saying. Go ahead,
10 Lance. You'll be after that Percy, next Enoch. Mike,
11 I mean.

12
13 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, my brother Lance is
14 on the phone. I understand what Raymond is saying, but
15 we still go through this thing today and that just
16 makes it to where we have to take an extra trip and
17 some of us don't have that kind of time to make an
18 extra trip. You know, we got 14 caribou when we went
19 upriver a week and a half ago and that's all I need. I
20 fed a whole bunch of my family at home with caribou.
21 The cost of fuel of having to go up and only get five
22 per day, that would cost me probably about eight grand
23 to go back and forth up to Kiana. I think it's good to
24 be five per person because I only make one trip, but I
25 enjoy every moment of that trip.

26
27 I understand Raymond's concern.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

30
31 Go ahead, Enoch.

32
33 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, I can understand
34 Raymond too. Reading it on the paper I can understand
35 it because I'm on this group and I study it, but for
36 someone not studying regulations, they read it and they
37 might take it a different way. So maybe what Raymond
38 is saying is we could define, rewrite the language of
39 this proposal here so the ones that don't read the
40 regulations could understand it. I can understand when
41 we say we're only going to get five a day. It means
42 five for my boat. But for someone that takes three,
43 four, five family, they take four or five hunters,
44 they're going to get 20, 25. Clarify the language I
45 think so that's what it's going to mean.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I understand
48 what you're saying. I'll get to you in a minute,
49 Hannah. Some days, like when we hunt toward Kiana, not
50 always and even toward Noatak, sometimes that might be

1 the only day we see caribou for how many days. We have
2 to take our caribou home before they spoil so we won't
3 waste them. Otherwise, when it's warm out, when we
4 stay too long -- I'm talking for the people of
5 Kotzebue. You're different in Kiana. You could be
6 home in a few hours. Sometimes we have to be home two,
7 three days when the Kobuk Lake is rough. I tipped
8 before at Kobuk Lake. I got lucky and got uprighted by
9 another wave. I didn't want my meat to spoil. I know
10 if I don't take that home that night I was going to
11 lose them.

12

13 I understand what you're saying, but
14 when you're talking about distance, it's a different
15 thing because I know I won't get no more than seven in
16 a day for my family and yet that's all I could handle.
17 That's all I need. I understand what you're saying.
18 For 25, some people from the Western world might
19 translate it the wrong way and get more than what they
20 need.

21

22 Go ahead, Hannah.

23

24 MS. LOON: Taikuu, Mr. Chairman. We
25 can't talk, argue over animals. We know that. We
26 don't argue over animals. Only when they give
27 themselves to you. We can handle 25 by who going to
28 catch them. When a boat goes, someone puts gas in it,
29 and someone use their boat and injection oil, and you
30 could have maybe two or three hunters in the boat and
31 that's how it's always been. Anyway, someone share
32 something, someone shared that and that. That's the
33 only way to harvest successfully.

34

35 It depends on our boat size. So all
36 that meat don't go to one family, it goes all over, to
37 the widows and the orphans. There's got to be some
38 kind of a simple language that will put a cap in the
39 boat so nobody won't bam, bam, bam, you know, like 25.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, but what I hate
42 to see is Kotzebue could get 10, Kiana could get only
43 five. I don't want to get into those different numbers
44 where it will keep their regulation and we cannot
45 understand it. You know what I'm saying. We could get
46 cited for getting too many caribou or whatever. I
47 understand what you're saying, yet I know what you're
48 saying, Raymond. But it's just the numbers we have to
49 live with.

50

1 Go ahead.

2

3 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I want to
4 be Raymond's partner when I go hunt.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. BALLOT: It kind of makes sense
9 because what Hannah just said about two or three
10 families, that's usually what happens every time we go
11 out, is that we have two or three families in the boat.
12 So just getting five, you know, it's okay, but when you
13 have times like we're having in Buckland now, we would
14 have got nine days right now and we had a few families
15 going out. To go out and just get five, then you won't
16 have that opportunity like mentioned this morning about
17 the planes flying around and diverting the caribou and
18 making it hard for our hunters to get caribou.

19

20 I like Raymond's idea to clarify that
21 because it makes sense if we have three different
22 hunters in there to be able to get 15. I don't think
23 anybody is ever going to try to get 25. But when we
24 have one or two in one boat or if you have three boats
25 or two boats, it makes sense to be able to do that. Or
26 if you have to go all the way to Kotzebue, from
27 Kotzebue go up the river, if you get five in one day,
28 you've got to wait another day to get five, it makes
29 sense to wait, but all this stuff we need to clarify.

30

31 I'd really like to make sure that we
32 don't make it harder for our hunters to be able to go
33 out because the amount it cost for gas to go out there
34 and the time it takes to go out there and the time
35 limit of caribou, to go out there for them to be
36 successful, we need to make this balanced somehow.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,
39 Percy. I understand it. I know where Raymond is coming
40 from.

41

42 Go ahead, Kramer.

43

44 MR. KRAMER: I understand what Raymond
45 is saying, but I think what we should do is say five
46 per day, 15 in possession. Let's just say five per day
47 and I have, you know, three of my kids in my boat, I
48 could get 20 of them, but 15 in possession. That way
49 you're putting a cap on it, somewhat of a cap on it,
50 because if I can only get five per day and I go up the

1 next day and there's no caribou crossing, then I'm in
2 the minus. My ability to provide for my family is --
3 you know, they're long gone. They're on the trail
4 heading south. So I think it would be a good thing to
5 do is say five per day, 15 in possession.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Per boat maybe.

8

9 MR. KRAMER: Per boat or.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Because I know I
12 can't take 15 in my sled. They'll collapse.

13

14 MR. KRAMER: But I think that would be
15 a wise way to word it. What do you think of that,
16 Raymond?

17

18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We understand what
19 you're saying. We're not trying to go against you,
20 Raymond, but if you come from a distance, there's a
21 difference.

22

23 MR. STONEY: Not me, but a lot of
24 people asked that question. Otherwise, five per day,
25 that's a lot of caribou. Now if you have to go every
26 day and get -- you get five persons on a boat, you get
27 five today and tomorrow you get five more, then
28 tomorrow get 15. Otherwise it's very confusing. Since
29 the caribou are now declining, I think there should be
30 a clarification for the bag limit per hunter.

31

32 Maybe just put a number seasonally.
33 Maybe like Mike said, maybe 15 a season or 10 or
34 something like that. Not per day. Otherwise you wind
35 up with 50 caribou because these guys won't quit until
36 they think they have enough. There should be some
37 clarification on bag limit or maybe, just like you say,
38 Mike, maybe 10 per season or year, whatever it is,
39 since the caribou are declining.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Lisa. I
42 mean.....

43

44 MS. BRAEM: Nikki. It's okay.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay.

47

48 MS. BRAEM: This is Nikki Braem with
49 Division of Subsistence for the record. I'm not
50 telling you what to decide in this regard, how to feel

1 about season limits. I don't want to sway you in
2 either direction. I just would like to observe that if
3 you had the Federal regulations, which you're talking
4 about regulations that would be in effect on Federally
5 managed lands. This is only going to apply to
6 Federally managed lands.

7
8 Should you recommend and proceed in
9 this direction, you would have a difference in what
10 you're allowed to do on State lands and what you're
11 allowed to do on Federal lands. You will have much
12 more liberal limits on State lands than on Federally
13 managed lands if you went in this direction. I'm not
14 trying to sway you to go either direction, but you will
15 have that difference.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Susan. I
18 think what we need to do -- if we're going to talk
19 about this and put a cap to it, I think we need to meet
20 with the State AC board together and we need to come
21 out with it. That way we could cover all our
22 resources. I understand what Raymond is trying to say,
23 but still, when you come from a distance, it's hard.

24
25 Go ahead, Susan.

26
27 MS. GEORGETTE: I was just going to say
28 that I understand what Raymond is saying here. The bag
29 limit is just up to that much. I mean you can get one,
30 you can get five. If you have people in your boat,
31 they can get none or five, as long as they have a
32 license. I think the intent of the regulation is to
33 give subsistence hunters the greatest flexibility.
34 Meaning that, like Mike says, if you're up there and
35 going through, you can get what you need and be done
36 and go home. If you have a big boat and you have a
37 partner or kids with you, you can get what you need and
38 go home.

39
40 I think if Jim Dau were here he'd
41 probably say that -- you've all heard his messages
42 about voluntarily kind of reducing our harvest or being
43 really good about just taking what we need because of
44 the declining caribou. So you could put an annual
45 limit on it or we could, you know, trust hunters'
46 judgment to just be conservative in what you harvest.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I think this
49 harvesting of how many per day is just pure trust what
50 we always do. This summer alone, if I had my way, I

1 would go home with 22 caribou if my boat could handle
2 it because elders were saying, and I had a list with
3 the four I could take and 18 other elders that wanted
4 caribou. So I had to make two trips and I only get 10
5 and I give only -- that's all I give. I just kept four
6 and give the rest away. It's hard because it was warm.
7 I had to take them home that night before they spoil
8 because I don't want them to spoil. I don't want to
9 waste.

10

11 I understand what he's saying. But if
12 you're going to put a cap in it, once we put regulation
13 in place, that's a way the Fish and Game and enforcers,
14 state troopers, could find a way to cite us. The less
15 regulation we have in place, the less citation we're
16 going to get. I'll tell you that right now because if
17 you put any kind of regulation on your limits, that's
18 the way they're going to cite us and there goes us
19 Natives.

20

21 Go ahead, Calvin, you had your hand
22 raised. Then Enoch.

23

24 MR. MOTO: I was going over the numbers
25 that Raymond was going. Let's say he gets five a day.
26 Okay. Then he gets 15. If 100 hunters go out, that's
27 1,500 caribou. Think about it. So if you go like what
28 she wants, 15 per season, that would make sense, but
29 five a day for 100 hunters, we've got more than 100
30 hunters, that's 1,500 caribou. That's staggering. So
31 I just thought I'd expound on what he's trying to say,
32 but he's not saying it, you know. So I just thought
33 I'd bring that to you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.
36 Before I get to you, Enoch. What Susan and I used to
37 do, caribou surveys. This is what the average for
38 Northwest Alaska, all our villages, not counting Point
39 Hope, not counting -- except for Koyuk, right? We
40 included Koyuk that time. And we were averaging 14
41 caribou per year per family just to survive and just
42 live on our caribou. That number might sound large,
43 but when you eat the caribou, they're really not that
44 big compared to beef. You know how long when you have
45 a large family how long a caribou could last.

46

47 If we start having numbers within a
48 year, how many we could take in a year, if I want to
49 give Hannah one and somebody else one, I get 16, I'm on
50 violation. Very simple. We'll continue, Susan. Enoch

1 was next.

2

3 MR. MITCHELL: I've got a question.
4 Could a person get five caribou on State land, then get
5 on a plane and fly on Federal land and get five more
6 caribou on Federal land?

7

8 MS. GEORGETTE: Not on the same day I
9 don't think, but you could go tomorrow and get five on
10 Federal land.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. See, it gets
13 complicated and that's where I'm scared to go through
14 and go to. Let's put it that way. Not through, but go
15 to. I'm scared because I don't want to have my people
16 get citations where they're breaking the regulation.
17 If we break a regulation, the judge could say, okay,
18 you break the regulation one more time I'm going to
19 take your snowmachine away. We use the snowmachine to
20 get caribou, maybe wood and travel between the villages
21 to visit relatives. We don't just use it just for
22 caribou. We use it for a lot. If my snowmachine gets
23 taken away, if I tell my boy to go to the snow, he
24 don't want to walk. I'll have to do the walking. Very
25 simple. That's how it is in the villages.

26

27 I understand what he's saying. I feel
28 for you. I don't even know how to go about it to
29 really answer it because I don't want these people to
30 get cited.

31

32 Go ahead, Raymond.

33

34 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 As you know, this is going to take a lot of time, a
36 situation like this, for the population of this herd.
37 We all know previously in 1970 the herd went down to
38 70,000 and it was closed. Now since the caribou is
39 still continuing declining and our bag limit is five
40 per day, it's not going to work. Otherwise, in two,
41 three years from now, let's say they get 1,500 caribou,
42 that's a lot of caribou.

43

44 Otherwise, what I'm saying is, if the
45 caribou continue to decline rapidly and our bag limit
46 is 25 per day, then what's going to happen if the
47 caribou come back not to 70,000, like it did in the 1970s,
48 we're not going to get five caribou a day. We're not
49 going to get 15 or whatever caribou a day we're limited
50 to. We've got to plan for that. Otherwise, you know,

1 we'll be in a very serious situation if this bag limit
2 continues to be five per day. Just like most of them
3 said, you know, there should be some seasonal bag limit
4 instead of daily bag limits.

5
6 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.
9 I'll get to you in a minute. Under the Western Arctic
10 Caribou Working Group, if the numbers start declining
11 on the caribou, the way we wrote it up is a proposal
12 that we stop the sport hunters, transporters and
13 outfitters first before they stop the Natives. If they
14 do get in lower numbers, that's when we ask the Native
15 to take a reduction in take and that's where I would
16 like to keep it. With the proposal and plan that was
17 put together for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
18 Working Group plan. Do you remember that one, Susan?
19 We had numbers in there and they had numbers and Lisa
20 probably will come up with it. That way us Natives
21 will be cut last.

22
23 If they give us a limit two per year,
24 you know, it's going to hurt everybody. We're not
25 going to make it and who is going to live off the
26 store. We can't afford to live off the store. I know
27 we don't overharvest the caribou. We don't overharvest
28 the resources. That's why I'm trying to be careful
29 giving numbers out there for citations. How would you
30 like it if I get citation and you lose your
31 snowmachine. That would be \$1,200. It's going bye-
32 bye.

33
34 Go ahead, Lisa.

35
36 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
37 would just like to make the observation that for the
38 past 25 years the harvest limit has been 15 caribou per
39 day and the estimated harvest, just an estimation, is
40 about 16,000, which is within the conservative
41 management levels of this table. While I understand
42 Raymond's concern, I don't -- if the harvest limit has
43 been 15 caribou per day and it's still within a
44 conservative management limit, I doubt reducing the
45 harvest limit to five per day will result in harvest
46 above those management objectives.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

49
50 Anyone else.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So, if not, where do
4 you want us to go with this now, Raymond? Is the
5 concern you said we can't get, you know, 15 to 25 a
6 day. So what's your objective here? What do you want
7 to see out of this here? We could talk about it and we
8 could table this and talk about it more at the next
9 meeting, but if we're going to put a cap on it, I would
10 like to meet with the ACs face to face together in the
11 same room on the same table with us. See what the
12 other members hear.

13

14 If you could get the people that say
15 I'm doing 15 to 25 a day, bring them to this and let
16 them explain it. Maybe we could go somewhere from
17 there. I don't want to go into the Native. I don't
18 want to go -- but the numbers are still there for us to
19 harvest caribou. I don't hunt caribou. That's a sport
20 hunter. I harvest for my table, for my table food.

21

22 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman. I think
23 that if we got your point, I'm not against the five per
24 day, but we all know that the herd is declining very
25 fast. Of course, the census is going to be off the
26 count sometimes this -- you know, I think it's going to
27 be March or April. We'll know exactly how many is in
28 that herd. If they continue to decline and get lower
29 and lower, we'll have to discuss again the bag limit,
30 including the sport hunters and subsistence users.

31

32 Right now, Mr. Chairman, even though we
33 don't have to make any regulations for 25 per day for
34 five people, keep it that way until we find out how
35 many there will be in this herd by March. That way we
36 probably could decide that because I know the census is
37 going to be up for reporting. I believe it will be in
38 March. We'll know exactly how many there are in this
39 herd.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, I hear you. Go
42 ahead, Melinda.

43

44 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. I think
45 this is a really good discussion. I just wanted to
46 remind everyone that we are discussing the proposal
47 that was submitted 49/52 as well as 37. So if it would
48 be helpful at all for us to or to have Lisa break down
49 kind of where we're at, if we kind of want to take it
50 in chunks on what proposals we're talking about,

1 whatever would be helpful to the Council so we could
2 make decisions on the proposals you see before you on
3 the agenda.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Melinda.

6
7 Go ahead, Lisa.

8
9 MS. MAAS: Sure. Thank you, Mr.
10 Chairman. So, again, all four proposals propose
11 regulation changes to caribou in Unit 23. A
12 recommendation from our office is to make a
13 recommendation for 37 because that proposal includes
14 all units and then to take no action on the other three
15 proposals and essentially whatever you would recommend
16 for 49 you could just adapt that into 37 and that would
17 just administratively be much cleaner and easier to
18 work with one proposal and one recommendation versus
19 having multiple recommendations for different
20 proposals.

21
22 Again, the reason I suggest 37 is just
23 because that includes all the units proposed. I know
24 we're focused on 23 here. It will just be easier to
25 focus on that one. Again the OSM recommendations is
26 the same for all four proposals and primarily mirror
27 the State regulations. Again, it's a lot simpler, less
28 confusing to the user if you don't have to worry about
29 if you're on Federal or State land and which
30 regulations they are.

31
32 If you need more specifics on the
33 proposed changes or.....

34
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: (Nods affirmatively)

36
37 MS. MAAS: Yeah, okay. Sure. Again
38 I'm just going to go through the OSM recommended
39 regulations. For Unit 23 remainder -- again the OSM
40 recommendation breaks it into two hunt areas. So for
41 the remainder portion, which is the Buckland area, the
42 harvest limit would be five per day. The bull season
43 would be February 1st to October 14th, which is similar
44 to 49, it's just five days longer.

45
46 Again that's State regulations. The
47 cow season is September 1st to March 31st. The
48 proposal you submitted was July 1st to March 31st, but
49 the State season is September 1st. Then the take of
50 calves is prohibited, which is a difference between 49

1 and the OSM recommendations. The cow with calf closure
2 would be September 1st to October 14th. Again that's
3 to protect the calves while they're nursing before they
4 wean to improve recruitment and calf survival.

5
6 For the other hunt area, which is the
7 Singoalik River drainage hunt area in the Northwestern
8 quarter of Unit 23, which is essentially outside of
9 this Council's region. It's the Point Hope hunt area.
10 The harvest limit is the same, five per day. The bull
11 season is the same, February 1st to October 14th. The
12 cow season is longer, it's July 15th to April 30th.
13 Again the no take of calves and the cow season is
14 similar -- or the prohibition on the take of cows with
15 calves is July 15th to October 15th. Again it's the
16 same rationale, to protect nursing calves.

17
18 So that's the summary of the
19 recommended regulations.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So you were talking
22 about WP16-49 basically.

23
24 MS. MAAS: This is the recommended
25 regulations for all four proposals. So the OSM
26 recommended regulations are the same.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I was talking
29 to a few of the Council members when we were on break.
30 The cow harvest, prohibiting the cow harvest with
31 calves we had it from July 1 to October 10. By that
32 time they're only about three weeks old, so I think we
33 need to amend it with the board's approval to change it
34 to July 31st because they need the time to grow up a
35 little bit because they're too young. At July 31st,
36 they're still very tiny fawns. The more I think about
37 it from last year, the more I think -- I said, Enoch,
38 you're getting goofy. You're making a big mistake here
39 because the calves are young. Like any other animal,
40 they need to be given a chance to rear their young.

41
42 Try to think about it, you guys. I
43 don't know if we could make an amendment to this on the
44 dates. If we had it from July 1 to October 1. On page
45 39. Go ahead.

46
47 MS. MAAS: I would just like to clarify
48 that the reason that cow with calf closure, the
49 prohibition, it starts September 1st, is because that's
50 when the cow season starts. So before September 1st

1 there is no cow season under the OSM recommended
2 regulations, which again is the same as the current
3 State regulations.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: What I was trying to
6 say is they're still young when they were born and we
7 have the date where they could harvest females from
8 July 1 till October 31 if I'm right. Remember, Kramer,
9 when we were talking about it a little while ago, to me
10 it felt like they were kind of young and if they make a
11 mistake and harvest a female and it have a young fawn,
12 that fawn is not going to survive, so you're killing
13 two caribou with one shot without hurting the other
14 because he won't survive. Very seldom another caribou
15 will adopt a fawn. It do happen, but very seldom do.

16

17 I'll tell you another thing. The
18 reason why I know about this, Johnson Stalker, the
19 reindeer herder, said that very seldom a reindeer will
20 adopt another fawn when he lost his mom.

21

22 Anyone else, thoughts on this. The
23 dates are really okay. If you guys don't want to make
24 changes, it's okay on this one here because we -- I
25 know what you're saying here. You were talking about
26 this one and basically the same, but overall not. What
27 do you guys think about this? We're the ones that came
28 up with these dates and the State liked it. I go see
29 Jim Dau about it and he looked at me. He didn't really
30 say anything, but I could see.

31

32 Go ahead, Percy.

33

34 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. Yeah, I
35 finally got what she was talking about. I agree with
36 37 because when we were having our State committee
37 meeting, the Seward Peninsula, we wanted to add more
38 time because we've been getting our caribou late. The
39 Proposal 37 has a date for the bull season to October
40 14, which is fine, but Proposal 49 goes to October 9.
41 Right now they are just coming in. If we go with our
42 proposed, this is the RAC here, Proposal 49, it's going
43 to put a hardship on the Native Village of Buckland and
44 the hunters over here.

45

46 I agree with you that we should add
47 more time to the cows be left alone for the younger
48 calves to be able to be raised and stuff. That's fine.
49 I have no problem with that. If we are going to do
50 Proposal 49, I would like to see that October 9 date

1 changed. Or let's talk about the dates. I think we
2 should be doing that and identify -- any hunters out
3 there or anybody out there that has a question
4 regarding Proposal 37 and 49. Because if we adopt 37,
5 there's a chance that it would pass and then we'd be --
6 at least we'd be able to hunt till October 14th for
7 bulls and March 31, but for 49 we'd be cutting off five
8 days. I'm not very in favor of that. In fact, I'm not
9 in favor of it.

10

11 If we're going to do something, I would
12 suggest that we add on another six days. What is the
13 State time? Does anybody know?

14

15 MS. MAAS: The State season is the same
16 as the OSM recommended regulations, which are the same
17 as 37, and that's February 1st to October 14th. That's
18 along the top row of the table.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Maybe I should
21 explain myself a little bit better. Because when we
22 were having a meeting in Kotzebue, they wanted to open
23 the season for cows on July 1 and I tell them I will
24 come back to it after I think about it, but that's
25 where I'm coming from. Maybe that's where I need to
26 explain myself. That's where I was coming from.

27

28 The campers in Sisolik wanted to get
29 ugruks. Once in a while when they see -- when they're
30 harvesting bears, they'll see a caribou and they'll
31 harvest it, but most times it's female. I was told --
32 I hate to say this on the record, but I was told last
33 summer when they get female it had a fawn and they
34 still shot it.

35 The kid didn't know that the regulation was in place
36 like that already for it to take effect this summer.

37

38 That's where I was coming from. Sorry,
39 I should have explained myself a little bit better.
40 They could harvest females. That's how it was earlier
41 when we had AC meeting at Kotzebue. That's the
42 trouble, some are AC regulation and these are Federal
43 regulation. I mean AC by State. That's where I was
44 coming from. I should explain myself better first.
45 Sorry.

46

47 Go ahead. I hear what you're saying,
48 Percy. So if you want to make amendments on the dates,
49 it's open now to make amendments and it's up to the
50 Board to accept it or not.

1 MR. BALLOT: I'm just wondering why the
2 State proposal didn't have anything to do with the cows
3 or calves. So if it's not in there, it's not
4 considered.

5
6 MS. MAAS: Again, I can't speak for the
7 State. I'm not sure if Nikki has a more precise
8 answer, but you can't see it from here, but if you can
9 see a map of the Western Arctic Herd area where they
10 have the calving, the summering range and the wintering
11 range. You can kind of see it on this map. It's
12 better on the back wall. At any rate, the summer range
13 of the Western Arctic Herd includes that Point Hope
14 hunt area, whereas the remainder of Unit 23 is
15 primarily -- you see them during the migration.

16
17 MR. BALLOT: We have BLM over here on
18 Federal lands and those would be affecting us. That's
19 a concern of our area and they're way up there. And
20 then Selawik Wildlife Refuge is part of Federal land.
21 If we somehow by another are able to hunt, those would
22 be the affected areas for my villages. So I guess, you
23 know, October 8 to October 9th probably wouldn't make
24 much of an effect, but it could underline the way
25 things are changing where they will go farther and
26 farther upriver right now because of the rain. At some
27 point in time these Federal laws, which you have BLM
28 and Selawik Wildlife Refuge, we can go up there by boat
29 and that would affect our village.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone else. Go
32 ahead, Hannah.

33
34 MS. LOON: Yes, I was -- Brittany and I
35 were translating Jim Dau's PSA when that new caribou
36 regulation got out last spring. In the PSA, it asks
37 hunters of Northwest Region not to harass or chase
38 caribou, especially trying not to separate the mom from
39 the calf. The concern was to make sure that calf
40 matures into a very good juvenile and grows more
41 caribou in the future. That was one of the education
42 that I like best about not harassing the herd, a small
43 herd, and dividing the mom from the calf.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.
46 Go ahead, Nate. You wanted to say something?

47
48 MR. HADLEY: Yeah.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Can you come up to

1 the mic, please. Turn the mic on for him, please.

2

3 MR. HADLEY: I just wanted you people
4 to know my son go hunt maybe three, four days ago and
5 he get all males, what we've been waiting for all these
6 years, to hunt males, not females or mated ones.
7 Because the bulls, when they come here too late, you
8 can't kill them and eat them. I mean you could kill
9 them, but you can't eat them. They stink. What we
10 catch right now the last few days they're all males and
11 they taste good. But when you hunt too late, when
12 other people or the planes keep the caribou away from
13 our river, they come too late and we can't eat what our
14 hunters get. So they try to get the good ones too like
15 females and it hurt us when males don't come here too
16 early for us to pick what we want. The hunters with
17 airplanes, that's what always keep the bulls from our
18 hunt crossing so we could hunt.

19

20 That's all I just wanted you people to
21 know because I know them. I know reindeer, caribou.
22 Me and Johnson Stalker we could recognize a reindeer
23 from 10,000 caribou. Okay, that's all I got.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, I had a
26 question for Nate. Sorry, Nate, I could live with it.
27 So what you're saying, Percy, that you want to change
28 the bull season from February to a little bit later
29 beyond October 9th.

30

31 MR. BALLOT: Yes, if we're going to
32 support Proposal 49. If we're not going to support it,
33 I'm not going to bother with it. But if we're asking
34 for Proposal 47, then it's good for the bulls, but for
35 the cows September 1 is kind of late. When we're not
36 able to get anything in September, July is more of a
37 better season, better time, as long as they don't have
38 a calf with them.
39 I'm not really going to worry about it too much.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You're talking about
42 WP16-49 and the dates for the bull season is February 1
43 to October 9 and you want to make some amendments due
44 to the global warming and staying warmer longer and
45 there's no snow, but they're here and they're not in
46 rut yet. Let's put it that way. With that, maybe we
47 could make amendments to the date for Buckland able to
48 harvest bull caribou in regulation. That way they
49 won't get cited.

50

1 MR. BALLOT: I think that would be good
2 for Buckland because, like I say.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It will be for
5 everybody, but that will include Buckland at the same
6 time. So is it possible to make amendments on the
7 dates through a proposal or what, Melinda.

8
9 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. We could
10 discuss some amendments. We do have one question from
11 one of the students on a proposal, so I think it would
12 be really great if we took the question from the
13 student and then maybe took like a five-minute recess
14 and I'll have a couple members of the staff come up to
15 the table, we'll kind of get our heads wrapped around
16 what we'd like to do for proposed actions. I think
17 that would be a great way to proceed.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.
20 We're calling Floyd Ticket from Buckland. Floyd
21 Ticket, come up to the table, turn the mic on, please.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MR. TICKET: So my question was what if
26 I shoot five caribou and two of them are sick, can we
27 shoot two more?

28
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Most times, for your
30 information, when we get sick caribou, especially
31 around the liver and other places, we don't say
32 nothing. I don't. That's our policy that was given to
33 me by my grandfather because when we do get sick
34 caribou you can't eat it and you wouldn't even give it
35 to the dogs. We just don't say nothing about it. Not
36 under the State regulation you're not supposed to do
37 it.

38
39 I can't say go ahead and do it, but
40 just don't say nothing and that's how I do it when I
41 run into a caribou that's sick, especially around the
42 liver when it has spots. That indicates the liver and
43 the kidney will tell you a lot on caribou. I've seen
44 it.

45
46 Last year when somebody call me, they
47 said my liver has a lot of spots on it and can you tell
48 me which caribou it come from. I said let's skin it in
49 the dark. He said, no, it's dark. I said, no, I want
50 you to see something. Sure enough rest of the meat had

1 pus in it and he happened to know which caribou that
2 liver which body it come from. He got lucky. The
3 others were okay next day. I said don't even count
4 this. I said don't even bother with it, don't even say
5 nothing. I didn't even know what you were talking about
6 what you called me about.

7

8 I would say that's not a real good way
9 to say it, but that's how we usually do it as Natives.
10 We never say nothing when they're sick. The wolves
11 will eat it anyhow. Who are wolves. They're bothering
12 us. Okay. Thank you. Good question.

13

14 Any more students want to come up here,
15 you're welcome to come up.

16

17 What do you think about, Percy, the
18 sick caribou that he was talking about?

19

20 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I think I'd leave it
21 too because we want to get all the animals we can
22 that's good, but we still need to let somebody know,
23 Fish and Game.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Yeah, but from
26 my past experience from a few years ago, I hate to say
27 it, but somebody got a caribou that was pretty sick.
28 Liver was pretty bad. They never say nothing. They
29 gave it to that person. I hate to say it, but within
30 two and a half years that lady came up with cancer and
31 she right after that. We never could prove it if it
32 really came from the caribou or not, but she was
33 healthy. Right from Kotzebue. She called me up and
34 she said they gave me caribou I thought was good, I've
35 been eating it. After that she started getting sick. I
36 just grabbed it and just threw it away. I said, here,
37 I'll bring you another one. So I go get her another
38 one.

39

40 That's my experience I run into. Nate
41 will explain it to me that as a reindeer herder with a
42 sick reindeer he never bother with. That's what I'm
43 trying to say. You use your judgment and that's the
44 best you could say about it. I hate to go about that
45 telling you about this in public, but that's the way we
46 are and that's the way I'm going to keep it. I don't
47 want nobody getting sick.

48

49 So back to the agenda. Go ahead,
50 Percy.

1 MR. BALLOT: I was just going to say
2 you see something that's wrong or that's a concern for
3 you, just take a sample and send it to Jim Dau of Fish
4 and Game or bring it to Ira and we'll make sure they
5 get it. You've got to report what's out there
6 otherwise other hunters will be blamed for what's left
7 out there. So we let them know that there's things out
8 there that is not right and they could know and check
9 out the other animals that are around that area. It is
10 a concern because we don't want to bring bad food home,
11 but we also need to let them know if there's a concern
12 for a diseased animal out there.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Go
15 ahead, Melinda.

16
17 MS. BURKE: Yes, Percy took the words
18 right out of my mouth. I was going to relay that same
19 thing. I'd like the Council to stay at the table.
20 We're going to take just a quick five-minute recess.
21 I'd like Lisa and Trevor to come up really quick and
22 we'll assist the Council in preparing the motion for
23 whatever action you'd like to take. If everybody could
24 just take a quick break, but keep it a little bit quiet
25 so we can have a quick sidebar up here. I just want to
26 make sure we're all on the same page before we get our
27 action on the record if that's okay.

28
29 (Off record)

30
31 (On record)

32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We'll resume our
34 meeting. Please take your seats. Go ahead, Melinda.

35
36 MS. BURKE: Yes, if we could have
37 everybody get seated, please. Mr. Chair, we skipped
38 over a couple of the presentation procedures. I know
39 we have some information from some of the SRCs and that
40 might be good to hear now and it will kind of help us
41 to set the context of what the communities are saying,
42 what these other councils are saying and it might kind
43 of help us get back on track.

44
45 If there's anyone here in the audience
46 who would like to make a comment regarding these
47 proposals we're discussing, there's some blue cards in
48 the back and one of my staff members would be happy to
49 help you fill one of those out. If we could have
50 Hannah come up. We'll hear what the SRCs have said

1 regarding these proposals and it might kind of help
2 guide our discussions a little bit.

3

4 Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Hannah,
7 you're with the State, right?

8

9 MS. ATKINSON: I'm with the National
10 Park Service.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We're going to
13 start from number three, agency reports. Okay, thank
14 you. Go ahead, Hannah, you have the floor.

15

16 MS. ATKINSON: So thank you for
17 allowing me to bring some comments forward from the
18 SRCs. A lot of them are relating to a discussion
19 that's already been had, so hopefully it can add to
20 that. Regarding WP16-49, I'll go through all of the
21 comments. It's in a letter that I gave to all the
22 members. A signed letter just like this and on the
23 table. I'll go through all the comments for the
24 regulations that we're -- or the proposals that we're
25 talking about right now starting with WP16-49.

26

27 For the Cape Krusenstern SRC, the four
28 members who were present at the meeting generally
29 supported the conservation efforts in WP16-49 and they
30 suggested adjusting the open season to align with the
31 State regulation. Some of the comments that happened
32 at the meeting, Larry Westlake from Kiana said that he
33 supports the regulation, thinks it's rare for hunters
34 in the area to take 15 caribou a day and I support this
35 because the herd is declining. We have our sport
36 hunters down from a take of two caribou to a take of
37 one. It is good to work in those lines. Work with
38 whatever hunters are going to be in the area. If their
39 take is reduced, our take should be reduced
40 accommodating that. With decline, everyone should be
41 reducing take so that there's no fighting about
42 caribou.

43

44 Stanley Hawley said that it looked good
45 and he didn't have any comments.

46

47 Joe Swan said I don't have a comment,
48 but when caribou are declined and whales are declined
49 how are we going to survive. We should close it to all
50 sport hunters, the ones who don't survive on caribou.

1 Even though there's a decline we need to feed our
2 families. The reason why I wanted to close it, what I
3 wanted to do is cut out users who aren't feeding their
4 families. If you make us even with the sport hunters,
5 you are going to be hurting the Natives. This has to
6 be discussed in the long run between the subsistence
7 hunters and anyone else who is hunting. It is okay if
8 you are hunting to eat, not if you are hunting to
9 please yourself by getting a big trophy.

10

11 And then Lance Kramer, who was a member
12 of the public at that meeting, said that he likes this
13 proposal. I was curious about the closure of bulls
14 though. Is that the State regulation? Should we try to
15 align with the State? Does the State close bulls for
16 October 15th? Maybe we should do the same.

17

18 And then there was some support by
19 Council members. Victor Karmun said whether it's
20 called rubberstamping or not, aligning with the State
21 means less confusion. Larry Westlake said a cow with a
22 calf is not prime meat. We rarely hunt for things like
23 that. That is why we have abundant caribou and fish
24 and things throughout the year. We don't go for that.
25 We don't go for bulls in the rut or fish that are
26 spawning. It is not our culture. I would go with this
27 regulation because we won't hunt them anyway. They're
28 in the rut.

29

30 Then I'll read some comments from the
31 Kobuk Valley SRC concerning WP16-49. The commission
32 unanimously supported WP16-49 as written and the
33 comments of support from the members were Louie Commack
34 said with drastic decline in caribou numbers we wanted
35 to support reducing from 15 to five. It is better we
36 try to sustain the caribou because of our children and
37 grandchildren. They've got to make a living off that
38 too. We cannot wipe out the herd.

39

40 Walter Sampson said we're here to make
41 a recommendation to ensure a healthy caribou herd with
42 provisions for the female caribou and calves to be
43 protected. Hopefully the caribou herd will rebound by
44 taking these sorts of actions.

45

46 Gordon Newlin of Noorvik said some
47 people don't have a boat motor or money to go on a
48 hunting trip. It is better for us to go together.
49 Five people in a boat have five families. We didn't
50 base it on one family, we based it on more than one.

1 I also want to mention that regarding
2 WP16-52 the four members present for the Cape
3 Krusenstern SRC did not take a position on WP16-52
4 because of the support expressed for WP16-49. Victor
5 Karmun said it would just add more confusion to address
6 it.

7
8 For the Kobuk Valley National Park, the
9 Commission did not take action on WP16-52 because they
10 felt their support of WP16-49 addressed their concerns.

11
12
13 For the Cape Krusenstern SRC, the four
14 members present did not take action on WP16-61. Their
15 comments on the proposal from Stanley Hawley in
16 Kivalina, we're right by Point Hope. We interact with
17 them seasonally. Their cost of living is higher up
18 there than ours because they are further away from the
19 hub points. When they have to deal with the State and
20 Federal regulations, they are real sensitive to them.
21 They are real vocal. We're a nation of regulations all
22 right.

23
24 Larry Westlake said this area here is
25 not going to affect us when you come right down to it.

26
27 For the Kobuk Valley SRC, the
28 Commission unanimously supported WP16-61 as written
29 with no comments.

30
31 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Any
34 questions from the board here.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. If not, we
39 will go to Federal agencies.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No one here from the
44 Federal agency. We'll go down to Native, tribal,
45 village or other.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, the Staff
50 Committee.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Nothing, okay. So
4 we're down to four, right? Advisory group comments.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone here from
9 anything about this?

10

11 MS. BURKE: Not in addition to the SRC
12 comments, Mr. Chair. For the students, there is a
13 place in our presentations for comments to come from
14 everyone in the public, different advisory committees
15 that work on the State side, subsistence resource
16 commissions that work on the Park Service land. So
17 there's a spot for everyone including the public and
18 tribal members to comment on these proposals.

19

20 Nothing more at this time, Mr. Chair.
21 If the Council would like to get back into the
22 discussion that we were having before, that's fine. We
23 have staff here to assist in however the Council would
24 like to proceed.

25

26 MR. BALLOT: Did I misunderstand or did
27 you say Lance is going to make some comments or you
28 made those comments for him?

29

30 MS. BURKE: Percy, that was a different
31 proposal, but that's going to be later on in the
32 discussion of 16-48.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. So
35 what part are we on the agenda now? We're jumping back
36 and forth.

37

38 MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chair, would you
39 like to hear State comments?

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,
42 State.

43

44 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, regarding the
45 proposal you were talking about, Proposal 49/52, the
46 Department's recommendations are to support Proposal
47 WP16-49 as modified by OSM and take no action on
48 Proposal WP16-52. Over.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Could I

1 say who is this? Drew?

2

3 MR. CRAWFORD: Yeah, this is Drew
4 Crawford.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: For the record I'm
7 asking. Thank you. Any questions for Drew.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, anyone else,
12 Melinda? No, okay. So now we're back into Fisheries
13 Monitoring Program?

14

15 MS. BURKE: No, no.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead. From here
18 on Melinda will take over for a little while for the
19 proposal we're going to recommend or what we discussed.

20

21 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. We haven't made
22 -- there isn't a motion on the floor, but before we
23 took our break it sounded like there was some possible
24 modifications being discussed. I believe that there
25 might have been some clarifying points that's needed on
26 hunt area, harvest limits, season dates, prohibition of
27 calves on that series of proposals we were talking
28 about. So if the Council would like to have more
29 discussion or make a motion on one or whichever
30 proposals you'd like to act upon.

31

32 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. Percy
33 Ballot, Buckland. I was looking at Proposal 49 and
34 during our discussions a while ago we were looking at
35 the bull season because of the location where the
36 Federal lands are and the lateness of hunting that
37 might be coming in the future -- I hope I understood
38 from my cohorts that we'd be looking at February to
39 October 31 as the bull season dates.

40

41 The other one is the cow season would
42 be changed from July 1 to July 31st to March 31. Those
43 are the two recommended changes that I understood. I
44 hope that's what it is.

45

46 MS. LOON: Cows with calves I
47 thought.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, he said it to
50 July 31st.

1 MR. BALLOT: It will be cows with
2 calves on July 31st instead of July 1.
3
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And your bull season
5 for October 31st, right?
6
7 MR. BALLOT: Yes.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. Is
10 this the proposal form? So we need a second.
11
12 MR. BALLOT: If I may, Mr. Chairman, I
13 move to support Proposal 49 as amended with the
14 changing of the date for the bull season to October 31
15 and the cows with calves to July 31.
16
17 MS. LOON: I second it.
18
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Seconded by Hannah.
20 Anyone question.
21
22 MR. BALLOT: I thank you guys all.
23
24 MS. BURKE: So this is just on Proposal
25 49/52, is that correct?
26
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.
28
29 MS. LOON: Question.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.
32
33 MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just
34 wanted to clarify we're working off of 49 as proposed,
35 just has one hunt area, it's all of Unit 23. I just
36 wanted to make sure that that was the intent is to
37 recommend on that and not to have the two hunt areas as
38 in the OSM modification.
39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Did you
41 get his clarification, Percy?
42
43 MR. BALLOT: Yeah.
44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.
46 Yeah, go ahead.
47
48 MS. MAAS: Just one more clarification.
49 WP16-49 allows the take of calves and it's the intent
50 to continue allowing the take of calves. Under State

1 regulations and OSM regulations the take of calves is
2 prohibited. I just wanted to ensure the intent was to
3 continue allowing the take of calves.

4

5 MR. BALLOT: We changed the date to
6 July 31, right?

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah.

9

10 MS. MAAS: That's for the cow season.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Where are you at?
13 Where are you coming from on this one here?

14

15 MS. MAAS: Take of calves. So this
16 says yes, under 49 you cannot take the calves, whereas
17 under State regulations you cannot and under OSM
18 recommendations you cannot and actually under the
19 special action, yeah.

20

21 MR. BALLOT: We don't really want to
22 take a calf.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, nobody takes
25 calves.

26

27 MR. BALLOT: We don't really want to
28 take the calves. I'm sorry we missed that. Maybe we
29 need to get back to the table again. We want the
30 calves to be able to get at a certain age where they
31 could live on their own if their mothers ever got taken
32 away. We're told at one or two years at that time then
33 they can live on their own if their mothers are gone,
34 but at a certain age they've got to be with them. I
35 don't think from our side of the Buckland area when we
36 were talking that we didn't want taking of calves with
37 calves. So I'd like to see what you guys are thinking.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: What you're saying,
40 Percy, is females with calves.

41

42 MR. BALLOT: Yes.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You said calves to
45 calves. We're all getting tired.

46

47 MS. BURKE: So, Percy, did you want to
48 withdraw your motion with permission of the person who
49 gave you the second to make sure that we get the.....

50

1 MR. BALLOT: Yes.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: With approval of the
4 second.
5
6 MS. LOON: Yes.
7
8 MR. BALLOT: Okay. Now where do we got
9 to go?
10
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We need to call for
12 question.
13
14 MS. BURKE: No.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No, don't have to?
17
18 MS. BURKE: Percy withdrew his motion.
19
20 MR. BALLOT: The motion's not approved,
21 Mr. Chair.
22
23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It was withdrawn
24 then. Okay. Then we don't have to go about it.
25
26 MS. BURKE: Lisa, with your help, was
27 that -- would it have been better if we would have
28 discussed it as with OSM modification and then with
29 Percy's date changes? Lisa and Trevor, is that.....
30
31 MS. MAAS: If they want to prohibit the
32 take of calves, I mean it would be the same
33 modification Percy just said, but adding the
34 prohibition on the take of calves.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Trevor.
37
38 MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I can
39 read the regulation sort of as I have written it down
40 through this. So Unit 23, five caribou per day, bulls
41 may be taken February 1 through October 31, cows with
42 calves July 31 through March 31, no calves may be
43 taken.
44
45 MR. BALLOT: We're trying to say also
46 we're going to leave the cows with calves alone.
47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, that's what
49 we're trying to say under our layman terms. Everybody
50 is getting tired. Go ahead.

1 MS. MAAS: Okay. I'll reread what
2 Trevor said. Unit 23, five caribou per day, bulls
3 February 1 to October 31, cows July 31 to March 31,
4 although cows with calves may not be taken July 31 to
5 October 10th and no calves may be taken.
6
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, that's what
8 we're trying to say.
9
10 MR. BALLOT: That's what we're saying.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Where did you go to
13 school? I want to go there.
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.
18
19 MR. BALLOT: One more time.
20
21 MS. MAAS: All right, one more time.
22 Unit 23, harvest limit five per day, bulls may be taken
23 February 1 to October 31, cows may be taken July 31 to
24 March 31, although cows with calves may not be taken
25 July 31 to October 10th and the take of calves is
26 prohibited.
27
28 MR. BALLOT: We got it. Mr. Chairman,
29 I move to support Proposal 49 as amended.
30
31 MR. KRAMER: Second.
32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The motion has been
34 seconded.
35
36 MS. LOON: Question.
37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Question been called
39 for. All.....
40
41 MR. BALLOT: Thank you. I appreciate
42 all you guys help here because it's something that's
43 going to be on there and we got it on record.
44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. All in
46 favor signify by saying aye.
47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.
49
50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Any opposed.

1 (No opposing votes)
2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No opposed. Thank
4 you. So, Melinda, where are we at now.
5
6 MS. BURKE: It appears we've taken
7 action on Proposal 49/52.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.
10
11 MS. BURKE: And the order that we
12 discussed earlier, Lisa, would you recommend taking up
13 37 next?
14
15 MS. MAAS: Sure. We can discuss 37 and
16 61, although I want to leave it up to the Council.
17 These proposals also have Unit 23, which I'm sure is
18 going to be the same modification as made for 49/52,
19 but they also include other units. I'm not sure how
20 much the Council would like to discuss Unit 26A, 26B,
21 24, 22 and 21D.
22
23 MR. BALLOT: We're not from there. I
24 don't know why we really need to unless it's going to
25 have some bearing on our Unit 23.
26
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Lisa, I think we
28 should just limit to our area as Unit 23. The other
29 units could take care of their own problems and issues.
30 I'm just worried about Northwest Alaska, Unit 23, and
31 we keep it there. We've got five per day right now.
32 That's what we agreed on earlier.
33
34 Anything else from the Council. Go
35 ahead, Kramer.
36
37 MR. KRAMER: Like you said, keep it
38 Game Management Unit specific.
39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. I won't
41 get mixed up from now who you are. I'll just keep
42 calling you Kramer.
43
44 (Laughter)
45
46 MS. BURKE: As long as Lance doesn't
47 answer on the telecom.
48
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. So we're done
50 with -- do we need to put this on Proposal WP16-37.

1 No, yes?

2

3 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.

6

7 MR. BALLOT: I have a question here.
8 Why are we not looking at Proposal 48? What's going
9 on?

10

11 MS. BURKE: Through the Chair, Percy.
12 We were trying to lump together the proposals that were
13 most similar to try to keep us all on a good track. I
14 think we're going to end off with the snowmachine
15 proposal if that's okay. We wanted to deal with the
16 ones that changed the harvest limits.

17

18 MR. BALLOT: I just needed an
19 affirmation. Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Remember earlier we
22 made amendments to it. Even me I'm getting mixed up.
23 So we don't need to put in proposal form WP16-37.

24

25 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. Yes, we do need
26 to take action on all of the proposals, but it sounds
27 like if we take up 37 and 61 through 64 together, it
28 sounds like whatever actions will apply pretty well to
29 both. Is that right, Lisa?

30

31 MS. MAAS: That's correct. I'm not
32 sure if for 37/61 you could just apply the same
33 modifications that you made to 49 to those two, but I'm
34 not sure administratively how that affects other units.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

37

38 MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah,
39 I think you could make a recommendation to support the
40 changes made in Unit 23 for those two proposals. If
41 the Council wishes not to take any action on the other
42 units, you could just say take no action on those or
43 defer to other regions or something along those lines.

44

45 MR. BALLOT: The 37 and 43?

46

47 MR. FOX: And 61.

48

49 MS. MAAS: 61.

50

1 MR. BALLOT: 37 to 61?
2
3 MS. BURKE: In the book that would be
4 item number 6 and number 9. It sounds like the same
5 language that you proposed for 49/52 could be
6 applicable to those other proposals and you could just
7 keep them region specific if I'm hearing you correctly.
8
9 MR. BALLOT: All right then, Mr.
10 Chairman. If I may, I'll just move to approve 16-37 to
11 include our proposal to reflect in there for 16-49 on
12 the harvest limit and changes for Proposal 37 and
13 Proposal 61, 63, 64. Only applicable to our Unit 23.
14 I thought I said that already. That was my motion.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So he has his motion.
17 Anyone second.
18
19 MR. MITCHELL: Second.
20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Enoch.
22 I'll call for question. All in favor signify by saying
23 aye.
24
25 IN UNISON: Aye.
26
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Any nays.
28
29 MR. MOTO: Nay.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: One nay. Okay, thank
32 you. It passed. Thank you. So now we're into change
33 hunt area description on caribou units. That's not our
34 unit, 18/22. 16-43.
35
36 MS. BURKE: We haven't taken those up
37 yet. Lisa can give the presentation.
38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Lisa, on
40 16-43.
41
42 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 Members of the Council. I'll be presenting a summary of
44 Wildlife Proposal 16-43, which begins on Page 161 of
45 your RAC book.
46
47 Wildlife Proposal 16-43 submitted by
48 the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory
49 Council, requests closure of Federal public lands to
50 caribou harvest in portions of Units 18 and 22 to

1 prevent incidental harvest of reindeer.

2

3 This proposal is contrary to the
4 Board's closure policy, which is on Page 174 of your
5 RAC book. The policy does not allow closures to
6 protect private property and, thus, this proposal
7 cannot be supported.

8

9 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
10 oppose WP16-43.

11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 I'm happy to take questions.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Any
17 questions for Lisa.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, do you want
22 us to.....

23

24 MS. MAAS: I'll just clarify that the
25 area of Unit 22 we're discussing is Unit 22A, which is
26 the southern portion of the unit down by St. Michael
27 and Unalakleet.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.
30 What I was trying to do is get to the agency comments,
31 the Department of Fish and Game, the one you just did.
32 That one we're going to, right?

33

34 MS. BURKE: Yes. See if there's any
35 comments from the State.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Any comments from the
38 State.

39

40 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Chair. Drew
41 Crawford, Fish and Game in Anchorage. Regarding
42 Wildlife Proposal 16-43, the State is opposed to this
43 proposal. Over.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. So
46 on the Federal agencies. Anyone from the Federal
47 agency.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If none, one from the
2 Native, village, tribe.

3

4 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Just a minute, Percy.
7 I'm just going through a process right now. Staff
8 committee, anything on this proposal.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MR. BALLOT: Okay. I'd just mention
13 that we're not in support of this proposal and it's
14 regarding other units, so why are we concerned?

15

16 MS. MAAS: There's a crossover in C&T
17 determination. We consider these crossover proposals
18 when there's a crossover that residents in Unit 23 have
19 C&T for caribou in another unit. In this case, Unit
20 22. Then we consider that a crossover that the
21 Councils need to take action on.

22

23 MR. BALLOT: So if we don't oppose it
24 and they happen to pass it over there, then it will
25 affect us.

26

27 MS. MAAS: It will affect those
28 residents of Unit 23 with customary and traditional use
29 to hunt caribou in Unit 22.

30

31 MR. BALLOT: So, understanding that, if
32 the Council -- I move to oppose 16-43 as my motion or
33 do I need to hear more stuff first yet?

34

35 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. There is a
36 written public comment that's located on Page 178 if
37 you'd like me to go through that really quick.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay.

40

41 MS. BURKE: This public comment is from
42 Kawerak, the regional non-profit tribal consortium of
43 the Bering Strait Region. They are offering a comment
44 on Proposal 16-43. They are in support of Proposal
45 16-43 to open caribou hunting by emergency order on
46 Federal public lands when the caribou are present in
47 Game Management Unit 18 and the southern portion of
48 Game Management Unit 22A.

49

50 There is an amendment that they

1 suggest. Instead of GMU 22A south of the Unalakleet
2 River, they recommend that it be changed to GMU 22A
3 south of the Golsovia River. In doing so this will
4 align both the Federal and State boundary lines and
5 hopefully this will eliminate any confusion as to what
6 area is open and what area is closed. The Alaska
7 Department of Fish & Game data indicates that the
8 Western Arctic Caribou Herd has not migrated south of
9 the Unalakleet River in 15 to 20 years.

10

11 Another issue of concern in northern
12 portion of GMU 18 and the southern portion of GMU 22A
13 is that individuals mistaking privately owned reindeer
14 for caribou because the season for caribou is open in
15 both units. This causes immense hardship on the
16 reindeer herd owners by having to take time to go out
17 into the field to confirm what has happened then report
18 to law enforcement on theft of privately owned
19 reindeer.

20

21 That's the only public comment for this
22 proposal, Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

25

26 Go ahead, Hannah.

27

28 MS. LOON: It's always a practice to
29 take care of our other neighbors, primarily the Seward
30 Peninsula. This one, if I understand it, is primarily
31 to protect their reindeer herds over there and it's
32 their livelihood. We have grown up as reindeer herders
33 ourselves. When we used to like to eat reindeer meat,
34 we loved to eat reindeer meat. We grew up in reindeer
35 camps and travel with the dogs and whatnot. Can you
36 imagine if your reindeer, your own livelihood got taken
37 away by caribou? No. It's sad. It's primarily to
38 protect those that have no caribou around. Not like
39 us. We could get five a day if we're lucky. We're
40 grateful for five a day. We're even grateful for three
41 a day.

42

43 So they're a domesticated animal over
44 there. They need to have their food too over there and
45 they want to protect them from predators, like caribou
46 and wolf and whatnot. It's giving the Unalakleet area
47 an emergency open caribou and go ahead and go out and
48 get them so it won't get close to their precious
49 animals. Like in the western day, you have to protect
50 your cow or sheep the same way. So I would definitely

1 support this one just to be in good terms with our
2 Inupiat friends in Seward Peninsula.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So, if not, anybody
5 want to oppose or make a proposal to support. It's the
6 time to do so now.

7
8 MR. BALLOT: I'm kind of having some
9 thoughts about that after Hannah's comment.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We could discuss this
12 a little bit more. Go ahead, Lisa.

13
14 MS. MAAS: I'd just like to make a
15 clarification that the Federal Subsistence Board has a
16 history of working with reindeer herders to, you know,
17 make may-be-announced seasons and actually the Proposal
18 37 for Unit 22 has a may-be-announced season south of
19 the Golsovia River drainage similar to that public
20 comment that Melinda read, which essentially does the
21 same thing. A season will only be announced for that
22 area if caribou actually show up. The proposal as
23 written is in violation of the Board closure policy, so
24 administratively the Board cannot support this proposal
25 as it's written.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You're talking about
28 the Board of Game.

29
30 MS. MAAS: No, the Federal Subsistence
31 Board. According to the Federal Subsistence Board
32 closure policy, closures may only be due to the
33 continued viability of either conservation because of
34 their resource or public safety or administration
35 there. It doesn't support closures because of private
36 property protection. Again, essentially the same
37 intent will be achieved by adopting a may-be-announced
38 season.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So you're
41 recommending that we oppose it.

42
43 MS. MAAS: I'm just saying that in this
44 case it's administratively the Board cannot support it.
45 So, in this case, while the Board, you know, likes to
46 give deference to the Regional Advisory Councils, this
47 is a situation where policy prevents supporting this
48 proposal.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So if I understand

1 you right, what you're saying, the Federal Chairs will
2 automatically oppose a closure? Is that right, what
3 you're saying, whether we oppose it or whether we go
4 for it, we recommend it? So if we're going to be
5 automatically overridden, I would say -- what's the term
6 of us trying to oppose it or approve this one here?
7 That's what I'm trying to ask you. What I'm saying is
8 if they're going to oppose it no matter what we do,
9 going to go opposite, they're going to override us
10 anyhow. What's our term of trying to do this here? I
11 hope you get what I'm saying.

12

13 MS. MAAS: Sure, I understand. I'm not
14 sure I'm the best person to answer this question.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If they're going to
17 oppose this closure, then why are they asking for our
18 approval is what I'm really saying, I think? Is that
19 right, Melinda? That's what I'm trying -- go ahead.

20

21 MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Trevor
22 Fox with Fish and Wildlife Service. This proposal was
23 submitted, so it goes through the process like any
24 other proposal. The Council can make whatever
25 recommendation you wish to make, but, as Lisa said,
26 this would go against the Board's closure policy, so
27 that may prevent it from being passed. But the Council
28 can make whatever recommendation you wish to make. I
29 don't know if that answers your question directly.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Percy was on the
32 right track, but I understand Hannah's point of view,
33 that we always supported when they needed our support.

34

35 MS. MAAS: I think it was considered
36 beyond the scope of this proposal to make a
37 modification to have a may-be-announced season, which
38 would achieve the same thing, but, again, that's part
39 of WP16-37 to create a may-be-announced season for that
40 same area.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: First I heard one was
43 opposing it, Percy was opposing it, and the other one I
44 heard Hannah was supporting it, right? But the way I
45 hear it no matter which way we turn the Federal Chairs
46 will oppose this closure, right? My idea is this, then
47 why are they asking for our two cents and no matter
48 which way we go they're going to still oppose it
49 anyhow.

50

1 Go ahead, Melinda.

2

3 MS. BURKE: Yeah, Mr. Chair, it was
4 just like Trevor mentioned. It was submitted as a
5 proposal, so it's going to go through all of the
6 motions that all of the other -- it's going to get
7 considered just like any other proposal. Regardless of
8 the language that you see about it being in conflict
9 with Board policy, it's still going to make it into all
10 of the RAC books and go through the same processes as
11 any other proposal would.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

14

15 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, I just think
16 this is a proposal that we'd say we take no action.
17 Wherever they go with it, that should be our action.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Calvin.

20

21 MR. MOTO: After all this work, what is
22 your recommendation on this? Do you want us to act on
23 it or do you want us to table it or what is your
24 recommendation?

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin.

27

28 MR. FOX: Through the Chair. The
29 recommendation that the Council makes, I mean it's
30 completely up to the Council in which direction they
31 want to go on this. As Melinda said, this was
32 considered a valid proposal. Just the intent of it
33 happens to go against the Board's closure policy. It's
34 up to the board if you wish to take action or to
35 support or to oppose. It's completely up to the
36 Council.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Since it's out of our
39 unit maybe we could say we'll take no action on this.
40 That way we won't oppose and we won't approve. Since
41 it's not in our unit, not Unit 23, we'll just take no
42 action on this. Make it easier on everyone. What do
43 you think, board members? Maybe we should say that,
44 take no action.

45

46 What do you think, co-Chair?

47

48 MR. STONEY: Not at the moment.

49

50 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. If nobody

1 is willing to say anything or do anything, then I'll
2 move to not take any action on this proposal.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, I hear that.
5 Any second.

6

7 MS. LOON: Second it.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: There's a second.
10 Question.

11

12 MS. LOON: Question.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question has been
15 called for. All in favor signify by saying aye.

16

17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Any opposed.

20

21 (No opposing votes)

22

23 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. We've finished
24 43. Let's go ahead and take 45 and then we'll kind of
25 assess where we are for the day and make a plan for the
26 rest of the afternoon and for tomorrow.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Lisa.

29

30 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31 Members of the Council. I will now be presenting a
32 summary of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal 16-45,
33 which begins on Page 179 of your RAC book. Wildlife
34 Proposal 16-45 was submitted by the Seward Peninsula
35 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and requests that
36 the western boundary of the Unit 22E hunt area for
37 caribou be shifted from the Sanaguich River drainage to
38 the Tin Creek drainage. There is a map of this area on
39 Page 182 of your RAC books.

40

41 Currently, there is no Federal open
42 season for caribou in Unit 22E west of the Sanaguich
43 River drainage. The proponent states shifting the hunt
44 area boundary westward will increase the area open to
45 hunting, thus increasing harvest opportunities for
46 Federally qualified subsistence users as caribou
47 continue to expand their range westward. The proponent
48 also expressed desires to avoid conflict with reindeer
49 herders.

50

1 As the biology, harvest and regulatory
2 history for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd has already
3 been presented, I will not go into detail on this
4 unless there's questions by the Council.

5
6 Adoption of this proposal would
7 increase harvest opportunity for Federally qualified
8 subsistence users and is not expected to have any
9 impact on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd due to the
10 small amount of harvest, about 2 percent of the total
11 Western Arctic Caribou harvest that occurs in this
12 area.

13
14 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
15 support WP16-45.

16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the
18 Council.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Any
21 questions for Lisa on this one here.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think this is where
26 we share the resources with our neighbors in Nome area.
27 They go hunt in our area is the way I understand it. So
28 we could probably support or not on this one here.
29 What's the board think about this Proposal 16-45?

30
31 Go ahead, Melinda.

32
33 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I think we
34 should check in with Drew Crawford and see what the
35 State's agency comments are on this proposal. I do
36 have one written public comment as well, then we can
37 get into Council discussion.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Drew.

40
41 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Chair. Drew
42 Crawford of Fish and Game. Regarding WP16-45, the
43 Department's preliminary recommendation is to oppose
44 this proposal. Divergent State and Federal regulations
45 increases confusion for users and law enforcement.
46 Adding different hunt area boundaries increases the
47 likelihood that Federally qualified subsistence users
48 will be ticketed if they stray from Federal public
49 lands. Over.

50

1 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.
4
5 MR. BALLOT: So, Drew, what are they
6 trying to do? Are they trying to add -- is it these
7 Shishmaref areas that they're trying to add on there?
8
9 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes. My understanding
10 that that boundary is established with the approval of
11 the local folks and also the reindeer herders agreeing
12 to that at that time. Over.
13
14 MR. BALLOT: Drew, the proposed area is
15 the spot including Shishmaref and the Tin Creek, the
16 little dots?
17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, what she was
19 telling me that they're moving it west.
20
21 MR. BALLOT: Okay. Maybe I missed it,
22 but what was the reasoning for OSM not supporting?
23
24 MS. MAAS: OSM is supporting.
25
26 MR. BALLOT: Who is not supporting?
27 The State, okay.
28
29 MR. CRAWFORD: We opposed as to moving
30 the boundary.
31
32 MR. BALLOT: Okay.
33
34 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead with the
37 public comments.
38
39 MS. BURKE: We do have one written
40 public comment, which you can find on Page 191 of your
41 meeting materials. This public comment is from
42 Kawerak, Inc. They support the proposal expanding the
43 boundary line for caribou and it's in the area that was
44 described here by Lisa and that Percy had pointed out.
45 Kawerak is in support of the proposal, Page 191.
46
47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Melinda.
49 Any more questions from the board here.
50

1 MR. BALLOT: I don't know what the big
2 deal is because we always have hunters from Brevig
3 Mission, from Shishmaref, the other one is over here,
4 Wales, up in our area to go up there and go hunt.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I hear what you're
7 saying. This is opposed by the State and it's
8 supported by the OSM. So we could go either way. So
9 we want to make a proposal which way you want to go.
10 We'll take it from there.

11
12 Go ahead, Calvin.

13
14 MR. MOTO: According to the map here,
15 Shishmaref is under 22E, so does that regulation change
16 include 22E?

17
18 MS. MAAS: That's correct. The
19 regulation is for 22E.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I have a question.
22 We would support it, but my question is why is the
23 State opposing. That's what I was going to ask.

24
25 MS. MAAS: This is divergent
26 regulations. This would result in different Federal
27 and State regulations. When the Federal and State
28 regulations are different, it increases the confusion
29 and regulatory complexity for users.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Then with the way you
32 explain it I will gladly support this proposal. Who
33 want to put a motion together to support this, come out
34 with it. And with a second.

35
36 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

39
40 MR. BALLOT: I move to support Proposal
41 -- what's the number again?

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: WP16-45.

44
45 MR. BALLOT: 16-45.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. He made a
48 motion to support this. Any second.

49
50 MR. MOTO: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Calvin seconded it.
2 Go ahead, Melinda.
3
4 MS. BURKE: Percy, I just wanted to
5 make sure for our justification here it sounds like the
6 Council is in favor of the increased opportunity for
7 subsistence harvest of caribou for the people of that
8 region. I just want to make sure I have this correct
9 in my notes.
10
11 MR. BALLOT: Yes, that's what it is.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.
14
15 MS. LOON: Question.
16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question has been
18 called for. All in favor signify by saying aye.
19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.
21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Any opposed.
23
24 (No opposing votes)
25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think we're all
27 getting tired, Melinda. What do you think, we just keep
28 on going for one more?
29
30 MS. BURKE: I'll leave that decision up
31 to the Council. Let's just look at our proposal list
32 here and see how we've done. I want to thank the
33 Council for some good work today. I know there's a lot
34 that's being thrown out, a lot of overlapping issues.
35 Thanks for all your hard work today. So we still have
36 some muskox proposals left, numbers 3 and 4 as listed
37 on Page 2 on your agenda. We also have a sheep
38 proposal, which is listed as number 5 and we still have
39 the snowmachine Unit 23 proposal to take up.
40
41 I'm confident that from item number 11
42 down the different agency reports and things we have to
43 take up tomorrow. I think we can do that in a pretty
44 timely manner, but I'm going to leave it up to the
45 Council if you want to take up any of the remaining
46 proposals or if you want to get some rest and begin
47 again fresh in the morning. Mr. Chair.
48
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'll leave this up to
50 the board what they want to do. You want to go one

1 more or you want to call it a day?

2

3 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I'm the
4 oldest here, I'll do whatever you guys want.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.

9

10 MS. LOON: We could do one more, allow
11 use of snowmachine to position animals.

12

13 MS. BURKE: All right. Sounds good.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So Hannah want to go
16 WP16-48.

17

18 MS. BURKE: Those materials can be
19 found on Page 21 of your book. Thank you, Lisa. We
20 have our new anthropology staff that's coming up here
21 to the table, Jennifer Hardin. She's the division
22 chief for anthropology in the Office of Subsistence
23 Management.

24

25 Thanks, everybody.

26

27 MS. HARDIN: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.
28 Members of the Council. Thank you for taking this
29 analysis up today. As Melinda mentioned, my name is
30 Jennifer Hardin and I'm an anthropologist with the
31 Office of Subsistence Management. I'll be presenting
32 the analysis for Wildlife Proposal 16-48. As Melinda
33 mentioned, it starts on Page 21 of your book and there
34 are also copies of this analysis on the table on the
35 side of the room.

36

37 Wildlife Proposal 16-48 was submitted
38 by the Native Village of Kotzebue. The village
39 requests modification of the unit-specific provision
40 that currently defines how a hunter may use a
41 snowmachine to harvest caribou on Federal public lands
42 in
43 Unit 23.

44

45 Currently, Federally qualified
46 subsistence users may legally use a snowmachine to
47 position a hunter to select and harvest a caribou as
48 long as the hunter does not shoot the animal from a
49 moving snowmachine.

50

1 The proponent asks the Federal
2 Subsistence Board to modify this provision to allow the
3 use of a snowmachine to position a caribou, wolf, or
4 wolverine for harvest. Federal proposal WP16-48 would
5 be consistent with the State regulation adopted in 2014
6 that allows hunters in Units 22, 23 and 26A to use a
7 snowmachine to position a caribou, wolf or wolverine
8 for harvest. The Alaska Board of Game adopted this
9 regulation to allow the use of snowmachines to track
10 and pursue these animals without the prohibition
11 against driving, herding, harassing or molesting game.

12
13 The proponent states that the proposed
14 Federal regulatory change would provide consistency
15 across adjacent State and Federal management
16 boundaries, thereby avoiding confusion and
17 unintentional violations. The proponent also feels
18 that the change would benefit law enforcement by
19 eliminating opposing rules.

20
21 The proponent notes that the proposed
22 change would fix a longstanding conflict between
23 regulatory restrictions and local hunting practices.
24 The proponent reports that pursuing and harvesting
25 caribou, wolves and wolverine in the manner proposed is
26 an integral part of local tradition for many residents
27 of the area and is the only practical way to hunt these
28 animals during the winter in most of Unit 23.

29
30 Further, the proponent states that the
31 regulatory imposition of Western cultural values, such
32 as ideas about fair chase, as a substitute for
33 traditional cultural values is at the heart of the
34 issue raised in the proposal.

35
36 Inupiat hunters have a long history of
37 traveling far and positioning both hunters and animals
38 in order to successfully meet their subsistence needs.
39 Before snowmachines became common in the 1960s, most
40 people of the area traveled by foot or by dog
41 team to hunt caribou during winter months. Sleds and
42 snowmachines are now used together and allow for the
43 transport of hunters, gear, meat and hides.

44
45 This customary and traditional hunting
46 practice has been discussed by subsistence users in
47 previous Regional Advisory Council meetings as well as
48 at Federal Subsistence Board meetings. It's also
49 discussed widely in ethnographic accounts.

50

1 Subsistence users have noted that in
2 context of caribou hunting, the Inupiaq word inillak
3 means the hunter positions himself close to where the
4 caribou would pass or cross depending on the way the
5 wind is blowing. To the Inupiat, inillak is quite
6 different from herding and it is used specifically in
7 caribou hunting. Inupiaq hunters position both
8 themselves and caribou during a hunt. Further, the
9 Inupiaq word unu means to cooperatively push or move
10 the caribou.

11
12 Subsistence users have reported that
13 whether using dog team, snowmachines or stalking on
14 foot it is customary for a hunter to go on one side of
15 the herd and unu them towards the hunter waiting on the
16 other side so that they are able to selectively and
17 efficiently harvest the caribou that they want. This
18 remains a common practice in Unit 23 and the current
19 preferred method of positioning both hunters and
20 animals in winter is by snowmachine.

21
22 Wolves and wolverine are also highly
23 valued subsistence resources in Unit 23. During winter
24 months they are hunted by snowmachine. Most wolves and
25 wolverine are shot in Unit 23 rather than trapped.
26 This method is preferred because much of the region is
27 open tundra and is conducive to tracking and ground
28 shooting using snowmachines and rifles.

29
30 It's important to note that existing
31 agency-specific regulations may conflict with the
32 proposed regulation. Both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
33 Service and the National Park Service have regulations
34 in place prohibiting the use of snowmachines in a
35 manner that results in herding, harassment, hazing or
36 driving of wildlife and these regulations have been in
37 place for quite some time.

38
39 Because the conflicts may exist between
40 the proposed regulation and existing agency-specific
41 regulations, OSM staff considered recommending that the
42 Board defer taking action on this proposal until a
43 later date. However, OSM decided not to recommend
44 deferral at this juncture because all available
45 information supports the customary and traditional
46 practice that is proposed by the proponent. We also
47 recognize that the Council might wish to discuss
48 options for moving forward, including possibly
49 deferral, during this meeting.

50

1 If the proposed regulatory changes were
2 adopted, Federal regulations would recognize the
3 customary and traditional
4 practice of using snowmachines to efficiently and
5 effectively pursue and harvest caribou, wolves and
6 wolverines in Unit 23. This regulatory change would
7 also make Federal hunting regulations consistent with
8 State regulations in Unit 23.

9
10 The proposed changes would have little
11 to no effect on current hunting behavior and no changes
12 in the population status of caribou, wolves and
13 wolverines are anticipated. Supporting customary and
14 traditional practices that provide for continued
15 subsistence opportunities would benefit Federally
16 qualified subsistence users. For these reasons, the
17 OSM preliminary recommendation is to support Wildlife
18 Proposal 16-48.

19
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council
21 members.

22
23 I'm happy to answer any questions.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Any
26 questions. This proposal should have been here long
27 ago to be in place. It's now on the table. Any
28 comments or questions from the board here.

29
30 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

33
34 MR. BALLOT: I want to thank Native
35 Village of Kotzebue for taking the lead on this. It's
36 been an issue on and off over the years and we all know
37 that and we've had discussions over the years about use
38 of snowmachine. That's what we do now. In the past,
39 we used to do dog teams. Time changing and stuff, we
40 have to go with the flow. There's yourself, myself,
41 Enoch, I forget who else, were at the State Game Board
42 meeting where we justified and we had input. We went
43 over this proposal quite a bit. I think we dissected
44 pretty well. It reflects what was going with the
45 State. So I'm in support of this proposal for the
46 record.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy. I
49 also support this proposal. When I used to go with dog
50 team, we usually set up caribou and wolves with dog

1 team. It depends how good your dogs are. It's up to
2 your leader. But we always shoot them after we stop
3 because we never shoot when we're moving because we
4 have a hard time hitting it. I will support this
5 proposal as written.

6

7 Any one else. Go ahead, Hannah.

8

9 MS. LOON: This is music to my ears
10 when you were reading it and it sure relaxed me.
11 Anyway, my dad used to travel a 60-mile radius looking
12 for caribou and he have to work with other families to
13 make tracks with snowshoes to go out and, yes, they
14 were quiet and other people would drive the caribou and
15 haaa, do that. So I am in support of this proposal.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.

20 Anyone else.

21

22 Go ahead, Calvin.

23

24 MR. MOTO: I was under the impression
25 in the '80s that this was brought up when I was on the
26 Arctic Region. I thought we had that resolved at that
27 time. Did they change it again? The argument at that
28 time was how are we going to move government land and
29 we're stuck there. We can't use a motor. Now we're
30 talking about snowmachines too and four-wheelers. The
31 potential I see there is try to herd. I'm always
32 afraid they might try to herd.

33

34 In our area, most of our hunting is on
35 State land. Once in a while we go to Bering Land
36 Bridge, but most of our caribou are right behind you on
37 State land. I thought at that time this would never
38 come up again, but here it is. So I just thought I'd
39 make that comment.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin.

42

43 Anyone else.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Melinda.

48

49 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. Yeah, we should
50 go through the presentation procedure. We'll need to

1 hear from the State. We'll see if there's any agencies
2 in the room who wanted to speak to this proposal and I
3 do have one written public comment as well.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Anyone from
6 the State on this proposal.

7

8 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Chair. Drew
9 Crawford, Fish and Game in Anchorage. The Department's
10 recommendation is to support Proposal WP16-48.
11 Adopting this proposal will reduce regulatory
12 complexities for all users and law enforcement by
13 aligning State and Federal regulations. Over.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Okay, we
16 have one from the State.

17

18 Anyone from Federal agencies. Go
19 ahead.

20

21 MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
22 the record, Trevor Fox with the Fish and Wildlife
23 Service. As mentioned in the presentation, there is a
24 conflict with our agency-specific regulations. Those
25 are listed on Page 26 of your meeting book. It's that
26 first section. This conflict in our regulations is
27 specific to a section on subsistence uses and it
28 applies to the use of snowmobiles, motorboats, dog
29 teams and other means of surface transportation
30 traditionally employed by local rural residents engaged
31 in subsistence uses.

32

33 The actual conflict is down toward the
34 bottom on section three which prevents the use of these
35 methods to prevent herding, harassment, hazing and
36 driving of wildlife for hunting or other purposes. I
37 will say that I've had conversations with people in our
38 agency and we are looking at ways to address the
39 conflict with our regulations. Federal subsistence
40 regulations have prohibitions of motorized vehicles
41 that drive, harass or molest animals and it seems a
42 little redundant that we also have it in ours.

43

44 One of the issues is is that it takes a
45 while to address our regulations. If we do a change
46 that requires a proposed rule, that could take a while
47 if that's the direction we go. So mostly why I'm
48 saying this is if the Council supports it and the
49 Federal Subsistence Board adopts it, there could still
50 be that conflict and our conflicts would supersede the

1 Federal subsistence regulations. As I mentioned, our
2 agency is looking at ways to address the conflict.

3

4 As Susan mentioned earlier in the day,
5 we do have a current proposed rule going through.
6 That's the issue Susan brought up about methods of
7 predator control on Refuge lands. So the use of
8 snowmachines was not part of that proposed rule, but it
9 does provide an opportunity when that comes up for
10 public comment for people to look through our
11 regulations and look for any issues like this and
12 provide public comments.

13

14 I guess I'm available for questions,
15 but we do want to make everybody aware of those
16 conflicts.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. What is this
19 here? The proposal is trying to -- we're trying to
20 position the resource to an area where we won't shoot
21 at our resources and shoot and if we miss, we will
22 shoot the other animals. We're trying to position
23 another caribou or wolf or wolverine away from that
24 herd. That way we could get only what we need. I
25 think that's what this is all about. That's why we're
26 supporting it. We're trying to position our resource
27 so we could harvest it. I will support this proposal.
28 That's my reason.

29

30 Kramer, you had your hand first.

31

32 MR. KRAMER: What was the State's --
33 because I'm on the Fish and Game Advisory Council in
34 Kotzebue. I'm trying to remember what they decided on
35 this. If I remember right, they had bear, foxes,
36 Arctic fox, red, all the species of foxes and also bear
37 to this proposal. Snowmachines are not only used to
38 position these three, but also the taking of bear,
39 foxes. I'm trying to remember whether it was
40 furbearers and.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Furbearing animals.

43

44 MR. KRAMER:animals for human
45 consumption.

46

47 MS. BURKE: Was that an AC or Board of
48 Game?

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: He's talking about an

1 AC.

2

3 MR. KRAMER: That was under -- we'd
4 have to take a look and see what they.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It was under AC I'm
7 pretty sure, the one you're trying to come up with, you
8 know, what we had at one time. We asked that we wanted
9 to position -- whatever we were harvesting we wanted to
10 position the caribou or animal or wolf how we want to
11 harvest them.

12

13 MR. KRAMER: Yeah. I think we ended up
14 adding bear and foxes to that one also. Furbearers, if
15 I remember right, because wolverine and wolves fall
16 under furbearers.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think you're right,
19 but it never get written up as to furbearers. I think
20 it just came up as for the caribou at the time under
21 the State. I could be corrected. Yeah, go ahead. I
22 think I'm going to be corrected. There's two of them
23 right here shaking their head.

24

25 MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 MR. CRAWFORD: This is Drew Crawford,
28 Fish and Game.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, Drew.

31

32 MR. CRAWFORD: I'll read you our
33 current regulations regarding that. It says a
34 snowmachine may be used to position a caribou, wolf or
35 wolverine for harvest and a caribou, wolf or wolverine
36 will be shot from a stationary snowmachine in Unit 22,
37 23 and 26A. Over.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. That
40 explains it.

41

42 Go ahead, Kramer.

43

44 MR. KRAMER: So can we add bear, foxes,
45 other furbearers to that? Because I don't want to get
46 busted chasing an otter.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, you could make
49 an amendment to the proposal and add those other
50 furbearers that you named in place. Right? We could

1 add those furbearers he named.

2

3 MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
4 Council can make a recommendation to modify. That's up
5 to you as a Council.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead,
8 Hannah.

9

10 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
11 think this language on Page 24, taking wildlife from a
12 motorized land or air vehicle, this regulation is too
13 old. It's too old and our way of hunting has changed
14 through change. What I'm thinking is this one is
15 messing up our snowmachine to position and you're not
16 moving the snowmachine, you have to position yourself
17 to shoot, so there's a difference there.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you,
20 Hannah. Since you brought that up, my question would
21 be taking of wildlife. What do you mean by wildlife?
22 Could you translate it for me. That way I could see
23 which wildlife you're talking about.

24

25 MR. FOX: The definition of wildlife, I
26 could grab it over there. It's a pretty broad
27 definition that would include pretty much any of the
28 species we're talking about.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Including caribou.

31

32 MR. FOX: Including caribou, wolf and
33 wolverine.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.

36

37 MR. FOX: Mr. Chairman, if I may. As I
38 mentioned, the Fish and Wildlife Service is looking at
39 ways to address our conflict. Hopefully by the time
40 the Board meeting comes around we'll have some more
41 information, but we are looking at our options at this
42 point. If you want me to read it, I have the
43 definition of wildlife here.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead. You'll be
46 next, Raymond. Go ahead.

47

48 MR. FOX: Wildlife means any hare,
49 ptarmigan, grouse, ungulate, bear, furbearer, or
50 unclassified species and includes any part, product,

1 egg, or offspring thereof, or carcass or part thereof.
2 That's a very broad definition.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,
5 Raymond. You have a question.

6

7 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8 I've probably got a question to both of you. Of
9 course, in the future there are so many wolves
10 everywhere. You go on a hunting trip, you just see
11 them and herd them. One way or another we'll probably
12 run into a point where the wolf will be hunted by air.
13 It says down in the regulations you have to put your
14 vehicle in a stopped position. How are you going to
15 stop an airplane in the air if they start hunting
16 wolves with an airplane? How are you going to stop
17 that?

18

19 That's a question been asked. If there
20 is people hunting wolves by air, which they did before.

21

22 MS. HARDIN: Thank you. Through the
23 Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

26

27 MS. HARDIN: The current proposal
28 doesn't address that question, so I don't have the
29 regulations in front of me to know what they say about
30 hunting by air, but perhaps Lisa can help us or Trevor.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. I think
33 they were trying to stay away from aircraft on this one
34 here. You will never stop an aircraft in mid air. That
35 would have to be under aerial hunts, the one you
36 mentioned, Raymond.

37

38 Any other public comments on this here.

39

40 MS. BURKE: We're still on agencies.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead. You
43 have the floor.

44

45 MR. FROST: Good afternoon. My name is
46 Bert Frost. I'm the Regional Director for the National
47 Park Service. I just want to reiterate some of what
48 Trevor had said here. I think we understand what your
49 concerns are and the things you're trying to get to.
50 The concerns that we have is what Trevor mentioned. We

1 have a regulation already on the book that basically
2 prohibits these types of activities. If this proposal
3 were to be adopted not only by the RAC but then
4 subsequently by the Federal Board, we'd have these two
5 conflicting regulations. The Park Service specific
6 regulation would overrule the Federal Board regulation,
7 so that we'd be in this direct conflict of these
8 regulations.

9

10 What we would propose is to defer this
11 proposal to have an opportunity for the Park Service,
12 Fish and Wildlife Service if they want to join us, to
13 go out into the communities and have some more
14 conversations to really understand in depth the things
15 you want to do and try and articulate those and define
16 those in a way that we could support this proposal so
17 that it wouldn't be in conflict with our existing rule.
18 We don't want to not support it.

19

20 Today our proposal would be or our
21 suggestion is we would like to support a deferral of
22 this recommendation of this proposal so we could have
23 these conversations, we could better understand, we
24 could have some in-depth understanding of how and begin
25 to craft some language so that we don't have this
26 potential conflict in the future if we just adopt the
27 proposal as it's written today.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Go
30 ahead, Kramer.

31

32 MR. KRAMER: So you're saying you want
33 us to defer this, but who's going to be paying the bail
34 and the Christmas cards until then that we get for
35 citations? Park Service? Fish and Wildlife Service?
36 You guys want to pick up the tab? We need to make a
37 decision on this today because this is the way we've
38 hunted a long time. I don't want to get cited for
39 something that we're putting on hold.

40

41 The reason I wanted to add other
42 furbearers is because we've done that before in the
43 past. We drive up, we position ourselves sideways to
44 shoot it because would you want to shoot a caribou in
45 the ass? No. You have to position yourself to be able
46 to safely take the animal. I think we need to make a
47 decision on this today. Also add those furbearers.
48 That way we're preventing citations and other issues
49 from occurring. You know, the guy got his wolverine
50 taken away and that was his livelihood. That was

1 something he could have used to either provide warmth
2 for his family or put food on the table.

3
4 It's something that needs to be decided
5 today because if we don't, then who is going to pick up
6 the tab for the future citations until we do make a
7 decision. I just don't want to see more conflict. If
8 we end up with more conflict like that young guy got
9 his wolverine taken away and it's something that we've
10 done for the last -- before dog teams went away.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Kramer.

13
14 Go ahead, Calvin.

15
16 MR. MOTO: I know for a fact that it's
17 unlawful to go on Federal lands with my motorized
18 vehicle of any kind when they're not hunting. So if
19 you're going to put it in for hunting, then the Federal
20 would have to change their regulations to allow
21 motorized vehicles on Federal lands. I know a couple
22 guys they drove from Deering to Nome and they got
23 citations because they crossed Federal lands. So
24 that's what we're facing in our region. So in order
25 for it to change we have to have them change that
26 regulation before we could say, okay, we'll do it.
27 Right now as it stands no one can use a motorized
28 vehicle on Federal or Park lands in Alaska anyway.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin.
31 Before I get to you, Percy had his hand up first.

32
33 You'll be next.

34
35 MR. BALLOT: I understand what you
36 said, but I haven't heard you say what those conflicts
37 are. I think for us to understand why you want us to
38 defer, I need to understand why you're saying the
39 practices or the regulation in conflict to proposals.
40 So what are they? I haven't heard anybody say anything
41 that -- you're going to go out to the villages and hear
42 and see what they say, but I've still got to understand
43 why we have to defer and why it takes more time when
44 we've had a lot of time since when we were trying to do
45 this that the State had to work on.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

48
49 MR. FROST: So the way the regulation
50 reads today that would be in conflict is motorboats,

1 snowmobiles, dog teams and other means of surface
2 transportation traditionally employed by local rural
3 residents engaged in subsistence uses shall be operated
4 first in compliance with applicable State and Federal
5 law. Second, in such a manner as to prevent waste and
6 damage to Park areas. This is where the conflict
7 comes, this third piece. In such a manner as to
8 prevent the herding, harassment, hazing or driving of
9 wildlife for hunting or other purposes. So it would be
10 a direct conflict to that regulation. That's what
11 we're worried about.

12

13 Jeanette wanted to respond to Calvin, I
14 believe.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You're going to
17 respond to Calvin?

18

19 MS. HARDIN: No, Mr. Chair, I was.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: She had her hand up
22 earlier.

23

24 MS. HARDIN: Yes, I did.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Oh, that was -- okay.

27

28 MS. HARDIN: I just wanted to let you
29 know that the regulations, the Fish and Wildlife
30 Service regulations and the National Park Service
31 regulations are on Page 26 of your book.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.
34 Anyone else. The way I keep hearing it right now, I
35 need to meet with the Council real quick away from
36 everybody before we -- and we'll go back to this.
37 Something came up on the way you read it and I don't
38 like it and I want them to know.

39

40 What I'm going to say is the
41 positioning of boats. I want to keep boats out of it
42 because we always be moving in boats even when you put
43 it in neutral from the current. We'll be moving.
44 You've got boats in there and we hunt caribou from the
45 river with .22 with boats and we're moving. I want to
46 remove the word boats from this completely. Think
47 about it.

48

49 Go ahead.

50

1 MR. BALLOT: It's just as fast as
2 snowmachines.
3
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, but the words
5 earlier they said boats.
6
7 MR. BALLOT: Oh, okay.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: They said boats,
10 right?
11
12 MR. FROST: So the current regulation
13 says motorboats, yes.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That's why I want to
16 remove boats.
17
18 MR. FROST: Ken, if you're on the
19 phone, can you help us here because I'm not the reg
20 expert.
21
22 MR. ADKISSON: This is Ken Adkisson
23 with the Park Service. Yeah, there seems to be some
24 misunderstanding about the kind of vehicles that you
25 can use on Park lands. Things like motorboats are
26 fine. Snowmachines are fine. There are prohibitions
27 against using all-terrain vehicles. You can, if you
28 can afford it, even use an airplane, a small fixed-wing
29 airplane for access into the Preserve.
30
31 Yeah, obviously there's some education
32 or outreach probably needed if people are still
33 thinking you can't do these things after all these
34 years. There's no problem with snowmachines. There's
35 no problem with motorboats in general.
36
37 MR. FROST: Ken, the other question
38 that Enoch brought up was the use of motorboats to take
39 caribou on the river.
40
41 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, that's legal in
42 Unit 23 and I'm not sure, I'd have to look into it, in
43 terms of 26A. It's not legal elsewhere or taking them
44 when they're swimming, but rarely do we find ourselves
45 needing to enforce that, I guess. I don't know of a
46 case where it's been done, for example, in Bering Land
47 Bridge, enforced anyway.
48
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.
50 Then maybe we should delete the word boats. I'll feel

1 better about it.

2

3 Yeah, go ahead. We need to finish
4 this.

5

6 MR. FOX: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 This is Trevor Fox with Fish and Wildlife Service.
8 I'll be really quick. On the top of 24, that lists the
9 Federal subsistence regulations. The number 4 on there
10 talks about motor driven boat, that it can't be used
11 for taking wildlife. The regulation that allows you to
12 take caribou with a boat in say Unit 23, that's a unit-
13 specific provision, so that's an exception.

14

15 So that overall regulation says you
16 can't do that on Federal lands and the State, but
17 there's provisions that allow you to take the caribou
18 with a boat. So that's how it's addressed and that's
19 how this snowmachine thing would also be addressed in
20 Federal subsistence regulations because it prohibits
21 using motorized vehicles to drive, herd or molest. If
22 this is adopted, this snowmachine one would provide a
23 unit-specific exemption saying that you can use a
24 snowmachine in Unit 23 for caribou, wolf and wolverine.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Now I get
27 you. Okay. Anyone else.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We need to go back to
32 the agency comments on here. Department of Fish and
33 Game.

34

35 MS. BURKE: Drew already provided
36 theirs.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah.

39

40 MS. BURKE: So we've got Drew with
41 ADF&G, we've got U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, we've
42 covered the Park Service. Is there any other Federal
43 agency representatives who would like to provide a
44 comment for this proposal?

45

46 MR. SHARP: Melinda, this is Dan Sharp.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Dan, since
49 you're on.

50

1 MR. SHARP: Yeah, I just wanted to
2 point out, I guess, I believe the reference was to Page
3 24 in your book. The Bureau of Land Management
4 regulations are a little bit different than the Park
5 Service and Fish and Wildlife Service. We don't
6 necessarily have the same conflicts that either of
7 those agencies do, but I guess it's fairly distinct in
8 the language next to BLM and Park Service and Fish and
9 Wildlife Service what the differences are.

10
11 The language in our regulation says you
12 can't operate an off-road vehicle in a manner causing
13 or likely to cause significant undo damage or
14 disturbance of wildlife. We don't reference herding.
15 I guess the interpretation could easily be if you're
16 hunting something to kill it, I think it's tough to
17 draw the line between disturbing it and killing it, I
18 guess. Our regulations aren't as strict nor as
19 specific as the other two agencies.

20
21 That's all I wanted to offer.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. You go
26 ahead. You have the floor.

27
28 MS. ATKINSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
29 I have comments regarding WP16-48 from the Kobuk Valley
30 National Park SRC and the Cape Krusenstern SRC.
31 Starting with the Kobuk Valley National Park SRC, the
32 commission unanimously supported WP16-48 as written on
33 the importance of the proposal. Chair Louie Commack
34 said we support it because the people of the region
35 support it 100 percent. It has been part of our local
36 tradition and way of life for many years. That is why
37 this is important. Ever since we lost our dog teams.

38
39 And then the Cape Krusenstern SRC, the
40 four members present supported WP16-48 and suggest a
41 change to include foxes. The comments of support and
42 suggestion, I'll read them. Larry Westlake says this
43 is our only means of hunting in the winter. We don't
44 have dog teams or anything. We have a snowmachine.
45 How can I make a good shot on a moving snowmachine.
46 When we hunt on snowmachines, we always stop and shoot.
47 As a hunter, we are always watching the wind. The wind
48 is the most important thing to watch when you're
49 hunting. We are downwind from them. Hunting that way
50 you don't have to go very far to get the caribou.

1 Then from Joe Swan he said, I'm a
2 hunter and I have a wife who needs a new ruff almost
3 every year. Sometimes I look for a wolverine or a
4 wolf. Sometimes in one whole year I get nothing. You
5 have to run into something that you're looking for.
6 You have to go out early at 7:00 a.m. You might have a
7 chance to go in the middle of the day and you get
8 nothing.

9
10 I approve of these regulations except
11 as a hunter it is different. You look for animals that
12 you want. They don't sit there waiting for you. You
13 have to look for miles and miles and sometimes you get
14 lucky. I call myself the luckiest person to get a
15 wolverine in a year. Sometimes you get nothing. Your
16 wife is ruff-less. People will look at her and say
17 what kind of hunter do you have. My wife will say he's
18 a poor hunter.

19
20 Wolverines, wolves and caribou are hard
21 to get. It's easy to say something in regulations, but
22 it is hard for everybody. It is hard to follow the
23 regulations, but we try to. Finally I run into one. I
24 have to chase it and keep it away from running into the
25 willows. If it gets to the willows before I get it, I
26 lost him. I have to look for another one. That's the
27 kind of life we're living in. I accept your
28 regulations. I can try to follow, but I might have to
29 break them because I finally run into a wolverine.

30
31 Lance Kramer, a member of the public,
32 said what about foxes. What if there's a real nice
33 white fox running across the lagoon. You want to be
34 able to chase it and get it. It's too bad they didn't
35 have foxes in this proposal.

36
37 Then Joe Swan said we don't torment any
38 kind of animal. He said this after a conversation
39 about the regulations and the term harassment. We
40 don't torment any kind of animal. When they try to run
41 away from you, you have to get that animal. We aren't
42 thinking about torment because you need it. This is
43 the difference between city life and surviving. If you
44 live in a small village you don't have a choice except
45 to try to get animals. Sometimes it tries to run away
46 from you and it escapes. Then the next day you go out
47 and try again and this time you caught him because you
48 observed the area where that game was. This is what we
49 do. We don't try to torment or punish the animal. We
50 hunt what we eat. We don't hunt what we don't eat.

1 Thank you.
2
3 Any questions.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone else. Anyone
6 have questions. That's what I was really going to say.
7
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Melinda.
12
13 MS. BURKE: I just wanted to check in.
14 Since we've had such a lengthy discussion, I wanted to
15 see if there was any other public, tribal, any other
16 entity on the phone who would like to make a comment
17 towards Proposal WP16-48. Lance, are you there?
18
19 MR. L. KRAMER: Yes, I'm here. We
20 should add, like Michael said, the furbearers, grizzly
21 bears, you know, so that we don't get in trouble for
22 that.
23
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anything
25 else.
26
27 MR. L. KRAMER: No, not from me.
28
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Kramer.
30
31 Go ahead, Percy.
32
33 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I just want
34 the Park Service and the others that were asking to
35 defer, I want to let them understand my feeling or our
36 feeling that subsistence, taking of the game, is really
37 important to us because of how we do this, our culture.
38 We share, we talk, we communicate, we enjoy, we laugh,
39 we cry. All those things together.
40
41 I hate waiting to -- I'm wondering, you
42 know, the modifications, you could just do that even if
43 we pass this regulation. Is that something that you're
44 going to be able to do? Because I'm really gung-ho
45 like my partner over here of passing this because I
46 hate waiting any longer to have possible conflicts or
47 things that might happen to our tribal membership out
48 there or hunters out there that are going out because
49 it's the way we are. Sharing in our hunting and our
50 food are important to us.

1 We know the intention has been there
2 and the thing has been shared and talked about for a
3 long time. It's time we just worked together and do
4 that because we are the ones living out there. I
5 understand you guys are managers of those places, but
6 please understand that we want and need and want to
7 make this happen.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you,
10 Percy. Anyone else.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Melinda, where else
15 are we going to go.

16
17 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I think we've
18 gone through all of the presentation procedures and we
19 are down to Council motion and recommendation if
20 there's a Council member who would like to make a
21 motion for action on this. If you want to take a quick
22 break and do it or if someone is ready to make a motion
23 now, we're at that point. Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think they're ready
26 for a motion.

27
28 MS. BURKE: I'm so sorry. One more
29 comment. I'll go through that quickly. My apology,
30 Mr. Chair. I almost forgot. We had a written public
31 comment from the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working
32 Group. That comment can be found on Page 38 of the
33 meeting materials.

34
35 The Working Group is in support of this
36 proposed regulation change to position a caribou, wolf
37 or wolverine for harvest provided the animals are not
38 shot from a moving snowmachine. These proposed
39 regulation changes would be consistent with State of
40 Alaska regulation that went into effect on July 1, 2014
41 on State managed lands.

42
43 The Working Group does not believe that
44 this regulation change would affect the abundance or
45 population trend of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.
46 This change would accommodate local hunting practices
47 that have been used since snowmachines first arrived in
48 GMU 23 and addresses the need for rural subsistence
49 users to be able to use the most efficient method to
50 take wild resources important for their livelihood,

1 particularly with consideration to the high price of
2 food and fuel in Northwest Alaska.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Melinda.
7 Okay. On this here, you guys want to talk or do you
8 just want to put it in motion form. Go ahead, Enoch.

9

10 MR. MITCHELL: Earlier I heard on one
11 of the comments that the lady -- as a question and a
12 comment I'd say what about foxes. I know we hunt
13 everything, not only caribou, wolf or wolverine. We
14 want foxes, bears, sheep, moose, beaver, mink. What
15 about all those animals? We hunt, we use snowmachine
16 all the time.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You could answer.

19

20 MS. ATKINSON: Hi. I wanted to clarify
21 that the Cape Krusenstern SRC did want to -- they
22 suggested to add foxes, so you heard correctly. Also
23 that it was brought up whether to add bears to the
24 proposal or not and the council decided -- the members
25 present decided that they didn't want to support bears
26 in that regulation. They didn't want to suggest that
27 change.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.
30 That answers you, Enoch? Okay. Back to this proposal.
31 Go ahead, Enoch.

32

33 MR. MITCHELL: Why take bears off? In
34 the springtime hunt bears with snowmachine. Without
35 snowmachine it's going to be dangerous. We don't hunt
36 only caribou, wolf or wolverine by snowmachine. We
37 hunt everything. We go fishing and everything. We
38 still hunt sheep, foxes, mink, everything. I mean
39 there's nothing we don't hunt without that snowmachine
40 when we go out wintertime. We hunt everything.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. So
43 you want to add the word bears into this proposal. Go
44 ahead, Kramer.

45

46 MR. KRAMER: What I'm about to do is
47 I'm about ready to make a proposal to support this with
48 amendments to adding furbearers, moose, sheep, to
49 animals that we've always hunted before, not to harass,
50 herd, such. That way we're protecting the people that

1 harvest these animals. So I'm hereby making a motion
2 to support with the amendment of adding bear, sheep,
3 moose and furbearers to this proposal.

4

5 MR. BALLOT: Second.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Percy seconded it.
8 I'll call for question on this.

9

10 MS. LOON: Question.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: All in favor for this
13 proposal signify by saying aye.

14

15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16

17 (No opposing votes)

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And I am tired.
20 Anything else we've got to go through, Melinda.

21

22 MS. BURKE: No, Mr. Chair. I think the
23 Council has done some really good work today. I think
24 we've got a good chance of getting done a little early
25 tomorrow. We will be able to meet in this room
26 tomorrow. We were going to change locations, but I
27 think it's going to be easier on everyone if we just go
28 ahead and meet here in the room.

29

30 There is an event that's taking place
31 tonight, the KOTZ fundraiser, so this room will be
32 being used a little bit later. I just wanted to give
33 the folks who are lodging here at the school a heads
34 up. The teachers have left their classrooms open so we
35 can spread out a little if there's anyone who'd like to
36 go to bed early. I know there will be folks in here
37 singing until about 10:00 p.m. So just a heads up on
38 that. So we will meet in this room tomorrow.

39

40 Thanks to the kids at lunchtime who
41 provided our meal for us. I think the tribe is cooking
42 dinner for us tonight. Dinner plans will be pending.
43 I'm sure we will figure something out. So thanks
44 everybody for a good day's work and we will resume
45 tomorrow in this room at 8:30.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.

50

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(Off record)

(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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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 2 through 145 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 6th day of October 2015 at Buckland, 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 23rd day of October 2015.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18