

1 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD  
2  
3 PUBLIC REGULATORY MEETING  
4

5  
6 VOLUME I  
7

8  
9 EGAN Convention Center  
10 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA  
11

12 April 12, 2016  
13 1:30 o'clock p.m.  
14

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16  
17  
18  
19 MEMBERS PRESENT:  
20

21 Tim Towarak, Chairman  
22 Charles Brower  
23 Anthony Christianson  
24 Bud Cribley, Bureau of Land Management  
25 Karen Clark, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
26 Bert Frost, National Park Service  
27 Bruce Loudermilk, Bureau of Indian Affairs  
28 Beth Pendleton, U.S. Forest Service  
29

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31  
32 Ken Lord, Solicitor's Office  
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42 Recorded and transcribed by:  
43 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC  
44 135 Christensen Drive, Second Floor  
45 Anchorage, AK 99501  
46 907-243-0668; sahile@gci.net

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 4/12/2016)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Good afternoon. I'd like to call the Federal Subsistence Board meeting to order. We have an agenda in front of us. We had a consultation meeting this morning and we'll be addressing that in a few minutes but we're going to go with Item 1, the -- I'm sorry, we'll have everybody introduce themselves and we'll start with the Board members on our right side and work our way down to the left.

MS. PENDLETON: Good afternoon. My name is Beth Pendleton. I'm the Regional Forester for the USDA Forest Service located in Juneau and have responsibilities for our National Forest. In Southeast Alaska, the Tongass, and the Chugach National Forest in Southcentral.

MR. LOUDERMILK: Good afternoon. My name is Bruce Loudermilk. I'm the Regional Director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska Region, located here in Anchorage, Alaska.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Good afternoon. I'm Anthony Christianson. I'm the Federal rural Board member.

MR. LORD: Good afternoon. My name is Ken Lord. I'm with the Office of the Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: And I'm Tim Towarak, I'm the Chairman of the Board from Unalakleet.

MR. PELTOLA: Good afternoon, all. Gene Peltola, Jr. I'm not a Board member, but I'm the assistant Regional Director for the Office of Subsistence Management.

MS. CLARK: Good afternoon. My name is Karen Clark with the US Fish and Wildlife Service here in Alaska. I'm the acting Regional Director.

MR. FROST: Good afternoon. My name's Bert Frost. I'm the Regional Director for the National

1 Park Service for the Alaska region.  
2  
3 MR. CRIBLEY: Last, but not least, I'm  
4 Bud Cribley. State Director for the Bureau of Land  
5 Management. And I note with the departure of Geoff  
6 Haskett, I am now the Senior Federal Board member,  
7 which is pretty scary.  
8  
9 (Laughter)  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: And that's not  
12 because of your age.  
13  
14 (Laughter)  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: We do have one more  
17 Board member, I think he's -- Charlie. We'll have him  
18 introduce himself when he gets back.  
19  
20 The next item on the agenda is the  
21 review and adoption of the agenda.  
22  
23 Yeah, and I'd like to have the RAC  
24 Board members Chairmen introduce themselves starting  
25 with you, Mr. Wilde.  
26  
27 MR. L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
28 My name is Lester Wilde from Hooper Bay. The RAC  
29 Chair for YK.  
30  
31 MS. ENTSMINGER: My name is Sue  
32 Entsminger. The RAC Chair for Eastern Interior from  
33 Mentasta Pass.  
34  
35 MR. COLLINS: I'm the Co-Chair of the  
36 Western Interior RAC and I'm from McGrath.  
37  
38 MR. BANGS: Hello. My name's Michael  
39 Bangs. I live in Petersburg, and I Chair the Southeast  
40 RAC.  
41  
42 MR. H. BROWER: Good afternoon, Mr.  
43 Chair. Federal Subsistence Board. My name is Harry  
44 Brower, Jr., and I'm Chair of the North Slope Regional  
45 Advisory Council.  
46  
47 MR. SIMEONOFF: Good afternoon. I'm  
48 Speridon Simeonoff. Chairman of the Kodiak/Aleutians.  
49  
50 MR. SHIEDT: Afternoon all. Attamuk.

1 Enoch Shiedt. Northwest Arctic Co-Chair.

2

3 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Good afternoon. Molly  
4 Chythlook. Originally from Aleknagik, but residing in  
5 Dillingham, and I Chair the Bristol Bay RAC.

6

7 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: And we'd also like  
8 to introduce the State Staff that are here.

9

10 MS. KLEIN: Good afternoon. My name is  
11 Jill Klein. I'm a special assistant to Commissioner  
12 Sam Cotten at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

13

14 MS. OLSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Lisa  
15 Olson, I'm the Deputy Director of Division of  
16 Subsistence for Department of Fish and Game.

17

18 MR. BUTLER: Lem Butler, Assistant  
19 Director for the Division of Wildlife Conservation.

20

21 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Welcome  
22 to the meeting, everyone.

23

24 There's a number of additions that we  
25 would like to add to the agenda before we approve it.

26

27 No. 1 is we've got Wildlife Proposal  
28 16-15 is going to be added to the consensus agenda.

29

30 WP16-21 remains on the non-consensus  
31 agenda following the All Council meeting.

32

33 WP16-07 is not added to the agenda as  
34 the SERAC indicating because of State support, Proposal  
35 16-07 as written and opposes OSM's modifications.

36

37 No. 4, we're going to -- it's  
38 designated communications person, Deborah Coble, with  
39 Stewart as backup.

40

41 Item 5 is Wildlife Proposal 16-13 and  
42 16-22, both proposals, if approved by the Board would  
43 implement a joint State/Federal permit.

44

45 No. 6, is -- okay, we're going to do  
46 No. 7. The State MOU, brief one of the public members  
47 to make a motion, we'll take care of that later.

48

49 But WP16-19, clarification will be  
50 needed given by Mr. Lord on the record regarding the

1 need to remove the cultural permit from regulations  
2 regarding the cultural education permit in place this  
3 -- Southcentral RAC recommended that the permit stay in  
4 regulation.

5  
6 Other changes on the agenda that needs  
7 to be made is Chris McKee, Wildlife Division would like  
8 to move the caribou proposals WP16-37 and others to a  
9 single group and start on them at the beginning of Day  
10 2, which is tomorrow. These -- that way everyone will  
11 be fresh to tackle the complex issue and we'll have the  
12 morning -- we'll start right at the morning tomorrow at  
13 8:30.

14  
15 Since the Southcentral RAC Chair will  
16 not be able to be at the meeting until April 13th,  
17 we're going to do the Southcentral proposals on the  
18 non-consensus agenda when he is present, which will be  
19 on Monday -- on Wednesday.

20  
21 And then our dancers will be having a  
22 performance at 1:30 on April 13th, which is Wednesday.

23  
24 We also will be adding WSA16-01  
25 requesting the closure of Federal lands on Unit 23 to  
26 non-Federally-qualified users.

27  
28 Makhnati, Kenai, and Kasilof RFR  
29 updates will be given by Stewart Cogswell and Jennifer  
30 Hardin.

31  
32 Presentation of the US Fish and  
33 Wildlife Service letter regarding the Kuskokwim  
34 Partnership, and that will be given by Trevor, from the  
35 Staff.

36  
37 Presentation of letter from the State  
38 regarding the MOU and Board action request will be  
39 brought up.

40  
41 I'd also like to add No. 5, there's a  
42 good possibility that this meeting would continue on  
43 through Thursday but I am scheduled to leave at 10:00  
44 o'clock in the morning on Thursday and I have to check  
45 in at 8:00 in the morning so I'm probably not going to  
46 be here on Thursday. I tried to rearrange my flight  
47 but I can't and I would like the Board, at the end of  
48 this meeting today to pass a motion and appoint someone  
49 as a Vice-Chair so that you could take over the meeting  
50 if I'm not here on Thursday. But my intent, if it

1 works, is to be done by Wednesday evening, and then  
2 that would eliminate the need immediately for one, but  
3 I think we should be prepared to have someone to sit in  
4 my place. I've been fortunate that I've been able to  
5 attend every meeting that has been called so far and --  
6 but I can't rely on that kind of luck too long. So I'd  
7 feel more comfortable with a Vice-Chairman.

8

9 Are there any other agenda topics that  
10 people would like to add.

11

(No comments)

12

13  
14 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If not, the floor is  
15 open for a motion to adopt the agenda as revised.

16

17 MS. PENDLETON: Motion that we adopt  
18 the agenda.

19

20 MR. C. BROWER: So moved.

21

22 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: You heard the motion  
23 and the second. Any discussion on the motion.

24

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Not hearing any, all  
29 those in favor of the motion say aye.

30

31 OPERATOR: We do have a question on  
32 line.

33

34 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: I'm sorry, go ahead.

35

36 OPERATOR: We have a question on the  
37 phone line from Jack Reakoff. You may go ahead with  
38 your question.

39

40 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead, Mr.  
41 Reakoff.

42

43 MR. REAKOFF: I just wanted -- in the  
44 introductions, I was just letting you know I was on the  
45 phone here. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: I'm sorry, I failed  
48 to recognize those on line. Thank you, Jack, for  
49 attending the meeting.

50

1                   There's a motion on the floor -- no,  
2 we've already adopted the agenda.

3  
4                   Item No. 3 is information sharing. The  
5 floor is open for any information.

6  
7                   (Pause)

8  
9                   CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: I knew there was  
10 something hanging in the air. We had a motion to  
11 approve the agenda, all those in favor of the motion  
12 say aye.

13  
14                   IN UNISON: Aye.

15  
16                   CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any opposed, say  
17 nay.

18  
19                   (No opposing votes)

20  
21                   CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Motion passes  
22 unanimously. Our agenda is adopted.

23  
24                   We will then go into information  
25 sharing. The floor is open for any Board members or  
26 RAC Chairs to -- for general information.

27  
28                   MS. PENDLETON: Mr. Chairman.

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead, Beth.

31  
32                   MS. PENDLETON: Mr. Chairman. The  
33 Board. The RAC. Just a couple of updates from the  
34 Forest Service. We do have a few additions to the  
35 team, subsistence team, and I'd like to call those  
36 folks out.

37  
38                   On the Chugach National Forest we've  
39 recently hired Dave Pearson. He's based out of Moose  
40 Pass. He is a fisheries technician in our fisheries  
41 habitat program, formerly, he's now going to be working  
42 six months each year on the subsistence program on the  
43 Chugach National Forest. David's duties include  
44 providing fisheries input into the Chugach Subsistence  
45 Program and entering harvest reports and issuing  
46 permits. We're really excited to have him on board.

47  
48                   And then on the Tongass, we've recently  
49 hired two fisheries biologists, Jacob Musslewhite, who  
50 is based out of Juneau, is a full-time fisheries

1 biologist in our subsistence program. Jacob will be  
2 primarily working and supporting Ben VanAlen with  
3 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Projects across Southeast  
4 Alaska. And then he has actively been working on the  
5 Neva, Kook and Sitkho Lake projects.

6

7 And then we've also hired Robert Cross,  
8 last year, fisheries biologist in our subsistence  
9 program. And Rob is based out of Sitka and will  
10 primarily be helping Justin Koehler with our Fisheries  
11 Resource Monitoring Projects and is the project leader  
12 at Falls Lake.

13

14 And then I also wanted to call out, we  
15 have a student here from University of Alaska,  
16 Southeast, Heather Bosher. Heather would you stand up.  
17 It's great to have Heather here, she's a student who's  
18 enrolled in the fisheries and wildlife policy class  
19 that is instructed by Jan Straley at the University of  
20 Alaska Southeast. Heather lives in Sitka and she works  
21 a good chunk of the year with the USDA Animal Plant and  
22 Health Inspection Service in the Wildlife Service's  
23 Program at the Sitka Airport keeping animals and  
24 airplanes from interacting. So it's great to have  
25 Heather here to observe and to interact with the Board  
26 this week.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you for that  
31 report. Any other general information.

32

33 Go ahead, Mr. Bangs.

34

35 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
36 was under the impression that we might have a chance to  
37 have an All Chairs meeting after the Board adjourns, is  
38 that right or I was wondering if you could clarify that  
39 for me.

40

41 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead, Chuck  
42 [sic].

43

44 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, for the record,  
45 Carl Johnson, OSM. Through the Chair, yes, Mr. Bangs,  
46 we'll be having at the conclusion of this meeting,  
47 which I suspect probably will be Thursday, just by the  
48 Chair's optimism, we'll have an All Chairs meeting and  
49 we have some materials prepared for that.

50



1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 MR. BANGS: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you, Carl.

6

7 Not seeing any other hands raised for  
8 information sharing, we're going to continue on then  
9 with Board discussion on Council topics with the  
10 Regional Advisory Council Chairs or their designees.

11

12 Our intent is to take care of the non-  
13 controversial discussions today and start the day with  
14 Item No. 6, 2016 through 2018 subparts C and D  
15 proposals, wildlife regulations. We will review the  
16 tribal and ANCSA Corporation consulting summary as the  
17 last thing today.

18

19 Are there any Board members -- or  
20 Council Chairs that would like to discuss any of the  
21 regulations coming up.

22

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: I think we will have  
27 ample time tomorrow to address each of the proposals  
28 that have been brought forward.

29

30 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead, Mr.  
33 Brower.

34

35 MR. H. BROWER: Yes, thank you, Mr.  
36 Chair. Harry Brower for the record.

37

38 Just a concern I had voiced during our  
39 joint Council meeting, there is a proposed regulation  
40 regarding baiting of bears and then there's a second  
41 portion to that proposal, was taking items from  
42 National Parks for traditional use, arts and crafts and  
43 then they were combined to one proposed regulation  
44 change and I had asked for a clarification, if that was  
45 something that was consistent with the practice of the  
46 Board to take action on two separate items under one  
47 proposal. I asked Mr. Ken Lord about that when I first  
48 learned about it, but he needed to have some followup  
49 on that and I've not had a response to that question.

50

1 Mr. Chair.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Ken, do you have an  
4 explanation?  
5  
6 MR. LORD: I do not. Mr. Brower, are  
7 you talking about the Park Service proposed regulation?  
8  
9 MR. H. BROWER: Yes, it is.  
10  
11 MR. LORD: That's not something I'm  
12 prepared to speak to at this meeting, unfortunately.  
13 Probably should leave that for another time, I  
14 apologize.  
15  
16 MR. H. BROWER: Thank you. Thank you,  
17 Mr. Chair.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Ms. Entsminger.  
20  
21 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I just wanted to  
22 bring up a concern from my region.  
23  
24 On the -- these proposed rules done by  
25 the government and all the agencies. They come out  
26 very negatively to the user, and, particularly, when,  
27 for instance, the Park Service put out a proposed rule,  
28 something that in our region we worked on for eight to  
29 10 years, the collection of horn and antlers, to be  
30 able to pick it up and do something with it, and then  
31 this definition of bear bait got put in without an EA.  
32 It's a big, big concern and I just thought I would  
33 bring it out here at this meeting. We have a  
34 Subsistence Resource Commission for the Wrangell Park  
35 and it affects us deeply and so it's a really big  
36 concern when things like this happen.  
37  
38 I just wanted to let you know.  
39  
40 Thank you.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: I assume that our  
43 Staff are discussing -- do we have an answer for this  
44 concern.  
45  
46 (Pause)  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Ken.  
49  
50 MR. LORD: Sue, thank you for the

1 comment. We are well aware that it's a concern to the  
2 RACs, to the subsistence users and we're trying to work  
3 through with the agencies and within this program, how  
4 to draw the line between what's appropriate for the  
5 agency to be taking with regard to subsistence and  
6 what's appropriate for this Board but we don't have a  
7 good clear answer yet.

8

9 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Mr. Bangs, go ahead.

10

11 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
12 was wondering if I could speak to some topics that are  
13 outside of the proposal realm that we spoke to each  
14 other at the All Council meeting, that many of you  
15 weren't attending. I was just wondering if we were  
16 going to have an opportunity to address Council issues  
17 other than proposals.

18

19 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Gene.

20

21 MR. PELTOLA: Through the Chair. Mr.  
22 Bangs. If even though it may not be a particular  
23 proposal issue, this segment is Board discussion of  
24 Council topics with Regional Advisory Council Chairs  
25 and their designees, so it would be appropriate for you  
26 to mention those, bring those up at this time.

27

28 MR. BANGS: Thank you very much. At  
29 that All Council meeting that we had last month, I  
30 brought up some topics that I felt were important to,  
31 not only our Council, but some of the other Councils in  
32 the state. One of them was just a comment on the  
33 meeting of the Chairs and how I thought it was very  
34 useful for us, or at least for me, to understand some  
35 of the other regions problems that we could share  
36 things amongst us and come up with ideas that may help  
37 other Councils. And I just wanted to say that I  
38 appreciate the opportunity to meet with the other  
39 Chairs.

40

41 And another topic that we, most all of  
42 us talked about, was engaging the youth into this  
43 program somehow. And we came up with some ideas about  
44 maybe having -- encouraging more students possibly to  
45 come at our meetings in the region, use the government  
46 class in the high school, just different ways that we  
47 could bring the youth into the program. We even talked  
48 about having possibly a high school seat on the  
49 Councils, so we weren't sure about funding. But that  
50 was another issue that we brought up.

1                   And one of the problems, I think, we  
2 all share, I know we've had several problems with  
3 correspondence to the Federal Board, and other Federal  
4 agencies, taking long -- much longer than it seems  
5 necessary, to us, that we're not getting our letters to  
6 the Board quick enough or they get lost or whatever,  
7 but that's an issue; how can we better correspond with  
8 each other.

9  
10                   Another problem that I think we all are  
11 facing is budget cuts and that comes up at every  
12 meeting we have, how can we figure out ways to deal  
13 with less money and get the same thing accomplished.

14  
15                   Other issues, which I know most of the  
16 Councils are faced with is bycatch issues of salmon and  
17 halibut in the North Pacific and Bering Sea. And this  
18 comes up again and again for the last several years,  
19 it's a very important topic, and I hope the Board can  
20 help us come up with a solution to help mitigate that a  
21 little bit and come up with more interaction with these  
22 other Federal agencies.

23  
24                   We also talked about more  
25 representation on the North Pacific Marine Fisheries  
26 Council to have our voice heard a little bit more than  
27 it is now. A lot of times it goes into the Treaty,  
28 too, with Canada, salmon, we think subsistence needs a  
29 stronger voice. And if we can get any help from the  
30 Board to encourage them to listen to us it would be a  
31 big help, I think.

32  
33                   And the other issue, which I know  
34 Kodiak is having trouble with, too, and that's the  
35 growing population of sea otters. We're losing a lot  
36 of our subsistence foods, and I think that -- it  
37 doesn't seem like there's much we can do about it, but  
38 we should try to come up with some solutions to helping  
39 encourage harvest and try to have some way to control  
40 them a little bit. But the Federal government is not  
41 managing sea otters and they're the ones that are  
42 supposed to be managing them.

43  
44                   But, anyway, that was just some of the  
45 topics that I felt was kind of universal throughout the  
46 state and other regions having similar problems as we  
47 do in Southeast.

48  
49                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Okay. On your  
2 concern about the bycatch issues, I'm going to request  
3 that we have someone from the North Pacific Council  
4 address this Board with their current plans on the  
5 bycatch. We've heard some from some of the Staff that  
6 have attended some of the North Pacific Fisheries  
7 Management Council meetings on their plans, but I think  
8 if we had one -- you know, if the Chairman of the North  
9 Pacific Fisheries Management Council could be in  
10 attendance with our meeting to explain their current  
11 process, I think that would be a good way for us to be  
12 updated on where they're at with the bycatch issue.

13  
14                   With regards to the All Chairs meeting,  
15 there was a short discussion at the meeting where  
16 everyone appreciated getting together and I'm assuming  
17 that the Staff got the message that hopefully that's  
18 going to happen more often. You know, I don't know if  
19 it'll be yearly, it could be every other year or so,  
20 but my understanding is that it's being taken a look at  
21 on how we could get the All RAC meetings done annually.  
22 It's an expensive proposition but I think it's probably  
23 worthwhile.

24  
25                   Does that answer your question or.....

26  
27                   MR. BANGS; Thank you, Mr. Chair. More  
28 so just wanted to put those ideas and thoughts that our  
29 Council had spoke about over the last several years,  
30 and most of them were addressed in our annual reports,  
31 but I just wanted to bring it out. This is something I  
32 spoke about at the All Council meeting we had and I  
33 just wanted to make sure that the Board members that  
34 weren't in attendance knew some of our concerns.

35  
36                   Thank you.

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you.

39  
40                   MR. LORD: Mr. Chair, thanks. I just  
41 wanted to speak to Mr. Bangs final point about the sea  
42 otters in Southeast Alaska and in Kodiak, becoming a  
43 nuisance population. The reason that that's a problem  
44 is the Marine Mammal Protection Act includes lots of  
45 provisions for protecting marine mammals, but in my  
46 opinion, one of its shortcomings is that it doesn't  
47 provide for what happens when the population becomes a  
48 nuisance. There's no mechanism to allow for the takes  
49 of sea otters under those circumstances. And so it  
50 really cries out for a congressional solution, and it

1 might be something that maybe somebody in this room  
2 might want to try to pursue at some point.

3

4 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Molly, you had a  
5 comment and then Mr. Collins from McGrath.

6

7 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
8 I just have a comment. I didn't know that we were  
9 having an All Chairs session after this Federal  
10 Subsistence Board. My recommendation after this is to  
11 have an All Chairs session even before the Federal  
12 Subsistence Board to -- so that -- maybe it's just me,  
13 so that we would be updated and informed of, you know,  
14 the -- especially when we're going to be dealing with  
15 the proposals, at least, you know, educate us on what  
16 we need to do, what to expect from our agenda. You  
17 just had a -- on the agenda, Board discussion of  
18 Councils, you know, if -- if we want the Regional  
19 Boards to be effective and come out with suggestions,  
20 which we all need to do, is to have an All RAC Chairs  
21 to attend before this session happens. And I think  
22 that -- the Regional Chairs would be more in-tune and  
23 effective and be able to input on our agendas here.

24

25 And then another item that I would like  
26 to discuss, and I didn't really notice this until our  
27 All Region meeting last month, you know, our RAC  
28 members, we're spread out to all different regions and  
29 a majority of our RACs are volunteers and they come  
30 down here, you know, when -- they're brought down here  
31 because -- you know their fares are paid, but when they  
32 get here and they don't get per diem because they got  
33 overpaid or something happened, you know, it's not fair  
34 for, you know, some of the Board members to ask some  
35 other Board members, you know, for money to even eat.  
36 So I think my suggestion is going to be that at our  
37 next round of RAC meetings that we have an  
38 informational workshop regarding RAC per diem system,  
39 and if whoever is in charge of the per diem system, let  
40 the representatives, let the people that are going to  
41 be attending from the RACs to know that, no, you're not  
42 going to get a per diem because we overpaid you so  
43 that, you know, they could be prepared when they get  
44 here to have some, you know, money for eating and what  
45 not.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. In  
50 looking at our schedule, we had a brief explanation

1 yesterday, those of us that represent rural  
2 communities, and maybe we could ask the Staff to come  
3 up here and give, maybe a five minute or 10 minute  
4 briefing of how we will conduct the meeting tomorrow.  
5 That will give you an idea what to expect in the next  
6 day or so.

7  
8 And with regard to the joint -- the  
9 RACs Chair, rather than having your meeting at the end  
10 of our meeting, and usually by the time we end our  
11 meeting we're pretty tired, I would suggest maybe after  
12 today's meeting might be a better time to get you guys  
13 together so that you could address your concerns in the  
14 next day or so and get together prior to our meetings  
15 tomorrow.

16  
17 So is there a problem with that, or  
18 would that work with the Staff.

19  
20 Carl.

21  
22 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
23 And, I'll, of course, invite Mr. Lord to offer his  
24 opinion as well. The reason why we -- the All Chairs  
25 meeting, the desire of the Chairs is just to have a  
26 meeting among the Chairs and Staff and in order to  
27 avoid any FACA problems and have it be a closed  
28 meeting, we need to avoid any regulatory discussions.  
29 And the only way we can ensure that we will avoid a  
30 prohibited topic like how the Councils will -- what  
31 their opinions are and how the Board will vote is to  
32 have those discussions after the Board's meeting is  
33 completed, because it's -- it would make it very  
34 difficult for Staff to keep steering Chairs away from  
35 any discussions that could potentially run afoul of the  
36 Federal Advisory Committee Act.

37  
38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Could we ask the  
41 Staff to come up here and briefly walk us through what  
42 process we will go through tomorrow.

43  
44 (Pause)

45  
46 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead.

47  
48 MR. MCKEE: Mr. Chair. For the record  
49 I'm Chris McKee, the Wildlife Division Chief.  
50

1                   In terms of -- the main reason for my  
2 Staff being here is to go over the non-consensus agenda  
3 items to discuss -- for us to give you our analysis on  
4 the proposals under discussion and to have Board  
5 deliberation and interaction with the Chairs on those  
6 regulatory proposals. So, you know, we've discussed  
7 how we would like to kind of rearrange some of those  
8 agenda items, namely discussing the large caribou  
9 proposals first of all. But that's really the only  
10 concerns that we had as a division in terms of how we  
11 would conduct the meeting, but our main purpose, at  
12 least from my perspective, is to make sure that we act  
13 on all those proposals, and part of that involves  
14 interaction with the Chairs and how the Councils came  
15 down on those proposals.

16

17                   So in terms of how we're conducting  
18 them, it's really just a matter of going through all  
19 those agenda items, but that's -- from our perspective  
20 that's the most important thing. So in my mind it's to  
21 try to get through these proposals in a good time with  
22 enough time for deliberation and for the Board, in  
23 particular, to put its rationale on the record for how  
24 they make their decisions.

25

26                   Mr. Chair.

27

28                   CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Are there any  
29 questions of the Staff on the process.

30

31                   (No comments)

32

33                   CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Does that address  
34 your concerns, Molly.

35

36                   MS. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, that does cover  
37 my main -- I knew about, you know, not getting into  
38 regulator processes at our All RAC -- or All Chair  
39 meeting. My main concern was to, you know, have our  
40 RAC Chairs get together and just familiarize us with --  
41 because some of us are new and it takes -- you know it  
42 doesn't take overnight to learn this process. My main,  
43 I guess, concern was to if we're going to have All RAC,  
44 let's have it before the Federal Subsistence Board so  
45 that we could get familiarized with even just as simple  
46 as the agenda and not go into regulatory processes and  
47 how we would be directed to vote on any of the  
48 proposals.

49

50                   Thank you.



1 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Yes, Mr. Collins.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: On January 8th, 2016 in  
4 the Federal Register the Fish and Wildlife Service  
5 proposed a statewide regulatory change dealing with  
6 wolf harvest as a proposed rule, and I'm wondering if  
7 this is an appropriate time, I'd like to speak to that.  
8 But is this an appropriate time to speak to that or  
9 when would be a good time because it seems incompatible  
10 with ANILCA.

11

12 (Pause)

13

14 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Personally I think  
15 it's the appropriate time, it's as good a time now as  
16 any.

17

18 MR. COLLINS; Thank you. The Wildlife  
19 Refuges that were created under ANILCA are unique among  
20 the wildlife refuges in the United States. And one of  
21 the purposes was to provide for subsistence  
22 opportunities for rural residents, and this was to make  
23 up for the ANCSA, which only dealt with land, and many  
24 rural communities depend on these Refuges for  
25 subsistence resources. In order to do this wolf  
26 harvest must be one of the management tools for  
27 science-based management. Natural diversity may be  
28 appropriate for National Parks, but it will, over time,  
29 result in a population, fall of a population. We've  
30 seen that around the state. I know we experienced that  
31 in McGrath, we weren't getting any calf survival  
32 because of the predators taking so many of the calves.  
33 We saw that in the caribou herd out on the chain  
34 because there was not sufficient harvest of wolves,  
35 that population was at a low and it would have stayed  
36 there if the State hadn't stepped in and taken some  
37 wolves on the calving area and that turned it around  
38 and the herd started growing again.

39

40 And Senator Stevens made his comments  
41 in the Federal Register, you can check on this, I don't  
42 have the citation, but in there he said; this does not  
43 preclude predator management in ANILCA, when  
44 appropriate. And I think that it is appropriate when  
45 you have a falling population due to poor calf  
46 survival, there could be something that would trigger  
47 it. And it's inappropriate, I think, for coming out  
48 with a ruling and saying that there will be none until  
49 it gets at an extreme low, then you will cut off  
50 subsistence hunters and they don't have the resources

1 to harvest out there. And that's where I think it's  
2 incompatible with ANILCA, which says that you're to  
3 maintain healthy wildlife populations so that it'll  
4 provide for subsistence.

5  
6 So that's my comments to that. And we  
7 could go into more detail, but, there needs to be  
8 something that would trigger, and I think that that  
9 proposed rule is completely in appropriate with ANILCA.

10  
11 That's my comment.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. That was  
14 one observation that I made when I first came on. I  
15 didn't realize that this Board has really no capacity  
16 to address predator control and it's handled by the  
17 agencies. Is there a better explanation, anyone, any  
18 thoughts from the rest of the Board.

19  
20  
21 (No comments)

22  
23 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: My understanding is  
24 it's in regulation and that we don't have any authority  
25 -- or we don't have the ability to change that and I  
26 think it would involve changing ANILCA. But I'm  
27 searching for a discussion to find an answer for you.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Anyone.

32  
33 MR. LORD: Mr. Chair. Actually it was  
34 set out as part of the NEPA process when this program  
35 was established in the environmental assessment that  
36 was done, the decision was made at the Secretarial  
37 level that this program would not do predator control,  
38 but that it would be left to the discretion of the  
39 individual land managing agencies. So to change it, we  
40 would have to go back and -- with Secretarial  
41 permission, revisit and conduct a new, or at least a  
42 supplemental environmental impact assessment -- or  
43 environmental assessment, excuse me. It would be a  
44 long process, it's not impossible, but for now that  
45 authority rests with the agencies, not with the Board.

46  
47 MR. COLLINS: But what about Senator  
48 Stevens' comments in the Register at the time it was  
49 passed, that was in the Congressional Record that he  
50 stated that that would be something that -- it wasn't

1 something that -- it wasn't precluded by ANILCA he  
2 said, that it would be implemented when warranted.

3  
4 MR. LORD: Right. The question is not  
5 whether or not it could be implemented, it could be  
6 implemented, but right now the authority to implement  
7 it lies with individual agencies, not with this Board,  
8 so it's who can implement, not whether or not it's  
9 possible.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: My understanding is  
12 that the only other way that it could be done is to  
13 have the State manage fish and wildlife services for  
14 the whole state rather than separating the Federal and  
15 the State of Alaska management, but that's an issue  
16 that's been brought to the State and we haven't seen  
17 any movement on it. I know that the State Board  
18 process, the Board of Game, especially, has predator  
19 control a lot more so than we do and that's -- in my  
20 mind that's the only other solution that would address  
21 your concern.

22  
23 Ms. Entsminger.

24  
25 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I just want to  
26 -- it's a concern that the people have here. And I  
27 think the word predator control is not really what he's  
28 saying, he's saying, he's saying about management and  
29 we get ourselves wrapped around that all the time and  
30 it's all a matter of who's hearing it and what they  
31 think it says. And I don't think we should confuse  
32 that all the time, I think we should be more concerned  
33 about -- even if the State had management and you're  
34 telling us that each agency has their own whatever,  
35 policies and things.

36  
37 It's like it's -- it just doesn't seem  
38 like it's working well. It seems like it's a battle  
39 and I guess it comes down to the users in the field are  
40 the ones that are losing. Because they have two sets  
41 of regulations, the State regulations and the Federal  
42 regulations and it's very difficult to deal with these  
43 differing regulations all the time and to see that each  
44 agency could do something different and we have to  
45 watch what each agency's doing, it gets so cumbersome  
46 and so frustrating for people and I think you got --  
47 the Federal agencies need to know how difficult that is  
48 for the people that live out there.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: That kind of leaves

1 us at a standstill, you know, at this point we can't do  
2 anything with that issue.

3

4                   Go ahead, Mr. Frost.

5

6                   MR. FROST: So I think just a point of  
7 clarification. I think that -- and I've said this  
8 before and I'll probably say it again, and I don't want  
9 to throw my friends, the State under the bus, but, you  
10 know, the reason the Park Service did their wildlife  
11 regulation last year and the reason the Fish and  
12 Wildlife Service are currently in their process, is  
13 because we felt that the State process wasn't allowing  
14 us to meet our mission mandates, and they basically put  
15 us in a box. And if the State Board process would have  
16 worked with the Federal agencies and said, okay, we  
17 recognize that managing wildlife on Refuge lands and on  
18 Park lands might be a little bit different than on BLM  
19 lands or State lands, and they would have worked with  
20 us, we would have never gone down -- I can speak for  
21 the Park Service, I think the Fish and Wildlife Service  
22 would agree, that we would have never gone down this  
23 regulatory route, but because we felt that we were sort  
24 of boxed into a very difficult situation and it was  
25 preventing us from meeting our statutory mandates that  
26 we had to go the regulatory route. We did not want to  
27 go there. But as a result of just the circumstances  
28 that we were in we felt we had to do that and that's  
29 why these two regulatory processes have moved forward.

30

31                   We hope that that type of -- that that  
32 wouldn't happen again in the future. I think that  
33 everybody -- as we've gone through the process over the  
34 past couple of years, that everybody recognizes and the  
35 users are keenly aware of the difficulties it makes,  
36 because it does complicate the issues.

37

38                   But, you know, I don't want to blame it  
39 all on the State but it's part of this co-management,  
40 is that, we need to understand and respect each others  
41 mandates, You know the State has this mandate for  
42 sustainable maximum sustained yield, we need to respect  
43 that, but at the same time Fish and Wildlife Service  
44 and the Park Service does not, and we would hope that  
45 they would respect and understand that and work with us  
46 so that as they implement regulations that could effect  
47 Preserve lands, in the case of the Park Service, that  
48 those would be compatible with our mission and our  
49 mandates so that we don't have to have these competing  
50 regulations.

1 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead, Mr.  
2 Brower.

3  
4 MR. H. BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
5 Harry Brower for the record.

6  
7 I think the concern is real, that it's  
8 felt not just in certain areas, but it's -- I can speak  
9 for my region as well, we feel it in different -- the  
10 Gates of the Arctic in the National Wildlife Refuge and  
11 what has occurred over time. There needs to be a  
12 triggering process in terms of when predator control  
13 should be considered by the resource managers or the  
14 land managers. Because I've seen it before, you know,  
15 there's so many predators, we're trying to conduct  
16 subsistence in our area, specifically the Arctic  
17 National Wildlife Refuge, the population kept  
18 dwindling, but -- and we requested for predator control  
19 and the Refuge manager's indicating we can't conduct  
20 predator control, but the population went down so fast  
21 pretty soon there was no more hunt, no more subsistence  
22 hunt and they had to close down the subsistence hunt  
23 for muskox, and the population still dwindled down,  
24 even though the subsistence hunt because of predators  
25 in the Refuge.

26  
27 So that's an example I wanted to share.  
28 And there needs to be some kind of triggering mechanism  
29 established for that and now without that predator  
30 control, the predators continue to take the resource,  
31 pretty soon it's not even available for viewing,  
32 because now they're all gone, gone, basically like  
33 extinct from the area. We were fortunate to find --  
34 learned later that there was a few animals that had  
35 moved across the border into the Canadian Refuge and  
36 occasionally come across the border and move back into  
37 Canada and that's the only remaining muskox population  
38 we see there now.

39  
40 So I agree with the two Chairs on the  
41 other side of the room, Mr. Chair, that if there could  
42 be something up through from your Board -- as the Board  
43 -- the Federal Subsistence Board to consider and  
44 communicate with the Secretaries to identify a process  
45 to pursue in a sense that there may be populations that  
46 could be saved and it's not so -- not being reactive to  
47 a situation where populations decline so fast there's  
48 nothing left to consider.

49  
50 So I wanted to share that, Mr. Chair,

1 I've seen the rippling effects over time with this  
2 process. And there needs to be some means of  
3 communications to initiate or trigger considering the  
4 discussion points of predator control to elevate a  
5 certain species or population of animals to grow, to be  
6 able to sustain, use for subsistence purposes.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. I don't  
11 want to belabor the situation but perhaps we could ask  
12 each of the regions to go back to your Councils and  
13 suggest a solution to the Federal Subsistence Board  
14 and, you know, ask us to followup on such a request.

15

16 I don't know what we could do with it  
17 but that would give us direction to do something. And  
18 I'm assuming that you're saying that we can't just  
19 watch the dissemination of subsistence -- subsistence  
20 game disappear because of predators, and I'm assuming  
21 that what both of you are saying is that you've watched  
22 situations where predators have basically outmaneuvered  
23 subsistence users. So if we could request each of the  
24 RACs to take that home with you and address it and  
25 suggest solutions, not only to this Federal Subsistence  
26 Board but to our Federal Legislators, the Congressmen.

27

28 Either that or we could wait for the  
29 State to change, or take over total management of  
30 wildlife services.

31

32 So I'm assuming that this is where it  
33 should go, is there any objections from the Board on  
34 asking the RACs to tell us what we need to do.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead.

39

40 MR. SHIEDT: I'll reverse the question,  
41 if we do come back with something, is this Board able  
42 to do something about our predators and we're mainly  
43 talking about wolves and bears. Are you, the Board,  
44 able to do what we request to do, we need to go after  
45 the predators.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MR. SHIEDT: You're requesting it and  
50 I'm just reversing it, can you do something about it?

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Anybody.

4

5 MR. PELTOLA: Through the Chair.

6 Enoch, I was wondering if you could repeat that again,

7 sorry about that I was doing something.

8

9 MR. SHIEDT: I just said, reverse the  
10 question, if we do come back and the majority of us  
11 will come back, that we have predators that are hurting  
12 our resources and they're declining in numbers that we  
13 can't live with, are you be able to say, okay, let's go  
14 after the predators, are you going to be able to tell  
15 us to come back and give an answer, yes, you guys could  
16 do it, but how?

17

18 MR. PELTOLA: One thing that I'd like  
19 to reiterate is that the Federal Subsistence Board  
20 policy has been that predator population manipulation  
21 is reserved and addressed by the individual bureaus for  
22 the aforementioned reasons presented by our legal  
23 counsel in addition to the Federal Subsistence Program  
24 is not a land based management agency, we don't have  
25 any lands directly under the Program. So, I mean, the  
26 Regional Advisory Councils can still express opinions  
27 about proposed individual bureau actions but the  
28 Program itself does not have the authority to initiate  
29 a particular action on Federal lands, which may not be  
30 accepted by that management agency.

31

32 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Okay. I'm going to  
33 -- in the interest of time then we will leave it with  
34 the Regional Council's discussion. And I'm assuming  
35 the solution would be some type of change in  
36 regulations, and it possibly would mean Legislation.

37

38 Are there any other discussions from  
39 the Regional Advisory Council Chairs on anything else.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If not then we will  
44 move to No. 5, the public comment period on non-agenda  
45 items. If there's anyone from the public that would  
46 like to address the Board.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Not seeing anyone

1 jump up. I'm assuming that -- and if something comes  
2 up, I am usually -- Mr. Chythlook.

3

4 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Good afternoon, Mr.  
5 Chair and Board. I guess I'm just a guest today and  
6 happy to be able to be here and listen to the  
7 discussion that I heard.

8

9 For the record I'm Joe Chythlook. I'm  
10 a retired Fish and Game employee. Worked for State of  
11 Alaska, Board of Fish, Board of Game program for 21  
12 years so I sat in a lot of meetings such as you had and  
13 listened to concerns of people from all of over the  
14 state. And one thing that I think that -- perhaps  
15 might be something that may be worth considering, and I  
16 don't know if it's within your regulatory powers to do,  
17 but when it comes to predator control, I don't think  
18 that there's a blanket answer for the whole state of  
19 Alaska and predators in different regions. However, I  
20 find from our practice on the Board of Game in the past  
21 that if there's a predator control issue within a given  
22 region, like for instance in our region, in Southwest  
23 Alaska, there was a call for proposals given out to  
24 people to come up with a proposed solution to the  
25 problem. And, of course, that proposal becomes the  
26 property of the Board and it's disseminated out to  
27 everybody for public comment and by the time it gets to  
28 the Board you've had a lot of people, Advisory  
29 Committees in our case, making comment on the  
30 proposals. And so when a Board sits down to deliberate  
31 it's already been pretty much publicized and public  
32 comment has been heard from all the users and it really  
33 works fairly well that way from my experience.

34

35 For example, we had a predator control  
36 issue in Bristol Bay and all the villages within the  
37 given area in 17B and C and I think even into Unit 9  
38 game areas were able to address and come up with a  
39 proposal, I think which is a solution, and reference to  
40 working with the Federal agencies, they have  
41 opportunity to come and make a comment as well, just  
42 like the State does to your Board and have input on how  
43 best to address that. And as a final result, I think  
44 within our area, we do have a good predator control  
45 system.

46

47 And I think perhaps maybe one  
48 suggestion that I would like to make as a -- I guess a  
49 past participant in the public process, that if there's  
50 a certain region that has a concern it would seem like



1 it would be a good thing to focus on, one area at a  
2 time, instead of trying to have a blanket answer to  
3 predator control on Federal lands. I know it's kind of  
4 a sticky issue with all the different agencies that sit  
5 on this Board because of so many different lands  
6 represented by the Federal agencies on different parts  
7 on the State of Alaska, however, I think if there's a  
8 process that becomes part of the -- the Federal RAC and  
9 Federal support system in place, some of the concerns  
10 perhaps have been hard to deal with might be able to be  
11 worked with with all these different agencies, even at  
12 that.

13

14 But, anyway, I just thought I'd lend  
15 my, you know, just my thoughts real quickly without  
16 looking at your regulations and not having been part of  
17 the RAC or anything, however, I do sit on the Nushagak  
18 Fish and Game Advisory Committee as a retired State of  
19 Alaska employee and we do still deal with our own State  
20 Board of Game, Board of Fish issues on the local level.

21

22 And I do really feel for the folks  
23 because the RAC people are still a grassroots people,  
24 of people that are trying to protect subsistence in all  
25 of the state. And often times agencies, Federal or  
26 State have a tendency to override concerns because of  
27 regulations that were passed way far away from where  
28 people live. And it takes a long time for a lot of  
29 local people to come and understand whatever process it  
30 takes in order to be very effective in getting your  
31 point across to people so that an action can be taken  
32 to correct it.

33

34 But, anyway, that's just my thought and  
35 as a public person, I guess, attending today I wanted  
36 to share that information from past experience anyway.  
37 And I think it could be worked -- I noticed the  
38 gentleman over here spoke on you have existing  
39 regulations, whether it's Park, Fish and Wildlife or  
40 whoever you represent, which are in place and enacted  
41 by Congress and empowered when different agencies and  
42 Parks and Fish and Wildlife or even in our case, in  
43 Togiak, National Wildlife Refuges were created, that a  
44 lot of us subsistence users, Alaska Natives, in  
45 particular, had very little input on and I know once we  
46 get into a process our eyes are opened and then once  
47 you get in a process you have a hard time trying to  
48 explain to people that these were acted and are part of  
49 the law and regulations, either Federal or State, and  
50 as residents or citizens of this country we have to

1 abide by them, however, the thing that really bothers  
2 people is that when these were implemented, very little  
3 participation took place prior to them being regulated.  
4 And I suspect that's probably why even to this day on  
5 the subsistence -- State subsistence level, as  
6 mentioned by the Chairman, the residents of the state  
7 of Alaska are having a hard time getting together and  
8 saying, yes, we want the State to have full control of  
9 management of all the resources because even at the --  
10 the State has a hard time working with the Federal  
11 agencies that don't have the same, you know, same, I  
12 guess, mission on how to handle game and fish resources  
13 in our state.

14  
15 But, anyway, not to belabor, Mr. Chair,  
16 but I just thought I'd mention this, I guess, for  
17 information you probably already have.

18  
19 Thank you, very much.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you, Mr.  
22 Chythlook, for your comments. You've got the kind of  
23 background that we need to help us find a solution and  
24 I hope the public understands that.

25  
26 We will then continue on with our  
27 agenda moving on to -- oh, go ahead.

28  
29 MS. STICKWAN: I just wanted to bring  
30 up what Sue said and her concern.

31  
32 The proposed rulemaking process for NPS  
33 to add on bear baiting to subsistence collections and  
34 to say that they did a Section .801 analysis, and that  
35 was done, I think the process should be looked at for  
36 rulemaking and tacking on other things -- other --  
37 tacking on bear baiting onto subsistence collection,  
38 plant collections. I think that, as she said, bypassed  
39 public comment period, they just went ahead and did  
40 this without public input. The Board should look at  
41 that, that's -- I just don't think it's right that they  
42 did this. Each new rulemaking that is done should have  
43 a Section .810 analysis done on it because bear baiting  
44 is allowed, and what they did -- or what they are  
45 proposing is going to affect subsistence uses. It's  
46 going to eliminate people from bear baiting  
47 successfully because the things like popcorn that you  
48 use, grease, those are sources of use to be successful  
49 at getting bears through bear baiting and to remove  
50 this from the regulations is going to have an affect on

1 subsistence uses for people to get bears and to provide  
2 for their families.

3

4                   So I think this process of tacking on  
5 to an existing -- what they did was do was subsistence  
6 collections, and then they tacked on bear baiting to  
7 that, and that should be looked at. You can't tack on  
8 two different rulemakings and say we already did a  
9 process, a Section .810 analysis for that so we don't  
10 need to do it again, each new rulemaking should have  
11 its own .810 Section analysis.

12

13                   CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you for those  
14 comments.

15

16                   Ken, do you have comments.

17

18                   MR. LORD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
19 just wanted to share one observation I've made over the  
20 years. Which is, that often when we've received  
21 proposals for wolves, black bear or brown bear to  
22 change harvest limits, I've often heard that the  
23 existing limits are not being met. People aren't going  
24 out and taking as many wolves or bears as they could  
25 under the existing regulations. And so it occurs to me  
26 that at least a partial solution might be right under  
27 our noses, at least in some areas, if people aren't  
28 already going out and taking what they can, and it  
29 might be something that the RAC Chairs might want to  
30 look at a little more carefully.

31

32                   CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Well, thank you.  
33 We're going to move on, but before we do I think we're  
34 going to take a 10 minute break. It's 11 minutes until  
35 3:00, we will reconvene at 3:00.

36

37                   (Off record)

38

39                   (On record)

40

41                   CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: I'd like to call our  
42 meeting back into session. We just got done with Item  
43 No. 5, the public comments on non-agenda topics, and we  
44 will move into Item No. 6, which is 2016-2018 Subpart C  
45 and D proposals. We will start with Item A, the tribal  
46 and ANCSA consultation summary.

47

48                   Orville, we'll give you the floor.

49

50                   MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Board

1 members. I'm going to give a quick summary of this  
2 morning's consultation, which was, I thought, very good  
3 and I got some great feedback so I guess we're doing  
4 okay.

5  
6 This morning we started off with BBNA,  
7 Gala, and she talked about her representing her tribe  
8 and were in favor of the increased harvest limit for  
9 caribou addressing the wildlife Proposal 25 and 26, and  
10 then 31 and 32.

11  
12 And, folks, let me know if there's  
13 anything that I really missed that you think is really  
14 important. This is just a summary.

15  
16 Also she did mention about, you know,  
17 maybe strong or help in assistance in engaging  
18 communities and villages with the information that we  
19 do outreach with. She also would like to engage the  
20 younger folks in her communities.

21  
22 We heard from Suzanna Henry and she  
23 talked a little bit about the State processes and  
24 talked about the harvest that wasn't really a good  
25 harvest, it was less than expected.

26  
27 We then talked to Mr. Verner Wilson,  
28 III., from BBNA. He was new, he's the new president of  
29 BBNA. He supports the co-management and also talked a  
30 little bit about the outreach efforts and the need to  
31 include everyone that's involved. That it's important  
32 to the tribes for the things to work better.

33  
34 We heard from Mr. Brower, talked about  
35 including tribes and the RAC members to work closer  
36 together in this whole subsistence issues that they're  
37 having out there.

38  
39 We heard from Gloria who talked a  
40 little bit about Paxson and concern that people may ask  
41 to be removed from that, I believe it was the special  
42 action.

43  
44 Enoch talked about the outreach maybe  
45 could go to post offices and the stores, to actually  
46 have a main contact in the communities and that would  
47 improve the outreach effectiveness.

48  
49 Rose talked about supporting 16-01 and  
50 also talked a little bit about how caribou is very

1 important to the communities. She also suggested a  
2 little bit about further communication using local  
3 radios.

4  
5 Molly Chythlook talked a little bit  
6 about the weakness in some of the outreach processes  
7 and that we need to work together to make that  
8 stronger. Working with the RAC Chairs and with the  
9 other corporations, she stated that herself, she's  
10 involved in both the RAC and corporations and there are  
11 many people out there that do the same thing she does,  
12 wearing many hats. And you could have those for  
13 contacts we would go a little further.

14  
15 Myron talked a little bit about the --  
16 he explained that he was thankful for the outreach  
17 efforts and would like to see an increased effort in  
18 meeting with tribes and corporations before Federal  
19 Subsistence Board meetings.

20  
21 Michael Bangs talked about maybe the  
22 materials sent out to -- extensive materials and they  
23 should be sent out to the tribes and they receive a  
24 response from the tribes from that.

25  
26 Mr. Ashenfelter talked a little bit  
27 about missing the tribal consultation process, that can  
28 be corrected by a request letter from the tribe.

29  
30 Mr. Kelly talked about sending members  
31 to the RAC meetings and they would return to the  
32 villages and report. Need to be stronger and also work  
33 closer with the State of Alaska.

34  
35 Mr. Speridon from Kodiak stated that  
36 the information should try to include everyone that's  
37 affected by the proposals and that there should be  
38 communication both ways.

39  
40 Mr. Peltola talked a little bit about  
41 the difference between temporary and special actions.  
42 OSM would agree that Nushagak Planning Committee could  
43 be added to the -- I don't know if I wrote this down  
44 right, a designated letter, is that -- oh, delegation  
45 of authority.

46  
47 And, again, Michael Bangs mentioned  
48 that the RAC Chairs -- encourage everyone to also work  
49 with local folks.

50

1 Stronger effective outreach -- I  
2 mentioned that we are making progress. We're getting  
3 more tribes calling in. We're going to make it better  
4 with their help. And then updating our contact lists  
5 with the help of our partners, tribes, corporations.

6  
7 And that is all I have for the summary  
8 this morning, Mr. Chairman.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you, Orville.

11  
12 Are there any questions from the Board  
13 regarding the tribal consultation process.

14  
15 (No comments)

16  
17 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you, Orville.

18  
19 We will move on to announcement of the  
20 consensus agenda.

21  
22 Gene.

23  
24 MR. PELTOLA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, if I  
25 may.

26  
27 There are a total of 34 proposals,  
28 which could be found on Page 3 to 5 of the meeting  
29 booklet and these have been included on the consensus  
30 agenda. These are proposals for which there is  
31 agreement among Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory  
32 Councils, the Federal InterAgency Staff Committee and  
33 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game concerning Board  
34 action. Anyone may request that the Board remove a  
35 proposal from the consensus agenda and place it on the  
36 regular agenda. The Board retains final authority for  
37 removal of a proposal from the consensus agenda. The  
38 Board will take final action on the consensus agenda  
39 after deliberation and discussion of all other  
40 proposals.

41  
42 As I mentioned, Mr. Chair, the  
43 consensus agenda proposals can be found on Pages 3 to  
44 5, a total of 34 of them. They're available for  
45 viewing. And due to the length I wasn't going to go to  
46 through and read each title.

47  
48 Mr. Chair.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: We're going to open

1 the floor for public comments on the consensus agenda  
2 items.

3

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Are there any desire  
8 to change any of the consensus topics to -- anyone want  
9 to move any proposals from the consensus to non-  
10 consensus status.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Not hearing any then  
15 we will -- this opportunity -- the opportunity to  
16 change anything from consensus to non-consensus will be  
17 available at the beginning of every meeting subsequent  
18 to the day prior to final action. So if you see  
19 something that you would like to put on to the non-  
20 consensus topics, that opportunity will be available  
21 tomorrow.

22

23 We will then begin the deliberation  
24 process on the non-consensus agenda items.

25

26 We will go through our normal process.  
27 We will have analysis by our lead authors with the  
28 Staff.

29

30 MR. SUMINSKI: Good afternoon, Mr.  
31 Chairman. My name is Terry Suminski, I'm with the US  
32 Forest Service and the subsistence program leader for  
33 the Tongass National Forest. Good afternoon.

34

35 MR. REEVES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
36 Good afternoon, Board members. For the record my name  
37 is Jeff Reeves and I'm also with the Forest Service.  
38 And I will be presenting the analysis for WP16-01. You  
39 can find your executive summary on Page 449 of your  
40 materials and the analysis on Page 451.

41

42 I'll let the colleague on my right  
43 introduce himself.

44

45 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My  
46 name is Robert Larson. I work with the Forest Service.  
47 My function here is the Southeast Council's  
48 coordinator.

49

50 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Go

1 ahead.

2

3 MR. REEVES: Proposal 16-01 was  
4 submitted by the Craig Tribal Association.

5

6 It requests that non-Federally-  
7 qualified subsistence users be limited to the harvest  
8 to two deer from the Federal public lands in Unit 2 and  
9 they've also requested a season ending date for  
10 Federally-qualified users be extended from December  
11 31st to January 31st. The proposal was submitted to  
12 provide for conservation of the Unit 2 deer population  
13 by reducing harvest by non-Federally-qualified users.  
14 CTA has also asked for the season extension, and  
15 clarification with the proponent revealed that the  
16 season extension was also to include the season for the  
17 harvest of female deer.

18

19 Estimated deer harvest in Unit 2 from  
20 1997 to 2013 can be found in Figure 2, and that harvest  
21 is broken down by months in Table 2. Estimated total  
22 harvest averages 2,850 deer during this period.  
23 Harvests have been on the increase since 1997 have been  
24 at or above ADF&G's Unit 2 harvest objective of 2,700  
25 deer. The majority of the hunters harvesting deer in  
26 the unit between 2010 and 2012 have been residents of  
27 Unit 2. Hunters residing in Unit 1A have accounted for  
28 an average of 30 percent of the whole Unit 2 harvest.  
29 This proposal will reduce harvest limit for non-  
30 Federally-qualified users hunting deer on Federal  
31 public lands in Unit 2 but will not change the harvest  
32 limit under the State sporthunting regulations or  
33 affect any harvest on State or private lands. If  
34 adopted, the proposal will also provide Federally-  
35 qualified subsistence users 31 additional days to hunt  
36 deer in Unit 2 after the close of the State season.  
37 The January hunt would only apply to Federal public  
38 lands. Although prior year harvest tickets can be  
39 used, Federally-qualified users would need a new State  
40 hunting license to participate in the extended season.  
41 Additional deer will be harvested with a January  
42 season, however both State and Federal managers are  
43 unable to estimate to what degree. While the potential  
44 harvest may be far lower than other months during the  
45 typical deer season, the harvest of female deer may  
46 increase dramatically beyond current levels as female  
47 deer are typically in better physical condition than  
48 bucks are in January. Lastly, differentiating between  
49 male and female deer during the month of January will  
50 be difficult as most bucks have shed their antlers and



1 will have hair growth over their pedicles.

2

3                   The Staff recommendation is to oppose  
4 Proposal 16-01. Reducing the harvest limit for non-  
5 Federally-qualified users in Unit 2 is not needed.  
6 Although Unit 2 harvest have been on the increase the  
7 harvest percentage by non-rural users has not  
8 dramatically increased beyond previous levels.

9

10                   Recent harvest data suggests that the  
11 deer population in Unit 2 is currently stable and  
12 growing. The Unit 2 Federal season currently provides  
13 Federally-qualified subsistence users eight additional  
14 hunting days in July, a closure to non-qualified users  
15 for 15 days in August on the majority of Prince of  
16 Wales Island Federal lands, a five deer harvest limit,  
17 an opportunity to harvest one female deer after October  
18 15th. The current harvest data suggests that these  
19 priorities are benefitting Federally-qualified users.  
20 Although the January season does exist in Unit 4 in  
21 Southeast, managers believe that an extension of a  
22 season in Unit 2 may not be in the best interest of  
23 deer conservation due to ease of access through an  
24 expansive road system as well as presence of wolves in  
25 the unit. Lastly, with male deer during January being  
26 in poorer physical condition than female deer, along  
27 with the difficulty in distinguishing between the two  
28 during this time, the harvest of female deer may  
29 substantially increase resulting in potential  
30 conservation concerns.

31

32                   This concludes my presentation.

33

34                   Thank you.

35

36                   CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Are there any  
37 questions of the Staff.

38

39                   (No comments)

40

41                   CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If not, then please  
42 proceed.

43

44                   MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45 There are two written public comments.

46

47                   The first is from the Klawock  
48 Cooperative Association, and they are in support of the  
49 proposal as written. Their rationale is that rural  
50 subsistence users would benefit from both of these

1 provisions.

2

3                   The other written comment is from the  
4 Organized Village of Kasaan and they are in favor of  
5 the proposal as written.

6

7                   Thank you.

8

9                   CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any questions of the  
10 Regional Council coordinator.

11

12                   (No comments)

13

14                   CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. We'll  
15 open the floor then to public testimony.

16

17                   (No comments)

18

19                   CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: IT doesn't appear  
20 that there -- we don't have any blue cards or anything  
21 so -- pardon -- anyone on the phone wish to make any  
22 public comments regarding this proposal.

23

24                   OPERATOR: We don't have any questions  
25 currently cued or comment but phone participants can  
26 hit star one.

27

28                   (No comments)

29

30                   OPERATOR: It doesn't look like we have  
31 anybody coming through.

32

33                   CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If there are no  
34 public comments then we will move on to Tribal, Alaska  
35 Native Corporation comments.

36

37                   MR. LIND: Mr. Chair. There are no  
38 consultations for that.

39

40                   CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any comments from  
41 the Department of Fish and Game.

42

43                   MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Lem Butler,  
44 Assistant Director. We also recommend opposing the  
45 proposal and agree with the OSM analysis.

46

47                   CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead.

48

49                   MS. HOWARD: Mr. Chair. I believe that  
50 we also maybe skipped over the Regional Council

1 recommendation from the Chair. Did we want to hear  
2 that first before InterAgency Staff Committee comments.

3

4 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead, Mr.  
5 Larson.

6

7 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
8 Chair of the Southeast Council is in attendance,  
9 Michael Bangs has some comments, recommendations.

10

11 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead, Mr. Bangs.

12

13 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15 Our Council's comments are on Page 463.  
16 And I think we gave some reasons, why, through  
17 testimony we heard about being able to identify the  
18 difference between a male and a female, even when there  
19 weren't antlers, was -- was given a good argument by  
20 some of the public and some of the Council members who  
21 live there felt that was something that we could  
22 overcome. And we thought it would give opportunity to  
23 people who want fresh meat in January. So if you want  
24 to read through the short little comments there to get  
25 an idea of some of the justifications we used that was  
26 our reasoning behind opposing the -- there was no  
27 conservation concern and so we didn't feel like we  
28 should cut out any non-Federally-qualified hunters but  
29 we did feel this would give additional opportunities to  
30 subsistence users.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Are there any  
35 questions of the Chair.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. The  
40 floor is open then from the Federal Subsistence Board  
41 action on this proposal.

42

43 (Pause)

44

45 MS. PENDLETON: Mr. Chair. I believe  
46 that we need to hear from the InterAgency Staff  
47 Committee and hear their report.

48

49 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Okay. We didn't  
50 hear from the InterAgency Staff Committee, ISC Chair.

1 MS. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For  
2 the record my name is Ameer Howard. I am currently the  
3 acting InterAgency Staff Committee Chair. I'm also the  
4 Policy Coordinator for the Office of Subsistence  
5 Management.

6  
7 The InterAgency Staff Committee found  
8 that the Staff analysis to be a thorough and accurate  
9 evaluation of the proposal and that it provides  
10 sufficient basis for the Regional Advisory Council  
11 recommendation and Federal Subsistence Board action on  
12 the proposal.

13  
14 In addition to the standard ISC  
15 comments, if the Board agrees with the Council  
16 recommendation it could support the proposal, WP16-01  
17 with modification, to only extend the season from July  
18 24th through December 31st, to July 24th through  
19 January 31st.

20  
21 Deer populations in Unit 2 are at a  
22 reasonably high level and the population is increasing,  
23 however, based on the Staff analysis, the season change  
24 could cause a conservation concern for deer in Unit 2.  
25 Council comments during deliberations at their recent  
26 October 27th through 29th, 2015 meeting indicated that  
27 it is a traditional practice to harvest deer in January  
28 and that even without antlers male deer could be  
29 identified in January.

30  
31 As stated in the Staff analysis, there  
32 is no legal or biological basis for restricting non-  
33 Federally-qualified users in Unit 2.

34  
35 That concludes the ISC comments for  
36 this proposal.

37  
38 Mr. Chair.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Are  
41 there any questions.

42  
43 (No comments)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: We've already heard  
46 from the Council Chairs and the State liaison. The  
47 floor is then open for Board action on 16-01.

48  
49 MS. PENDLETON: Mr. Chair. I'm  
50 prepared to make a motion.

1 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead.

2

3 MS. PENDLETON: I move to adopt  
4 Proposal WP16-01 as submitted by the Craig Tribal  
5 Association. This proposal as noted is shown on Page  
6 449 of the Board book, and following a second I intend  
7 to move to amend the proposal to reflect the  
8 recommendation of the Southeast Subsistence Regional  
9 Advisory Council. So I would need a second on that  
10 before I go forward.

11

12 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Second.

13

14 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: You heard the motion  
15 and a second. The floor is open for discussion.

16

17 MS. PENDLETON: So I move to amend  
18 WP16-01 to strike out the reduction on the harvest  
19 limit of deer by non-Federal users. And if I get a  
20 second to my motion I'll provide the rationale why I  
21 intend to support this amendment.

22

23 MR. CHRISTIANSON: I second that.

24

25 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: You heard the motion  
26 and the second, please proceed.

27

28 MS. PENDLETON: Thank you. My  
29 rationale for amending the proposal as recommended by  
30 the Southeast RAC is as follows:

31

32 And first I'll address extending the  
33 season through January. The rationale here is that  
34 deer populations in Unit 2 are currently stable and  
35 growing. It's traditional practices, as was noted by  
36 the InterAgency Committee, to harvest deer in January.  
37 Any increase in harvest of female deer is expected to  
38 be minimal and sustainable. Female deer currently make  
39 up about four percent of the harvest. The Forest  
40 Service District Rangers also have delegated authority  
41 to manage deer in Unit 2 in-season and have the  
42 authority to close the season early should there be  
43 conservation reasons.

44

45 Secondly, I'd like to address limiting  
46 non-Federally-qualified users. The rationale here is  
47 that limiting non-rural users is not necessary because  
48 there is no conservation concern for deer in Unit 2.  
49 And, furthermore, data support that competition with  
50 non-rural users in Unit 2 is not reducing the hunting

1 success of Federally-qualified users. There's no legal  
2 basis for restricting non-Federal users at this time.

3

4 And I believe that these are compelling  
5 reasons to support the Council's recommendations of  
6 extending the season ending date to January 31st and  
7 deleting the portion of the proposal that would reduce  
8 harvest limit of deer by non-Federal users.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any further  
13 discussion.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: The floor is open to  
18 call for the question.

19

20 MR. C. BROWER: Question.

21

22 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Question's been  
23 called for. All those in favor of the motion say aye.

24

25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26

27 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any opposed say nay.

28

29 (No opposing votes)

30

31 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Motion passes  
32 unanimously.

33

34 Mr. Christianson.

35

36 MR. CHRISTIANSON: That was an  
37 amendment to the original motion, do we need to now go  
38 back to the main motion.

39

40 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Okay, you're right.  
41 This puts the main motion on the floor to adopt 16-01  
42 as amended.

43

44 Is there any discussion.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If not, all those in  
49 favor of the motion say aye.

50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any opposed, say  
4 nay.

5

6 (No opposing votes)

7

8 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Motion passes  
9 unanimously. The next proposal -- we're on Proposal  
10 16-07 on Page 467 and we'll have the analysis by the  
11 Staff.

12

13 MR. REEVES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
14 Again, Jeff Reeves, US Forest Service.

15

16 The executive summary is on Page 466 of  
17 your materials, the analysis on Page 467.

18

19 Proposal WP16-07 was submitted by the  
20 Southeast Regional Subsistence Advisory Council, and  
21 they're requesting that firearms be allowed to harvest  
22 beaver in Units 1 through 5 under the Federal  
23 Subsistence trapping regulations.

24

25 The proponent believes the proposal is  
26 necessary to provide consistency in State and Federal  
27 regulations. That the take of beaver with a firearm  
28 under a trapping license is allowed in other parts o  
29 the state. Beaver are often used for food and there  
30 are no conservation issues with beavers in these units.

31

32 The Federal trapping regulations for  
33 the unit were adopted from the State trapping  
34 regulations at the time of Federal management at the  
35 beginning and, although trapping regulations typically  
36 allow trappers to harvest furbearers with a firearm,  
37 harvesting beaver in Southeast had been prohibited.  
38 Additionally, the National Park Service prohibits the  
39 use of firearms to take free ranging furbearers under a  
40 trapping license.

41

42 Beaver populations in these units are  
43 considered healthy. Allowing the take of beaver with a  
44 firearm should not dramatically increase beaver harvest  
45 or create conservation issues. The proposal will align  
46 State and Federal regulations and provide Federally-  
47 qualified users an additional method for harvesting  
48 beaver.

49

50 The proposal would not apply to

1 National Park Service lands, a separate provision  
2 currently restricts the firearm use on those lands.

3  
4 The recommendation is to support  
5 Proposal 16-07 with modification. And the modified  
6 language would specify that firearms may not be used on  
7 National Park Service lands. So the modified  
8 regulation would read:

9  
10 In Units 1 through 5, a firearm may be  
11 used to take beaver under a trapping  
12 license during an open beaver season,  
13 except on National Park Service lands.

14  
15 Allowing firearms to take beaver will  
16 provide for better quality when taking a beaver for  
17 food and it is allowed in other areas of the state. If  
18 adopted as modified, the proposal does not create  
19 conservation issues, will provide additional means to  
20 harvest beaver and it'll align State and Federal  
21 regulations while maintaining the prohibition of  
22 firearm use on Park Service lands.

23  
24 Thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any questions of the  
27 Staff.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If not then we'll  
32 have a summary of public comments.

33  
34 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. There are no  
35 written public comments.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. The  
38 floor is open for any public testimony.

39  
40 (No comments)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Anyone on line wish  
43 to address the Board on this proposal.

44  
45 OPERATOR: I have no questions from the  
46 phone.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. The  
49 Regional Council recommendation.

50



1 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 Our Council's comments are on Page 472.

4 And I think that it's self-explanatory. And I would

5 like to mention that as Board member Pendleton said,

6 there is in-season management authority and if

7 something is not working right, if there is a

8 conservation concern the season could be stopped.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: At any time if

13 anybody has questions, please, feel free to address the

14 Staff.

15

16 Have Tribal, Alaska Native Corporation

17 comments. Orville.

18

19 MR. LIND: Mr. Chair. Orville Lind,

20 OSM. No comments.

21

22 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. The

23 Department of Fish and Game comments.

24

25 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. The

26 Department recommends supporting this proposal to align

27 State and Federal regulations. We do note that we're

28 opposed to the closure, or the restriction on Park

29 Service lands. We don't see a biological reason to

30 impose that limitation on subsistence users.

31

32 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Any

33 questions of the State.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Not hearing any,

38 then we will go on to the InterAgency Staff Committee

39 comments.

40

41 MS. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42 Anee Howard, again, for the ISC.

43

44 The InterAgency Staff Committee

45 determined that adopting this proposal as written would

46 result in conflicting regulations on lands administered

47 by the National Park Service. The modification as

48 proposed by OSM and supported by the Southeast Council

49 will align Federal and State rules and clarify that

50 National Park Service lands are excluded from the

1 proposed regulation.

2

3 Taking beaver with a firearm is allowed  
4 in many other areas of the state without resulting in  
5 conservation concern. It is anticipated that adopting  
6 this proposal, as modified by OSM, will provide  
7 additional opportunity to harvest beaver for food and  
8 reduce regulatory complexities.

9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Board  
13 discussion with the Council Chair and State liaison.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any questions or  
18 comments.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Not hearing any then  
23 the floor is open for Board action.

24

25 MS. PENDLETON: Mr. Chair. I'd move to  
26 adopt Proposal WP16-07 as modified by the Office of  
27 Subsistence Management that firearms be allowed for  
28 harvesting beaver in Units 1 through 5 under Federal  
29 subsistence trapping regulations, except on National  
30 Park Service lands. This modification, as noted, is  
31 shown on Page 470 of the Board book. And following a  
32 second I will provide rationale why I support the  
33 modified proposal.

34

35 MR. C. BROWER: Second.

36

37 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: You heard the motion  
38 and a second. Further discussion.

39

40 MS. PENDLETON: So my rationale for  
41 supporting the proposal as modified by OSM is the  
42 following:

43

44 First or all the modified proposal is  
45 consistent with the recommendation of the Southeast  
46 Regional Advisory Council. The proposal does not  
47 create conservation issues because beaver populations  
48 in these units are healthy. The proposal provides  
49 additional means to harvest beaver. The proposal  
50 aligns State and Federal regulations as noted, while

1 maintaining the prohibition of firearm use to take  
2 furbearers on National Park Service system lands. And  
3 a couple more reasons would be allowing firearms to  
4 take beaver also provides for better quality when  
5 taking beaver for food and is allowed in other areas  
6 across the state. This regulation will reduce the need  
7 to issue nuisance harvest permits for beaver, and,  
8 finally, it will benefit subsistence users by allowing  
9 the take of beaver encountered while trapping other  
10 species.

11  
12 And I found these reasons to be  
13 compelling to support Proposal WP16-07 as modified by  
14 OSM and consistent with the recommendation from the  
15 Council.

16  
17 Thank you.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any further  
20 discussion.

21  
22 (No comments)

23  
24 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: The floor is open  
25 for the calling for the question.

26  
27 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Question.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Question's been  
30 called for. All those in favor of the motion say aye.

31  
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any opposed, say  
35 nay.

36  
37 (No opposing votes)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Motion passes  
40 unanimously.

41  
42 The next proposal is 16-09. It's on  
43 Page 473. Go ahead, Mr. Larson.

44  
45 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
46 Again, my name is Robert Larson. I work for the US  
47 Fish and Wildlife Service -- or the US Forest Service.

48  
49 (Laughter)

50

1 MR. LARSON: I sometimes get those  
2 confused.

3  
4 (Laughter)

5  
6 MR. LARSON: I am the analyst for this  
7 proposal. If you look on Page 473 you can see the  
8 executive summary.

9  
10 Proposal 16-09 was submitted by the  
11 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and requests that  
12 the Board close the subsistence marten trapping season  
13 on Kuiu Island. The reason stated for the proposal is  
14 that the Department believes there is a serious  
15 conservation concern for martens on Kuiu Island.

16  
17 The current Federal subsistence  
18 trapping season is December 1st through February 15th  
19 with no limit.

20  
21 OSM's preliminary conclusions is to  
22 support WP16-09 with modifications to close the marten  
23 trapping season on Kuiu Island beginning on January  
24 1st.

25  
26 The State season is closed. And use by  
27 Federally-qualified subsistence users has been low.  
28 Allowing a one month season for Federally-qualified  
29 subsistence users would provide some opportunity for  
30 the continuation of subsistence uses. Additionally,  
31 sealing of marten is required and would allow the  
32 collection of harvest statistics and biological samples  
33 for use by managers in monitoring this population. A  
34 December-only season provides a significant reduction  
35 in harvest opportunity from what is currently allowable  
36 and will provide adequate protections for the  
37 conservation of marten on Kuiu Island.

38  
39 The Board has not made a customary and  
40 traditional use determination for martens in Unit 3,  
41 therefore, all rural residents may harvest marten in  
42 this unit. There's been a history of management  
43 actions beginning in 2008. Regulatory actions have  
44 been taken by both Federal and State authorities to  
45 either close or restrict the marten trapping season on  
46 Kuiu Island.

47  
48 Generally marten harvest levels are  
49 directly related to fur prices and winter weather  
50 conditions during the trapping season. The number of

1 marten harvested on Kuiu Island is shown on Figure 1.  
2 The number of individuals trapping marten on Kuiu  
3 Island has ranged from zero to three per year between  
4 1995 and 2014, no more than one of which has been  
5 Federally-qualified. There's been a pattern of little  
6 trapping on the island in recent years and this closure  
7 would have a minimal effect on Federally-qualified  
8 subsistence users. Since a number of trappers and  
9 resulting harvest is currently at low levels the  
10 closure would not have significant value as a means of  
11 increasing the marten population.

12

13 That concludes my speaking.

14

15 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Are  
16 there any questions.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If not then we'll  
21 move on to the summary of public comments by the  
22 Regional coordinator.

23

24 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair, that's me as  
25 well. And there are none.

26

27 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. The  
28 floor is then open to the public.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Anyone on line that  
33 would like to comment on the proposal.

34

35 OPERATOR: I have nobody cued up for  
36 comment on the line.

37

38 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. The  
39 Regional Council recommendations, Mr. Chair.

40

41 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

42

43 Our comments are on Page 484. And I  
44 think that our coordinator and the analysis gave a  
45 pretty good idea of what was presented to us and the  
46 information was alarming to us that if we didn't have  
47 some sort of a season the State would have no way to  
48 find out what the population was doing. So in addition  
49 to allowing such a short season with so few trappers  
50 that it would be a good way to monitor the population.

1 And if there's no value in the pelt, or if there's no  
2 value in spending your time to go out there and trap  
3 then there's probably not going to be anybody to go out  
4 there and trap. But we thought it had an additional  
5 benefit by allowing it so that we could at least have a  
6 feel of what the population was doing. And for that  
7 reason we supported it with the modification of just  
8 allowing a one month trapping season.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Do we  
13 have any Tribal, or Alaska Native Corporation comments.

14

15 Mr. Lind.

16

17 MR. LIND: Mr. Chairman. Orville Lind,  
18 OSM. No comments.

19

20 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. The  
21 Department of Fish and Game comments.

22

23 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. We support the  
24 proposal, as written.

25

26 We've had a seven year study on the  
27 island and we've noted very low marten abundance, low  
28 recruitment levels, very little prey and feel that the  
29 closure is warranted for conservation purposes.

30

31 We're also not sure that we could get  
32 adequate information from a small harvest to actually  
33 benefit our monitoring program. We use trapper  
34 questionnaires to collect information on population  
35 abundance, it doesn't require harvest, and we could use  
36 that as a mechanism for monitoring the population.

37

38 So, again, we don't really acknowledge  
39 this additional month of trapping would be a benefit to  
40 managers.

41

42 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Any  
43 questions of the State.

44

45 MR. LORD: May I.

46

47 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead.

48

49 MR. LORD: Maybe I misunderstood you.  
50 Did you say that you use trapper questionnaires to get

1 the information but if there's no trapping then you'll  
2 still have adequate information?

3

4 MR. BUTLER: Yeah. The trapper  
5 questionnaire survey is mailed out randomly to various  
6 trappers in an area and it asks questions about what  
7 they're seeing in the field in terms of signs of  
8 animals and other things so we would have that as a  
9 mechanism to continue to monitor, marten abundance in  
10 this case, and we could bolster those efforts if  
11 there's a concern that we're not capturing enough  
12 information currently. But that's what we do. It's  
13 mailed out trappers, and general people who buy  
14 trapping license, so it's not like we'd have to  
15 identify who a marten trapper is, we'd be looking for  
16 people who are engaged in the area, in the field,  
17 historically even, to the extent that people -- we need  
18 a better sample size.

19

20 MR. LORD: So you mean people trapping  
21 for other things might trap marten incidentally and you  
22 get information from that, is that what you're saying?

23

24 MR. BUTLER: I'm saying as trappers go  
25 out in the field they see and observe sign of other  
26 animals, non-targeted species, including marten in this  
27 case if the season were closed, and they'd be able to  
28 report their observations.

29

30 MR. LORD: Thanks for clarifying that.

31

32 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If there's no  
33 further questions or discussion with the State, we'll  
34 get the InterAgency Staff Committee comments.

35

36 MS. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
37 InterAgency Staff Committee found the Staff analysis to  
38 be a thorough and accurate evaluation of the proposal  
39 and that it provides sufficient basis for the Regional  
40 Advisory Council recommendation and Federal Subsistence  
41 Board action on the proposal.

42

43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Any  
46 Board discussion with either the Council Chairs or the  
47 State liaison.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any further  
2 discussion.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Not hearing any,  
7 then the floor is open for Board action.

8  
9 MS. PENDLETON: Mr. Chair. I'm  
10 prepared to make a motion.

11  
12 I move to adopt Proposal WP16-01 as  
13 modified by the Office of Subsistence Management, which  
14 is also consistent with the recommendations from the  
15 Southeast Alaska Regional Advisory Council, and that is  
16 to reduce the marten trapping season on Kuiu Island to  
17 December 1st through the 31st.

18  
19 This modification, as noted, is shown  
20 on Page 48 [sic] of the Board book and following a  
21 second I'll provide rationale for why I support the  
22 modified proposal.

23  
24 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Second.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: You heard the motion  
27 and the second by Mr. Christianson. Any -- the floor  
28 is open for discussion.

29  
30 MS. PENDLETON: My rationale for  
31 supporting the proposal, as modified by OSM, and  
32 consistent with the RAC is as follows:

33  
34 First of all that modified proposal is  
35 consistent with the deliberations and recommendations  
36 from the Council. Also a December only season provides  
37 an opportunity for the continuation of subsistence uses  
38 and provides for the conservation of marten on Kuiu  
39 Island. Harvest data indicate that the result of  
40 closing the January to February portion of the season  
41 would likely reduce potential harvest by as much as 58  
42 percent. Sealing of marten is required and allowing  
43 some harvest would facilitate collection of harvest  
44 statistics and biological samples for use by managers  
45 in monitoring this population. The number of trappers  
46 that have used this resource is very low, at only one  
47 or two currently. And finally this recommended  
48 modification was the solution that was adopted by the  
49 Board for the 2013 season.

50



1 I found these to be some compelling  
2 reasons to support this proposal, as modified by OSM  
3 and is consistent with the RAC.

4  
5 Thank you.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Any  
8 further discussion.

9  
10 (No comments)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: The floor is open to  
13 the call for the question.

14  
15 MR. C. BROWER: Question.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Question's been  
18 called for. All those in favor of the motion say aye.

19  
20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Motion -- any of you  
23 opposed to the motion, say nay. I'm already tired.

24  
25 (Laughter)

26  
27 (No opposing votes)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Not hearing any, the  
30 motion passes unanimously.

31  
32 We originally had the Southcentral  
33 proposals next in line but because the Chairman is not  
34 here today but he will be here tomorrow we will do the  
35 Southcentral proposals, which are 16-10a, 10b, 11, 13,  
36 19 and 20 until tomorrow morning.

37  
38 We will then proceed with the Bristol  
39 Bay proposals.

40  
41 (Pause)

42  
43 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: We will start with  
44 16-21 and have the Staff provide an analysis.

45  
46 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My  
47 name is Suzanne Worker. I'm a wildlife biologist with  
48 the Office of Subsistence Management. And I'll be  
49 presenting some of the Bristol Bay Staff analysis,  
50 beginning with WP16-21.

1                   This analysis was not included in your  
2 book, it was provided as supplemental material if you  
3 need to reference it.

4  
5                   This proposal was submitted by the  
6 Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, and  
7 they request changing the caribou season in Units 9C  
8 remainder and 9E from the current no open season to a  
9 to be announced season, open to residents of 9C and 9E.

10  
11                   In 1999 the Board took -- the Board  
12 closed Units 9C remainder and 9E to caribou harvest  
13 except by residents of 9C and 9E. In 2006 the closure  
14 was extended to all user groups and that closure has  
15 been in effect since. The current proposal was  
16 prompted by the possibility that the State might open a  
17 limited Tier II hunt in the fall of 2016 contingent  
18 upon favorable population parameters.

19  
20                   The herd currently appears to be  
21 growing but remains well below the State's management  
22 objective of 12,000 to 15,000 animals. The last  
23 minimum population estimate was around 2,700 and that  
24 occurred in 2014. At that time the bull/cow ratio was  
25 40 bulls to 100 cows, which is the highest level since  
26 2003 and it does exceed the State's management  
27 objective. There has been no reported harvest since  
28 the closure was implemented in 2005.

29  
30                   Because this proposal requests limiting  
31 the pool of eligible users to a subset of users who  
32 have C&T, a Section .804 analysis was conducted by  
33 anthropologists in OSM and so at this point I'll turn  
34 the floor over to Pippa, who can share with you the  
35 outcome of that analysis.

36  
37                   MS. KENNER: Thank you, Suzanne. For  
38 the record my name is Pippa Kenner and I work for the  
39 Office of Subsistence Management here in Anchorage,  
40 Alaska and I'm an anthropologist.

41  
42                   As Suzanne mentioned, currently,  
43 Federal public lands in the remainder area of Unit 9C  
44 described in Federal regulations, which is Unit 9C  
45 excluding the Alagnak River drainage and in Unit 9E are  
46 closed to the harvest of caribou by all users.

47  
48                   At its fall 2015 meeting the Bristol  
49 Bay Council clarified its intent and asked to allow  
50 only residents of Units 9C and 9E to harvest caribou in

1 the remainder area of Unit 9C and in Unit 9E if an  
2 opportunity became available. Because the Council  
3 requested that the pool of Federally-qualified users be  
4 reduced it required the application of ANILCA Section  
5 .804 criteria to establish priority among those with a  
6 customary and traditional use determination to harvest  
7 caribou in Unit 9C remainder or in Unit 9E.

8

9 After the Bristol Bay Council meeting  
10 in fall of 2015, Staff conducted the ANILCA Section  
11 .804 analysis and presented it to the Bristol Bay and  
12 Kodiak/Aleutians Councils at their joint meeting on  
13 March 10th, 2016. That was just last month.

14

15 The preliminary conclusion of the  
16 Section .804 subsistence user prioritization for Unit  
17 9C remainder is that residents of Unit 9C, including  
18 the communities of King Salmon, Nankek and South Naknek  
19 and residents of Egegik have a higher level of  
20 customary use and dependence on caribou in Unit 9C  
21 remainder than do other Federally-qualified users after  
22 the consideration of the three criteria in ANILCA  
23 Section .804 in Federal regulations.

24

25 Moving on, the preliminary conclusion  
26 of the Section .804 subsistence user prioritization  
27 analysis for Unit 9E is that residents of Unit 9E have  
28 the higher level of customary use and dependence on  
29 caribou in Unit 9E than do other Federally-qualified  
30 users after consideration of the three criteria in  
31 ANILCA Section .804 in Federal regulations. The  
32 communities in Unit 9E are Chignik Bay, Chignik Lake,  
33 Chignik Lagoon, Ivanof Bay, Egegik, Perryville, Pilot  
34 Point, Port Heiden and Ugashik.

35

36 Now, I'm going to move on to the  
37 addendum to the analysis that begins on Page 20.

38

39 I write an addendum to an analysis when  
40 the conclusion that the Council commented on has  
41 changed and I changed the OSM conclusion after the  
42 March 10th, 2016 joint Council meeting.

43

44 At their meeting in March, the Bristol  
45 Bay and Kodiak/Aleutians Councils met together and,  
46 again, reviewed the OSM analysis and conclusion,  
47 however, this time with a Section .804 subsistence user  
48 prioritization analysis included. A member of each  
49 Council both voiced concerns that the communities of  
50 Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point would not be eligible to

1 harvest caribou in Unit 9E if the OSM preliminary  
2 conclusion was adopted. Council members said that the  
3 southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd's migration was  
4 a long way from the communities and Sand Point  
5 residents were known to rely on caribou accessible  
6 along Stepovak Bay. Stepovak Bay is the deep bay  
7 located northeast of Sand Point and is situated in Unit  
8 9E. After the Council meeting, Staff reviewed Council  
9 member comments and additional ethonographic  
10 documentation and changed the OSM conclusion to include  
11 residents of Nelson Island -- excuse me, Nelson Lagoon  
12 and Sand Point to those eligible to harvest caribou in  
13 Unit 9E, should an opportunity become available.

14  
15 The OSM conclusion is now the same as  
16 the Bristol Bay and Kodiak/Aleutians Council  
17 recommendations.

18  
19 Thank you. I'm going to turn the  
20 presentation over to Suzanne.

21  
22 MS. WORKER: I don't have anything more  
23 to add, Mr. Chair, but we would certainly be willing to  
24 take questions.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Are  
27 there any questions of the Staff.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: We have -- get a  
32 summary of the public comments from the Regional  
33 coordinator.

34  
35 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36 Donald Mike, Regional Council Coordinator.

37  
38 There are no written public comments.

39  
40 Thank you.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. The  
43 floor is open to any public members that want to  
44 comment on this proposal.

45  
46 (No comments)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Is there anyone on  
49 line that would like to testify.  
50

1 OPERATOR: I have no participants cued  
2 up on the phone.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Regional  
5 Council's recommendation.

6  
7 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
8 If you go to Page 24 of your book.

9  
10 The Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional  
11 Advisory Council supports WP16-24 with modifications.  
12 The Council supports the flexibility for the agencies  
13 to open up the hunt if the population continues to  
14 improve and to replace to be announced to may be  
15 announced. The may be announced season will provide  
16 for opportunity to harvest caribou. The Northern  
17 Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd is continuing to improve  
18 and the delegation of authority to open or close the  
19 season allows for the manager to make in-season  
20 decisions in response to the changing of caribou  
21 population.

22  
23 Additionally, the Council supports the  
24 Section .804 conclusion with modifications to include  
25 residents of Nelson Lagoon, Sand Point in the pool of  
26 Federally-qualified subsistence users who are eligible  
27 to harvest caribou in Unit 9E.

28  
29 And in your book, Page 24, you will see  
30 the -- what was developed for the proposal.

31  
32 Thank you.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Any  
35 questions of the Chair.

36  
37 (No comments)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Do we want to hear  
40 then from Kodiak Council.

41  
42 MR. SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
43 At its meeting September 30, 2015, the Council  
44 expressed the concern with the Northern Alaska  
45 Peninsula Caribou Herd population growth. The Council  
46 supported that giving the in-season manager flexibility  
47 to establish a hunt if the population allowed. And at  
48 our spring meeting held on March 10th, 2016, an .804  
49 analysis was conducted regarding eligibility to hunt  
50 caribou on Game Management Unit 9E and the communities

1 of Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point were omitted, following  
2 that review, Council members clarified that community  
3 members from Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point relied on  
4 caribou in Unit 9E, all the communities are eligible to  
5 hunt the Southern Peninsula Herd in 9D but the distance  
6 to that herd was prohibited.

7

8 But as we heard, the communities of  
9 Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point were put back in.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Any  
14 questions of the Chairs.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If not then we will  
19 hear from the Tribal, or Alaska Native Corporation  
20 comments.

21

22 MR. LIND: Mr. Chair. Orville Lind,  
23 Native Liaison. There are no comments.

24

25 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you.  
26 Department of Fish and Game comments.

27

28 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. The Department  
29 supports the proposal. We do intend to offer a Tier II  
30 hunt for this population. We've noted that it's been  
31 increasing, it's reached the management objective for  
32 bulls to cows, the calf ratio is really strong in this  
33 population, so we expect it to continue growth towards  
34 the population objectives with a harvest in place. So  
35 we support that.

36

37 We're neutral on what the Board does  
38 with the modifications regarding residency.

39

40 But we do support the proposal.

41

42 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: The InterAgency  
43 Staff Committee comments.

44

45 MS. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
46 InterAgency Staff Committee found the Staff analysis to  
47 be a thorough and accurate evaluation of the proposal  
48 and that it provides sufficient basis for the Regional  
49 Advisory Council recommendation and Federal Subsistence  
50 Board action on the proposal.

1 Thank you.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Board  
4 discussion with any of the Council Chairs or the State  
5 liaison.  
6  
7 (No comments)  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any further comments  
10 or discussion on the proposal.  
11  
12 (No comments)  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If not, then the  
15 floor is open for Board action.  
16  
17 MS. CLARK: Mr. Chair. I'm ready to  
18 make a motion.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Sure.  
21  
22 MS. CLARK: I make a motion to adopt  
23 Proposal WP16-21 with the modifications on Pages 24 and  
24 25 of the supplemental recommended by the Bristol Bay  
25 and Kodiak/Aleutians Councils.  
26  
27 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Second.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Oh, I'm sorry, the  
30 motion.....  
31  
32 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Second.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: .....was seconded by  
35 Tony Christianson. Further discussion.  
36  
37 MS. CLARK: I'll provide my  
38 justification.  
39  
40 The Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou  
41 Herd population is recovering and there may be a  
42 limited harvestable surplus of bulls in the population  
43 in the very near future. By adopting a may be  
44 announced season the Refuge manager would have  
45 flexibility to provide for harvest opportunity when the  
46 herd can support a limited harvest opportunity.  
47 However, because the opportunity will be limited it is  
48 necessary to reduce the pool of eligible subsistence  
49 users following the Section .804 criteria. The Section  
50 .804 analysis conducted by OSM provides sufficient

1 information to support reducing the pool of eligible  
2 users in Unit 9C remainder to the residents of Unit 9C  
3 and Egegik and the Unit 9C to residents of the Unit 9E  
4 Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Any  
7 further questions.

8  
9 (No comments)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Further discussion.

12  
13 (No comments)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: The floor is open  
16 for calling the question.

17  
18 MR. C. BROWER: Question.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Question's been  
21 called for. All those in favor of the motion say aye.

22  
23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any opposed, say  
26 nay.

27  
28 (No opposing votes)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Motion passes  
31 unanimously. We'll move on to 16-22.

32  
33 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
34 This is Suzanne Worker again and I will be presenting  
35 the Staff analysis for WP16-22.

36  
37 This analysis begins on Page 555 of  
38 your Board books and it was submitted by the Alaska  
39 Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife Refuges.

40  
41 They request requiring a Federal  
42 registration permit for moose harvest in the portion of  
43 Unit 9C that drains into the Naknek River from the  
44 south for the August 20th through September 20th  
45 season, so this is Federal lands within Becharof  
46 National Wildlife Refuge.

47  
48 Currently a State registration permit  
49 is required for the fall season but a Federal permit is  
50 required for the winter season that runs December 1st



1 through December 31st. So the main problem with  
2 requiring a State permit for the fall season is that  
3 the Federal season is longer than the State season but  
4 it's the State season dates that are printed on the  
5 State permit and so this introduces some confusion.

6  
7 The proponent believes that requiring a  
8 Federal permit will ease the confusion and will also  
9 make regulations consistent across seasons by requiring  
10 a Federal permit for both the fall and the winter hunt.  
11 The proponent also requests that hunters continue to  
12 acquire a State registration permit and report their  
13 harvest via that permit. The logic here is that  
14 reporting via State permit tends to result in better  
15 harvest records. In Unit 9 a State registration permit  
16 has been required for Federal subsistence moose harvest  
17 since 2012 following the recommendation of the Unit 9  
18 moose working group, except for 2015, when a special  
19 action was approved to require a Federal permit for the  
20 fall moose hunt within Becharof National Wildlife  
21 Refuge.

22  
23 The moose population in Unit 9 appears  
24 to be stable although it is a low density population.  
25 The bull/cow ratio exceeds the management objectives  
26 and the cow/calf ratio has been somewhat erratic in  
27 Unit 9, the 2000 estimate was around 25 calves to 100  
28 cows. The reported harvest in Unit 9C has averaged 25  
29 moose annually and about 60 percent of that harvest is  
30 attributable to local users. The proportion of moose  
31 taken by locals has increased somewhat in the past  
32 several years and this is due primarily to a decrease  
33 in non-resident harvest.

34  
35 Adoption of this proposal would require  
36 the use of a Federal registration permit for the  
37 harvest of moose on Federal lands in Unit 9C south of  
38 the Naknek River for the fall season. This would  
39 clarify season dates and hunt conditions for hunters,  
40 managers and law enforcement officers. However, the  
41 Federal permit requirement would supersede the  
42 requirement for a State permit, so the proponents  
43 request that subsistence users continue to report the  
44 harvest through the State cannot be required if this  
45 proposal was adopted.

46  
47 As a result of that OSM's conclusion is  
48 to support WP16-22 with modification to require only a  
49 Federal permit for the fall season.

50

1                   That's all I have and I'm happy to take  
2 some questions if you have any.

3  
4                   CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: The floor is open  
5 for public comments regarding the proposal.

6  
7                   (No comments)

8  
9                   CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: By the Regional  
10 Coordinator -- oh, I'm -- yeah.

11  
12                  MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
13 Donald Mike, Regional Council coordinator. There are  
14 no written public comments on WP16-22.

15  
16                  Thank you.

17  
18                  CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: The floor is now  
19 open for anyone in the public that would like to make  
20 comments.

21  
22                  (No comments)

23  
24                  CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Is there anyone on  
25 line.

26  
27                  OPERATOR: No participants.

28  
29                  CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: With no comments --  
30 public comments, then, we will get the Regional Council  
31 recommendations. Ms. Chythlook.

32  
33                  MS. CHYTHLOOK: Page 566, Bristol Bay  
34 Regional Advisory Council supports WP16-22 as modified  
35 by OSM.

36  
37                  The Council noted that OSM really  
38 understood this issue and made a good modification.  
39 The modified proposal provides for simplifying the  
40 permit process for local user groups and will provide  
41 for additional subsistence opportunity.

42  
43                  Thank you.

44  
45                  CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Tribal,  
46 or Alaska Native Corporation comments.

47  
48                  Orville.

49  
50                  MR. LIND: Mr. Chair. There are no

1 comments.

2

3 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you.

4 Department of Fish and Game comments.

5

6 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. We're opposed  
7 to the adoption of this proposal. We think it will add  
8 additional confusion in terms of even the reporting  
9 process, people reporting under a different permit than  
10 they're actually hunting under. The proposal suggests  
11 that we can add Federal season dates to the permit and  
12 that's the issue that it brings up.

13

14 We've made recent changes to how we  
15 administer permits, and through policy decisions, we  
16 can now incorporate Federal season dates on our State  
17 permit and we can even include the winter season dates  
18 if the Board wanted to move towards using the State  
19 permit for the winter season as well. Again, we think  
20 this will make it less confusing for subsistence  
21 hunters and facilitate our management, particularly the  
22 reporting, tracking and monitoring of the moose harvest  
23 so we can better manage the moose population in Unit 9C  
24 for resource users.

25

26 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Any  
27 questions from the Board. Go ahead.

28

29 MR. LORD: Mr. Chair. I just want to  
30 let you know how much I appreciate that, that gesture.  
31 In the past that's been an issue between our two  
32 programs and it's really helpful to hear that, so,  
33 thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any further  
36 questions.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. We'll  
41 move on to the InterAgency Staff Committee comments.

42

43 MS. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
44 InterAgency Staff Committee comments also reflect what  
45 I believe Lem just talked about.

46

47 The ISC thought the Board may want to  
48 consider retaining the requirement for a State  
49 registration permit for the fall portion of the hunt,  
50 or modifying the requirement for a State or Federal

1 registration permit. This option was considered in the  
2 Staff analysis, however, that option was not selected  
3 because at the time there was no agreement between  
4 State and Federal managers to allow the use of a State  
5 registration permit for a Federal hunt with different  
6 season dates, and that's been spoken to.

7  
8 At the ISC meeting, the State of Alaska  
9 was agreeable to allowing the use of a State  
10 registration permit that lists the Federal season  
11 dates, which would make a separate Federal permit  
12 unnecessary. So the use of a single harvest permit  
13 would reduce confusion for users and allows for harvest  
14 reporting to a single source. And listing the Federal  
15 season dates would address concerns with using a State  
16 permit or misaligned dates.

17  
18 So the ISC suggests allowing the use of  
19 the State permit with the Federal season dates on it as  
20 the State suggested as well.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any questions.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: The floor is then  
27 open for discussion on the proposal.

28  
29 MS. CLARK: Mr. Chair. I'd like to ask  
30 Molly from the Bristol Bay Council if they're amenable  
31 to the single joint permit as the State has agreed to  
32 allow for the Federal dates on the permit?

33  
34 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Our Council discussed  
35 this, and a majority -- well, all of them agreed that a  
36 single permit would simplify, you know, the process.  
37 So many of our regulations and permits are so  
38 intertwined, sometimes our harvesters that aren't  
39 really informed get these permits, you know, mixed up,  
40 so I think that by using one permit -- yeah, using one  
41 permit for both seasons would really simplify our  
42 harvesters and so our -- I guess our Regional Advisory  
43 Council supported this and we were really thankful that  
44 OSM was able to help us with that and put the words to  
45 support our wishes.

46  
47 Thank you.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any further  
50 discussion or questions.

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: The floor is open  
4 then for Board action.  
5  
6 MS. CLARK: I'd like to make a motion.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead.  
9  
10 MS. CLARK: I make a motion to adopt  
11 WP16-22 and will provide my justification as to why I  
12 intend to oppose this motion if I get a second.  
13  
14 MS. PENDLETON: Second.  
15  
16 MR. C. BROWER: Second.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: You heard the motion  
19 and the second. Any further discussion.  
20  
21 MS. CLARK: The intent of this proposal  
22 was to address concerns with Federally-qualified  
23 subsistence users being required to use a State permit  
24 that only listed the State season dates which is  
25 shorter than the Federal season. While requiring a  
26 Federal permit would address the concerns, the State  
27 has recently agreed to use a joint State/Federal permit  
28 that would list both the State and Federal seasons,  
29 thus requiring only one permit. The use of a single  
30 joint permit would reduce confusion for all users and  
31 allow for harvest reporting to a single source. While  
32 opposing the proposal is contrary to the recommendation  
33 of the Bristol Bay Council, it seems to meet their  
34 desire for a simplified permit process.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any further  
37 discussion.  
38  
39 (No comments)  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: The floor is open  
42 for calling the question.  
43  
44 MS. PENDLETON: Call for the question.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: The question has  
47 been called for. All those in favor of the motion say  
48 aye.  
49  
50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any opposed say nay.  
2  
3 IN UNISON: Nay.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Motion passes  
6 unanimously.  
7  
8 We will continue -- I'm assuming that  
9 we will be -- we're going to be adjourning the meeting  
10 at 5:00 o'clock, which is another half an hour or so,  
11 so we will continue with -- did you have a question.  
12  
13 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I did.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Well, just -- let  
16 me.....  
17  
18 (Pause)  
19  
20 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Mr. Chairman. Maybe  
21 we should.....  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead.  
24  
25 MR. CHRISTIANSON: .....reconsider this  
26 motion.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Pardon.  
29  
30 MR. CHRISTIANSON: I think there was  
31 some confusion on it. She made a motion and then she  
32 was opposed to it and then we all voted -- I think some  
33 of us would have voted to support the Regional Advisory  
34 Council. So I think maybe we want to make a motion to  
35 reconsider our vote. I think there was just a  
36 misunderstanding there on the motion.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Where's our  
39 parliamentarian.  
40  
41 (Pause)  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: We're going to take  
44 a five minute break for the Staff to review our action.  
45  
46 (Laughter)  
47  
48 (Off record)  
49  
50 (On record)

1 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: I'll call the  
2 meeting back to order. We're going to get an  
3 explanation of the actions that we need to take from  
4 one of our Staff members here. Apparently there's a  
5 little confusion about what our action was and I think  
6 we're going to be reversing that last decision we made.

7  
8 Go ahead.

9  
10 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Mr. Chairman.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead.

13  
14 MR. CHRISTIANSON: I'd like to make a  
15 motion to reconsider the last action the Board has  
16 taken on WP16-22.

17  
18 MS. PENDLETON: Second that.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: You heard the motion  
21 and the second and is that proper procedure?

22  
23 MR. LORD: It is, Mr. Chair.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Okay. Any further  
26 discussion on the motion.

27  
28 (No comments)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Okay, not hearing  
31 any, all those in favor of the motion say aye.

32  
33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any opposed, same  
36 sign -- say nay.

37  
38 (No opposing votes)

39  
40 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Motion passes  
41 unanimously. Our decision on 16-22 has been reversed,  
42 the floor is open for a new motion.

43  
44 MS. CLARK: I'm going to try this  
45 again.

46  
47 I'd like to make a motion to adopt  
48 WP16-22 and will provide my -- I'm sorry, hold on.

49  
50 (Pause)

1 MS. CLARK: I'd like to make a motion  
2 to adopt WP16-22 with modification to only require a  
3 State permit.

4  
5 MR. FROST: Second.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: You heard the motion  
8 and the second. Further discussion.

9  
10 MS. CLARK: The intent of this proposal  
11 was to address concerns with Federally-qualified  
12 subsistence users being required to use a State permit  
13 that only listed the State season dates, which is  
14 shorter than the Federal season. While requiring the  
15 Federal permit would address the concerns, the State  
16 has recently agreed to use a joint State/Federal permit  
17 that would list the State and Federal seasons. The use  
18 of a single joint permit would reduce confusion for all  
19 users and allow the harvest reporting to a single  
20 source. This is consistent with the desire of the  
21 Bristol Bay Council for a simplified permit process.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Any  
24 further discussion. Did you want to review the....

25  
26 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair. This is  
27 Stewart Cogswell from OSM, I just want to clarify what  
28 the vote is going to be. A yea vote is to accept, a  
29 nay vote is to oppose, and the motion was to adopt with  
30 modification.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Are there any  
33 questions.

34  
35 (No comments)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Our action is to  
38 support the new motion. All those in favor of the  
39 motion say aye.

40  
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any opposed say nay.

44  
45 (No opposing votes)

46  
47 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Motion passes  
48 unanimously. Our next proposal is 16-25 and 26.

49  
50 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.



1 WP16-25/26 begins on Page 567 of your Board books. It  
2 was submitted -- 25 was submitted by the Togiak Fish  
3 and Game Advisory Committee, and 26 was submitted by  
4 the Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

5  
6 The proponents request changing the  
7 season and harvest limit for caribou on the Nushagak  
8 Peninsula, which includes a portion of Unit 17A and  
9 17C. Specifically the request is to change the current  
10 August 1st through September 30th and December 1st  
11 through March 31st season to a continuous season that  
12 would run August 1st through March 31st, and it also  
13 requests that the harvest limit be increased from two  
14 caribou to three caribou.

15  
16 In 1994 harvest of the Nushagak Herd  
17 was authorized by the Board. And at that time a  
18 closure was established to all users except residents  
19 of Togiak, Dillingham, Manakotak, Twin Hills,  
20 Aleknagik, Clark's Point and Ekok. Despite increasing  
21 size of the Nushagak Herd, the Bristol Bay Council has  
22 recommended maintaining the closure both in 2008 and  
23 2012 based on the continued difficulty harvesting moose  
24 and Mulchatna Caribou. This is a growing population  
25 currently. The minimum count is over 300 animals at  
26 last count, and so this is well above the Nushagak  
27 Caribou Management Plan's objective of 400 to 900  
28 animals. At this point managers are expressing concern  
29 that sustained growth might lead to another sharp  
30 decline in population and they support additional  
31 harvest.

32  
33 For the winters of 2012/13 and 2013/14  
34 reported harvest was over 100 animals annually but poor  
35 travel conditions in the past two years have resulted  
36 in a much lower harvest. Current harvest levels are  
37 well below the recommendations laid out in the  
38 management plan, which is to harvest all animals over a  
39 minimum of 750 caribou. As you know there have been  
40 four recent special action requests that have been  
41 aimed at increasing harvest in the current regulatory  
42 year.

43  
44 If this proposal is adopted the longer  
45 season and more generous harvest limit will provide  
46 additional opportunity to local users, which makes  
47 sense biologically given concerns about population  
48 growth.

49  
50 As a result the OSM conclusion is to

1 support WP16-25, with modification, to remove  
2 regulatory language referencing harvest quota's and  
3 limits and to delegate authority to Togiak National  
4 Wildlife Refuge and to set the number of permits to be  
5 issued and harvest quotas, and to take no action on  
6 WP16-26.

7

8 That's all I have.

9

10 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. If there  
11 aren't any questions then we -- could we get a summary  
12 of the public comments from the Regional Coordinator.

13

14 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
15 Donald Mike, Regional Council Coordinator. There are  
16 no written public comments on this proposal.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. The  
21 floor is open for any public testimony and we have two  
22 people that would like to testify.

23

24 Gala Hoseth.

25

26 MS. HOSETH: Good afternoon, Mr.  
27 Chairman and members of the Board.

28

29 For the record my name is Gala Hoseth  
30 and I represent the Curyung Tribal Council located in  
31 Dillingham, Alaska in the Bristol Bay region. I am the  
32 third tribal chief of the council and serve as a  
33 representative on the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou  
34 committee.

35

36 Thank you for this opportunity to voice  
37 our concerns and support through this public process on  
38 proposals that impact our people.

39

40 I'd like -- I don't know if you guys  
41 have a copy of it but I'd like you to reference the US  
42 Fish and Wildlife population monitoring and status of  
43 the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd from 1988 to 2004  
44 by Andy Aderman, and I would be -- I don't know if it's  
45 in your packet, if it's not in your packet I could  
46 submit it -- it's on Page 572 -- okay. Just for  
47 population numbers and sizes as I go through my  
48 testimony.

49

50 The Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd is

1 currently at a population size of approximately 1,400  
2 caribou. The manager of this herd would like to see  
3 this population with a population threshold of about  
4 750 to 900. This herd has been growing over the years  
5 and our region has been experiencing very warm winters  
6 over the past few years making travel conditions during  
7 the winter months very difficult. Through the  
8 cooperative agreement from 1988, as the herd continues  
9 to grow, the harvest will be allowed to increase as  
10 long as the herd can support such a harvest and still  
11 continue to grow. As you can see with this -- with the  
12 proposal and the information in your packet this herd  
13 has continued to grow, however, our bag limits have not  
14 been increasing.

15

16 Our Council is in support of the season  
17 date changes as well as the bag limit increase to three  
18 as the proposal is written. We would like to offer a  
19 recommendation to increase the bag limit for up to five  
20 caribou to be harvested. One of the reasons we are in  
21 favor of the bag increase of up to five is to allow for  
22 more local residents of the local communities to go and  
23 harvest more caribou. As you may know the cost of  
24 living in rural Alaska is very high and with an  
25 increased bag limit local hunters who are Federally-  
26 designated hunters for many locals will be able to  
27 bring back more caribou back to the villages, making  
28 this more economical for local residents to harvest  
29 caribou.

30

31 During this past winter the Federal  
32 Subsistence Board passed one of the special actions to  
33 allow for statewide residents to hunt on Federal land  
34 uplifting our restricted status. We are not in favor  
35 of uplifting our restricted status and this is why we  
36 are recommending an increased bag limit. We would like  
37 to have the opportunity to first to try to reduce this  
38 population size with increased bag limits and possibly  
39 community harvest quotas instead of only being  
40 increased by one more additional caribou. One of our  
41 concerns is, is a special action request was recently  
42 submitted last week by the Togiak Wildlife Refuge and  
43 the State of Alaska for the fall of 2016 season to  
44 allow for statewide residents to hunt on this section  
45 of the Federal land where the Nushagak Peninsula  
46 caribou are located and, again, uplift our restricted  
47 status.

48

49 My understanding is the State residents  
50 would be able to harvest two caribou and that's why

1 we're asking for five caribou for our local residents.

2

3 We are in favor of extending the hunt  
4 to other local Bristol Bay area villages and due to  
5 regulations we understand it cannot be the entire  
6 Bristol Bay region but within the regulations we must  
7 follow, we are in favor of extending to the villages  
8 the regulations will allow for.

9

10 As this herd grows and migrates on to  
11 State land, as they have this winter, the State of  
12 Alaska has the authority to open the hunt to harvest  
13 the caribou and I hope we're given that opportunity  
14 like we were this past winter into the next season as  
15 well so residents may participate and hunt caribou on  
16 State land.

17

18 Our tribe would like to see the herd  
19 healthy and at a good population size, however, we are  
20 not in favor of statewide residents coming and hunting  
21 in our designated areas. We plan to work with the  
22 other seven tribes in our area regarding this Nushagak  
23 Peninsula Caribou Herd and we were told that we would  
24 have to wait for the next proposal cycle to submit a  
25 proposal to do community harvest quotas, so that's  
26 something we're going to be working on when we return  
27 back to Dillingham.

28

29 So thank you, again, for taking the  
30 time to hear my testimony today. Please take into  
31 consideration to amend the proposal for an increased  
32 bag limit for up to five caribou. I appreciate the  
33 hard work that you do to manage our subsistence  
34 resources and I'm very happy to be a part of this  
35 public process.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Are  
40 there any questions from the Board.

41

42 MS. CLARK: I'd like to ask Ken Lord a  
43 question.

44

45 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead.

46

47 MS. CLARK: Is it possible for us to  
48 increase this to five at this point in time?

49

50 MR. LORD: Mr. Chair. It is possible.

1 The concept of increasing the harvest limit is part of  
2 the proposal so I think the public has had adequate  
3 notice that the harvest level could be increased to  
4 some number, whether it's the three that was proposed  
5 or some other one. I believe that we'd be on firm  
6 ground.

7

8 MS. CLARK: Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any further  
11 questions.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you very much  
16 for your proposal -- testimony.

17

18 We have another individual, Verner  
19 Wilson.

20

21 MR. WILSON: Hi, good afternoon. My  
22 name is Verner Wilson and I am the director of Natural  
23 Resources for the Bristol Bay Native Association, a  
24 consortium of 31 tribes in the Bristol Bay region. I  
25 was born and raised in Dillingham and I'm a member of  
26 the Curyung Tribe, and I go hunting and fishing in the  
27 region.

28

29 My comments are on supporting Proposals  
30 WP16-25 and 26 and 31 and 32 consistent with BBNA  
31 executive Board action. And I also support increasing  
32 the bag limit to five.

33

34 BBNA's executive board passed a  
35 resolution in January 2016 in support of a caribou hunt  
36 permit increase to three, supporting the increase of  
37 the caribou to all Bristol Bay communities. Supporting  
38 same day caribou airborne hunting for Bristol Bay  
39 residents. Supporting community harvest permits  
40 instead of personal ones and supporting transplanting  
41 caribou back to area 9E.

42

43 On my specific thoughts, in regards to  
44 the draft letter on Page 580 of the packet that was  
45 written for Chairman Towarak to sign about the proposed  
46 delegation of authority, I'm glad to see that the  
47 delegation of authority to the Togiak Refuge manager  
48 was clarified earlier for proposals under 60 days, and  
49 to notify a member of the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou  
50 Committee. We hope that the manager will go beyond

1 that and try to notify tribal leaders who have been  
2 involved in this issue, including members of the BBNA  
3 board who may be interested in such a decision.

4  
5                   Beyond the special action, coordination  
6 from Federal and State agencies is currently the  
7 practice but some tribal board members from BBNA are  
8 very interested in the co-management with tribes of the  
9 region on the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou population.  
10 In the draft letters, under the guidelines for  
11 delegation it states that the delegation of authority  
12 will become familiar with the management history of the  
13 wildlife species that are relevant. I hope members  
14 here will look at that original cooperative agreement  
15 and remember it.

16  
17                   It basically said that in 1988 when it  
18 was first agreed upon that, as the herd continues to  
19 grow the harvest will be allowed to increase as long as  
20 the herd can support such a harvest and still continue  
21 to grow. After five years a subsistence harvest may be  
22 allowed depending on the size of the population. Each  
23 year a harvest level will be established based on the  
24 growth of the herd.

25  
26                   And that sort of is just consistent  
27 with harvest levels and giving locals the ability to  
28 hunt more to increase harvest levels. And I hope that  
29 we move towards this original intent by increasing the  
30 caribou limit from three to five.

31  
32                   While I share the concern of over  
33 population, I'm concerned that opening the area to  
34 statewide harvest will set precedent. We've heard  
35 testimony of when statewide harvest was opened on the  
36 east side of Bristol Bay and people coming over to  
37 parts of the state and use sameday airborne and really  
38 took advantage of those populations. I believe that  
39 instead, we must increase hunting opportunity for  
40 locals, that includes increasing the harvest bag limit,  
41 as I already mentioned. While the current special  
42 action for later this year recommends a harvest limit  
43 of up to three caribou, we should go beyond that, so I  
44 recommend that this Board, as you stated you could do,  
45 does do that, three to five, since we are concerned on  
46 high caribou populations that are currently around  
47 1,500 to the optimal 750 to 900 as stated under the  
48 paper that Gala had mentioned earlier, the population  
49 monitoring and status of the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou  
50 Herd from 1988 to 2015 by Togiak Refuge wildlife

1 biologist Andy Aderman. This will give more  
2 opportunity for Bristol Bay residents and our tribal  
3 members to harvest the necessary caribou.

4  
5 I'm also in support of the special  
6 action to increase hunting from August 1st to March  
7 31st, sameday airborne opening from January to March  
8 for local residents and to liberalize the season to  
9 allow sameday airborne hunting in the summer for  
10 locals.

11  
12 There are other solutions to prevent  
13 over populations in the future. We will be working  
14 together, as Gala said, to increase those  
15 opportunities; that includes increasing the harvest  
16 from beyond the seven communities to other Bristol Bay  
17 communities in the region and really looking into  
18 community harvest with higher bag limits for the  
19 villages so that they could work together. And so in  
20 the future we'll be putting together those proposals.

21  
22 So, thank you very much.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Are  
25 there any questions of.....

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you, Mr.  
30 Wilson.

31  
32 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Is there anyone on  
35 line that would like to testify.

36  
37 OPERATOR: We have no participants.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Regional  
40 Council recommendations.

41  
42 MS. CHYTHLOOK: On Page 577, Bristol  
43 Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council supports  
44 WP16-25 as modified by OSM. No action was taken on  
45 WP16-26.

46  
47 The Council supported WP16-25 to remove  
48 regulatory language referencing harvest quotas, limits  
49 and number of permits available and delegate authority  
50 to determine harvest quota. The Nushagak Peninsula

1 Caribou harvest is growing and can sustain larger -- or  
2 longer seasons and increase the harvest limit. The  
3 longer season and increased harvest limit will provide  
4 Federally-qualified subsistence hunters additional  
5 opportunity.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Are  
10 there any questions.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Just for.....

15

16 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead.

19

20 MR. CHRISTIANSON: I just -- through  
21 the Chair, I just wanted to ask, Molly, was there  
22 discussion at the Board level about increasing it from  
23 three to five as we've heard here from the public  
24 testimony.

25

26 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I'll have to reference  
27 that to Donald, because I was looking at our comments,  
28 in our minutes, to see if there was any discussions.  
29 We had discussions to increase two to three, but I'm  
30 not -- Donald, do you remember any discussions on that.

31

32 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
33 Member Molly. During our fall meeting the Council  
34 discussed the limits of up to three caribou, but I  
35 think later on during the discussions -- there was no  
36 official action taken, in hindsight they recognized  
37 that they should have increased the bag limit up to  
38 five caribou.

39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

41

42 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any further  
43 questions.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Just for the record,  
48 this proposal also affects the Western Interior Alaska  
49 -- the Regional Advisory Council but no action was  
50 taken on it. Currently no one from the Western



1 Interior Region is eligible for this hunt, so I'm  
2 assuming that we don't need to consult with -- any  
3 further discussion.

4  
5 (No comments)

6  
7 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Are there any  
8 Tribal, or Alaska Native Corporation comments.

9  
10 Orville.

11  
12 MR. LIND: Mr. Chairman. Orville Lind,  
13 Native Liaison. There are no comments.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you.  
16 Department of Fish and Game comments.

17  
18 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. We support the  
19 bag limit increase to three caribou. The population,  
20 as noted, is almost twice the objective. It's an  
21 introduced population that was transplanted there to  
22 provide opportunity. The bull -- calf/cow ratio is  
23 almost 50 calves per 100 cows, which suggests rapid  
24 growth and so we recommend anything that the Board can  
25 do to help regulate the population would be desirable.  
26 The idea of up to five caribou may even be something to  
27 consider but I'd leave that at the discretion of the  
28 local managers to set the actual bag limit in any given  
29 year based on population modeling. That'd be my  
30 recommendation.

31  
32 But it'd provide additional  
33 opportunity, potentially, to the extent that the  
34 population can support it. And, again, the goal is to  
35 reduce it from what's currently 1,300 caribou to 750,  
36 taking all animals above 750 so that seems reasonable.

37  
38 However, we do recommend that you lift  
39 the closure to non-Federally-qualified users. We  
40 believe it's time to let additional opportunity to  
41 occur. And we can work with the local communities to  
42 try to develop a plan that doesn't overwhelm people  
43 with outside hunters. We certainly wouldn't be  
44 considering sameday airborne on the State side. We'd  
45 probably have a limited fall hunt at first. We did  
46 open the season on Federal lands after this Board took  
47 temporary action and that was a two caribou bag limit  
48 but it was -- for us it was an extension of what was  
49 currently being offered on State lands in that case.  
50 So we can work with people on the seasons and bag

1 limits. The Board of Game would have to be involved,  
2 but certainly the Nushagak Planning Committee would  
3 also be heavily involved and can participate in that  
4 process and help us develop a season that's not  
5 objectionable, but still meets the mutual desired goal  
6 of reducing the population and, again, with it being an  
7 introduced population that's twice the population  
8 objective, there's really not a strong argument to  
9 limit non-Federally-qualified users.

10

11 And the State opportunity would also  
12 benefit people in King Salmon and other adjacent  
13 communities that currently can't participate under the  
14 Federal process. So there's probably a few different  
15 ways to look at that.

16

17 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Are  
18 there -- go ahead.

19

20 MS. PENDLETON: Through the Chair. Mr.  
21 Butler, do we know the percentage of harvest that is  
22 being taken by non-Federally-qualified subsistence  
23 users currently?

24

25 MR. BUTLER: Previous to this last  
26 winter, the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd resided  
27 exclusively on the Refuge so there has not been State  
28 hunting opportunity at all, yeah, since it was  
29 established even.

30

31 MS. PENDLETON: Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If there are no  
34 further questions we will continue then to the  
35 InterAgency Staff Committee comments.

36

37 MS. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
38 Ameer Howard for the InterAgency Staff Committee.

39

40 The ISC found the Staff analysis to be  
41 a thorough and accurate evaluation of the proposal and  
42 that it provides sufficient basis for the Regional  
43 Advisory Council recommendation and Federal Subsistence  
44 Board action on the proposal.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. The  
49 floor is open for Board discussion with the Chairs, Co-  
50 -- Council Chairs or the State Liaison.

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: The floor is then  
4 open for Board action.  
5  
6 MS. CLARK: I'd like to make a motion  
7 to adopt WP16-25 as modified by OSM on Page 575 and  
8 supported by the Bristol Bay Council.  
9  
10 MS. PENDLETON: Second that.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: You heard the  
13 motion, is there.....  
14  
15 MS. PENDLETON: I seconded it.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: And a second. So  
18 further discussion.  
19  
20 MS. CLARK: I'd like to make an  
21 amendment to modify the harvest limit from up to three  
22 to up to five.  
23  
24 MR. CHRISTIANSON: I'll second that.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: You heard the motion  
27 and the second for modifying the original motion.  
28  
29 Any discussion on that.  
30  
31 (No comments)  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any questions.  
34  
35 (No comments)  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Those in favor of  
38 the motion say aye.  
39  
40 IN UNISON: Aye.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any opposed say nay.  
43  
44 (No opposing votes)  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Motion passes  
47 unanimously. The amendment has passed.  
48  
49 MS. CLARK: Do you want any  
50 justification on that?

1 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: We will take up the  
2 main motion now -- okay, go ahead with your  
3 justification.

4  
5 MS. CLARK: Okay. Bear with me because  
6 I've had to modify this a little bit for the changes  
7 that we've made.

8  
9 Extending the caribou season will  
10 provide more opportunity for Federally-qualified  
11 subsistence users to harvest caribou when weather and  
12 travel conditions are favorable rather than being  
13 restricted to the current split seasons. The  
14 population has been an important subsistence resource  
15 but difficult travel conditions have limited harvest in  
16 recent years. The population is well above the  
17 management objectives and managers are concerned that  
18 there will be population or habitat impacts if the  
19 population continues to increase, both of which could  
20 affect continued subsistence uses. Additionally, we've  
21 heard in consultation today and previously that a  
22 harvest limit of up to five is more efficient and more  
23 beneficial to users. Because the population is well  
24 above the management objective, it will be able to  
25 support additional harvest. Additionally, the Refuge  
26 manager has the ability to adjust the harvest limit  
27 annually as needed.

28  
29 Thank you.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any further  
32 discussion.

33  
34 (No comments)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: It's always  
37 dangerous when Staff members get together.

38  
39 (Laughter)

40  
41 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Question.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: I thought we voted  
44 on the amendment.

45  
46 (Pause)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: We're back on the  
49 main motion, the amendment passed 8 to zero. We're now  
50 voting on the main motion with the revision to change

1 the harvest limit from three to five so the main motion  
2 supports the five capacity.

3

4 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Question.

5

6 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Question's been  
7 called for, all those in favor of the motion say aye.

8

9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10

11 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any opposed same si  
12 -- say nay.

13

14 (No opposing votes)

15

16 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Motion passes  
17 unanimously.

18

19 (Pause)

20

21 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: There was a  
22 proposal, 26, but the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory  
23 Council recommended that no action be taken on WP16-26.  
24 Do we need a formal motion.

25

26 MS. CLARK: I'll make.....

27

28 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead.

29

30 MS. CLARK: I'll make a motion to take  
31 no action on WP16-22 due to action on WP16-25.

32

33 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Second.

34

35 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: You heard the motion  
36 and a second, any discussion.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Not hearing any, all  
41 those in favor of the motion say aye.

42

43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44

45 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any opposed same  
46 sign.

47

48 (No opposing votes)

49

50 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Motion passes

1 unanimously.

2

3 Are we -- we have one more Bristol Bay  
4 proposal and with that I think we could take a break,  
5 we will address the YK-Delta tomorrow morning. So the  
6 floor is open for action -- or analysis from the Staff  
7 on 16-31 and 32.

8

9 MS. LAVINE: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair  
10 and members of the Board. My name is Robbin LaVine and  
11 I'm an anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence  
12 Management.

13

14 The analysis for Proposal 16-31 and 32  
15 begins on Page 582 of your meeting book.

16

17 Proposals 16-31 and 32 were submitted  
18 by the Nushagak Advisory Committee and the Togiak  
19 Advisory Committee respectively and they request a  
20 change in Federal subsistence regulations to allow  
21 sameday airborne harvest of Nushagak Peninsula Caribou  
22 during the winter hunt, January 1st through March 31st.

23

24 The proponents state that allowing  
25 sameday airborne subsistence harvest of the Nushagak  
26 Peninsula Caribou Herd in Unit 17 would provide more  
27 opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence users  
28 during the winter hunt season. They add that aircraft  
29 have traditionally been used to harvest resources in  
30 the Bristol Bay area and that poor snow cover has  
31 contributed to recent low harvest on the Nushagak  
32 Peninsula. Both proponents state that allowing sameday  
33 airborne harvesting would not impact the herd as  
34 harvest is controlled by permits issued, not by means  
35 of access.

36

37 The Board has received similar  
38 proposals in the past. Proposal 48 in '97 and 56 in  
39 '98. The Board rejected Proposal 48 and Proposal 56 was  
40 rejected on recommendation from the Council. Reasons  
41 for rejection at that time included concerns over  
42 harassment of the herd, a possible increased harvest  
43 effort required by snowmachine hunters, the possibility  
44 of a harvest advantage to rural residents with a pane  
45 over those without and that some local residents of the  
46 Bristol Bay Native -- and the Bristol Bay Native  
47 Association opposed the proposal. More recently, since  
48 the writing of this proposal, the Nushagak Peninsula  
49 Caribou Herd has continued growth beyond the population  
50 objectives outlined in the herd's management plan, as

1 you've just heard.

2

3 In the winter of 2015/16 the Nushagak  
4 Peninsula Caribou Planning Committee submitted several  
5 special actions aimed at increasing harvest and  
6 reducing the herd size to a sustainable level. They  
7 were Wildlife Special Actions 15-14, 15-15, 15-16, and  
8 Wildlife Special Action 15-17, which mirrors this  
9 proposal and lifts the prohibition on sameday airborne  
10 harvest during the 2016 winter hunt. All were approved  
11 by the Board.

12

13 Allowing sameday airborne harvest would  
14 provide additional opportunity for Federally-qualified  
15 subsistence users during winters when snow cover is  
16 poor and travel by snowmachine is difficult. While  
17 providing advantage to residents with access to  
18 aircraft, studies demonstrate the Bristol Bay hunters  
19 are generous with their success and distribute meat  
20 throughout their community regardless of methods used  
21 to access the resource. More significantly the  
22 Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd has increased  
23 substantially from 462 animals in 2007 to approximately  
24 1,300 animals by October of 2015. Adoption of this  
25 proposal would help the long-term viability of the herd  
26 as the population is already above the management  
27 objective.

28

29 The OSM conclusion is to support  
30 Wildlife Proposal 16-31 and take no action on 16-32.

31

32 And I'm ready to take questions.

33

34 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you.

35 Questions.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Not hearing any then  
40 we'll have a summary of the public comments from the  
41 Regional Coordinator.

42

43 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
44 Donald Mike, Regional Council Coordinator. There are  
45 no written public comments on Proposal 31 and 32.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: We've got -- I'm  
50 sorry, we've got two, Gala Hoseth first and then Verner

1 Wilson again.

2

3 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman  
4 and members of the Board again. For the record my name  
5 is Gala Hoseth and I'm representing Curyung Tribal  
6 Council in Dillingham.

7

8 We are in support of this proposal and  
9 I think that Robbin gave a good summary, that she read  
10 to you. So I would just like to put on the record  
11 that, yes, we are in support of this.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Any  
16 questions from the Board.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you for your  
21 testimony. Mr. Wilson.

22

23 MR. WILSON: Yeah, my name is Verner  
24 Wilson again. And I just want to also go on -- briefly  
25 go on the record say that BBNA's executive board did  
26 pass a resolution supporting sameday caribou airborne  
27 hunting for the Nushagak area and Bristol Bay residents  
28 -- the people of Bristol Bay.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any questions for  
33 Mr. Wilson.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you for your  
38 testimony.

39

40 Is there anyone on line that would like  
41 to testify.

42

43 OPERATOR: We do have a Suzanna Henry.  
44 Suzanna your line is open.

45

46 MS. HENRY: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair  
47 and members of the Board. This is Suzanna Henry from  
48 Togiak Refuge over in Dillingham. We just wanted to  
49 make a few comments. We -- I'm not alone, I have Andy  
50 Aderman, our wildlife biologist and our supervisory



1 biologist, Pat Walsh, with me.

2

3                   We were unable to get through during  
4 the discussions that were on the previous proposal,  
5 25/26, but overall we've been trying everything we can  
6 to increase the harvest of the caribou on the Nushagak  
7 Peninsula. We've had unlimited tags throughout this  
8 season but basically weather conditions have prevented  
9 most people from accessing the caribou. We're up to  
10 about 60 caribou that have been harvested since August  
11 1st of 2015. Because of the great abundance of the  
12 caribou we are considering looking in the future  
13 outside of just our Bristol Bay area for an opening for  
14 all State residents and we did that temporarily, of  
15 course, for this ongoing hunt that's going on right now  
16 through Friday.

17

18                   I would want to point out that through  
19 the years as the population has increased, we have  
20 increased the bag limit, harvest limit went from one to  
21 two in 2013 and then from two to three this year so  
22 that is something that is fluid and we practice  
23 adaptive management working with the Nushagak Caribou  
24 -- Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Planning Committee  
25 meeting, we worked together with them on those  
26 decisions. So this is something we are trying to  
27 address through them.

28

29                   You guys have some other comments.

30

31                   MR. WALSH: Yeah, this is Pat Walsh  
32 from Togiak Refuge. And there's been a great deal of  
33 discussion on this topic already but one thing that  
34 hasn't been mentioned was there's kind of a parallel  
35 situation that took place about 25 years ago when a  
36 caribou population became overpopulated and that was on  
37 Hagemeister Island, they were reindeer but same thing.  
38 What happened was about half of them starved to death  
39 and the remainder had to be removed because they  
40 depleted the habitat there.

41

42                   What's at stake on the Nushagak  
43 Peninsula, if we're not able to reduce numbers in a  
44 hurry is a similar habitat damage, but that's not an  
45 island so these caribou can leave, they're not going to  
46 stay in place and starve. And if that's the case we  
47 could end up completely losing this subsistence  
48 resource for all of these communities. If they leave  
49 they may not come back because that's the way of  
50 caribou. So we are considering, and recommending to

1 the Federal Subsistence Board to open up this hunt to  
2 additional residents so that we can increase the  
3 harvest and we'll design a plan that has a threshold in  
4 it such that when the caribou are not overpopulated the  
5 hunt would be just restricted to the local subsistence  
6 users.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Does that conclude  
9 your testimony.

10  
11 MR. WALSH: Yes. That -- sorry, that  
12 concludes -- didn't know if you heard any of that but  
13 yes that concludes it.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: We heard it all.

16  
17 MR. WALSH: And we'll -- we will  
18 provide additional information in writing later. We  
19 don't -- what we're talking about is not really on your  
20 agenda right now anyway so basically we're responding  
21 to comments that were brought up by other parties,  
22 rather than really what's on your agenda.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Did the  
25 Regional Advisory Council have recommendations.

26  
27 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
28 Molly Chythlook, Bristol Bay RAC Chair.

29  
30 Go to Page 593, Bristol Bay Subsistence  
31 Regional Advisory Council supports WP16-31. The  
32 Nushagak Peninsula caribou population has increased and  
33 rural residents have not been able to access the herd  
34 due to poor weather conditions. The Council supported  
35 the proposal that will provide for greater opportunity  
36 to Federally-qualified subsistence users in the winter  
37 hunt of Nushagak Peninsula caribou without adversely  
38 affecting the caribou herd population.

39  
40 And then we took no action on WP16-32.

41  
42 Thank you.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Do we  
45 have any Tribal, or Alaska Native Corporation comments.

46  
47 MR. LIND: Mr. Chairman. No comments.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you.  
50 Department of Fish and Game comments.

1 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. We're opposed  
2 to the adoption of what's a very liberal method of  
3 harvesting caribou without opening of the other  
4 opportunities for other resource users. So, if to the  
5 extent people could consider lifting the Federal land  
6 closure we could update or modify our recommendation on  
7 this. But, again, we see this as a very liberal step  
8 on the Federal subsistence regulations to advance with  
9 a SDA hunting opportunity without allowing other  
10 resource users to participate.

11  
12 And, again, we'd be willing to work  
13 with the planning committee and with the Refuge to  
14 develop a plan and guidelines that would help govern  
15 what that other additional opportunity would look like  
16 and it would benefit other local residents of Bristol  
17 Bay to offer it.

18  
19 So that's our comment.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Any  
22 questions for the State.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you for your  
27 statements. We'll move on to InterAgency Staff  
28 Committee comments.

29  
30 MS. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31  
32 The ISC found the Staff analysis to be  
33 a thorough and accurate evaluation of the proposal and  
34 that it provides sufficient basis for the Regional  
35 Advisory Council recommendation and Federal Subsistence  
36 Board action on the proposal.

37  
38 Thank you.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. The  
41 floor is open for Board discussion with either the  
42 Council Chair or the State liaison.

43  
44 (No comments)

45  
46 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Not hearing any then  
47 we will -- the floor is open for Board action on WP16-  
48 31/32.

49  
50 MS. CLARK: I make a motion to adopt

1 WP16-31 as supported by the Bristol Bay Council.

2

3 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Second.

4

5 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: You heard the motion  
6 and the second. Discussion.

7

8 MS. CLARK: The allowance of the  
9 sameday airborne will provide additional opportunity  
10 for Federally-qualified subsistence users by improving  
11 access to the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd. Poor  
12 travel conditions have kept Federally-qualified  
13 subsistence users from accessing the Peninsula via  
14 snowmachines and harvesting caribou. The caribou herd  
15 is well above the management objective and managers are  
16 concerned about population and habitat impacts if the  
17 herd continues to grow. While the sameday airborne  
18 allowance may be controversial it would provide access  
19 during the winter.

20

21 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any further  
22 discussion.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Question.

27

28 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Question's been  
29 called for. All those in favor of the motion say aye.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any opposed say nay.

34

35 (No opposing votes)

36

37 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Motion passes  
38 unanimously.

39

40 MS. CLARK: I'd like to make a motion  
41 to take no action on WP16-32 due to the action on WP16-  
42 31.

43

44 MS. PENDLETON: Second.

45

46 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: You heard the motion  
47 and a second.

48

49 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Question.

50

1 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Question's been  
2 called for. All those in favor of the motion say aye.

3  
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any opposed say nay.

7  
8 (No opposing votes)

9  
10 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Motion passes  
11 unanimously.

12  
13 We will -- that concludes the Bristol  
14 Bay area. The next section will be with the Yukon  
15 Kuskokwim region and we will recess tonight until 8:30  
16 tomorrow morning.

17  
18 (Off record)

19  
20 (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 of Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 2 through 86 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically by our firm on the 12th day of April 2016, in Anchorage, 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 22nd day of April 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18