

NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Point Hope, Alaska
October 24, 2019
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gordon Brower, Chair
William Hopson
Martha Itta
Wanda T. Kippi
Steve Oomittuk
Edward Rexford

Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 (Point Hope, Alaska - 10/24/2019)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning. I'm
8 going to call the meeting back to order. We recessed
9 yesterday and I'm going to ask Madame Coordinator if we
10 need to reestablish quorum to get the meeting going and
11 does that mean today's roll call?

12

13 MS. PATTON: Yes, Mr. Chair. Thank
14 you. That would be -- that would be helpful, we
15 can.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

18

19 MS. PATTON:make sure we have a
20 quorum here.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: With that I'm going
23 to ask the secretary to do the roll call this morning
24 to establish quorum so we can get underway.

25

26 Wanda.

27

28 MS. KIPPI: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
29 Chair. Good morning, everybody.

30

31 Gordon Brower, Utqiagvik.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm here.

34

35 MS. KIPPI: Wanda Kippi, Atqasuk.
36 Here.

37

38 Steve Oomittuk, Point Hope.

39

40 MR. OOMITTUK: Here.

41

42 MS. KIPPI: Edward Rexford, Kaktovik.

43

44 MR. REXFORD: (No response)

45

46 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
47 I'm currently trying to connect with Edward this
48 morning. He should be joining us for the meeting
49 later. I'll check in with him again.

50

1 Thank you.

2
3 MS. KIPPI: Thank you. Martha Itta,
4 Nuiqsut.

5
6 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
7 Martha was feeling not well this morning.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. She said she
10 might join us late, she's just not feeling all that
11 good this morning. Yeah. A few of us are kind of
12 sick, I'm battling a little sore throat myself in
13 Nuvuk, but.....

14
15 MS. KIPPI: I am too.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER:but it -- it's
18 what it is.

19
20 MS. KIPPI: Okay. And William Hopson,
21 Utqiagvik.

22
23 MR. HOPSON: Here.

24
25 MS. KIPPI: I believe -- I believe, Mr.
26 Chair, I think we have a quorum with four. Is that
27 correct?

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's true. I think
30 four we get to have a quorum.

31
32 MS. KIPPI: Yeah.

33
34 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair or Mr. Chair
35 and Council.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Don't call me madam.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 MS. PATTON: Yeah, addressing our
42 lovely Secretary here, Wanda.

43
44 Mr. Chair and Council. That's correct.
45 Again with the most recent appointments from the
46 Secretary of the Interior, we did have several
47 vacancies on the Council, seats that were not
48 reappointed. And with the loss of Tad Reich we're down
49 to six Council members so quorum is half plus one. So
50

1 we do have quorum.

2

3

4

Thank you.

5

6

7

8

CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Wanda,
from Atqasuk, for the reestablishing our quorum to
conduct business.

9

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18

And I think it's important to do
introductions in the morning for those that haven't
introduced themselves. It's a public meeting and
public participation is important to the RAC and the
reason why we're here today is because we want to reach
out to villagers and continue to let them recognize
they have a regional RAC that they can work with when
it comes to subsistence regulations on Federal public
lands. And then -- and hear concerns.

19

20

21

With that, whoever's online, we will --
introduce yourselves, those that are online, please.

22

23

24

25

MS. VOORHEES: Good morning. This is
Hannah Voorhees, anthropologist with the Office of
Subsistence Management.

26

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Hannah.

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MS. BRUMMER: This is Christine
Brummer, pathways anthropologist with the Office of
Subsistence Management.

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40

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42

43

Good morning.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.

MS. NIGRO: Hello. This is Debbie
Nigro from the Bureau of Land Management.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Debbie.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
simultaneous speech).....

CHAIRMAN BROWER: You were overlapped
by.....

MR. PERRY: Hi, this is Phillip Perry
from Department of Fish and Game.

1 DR. REAM: Good morning. This is
2 Joshua Ream, regional program manger for subsistence at
3 the Alaska regional office, National Park Service.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Joshua.

6
7 MS. LENART: Good morning. This is
8 Beth Lenart, I'm a wildlife biologist, Alaska
9 Department of Fish and Game in Fairbanks.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Beth.

12
13 MR. BURCH: Hello. This is Mark Burch
14 with the Department of Fish and Game in Palmer.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Mark.

17
18 MS. OKADA: Good morning.

19
20 MR. GONZALEZ: (Indiscernible -
21 simultaneous speech).....

22
23 MS. OKADA: This is Marcy Okada.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Marcy.

26
27 MS. OKADA: Go ahead.

28
29 MR. GONZALEZ: Sorry about that.
30 Daniel Gonzalez, Department of Fish and Game in
31 Fairbanks.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Daniel.

34
35 MS. OKADA: Good morning. This is
36 Marcy Okada. I'm the subsistence coordinator for Gates
37 of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

38
39 MS. KENNER: Good morning. This is
40 Pippa Kenner with OSM in Anchorage.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is there anybody else
43 online, any villages online?

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll acknowledge
48 those that join us when they do join us. We're
49 expecting Eddie Rexford from Kaktovik to chime in. And
50

1 Eddie wasn't able to attend in person, he went home
2 from AFN. And I know we all want to go home sometimes
3 after being gone from home for a long period of time.
4

5 So introduction here on the floor. If
6 you could just -- day two of the RAC.
7

8 MR. LIND: (In Native). Thank you, Mr.
9 Chair. I'm Orville Lind, Native liaison from the
10 Office of Subsistence Management.
11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Orville.
13

14 MS. PETRIVELLI: Pat Petrivelli, BIA,
15 Anchorage, from -- the subsistence anthropologist.
16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Pat.
18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Vince Mathews, Refuge
20 subsistence coordinator for Arctic, Kanuti and Yukon
21 Flats.
22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Vince.
24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Morning.
26

27 MR. EVANS: Good morning. Tom Evans
28 from OSM.
29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Tom.
31

32 MR. SCANLON: Good morning. Brendan
33 Scanlon, Fish and Game, Fairbanks.
34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Brendan.
36

37 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning. Greg
38 Risdahl, Subsistence Division lead for OSM.
39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.
41

42 MS. FRANKSON: Good morning. Peggy
43 Frankson, executive director, Native Village of Point
44 Hope.
45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). Good
47 morning, Peggy.
48

49 MS. DAGGETT: (In Native). Carmen
50

1 Daggett from Utqiagvik, Alaska Department of Fish and
2 Game wildlife biologist.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Carmen.

5
6 MS. HYER: Good morning. This is Karen
7 Hyer, fisheries biologist from the Office of
8 Subsistence Management.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Karen.

11
12 MS. BEHR: Good morning. April Behr,
13 fisheries biologist, Fish and Game in Fairbanks.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, April.

16
17 STEVE BERENDZEN: Good morning. Steve
18 Berendzen, Refuge manager, Arctic National Wildlife
19 Refuge.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Steve.

22
23 That concludes the -- this morning's
24 participants. As other visitors come in from the
25 community we'll acknowledge them when they come in.

26
27 With that, Madame Coordinator, let's
28 figure out where we are on the agenda, where we left
29 off. I'd like to think that we're going to take up
30 unit 25A, Arctic Village Sheep Management Area that
31 includes Kaktovik in this area when Mr. Rexford
32 arrives. He has particular interest in this -- the
33 proposal to rescind the closure on non-Federally-
34 qualified users for sheep in that management area.

35
36 So with that, where do you suppose we
37 should jump to. That opens the door to juggle a little
38 bit and be a little flexible, right?

39
40 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. So
41 on both days of the meeting in the morning we have an
42 opportunity for public and tribal comment on nonagenda
43 items or anything you would like to address to the
44 Council on subsistence, share your observations and
45 interest and concerns with the Council.

46
47 So we'll open up again this morning
48 with an opportunity for public and tribal comment. And
49 then we did defer Native liaison Orville Lind's,
50

1 overview of the tribal consultation process with the
2 Federal Subsistence Program. So we'll have public and
3 tribal comment and then a brief overview on tribal
4 consultation from Orville.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is that a
7 recommendation or a.....

8
9 MS. PATTON: That's the process for
10 the.....

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MS. PATTON:for the agenda that
15 we had agreed on yesterday.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: With that I'm going
18 to go ahead and -- with the concurrence of the Council,
19 to open to public and tribal comments on nonagenda
20 items. So if you're the tribal president or vice
21 president or tribal member or, Orville, if you got some
22 updates to do in this area on anything that's a
23 nonagenda item, even welcoming remarks, I will open the
24 floor to that -- those types of comments at this time.

25
26 Is that okay with the Council?

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm seeing nodding
31 yes so the floor is open for any updates, comments from
32 the -- from the tribe and from the liaison also.

33
34 MS. FRANKSON: Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Peggy.

37
38 MS. FRANKSON: Good morning. As --
39 Peggy Frankson, executive director for Native Village
40 of Point Hope.

41
42 And a few years back we had an incident
43 here in Point Hope towards Cape Lisburne where some of
44 our hunters were -- had Federal charges against them
45 for -- I think it was waste of meat. And we are
46 pleased to have worked with Fish and Game -- Fish and
47 Wildlife Department in Fairbanks. We came up with a
48 resolution for the hunters through our tribal Council
49 and also the State of Alaska and the Federal Fish and
50

1 Game Department. And from that example from the
2 resolution we came up for our hunters, Kaktovik
3 incident with the polar bear also used that same time
4 of tribal consultation, tribal resolution with their
5 Council I believe and the hunters. So it's nice to see
6 that three of our subsistence -- you know, our hunters
7 did do wrong and they -- you know, we were able to --
8 the resolution that came up was very appropriate. And
9 I was glad to hear that Kaktovik also used that same
10 process for their hunter.

11
12 So I just wanted to make that comment.
13 It's always a pleasure that the Subsistence, Federal,
14 State, is always willing to work with the tribes.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Peggy.
17 (In Native) for some of that.

18
19 Is there any questions for Peggy
20 Frankson in this -- in this regard?

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I just want to
25 say thank you for your report. And I think they're
26 important and sometimes, you know, we have hard lessons
27 too. And I think something like that is starting to
28 come around Barrow too because there's -- we're seeing
29 wide -- widespread issues of hunting issues around
30 Barrow that are being reported. Dead tuttus all around
31 and we're trying to find out who's doing some of these
32 things that have been reported over the summer. In
33 previous year I think there was another, the tribe that
34 counted like -- I think like 70 tuttus laying around
35 and there's just been a lot of widespread concern about
36 wanton waste. And we don't like to think our own
37 tribal members do these things, but there is a growing
38 number of demographic changes in our communities that
39 help to contribute to that because they like to hunt as
40 well, but we don't know their hunting practices.

41
42 And but I think describing that model
43 is important using the tribe and working with the
44 Federal and State managers to look at these areas that
45 way.

46
47 With that I'm going to see if there are
48 any other tribal and public comments on non-agenda
49 items this morning.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And if you wanted to
4 update us, Orville, it's your opportunity.

5

6 And I'd also like to welcome Jack
7 Schaefer again this morning. And we were doing
8 introductions this morning and we acknowledge folks as
9 they come in.

10

11 MR. LIND: (In Native). Hello and good
12 morning. I am Orville Lind, Native liaison for the
13 Office of Subsistence Management, but more importantly
14 I am the son of Fred and Annie Lind from Chignik Lake
15 on Alaska Peninsula. I'm also the grandson of Dora and
16 Fred Lind Holme, grandparents. Born and raised in
17 Chignik. I grew up as a commercial fisherman and I
18 joined the government in 1991. I'll say I couldn't
19 understand them so I joined them to try to understand
20 them.

21

22 I have made a little progress in
23 understanding the government. However my new job as a
24 Native liaison has really blessed me because it has to
25 do with the people, local Alaskans, with subsistence
26 issues onto the whole State of Alaska.

27

28 In the State of Alaska, let me start
29 off with this. We have 567ish Federal recognized
30 tribes in our nation. We have 229 of those tribes here
31 in Alaska, including 12 corporations and up to 180
32 village corporations. And so those are my primary
33 contacts, the people that I work with in this tribal
34 consultation.

35

36 Why do we do consultation. We do it
37 because it is required with Executive Order 13175.
38 Before you I put some information in front of the Board
39 members. You should have this in front of you. I'm
40 not going to go page by page, I'm just going to go do a
41 brief overview and have a Q and A after I get done
42 speaking.

43

44 Tribal consultation has been around a
45 long time and it is supposed to represent the trust and
46 respect and shared responsibilities between government
47 to government tribes and corporations and government
48 agencies. Which says the government agencies have to
49 hear your voice. And to me that is quite an

50

1 accomplishment.

2

3 In our venture and journey to
4 understand subsistence and its issues and understand
5 that this is a way of life, subsistence itself is a
6 word that was given to us and therefore most of us
7 don't like the word subsistence, but we have to adjust
8 and make adjustments to understand that they, the
9 government agencies, understand it's a way of life.

10

11 Again whenever we have consultations it
12 is requested by the tribe. Myself as Native liaison
13 for the Office of Subsistence Management is -- I'm the
14 primary contact when subsistence issues come awry.

15

16 We have in our Office of Subsistence
17 Management several divisions. We work as a team. We
18 have Anthropology Division, we have the Wildlife
19 Division, we have the Fisheries Division, we have
20 Coordination Council Division. We have -- you know, we
21 have policy coordinators and we have -- and if I've
22 missed anything in our office as far as divisions I'm
23 -- I think I got them all.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hey, Orville.

26

27 MR. LIND: Yes.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm not going to be
30 rude or anything like that and I'm very -- I like the
31 updates and like the dialogue. And I think we have
32 some special guests this morning.

33

34 And I'd like to have them come and
35 address the Council real quick. I hope we can have
36 them as long as they could -- as long as they could
37 stay for the day they could. And that we can -- if
38 they want to have any specific questions to any of the
39 Council because we have representatives from throughout
40 the North Slope, from Kaktovik, from Nuiqsut, from
41 Atkasuk, from Barrow and Point Hope. And it comprises
42 the Regional Council and the subsistence management on
43 Federal public lands within this region.

44

45 So with that if I can have -- I believe
46 these are students, right?

47

48 MR. HOLLEY: They are the.....

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You're going to have
2 to come up to the mic, you're recorded and it gets into
3 the minutes and all that.

4
5 MR. HOLLEY: This is the Workplace
6 Basics class, first hour class. It's juniors and
7 seniors or juniors and one senior. They're learning
8 about what happens in business and life. And so we
9 were asked to bring them over here this morning to hear
10 what you guys got to say.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It would be important
13 if you could introduce yourself and then each student.
14 I think it's important to recognize who you are and you
15 could say who your family is and be recognized by the
16 Council.

17
18 MR. HOLLEY: I am a third year teacher
19 here, Ronnie Holley. I'm the shop teacher, CTE
20 teacher.

21
22 And we'll start with Kaesyn.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And don't be shy.
25 We're your people. This is your Council.

26
27 MR. HILL: I'm Kaesyn Hill. I moved
28 here two years ago. I stay with Rex and Ona.

29
30 MR. HOLLEY: Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native).

33
34 MS. LANE: My name is Makayla Lane and
35 my family is Lillian Lane and my dad is Eliza. And I'm
36 a junior.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native).
39 Welcome, Makayla, right?

40
41 MS. LANE: Yes.

42
43 MR. HOLLEY: Just tell them your name.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, don't be shy
46 because you're going to take over for us here
47 sometimes, you know.

48
49 MR. KINNEEVEAUK: Hi, my name is Leo
50

1 Kinneeveauk. I am 16 and I am a junior in high school.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Leo.
4 (In Native).

5

6 MR. STONE: I'm Joshua Stone and I'm 17
7 and I'm a junior.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Joshua.

10

11 MR. OENGA: Hi, my name is Gevin Oenga.
12 I'm 16 and I just moved here a couple -- almost two
13 months ago.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). Your
16 name was Kevin?

17

18 MR. OENGA: Gevin.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. And we
21 welcome you guys and encourage your participation.

22

23 With that, Orville, was there
24 additional stuff you wanted to complete on the update
25 and I guess maybe you're -- you had a student
26 interaction with us as well as a tribal liaison.

27

28 Jack -- I'm going to recognize Jack
29 Schaefer real quick.

30

31 MR. SCHAEFER: For public
32 participation?

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, public and
35 tribal participation on nonagenda items. So basically
36 address the Council with any concerns.

37

38 MR. SCHAEFER: Okay. When Alaska
39 Native Land Claims Settlement Act was passed, you know,
40 we all were excited about what our responsibilities
41 were going to be. And our, you know, teachers, you
42 know, I was in high school at the time, told us what
43 our responsibilities would be. And so, you know, we
44 were excited about that. And but we were told that
45 there were no tribes. And so Native Village of Point
46 Hope was in a state of limbo for a while. And our
47 village corporation had the leadership of our community
48 in the eyes of, you know, us as we were growing up,
49 what we noticed.

50

1 And later on Gilbert Howarth and Ernie
2 Frankson said that we needed to get our Council
3 together and get Native Village going again. And so we
4 worked on that and that was gosh, 1984. And we were
5 working to try to perform governmental functions and so
6 we did all this, our meetings in the firehall and with
7 no budget. And we tried to get our government going
8 because we seen other tribes doing it, you know, that
9 never stopped when ANSCA was passed. And in 1992 Peggy
10 Frankson and myself and Ernie and Arnold Flower, Jr,
11 met with BIA and this was after we had applied and
12 received a ANA grant for improving our tribal
13 government. And so that was \$99,000 and we had a
14 budget of \$193,000. And BIA was saying that's not
15 enough to run. So we can't -- and you're going to have
16 to rely on (indiscernible) and their organization. But
17 when we got that ANA grant they couldn't say no and we
18 started from there in 1991 I think.

19
20 Anyway and we had great, great pride as
21 we were able to do this and our postmaster said there's
22 no tribe. And then he (indiscernible) we get our --
23 started to have our, you know, departments. And we
24 participated since that time as a tribal government,
25 fighting for our land, fighting for our ocean, our
26 village corporation went bankrupt. We wound up with
27 the property so we have 100,000 acres.

28
29 We had difficulty in regards to our
30 management of our wildlife and we sat and watched the
31 enforcement of a case where there were accusations of a
32 slaughter of a whole bunch of caribou wanton waste.
33 Turned out that the location is where we -- is a clean
34 area to cut your caribou. And so, you know, there
35 would be bones around that were left from sick animals
36 or weight. And so we weren't allowed as a tribe to
37 even go there and we didn't have any type of
38 cooperation with the law enforcement. They said that
39 we are involved in an investigation, we can't tell you
40 anything about this case even though it was on our own
41 property. And so it took two days before the North
42 Slope Borough was able to help us with a helicopter to
43 look.

44
45 And so as a tribe we are a government
46 and we perform those functions, all of those functions.
47 Court, law enforcement, all governmental functions.
48 And we aren't at that point yet, but that is something
49 that we're responsible for. And I hope that we do have
50

1 agreements like other tribes in regards to making our
2 lives better.

3
4 And so we do have a Wildlife office,
5 it's -- we're only part-time, but a good majority of
6 the tribes in Alaska don't have a Wildlife Department.
7 And I find that very disturbing. Correct me if I'm
8 wrong, but that's what the green book that we rely on
9 in regards to budgets, justifying our budgets,
10 reflected. And we don't have anyone over there, I'm
11 there temporary and I hope that there's some interest.
12 There's a lot of stuff that needs to be done in
13 research and looking at history and having all of that
14 there instead of just through the internet.

15
16 And I'm glad to see that, you know,
17 there are students that are interested in and don't
18 really know what to do with their life. There's so
19 much to be done, you got a big, big, big, wide area of
20 things to do. I didn't know what to do with myself, I
21 went to college for five years and then I came home
22 kind of needing to. Had no idea what I wanted to do,
23 but I wound up doing what I've done. Been with the
24 tribe since that time, off and on.

25
26
27 So our Council is the one that decides
28 stuff and I hope we move forward and I hope we don't
29 have much friction. But yesterday, you know, we did
30 indicate, you know, our land ownership issues and our
31 concerns about trying to make things run smoothly and --
32 for our people.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Mr. Schaefer,
37 I'm going to ask the Council if there's any questions
38 that they'd like to pose to you.

39
40 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve from Tikigaq.

43
44 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you, Jack. For
45 the record, Steve Oomittuk.

46
47 You know, I remember that day, you
48 know, when the State troopers came in, you know, and
49 said there was a whole bunch of dead caribou out there.

50

1 There was like five troopers came in. And they rented
2 Hondas from the local people. And I can remember them
3 saying that we can't go out there, it's under
4 investigation. And we had to wait a couple days like
5 you said.

6
7 The -- you know, I was the mayor at the
8 time. And we got with the mayor of the North Slope
9 Borough, the Search and Rescue director, and that we
10 wanted a chopper, we wanted the North Slope Borough
11 biologist or Department of Wildlife. We got the
12 coordinator for Search and Rescue, the president of the
13 Native Village and there was like eight, nine of them.
14 And they flew -- you know, we flew all around. And,
15 you know, the media got ahold of it. The media, the
16 next thing you know it's -- they're saying there's two,
17 300 dead caribou all around the area. And it just kept
18 going more and more. And we went out and searched the
19 whole area, you know, we had them search. So the
20 acting mayor of North Slope Borough was George Olemoun
21 at the time I think that went in on the chopper. And
22 they flew around for hours out there. Yeah, they found
23 seven of them, but they didn't find 60, they didn't
24 find two, 300.

25
26 And it was very strange that the -- you
27 know, when they talked with the elders and they were
28 showing these dead caribou that they found, you know,
29 we knew our land. You know, they showed all these
30 different pictures, but they were taking pictures of
31 the same caribou, but at different angles. You know,
32 we know where they were at, you know, same -- you know,
33 you're taking pictures of the same caribou, just from a
34 different side. We know our land. We lived there for
35 thousands of years. We've been hunting and gathering.

36
37 You know, we have a lot of respect for
38 our -- the animals that have provided for us. They
39 gave us our identity as a people. You know, there's
40 several times -- you know, we talk to the younger
41 generation. We want them to understand they have a
42 rich culture, they have a rich identity. You know, the
43 animals make us who we are. We have to have respect
44 for our land, for the animals that provide for us.
45 It's always been that way. Every once in a while we
46 have negligence in young hunters sometimes, you know.
47 But they -- you know, like Peggy said, you know, they
48 come to the Native village, you know, we're not happy
49 with it, there's been a few incidents, but they were
50

1 prosecuted in a way that we felt was justified. And,
2 you know, we want to ensure our young -- I'm glad the
3 young people are here too, you know, it's always good
4 to see young people come to our meetings especially
5 when we deal with subsistence and our way of life. And
6 then how we grew up, you know.

7
8 And, you know, subsistence was a given
9 name, you know. We always believed the animals come
10 and give themselves to us, you know. You know, we've
11 been here for thousands of years. The animals migrate
12 here, they come to us. You know, we had patience, we
13 waited. They fed us, they clothed us, they sheltered
14 us, they gave us that bond and that spirituality, you
15 know, within ourselves. You know, we are the people
16 been here gathering and hunting. It's our way of life
17 that we never see lost. We want the next generation to
18 take over, to fight for our ways, to ensure that our
19 ways continue, that the animals keep coming. And it's --
20 we have to protect our land, our ocean. You know,
21 nowadays we see more and more traffic. We don't want
22 the pollutants, we don't want wasteful hunting.

23
24 You know, these rights, we have so much
25 laws on our way of hunting, when we can hunt, where we
26 can hunt, what we can hunt. You know, we know as a
27 people when we can hunt, where we can hunt. You know,
28 our ancestors have always told us, you know, we want
29 the animals to keep coming. You have to have respect
30 for the animals in order for them to come to you.

31
32 And even now I thank and Peggy and Jack
33 for bringing that up.
34 Jack's been a president of Native Village for many
35 years, land chief for many years, city council member.

36
37
38 But I just wanted to bring that out and
39 thank you for coming and the younger people, the youth.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native),
42 Councilman Steve.

43
44 Any other questions to Mr. Schaefer
45 from Native Village?

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not I do have one.

50

1 And I see on the map and you strike a particular
2 interest because you mentioned that the corporation's
3 land's been turned over to the tribe. And it's
4 important when you look at these land status maps that
5 maybe this is an outdated map and there should be
6 showing those kind of detail where an actual tribe now
7 is owning lands that were under ANSCA, Native Claims
8 Settlement Act. And if they are turned over to the
9 tribe and there should be some special trust
10 responsibility starting to -- I think there's a spot
11 here where the tribe needs to probably talk to BIA
12 probably in this area.

13
14 It kind of reminds me of this lawsuit
15 that went on for quite sometime called Feda Trust. All
16 right. Remember the Feda Trust lawsuit and then the --
17 I think Governor Knowles didn't -- he didn't follow-up
18 on appeals and the following governors didn't follow-up
19 on appeals which paved the way for lands that were once
20 trust responsibility lands, like Indian lands, to be
21 reconverted back to that status with the trust
22 responsibility of the Federal government behind it.

23
24 And because I myself was trying to do
25 an experiment to turn my UIC Corporation land, my lot
26 and say I want to turn that to a Feda Trust. And I
27 didn't do -- maybe I should have paid more attention to
28 the process, but if I did succeed in that it would have
29 made my lands a Federal trust responsibility in -- and
30 more. But what I'm just trying to say is seems like
31 there's an opportunity here to look at this particular
32 situation, if the lands indeed are turned over to the
33 tribe, that a management authority for these kinds of
34 things to have a relationship. This comes to mind what
35 we were talking about yesterday where Ahtna has a
36 special treatment now from the Interior Secretary of
37 the United States to manage wildlife resources for
38 those particular group of people in this large area.
39 And then maybe it's time to revisit the land status
40 stuff because it says Fish and Wildlife Service
41 administered lands, National Park Service administered
42 lands, BLM lands, special management areas, and it has --
43 I could see boundaries for village corporation lands,
44 but it doesn't say whose lands they are. They're just
45 colored differently. Somebody's afraid to say those
46 are Native lands. And they should start it to reflect
47 that way.

48
49 Anyway I just thought that was
50

1 important. And just a little note, you know, when you
2 read between the lines, start to spark other interest
3 about and you've expressed there should be a way for
4 local management in these types of things and tribes
5 carry that status as government to government status.
6

7 With that maybe, Mr. Schaefer, if you
8 were able to elaborate a little bit about those lands
9 turned over to the tribe?
10

11 MR. SCHAEFER: One thing that got me
12 excited about things were that we're free to do things.
13 And so with that freedom I was able to go anywhere in
14 the United States. And so I went to the University of
15 Virginia. And that was in 1992. And went to their
16 library because I -- it's one of the repositories of
17 the United States that has a very large collection of
18 documents. And so I went to their library and went and
19 looked at their Congressional reports. Congress has
20 great pride and they are open and they keep everything,
21 they're supposed to have everything open to the public
22 and they publish their hearings.
23

24 There was a hearing in 1949 on the
25 termination of reservations in Alaska. Native Village
26 Point Hope had applied for 289,000 acres. Native
27 Village of Barrow applied -- had two applications.
28 Wainwright was 20,000 acres less. In regards to their
29 report to Congress in regards to what was applied for,
30 you know, ownership. And I was amazed by that. We had
31 a reindeer grazing permit, 99 year lease, 0850. And
32 that one ran about all the way past Kivalina for Point
33 Hope Reindeer Trading Company.
34

35 And we said no to Alaska Native Claims
36 Settlement Act because of the things that we knew and
37 what we wanted in dealing with our subsistence. We got
38 10 percent of what we use under Alaska Native Land
39 Claims Settlement Act. Our property was being looked
40 at and we were having plans to, you know, to work with
41 anyone like companies. And they met and just to show
42 what we had. And we're required to see what we have on
43 our -- in Alaska through ANILCA, they require an
44 inventory. Anyway our corporation went bankrupt and
45 they needed to do something so they came out with a way
46 to continue to exist and pay the creditors and so they
47 did through the sale of property to the tribe.
48

49 And so the Native Village of Point Hope
50

1 has, you know, some property. And we as a tribe don't
2 really say much, but we pursue whatever we have because
3 we never agreed to Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.
4 And what we got was less than what we use. And as we
5 grow in population over many generations, we're going
6 to be spread out all the way to the Canadian border
7 like we used to back in the 1700s.

8
9 And we look forward to our -- with our
10 relationship with the State and we're not afraid to
11 express our concerns with regards to conflicts. And I
12 know we're willing to work out things if we need to and
13 we have. We still have a long ways to go, there's a
14 lot of science to be done and proving that we can do
15 things. We were the ones that petitioned to put that
16 land into trust. The attorneys for the United States
17 were told to stall on it. We were able to get the file
18 in regards to that and then this other tribe decided to
19 do it along with this person that got property from a
20 church I guess, and asked permission to use our case.
21 We used Native American Rights Fund to represent us.
22 That's a large group of lawyers that -- for Native
23 people, tribes.

24
25 And then they made some changes. And
26 so now we're relooking at that. But we did that to try
27 to protect our property for what we thought was
28 protection for our control. And so that hasn't been
29 completed. There have been a lot of questions that
30 have been asked in regards to how things would work in
31 regards to subsistence, in regards to non-renewable
32 resources, exploitation and how that is going to
33 benefit us versus just being exploited without us
34 getting anything in return.

35
36 Anyway we look forward to increasing
37 our herds. There were times where we were able to get
38 a lot. We never had to worry about limits, the
39 limitation on caribou was established in the 1970s when
40 they had to deal with something because there was an
41 illness that was circulating within the caribou and
42 that was poison. And so they wiped out the caribou and
43 then had a quota and Point Hope had one caribou per
44 year. That was 1975 I think. I don't know if you
45 remember that.

46
47 Anyway.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think we
50

1 remember because in Barrow they gave us beef.....

2

3 MR. SCHAEFER: Uh-huh.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER:in exchange for
6 not hunting.

7

8 MR. SCHAEFER: And so -- and that's
9 what they said and that was a way to control and
10 prevent us from eating too much because of the cancer
11 that was being caused by consumption of caribou.

12

13 And so now, you know, they have our
14 leadership, those that went to school, those that were
15 years ahead of us. You looked at this and made
16 comments in regards to species recovery during Edward
17 Itta's administration. And it was good to hear and see
18 something like that being reflected in regards to how
19 difficult it is to recover species for the purposes of
20 comfort and not worrying about, you know, starving.

21

22 So there's a way that -- a ways that we
23 need to go. We at one time had boats that were
24 delivered full of caribou for our families that didn't
25 go out before they started having regulations. And we
26 didn't have worries back then and it would be nice to
27 get back to that. But I believe we can manage our own
28 and have agreements and work things out in regards to
29 conflicts with business and harvesting animals, you
30 know, those that like to make money for sport hunting.

31

32 Anyway we're here and we are excited.
33 We got through cycles every so often, take several
34 years and it comes back again and it comes back again.
35 And we get better and better each time.

36

37 Thanks.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Mr.
40 Schaefer. And we'll continue on to the.....

41

42 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, if I may.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead, Eva.

45

46 MS. PATTON: If I may I'd like to
47 suggest a friendly amendment to the agenda while we
48 have our students here since they have a brief
49 opportunity to be with the Council this morning. We

50

1 did have a couple presentations that were for the
2 Council and the students on the opportunities for
3 engaging in the Subsistence Program and also.....

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. What's your
6 suggestion, will you put it in.....

7
8 MS. PATTON: My suggestion would be if
9 we could we have both Vince and Karen Hyer with a
10 handout for the students and a brief opportunity to let
11 them know about both the ANSEP Program and biology
12 internships in the Subsistence Program to get engaged
13 with the Council.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I think on the
16 asterisks we're on right now, public and tribal
17 comments on nonagenda items each morning, I do have an
18 asterisk with Orville Lind.....

19
20 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER:OSM Tribe and
23 that he was also going to have students involved.

24
25 MS. PATTON: Yes.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So I think we don't
28 need to make a friendly amendment, we've already
29 amended to include that from yesterday's agenda.

30
31 So with that we're going to continue on
32 that and, Orville, if -- because you're out -- you're
33 still on that -- we're on that agenda item.

34
35 MS. PATTON: My apologies. What time
36 do you have to go back to.....

37
38 MR. HOLLEY: They were actually wanting
39 us to come back at 10:00 o'clock.

40
41 MS. PATTON: Okay.

42
43 MR. HOLLEY: But they didn't tell me
44 that it was going to be a meeting, they put 9:30 to
45 10:00.

46
47 MS. PATTON: Okay. Do we have five
48 minutes we could give the kids.....

49
50

1 MR. HOLLEY: Oh, yeah.

2
3 MS. PATTON:a quick.....

4
5 MR. HOLLEY: We've already told their
6 next classes that they were going to be late to
7 class.....

8
9 MS. PATTON: Okay.

10
11 MR. HOLLEY:so we're.....

12
13 MS. PATTON: All right.

14
15 MR. HOLLEY:able to stay a few
16 extra minutes.

17
18 MS. PATTON: Wonderful. Thank you so
19 much for coming.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you.
22 And, Orville, I think, you know, they might have time
23 constraints and we're right on the agenda item too. So
24 I think if you guys want to do that now, it's
25 appropriate to do that under -- because the agenda was
26 already amended yesterday to include that.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. I just wanted
29 to seize the moment. Harpooners, you missed earlier,
30 Orville said there's 220 tribes -- 229 tribes in
31 Alaska. There's 550 plus in the nation. We have a
32 National Youth Community Adaption and Leadership
33 Congress which is a week long in West Virginia where
34 high school seniors get together to become conservation
35 leaders, to learn from each other. We only had four
36 students from Alaska, no Harpooners.

37
38 So if you're interested in going and
39 meeting Native American youth from the Pacific Islands,
40 from Hawaii, Guam, et cetera, all the way to Maine,
41 across the nation, here's the information. Look it up
42 with your teachers. The applications come out in early
43 spring, but my phone number's on there if you want
44 earlier.

45
46 But Alaska needs more youth there. If
47 you look around the room and you look at me I got a lot
48 of snow in my beard and on my head and I'm looking away
49 from the Council members, but they also have a lot of
50

1 gray on their head. We need younger people involved.
2 This is an opportunity to learn from Navajos, Hopi, all
3 across the nation.

4
5 So I'll share that with your teacher.
6 I may have additional copies. If you have questions
7 pull me aside. And I can.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And, Vince, if you
10 could say the full acronym, what ANSEP is?

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: No, this is -- yeah, I'm
13 not involved with ANSEP right now. I will be. ANSEP
14 is a -- this is just a week long time and I need your
15 help because we do a float trip down the Potomac and
16 I'm really lousy in the raft. So I need some younger
17 ones that know how to steer the raft better than me.
18 But that's kind of the side issue.

19
20 But you're going to be with leaders
21 from across the nation. The Congress is run by the
22 youth. So it's an opportunity and when you apply and
23 you're accepted all expenses paid.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Wow, I -- I wish I
26 was back in high school, I'd jump on it, you know.

27
28 (Laughter)

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: Well, maybe we can get
31 you there, Gordon, as a -- they need chaperons, Gordon,
32 so maybe we can get you as a chaperon.

33
34 I'll provide this to your teacher with
35 additional copies.

36
37 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: William, did you have
40 something.

41
42 MR. HOPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 I have real quickly a couple short nonagenda items I
44 just wanted to speak on. And.....

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'll recognize Mr.
47 Hopson from Utqiagvik.

48
49 MR. HOPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

50

1 One thing I wanted to bring out was the tribes, we need
2 funding to patrol our lands for -- to make sure that
3 the hunters out there or whoever as a people maybe to
4 at least stop or monitor the illegal killing wanton
5 waste. And we want that stopped too, but our problem
6 is we need funding to patrol our lands.

7

8 And thank you again, Mr. Chairman.

9

10 One real quick for our students. I've
11 been involved with fish and game ever since I was five
12 years old. I've been doing it for 55 years. I've been
13 cited for illegal possession of a water fowl when I was
14 five years old. And my father had said this is not the
15 only time it's going to happen. It's going to be with
16 you for the rest of your life no matter what animal
17 you're talking about.

18

19 So I'm very proud of you for coming
20 here and get involved in this process because I'm going
21 to retire pretty soon. You guys are going to be the
22 next ones here sitting at the table.

23

24 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Mr.
27 Hopson, for those kind words.

28

29 And I kind of lost where I was here.
30 So we had Vince -- we had Vince with that and then we
31 got Karen, our fisheries resource person. And she's
32 always got very interesting stuff. If you've got fish
33 questions and fish concerns, you got to talk to this
34 person a lot of times.

35

36 MS. HYER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman
37 and Council members. For the record my name is Karen
38 Hyer and I am the fisheries biologist with the Office
39 of Subsistence Management.

40

41 And when I'm not working on the FRMP
42 and I'm not up here meeting with you, I'm working with
43 students and trying to place students into internships.
44 And so I passed out a flyer to you and the students
45 have it also and that is some of our eider work that we
46 have done with the Alaska Native Science and
47 Engineering Program on the North Slope. That's done
48 during their summer internships.

49

50

1 And we have worked really closely with
2 the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program
3 because one of our goals is to see -- to see more
4 biologists in the field that are from rural Alaska.
5 And ANSEP has been a really good partner that way
6 because they partner along the educational path for
7 these students and we start in the middle school in
8 Anchorage and we teach in the middle school. And not
9 this past summer, but the summer before we actually had
10 a camp out in Bethel with the Yukon Delta Wildlife
11 Refuge where we brought middle schoolers from all over
12 the Yukon Delta. We had 54 of them. They spent five
13 days with us and learned about careers in Fish and
14 Wildlife Service and how we manage the fisheries.
15

16 And then they have a high school
17 program and they bring students in during the summer.
18 And they also have a winter high school program in
19 Anchorage. And we work with those students also. But
20 then when they graduate from high school we have
21 internships and that's when we start taking them to the
22 field and having them work on our many fisheries and
23 wildlife projects. And we work with them through
24 university with the hope of hopefully having them
25 graduate and come work for us. And to date we have one
26 student that's gone all the way through the program and
27 he works out on the Yukon Delta Wildlife Refuge. And
28 we have another one that's graduating and going to grad
29 school and working on a project with us in Western
30 Alaska.
31

32 But we have very few kids from this
33 region and there are 10 kids on that poster I sent you
34 and those 10 students came up and worked here in the
35 north. And only two of those students are originally
36 from the north, one is from Barrow and one is from
37 Kiana. And so we're really hoping to increase the
38 number of students that we have working with us from
39 this region.
40

41 And we work really closely with ANSEP
42 because they're just a really great fit. But we have
43 internships for students that aren't in ANSEP either.
44 Our internships do start though with high school
45 graduation because that's -- with the Federal
46 government there's an age restriction on when we can
47 hire the students. But it's a -- they're paid
48 internship positions. We have them throughout Alaska,
49 but we'd love to have some local kids filling our local
50

1 positions.
2

3 And I was over at the school, Eva and I
4 went over to the school when we arrived and I -- then I
5 returned to the school this morning and handed them
6 some information. Alaska Airlines had misplaced my bag
7 so I was able to get back to the principal with the
8 information. But I would encourage you all to
9 encourage your youth to pursue fish and wildlife
10 conservation and maybe in a professional -- the
11 professional arena because we need more people that
12 really understand the culture and the land. And if you
13 have any students that you think are interested you can
14 contact me or you can contact me through Eva. I know
15 that you guys are in constant contact with Eva.
16

17 So anyway it's just a message to take
18 home to your youth that we really are looking for more
19 youth engagement. And if there are any questions I'd
20 love to answer them.
21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I apologize, I had to
23 take a phone call. My brother called me, he said
24 where's all the whaling gear, I'm going out right now.
25 So I have to tell him where it was.
26

27 But anyway was this for the ANSEP
28 stuff?
29

30 MS. HYER: So there is the Alaska
31 Native Science and Engineering Program and we do
32 partner with them. And then we also have internships
33 for students that aren't in that program. So it's just
34 making your students aware of the several different
35 programs we have going on. So we have internships for
36 just students who are interested in biology and then
37 there is the ANSEP Program where if students are really
38 interested in pursuing education. ANSEP is the Alaska
39 Native Science and Engineering Program. And so if
40 they're interested in biology or maybe natural resource
41 or zoology or fisheries or wildlife, it's a fabulous
42 program because the students -- their education is
43 subsidized with scholarships and then they intern with
44 us.
45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Do we have any
47 questions from the Council or any maybe from the
48 students on any of the dialogue here?
49
50

1 (No comments)

2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think these are
4 opportunities for young folks and you should be
5 interested in these. I know of one person in Barrow,
6 Ernest Kettimuk. Ernest Kettimuk I think went through
7 some of these things and he's -- I don't know what his
8 position is, but he works with Fish and Wildlife
9 Service and he does really good stuff for communities,
10 education outreach and a good career path for young
11 folks. And we need more I think indigenous people,
12 Native folks, taking interest because it helps us
13 because we're the ones being regulated too. And when
14 you have a more understanding about traditional use and
15 there's a big difference between personal use and
16 subsistence. I've heard those kind of arguments too.
17 Subsistence is a whole other world, it's a way of life,
18 it's different than personal use.

19
20 Anyway I encourage young folks and
21 there's a big world out there and to be involved in it.
22 And all important thing that -- to do these things.

23
24 Thank you, Karen. Any other -- any
25 questions?

26
27 And I see Orville with his hand up.

28
29 MS. PATTON: And, Mr. Chair, if I may
30 too. To encourage the students, as our Chair, Gordon
31 Brower, was mentioning, we do have some excellent
32 people that are great mentors in the region. So Ernest
33 Nageak in Barrow works as the community liaison. So
34 he's actually -- he's a wonderful bridge and a youth
35 outreach mentor in Barrow. So all of these positions
36 are -- they're opportunity to do work with both fish
37 and wildlife, your subsistence resources in the region.
38 And your experience growing up with subsistence, you're
39 so knowledgeable and a lot to include there and to
40 ensure that the community and your family and
41 community's way of life is protected.

42
43 And we have students as Karen mentioned
44 from all over Alaska. We've got a number out in the YK
45 Delta who grew up -- did the high school internship.
46 So we've got a couple of seniors and juniors here so
47 once you graduate, but now is the time you can connect
48 with Karen and I if you might be interested. Really
49 exciting, fun work out -- you know, it's like being out
50

1 hunting and fishing for subsistence, but you're getting
2 paid to do that work to make sure that those
3 subsistence resources are healthy and help communicate
4 that with the community.

5

6 So now we have biologists and Refuge
7 managers who are the people that are managing their own
8 community's resources. So it's wonderful work
9 outside.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Can I pose a quick
12 question?

13

14 MS. PATTON: You sure can.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Now who has (in
17 Native) a caribou, who's cut up a caribou? You know
18 what, you're a biologist, man. And we always -- you
19 know what, we cut up that caribou and we always take
20 the liver out because we like to eat it. We find (in
21 Native) in there. That's what biologists do, they take
22 things apart, look at them and they learn how to
23 recognize like we do, right, when the liver has some
24 kind of growth on it we recognize it and biologists are
25 interested in those. We're like -- we're already like
26 natural biologists in my view because we don't waste
27 anything, we eat the tongue, we make (in Native) out of
28 the (in Native) from the stomach and gather the stomach
29 lining and put it in there and make a delicacy.

30

31 So we're already like biologists in my
32 view. It's just these kind of career paths kind of put
33 us more in touch to the western science which we're
34 dealing with every day nowadays, to put more
35 traditional stuff into that.

36

37 I just wanted to just put that in
38 there. I'd just like to encourage you all, you know,
39 because like we said, I mean, William's getting older.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: My hair, believe it
44 or not my hair is whiter than William's. I put this
45 Grecian Formula and I try to look more slick. So but
46 I've actually got a lot white hair and almost silver to
47 the point.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 MS. PATTON: And we have a lot of women
2 biologists too. So Unayuk Aguluk from Barrow is also
3 another example. She went through Alaska Native
4 Science and Engineering Program, got her degree in
5 fisheries biology and then started working as a
6 biologist. There's a Fish and Wildlife field office
7 out of Barrow, started working as a biologist and an
8 educator. And so there's opportunities, just wonderful
9 opportunities both for your experience and then it's a
10 wonderful opportunity for the community to have your
11 knowledge and representation for your family and
12 community.

13
14 So do reach out to us. Karen and I
15 will be here through tomorrow and hopefully we can stop
16 back at the school tomorrow morning and make some
17 connections. So if you're interested we'll get you
18 some more information and help make those pathways for
19 the summer internships.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
24 for Karen?

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I know Orville has
29 raised his hand. And I'm going to just say one last
30 thing. I encourage all Refuge managers, Gates of the
31 Arctic, we have National Parks here on the Slope, ANWR,
32 you know. Take time to not just only visit Kaktovik to
33 learn more about these places, but take time to engage
34 with all communities on the Slope because we're going
35 to use these lands too, you know, by trade. By trade.
36 I trade real heavily with Nuiqsut and other places with
37 resources that I gather in my area. I trade with
38 Wainwright for (in Native) and that kind of food
39 because some regions have different kind of food.
40 Nuiqsut has different, Wainwright has different, Barrow
41 has different and we trade. And those are traditional
42 practices we want to encourage too.

43
44 So I just want to reach -- you know,
45 make sure there's some level of being able to interact,
46 even education for schools throughout the North Slope
47 about what our Parks do and what they're doing and
48 opportunities and to be working in that direction.

1 Thank you.

2

3 So with that I'm going to ask Orville,
4 I think he's -- we're still on that subject.

5

6 So, Orville, you have the floor.

7

8 MR. LIND: Quyanaq, Chairman, Board
9 members. I get a little excited when I see younger
10 people at the meetings because this is what we lack in
11 our Regional Advisory Council meetings is our youth.
12 As Elder Hopson said, you know, they're -- and Mr.
13 Brower, you guys are our future.

14

15 I wanted to do a little pitch of
16 encouragement though. I've been in the Service for
17 about 26 and a half years, got hired in 1991 as a
18 Refuge information technician. Have you ever heard
19 that?

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MR. LIND: Good. Because you should
24 ask about it. Because it's a local hire program from
25 the Fish and Wildlife Service to hire local people such
26 as yourselves out of high school to help collect data,
27 to help introduce regulations, attend local tribal
28 council meetings and Regional Advisory Council
29 meetings, is to keep that connection. If you love your
30 fish and whale and birds and everything, food on the
31 table, you need to get involved. It's part of your
32 life, it's part of the respect you have for your
33 people, for your land, for your waters, it's very
34 important.

35

36 Why is it so important, because we're
37 facing trials and tribulations right now with climate
38 change, migration change patterns, quality and quantity
39 of water. Oh, my gosh, I could go on and on and on.
40 I've attended some science programs presentations,
41 Circumpolar, there's a lot of stuff going on, not just
42 in Alaska, all over the United States, all over the
43 world. We need to get onboard and get ourselves
44 involved in these types of meetings because it directly
45 affects your food resources, it affects your well
46 being, your health. So it's very important.

47

48 The Refuge Information Program has
49 worked very well. It is a success in the Fish and

50

1 Wildlife Service. There are local people like Ernest,
2 Joann, as a former one myself on Alaska Peninsula. So
3 when you look at the State of Alaska we have a Refuge
4 information technician in not all of the regions, but
5 most of the regions, that work directly with Regional
6 Advisory Council members, Fish and Wildlife Service, to
7 help each other keep track of the resources. This
8 Board is so important to you all right now because
9 these are basically volunteer people who take the time
10 because they love their resource, they love their
11 subsistence foods. They love their subsistence foods,
12 they took their time to come here and explain and help
13 to work with regulation process.

14
15 This whole program, the Federal
16 Subsistence Program is so important right now and it's
17 so unique. No other place in the United States or as I
18 know part of the world this program exists. Why
19 because Alaska is unique. It has these people that
20 depend solely on its resource to function, to be
21 healthy.

22
23 So listen to the elders as they speak
24 how important it is. And I know high school students,
25 you're thinking maybe careers and stuff, but as a
26 Refuge information technician I was for four years, it
27 was probably the most gratifying I took. I got to
28 visit my grandparents, my uncles and aunties and got
29 paid for it because I was helping deliver messages,
30 deliver school programs, you know, explain the rules
31 and regs of the regulation books. It was great, flying
32 in helicopters. Oh, I loved that. Airplanes, boats,
33 you name it. And they send me all over the United
34 States, paid for everything. So I had paid vacations.

35
36 So it's really cool. I love my work in
37 the Fish and Wildlife Service. My new position as
38 Native liaison is even better, I don't even call it a
39 job, guys. There's a saying that -- I think it's a
40 Chinese proverb, if you find a job you love you will
41 never have to work a day in your life. That's me. I
42 love it. I got to have my Native foods last night, it
43 was awesome. Had my way paid here, got to stay, don't
44 have to pay for nothing, they pay for everything. I
45 get to eat my foods, it's great.

46
47 So think about it. Think about it.
48 It's really important. These Regional Advisory
49 Councils are forming regulations for your future and
50

1 that's to take care of everybody. Like the elders used
2 to say, take care of the land, waters, they'll take
3 care of you.

4
5 (In Native).
6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Orville.
8 That' real good.
9

10 With that, I really appreciate you
11 students being able to take time and I hope we make an
12 impression on you. And these are important times like
13 -- they are important times. We're trying to right now
14 have science and subsistence users right now question
15 in Barrow, right now, this very real time, how come the
16 whales didn't come to Barrow, right now. We've been
17 whaling -- fall whaling since September 20, it's
18 September -- October 23 right now, not one whale's been
19 sighted. For -- since I was a little kid they -- out
20 of Nuvuk they going to catch whales. Now we need to
21 find out what's going on. It's going to take
22 biologists, it's going to take Native liaisons, it's
23 going to take NOAA, the Federal government, the local
24 people and say what happened, is there something that
25 we need to work together on to fix because we depend on
26 subsistence. A lot of people depend on subsistence.
27

28 Just want to continue to encourage the
29 students. I appreciate having them address the Council
30 today and it's very important. And if you're going
31 back to your class, if you want to have some parting
32 words, you're welcome to while this particular section
33 that we're on is public and tribal comment on nonagenda
34 items, I mean, you can say hey, this is a nonagenda
35 item, hi there. And that's basically what it is on
36 this section. And that was available each morning and
37 today's our last day to do that.
38

39 With that.....
40

41 MR. HOLLEY: I'd just like to thank
42 everyone for having us.
43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You might want to
45 come to the mic and it would be good.
46

47 MR. HOLLEY: Ronnie Holley, Tikigaq
48 School. I'm thankful that you guys had us here today.
49 I'm sure they learned quite a bit for the time that
50

1 we've been here. I will take this back and show the
2 other juniors and seniors that weren't able to come
3 today and see if we can get anymore interest into the
4 programs and see if they can, you know, try to help out
5 their futures because it is their future.
6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just one little bit
8 of not advice, but maybe a little bit of exercise. You
9 know, anybody can put a proposal to be entertained.
10 Here's a proposal. We have a bag limit of five caribou
11 per day on the records. It used to be 15 caribou per
12 day because when the herd was real big. So
13 conservative management, somebody has to make these
14 proposals and if five caribou per day is not sufficient
15 for your family and not enough to supply food on the
16 table, you can make a proposal to change bag limits.
17 Maybe five is too much per day to be conservative in
18 management and try to allow the herd to grow, maybe we
19 think four caribou per day is good. Or you say our
20 families are too hungry, we should have -- when the
21 caribou are available we should be able to get seven
22 per day. And these things.
23

24 I'm just saying you can do exercises
25 and see where your proposal goes and submit it to the
26 RAC. And it'll start to make you understand the power
27 and influence this RAC has to the Federal Subsistence
28 Board. The Federal Subsistence Board is a higher power
29 and I think there's -- the Chairman of each Council
30 will go sit in front of Federal Subsistence Board if we
31 have business to do with them and to pitch our region's
32 concerns.
33

34 So those are some of the ways that it
35 could be learned a little bit more, it could be a class
36 exercise even.
37

38 Just thought it was important to say
39 that.
40

41 MR. HOLLEY: Again thank you.
42

43 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair.
44

45 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.
46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.
48

49 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes. I -- you know,
50

1 thank you for bringing your students and the students
2 for coming. You know, for many years I went to the --
3 I was always invited to the school by teachers to talk
4 the history and the culture, everything, you know, how
5 to mark a whale, how, you know, ice conditions,
6 weather. You know, I always volunteered my time. And
7 so you're more than welcome to give me a call anytime
8 if -- I haven't been to the school for a while, you
9 know. There's certain teachers that were here for
10 years and years, we -- now we have so many different
11 teachers and changeover. I usually give a tour and
12 introduction to the new teachers and the old teachers
13 yearly of Tikigaq.

14
15 But you're more than welcome to give me
16 a call. My number is 368-0466 if you want me to come
17 in and talk with your students or the history, the
18 culture, anything about Tikigaq.

19
20 And thank you guys for coming. I knew
21 all these kids pretty much.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Steve.

24
25 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Wanda from Atqasuk.

28
29 MS. KIPPI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
30 just want to have you -- if you have time you could
31 look in the comments that we report every time we have
32 our meeting, we have a report from each of the members
33 and we talk about our community and how the hunting was
34 or what we see different or what's wrong with our
35 caribou and stuff so that. So if you guys take time if
36 you're interested, read those comments. It's from each
37 and every one of us on this member -- of our members.

38
39 And there's also -- there's more RACs
40 and more subsistence places you can join, like members.
41 Like with the North Slope Borough, fish and wildlife
42 management. If you're -- you know, you're a hunter,
43 you know the land, you know your -- you know your
44 animals, you know your fish and they look for people
45 like us, hunters and gathers that know our land. They
46 look for us to come up and become what we are today.

47
48 So I hope you guys get a little
49 knowledge on how our subsistence is and how we -- how
50

1 we do this and I hope you pursue.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Wanda.

6

Any other nonagenda items before we move on to the next?

7

8

9

Daisy, did you want to address us? Did you want to address the Council?

10

11

12

(No comments)

13

14

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. What's the wish of the Council. Do you guys want to take a quick break or you want to trudge and move along.

15

16

17

18

MR. HOPSON: Five minute break.

19

20

CHAIRMAN BROWER: A five minute break is called for. And we wish well for the students.

21

22

23

(In Native)

24

25

(Off record)

26

27

(On record)

28

29

CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're going to get out of our little five minute break which turned out to be almost 15 minutes, guys. You know, we must be on Inupiaq time.

30

31

32

33

(Laughter)

34

35

36

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anyway with that I think some of the -- I'm going to give an opportunity, about a few minutes for William and the other Council members to come on back. And we'll give Orville the remaining time to finish his presentation.

37

38

39

40

41

42

Who else were we waiting for. I don't -- we haven't heard from Martha this morning, I'm hoping she's okay. I know she wasn't feeling all that well this morning. And we -- yeah, some of us came and we were already kind of (in Native), you know, had a bad cold.

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

With that, I'm going to ask Orville if

50

1 you can come up the mic and complete your tribal
2 consultation stuff.

3

4 MR. LIND: (In Native), Mr. Chairman,
5 Council members. Orville Lind, Native liaison, Office
6 of Subsistence Management.

7

8 In summary for the Native liaison and
9 consultation process, I -- our goals of course, raise
10 consultation, is for the tribes and our agency to
11 really have a understanding and, you know, our respect
12 and trust to grow within the process. And basically it
13 is really, you know, between -- communication between
14 both tribes and the agencies to be respectful of each
15 other. But, you know, we're just honoring government
16 to government relationships. And it is important that
17 we have very effective communications during this
18 process.

19

20 And since I started in December of 2014
21 I've conducted 149 consultations with -- I'm sorry,
22 consulted with 149 tribes since then and eight
23 corporations, I believe. And so the process is getting
24 easier, but it's also I think a vote from the tribes
25 and corporations and our agencies are really developing
26 this sort of relationship that are making things a
27 little understandable as far as the process, the
28 Federal process. As Mr. Brower spoke earlier that this
29 needs to happen, the process needs to be understood on
30 all sides and therefore that could be very productive
31 and effective for everyone.

32

33 We also like to mention that during the
34 process before we started the implement guidelines
35 which you have a copy also I provided, is a living
36 document. And this provides guidelines to how to
37 really conduct the who, what and why of tribal and
38 corporation consultation. And this is what I follow.
39 And every year I ask the land managers, ISC board
40 members, that, you know, what -- is there any comments
41 that you've heard or changes that need to be to make
42 this a better process. So I've done that for three,
43 four years now and it hasn't changed much. But I've
44 got to tell you that more and more tribes have been
45 calling in, more and more special actions we've
46 received in our office, I mean, the whole process is
47 getting -- making -- certainly making us busier. So I
48 think the tribes are understanding better and that's
49 part of the process that we're looking for.

50

1 And also I would like to add that in
2 the outreach department of our OSM, Office of
3 Subsistence Management, we have again 10 regions and
4 also within those 10 regions we have RITs or Refuge
5 information technicians that help us do outreach. Now
6 the biggest problem and concern that I've heard in the
7 five years I've been Native liaison, is that the tribes
8 aren't getting the information, they're not getting the
9 news release, they're not getting the information of
10 the consultation date and time and that's
11 understandable. Working with tribes before I got this
12 Native position -- Native liaison position, I
13 understand that can be a real difficult task to have.
14 We don't have control once the information gets out to
15 the villages, however we have Refuge information
16 technicians that can help us reach further. Those
17 folks are the eyes and ears of our Service out there.
18 So they do an excellent job, hats off to the Refuge
19 Information Technician Program. To get the invite
20 letters for the consultation on a specific proposal,
21 regulation, change, amendment or whatever, special
22 actions, that type of deal.

23
24 We were successful in working with the
25 village of Chignik when they did not have a fishing
26 season. My home village of Chignik two summers ago did
27 not fish. There is a multi million dollar fish
28 industry that just completely crashed. It was a
29 disaster. This later summer were -- back up a little
30 bit. We were able to get them a subsistence community
31 harvest with them with a Federal cultural permit I
32 believe it was. Correct me if I'm wrong anybody. And
33 they really appreciated that, that they were able to go
34 our and get their subsistence fish when we could
35 provide a permit for them.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Orville, I mean,
38 before I lose my train of thought on this particular
39 subject here, and I think it's important. Yeah, we
40 heard earlier about, what was it, a boat doing outside
41 of Point Hope studying and where can we get information
42 about those types of studies. And you bring about an
43 interesting question about community quotas. And if
44 they are studying the resources up here in the Arctic
45 for commercial use it's time to start to talk to tribes
46 about community quotas. And making sure that -- I've
47 heard about these things, what do they call them,
48 they're QDROs or something like that and.....

49
50

1 MR. EVANS: CDQs.

2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER:CDQs where they
4 either get a cut of the revenue or they get a block of
5 a quota because they had customary and traditional use
6 of these resources and to prevent overharvesting and
7 things like that. They get a portion allocated to them
8 through these things. I'm afraid that the studies that
9 our tribes don't know that's going on, whoever's
10 authorizing it, whether it's a North Pacific Fisheries
11 and looking at commercialization of these resources
12 that we depend on too, that talking to tribes about
13 quotas, community quotas, might need to be part of the
14 liaison dialogue in these areas. And you've expressed
15 that some of these studies are something that outside
16 of -- we don't get exposed to it, but some of your
17 staff might be going to these kinds of forums to look
18 at either NOAA or somebody else doing these things out
19 there for future commercialization. I mean, I know
20 there's a moratorium on commercial fishing up in the
21 Arctic, but I think they're looking more and more into
22 the availability of those resources.

23
24 MR. LIND: (In Native). Thank you,
25 Chairman Brower. When I think about that I believe
26 that a better and more effective avenue I think would
27 be through the Refuge Information Technician Program
28 because they represent your region. And as far as up
29 on the North Slope I believe it's Mildred Allen with
30 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. And there may be
31 some new ones, I'm not sure. This list I have is
32 actually over a year old.

33
34 But things like that for sure is very
35 important for one. And just to kind of get a big
36 picture of what's going on in your region as far as
37 CDQs, quotas. Again for your region I think it would
38 be more effective and productive if you had an RIT who
39 would look into something like that, Refuge information
40 technician.

41
42 On my part of it my really sole
43 responsibility is making sure that the tribes are being
44 heard about proposals and regulations that are directly
45 affected by that. And again it is a very -- I'm not
46 going to lie to you, it's really busy, it's a busy
47 time, it's getting busier because tribes are catching
48 on and there's a lot of concerns as you guys mentioned
49 yesterday about the different issues that are coming
50

1 about with the warming temperatures and migration
2 changes, it's going to get busier. And I'm going to do
3 my best to try to keep the tribes informed, try to keep
4 folks updated on our program. We are down a few staff
5 members and that'll come -- that report will come later
6 on today.

7
8 But other than that the last thing I
9 have to say is that I really like what I'm doing
10 because it means a lot to me. I -- it's just -- I
11 think it's really going to get better as far as
12 communications go. It has to, we have no choice. With
13 folks like yourselves bringing us up to date with your
14 reports is so important. And then I'm very fortunate
15 to be at the RAC meetings through all 10 regions. I do
16 five -- I try to do five each year, but they said
17 that's too much for me, I do three or four. So it
18 takes me a couple years to get through all 10 regions.
19 But the passion that you folks have for subsistence is
20 unmatched and I thank you for that.

21
22 That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Orville.
25 Any questions for Orville from the Council?

26
27 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve.

30
31 MR. OOMITTUK: I just want to thank
32 you, Orville, for all your hard work and it's always
33 good to see you.

34
35 MR. LIND: (In Native), Steve. It's
36 always good to see you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, likewise. I'm
39 always -- you know, you say things to us that, man, you
40 guys are right on. I mean, that's to us I think good
41 compliments because we want to learn about what Tom's
42 doing, we want to learn about what Pat's doing, we want
43 to learn about what you're doing and how to influence
44 those things. Because it's been insider things for way
45 too long. And being able to effectively be part of the
46 program is important for us. We're not going to be in
47 my view be told to say oh, we can't comment on that.
48 And when -- because it's another program.

49
50

1 No, I'm not going to hear that kind of
2 stuff when we have the ability as a RAC to comment on
3 such items of concern. And either they don't want to
4 work, if they don't want to work, well, replace them
5 with people that want to work and do the right things
6 for the people. It just comes down to simple as that
7 in my view and I'm not afraid to express that because
8 there's 14,000 people depending on us up here in my
9 view. Maybe that's the other region, we're about
10 7,000. But we're dependent on subsistence resources
11 like no other place. And it's very important to put
12 food on the table up here. Unless you give us all the
13 Walmarts and McDonald's and everything and it's at \$3
14 for a burger, you know, or something like that, who
15 knows. I'm just saying it's that important to us. Our
16 McDonald's is out there.

17
18 That means a very big compliment.
19 Thank you for working for us.

20
21 MR. LIND: (In Native).

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: With that, Madame
24 Chair, where are we on the agenda now?

25
26 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
27 are back to our Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory
28 Council proposals. And we left off with WP 20-49 which
29 is addressing Red Sheep Creek Management area. I did
30 just talk to Edward Rexford so he was calling back in
31 to the meeting after the break.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). So,
36 Edward, you online, Kaktovik?

37
38 MR. REXFORD: Yep, I'm here.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). Well,
41 we're going to go ahead and go back to the proposals
42 and this one is in your neck of the woods. And we
43 didn't take it up last night and recess just so you
44 could be part of this.

45
46 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, this is Pippa
47 Kenner with OSM and I'm going to be presenting this
48 proposal with Tom Evans. And we're ready.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I'm going
2 to give you guys the floor. And who was that online
3 that's going to help present with Tom?

4
5 MS. KENNER: Hi. My name is Pippa
6 Kenner and I'm with OSM in Anchorage.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Pippa, you
9 have the floor. And Tom's getting prepared right now.

10
11 MS. KENNER: This -- the analysis for
12 this proposal begins on page 104 of your Council book.

13
14 So thank you, Mr. Chair and members of
15 the Council. Again my name is Pippa Kenner and I'm an
16 anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
17 Management in Anchorage. And I'll be presenting this
18 proposal analysis with Tom Evans, a biologist at OSM.

19
20 The analysis of proposal WP 20-49 again
21 begins on page 104 of your Council book. This proposal
22 was submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
23 and requests that the Arctic Village Sheep Management
24 Area be opened to the harvest of sheep by non-
25 Federally-qualified users. Put succinctly the
26 proponent states that the restriction of sheep hunting
27 to residents of only a few communities, Arctic Village,
28 Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon, Kaktovik and Venetie, is not
29 necessary to accommodate local uses. The State
30 continues that harvest records indicate residents of
31 these communities rarely hunt sheep. Furthermore there
32 is no biological reason to preclude sheep hunting
33 opportunities by the public in the Arctic Village Sheep
34 Management Area.

35
36 The Federal public lands comprise
37 almost all, 99 percent of the sheep management area and
38 it consists of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
39 And a map of the management area can be found on page
40 107 of your Council book. And I want you to -- if you
41 go to that map I want you to notice in the northern
42 part of the management area are Red Sheep Creek and
43 Cane Creek. And we'll be talking about those areas.

44
45 Now this analysis is pretty long and so
46 what I'm going to do right now is just really quickly
47 summarize the information in the analysis and then if
48 you have questions Tom and I are available.

49
50

1 So to continue, again only the rural
2 residents of Arctic Village, Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon,
3 Kaktovik and Venetie have a customary and traditional
4 use determination for sheep in unit 25A which is where
5 the sheep management area is. And only those rural
6 residents are eligible to hunt for sheep under Federal
7 regulation.

8
9 I'm going to stop right now and hand
10 the presentation over to Tom Evans.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Tom.

15
16 MR. EVANS: Thank you, Pippa and Mr.
17 Chairman and members of the Council. I'm going to
18 present the biological background for this area. And
19 then we'll return it back to Pippa and she'll finish
20 out the presentation.

21
22 Sheep populations in the eastern Brooks
23 range have been relatively stable at low density since
24 the 1990s. The information is based on the available
25 harvest and survey data and observations by hunters.
26 Sheep are susceptible to overharvest by sport and
27 subsistence hunters in local areas, therefore there is
28 a need to closely manage harvest for those populations
29 that are easily accessible. Harvesting mature rams is
30 often the most conservative strategy especially
31 following population declines.

32
33 The Department of Fish and Game uses a
34 full curl harvest strategy to maintain an average
35 harvest of rams that are greater than or equal to eight
36 years old. This management strategy is based on
37 decreasing survival of rams as they get older and
38 trying to allow for younger rams in their prime to
39 continue breeding.

40
41 The Alaska National Wildlife Refuge
42 conducts periodic sheep surveys within the Arctic
43 Village Sheep Management Area and the surrounding
44 areas. Sheep densities have generally been low within
45 the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area compared to
46 other areas within the Brooks Range. Within the Arctic
47 Village Sheep Management Area sheep densities have
48 generally been much higher north of Cane Creek versus
49 south of Cane Creek. So basically in the northern
50

1 areas the densities are higher versus the southern
2 areas. And this is thought to be primarily due to
3 differences in habitat quality between the two areas.

4
5 In 1991 sheep densities north of the
6 Cane Creek were 2.25 sheep per mile squared and south
7 of the Cane Creek were 0.2 sheep per mile squared. In
8 2006 sheep densities north of Cane Creek were 1.7 sheep
9 per square mile and in 2012 the sheep densities north
10 of Cane Creek were 1.5 to 1.8 sheep per square mile and
11 south of Cane Creek was 0.25 to 0.7 sheep per square
12 mile. In 2012 there were roughly 27 lambs per 100
13 ewes, in 2015 and 2016 this number increased to 34
14 lambs per 100 ewes. The last surveys that were
15 conducted were in 2016.

16
17 That concludes my presentation on the
18 biological part of this analysis and I'll turn it back
19 over to Pippa.

20
21 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Tom. I'm going
22 to move into the cultural knowledge and traditional
23 practices section of the analysis. And that begins on
24 page 104.

25
26 And so to sum up Federally-qualified
27 subsistence users hunt for sheep in the management area
28 and this is well documented in ethnographic literature,
29 in testimony at meetings and in harvest reporting
30 systems.

31
32 Additionally Federally-qualified
33 subsistence users have commented that allowing non-
34 Federally-qualified users to harvest sheep in Red Sheep
35 Creek and Cane Creek drainages during the time when
36 Federally-qualified subsistence users harvest sheep
37 affects their ability to access an important sheep
38 hunting area. Since 1993 Federally-qualified
39 subsistence users have noted to the Board that plane
40 traffic by non-Federally-qualified users has interfered
41 with their ability to successfully hunt sheep in these
42 drainages. Residents reported that plane flyovers
43 spook the sheep and that older rams can climb to higher
44 elevations making them more difficult to hunt. Red
45 Sheep and Cane Creek are both very narrow valleys and
46 consequently flights through the area disturb sheep.

47
48 I'm going to move on now to harvest
49 history. So since 1995 the Arctic Village Sheep
50

1 Management Area has been closed to the harvest of sheep
2 except by Federally-qualified subsistence users.
3 They've been able to get a Federal registration permit
4 since 1995, but we must take care when using these data
5 as it is likely that many hunters have not reported
6 their harvest efforts.

7

8 Right now I'm going to describe the
9 data on table 2 on page 114.

10

11 Since 1995 hunters have requested 40
12 Federal permits, 17 have reported hunting for sheep and
13 nine reported harvesting sheep in the management area.
14 Of these incomplete data three hunters reported using
15 the Red Sheep Creek drainage to hunt for sheep and of
16 those one sheep harvest was reported.

17

18 Now I'm going to quickly move on to the
19 data in table 3 on page 115.

20

21 This is where the Alaska Department of
22 Fish and Game -- is the data where the Department of
23 Fish and Game maintains a harvest reporting data base
24 where hunters using State harvest tickets or State
25 permits report their hunting.

26

27 A description of hunter effort and
28 success within the management area at the so called
29 uniform coding unit level or drainage level can be
30 described although harvest site documentation is not
31 precise and is an approximation. But using State
32 harvest tickets and permits from 2006 to 2010
33 approximately 22 sheep were harvested, about four sheep
34 annually reported -- were reported in the area north of
35 Cane Creek while it was open to the harvest of sheep by
36 non-Federally-qualified subsistence users from August
37 10th to September 30th each year.

38

39 The Office of Subsistence Management's
40 recommended conclusion is to oppose proposal WP 20-49.
41 Sheep populations in the management area situated south
42 of Cane Creek continue to exist at low densities and
43 should remain closed to non-subsistence uses in order
44 to protect healthy populations of sheep as mandated in
45 ANILCA section 815(3).

46

47 In the area north of Cane Creek there
48 may be more sheep than in areas to the south, but plane
49 traffic by non-Federally-qualified users during the
50

1 time when Federally-qualified subsistence users
2 customarily and traditionally harvest sheep has
3 interfered with their ability to successfully hunt
4 sheep in this important sheep hunting area. Therefore
5 the area north of Cane Creek should remain closed to
6 non-subsistence uses in order to ensure the
7 continuation of subsistence uses as mandated in ANILCA
8 section 815(3).
9

10 I also would like to point out to the
11 Council that it considered the same proposal that was
12 submitted by an individual rather than the State, that
13 the Council considered the same proposal in 2018 and
14 the Council's actions, the North Slope Council's
15 actions on those proposals, that proposal in 2018
16 begins on page 128 of your Council book if you'd like
17 to review that.
18

19 So at the end of our presentation we're
20 going -- at the end of all the presentations and
21 testimony we're going to ask the Council to either
22 support, oppose, support with modification or defer to
23 the home region on this proposal.
24

25 The Eastern Interior did take action on
26 this proposal last week and they also opposed it.
27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the
29 Council. We're available to answer your questions
30 throughout the rest of this process.
31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Pippa and
33 Tom. Any questions before we go through the -- all the
34 consultation guidelines here?
35

36 (No comments)
37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I certainly have one.
39 And it seems like there's other areas where there's
40 sheep and I'm wondering why the proponent, being ADF&G,
41 wants to be in an area where conflict with villages are
42 present. Isn't the State large enough to where there's
43 other sheep resources or is it that the sheep resources
44 in other areas that are managed have been depleted by
45 nonresidents, non-Federally-qualified users already.
46 I'm just -- I get alarmed when we have to start to look
47 at low density issues and statements like low density
48 issues in areas where Federally-qualified users should
49 be -- that should be the limit and extent of the use of
50

1 those resources.

2

3 Maybe some feedback.....

4

5 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER:in that aspect.

8

9 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for
10 the question. Sorry.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Pippa.

13

14 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for
15 that question. This is Pippa Kenner with OSM.

16

17 So on the first page of the analysis,
18 on page 104, the proponents gave the justification so
19 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game gives its
20 justification. And it mentions quite a few things.
21 One is that the proponent believes based on biological
22 data that Federally-qualified subsistence users will
23 retain opportunity to meet their subsistence needs if
24 this manager -- management area is open to non-
25 Federally-qualified users. Non-Federally-qualified
26 users will regain an opportunity to harvest sheep in
27 the management area and this change could -- would
28 provide additional harvest opportunity for non-
29 Federally-qualified users. It would also provide some
30 opportunity for guide businesses in the area.

31

32 So succinctly the Alaska Department of
33 Fish and Games feels that the area should be open
34 because of no conservation concern for the overharvest
35 of sheep and also that there's enough sheep in these
36 sensitive areas that Federally-qualified users can get
37 the sheep they need for subsistence.

38

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you,
42 Pippa, for those -- you know, we often ask these types
43 of questions to -- you know, what the reasoning --
44 underlying reasoning behind some of these things are
45 and the consideration of local needs in an area where
46 they seem to be at odds versus low density population
47 areas and not fully taken into account. And that
48 always seems to me there's concerns because of the
49 management style of the proponent in my view. You have

50

1 to manage it for a whole lot of different residents
2 rather than just for the immediate communities that
3 support -- that these resources are supporting.

4
5 So it's important to hear some of those
6 things.

7
8 With that, do we have any other
9 questions for Tom and Pippa on the proposal?

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Edward, do you have
14 any questions from Kaktovik on WP 20-49 on the sheep?

15
16 MR. REXFORD: Well, that's kind of a
17 long distance for Kaktovik to hunt sheep and I don't
18 think we ever hunted in that area in our lifetime to my
19 knowledge. So I'm not sure how to vote on this because
20 I don't know if their subsistence needs are being met
21 in that area on the south side, not knowing the history
22 on the sheep population there.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Mr.
25 Rexford from Kaktovik. It's in our neck of the woods
26 because of Kaktovik and we just wanted to make sure we
27 heard the concerns out of Kaktovik for this proposal.

28
29 And with that.....

30
31 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Mr. Hopson
34 from Barrow.

35
36 MR. HOPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
37 I had a wrong understanding on this proposal yesterday
38 and I apologize for that.

39
40 My concern is this the same population
41 that the Kaktovik residents hunt because of the
42 proximity of the area. Are those sheep identified as --
43 where do they go and I know they don't go up to one
44 mountain and stay there all year. You know, do they
45 migrate towards the Kaktovik hunt areas and if it is,
46 yes, it would be a concern for me for the people
47 because the population of sheep they hunt would decline
48 if this was open.

49
50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So with that, Tom, if
4 you can -- or Pippa, we can answer that question.

5

6 MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 So the sheep populations are fairly local. As Edward
8 mentioned it's a long way to go from Kaktovik to get
9 these sheep. So it's very unlikely for sheep to go all
10 the way up towards Kaktovik or closer to the community
11 there.

12 So I think that answers your question
13 that they're not that migratory. And.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think the question
16 is -- maybe I can do some clarification. Where is --
17 when Kaktovik has -- takes the effort to go get a sheep
18 it might not necessarily be right here where it's being
19 defined for the Cane Creek and these other areas. But
20 are those population of sheep move around such that
21 they become available on this side of the mountain,
22 close enough on their side of the slope that they're
23 effectively hunting the same population. Is -- I think
24 that's the heart of the question.

25

26 MR. BERENDZEN: Mr. Chair and members
27 of the Council. This is Steve Berendzen, Refuge
28 manager, Arctic Refuge. I think I can help out a
29 little bit with this.

30

31 Although the movements of sheep is --
32 can be variable, it's been documented that sheep do
33 move distances, sometimes pretty significant distances.
34 Where the Arctic Valley Sheep Management Area is on the
35 south side of the Brooks Range, there is a large
36 distance between that and the Huluhulu drainage that is
37 generally hunted by the Kaktovik residents. They do go
38 beyond that certainly and, you know, east and west, but
39 I think they -- what Mr. Rexford was referring to is
40 they typically hunt on the North Slope. So there is a
41 significant distance. Could some animals move there,
42 the rams are the ones that generally move longer
43 distances so, yes, it's possible. However I would
44 think it's not that likely.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. And I
47 think that puts -- sheds some light on the question
48 that was posed.

49

50

1 But still there's C&T to that area with
2 Kaktovik should they want to do some really remote
3 hunting like that, they have that C&T to that area.
4 That's basically probably why it's here before us
5 today.

6
7 Any further questions on the proposal
8 before we go down the -- past the presentation and
9 analysis?

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, thank
14 you, Steve. And we're going to go ahead and go down to
15 item two, report on boards and consultations. First
16 one is the tribes and ANSCA corporations.

17
18 And, Orville, if you can expound on
19 that.

20
21 MR. LIND: (In Native), Mr. Chairman,
22 Board members. Orville Lind, Native liaison for the
23 Office of Subsistence Management.

24
25 During the December 30th consultation
26 with the North Slope region we did have Mr. Rexford,
27 Sr. ask to be given a quick overview of the proposal
28 which our staff did. And the only remark he stated
29 afterward was that he was going to try to get the
30 information out to the people.

31
32 And that's all I have for that
33 consultation.

34
35 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Orville.
38 And we'll go on to item three, agency comments.

39
40 And our first one on the block is
41 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

42
43 MR. BURCH: Hello, Mr. Chair. This is
44 Mark Burch with the Department of Fish and Game.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Mark.

47
48 MR. BURCH: I would like to say that we
49 have been involved in a round table discussion at the
50

1 Eastern Interior meeting with some of the people from
2 Arctic Village. And had a good conversation with them
3 and are interested in continuing that conversation as
4 we talk through this issue from our perspective. And
5 that's where we're at for now.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mark. And
10 I see Orville is raising his hand and I'm going to go
11 back to Orville.

12

13 Orville.

14

15 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Board
16 members. I wanted to share also that we've just been
17 requested for a tribal consultation for Arctic Village
18 on that issue. So once I get back to the office I'm
19 going to go ahead and set up for a tribal consultation
20 with those folks, with the OSM and the Federal
21 Subsistence Board members.

22

23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Orville.
26 And you know what, it's important that -- there's some
27 things like this on the North Slope in particular like
28 around Anaktuvuk Pass. And one thing that happened
29 with guides and other things was that the -- the bought
30 out of a corp -- of a guide operation with probably the
31 -- looking at how there could be a way that local
32 opportunities be developed and not just an outside
33 entity or, you know, the amount of resources it takes
34 to do something like that versus what a tribe can do to
35 maybe facilitate and keeping the meat in the village or
36 something like that. And making -- seems like there's
37 some ways to talk about these kind of things that would
38 be like a traditional hunting experience level of
39 guiding. It should be thought more thoroughly about in
40 my view because this has come back more and once that
41 I've been on the Council with proponent saying, yeah,
42 we should open these sheep up for non-Federally-
43 qualified users and people from Montana get guides and
44 go get a sheep in these areas. But at what cost and to
45 diminish traditional hunting experiences and probably
46 start arguments with communities.

47

48 With that, Orville, were you done on
49 that part?

50

1 MR. LIND: Yes, Mr. Chair. Quyanaq.
2 Thank you.
3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. And next
5 item is Federal agencies.
6

7 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
8 don't believe there are any comments at this time
9 unless there's any comments from Arctic National
10 Wildlife Refuge regarding this proposal.
11

12 (No comments)
13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The ANWR guys aren't
15 going to say anything.
16

17 All right. Native, tribal, village and
18 others. So we need some tribal comments at this point.
19

20 MS. PATTON: I'll check in with Edward
21 if there's any comments further from the.....
22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.
24

25 MS. PATTON:Native Village of
26 Kaktovik.
27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. I know Eva
29 likes to put lots of words in my mouth all the time
30 like a spoon fed baby here.
31

32 (Laughter)
33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But I appreciate
35 that, Eva, you're always on target.
36

37 So we'll see. Any tribal comments,
38 Kaktovik being close in this area.
39

40 Edward, you got comments from the
41 tribe?
42

43 (No comments)
44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Kaktovik, you on?
46

47 (No comments)
48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm not sure if we
50

1 lost Kaktovik in this one or not. He may have been
2 sunspotted out maybe.

3
4 We'll come back to the tribe comments.
5 I'm going to move on to four until we get Edward back
6 online.

7
8 MS. PATTON: Sounds like he's back.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Edward, you there?

11
12 MR. REXFORD: Yeah, I'm here. Sorry I
13 was on mute.

14
15 Yeah. Well, we -- our tribe don't
16 really have concerns on that Red Sheep Creek proposal
17 since it's in, you know another territory. But, you
18 know, that's the only concern we have right now except
19 the timing of the moose season. But we're working on
20 that.

21
22 That's all I have. Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Mr.
25 Rexford, on the tribal comments. And there's -- it's
26 tribal, village and other. So we were on that.

27
28 If there are no other tribal or village
29 or other comments on that I'm going to move on to
30 advisory group comments, other Regional Councils.

31
32 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. As
33 anthropologist, Pippa Kenner noted, the Eastern
34 Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
35 did meet a couple weeks ago and took action on this
36 proposal. They had quite an extensive discussion with
37 representatives from Arctic Village in the region and
38 others. The Council voted unanimously to oppose WP 20-
39 49, and maintain the subsistence.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. So
42 we heard from them.

43
44 So item B, Fish and Game Advisory
45 Committees. Is -- was there any comment?

46
47 Vince.

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 Vince Mathews with Arctic Refuge.

2

3 Eastern Interior as was already
4 portrayed had long discussions on this with
5 representatives from Arctic Village. And Fish and Game
6 already mentioned they're in dialogue with it.

7

8 Eastern Interior is requesting again
9 over several years to have a working group that's
10 composed of OSM, Fish and Game and the communities that
11 have a positive C&T to look at other options. So they
12 made that pretty clear and I think it's going in their
13 annual report. But they made it clear that they want a
14 working group to look at this area.

15

16 So I just want to get that on the
17 record because they would definitely want somebody from
18 Kaktovik and that's why it's great that Edward's
19 online, it possibly could be him.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Vince.
22 Like I said I think there's opportunities to do
23 something different. I think there's real value to
24 thinking about a real traditional hunting experience
25 rather than just being, yeah, I got an airplane, I can
26 drop you off right here, climb around like a rock
27 climber and catch something. I mean, looking at ways
28 where it emphasizes and has respect to the communities
29 that subsist out of these things and provide a
30 traditional hunting experience, seems to me something
31 that's under exploited in my view.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair, the Eastern
34 Interior as well as another group that formed did
35 discuss about the other opportunities. So there is
36 dialogue going on on that. Eastern Interior has
37 several members that are guides and they were working
38 with Arctic Village if they were interested in
39 developing some type of guide program. So that has
40 been on the record, the discussions.

41

42 So there's a lot more with this whole
43 -- this area. I started my career in 1992 on this
44 issue. So hopefully before my career ends that
45 there'll be some kind of long term solution. But right
46 now there's good dialogue that's going on.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Vince.
49 I'm going to continue on that.

50

1 Subsistence Resource Commission.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
4 did not receive any further comments from the Fish and
5 Game ACs or the Subsistence Resource Commissions for
6 this proposal.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, having said
11 that. Is Anaktuvuk still on the Subsistence Resource
12 Commission for Gates of the Arctic?

13

14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
15 With the last -- the most recent appointment by the
16 Secretary of the Interior, there were several of our
17 long term Council members who were not reappointed by
18 the Secretary of the Interior.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I completely
21 understand that. But I think that's a different
22 question. I'm just saying was -- is there an Anaktuvuk
23 representative on the Subsistence Resource Commission
24 that could provide a comment.

25

26 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, Esther
27 Hugo.....

28

29 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair, this is Marcy
30 Okada.

31

32 MS. PATTON: Thank you. Marcy can
33 answer. So Esther Hugo was our representative. We
34 don't currently have one on the Council right now. But
35 we still do have representatives from Anaktuvuk Pass on
36 the SRC and Marcy can address that further.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.

41

42 Marcy.

43

44 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair, for the record
45 this is Marcy Okada, subsistence coordinator for Gates
46 of the Arctic.

47

48 And Esther Hugo is still on our Gates
49 of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission. She was

50

1 appointed by the North Slope Fish and Game Advisory
2 Committee. So that was another avenue for her to be
3 appointed to the SRC.

4
5 And then we also have another seat for
6 Anaktuvuk Pass and that's filled with Jerry Survyanuk.

7
8
9 And then we also currently have a
10 Secretary of Interior appointed alternate to the Gates
11 of the Arctic SRC from Anaktuvuk Pass.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you,
14 Marcy. And is this the appropriate Subsistence
15 Resource Commission that would have provided comments,
16 but we just currently don't have comments from that
17 Commission?

18
19 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
20 This proposal is outside of (indiscernible -
21 simultaneous speech).....

22
23 MS. OKADA: So our Subsistence Resource
24 Commission is scheduled to meet on November 13th and
25 14th in Fairbanks. And they will take up Federal
26 subsistence proposals as well as Board of Game
27 proposals. But they would not be reviewing this
28 particular proposal because it's for unit 26C or 25A
29 which is outside of Gates of the Arctic.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you very much,
32 Marcy. I mean, just information to be had. And I
33 appreciate both Eva and Marcy to enlighten us on that.

34
35 With that, I'm going to go down to
36 five, summary of written public comments.

37
38 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. No
39 written public comments were submitted for this
40 proposal.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Going down to item
45 six, public testimony. Do we have folks that want to
46 provide public testimony?

47
48 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm going to
2 recognize Mr. Hopson from Utqiagvik.
3

4 MR. HOPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 Not being from that area, but recognize they are
6 subsistence hunters. And anywhere you go in the State
7 of Alaska, Native, we're brothers and sisters. And I
8 think when I see this, I think we should oppose to
9 rescind the closure for that and recognize they are
10 like us too, they need their resources.
11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr.
15 Hopson. Maybe a little bit of clarity. The request
16 under general description on the regulation for 20-49
17 proposal, request to open the Arctic Village Sheep
18 Management Area in unit 25A to the harvest of sheep by
19 non-Federally-qualified users. And that's submitted by
20 ADF&G. The only reason we are having to discuss this
21 is the C&T provided to Kaktovik in the area which they
22 say it's still a little bit far for them to be
23 accessing this area.
24

25 But it -- generally in the past I think
26 we look at these things when it's affecting our region,
27 but not so much, we've deferred to the RAC in the area
28 and what they're saying. And the RAC that's most
29 affected has opposed it I think. And then we could
30 defer to them if we wanted to make -- when it comes
31 time to make a recommendation I suppose. And we're on
32 the public testimony now. And that's generally been
33 our practice when it's really not in our jurisdiction
34 we just say well, we'll defer to the region most
35 affected by this, the Eastern Interior RAC in this case
36 I believe. And that way puts us in a -- not such a
37 controversial position to say yay or nay on that,
38 something like that.
39

40 Any other public testimony on WP 20-49?
41

42 (No comments)
43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. And I --
45 before I move on to item seven I just want to remind
46 I'm the Chair and I shouldn't be making the motions. I
47 want to make sure that the Council entertain the
48 motions. I'm just kind of like your -- the marshal
49 kind of guy. And so I'm going to -- having gone
50

1 through the gambit of the procedural for any proposal,
2 what's the wish of the Council?

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: At this point we need
7 to entertain a motion of some sort for WP 20-49.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I mean, we can do
12 things like defer it to the most affected region. We
13 could say well, we're subsistence guys and we oppose it
14 or there should be something. We can say yeah with
15 modifications, just like any other RAC.

16
17 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So with that I'm
20 going to recognize Mr. Hopson from Barrow.

21
22 MR. HOPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
23 I'll make a motion to oppose to rescind closure, but
24 leave it up to the tribe to do what they want. I'm not
25 too sure if the wording of the motion is correct, but
26 I'm open for corrections on that motion to oppose it,
27 to leave it to the region.

28
29 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So there's a motion
32 on the floor and then maybe I would.....

33
34 MR. OOMITTUK: Second that motion.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. There's
37 on a motion on the floor seconded by Tikigaq to oppose
38 WP 20-49 and defer to the -- and give deference to the
39 region. That would be the Eastern Interior Council.
40 It's been seconded by Tikigaq.

41
42 MR. OOMITTUK: Question.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
45 called for. All those -- okay. I'm going to probably
46 need some correction. I don't think we use the
47 Robert's Rules of Order to deny, but we -- and because
48 you're supposed to motion to approve and then it dies
49 and it's -- if it's not supportable.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
2 I may. Typ.....

3
4 MS. KENNER: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
5 Pippa Kenner. Was Eva about to talk?

6
7 MS. PATTON: You can go ahead, Pippa.

8
9 MS. KENNER: What I was going to point
10 out is that the cleanest way of doing it is to make in
11 this two motions. One would be to adopt and then if
12 the Council wished to oppose it, you -- a Council
13 member wished to oppose it you'd vote no. Or you can
14 make a motion to defer to the home region. And then if
15 -- yes.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So that was the
18 question I was going to have because I think we make
19 motions to adopt and then the question has been called
20 for, then you vote yay or nay. And then we can do a
21 roll call vote in that sense if there is a
22 controversial section in that.

23
24 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
27 Steve.

28
29 MR. OOMITTUK: So we are voting on what
30 William proposed that we oppose. And then if we oppose
31 then we go to this proposal and then we can vote on it.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. All right. I
34 think the question's been called for at this point. So
35 I'm trying to figure out how to phrase this. What's
36 the -- yeah, let's do.....

37
38 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, this is Pippa
39 again.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

42
43 MS. KENNER: Maybe you can just clarify
44 what the intent of the motion was. It's not clear if
45 it was to oppose or to defer.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. In my book I
48 think it was a motion to oppose WP 20-49 and give
49 deference to the Regional RAC, Eastern Interior RAC,
50

1 which is in their region.

2

3 MS. KENNER: Then we would ask the
4 person who made the motion if they would accept the
5 amendment.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. So I -- if I
8 entertain a vote right now it'll be if you vote yes
9 it's going to be in opposition. If you vote no it
10 means moving WP 20-49 forward is my understanding.
11 It's a little complicated here. When you make a motion
12 to oppose, mostly it's motion to adopt then it gets
13 voted up or down.

14

15 So in this case.....

16

17 MS. PETRIVELLI: Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Pat, did you want to
20 add some clarification here at this point?

21

22 MS. PETRIVELLI: If I could, yeah.
23 This is Pat Petrivelli. And I guess because Pippa was
24 trying to clarify your intent, but and you, Mr. Chair,
25 I think were trying to clarify that usually in Robert's
26 Rules you try not to make a motion to oppose because
27 then everyone gets confused. Like when you vote yes or
28 no, are you opposing or supporting. But technically if
29 you make all the motions in the positive like move to
30 support proposal 49 and then say but I oppose it, then
31 which would -- the motion maker did oppose it and the
32 seconder did oppose it also with that understanding,
33 then you -- that's what you were trying to clarify,
34 that in this motion you're taking a vote on this
35 proposal and a yes vote would mean that you support it
36 and a no vote means you oppose it.

37

38 So and that's the cleanest way to make
39 a motion under Robert's Rules. If you keep saying that
40 I move to oppose it then you get confused because then
41 you say, yes, I oppose it and then it just -- it just
42 sounds funny to say, yes, I oppose it.

43

44 And then when you add the deference
45 that's just like way of information that you're
46 opposing it because you're deferring to the Council and
47 they opposed the motion. So that was just a
48 clarification about the understanding of why you're
49 opposing it plus the reasons that Mr. Hopson supplied

50

1 before when he made his public testimony about
2 subsistence uses, continuing subsistence uses, without
3 conflicts from other users which this proposal would
4 allow other users to hunt in their sheep management
5 area and have conflicts with the subsistence users in
6 the area.

7
8 But I think what you were trying to do,
9 Mr. Chair, was just to make sure that when people do
10 vote that they would say, no, because they oppose it.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I think that
13 provides a little bit more mud though because when they
14 vote yes they're in agreement with the motion maker
15 that they opposed it. It's kind of confusing.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Vince, you want to
20 add some mud to that?

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, being a
23 past coordinator the easiest way out of this to have a
24 clean record is to ask the mover of the motion and the
25 second if they're going to withdraw -- would be willing
26 to withdraw their motion. Then if they withdraw it
27 then the motion would be to put it in the positive.
28 That way wherever this goes it's clear where the vote
29 went -- where the vote ended.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Vince.
34 And that's what I was going to almost suggest, that the
35 seconder withdraw and the mover withdraw and then make
36 a motion in the positive. We move to adopt WP 20-49
37 and then we do the actual vote of up or down.

38
39 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I need to go to the
42 seconder first I believe.

43
44 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

47
48 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, I -- you know, if
49 we want to go in that -- I think I will rescind my
50

1 second and if William rescinds his motion then we can
2 vote on it.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We've been -- the
5 seconder has been -- has removed his second to the
6 motion to allow for redirecting in the positive for the
7 motion.

8
9 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Mr. Hopson.

12
13 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman, I'll rescind
14 the motion I made to oppose WP 20-49. And I thank you
15 folks for the clarification.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr.
20 Hopson. We need a motion on the floor for WP-20-49.

21
22 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
25 the floor to adopt WP 20-49.

26
27 MR. HOPSON: Second the motion, Mr.
28 Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded.

31
32 MR. OOMITTUK: Under discussion.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Under -- we're under
35 discussion.

36
37 MR. OOMITTUK: Can we have a roll call
38 vote.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Madame Coordinator,
41 if we can have a roll call vote on WP 20-49.

42
43 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
44 Thank you for the motion. Again this is a motion in
45 the positive so a vote yes would be to support WP 49, a
46 vote no would essentially motion fails then and this
47 proposal would not be adopted.

48
49 So we'll go William Hopson. So a vote
50

1 no would be opposed to this proposal.

2

3 MR. HOPSON: Thank you. I'll vote no.

4

5 MS. PATTON: Wanda Kippi, Atqasuk.

6

7 MS. KIPPI: No.

8

9 MS. PATTON: Steve Oomittuk, Point
10 Hope.

11

12 MR. OOMITTUK: No.

13

14 MS. PATTON: Edward Rexford, Kaktovik.
15 Are you still on teleconference?

16

17 MR. REXFORD: No.

18

19 MS. PATTON: I'm sorry, Edward, could
20 you please repeat your vote?

21

22 MR. REXFORD: I voted no too.

23

24 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you. And
25 Chair Gordon Brower?

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I vote no.

28

29 MS. PATTON: We have five nos, one
30 absent. Motion fails.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Madame
33 Coordinator. And we'll leave it at that. The North
34 Slope Council did not pass and effectively opposing I
35 believe WP 20-49 and deferring to the Eastern Interior
36 Council, to their region.

37

38 Madame Coordinator, where are we on the
39 agenda now?

40

41 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
42 There is one final Federal subsistence proposal, it's a
43 statewide proposal. So essentially a proposal that was
44 submitted that if it went into effect would affect all
45 areas of Alaska. And you'll see that under statewide
46 proposals, WP 20-08. And that begins on 130 of your
47 meeting book. And this is addressing the marking of
48 snares and traps.

49

50

1 And Tom Evans will be providing the
2 analysis for that.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Tom,
7 for WP 20-08.

8
9 MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
10 members of the Council. Again for the record my name's
11 Tom Evans and I work with OSM.

12
13 As Eva mentioned this proposal starts
14 on page 130. The wildlife proposal was submitted by
15 the East Prince of Wales Advisory Committee and
16 requests implementing a statewide requirement that
17 traps and snares be marked with either a trapper's name
18 or a State identification number. The proponent
19 believes that the current regulations do not provide
20 accountability if a trapper leaves a trap set after the
21 season's closed or uses illegal bait. The proponent
22 states that requiring trap identification would make
23 law enforcement easier and help reduce illegal trapping
24 practices.

25
26 The Alaska Board of Game adopted a trap
27 marking requirement for units 1 to 5 in 2006. Federal
28 regulations followed suit. In 2012 trap identification
29 was required in Southeast Alaska because Wildlife
30 Troopers, Department of Fish and Game and the public
31 all agreed that marking traps in an effort to reduce
32 illegal trapping practices and incidental take. In
33 2014 the Federal Subsistence Board rejected proposal WP
34 14-01 which requested requiring trapper identification
35 tags statewide and was opposed -- and this was opposed
36 by all 10 Councils. In 2016 the Board of Game removed
37 the trap identification requirement for Southeast
38 Alaska because the requirement was not actually
39 preventing illegal trapping or incidental take. In
40 2018 Federal regulations followed suit.

41
42 This proposal is not expected to have
43 any affect on wildlife populations and would not
44 prevent illegal trapping activity or incidental take by
45 -- of pets or non-targeted wildlife. It could be
46 benefit law enforcement although users could just trap
47 under State regulations on Federal public lands to
48 avoid this requirement.

49
50

1 This requirement would substantially
2 burden Federally-qualified subsistence users who would
3 need to spend time and money marking all their traps.
4 Misalignment between State and Federal regulations
5 would also create user confusion.
6

7 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
8 oppose WP 20-08.
9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Open up for
11 questions.
12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom. Any
14 questions for Tom on WP 20-08 from the Council?
15

16 (No comments)
17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And this was
19 submitted by East Prince of Wales Advisory Committee.
20

21 You know, I've been trapping pretty
22 near all my life too and doing things. And I always
23 have an area. But there were certain things that were
24 happening in recent times that I could recall that, you
25 know, people putting traps too close to town and local
26 pets, you know, were getting into those things and
27 killing people's pets. And there was some concerns
28 about whose traps these are, nobody wanted to pony up
29 to talk about, you know, somebody put this trap there
30 and a dog accidentally, they're taking him for a run,
31 gets into these things. And then it's too late. And
32 some of these traps kill you outright, you know, like
33 the Conibear Traps and stuff.
34

35 And anyway I'm just saying that there's
36 a -- I don't know what's driving it, if it's things
37 like that. And most people when they got traplines
38 they're -- they have an area and people kind of know
39 that.
40

41 Anyway I just thought I'd just make
42 those kind of points. And I'm not -- I don't know what
43 the underlying reason to start marking all traps, if
44 it's an enforcement thing or other things like that.
45

46 So any other questions to -- on the
47 proposal?
48

49 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve, from
2 Tikigaq.

3
4 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes. Yeah, I agree with
5 Gordon too, you know, people know where they set their
6 traps. But there are people nowadays, you know, that
7 set traps within proximity of the city limits because
8 foxes do come into our area and there are loose dogs
9 out there.

10
11 But, you know, everything is posted on
12 Facebook nowadays at -- you know, but not everybody
13 uses Facebook.

14
15 But, you know, having identification
16 number, you know, you hear stories now about people
17 checking other people's traps, you know. But, you
18 know, all our lives family members have always set
19 traps in certain areas, but outside of the city limits
20 out in the country. And nowadays were getting more and
21 more animals within our proximity of the city limits,
22 rabid foxes, foxes coming into the community. And some
23 of the younger people are putting traps around their
24 property area. I don't know if that's going to -- you
25 know, I don't know, they're putting them other places
26 out around their skin boats where they dry their skins,
27 you know. But, you know, it's coming from East Prince
28 of Wales.

29
30 But thank you, that's all.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, and it is a
33 statewide proposal, I mean, it affected -- probably
34 every RAC is taking this up to -- throughout the State.
35 You know, even if we opposed it and it passed, right,
36 it would still become law to do that or would it exempt
37 the North Slope RAC from adhering to the law?

38
39 MR. EVANS: So if the Board passed it
40 it would become law for the entire State. But the
41 Board in -- the Board usually goes with deference to
42 the Councils. So if the Councils generally opposed it
43 then the Board would probably follow suit.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Just for
46 semantics purposes, okay, let's say that 60 percent of
47 the RACs supported it and we happened to be in the
48 minority and say that we're -- we opposed it. And then
49 the Federal Board of Game adopts it. Now it will be
50

1 enforced in our area regardless if we opposed it or
2 not. That's what I was getting at.

3

4 MR. EVANS: Correct.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So it is a statewide
7 proposal. Regardless it just -- you know, the Federal
8 Board of Game would decide on it based on deference to
9 Regional Advisory Councils.

10

11 Any other questions to Tom on the
12 proposal?

13

14 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Mr.
17 Hopson from Barrow.

18

19 MR. HOPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 My question is and you look at the proposal was it
21 marked with a name or State identification number.
22 Would those ID cards, tags -- my question is and I've
23 been a trapper for a long time, that was my living long
24 ago. And a person can have 300 traps. And if the
25 little tag or permit is being sold for a person with
26 300 traps and if they're not given to them, if they're
27 sold at \$10 apiece that's something a trapper cannot
28 afford. And I'm just saying is this a monetary issue
29 for the trapper.

30

31 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

32

33 MR. EVANS: So I don't think -- I don't
34 know -- I don't think that they would be sold, there
35 may be a number involved if they do it that way. I
36 think you would just mark your traps. But there would
37 be a monetary burden on the trapper because they would
38 have to develop whatever tags they put on the trap then
39 and I'd imagine there'd be certain information like
40 your name and your hunting license or something --
41 trapping license or something like that identifies you
42 that way. So, yes, there would be some financial
43 burden to the trappers.

44

45 MR. HOPSON: Thank you, Tom. That
46 answers my question.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
49 on the proposal before we go down the -- past the
50

1 analysis portion?

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, I'm
6 going to go on to item two, report on the Board's --
7 the consultation with tribes and ANILCA corporation.

8

9 I'm going to ask Orville to come down.

10

11 MR. LIND: (In Native), Mr. Chairman,
12 Board members. During the consultation we had no
13 comments or requests on this proposal.

14

15 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Orville.
18 Item three, agency comments.

19

20 I'm going to go down to ADF&G.

21

22 MR. BURCH: Hello, Mr. Chair. This is
23 Mark Burch with the Department of Fish and Game.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Mark.

26

27 MR. BURCH: We would acknowledge that
28 Federally-qualified users could trap under State
29 regulations if this were to pass and then they would
30 not need to mark their traps. That is to the extent
31 that State and Federal regulations match. And because
32 there would be no biological affect of this regulation
33 we're neutral on it.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mark. And
38 those were comments from ADF&G.

39

40 Any Federal agency comments? And we do
41 have Steve and we do have Vince. And I'm not sure if
42 we've got BLM folks here right now.

43

44 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
45 didn't receive any Federal agency comments, don't have
46 any here today or anyone on teleconference, Federal
47 agency comments on this proposal.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. And

50

1 let's see where we are here. Native, tribal and
2 village and other.

3
4 Native tribes. Do we have any comments
5 from tribes?

6
7 We have looks like Jack Schaefer from
8 Native Village of Point Hope.

9
10 MR. SCHAEFER: Thank you. Our Wildlife
11 office hasn't had anyone there for a few months now. I
12 don't know if there was any consultation or any
13 communication with the Native Village of Point Hope on
14 this. With that said, you know, I -- you know, we kind
15 of don't really have a position other than saying that,
16 you know, that process still needs to be done and that
17 communication needs to be done with the Native Village
18 of Point Hope.

19
20 We have always marked our traps or --
21 you know, with our family mark and our equipment with
22 our family mark in case we drop it somewhere or we come
23 across it and we could see.

24
25 One of the questions that I have that I
26 don't really have any real clarity on, I don't have too
27 much experience in wildlife, is the practice and
28 location. There's corporate lands, there's Native
29 allotments. We have 105 Native allotment parcels, we
30 have 100 -- I mean, we have 27 missing applications for
31 Native allotments that are -- should have been through
32 families that didn't do it because they were playing
33 pool and had no faith in what was going on in regards
34 to rights back then. And so, you know, I don't really
35 know as to how that works in dealing with tribal lands,
36 whether they're acquired by the tribe by itself or
37 acquired or given from the ANSCA corporation or lands
38 that the tribes has in a agreement or contract within a
39 Refuge within their boundary.

40
41 The Native Village of Point Hope has
42 two wildlife parcels at Cape Lisburne and at Cape
43 Thomson, the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge, Maritime
44 Wildlife Refuge. And so, you know, because we have the
45 right to perform governmental functions in the same way
46 as the Federal government, you know, we have that
47 interest and that doesn't go away in dealing with
48 managing of our Refuges, in regards to wildlife
49 functions as a governmental function. And so, you
50

1 know, at first, you know, we don't know too much about
2 the history in regards here, looks like it's been
3 discussed for sometime. And, but we do oppose
4 additional restrictions especially if we can't afford
5 to pay for the strip that has that barcode which will
6 probably be.

7
8 And so I'm not really sure as to -- you
9 know, and we do need to have some type of discussion
10 and I don't know if we had any feedback in regards to
11 the users, the ones that are trapping now.

12
13 My experience is that my grandmother
14 had five traps out by Nuvuk. And they were (in
15 Native). And I was eight years old when she first
16 showed me them and how to kill that (in Native). And
17 next day she say go and check those traps and I get
18 ready. And I look at her, she wasn't doing anything.
19 And I say how come you won't follow, how come you won't
20 show me. I show you already. And so was obligated.
21 And did that, that was my duty at that time. We had
22 real hardship, we don't know how money come around.
23 You know, it's amazing how we survived back in those
24 days in the '60s.

25
26 And but now that we have this
27 recognition of governmental functions and that we have
28 these programs that we're competing for. As a tribe,
29 you know, we've always fought for tribal rights,
30 government to government and always thought that we
31 were higher than the State and we keep running into
32 this thing where there's competition with the State.
33 And, oh, man, they got a big club. And so, you know,
34 we're competing. And but we have that obligation and I
35 don't know exactly how we're impacted other than saying
36 that we mark our own and I feel it's undue additional
37 work that isn't necessary.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Jack,
42 Native Village of Point Hope.

43
44 Any other tribal comments, village
45 comments, or any other comments?

46
47 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve.

50

1 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. You know, what
2 Jack said, you know, family members, whaling captains
3 always have their own marking on their harpoons or
4 tools, whatever. It's just been passed from generation
5 to generation. And then they have their markings on
6 some traps too, you know. And like he said it's.....
7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Steve.
9 And, you know, we do mark stuff, you know, when we're
10 hunting so it -- we know that's ours. And they even
11 had tribal court on ice over equipment and whales and
12 you could actually catch a whale with just your mark.
13 And they actually had court on the ice to see whose
14 whale that was because of a mark. And I remember those
15 things and they -- because we were one of those where
16 we had to take all of our muktuk out of our (in Native)
17 and go put it in somebody else's (in Native) because
18 the tribal council made a determination on the ice when
19 they had a court on the ice. That mark -- that
20 equipment was in that whale first than what yours was.
21 And that -- it meant a very -- you know, it's a very
22 big deal to have an (in Native) and then that's how
23 come they even had to have court in them back days when
24 there was a question on a whale because I remember
25 that.
26

27 Anyway I'm going to recognize -- is
28 that Leonard?
29

30 MR. BARGER: Hi. My name is Leonard
31 Barger for the record and I'm on the Fish and Game
32 Management Committee with the North Slope Borough. And
33 my term is up. We'll probably find out probably this
34 Friday or next week on a new member. But I'm -- I see
35 your agenda on there and I know William's on the
36 Committee there and Wanda's on the Committee.
37

38 So I know we've got this issue with the
39 polar bears. I know everybody's talking about caribou,
40 whales and stuff. And a lot of elders here, I know
41 Steve knows that, you know, polar bears are really
42 vital to the community. And, you know, they're trying
43 to put a quota on polar bears. And, you know, that's
44 going to really hurt some elders here in Point Hope.
45 You know, that -- that's what they like, polar bear
46 meat. And for putting a quota that's totally wrong.
47 You know, they're saying, you know, polar bears are
48 going down. We saw a whole bunch of polar bears these
49 past three, four years here in Point Hope. And if you
50

1 look at the Nanook Commission that -- you know, Point
2 Hope gets the most polar bears and North Slope and
3 anywhere combined to like four or five communities.
4 And we depend on that, you know.

5
6 And, you know, some elders, Semore,
7 Claudia, they would call me and say hey, go get me
8 polar bear meat. I would go out there and spend days
9 just to get a polar bear, you know, for them. And, you
10 know, they've passed on, but now we've got new elders
11 and, you know, they like that polar bear. I know Steve
12 likes it and all these elders now, they like that polar
13 bear.

14
15 And, you know, on your agenda I don't
16 see nothing -- Jack was telling you oh, they don't --
17 this -- you know, we have Fish and Game here, they put
18 rules and regulations in our communities. You know,
19 elders here, you know, back then, you know, when
20 Semore, he would say go get me some caribou. I told
21 him oh, I have to get my license first. You don't need
22 license. I said I don't want to get in trouble. I'll
23 get in trouble for you. And, you know, those kind of
24 things. It hurts.

25
26 You know, I'm finally bringing it up
27 and I always talk about my elders in our Fish and Game
28 Management, you know, bring in a lot of these elders.
29 We learn from them. We learn. They passed down like
30 you guys always say, we learn from our elders. You
31 know, when those elders were alive, Henry Nashabuk,
32 Eliza Rok or Eliza Tengonna, sorry, and Semore
33 Tezrolic, all those guys, you know, I would go out
34 hunting with them. You know, I would be on the north
35 side there, Henry Nashabuk would go see more. He know
36 where I would be and he would tell me all the time
37 watch, when we're all gone you guys are going to have a
38 hard time. Sure enough it is. Sure enough.

39
40 You know, whaling time is getting hard.
41 I know look at now -- like I know Gordon, you know,
42 brought up that, you know, global warming's hitting.
43 You know, our (in Native) are really melting. And I
44 think, you know, that North Slope Borough and whoever
45 donated those connexes were, you know, freezing up our
46 muktuk.

47
48 You know, I moved here in Point Hope in
49 '96, but my real dad's from here, Wilford Lee, you
50

1 know. And he's always telling me respect your elders.
2 Give to the elders. And I've done that. And I've
3 learned that from my great, great-grandpa in Noatak.
4 Every time we catch a whale, half of my share goes to
5 Kotzebue Senior Center, the elders. Every time.
6 They're always happy. I go to Kotzebue, go visit them.
7 I know Laura, she just passed away about a month ago
8 and, you know, I would go visit them, you know, at the
9 elders' house. You know, it's -- you know, their
10 regulations have to be cooked. But I would sneak, you
11 know, because she's from Point Hope, she liked that raw
12 muktuk, you know, the aged one. I would bring it over
13 to her and I would sneak it to her. And those elders
14 would grab my hand and pray. I just -- I'd ask them
15 pray for the whalers, that's all they want, they're
16 hunting for you guys. Pray for them, that's all they
17 want. And every time, April, May, they always -- every
18 Sunday at the elders, the lady over there that works,
19 she's always saying they're always praying for those
20 people that are whaling, all over the North Slope,
21 anywhere that are whaling for their -- for their food.

22
23 And, you know, now -- but I just want
24 to bring this up, you know, the polar bear thing, it's
25 just -- you know, I don't know when they're going to
26 have their quota for the polar bears, but, you know,
27 it's -- you know, if you look at it, I mean, it's very
28 vital for our community and the villages. You know, I
29 know it's -- I went -- you know, I went to Canada, now
30 they've stopped hunting, you know, for people, guides
31 and stuff. Now they stopped that. I'm glad they
32 stopped, you know, people from here go to Canada and
33 going polar -- that's what they used to do long ago
34 back then, but now they stopped it. I'm glad.

35
36 But, yeah, I'd just like to say, thank
37 you and, you know, on this -- like I said I haven't
38 seen nothing on the polar bear issues, but I know
39 here's Fish and Game here -- is here. But, you know,
40 they put all those regulations for us. And, you know,
41 we grew up -- I know Gordon, you know, all of you guys
42 right here, you know, that's our livelihood, that's our
43 food. And like Steve always say every -- I love it
44 when he said that's our garden everywhere, our garden's
45 in our land. But we have to struggle and fight because
46 Fish and Game is putting rules on it.

47
48 You know, I went to DC a few years ago
49 and, you know, I talked to some tribes and stuff and,
50

1 you know, I went to Navajo and they -- you know, I
2 talked to them. I say, hey, they rather hear it from
3 the people, the Natives, not those politicians. Not --
4 I'm saying too, you know, politician, I'm calling the
5 Fish and Wild -- you know, Wildlife people. You guys
6 are not living in our communities. I'm just saying
7 that, you know, you guys aren't living in our
8 communities. You know, we live off our food, our fish,
9 our whale, every single animal out there that provides
10 for us. And I know some of you guys eat our food, I'm
11 happy for that, but, you know, we live on -- live on
12 it. We don't go to the store, you go to the store
13 nowadays, you know, a bag of reindeer meat costs almost
14 60 bucks.

15
16 We used to -- Semore, I bugged him how
17 many times, I say, Semore, write a book. He finally
18 wrote a book about when he was growing up. And I told
19 William and Wanda in our -- in our community and I
20 said, you know, I'm going to bug Steve too. Steve, you
21 know, you got a good history of telling Point Hope,
22 write a book, let your grandkids see it, you know,
23 before you pass away. Anyone of you guys, do it. You
24 know, you -- you know, that book will really encourage
25 their kids. You know, it's -- you know, oh, that's my
26 grandpa, you know. Lord willing I'm -- you know, you
27 guys don't pass on right away, but I'm just saying
28 write that book, you know, for your kids. And they'll
29 look at it and they'll say oh, he did that and, you
30 know, he was on this talk -- you know, talking with the
31 Fish and Wildlife. You know, when we're gone, you
32 know, Fish and Game is going to keep on putting
33 regulations on our communities. And, you know, we're
34 going to still fight and get these resolutions and all
35 that stuff.

36
37 So, you know, I was happy these kids
38 were here today. You know, they're going to be up
39 there, you know, you guys' communities. We've got to
40 encourage our kids, younger generation.

41
42 And thank you very much for this time.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Leonard.
45 And, you know, there's opportunities here, whether
46 there's -- it's not on the agenda we can listen and we
47 can -- and this is being recorded and it'll be in
48 minutes. And also the Native liaison that's here's got
49 the biggest ears in my view. And that's important
50

1 because things like nanuq which is a marine --
2 considered to be a marine mammal, right, might be under
3 another management scheme. But it's important because
4 it's a subsistence resource. And we're Regional
5 Subsistence Advisory and it's important to make that
6 connection that way regardless of another management
7 division of the Federal arm is taking care of that, it
8 shouldn't exclude them from at least making some level
9 of presence and report to the Subsistence Councils.

10

11 MR. SCHAEFER: Who is.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Jack, I didn't
14 exactly.....

15

16 MR. BARGER: He was asking who is.....

17

18 MR. EVANS: Responsible.

19

20 MR. BARGER:responsible.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I would think that
23 would be NOAA maybe or the Nanook Commission or one of
24 those things.

25

26 MR. EVANS: If.....

27

28 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

29

30 MR. EVANS:it would be -- Mr.
31 Chair, it would be the Fish and Wildlife Service,
32 Marine Mammals Management. They deal with the marine
33 mammals, polar bears, walruses and sea otters in the
34 State. So they're the ones that are responsible for
35 those regulations. And it falls under the Marine
36 Mammal Protection Act.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And that's what I
39 thought. I didn't know exactly which Federal arm. It
40 sounds like you got it from there.

41

42 And I'll recognize Mr. Hopson from
43 Utqiagvik.

44

45 MR. HOPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
46 I know we have an agenda to follow, but I want to put
47 Leonard's mind at ease. I am with the newly formed
48 Alaska Nanook Commission just recently. To let you
49 know that.....

50

1 MR. BARGER: Okay.

2

3 MR. HOPSON:the quota has come up
4 from 57 to 85. If that'll kind of ease your mind on
5 where we are on that.

6

7 And I thank you for the minute, Mr.
8 Chairman.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Mr.
11 Hopson. And I believe they're poised to meet here in
12 the next week or two. So anyway -- I don't know,
13 somebody -- she's waving around real quick.
14 Anyway.....

15

16 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
17 Thank you, William, for bringing that to the attention
18 here. And Gordon is right, the Nanook Commission will
19 be meeting actually next week in Nome. And in addition
20 to William our Council member, Edward Rexford from
21 Kaktovik is also serving on that Commission and will be
22 at that meeting as well. And so maybe I can check back
23 in with William and Edward and see if there's a way, if
24 they can call in to that Nanook Commission meeting or
25 get information back to you on the discussions held
26 there.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MR. BARGER: Okay. So, yeah, I know
31 you mentioned William and Edward that, you know, it
32 would be nice to have somebody from Point Hope on the
33 Committee too because, you know, it's pretty vital on
34 that.

35

36 And also I'd like to bring up too that
37 I heard that they're going to put some quota on the
38 oogruks, the bearded seals. So, you know, that's what
39 I've been hearing. I mean, that's our -- you know,
40 another issue. You know, I heard -- I've heard it in
41 Kotzebue and stuff and, you know, and that's for our
42 skin boats. You know, that's another thing I wanted to
43 bring up. So, you know, these kind of things, you
44 know, we got to hear that, you know, Fish and Game is
45 trying to do and, you know, all these animals that we
46 live on.

47

48 So just giving you a heads up on it and
49 giving you things, you know. So, yeah.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native).

2
3 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I'm going to
6 recognize Steve Oomittuk from Tikigaq.

7
8 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. Thank you,
9 Leonard. You know, we are the North Slope Borough
10 Regional Subsistence Advisory Council and one of the
11 things that really surprised me that we have no
12 jurisdiction in the ocean even though it is the North
13 Slope Borough subsistence on marine mammals. Even
14 though we have concerns we can bring them out. But
15 like you said there's a Nanook Commission, there's a
16 Walrus Commission, AWC, and they are the ones that, you
17 know, who we have to abide by. We have no say so even
18 though we are a Subsistence Advisory Council, we --
19 within the North Slope.

20
21 But, you know, when I came on this
22 Council a couple years ago it really surprised me about
23 our jurisdiction area. And, you know, subsistence
24 hunting in the coastal communities include our ocean.
25 We have a lot of concerns with our marine mammals.

26
27 But thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.

30
31 MR. SCHAEFER: Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'll recognize Jack
34 Schaefer.

35
36 MR. SCHAEFER: Since the issue came up,
37 I was appointed as alternate for this Nanook Commission
38 -- Council that was a successor of the Nanook
39 Commission that was -- that went belly up for a case of
40 mispending funds. We were arguing the legitimacy of
41 the quota and the history in regards to the quota. And
42 we asked for explanation because we're pushed and have
43 all this feedback of opposition. And so we have to
44 explain what happened. And they explained to us that
45 this person, Charlie Johnson, felt for the Native
46 people in Russia, can't hunt polar bear. So let's have
47 an agreement, a treaty, United States and Russia, and
48 help them. And that mentality went for years. And
49 then they had this treaty to have harvest and quota.

50

1 But what's interesting about this is
2 that the Endangered Species Act and how they came to
3 that. We argued about the authenticity, the legitimacy
4 in the population where there's something like 15 areas
5 within the Arctic Circle that are separated and have
6 their own population data established. Most of them if
7 not all of them are blank because they don't have the
8 data. They had a time talking about us in the Arctic,
9 how the (in Native) from Barrow, from Canada, from
10 Barrow, down south. Chukchi Sea.

11
12 And so we argue about the legitimacy,
13 the -- verifying or proving that the polar bear is
14 endangered when the data didn't support it. Even on an
15 international level. And we try to argue about that
16 because the Marine Mammal Protection Act allowed us for
17 subsistence. But once a treaty took place
18 internationally it killed that Act and so we no longer
19 had subsistence priority.

20
21 And, you know, there was this
22 organization that was established that failed. And
23 then the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was fast
24 tracking to get a successor established, that took two
25 years despite, you know, the feelings of the users, of
26 the subsistence people that have undue hardship below
27 us, for the south of us, Point Hope. And so we've been
28 forced into this without the justification and also
29 knowing that there are changes that are being made in
30 the Endangered Species Act as we speak. And we have
31 not received information in regards to what those
32 changes are. And we ask about it, they finally
33 admitted it about four months ago or something like
34 that, or six months ago, that the Endangered Species
35 Act was being changed. And we as Federally recognized
36 tribes that are directly affected by a Federal decision
37 have to have that consultation and that didn't really
38 take place.

39
40 And so here we are. And I don't know
41 if it's the National Marine Fisheries Service or the
42 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that -- that's why I
43 asked, you know, who had responsibility for that in
44 regards to incidental takes that place with industry.

45
46 Anyway we really felt confident that
47 this was something that was pushed upon us that did not
48 hold weight, but yet it flew. They show these
49 documents with the map and the 15 different areas of
50

1 polar bears, you know, what they call them, stock, or
2 something like that even though they may not be
3 separated like killer whale or something like that or
4 beluga. And so I don't know where things are in
5 regards to that, but I had to bring it out since it was
6 brought out. This is our knowledge so far, we fought
7 for our subsistence rights under the Marine Mammal
8 Protection Act, felt that the thing was not legitimate
9 because Russia has not ever, ever let the Inupiaq over
10 there catch and the only time they kill polar bears is
11 when they go into the village and they don't discuss
12 anything beyond that point. They talk about saying
13 that we're willing to work with you, but they never
14 follow through in regards to enforcement. And if one
15 side doesn't work with the treaty then the treaty is no
16 good. And we brought that also. And this has been
17 going on for years.

18
19 And you know, Charlie Johnson passed on
20 a few years, he's from Nome area by the way. And so
21 it's hard for us, it's hard for me to answer his
22 concern in regard to polar bear because we really don't
23 have an answer. And it's an interesting scenario and
24 yet we have this green book and budget justification
25 and projects that are given to tribes elsewhere in the
26 United States to deal with management and wildlife
27 project. And nanuq issue was a project that was
28 separate and a different line item under the green book
29 process. And we brought that out also, mentioned it in
30 one sentence in such because we're such a minority and
31 don't have that much power per se.

32
33 Anyway you're updated. And that's the
34 situation that we're faced with in regards to the polar
35 bear and those line items with the U.S. Fish and
36 Wildlife Service that gets funding. They have -- we
37 had to establish these things in order for the U.S.
38 Fish and Wildlife Service to receive a certain amount
39 of money separate from their existing, but it was under
40 the polar bear.

41
42 Is that -- did I -- am I consensus --
43 consistent?

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 MR. SCHAEFER: Okay. Anyway, Leonard,
48 I hope that answers your question. It was a very tough
49 thing. We're meeting next week. Oh, my god, Nome.

50

1 But I continue to say that. Even though I'm an
2 alternate. The primary has been going under, you know,
3 cancer treatment and hasn't been able to, but is
4 hardcore. These kids are trappers and hardcore
5 subsistence.

6
7 And one time they give me polar bear
8 meat and I cook it, real proud of my son he gobbled it
9 all up and then half an hour later look at me, oh, man,
10 I feel real wild.

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MR. SCHAEFER: Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Jack.

17
18 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
21 William.

22
23 MR. HOPSON: Can we get back on the
24 agenda here and we are getting a little hungry or ready
25 for a short lunch break.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. That's good.
28 And I appreciate the comments from Jack and Leonard on
29 the polar bear and giving tribal entities to be able to
30 do that.

31
32 So we are now on I think Subsistence
33 Resource Commissions.

34
35 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
36 Correct. We're down to number 4, the advisory group
37 comments.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

40
41 MS. PATTON: We had several other
42 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, other
43 RACs that met earlier that did take action on this
44 proposal. All that have met so far have opposed it.
45 So we had the Eastern Interior RAC oppose WP 20-08,
46 Western Interior RAC opposed WP 20-08 and the
47 Southcentral RAC opposed WP 20-08. Other Councils are
48 still meeting this week and in the following week. So
49 those three that have met and provided their comments
50

1 so far all oppose this proposal.

2

3 Under the Fish and Game Advisory
4 Committees there was a advisory committee from the
5 Southeast Alaska region, the Ketchikan Advisory
6 Committee, had met and they also voted to oppose this
7 proposal citing burdensome measures for local hunters
8 and trappers.

9

10 And we did not receive any comments
11 from the SRCs specifically regarding this proposal that
12 have met yet so far.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva, for
17 providing those updates on Regional Council and Fish
18 and Game Advisory Committees and Subsistence Resource
19 Commissions on those types of comments for WP 20-08,
20 requesting implementing a statewide requirement that
21 traps and snares be marked with either the trapper's
22 name or State identification number that was submitted
23 by the East Prince of Wales Advisory Committee.

24

25 With that, I'm going to go down to
26 summary of public -- summary of written public
27 comments.

28

29 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
30 There were two comment letters submitted regarding this
31 proposal. One comment letter was in support of marking
32 the traps and this was local around the area, citing
33 similar challenges with pets getting into traps. The
34 other comment letter opposed the proposal citing
35 unnecessary burden to hunters and trappers throughout
36 the State.

37

38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. So there
41 was two comments received, one for, one against.

42

43 I'm going to move right along down to
44 public testimony. The floor is open to provide public
45 testimony on WP 20-08. And that is request for
46 implementing statewide requirement that traps and
47 snares be marked with either the trappers name or State
48 identification number.

49

50

1 Do we have any public testimony. The
2 floor's open.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: This is on the
7 proposal that was submitted by East Prince of Wales
8 Advisory Committee. So far most of everybody has
9 opposed it. And their proposal is to -- for all
10 trappers, they should be marking their traps with their
11 name and State identification number. That's the
12 proposal. If the proposal passes by the Federal Board --
13 Federal Subsistence Board then the requirement will be
14 the law of the land within all regions of these RACs.

15
16 So we've got at least I think every
17 advisory committee and every Regional Advisory Council
18 so far that have made comments in opposition to that.
19 We recognize your comments were, yeah, families do mark
20 them on their own and I think that's important. We
21 mark our own (in Native), but not sure if it should
22 just be a mandated requirement that -- including
23 getting a State identification number and that kind of --
24 I don't know if there's a monetary concern there with
25 a State identification number that you would have to
26 put on and things like that. But it seems to me
27 there's widespread opposition to that requirement and
28 that proposal.

29
30 So but public testimony is on now for
31 anybody that wants to provide public testimony.

32
33 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Mr.
36 Hopson.

37
38 MR. HOPSON: For my region, I would
39 definitely oppose this proposal to require traps to be
40 marked.

41
42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr.
45 Hopson. The mic is open for public testimony.

46
47 MR. SCHAEFER: Jack Schaefer also
48 opposes, feel it causes undue hardship. Management and
49 governmental functions should always be brought to the
50

1 tribes and even provided technical help to -- for
2 tribes to take over should they choose or whoever they
3 choose to perform that function as a group. And Native
4 Village of Point Hope has always had this self-
5 determination thing. John Otauluk is still -- we say
6 that even though he was with corporation, but he truly
7 believe that under (in Native) which was the tribal
8 function that was there in place of the there's no more
9 tribes when we fought for tribes and finally got
10 recognition through Daniel Anoya at AFN in 1989 I think
11 or '90.

12
13 Anyway we don't need undue hardship.
14 We appreciate this State's gusto and energy. They want
15 to do things right, but we have that right too and feel
16 that we should be able to do this, especially if it
17 does cause -- you know, if their actions does cause
18 undue hardship for us.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Jack. Any
23 other public testimony on the proposal?

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, I
28 remind the Council that the Council should provide the
29 motions. Item seven, Regional.

30
31 What's the wish of the Council?

32
33 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Mr. Hopson.

36
37 MR. HOPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
38 I make a motion to oppose this proposal to put
39 identification tags on trap.

40
41 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Hopson,
44 before we get a seconder, if you would make a motion in
45 the positive. We've been having -- struggling with
46 that. Robert's Rules of Order is usually you make a
47 motion in support of something and then you have to
48 vote -- either vote it up or vote it down. And makes
49 it a little complicated when we make the motion in the
50

1 negative and then it gets confusing whether you're
2 opposing it or for it towards the yay or nay portion.
3 So it just gets a little complicated.

4
5 (In Native) motion (in Native).

6
7 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

10
11 MR. HOPSON: I'll rescind my motion.
12 And when you bring these up make sure they have been
13 clarified and that language is understandable to all
14 the Council members. Because the way I see it and the
15 way they interpret it is in this one sentence. And
16 you're looking at it both ways.

17
18 So with that said I'll rescind the
19 motion that I said and wait for the other Council
20 members to make a motion.

21
22 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). It's --
25 I think it's more or less semantics, but it gets a
26 little complicated as we move forward.

27
28 And I -- we're on item seven, the wish
29 of the Council for WP 20-08. What's the wish of the
30 Council?

31
32 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, if I may. So
33 if the motion was to support, so motion in the
34 positive. If the motion is to support WP 20-08 and
35 Council members are opposed to it, then you would vote
36 no.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think we --
39 we went through that a little bit ago there, Eva. So I
40 think we're understanding.

41
42 We need a motion on the floor.

43
44 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
47 the floor to adopt WP 20-08. And that came from
48 Tikigaq.

49
50

1 MS. KIPPI: Second.
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded.
4 Discussion.
5
6 MR. OOMITTUK: Roll call vote, Mr.
7 Chair.
8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, if we can
10 provide a roll call vote on proposal WP 20-08 on the
11 implementing of statewide requirements that traps and
12 snares be marked with either trapper's name or State
13 identification number as submitted by the East Prince
14 of Wales Advisory Committee.
15
16 MS. PATTON: Wanda Kippi.
17
18 MS. KIPPI: No.
19
20 MS. PATTON: Steve Oomittuk.
21
22 MR. OOMITTUK: No.
23
24 MS. PATTON: William Hopson.
25
26 MR. HOPSON: No.
27
28 MS. PATTON: And do we have Edward
29 Rexford on teleconference?
30
31 (No comments)
32
33 MS. PATTON: I think we may have lost
34 Edward Rexford at lunchtime. Was that you, Edward.
35
36 Okay. Edward absent.
37
38 Gordon Brower.
39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm voting no.
41
42 MS. PATTON: Four no, two absent.
43 Thank you. Motion fails.
44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. WP 20-08
46 fails to pass the North Slope Regional Advisory
47 Council.
48
49 With that I think it's time to
50

1 entertain some time to recess maybe for lunch. I've
2 heard some stomachs growling a little bit around here,
3 including mine.

4
5 Do you guys want to recess for lunch?

6
7 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman, recess for
8 lunch.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
11 the floor to take sometime for lunch.

12
13 MS. PATTON: We do have leftover
14 caribou stew, a big pot of caribou stew and lots of
15 food for lunch so everyone's welcome to join us here if
16 you like.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: She wants to keep us
19 hostage right here.

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 MS. PATTON: Oh, it was good food.
24 Thank you, Wanda, for caribou.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So let's
27 recess until about 1:30, somewhere around there sounds
28 good.

29
30 (Off record)

31
32 (On record)

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'll call the meeting
35 back to order. And on our agenda I believe we're on
36 statewide proposals at this point. And I know Eva's
37 walking around and being real busy, but I think that's
38 where we're at.

39
40 MR. OOMITTUK: We're on B, Fisheries
41 Resource Monitoring Program.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we have an
44 asterisks there where we amended the State system, the
45 State system's presentation from ADF&G on Board of Game
46 stuff.

47
48 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So I think we're
2 going to do presentations.

3
4 Eva.

5
6 MS. PATTON: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair
7 and Council. Yes. We have a couple presentation this
8 afternoon. We're next on the agenda to the 2020
9 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. And we have
10 some of our FRMP project updates with a Power Point
11 presentation.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I see on the
14 agenda we had amended it and there's an asterisks right
15 there after the traps and snares, State system's Board
16 of Game Proposals.

17
18 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, that was when
19 we thought we would get to that last night. So that
20 actually is moved to the end of our agenda for today.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I didn't recall
23 us changing that because it has an asterisks right
24 there.

25
26 MS. PATTON: Yeah, that was our long
27 discussion last night about the Board of Game
28 proposals, but since we didn't get to it on the agenda
29 last night we needed to complete.....

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Are we going to do it
32 under agency reports then?

33
34 MS. PATTON: Yes. One of the last of
35 the agency reports.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Just as
38 long as we get to it.

39 So at this point we'll go to item B is
40 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. I guess
41 that's Karen's proposal.

42
43 MS. PATTON: And then we also have --
44 yes. So we have Karen Hyer who's the Fisheries
45 Resource Monitoring Program biologist and then we have
46 two of our actual FRMP research biologists here. And
47 so they'll be presenting their research back to the
48 Council for the work they're doing in the North Slope
49 region.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

2

3 MS. PATTON: We just need to get the
4 Power Point presentation to where everybody can see it.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Well, I'm
7 going to suggest that we.....

8

9 MS. PATTON: Just one moment.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER:join the
12 audience on the other side so we can turn around.

13

14 (Pause for equipment set up)

15

16 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman and Council
17 members. When the presentation is over I'm going to
18 talk a little bit about the upcoming FRMP, but I just
19 wanted to acknowledge that this is one of the projects
20 that we have funded through the program and it's a two
21 year cycle. And so this one was funded.....

22

23 When did this -- when did this one
24 start funding?

25

26 MR. SCANLON: 2016.

27

28 MS. HYER: So this one we started
29 funding in 2016. So this is an example of some of the
30 research that is funded through the FRMP.

31

32 MS. PATTON: We're just setting up our
33 Power Point presentation for folks here.

34

35 (Pause for equipment set up)

36

37 ** MR. SCANLON: Thank you, everybody. Good
38 afternoon. For the record I'm Brendan Scanlon. I am
39 the Northwest and North Slope area fisheries biologist
40 for the Department of Fish and Game.

41

42 Most of my time and effort are spent
43 down in Unalakleet, Nome and Kotzebue areas. I don't
44 get up to the North Slope as much as I'd like to, but
45 in recent years we've been fortunate enough to work
46 with OSM through the FRMP to conduct some research on
47 important subsistence fisheries in the last couple
48 years. And I have two of them I'll talk to about
49 today. The first one is -- got to do with dolly varden

50

1 and the second one will be Arctic grayling.

2
3 Please stop me whenever you'd like to
4 ask any questions.

5
6 So this first project I'll talk about,
7 we just wrapped this up, it was a four year project to
8 dolly varden in five North Slope streams.

9
10 Dolly varden were identified as a
11 species of concern and a priority information need was
12 developed that was germane to the Huluhulu, but because
13 these fish are part of a mixed stock fishery and we
14 have to fly over the Canning and Ivishak to get to the
15 Huluhulu, we encompassed five rivers for this project.

16
17 So we don't have a lot of current
18 information on harvest in subsistence fisheries, but
19 what we do have is some periodic household surveys
20 conducted by the Department of Fish and Game, Division
21 of Subsistence. And we found out about 10,000 fish per
22 year are harvested just from the villages of Kaktovik
23 and Nuiqsut. And particularly in Kaktovik where they
24 catch most of them in marine waters, they're a mixed
25 stock. There's fish from several different rivers
26 swimming by.

27
28 So I'll just give you a quick rundown
29 on life history of dolly varden on the North Slope.
30 They're anadromous like salmon so they spawn and rear
31 in freshwater. And when they turn three to four years
32 old they start to make annual migrations out to sea to
33 feed. But unlike salmon they come back in to spend the
34 winter because the water in the Beaufort Sea gets super
35 cold with the freshwater lands freezing on top. They
36 don't like that so they come back in to spend the
37 winter. And when they turn seven or so they begin to
38 spawn and they can spawn several times. Their spawning
39 schedule typically is only every other year and they
40 can live to be about 16, 17 years.

41
42 It used to be that our understanding of
43 their ocean movements was that they stayed close to
44 near shore and close to their natal streams, but in the
45 late 1989s Fish and Game instigated a tagging study on
46 the Wulik River near Kivalina where we tagged over
47 5,000 fish with just some simple spaghetti tags that
48 had individual numbers on them and some contact
49 information. And over the next 10 years or so as
50

1 people caught these fish and contacted us, we were able
2 to see where these fish ended up. We had several fish
3 go through the Bering Strait. Most of them stayed near
4 the Wulik River and the Kotzebue Sound area, but we had
5 fish go to St. Lawrence Island, Seward Peninsula
6 streams, Ugavik which is down by Unalakleet and we had
7 three fish go up the Anadyr River in Russia. Two of
8 them about a thousand miles from where they were
9 tagged.

10

11 Okay. So a little bit about the
12 ecology of dolly varden on the North Slope. They spawn
13 and overwinter in upwelling areas in rivers. And as
14 the winter progresses the amount of liquid freshwater
15 gets reduced so these fish overwinter in large
16 concentrations and small stretches of water. The five
17 largest streams that we're aware of for dolly varden
18 populations are the Ivishak, Kongakut, Huluhulu,
19 Canning and Anaktuvuk Rivers.

20

21 There have been sporadic aerial surveys
22 conducted since the early '70s, but none since 2008 and
23 the Kongakut has never been surveyed. And because they
24 are such an important subsistence resource this -- we
25 felt this information was needed.

26

27 Well, here's what we think we know from
28 the accumulated dolly varden research. There's about
29 50 to 100,000 dolly varden of catchable size. So five
30 years old and older, 15 inches to 35 inches or so.
31 Most fish spawn, go to sea and then come back and
32 overwinter in the same river even when they're not
33 spawning. But we know from tagging that they can move
34 around quite a bit and fish from the Anaktuvuk have
35 been caught in the Huluhulu and in front of Kaktovik.
36 It's truly a mixed stock fishery.

37

38 Dolly varden from the Firth, Babbage
39 and Rath Rivers have been caught as far west as the
40 Colville. And there's almost no dolly varden found
41 between Barrow and Point Hope. The Kukpuk here in
42 Point Hope definitely has dolly varden in it, but
43 between here and Barrow most of the streams are really
44 small, they tend to dry up in the summer or freeze
45 solid in the winter. It's a little bit of a freshwater
46 fish desert.

47

48 Okay. So the objective for this
49 project was to conduct a single aerial survey of the
50

1 overwintering population each year for a four year
2 period in these five streams.

3
4 So there's some good and bad that goes
5 with aerial surveys. They're pretty useful for
6 indicators of relative abundance. You don't get a very
7 accurate count, but you get to know whether or not
8 there's a lot or there's not very many at all and
9 that's important. It's expensive to fly around in a
10 helicopter, but it's still much less expensive than if
11 we sent a flotilla of technicians, boats and nets up
12 there to spend a couple weeks to do a mark recapture or
13 to install a sonar and count the run over the next
14 several weeks.

15
16 And on the North Slope it's pretty
17 ideal conditions for aerial surveys. The fish
18 diversity is low, there's almost nothing else to count
19 but dolly varden and these rivers are very clear and
20 they typically run pretty shallow. And we get the
21 information immediately instead of a post-season data
22 analysis. But it's very dependent on weather and water
23 like most of our research is.

24
25 So accuracy and precision decreases as
26 the number of fish increase. The more beans you count
27 the more likely you are to under count them and by a
28 larger proportion. We really like to have a long time
29 series to look at trends. We don't handle any fish, so
30 now age, sex, length data or genetics data. And it --
31 you know, helicopters in the Arctic in the winter, you
32 know how that goes.

33
34 So here's the five streams that we're
35 working on and the index areas which were previously
36 established by other surveyors are depicted. They
37 range in length from 31 and 70 kilometers. We're based
38 out of Happy Valley, we can drive there and we have AV
39 gas tanks and they're mostly day trips. But the green
40 is the Refuge boundary.

41
42 Okay. So I was going to back up and
43 talk a little bit how we came up with doing aerial
44 surveys up there. And in the early 2000s on another
45 OSM funded project we conducted a mark recapture which
46 is a tagging project where we estimated abundance on
47 the Ivishak River dolly valley population. And at the
48 same time we would conduct aerial surveys and the
49 surveyor would not know what the abundance numbers were
50

1 from the mark recapture so there was no bias. We got
2 estimates from the mark recapture experiment over those
3 years of 27 to 49,000 fish. In the aerial surveys, we
4 did five replicates each year. We're really tight at
5 about 22 to 26 percent of the mark recapture estimate.
6 So the aerial surveyor counted about 25 percent of what
7 the true abundance was. So for this project to stay
8 consistent with that extrapolation I took the aerial
9 survey counts, multiplied them by four and that gave us
10 a more accurate estimate of the abundance of fish.

11
12 These index areas have been previously
13 established and it's really dependent on the available
14 overwintering habitat. So that has been standard for a
15 long time. And I was the only observer during this
16 study.

17
18 And this is a perfect day for aerial
19 surveys. It's -- there's no chop on the water, the
20 water levels are low. We fly typically 100, 150 feet.
21 Pretty slow and we kind of crab our way downstream.
22 These rivers all flow from north -- south to north.
23 And you don't want the sun in your eyes so we start up
24 high and work our way low downstream.

25
26 So when I first started doing aerial
27 survey I started out on the Wulik River over by
28 Kivalina as part of Red Dog's contract with us to do
29 the biomonitoring project there. I got a couple really
30 good photos and I started to try to get -- look for
31 some patterns. The first is this small group of fish
32 that are kind of isolated in real shallow water, we
33 know from the mark recapture netting we would do these
34 are probably graylings so I'm going to just ignore
35 those. And then I start to circle groups of 10 and 20,
36 50, 100. And I fly down river with a tape recorder and
37 it's really not anymore scientific than that.

38
39 So here's the results from all four
40 years. The first number is the count that I came up
41 with and the second number is the extrapolation. It's
42 timed -- it's multiplied the original number by four
43 and it's closer to the true number of fish that are
44 there. The first thing that pops out is the Kongakut
45 never got surveyed. It was probably ambitious to
46 include this in the study design anyway because it's
47 160 miles from Happy Valley camp. We couldn't do this
48 without stashing fuel in the Refuge and probably
49 camping out. And we -- better chance of running into
50

1 bad weather.
2

3 So the first year we had pretty poor
4 water quality on the Ivishak And Canning Rivers.
5 There's was a lot of turbid water coming in from some
6 springs. It wasn't due to high water, it was just
7 really cloudy water throughout the index area. In 2017
8 we were only able to do the Ivishak, the Ivishak was a
9 lot clearer.

10

11 I'm sorry.
12

13 MR. OOMITTUK: Could you go back to
14 that picture that you (indiscernible - away from
15 microphone).....
16

17 MR. SCANLON: Oh, yeah.
18

19 MR. OOMITTUK:I didn't quite get
20 what you were saying about that.
21

22 MR. SCANLON: Okay. So.....
23

24 MR. OOMITTUK: And I know it says how
25 many fish you seen and that the -- and that the river
26 -- there's a little circle (indiscernible - away from
27 microphone).....
28

29 MR. SCANLON: Yeah. So.....
30

31 MR. OOMITTUK: Your voice isn't very
32 loud. I'm having (indiscernible - away from
33 microphone).....
34

35 MR. SCANLON: Oh, I'm sorry. I'll
36 start this slide over. So this picture was taken on
37 the Wulik River by Kivalina. These are char over there
38 and we would count them as part of a project we had
39 with Red Dog Mine to monitor the water and the fish and
40 the bugs. And we know from our other netting projects
41 that small groups of fish like that that are away from
42 the larger groups of big fish are probably graying so I
43 wasn't going to count those as part of my counts. And
44 I'd get a lot of pictures like this and I would circle
45 groups of 10 fish, then 20 fish, 50 fish and a hundred
46 fish. So when I fly down river and do my counts I have
47 -- when I see a group of fish I have an idea about how
48 many fish are in that group and I will just say 70
49 fish, 200 fish, six fish, 10 fish. And then at the end
50

1 I would just add up those numbers.

2

3 Does that help?

4

5 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

6

7 MR. SCANLON: Yeah, you're welcome.

8

9 MR. OOMITTUK: I was wondering about
10 those two top (indiscernible) next to that burbot?
11 Yeah.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MR. SCHAEFER: How many fish are on
16 that (indiscernible - away from microphone).....

17

18 MR. SCANLON: About 3,000 fish.

19

20 MR. SCHAEFER: How many?

21

22 MR. SCANLON: About 3,000.

23

24 MR. SCHAEFER: Three thousand.

25

26 MR. SCANLON: There's often up to
27 150,000 dollies that overwinter in the Wulik.

28

29 So we got -- here's the results from
30 all four years. Like I said the Kongakut never got
31 done unfortunately. In 2017 our helicopter never made
32 it from Fairbanks because of weather, but there was a
33 reality TV show camp near Happy Valley for Survivor Man
34 so there was a BBC camp there filming a documentary and
35 they had a helicopter who was just kind of sitting
36 around and I was able to charter him for a few hours
37 and get the Ivishak done.

38

39 In 2018 again the Ivishak and Canning
40 waters were really cloudy. And I was able to make it
41 to the Anaktuvuk and conditions were great. The
42 Anaktuvuk is a really big river, there's lots of
43 braids, I had to fly each braid because there was fish
44 in all of them.

45

46 And the final year, 2019, again we
47 never got to the Kongakut. The Ivishak, Canning were
48 particularly bad for counting. I'll show you some
49 pictures in just a moment. Huluhulu was marginal.

50

1 Again the Anaktuvuk, there was lots of fish in there.
2 This year I saw more salmon than I ever have too, not
3 just chums, but sockeye and coho. We actually caught a
4 coho salmon.

5
6 Yes.

7
8 MR. SCHAEFER: The Ivishak, where's
9 that?

10
11 MR. SCANLON: I'm sorry.

12
13 MR. SCHAEFER: Ivishak.

14
15 MS. HYER: He's asking where.

16
17 MR. SCANLON: The Ivishak.

18
19 MR. SCHAEFER: Does that feed into
20 the.....

21
22 MR. SCANLON: The Sagavanirktok?

23
24 MR. SCHAEFER:Sag River?

25
26 MR. SCANLON: Yeah, the Sag River.
27 Yeah. Uh-huh. Would you like me to go back to the
28 map?

29
30 Yeah, there's the Haul Road, the dashed
31 red line there. And all the rivers except for the
32 Anaktuvuk are to the east. And you can see Kaktovik is
33 kind of in the top right corner. I apologize about the
34 quality of the show here.

35
36 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: You said Anaktuvuk
37 though.

38
39 MR. SCANLON: Did I say Anaktuvuk, I
40 meant the Kaktovik. Sorry.

41
42 Okay. So this last year, 2019, again
43 the water conditions were kind of poor on the Ivishak
44 and Canning and even the Huluhulu. Anaktuvuk was
45 great. Like I said we saw lots of -- more salmon than
46 I've ever seen. And outside the index area I saw even
47 more dolly varden. So there was a lot of fish in the
48 Anaktuvuk this year.

49
50

1 So this is the top of the Ivishak study
2 area. And this -- the red water to the right comes in,
3 that's the Shaviovik River. It's not a very big river,
4 but there is some spawning that goes on up there
5 typically. And so right outside that red water plume
6 to the left there's lots of fish stacked up. We don't
7 know what's in the red water, we can't see, but we can
8 imagine they probably don't want to be there. So from
9 about a mile and a half downstream from this picture I
10 couldn't count anymore, that effectively ended the
11 survey.

12
13 MR. SCHAEFER: Is that the -- saying
14 the dirty one and the clean one is the Ivishak?

15
16 MR. SCANLON: Actually the clean one is
17 the Ivishak, the dirty one is the Shaviovik. So we're
18 pretty far upriver from the -- from the Sag.

19
20 And this is further up the
21 Sagavanirktok River. April took these pictures when
22 she flew up to get some water samples. And the further
23 you go the more concentrated this iron colored water
24 is.

25
26 Here's one of the sources. Typically
27 you see water like this in -- when hard rock mining
28 goes bad, but this was not the case here. It just
29 seemed to be kind of percolating out of the ground.

30
31 So this is the Canning River, it's --
32 this is the tributary to the Canning River above Shubuk
33 Springs. And when I first showed these pictures to the
34 Water Resources Center at the University they suggested
35 it was probably a spring that just reached it's karst
36 (ph) just like a glass that got over -- was overflowing
37 and it'll do this for a while and stop. And they
38 cautioned me against kind of attributing it to climate
39 change.

40
41 In this photo though the source -- it's
42 hard to tell, but the source of the red water seems to
43 start right at the base of a thaw slump, right before
44 the big hill on the right. Above that the water's
45 clear.

46
47 This is the Kavik River. It's between
48 the Canning and the Ivishak. It just turned this color
49 about seven weeks ago. So the Ivishak has been orange
50

1 for years, the Kavik just changed this year.

2
3 The distance between the Huluhulu and
4 the Ivishak is about a hundred miles and virtually
5 every dribble of water coming out of the hillside had
6 some rust colored water coming out of it.

7
8 Okay. So this is the last year of the
9 project. What we found is when conditions are good
10 generally we count a lot of fish. It appeared that
11 things were good. And they -- from the air they seemed
12 to be bigger than I remember. The turbid water input
13 seems to be increasing.

14
15 And so we did a little bit of reading
16 into the effects of iron in fish. It's not really in
17 our wheelhouse, but it's typ -- it's not immediately
18 fatal, so it's not like strychnine, it's something they
19 can deal with for a while, but it has some chronic
20 affects. So it's similar to being a chain-smoker and
21 living near a tire factory. It's something that's
22 going to build up and take a long time. And the
23 affects of the iron water are that the sunlight cannot
24 reach the bottom of the stream so bugs and plants can't
25 grow. Those are things that feed the juvenile fish.
26 The sediment load from this iron can also cover up eggs
27 and suffocate them. And for larger fish breathing it
28 can damage their gills, it can reduce the amount of
29 slime on their body which is the way they protect
30 themselves from infection and it can cause respiratory
31 stress.

32
33 So this may be a condition where we
34 wouldn't notice any change in the fishery at anytime
35 soon because there are plenty of adult fish around to
36 catch, but as these fish start to age out and there's
37 no -- if there's some kind of recruitment failure like
38 the juveniles not coming into the population that's
39 fished on, there may be some decrease, maybe even
40 dramatic increase in the amount of harvest available,
41 in the amount of overwintering fish.

42
43 There's nothing we can do about this,
44 but I think it's important enough to keep an eye on.
45 And we have a Habitat Restoration Division that's more
46 designed to handle these kind of water quality issues
47 so we're going to work with them to try to come up with
48 some kind of sampling regime.

49
50

1 So that's all I have for this project.
2 I could take some questions or move on to grayling.

3
4 Yes.

5
6 MS. FRANKSTON: Peggy Frankston, Native
7 Village for the record. You show the affects on the
8 fish for the iron, high iron, and what are the affects
9 for consuming fish, are people having health issues,
10 any reports or anything like that?

11
12 MR. SCANLON: That's a really good
13 question. I'm sorry, I don't have the answer. But
14 it's probably important enough that I should look into
15 it and get back to everybody here.

16
17 Thanks.

18
19 MS. HYER: Brendan, I have a question.
20 So this -- you did these surveys sometime ago, right,
21 and now you're revisiting them?

22
23 MR. SCANLON: The last one was late
24 September this year, the first one was in 2016.

25
26 MS. HYER: Right. In this project, but
27 didn't you do a similar project like.....

28
29 MR. SCANLON: That was when I spoke
30 earlier about our methods.....

31
32 MS. HYER: Right.

33
34 MR. SCANLON:Tim Viavant's mark
35 recapture project and aerial surveys?

36
37 MS. HYER: Right.

38
39 MR. SCANLON: He didn't see anything
40 like this then.

41
42 MS. HYER: As far as the slump?

43
44 MR. SCANLON: Or the turbid water,
45 yeah.

46
47 MS. HYER: Right. But how about
48 population, how did the populations compare?

49
50

1 MR. SCANLON: Well, he -- really good
2 actually. Well, we only worked on the Ivishak River on
3 that project.

4
5 MS. HYER: Okay.

6
7 MR. SCANLON: And I wasn't able to
8 count very well on the Ivishak most years. But
9 everywhere on the Ivishak that had clear water, even
10 some of the small little dribbles downstream of the
11 iron colored water that was clear, it was just loaded
12 with fish. So between that and what we observed in the
13 Anaktuvuk and even the Huluhulu, it looked like --
14 there seems to be a lot of adult fish right now.

15
16 I should also mention that we flew over
17 Peters and Schraders Lakes and we saw some rust colored
18 shoreline on Peters Lake. I've talked to Mr. Rexford
19 before about this being kind of an important lake trout
20 fishery for residents of Kaktovik.

21
22 MS. ITTA: I have a question.

23
24 MR. SCANLON: Uh-huh.

25
26 MS. ITTA: In regards to her question
27 about the fish being safe to eat, why isn't -- why
28 isn't -- do you have an answer to that question?

29
30 MR. SCANLON: Well, that's the logical
31 next step for us to go up there and collect some fish.
32 But I guess I was unprepared to see this when we first
33 started. But it's something we will do.

34
35 We do a metal analysis of fish in the
36 Wulik River below Red Dog Mine. And so we can do a
37 similar project where we dissect a bunch of tissues and
38 send them to a lab for analysis.

39
40 MR. SCHAEFER: So how is that river
41 now?

42
43 MR. SCANLON: With Red Dog so there's a
44 lot of fish in the Wulik River and we sample 12 every
45 year for metals analysis. And we don't just look for
46 iron, we look for selenium and I think seven other
47 elements. We take tissues from the liver, the kidney,
48 the muscle and I believe the gills. And things are
49 good. The 2018 count was 97,000 fish in the Wulik
50

1 River. And the Wulik isn't nearly as big as the
2 Anaktuvuk.

3
4 I should also mention when the ice
5 starts to flow downriver and we can't count anymore
6 there's still fish coming in. So in most cases these
7 numbers are an under count.

8
9 Red Dog just opened a second mine
10 extension so the life of the mine is going to be at
11 least another 20 years. But we've had a contract with
12 them since they opened to do the aquatic biomonitoring
13 on the water, grayling and dolly varden and bugs.

14
15 MR. SCHAEFER: So these are sitting
16 over there?

17
18 MR. SCANLON: Yes.

19
20 MR. SCHAEFER: (Indiscernible - away
21 from microphone).....

22
23 MR. SCANLON: The people at Kivalina
24 are really in tune to what's going on with the fish.

25
26 Yes, Pat.

27
28 MS. PETRIVELLI: Do they have turbidity
29 in the (indiscernible - away from microphone) like
30 that?

31
32 MR. SCANLON: This year they just saw a
33 little bit. In most years it looks like that picture
34 of fish I showed you where it's crystal clear.

35
36 So this is a project that we started
37 this year, it has to do with Arctic grayling movements
38 in the Colville River relative to the subsistence
39 fishery near Nuiqsut. Grayling were identified as a
40 priority information need in 2016.

41
42 So again we don't have tons of reliable
43 harvest information in subsistence fisheries, but the
44 most recent subsistence survey we had suggested about
45 three to 5,000 grayling are harvested each year. Which
46 was a little bit of a surprise to me, I assumed it was
47 mostly whitefish. But so I thought that was
48 interesting.

49
50

1 Like other freshwater fish in the
2 Arctic grayling take a long time to mature and they can
3 live a long time. They can be eight, nine years old
4 before they spawn the first time and they can be up to
5 30.
6

7 Aside from just some present/absence
8 information from the pipeline days there's really been
9 no research on grayling in the Colville. And typically
10 when we don't have any information on a fish in a large
11 system, one of the first steps is to do some radio
12 tagging to learn a little bit about movements, what's
13 important areas for spawning, rearing and feeding. And
14 if we want to later on design a stock assessment we
15 could develop an index area where the fish aren't
16 moving very much and we can maybe get a mark recapture
17 estimate.
18

19 So the objective for this project is to
20 describe the seasonal movements and locations using
21 radio tags for grayling with the Killik River being the
22 upper boundary of where we put tags out and Nuiqsut
23 being the lower. It's about a hundred mile stretch and
24 we thought since we don't anything that's probably a
25 reasonable chunk of the Colville to get started on.
26 It's a 400 mile river so rather than sprinkle tags all
27 across the countryside we thought we'd start where we
28 think fish from upstream would go down towards Nuiqsut.
29

30 So we purchased 150 radio tags and we
31 put them in fish 15 inches or bigger. That's the
32 minimum size fish we thought would handle the tag. And
33 those fish we would expect to be old enough to be
34 mature. And we'd use fixed wing aircraft to track them
35 over a two and a half year period.
36

37 So here's roughly the study area
38 between Nuiqsut and the -- close to the upper bound of
39 where we put our summer tags out. We designed this
40 project to put our most of our tags in the creeks
41 upstream of Nuiqsut and then we have some left over,
42 we're going to go to Nuiqsut next week and put out the
43 rest of our tags through the ice.
44

45 We're based out of Umiat, it's kind of
46 a central spot in the study area. We have a little bit
47 of housing there and we're able to get fuel. And it's
48 right on the river.
49
50

1 Here's a timeline for this project.
2 It's kind of hard to read, but in May this year we went
3 to Nuiqsut, did a little bit of outreach. We talked to
4 some fishers and some elders about the concerns they
5 had and wanted to let them know what we wanted to do.
6

7 This past July we put out 109 tags
8 around Umiat and tributaries. We tried to put them out
9 in relative abundance to where they're found in these
10 tributaries, that's why there's so many in the
11 Anaktuvuk. Anaktuvuk's pretty big and there's lots of
12 fish in there.
13

14 We had some tags left over. Using the
15 helicopter I was using out of Happy Valley to count
16 dolly varden we went over to the Aichilik, put out some
17 in the Aichilik River, we hadn't done that in the
18 summer sampling.
19

20 And starting end of this week, we have
21 52 tags left, we're going to go up to Nuiqsut, we've
22 got some people we're going to hire who are going to
23 take us out and catch grayling through the ice and put
24 out the rest of our tags.
25

26 So here's a map of kind of how they're
27 sprinkled through the countryside. And like I said the
28 Anaktuvuk has the largest proportion because that's
29 where most of the grayling were.
30

31 And the project leader, Andy Gryska,
32 just did a tracking flight last week. I'll show you a
33 map of where those fish are located.
34

35 So we've been radio tagging grayling
36 for a long time in the Tanana and the Copper River
37 drainages and on the Seward Peninsula. And rather than
38 sling a bunch of boats out there and bring some nets,
39 we went light with some bottom gear using small jigs
40 with pinched barbs.
41

42 And here's what our -- kind of our
43 mobile army surgical unit looks like for putting out
44 radio tags. We have two tubs of water, one of them has
45 anesthetic in it, it's called Aquiesse. It's
46 essentially synthetic clove oil and ethanol mixed with
47 water. And the second tub is a recovery tub.
48

49 And here's how we put radio tags in
50

1 grayling. We have something called a groove director
2 which helps us guide the catheter into the fish where
3 we first pull -- put the antenna in and then we remove
4 the catheter, pull the antenna and the tag into the
5 belly of the fish and sew it up with suture, put a
6 little vet bond on it and then we wait until they are
7 recovered enough to let them go. We just don't throw
8 them back in the water, we make sure that they're
9 gilling just fine, their color's good and that they're
10 ready to go.

11
12 And maybe you can see the antenna
13 coming out near the vent of this fish here. But this
14 is one of the radio tagged fish.

15
16 So we can track fish several ways using
17 boats or snowmachines or tracking stations, but for
18 this project we wanted to have a small footprint and
19 cover a lot of area so we're using just fixed wing
20 aircraft.

21
22 We have -- these tags are designed to
23 turn on and off. In the winter we would not expect
24 grayling to move very much so by turning the tags off
25 in the winter we can save the battery. So these tags
26 would last for about a thousand days. And we have
27 eight to 12 flights planned to track these fish.

28
29 Once again here's where we put our tags
30 out so far. And here's where they ended up last week.
31 There's a general downstream trend and movement which
32 we would expect because as the water starts to drop in
33 the tributaries, the available liquid water gets
34 reduced and they want to move downstream to some deeper
35 water to spend the winter.

36
37 So for the rest of this project we're
38 going to have periodic tracking flights when these tags
39 are live, several events during the summer, one during
40 early fall when we see them start to move. By the end
41 of 2021 the data will be ready. In March, 2022 we'll
42 have a draft report ready and by December we'll have
43 the final report ready.

44
45 We also plan to go back to Nuiqsut to
46 do a program for the school, to show them what we know
47 about grayling biology and how radio tags work. And
48 we'll update the Village of Nuiqsut periodically
49 throughout the project on our progress.

50

1 And that's what I got. So thank you
2 very much.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (Indiscernible - away
5 from microphone).....

6
7 (Laughter)

8
9 MR. SCANLON: It's coming.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: \$900 million project
12 to clean it up.

13
14 MR. SCANLON: Thanks, everybody. And
15 feel free to contact me anytime you have any questions
16 about these projects or any other ones.

17
18 I should mention that we recently
19 completed a lake trout stock assessment on the Chandler
20 Lakes near Anaktuvuk Pass as part of OSM FRMP funding.
21 And there's -- April made handouts on the results of
22 that project, they're on the table back there. In
23 short, the news was good.

24
25 Yes, sir.

26
27 MR. SCHAEFER: Multi year population
28 studies being compared with international treaties in
29 regards to foreign fisheries and bycatch and
30 (indiscernible - away from microphone) commercial?

31
32 MR. SCANLON: Well, with these two
33 species -- with grayling there aren't any international
34 treaties. There are grayling found around the world.
35 I'm not aware of any commercial fishery on them or if
36 they're bycatch in any other commercial fisheries.

37
38 Interesting you asked about dolly
39 varden char, what I spoke about before, they are often
40 caught in trawls in the Bering Sea as bycatch. They're
41 found in Russian streams so they would be a species I
42 would expect to be caught as bycatch in commercial
43 fisheries to some degree. In fact the Kotzebue chum
44 salmon fishery catches several hundred a year. They
45 don't go to waste, the people really like the dolly
46 varden trout over there in Kotzebue and they find a
47 home pretty quickly.

48
49 MR. SCHAEFER: Your -- you keep track

50

1 of what's going on in regards to.....

2

3 MR. SCANLON: The best we can, yeah.

4

5 MR. SCHAEFER:(indiscernible -
6 away from microphone) in dealing with king salmon or
7 something?

8

9 MR. SCANLON: Right. There's treaty
10 obligations there for the number of king salmon that we
11 said we would try to release into -- across the border,
12 42 to 55,000, something like that. We met that this
13 year, there was a lot of kings in the Yukon.

14

15 MR. SCHAEFER: So there's not much
16 foreign interference to (indiscernible - away from
17 microphone) safeguard. Have you noticed anything or
18 this (indiscernible - away from microphone).....

19

20 MR. SCANLON: For these two projects
21 here?

22

23 MR. SCHAEFER: Any (indiscernible -
24 simultaneous speech).....

25

26 MR. SCANLON: Oh. Bycatch in foreign
27 fisheries has been a concern for people for a long time
28 particularly with king salmon. They go into
29 international waters where they spend the winter, in
30 fact, king salmon from the Yukon and the Kuskokwim,
31 Bristol Bay, Southeast Alaska and British Columbia all
32 go roughly through the same area near the end of the
33 Aleutians. They -- I believe they are caught as
34 bycatch in trawls. There's a program now where they're
35 trying to instigate a salmon exclusion device in some
36 of these trawls and I've seen video of it and it kind
37 of works. The salmon swim faster than the pollock and
38 the cod that they're trawling for and by slowing down
39 the speed of these nets and having these escape
40 hatches, some salmon are allowed to escape.

41

42 MR. SCHAEFER: I just don't know
43 enough, I just wondered -- you know, they come out with
44 conclusions that limit subsistence because of
45 commercial fishing. And I just wondered how that tied
46 into, you know, your (indiscernible - away from
47 microphone).....

48

49 MR. SCANLON: Yeah, I don't know much

50

1 more than that.

2

3 MR. SCHAEFER: (Indiscernible - away
4 from microphone).....

5

6 MR. SCANLON: In subsistence, no.
7 Other.....

8

9 MR. SCHAEFER: Bycatch has been talked
10 about since hearings of statehood.....

11

12 MR. SCANLON: Uh-huh.

13

14 MR. SCHAEFER:and they indicated
15 what they wanted to do, but didn't when they were going
16 into statehood. That's why I asked. Before it happens
17 to us.

18

19 MR. SCANLON: Yeah. Like Pat said and
20 I know there was some talk yesterday about limits on
21 subsistence, for fish on the North Slope it's
22 essentially unregulated, there's no harvest reporting
23 requirements, no seasonal restrictions or bag limits.
24 There are some statewide methods and means that apply
25 like you cannot block more than half a stream width
26 with a gill net, you can't use snagging hooks in
27 freshwater. But other than that's there's opportunity
28 for people to get fish all year round, as many as they
29 want.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I've got a
32 question.....

33

34 MR. SCANLON: Sure.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER:along those
37 lines. There's a lot of, you know, like the offshore
38 intercepts of when they're fishing for pollock and
39 other things like that. And reporting some of the
40 bycatch so that we can hear more about that portion of
41 it. I think it's important. I don't know to what
42 extent it's a concern in any of the rivers that
43 normally have spawning events, but the average fish
44 that goes offshore to mature and hangout all the way up
45 to seven years probably and come back to its home
46 water, but, you know, for spawning. And you have a
47 good return and I think they're like intervals of years
48 and you see the spawn level this year and you're not
49 going to -- you'll see the effects of that spawning

50

1 year seven years from now, something to that -- that
2 interval is there.

3

4 MR. SCANLON: Uh-huh.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And when they did
7 return something obviously was going on either offshore
8 and either consuming them, killing them or a bycatch of
9 fishery. It just seems to me there should be more
10 concerns raised to some of that kind of fishing to get
11 an actual report because those commercial fisheries if
12 they're the cause of doing some definite harm how can
13 (indiscernible - away from microphone) responsibility
14 for the residents that are left without, that have to
15 make the dried fish and all of that stuff. And I don't
16 see, you know, when they say, no, recruitment rate is --
17 has crashed, we're going to stop fishing and do these
18 kind of things that affect putting food on the table
19 for the people that have a customary and traditional
20 use to these resources. And at that point I would
21 think most people would need to be compensated to
22 reflect that kind of a loss. I've heard quite a bit
23 about rivers that are struggling with returns in their
24 home waters.

25

26 MR. SCANLON: I think typically with
27 Pacific salmon the bottleneck often starts with
28 freshwater survival and their migration to the sea.
29 Bycatch is real, I mean, it happens.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All I'm saying is
32 there should be -- we should have reports because
33 they're subsistence species.....

34

35 MR. SCANLON: Uh-huh.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER:and what
38 international impacts are going on for subsistence
39 resources.

40

41 MR. SCANLON: There was a project about 10, 11 years
42 ago where king salmon bycatch in the ocean was sampled
43 for genetics. And in this particular year I believe 40
44 percent of the bycatch was Western Alaska fish. So
45 that's not just Yukon, it's Unalakleet, Kuskokwim,
46 Bristol Bay. It wasn't a ton of fish, but the
47 proportion was 40 percent which is -- which is, you
48 know.....

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I (indiscernible -
2 away from microphone) hear about it (indiscernible -
3 away from microphone) well, I couldn't get
4 (indiscernible - away from microphone) trade with
5 because I trade with some of my good buddies down that
6 way and (indiscernible - away from microphone) smoke
7 fish and trade with muktuk. And then when their
8 (indiscernible - away from microphone) struggling too
9 about their resources and (indiscernible - away from
10 microphone) because I'm a consumer from (indiscernible -
11 away from microphone).....

12
13 MR. SCANLON: Okay. One thing that
14 we're really concerned about is warm water. We've had
15 some fish die-offs this year, Norton Sound and not just
16 the rivers, but in Norton Bay outside Koyuk. And on
17 the Kobuk River I was there this summer doing a
18 genetics project on char and we had several days in the
19 80s and the main stem Kobuk, five feet down was 70
20 degrees. And typically chum salmon stop moving at
21 about 65 and they start dying at 70. And I think a
22 couple more days of that and we would have had another
23 die-off like we had in 2014. So heat is something
24 we're really concerned about these days.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

27
28 MR. SCANLON: Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If we're done with
31 that we can go back to our post.

32
33 MS. PATTON: Karen's got a Power Point
34 too. So Karen has a Power Point too, follow-up details
35 for the full FRMP project. And once she's done with
36 her Power Point then we can gather the Council back at
37 your seats here so we can have the dialogue.

38
39 And just one moment to switch out
40 computers here.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: While Karen is setting up
43 I'll answer the questions that Gordon asked.

44
45 The Yukon River and Kuskokwim River
46 Regional Advisory Councils watch very closely on the
47 North Pacific Fishery Management Council, their actions
48 related to bycatch. Long story in a short part, there
49 was volunteer efforts by the trawl fisheries, but now
50

1 there's actually targeted times and locations where
2 they avoid king salmon bycatch.

3
4 Western Interior was the lead on --
5 with the bycatch. As the concerns rose the two year
6 old fish that were still in good shape were frozen and
7 taken to food banks down in the Lower 48, but Western
8 Interior and other RACs demanded that those frozen fish
9 come back to Alaska. So they are now back in Alaska,
10 in Anchorage and Fairbanks and the last I heard they're
11 still working out how they could be distributed within
12 the home streams. But I need to caution you, the RACs
13 did not want the fish, what they want was that the
14 industry would have to work harder to avoid those fish
15 because of the cost associated with freezing them,
16 bringing them back to Alaska.

17
18 So, yes, there are reports on the
19 bycatch, you just have to go to the website for the
20 North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

21
22 And then since he brought up water
23 temperatures, water temperatures on the Koyukuk River,
24 I happened to be in that area, were recorded at 70, 72
25 degrees. So there's concern that chum salmon, summer
26 chum, died before reaching their spawning grounds. So
27 we're waiting for data to see if that -- was this an
28 isolated or was it drainage wide.

29
30 MS. HYER: Hello, Mr. Chairman and
31 Council members. For the record my name is Karen Hyer
32 and I'm a fisheries biologist with the Office of
33 Subsistence Management.

34
35 And I'm going to talk today about the
36 2020 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan. And the
37 projects Brendan showed you were part of the 2016
38 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan. We put together
39 the plan every two years, it's a long cycle to put
40 these projects together. I'm going to start by going
41 over the timeline and just refreshing everybody on the
42 process. And then I will introduce the projects that
43 we have or that are the candidates for funding in 2020.
44 And then I'm going to ask you for your comments on
45 those projects.

46
47 But the conglomeration of projects that
48 we fund throughout all of Alaska is called the
49 Monitoring Plan. And so every two years we put
50

1 together a group of projects that we fund and the
2 projects range in length from -- the shortest one can
3 be a year and the longest one can be four years. And
4 so we now have projects in the water that were funded
5 in 2018 and they'll continue on and they'll finish
6 their funding in 2022 and we'll have new projects that
7 start in 2020. So every two years we're funding a
8 group of new projects and we refer to that group as the
9 Monitoring Plan. And so that's where the name comes
10 from.

11
12 So just a reminder that for the -- the
13 Monitoring Plan, the grouping is a little bit different
14 than our Regional Advisory Councils and our regulatory
15 units. We have -- we've grouped by the land mass, by
16 watersheds and kind of areas where the species are
17 similar. And the northern area is made up of the whole
18 North Slope down through the Seward Peninsula and it
19 encompasses the area of three RACs. So when we talk
20 about the northern area Fisheries Monitoring Plan keep
21 in mind that it is the area that is involved in the
22 Seward Peninsula, the Northwest Arctic and the North
23 Slope RACs. So we're talking about that whole area.

24
25 And so the very first thing we do is we
26 start by going to the RACs and asking the RACs what's
27 important. And we put together a list and this list is
28 called the priority information needs. And we put that
29 together back in 2018. So we started this process
30 quite a while ago. And that is the RACs -- where the
31 RACs have the most input to this process. They're the
32 ones that really direct where we ask for research
33 projects. So it is really important to think about the
34 -- your local resources and where you'd like to direct
35 the funding.

36
37 And I just want to put a little plug in
38 here that we're going to start a new Monitoring Plan in
39 2020 and fund projects, but we're also going to come
40 back to you in the next meeting and we're going to
41 asking you to help us develop the 2022 priority
42 information needs. So please be thinking about where
43 we should be directing our research in the future.

44
45 So these priority information needs
46 that you developed at your 2018 meeting were put into
47 our call or our -- the formal name is the notice of
48 funding opportunity, but it's our call for proposals.
49 So we publish in the Federal Register a call that says
50

1 we're accepting proposals that we want to fund and
2 these are the research needs that we want met. And so
3 that went out really early in 2000 -- late 2018, early
4 2019. And then the deadline was March of this year and
5 the investigators submitted proposals to us for review.
6 And so that was the start of our review process.

7
8 And the very first thing that happens
9 is that they come into our office and we put them
10 together and determine that they are legitimate
11 proposals and that they deal with issues that concern
12 Federal management because all these proposals are to
13 help Federal Subsistence managers manage fisheries.
14 And then it goes to the Technical Review Committee
15 which is a committee of experts from -- it's an
16 Interagency Committee. And that committee evaluates
17 and scores the proposals. And they score the proposals
18 on the criteria above.

19
20 So they look at strategic priority and
21 they look at what the Federal nexus is and what the
22 need for the research is. And then they look at the
23 technical and scientific merit and that's how well the
24 proposal can be implemented and will it be able to
25 fulfill the objectives and are the objectives
26 legitimate and those kinds of things. And then they
27 look at the investigator ability and resources and they
28 evaluate whether the investigator can actually execute
29 the project and that they have the resources to do it.
30 And then they look at partnership and capacity
31 building. And this is a unique part of our Fisheries
32 Resource Monitoring Program is that we require
33 investigators to work with the local rural people and
34 to help build capacity and to integrate them into their
35 proposal. So they're evaluated on that. And then
36 there's a cost benefit component and they look at the
37 cost and make sure it's reasonable.

38
39 So they evaluate these proposals on
40 those criteria and they place a score on them.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Karen, just a
43 question.

44
45 MS. HYER: Absolutely.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Who can submit a
48 proposal?

49
50

1 MS. HYER: Anybody can submit a
2 proposal. It's open to everybody.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Excluding my kitten?

5
6 MS. HYER: No, your kitten can submit a
7 proposal. The problem becomes with your kitten is that
8 they're not very competitive when they're coming up
9 against scientists that are well educated in the field
10 and have executed successful projects before.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (Indiscernible -
13 simultaneous speech) you know, some of these things try
14 to get a little bit proposals and get that funding.

15
16 MS. HYER: Absolutely. And quite
17 frankly the most successful proposals that we see are
18 integrated proposals because sometimes the tribes don't
19 have the biological expertise, but they certainly have
20 the local knowledge expertise. And are really -- some
21 of our very strongest proposals might have a State
22 investigator, might have a university investigator,
23 might have somebody from the Native Village of
24 Kotzebue, and they're integrated. And sometimes they
25 have several different -- sometimes they're a Federal,
26 State land manager and then NSEDC is on one with the
27 Native Village of Unalakleet. And so we -- you have
28 four agencies on a project. So, yeah, those are very
29 strong projects. That's a good point.

30
31 Yes.

32
33 MS. ITTA: I have a question.

34
35 MS. HYER: Yeah, absolutely.

36
37 MS. ITTA: How do you decide what
38 project gets funded. There's a really big need in
39 Nuiqsut. I have a manager who's trying to start the
40 studies on (indiscernible - away from microphone) and
41 contaminants in our fish because we're getting nothing --
42 like more and more sick fish.

43
44 MS. HYER: Right.

45
46 MS. ITTA: And it's all being -- we're
47 just being told it's mold and we think otherwise. So
48 and then when we request like I don't know if there's a
49 Borough Fish and Wildlife, the studies that we request
50

1 never hear back.

2

3 MS. HYER: Okay.

4

5 MS. ITTA: So I'm wondering how we can
6 start the process of testing our fish for
7 (indiscernible - away from microphone) and like Gordon
8 mentioned yesterday, you know, the difference between
9 their river is 50 some miles away to our river where
10 we're getting a lot of sick fish.

11

12 We need to start that process in
13 Nuiqsut because the -- you know, our people are hurting
14 and now it's -- you know, it's getting to all our fish
15 that we catch year round.

16

17 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

18

19 MS. ITTA: So I wondered how you guys
20 prioritized which projects get funded or how I can
21 start that process.

22

23 MS. HYER: Okay. So that's many
24 questions. And what I'm going over right now is the
25 process for how we decide after proposals are
26 submitted, how we evaluate the proposals. So I'm going
27 to step back from that for a minute.

28

29 So the first thing I want to address is
30 that when the Monitoring Plan was developed there's
31 several things it won't fund. It won't fund habitat
32 studies, it won't fund contaminant studies, it won't
33 fund hatcheries. And it was decided when this program
34 was created that those specific issues were better
35 funded through the land managers which I know is really
36 difficult because I know contaminants is a.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Can I say something
39 on.....

40

41 MS. HYER: Yeah, absolutely.

42

43 MS. PATTON: So come up.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You said it won't --
46 it won't fund.....

47

48 MS. PATTON:come up to the mic.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER:habitat studies
2 and we've been crying about the habitat issues, about
3 why the productivity in some of our lakes is reducing.
4 And it seems to be a habitat issues, but we've never
5 been told oh, we can't fund that because it's habitat.
6 Is there a disconnect there and then -- and a failure
7 to communicate in letting us know well, there -- you
8 want to go to the land manager at that point, maybe
9 through the manager of BLM, the Northern Field Office
10 in BLM in Fairbanks and go directly to them for that
11 type of a concern. Is that what I'm hearing?
12

13 MS. HYER: So I think when I say
14 habitat studies it's the traditional habitat studies.
15 You just talked about a productivity study. And those --
16 a fisheries productivity study we would fund. And it
17 may be related to habitat, it may be related to climate
18 change, it may be related to overfishing. That is a
19 productivity question, it is legitimate under this
20 funding mechanism. And sometimes we have had where we
21 can't -- we can't actually fund toxicology studies, we
22 have had projects where we might fund the productivity
23 part of it and then they might use the funding we have
24 and go out and secure other funding. So they have a
25 project that has multiple funding components and one
26 component is funded from one source and another
27 component is funded from another source.
28

29 Yeah, and if you turn to -- I recognize
30 you're not at your table, but what we do not fund is on
31 page 50 of your books and I'll just read it to you so
32 it's in the record. But it says.....
33

34 MS. ITTA: Page 50?
35

36 MS. HYER: 50 -- 150. It says
37 activities that are not eligible for funding including
38 habitat protection, mitigation, restoration and
39 enhancement. So that's what I mean when I say habitat.
40 And what I heard from you is productivity. And so just
41 to clarify the language. Hatchery propagation,
42 restoration, enhancement and supplementation. So we
43 don't fund that. Contaminant assessment, evaluation
44 and monitoring. And then the last one is projects
45 where the primary or only objective is outreach and
46 education. For example, science camp, technician
47 training and intern program rather than information
48 collection.
49

50

1 So I just want to pause right here and
2 see if there are any other questions before I go on.

3
4 MR. SCHAEFER: (Indiscernible - away
5 from microphone).....

6
7 MS. ITTA: I'm just really confused, us
8 too. You know.....

9
10 MS. PATTON: Come up.

11
12 MS. ITTA: I'm just trying to
13 understand, get a better understanding of your
14 monitoring program if because sounds like you guys
15 don't fund a lot of the things that are really
16 important and really needed in our area. And it just
17 doesn't make sense to me that you guys wouldn't do
18 that. What the purpose of you guys' monitoring program
19 when the concerns and the -- are so high and who's
20 responsible for them. I know it's -- should be the
21 industry, but that never, ever happens. I know they
22 have a lot of control, but, you know, we're trying to
23 get answers, the real answers on why we're having this
24 fish crisis for so many years, it's been since I
25 believe 2013 since we've started having them. I know
26 there was concerns before then, but we really started
27 to get the sick fish back in 2013 and it's just getting
28 worse and worse. And I'm just trying to get a better
29 understanding on your monitoring program that would
30 help my community and try to get answers and try to
31 save our fish. My community's hungry already and, you
32 know, this is really disappointing to hear that you
33 guys don't fund such studies when it's really highly
34 needed and it should be happening, no questions asked.

35
36 MS. HYER: So, Martha, if you're --
37 you're talking about studies because you're seeing
38 declining populations or they're not there and that was
39 one of the reasons we funded the Colville study, that
40 came out in Nuiqsut and they had no idea about their
41 grayling and they were really concerned about if some
42 traditional foods went away, if people harvested more
43 grayling what the effects would be and also where they
44 were because if the climate start changing, the fish go
45 away, they wanted to know what the basic population
46 looked like. Those kinds of projects we fund. What we
47 don't fund is toxicology projects. So I think
48 that.....

49
50

1 MS. ITTA: So if we to do a proposal to
2 you guys -- if we were to do a proposal to you guys
3 then what would we put into our proposal, I mean.....
4

5 MS. HYER: Yeah.
6

7 MS. ITTA:it's really confusing
8 because it's all connected. I mean, there's so many
9 issues with our fish.
10

11 MS. HYER: It is very interconnected
12 and I think what I would recommend is starting a
13 dialogue. And this is why I want you to start thinking
14 about priority information needs. We should start a
15 dialogue and start talking about specifics because then
16 we can talk about -- if you're talking about whitefish
17 or grayling or what exactly you're interested in. Are
18 you interested in you're not seeing harvests of fish,
19 are you interested in -- you're worried that you don't
20 know even what a population assessment is. And from
21 there we can start stepping things down. So this is
22 not too early to start talking about real specifics
23 because through our program we can start putting you in
24 connection with the managers and the researchers who
25 know best what's going on in the area. And then from
26 there that's a great genesis for a project.
27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here's a quick
29 observation and maybe it's going to help Martha a
30 little bit. Last week even to today there's reports of
31 fish bellied up and they're frozen into the ice right
32 now. You can -- while they're putting nets they're
33 seeing these dead fish that are getting frozen into the
34 net.
35

36 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.
37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We don't know what's
39 wrong with that, but it's unusual. And seems to me
40 there's -- should be somebody willing to see what's the
41 matter.
42

43 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.
44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And it could be
46 various different reasons. And the criteria to get a
47 study funded seems limited and we just want to see how
48 these concerns can fit into the funding.....
49
50

1 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER:the ability to
4 fund it. It might be a wordsmithing thing that we
5 might have to say the right words in order for
6 something to rank higher. And I think that's what
7 we're trying to figure out is and maybe some of the
8 dilemma about -- Nuiqsut has issues about their fish
9 over there and now bellied up dead ones being frozen in
10 the river. All around near Barrow there's concerns
11 about where'd the fish go, you know.

12
13 MS. ITTA: My -- can I.....

14
15 MS. HYER: Yeah, absolutely.

16
17 MS. ITTA: Where I'm getting at, you
18 know, what I'm trying to -- what I'm trying to
19 understand and, you know, get out there is, you know,
20 within the permitting process with any project they
21 need to show that there is, you know, the least impacts
22 or no impacts to the community that's near the
23 projects. And I'm just wondering, you know, with the
24 issues at hand with our fish and our animals, how these
25 projects are getting permitted without the full
26 analysis of these sick fish or animals that we -- that
27 we're dealing with today. That's my concern is, you
28 know, because more development is happening and we're
29 not getting answers about the depletion of our
30 subsistence fish and our subsistence resources, our
31 waters. That's really concerning to me and I'm trying
32 to get a better understanding of what -- how we can
33 better handle this situation.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So having I think
36 listening to some of that because that's coming from a
37 tribal administrator and concerns raised about the
38 subsistence resource. And I think Martha's group would
39 be a great candidate to put a proposal in. And if
40 somebody else having heard the concerns in one ear and
41 out the other and nobody's willing to write the
42 proposal and I think that's what we're kind of up
43 against because I feel kind of the same way that -- I
44 think I mentioned Tasigruaq fisheries five years ago
45 when the fishermen there were saying (in Native). You
46 know, what's -- what -- they're saying what's wrong
47 with our fish, we can't get them. And so it's -- those
48 are the types of concerns. And it's almost like the
49 Navy is back and dynamiting the fish and nobody's doing
50

1 anything about it. Because they dynamited that lake in
2 the '50s and depleted all the subsistence fish in the
3 past. So it's just those types of concerns.

4
5 There should be some way to respond to
6 these things where we're not overly stressed that -- we
7 just become working partners. And I don't know if it's
8 territorial, this is my area and I -- you know, I'll be
9 the gatekeeper of anything and all. Just like I heard
10 the other day about, no, we don't comment on that
11 stuff. Yes, you do. You do comment on that stuff. So
12 it's a different approach and people got to get out of
13 their comfortable spots. It's not the -- you know, I
14 mean, I'm an appointee of a mayor for a department and
15 sometimes I feel like I'm dealing with deep state
16 employees myself, you know, and that kind of thing.

17
18 MR. RISDAHL: Mr. Chairman, Greg
19 Risdahl, Subsistence Division lead.

20
21 I think what Karen was getting at is
22 when she said we should start a dialogue is we would be
23 more than happy to talk with the Council about a
24 priority information need for instance related to this
25 concern. We as -- our fish biologist, somebody would
26 definitely work with you guys to help develop one of
27 these PINs so that it goes forward into the next
28 funding cycle. Now we don't develop the proposals, we
29 can discuss options and -- so you guys can consider how
30 you might refine your priority information need so that
31 when it goes out to the public searching for some
32 researcher that would be interested in doing that kind
33 of a study, whether it's the State or university, Fish
34 and Wildlife, whatever, you'd have a well formulated
35 priority information need such that somebody would say
36 you know what, this is something we really do want to
37 study and it fits with the program.

38
39 Now I don't know what's going on there,
40 if it is a result of past mining, you know, we don't
41 know. So that's why the dialogue that Karen's talking
42 about would be important to initiate. And then develop
43 that priority information need and that is the RACs
44 job. You guys can do that. And so it ends up going
45 into the process. And when that call for new proposals
46 goes out, hope that there's somebody interested. And
47 you can do your own marketing as well. I mean, we can
48 help, other people can help to try to find the
49 appropriate scientist that would be interested in doing
50

1 something like that. I mean, they may be sitting here
2 in this room, Fish and Game.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. And I think
5 it's important to talk about it enough where people
6 understand. Like Martha as a tribal administrator or
7 Jack or somebody, they understand better that these
8 resources are there. And it sounds like it's only a
9 funding mechanism, that it is not responsibility for
10 Karen to go out there and put a net and take counts and
11 visually look at the fish in the area and determine the
12 health and the viability of that species for indefinite
13 period of time or something.

14
15 But we talk about it in a way, the
16 seriousness and the concerns of what is fundable so
17 that we have an opportunity to submit to a legitimate
18 funding mechanism that is able to grade it for what it
19 is in your ranking system. And that means we have to
20 do wordsmithing and what are the key phrases that are
21 going to allow us to get our ears more heard about the
22 concerns of these subsistence resources that are at
23 risk or at issue.

24
25 And then still understanding that even
26 if it's -- nobody wants to submit it that the tribe can
27 submit that and hire me as a fisherman, say why don't
28 you go out there and I'll pay you a thousand bucks to
29 catch 50 fish so we can autopsy them, whatever. You
30 know, I mean, if nobody's going to do it maybe we have
31 to do it, you know, who knows.

32
33 MR. SCHAEFER: Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Jack.

36
37 MR. SCHAEFER: (Indiscernible - away
38 from microphone).....

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Office of Subsistence
41 Management, Fish Division lead.

42
43 MR. SCHAEFER: (Indiscernible - away
44 from microphone).....

45
46 MR. RISDAHL: Office of Subsistence
47 Management and our program is primarily responsible for
48 the FRMP, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and the
49 Partners Programs that are basically funding mechanisms
50

1 to do research for -- that benefits subsistence
2 fisheries.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Which we've been
5 expressing I think for quite some time. I can't
6 remember when Nuiqsut started having concerns about
7 burbot.....

8
9 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER:the litter from
12 the (indiscernible - away from microphone) landfill
13 issues to contaminates there and many different
14 concerns. And it just -- I know we have North Slope
15 Borough, but they're not the -- I mean, they will have
16 to seek funding too. They do research with grants and
17 other things like that, but -- and then to provide
18 synergies. Maybe they're over tasked themselves and
19 some of these things are.....

20
21 Anyway maybe it's not a big concern
22 it's made out to be and it's, oh, yeah, it's just they
23 got the wrong size net or something and they don't
24 catch anything. Who knows. I don't know what it is,
25 but certainly I've encountered it myself and I've been
26 fishing there for 30, 40 years.

27
28 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
29 I may just very quickly. I know we have a number of
30 new Council members who were just appointed to the
31 Council this -- in the winter of this past year. One
32 of the things that this Council had established was a
33 working group to work on the Fisheries Resource
34 Monitoring Program priorities, to get feedback
35 specifically. I know Rosemary was a part of that group
36 when she was a Council member. And that feedback
37 directly from you and what your community's needs are,
38 Karen and I work on that and we can bring in other
39 biologists who are knowledgeable. We also work with
40 anthropologists and Subsistence Division researchers to
41 address that traditional knowledge and the harvest
42 needs of the community and changes that you're
43 experiencing.

44
45 So we can set up a working group by
46 teleconference. And those are informal for us to just
47 talk and work through what you're seeing, what you see
48 your community's needs are and how we can best develop
49 those priorities so they have the best opportunity of
50

1 being funded and finding the right people who can
2 partner with the community to do that research. And so
3 that's an ongoing working group that this Council has
4 established. And so we'll be following up after this
5 meeting and before the next meeting to have more
6 dialogue on this so that when we come to the winter
7 meeting, you know, we have some good, strong proposals
8 and avenues that they might be able to get funded for
9 those priorities.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MS. ITTA: (Indiscernible - away from
14 microphone) that the Council to be able to help us get
15 answers and get forward with the studies that we
16 want.....

17

18 MS. PATTON: Yes.

19

20 MS. ITTA:(indiscernible).....

21

22 MS. PATTON: Yes. Absolutely. And so
23 after this meeting we'll be following up to find a good
24 time for all our Council members. And it's just a call
25 in by teleconference, so 1-800 number. And we can do
26 that as many times as we need to to keep having this
27 discussion so that by the next meeting when those
28 priority information needs are being asked for that we
29 have some -- you know, some solid proposals and the
30 details that we need from the community to find a good
31 avenue forward, that they might be able to get funded
32 and find partners and to be able to do that research.

33

34 MS. ITTA: (Indiscernible - away from
35 microphone).....

36

37 MS. PATTON: Absolutely. Thank you.

38

39 MS. HYER: Yeah, Martha, I agree. It's
40 important because sometimes the dialogues take a long
41 time. But I just wanted to point out that whole
42 grayling study that we just heard about did come out of
43 concerns out of Nuiqsut. And we started with a
44 conversation with Rosemary and developed that from
45 there. And so these conversations need to be
46 continual, they need to be informal and formal and
47 we're starting our official conversation for the next
48 PINs, but it's really important that you continually
49 bring your concerns. And I've mentioned that to Gordon

50

1 too. And I know that you sound like you're repeating
2 yourself, but it's important that we hear it again
3 because we don't always get an investigator that will
4 fit that project and sometimes we have to continue to
5 look.

6
7 MR. SCANLON: Thank you. Once again
8 Brendan Scanlon, Fish and Game.

9
10 So, Martha, we have a pretty excellent
11 pathology lab in Anchorage for -- that will examine
12 fish at no charge. And it's pretty common that we'll
13 get a call and say, hey, we got a fish with, you know,
14 three eyeballs and feathers, can we get this looked at.
15 It's a lot of scrambling to get it down there in the
16 condition that the pathologist will want it in to
17 dissect it and take the measurements that he needs.
18 But typically it's no charge for.....

19
20 MS. ITTA: Would you guys have like a
21 schedule of the time of the year, what time to go do
22 these studies or get these samples?

23
24 MR. SCANLON: So this -- they have
25 their own work to do, but they will take, you know, one
26 or two, a handful of fish from concerned people around
27 the State all the time. To do something comprehensive
28 where we send them a hundred fish a month, I don't know
29 if they can handle that and it would probably require
30 some kind of contract to do that.

31
32 But and, Mr. Brower, you touched on it
33 earlier. The North Slope Borough is pretty unique, it
34 has a pretty comprehensive Wildlife Department with a
35 fisheries research staff, laboratory and a Wildlife
36 vet. Todd Sformo has a whitefish program, it's pretty
37 detailed and it's on their website. I think he would
38 be the first person to start with. We talked a little
39 bit about that yesterday, I can approach Todd again
40 about some of the concerns here.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I'm pretty
43 familiar -- I'm pretty familiar with that whitefish
44 study because we are -- we took part in that.

45
46 MR. SCANLON: Uh-huh.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And to see the --
49 where those fish come and go and overwinter after they
50

1 spawn in Ikpikpuk.

2

3

MR. SCANLON: Uh-huh.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN BROWER: The ones we're talking about is like Tasigruaq where they're pretty much land-locked in the lakes.....

7

8

9

MR. SCANLON: Uh-huh.

10

11

12

CHAIRMAN BROWER:these lakes that have whitefish in them. And a little bit different, it's the same species, they taste different.....

13

14

15

MR. SCANLON: Uh-huh.

16

17

18

CHAIRMAN BROWER:but it's the same species because they're stuck inside lakes.

19

20

21

MR. SCANLON: Uh-huh. I still think maybe starting with the Borough Wildlife Department first. Todd's a smart guy, we played racquetball in college, we talk about fish all the time. I'd be happy to work with him in any capacity I can, but I think it's something that could be done probably a lot quicker than going through a whole proposal and review process and it might be something we're talking jump in a plane or a boat and get started pretty soon. But I'll make sure to contact him when I get back to town.

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

Thanks.

32

33

34

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. I'm just like a messenger. There's at least maybe 20, 30 different fishermen that fish that lake and about all of them talk about it the same way, including myself.

35

36

37

38

39

40

MS. HYER: All right. That was a great conversation. And I just want to step back from that because that was a lot of talk about how we're going to develop our priority information needs. And that is the part we're going into in -- this winter and on from there.

41

42

43

44

45

But what I'm talking about right now is after we develop the priority information needs, after we put out a call for proposals, after the proposals have been submitted then -- so we're talking about the 2020 proposals, they came in and the Technical Review

46

47

48

49

50

1 Committee reviewed those proposals and put a score on
2 those proposals.

3
4 So now we're to this meeting and during
5 this meeting we're going to -- I'm going to present to
6 you the proposals that were submit, there were four of
7 them for this region, and I'm going to ask the Council
8 to help me in any recommendations they have that would
9 ensure these selected proposals are implemented
10 successfully. And are there any obvious concerns about
11 the individual projects that were submitted.

12
13 And so we will go back and we will
14 review these two questions at the end of my
15 presentation because that is the Council's opportunity
16 to input on the proposals that actually were submitted
17 for the 2020 FRMP.

18
19 So after I receive your input today I
20 will take that back with me to Anchorage and we'll put
21 that together with the TRC scores and the next group
22 that looks at it is the Interagency Staff Committee.
23 And just as a reminder that is the staff to the Federal
24 Subsistence Board. So they're the people that
25 consolidate the information and talk directly with the
26 Board. So they will -- they'll look at all the
27 comments and then they'll develop their own comment.
28 And so all of these comments then go to the Federal
29 Subsistence Board in their January meeting. Until the
30 Monitoring Plan is implemented we call it draft. So
31 then the Federal Subsistence Board will look at all the
32 comments and they'll endorse the funding plan.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I've got a question
35 real quick.

36
37 MS. HYER: Absolutely.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva told us to mark
40 off Interagency Staff Committee, that it doesn't exist
41 no more?

42
43 MS. HYER: Did that just happen, Eva?

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You're saying that
48 the Interagency Staff Committee will rank.....

49
50

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and.....

2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I haven't erased
4 anything.

5
6 MS. PATTON: Yeah. Mr. Chair and
7 Council.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Interagency Staff
10 Committee no more.

11
12 MS. PATTON: And this is.....

13
14 MS. HYER: You have to put it back on,
15 Gordon.

16
17 MS. PATTON:this is just for
18 regulatory proposals. So the FRMP process is a
19 different process. So we don't have to worry about
20 these procedures. This is just for regulatory
21 proposals.

22
23 MS. HYER: I got excited there for a
24 minute. I was thinking about all these meetings I
25 could cross off.

26
27 No. no, they're still alive and well
28 in Anchorage and they're still a part of this.

29
30 And so all of this goes together and
31 then we -- what we do is we have -- we have a list of
32 projects and then we fund down that list. Because it
33 depends on budgets, how many projects we can fund. And
34 so we'll rank them in the order of what -- when I say
35 we, that's the collective, including what the RACs have
36 to say, that's the collective input. And then we fund
37 as many projects as we can depending on our budget.

38
39 So I just want to spend a minute
40 talking specifically about this region and then we'll
41 go back and we'll talk about the projects that were
42 submitted.

43
44 But I have a graph of what's been
45 funded in this region. And to date since this whole --
46 the funding for research became available starting in
47 2000, and we funded a total of 49 projects in this
48 region with a total of \$11.8 million spent. And that's
49 basically what those two charts show you. And they're

50

1 also in your book. I know they're a little bit hard to
2 see on the screen. But it's just a history of what's
3 been funded here. And in your books there's also a
4 history of the projects that have been funded in the
5 northern region.
6

7 So now back to the work we have to do.
8 There are four projects that were submitted for funding
9 this year for the 2020. And unfortunately there were
10 no projects submitted from North Slope. There was one
11 submitted from Seward Peninsula which is Fish
12 Assemblages and Genetic Stock Determination of Salmon
13 in the Bering Land Bridge. And then there were three
14 submitted that would take place in Northwest Alaska.
15 One is Life History Variability, a Mixed Stock
16 Analysis of Dolly Varden in the Noatak River. And then
17 the next one is Traditional Ecological Knowledge of the
18 Dolly Varden and Whitefish Species in Northwest Alaska.
19 And then the final one is Increasing Beaver Activity in
20 Northwest Alaska, Traditional Ecological Knowledge and
21 Geospacial Analysis of Impacts on Subsistence
22 Resources.
23

24 And that's the end of my slide show so
25 if anybody has any questions I will -- I'll take them
26 now and then I suggest I guess that we reconvene and
27 then I'll take the Council's input on the projects.
28

29 But does anybody have any questions
30 about the process?
31

32 MR. SCHAEFER: Jack Schaefer, Native
33 Village of Point Hope.
34 I notice, you know, the presentation indicating that
35 contaminants are not included.
36

37 I don't know how coordination takes
38 place, but I did mention earlier that there was a
39 section 810 of ANILCA hearing.....
40

41 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.
42

43 MR. SCHAEFER:that took place
44 here in regards to -- they called it zoning, but they
45 really wouldn't say what that section 810 is. And
46 section 810 deals with any impact on subsistence; is
47 that right?
48

49 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.
50

1 MR. SCHAEFER: Right. If there's an
2 impact on subsistence you can have a hearing to address
3 it with the BLM. And so I do hope that there are
4 interagency coordination. I guess Clinton and Obama
5 and -- had these executive orders that had this
6 interagency and tribal and coordination directives,
7 executive orders they called them.

8
9 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

10
11 MR. SCHAEFER: And I don't know if
12 they're still in affect now, but, you know, if it does
13 take a section 810 to trigger it then maybe that's what
14 it is. I don't know. I'm kind of asking if that's --
15 since someone asked already.....

16
17 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

18
19 MR. SCHAEFER:as do you get
20 something going if it's not going. I mean, you said
21 you won't do contaminants, you know, will section 810
22 force the issue or have someone else assigned?

23
24 MS. HYER: So I'm not clear about
25 section 810 and I'm not sure. But what I would like to
26 add is that the FRMP funds don't do contaminants. Fish
27 and Wildlife Service does do contaminants and sometimes
28 we join forces with other divisions in our agency. And
29 in addition sometimes we work with BLM and other
30 agencies and they bring the expertise for that. And so
31 we'll partner and we'll pay for part of a project and
32 they'll pay for another part of the project. And it's
33 a partner project and so it's one big project together,
34 but we don't provide all the funding for it.

35
36 So there are several different
37 mechanisms to get accomplished what you want
38 accomplished. And sometimes it's a matter of getting
39 it identified and then going out and seeking the
40 partners.

41
42 But anyway I'll turn it over to Pat.

43
44 MS. PETRIVELLI: Hi, this is Pat
45 Petrivelli. And section 810 is a clause in ANILCA so
46 it's a law and the agencies have to follow it. So
47 whenever a Federal agency has to make a decision about
48 whether to withdraw, reserve, lease or otherwise permit
49 the use of public lands that might affect subsistence,
50

1 they have to conduct a section 810 analysis. And
2 that's usually part of the EIS process. So BLM has a
3 responsibility to do it, the Park Service has a
4 responsibility to do it, like an environmental
5 assessment. They do section 810 hearings with the
6 Ambler Road. So any Federal agency has to do that.

7
8 The Federal Resource Monitoring Program
9 is to look at the monitoring resources used for
10 subsistence. Now this 810 analysis is -- deals with
11 managing the land and the Board made a decision that
12 the individual land agency should bear the cost of that
13 activity because it's a responsibility they have in
14 regards to managing their land activities. And so --
15 and they might put that cost onto whoever wants to
16 lease that land so they have to pay for the studies.
17 So when you conduct an EIS those people have to pay for
18 all those studies. Like with the Donlin Mine process,
19 with the Pebble Mine projects, all of those people are
20 supposed to pay for those -- the cost of those studies.

21
22 Now the contamination that comes
23 afterwards that's a -- that a responsibility of the
24 land management agency because their -- they should be
25 monitoring, when people take -- they have the
26 responsibility to manage that land and make sure if
27 they allowed a permitted activity on it, if someone's
28 contaminating it they should be monitoring that and do
29 that. This Subsistence Resource Use Monitoring Program
30 is to give the Federal Subsistence Board information so
31 that they can better manage the resources for
32 subsistence users. That's the main purpose of it. And
33 then they also want to involve the subsistence users in
34 that research.

35
36 So it's not a very big pot of money,
37 it's what \$2 million this year.

38
39 MS. HYER: Yes.

40
41 MS. PETRIVELLI: It's a very limited
42 pot of money and it's \$2 million for the whole State.
43 So that's why the Federal Board made a decision to
44 leave the studies of contaminants, habitat restoration
45 and all that to the land management agencies themselves
46 because as managers of those resources they should have
47 that responsibility to conduct those studies.

48
49 And but ANILCA does say that should be
50

1 810 analyses and that's how subsistence users get
2 involved again and that's how this Council would get
3 involved again because then as subsistence users you
4 could say when someone is going to be permitting the
5 use of that resource you can say please monitor the
6 contamination of these resources, please put in your
7 budget permit conditions, please do this, please do
8 that so that subsistence resources are protected. The
9 810 process is for that, not for the FRMP program to
10 pay for those studies.

11
12 MS. ITTA: Okay. I want to go back to
13 your guys' funding on projects, your guys' list of
14 things that you guys do not fund.

15
16 MS. HYER: Okay. That's in our book.

17
18 MS. ITTA: And I want to make a request
19 to remove some of that literature such as you guys do
20 not fund for contaminants of fish and I'd like that
21 literature removed and changed to be able to get
22 studies done with contaminants because that's a big
23 concern in my village and what's the process to be able
24 to do that.

25
26 MS. PETRIVELLI: Annual report.

27
28 MS. ITTA: Because our commun -- you
29 know, our community needs are really sensitive and in
30 demand right now. And we're seeking answers. And
31 these requirements or these projects that you don't
32 fund under these, what you call it.....

33
34 MS. HYER: FRMP.

35
36 MS. ITTA: Yeah. That needs to change
37 because our needs are -- you know, we need these
38 studies done and I'm requesting to get that language
39 removed to be able to get the studies done and funded.

40
41 Thank you. I just want to know what
42 that process is to be able to do that.

43
44 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Martha. Thank
45 you for bringing that to our attention.

46
47 And part of the avenue for the Regional
48 Advisory Council, so that decision to separate those
49 funding from the FRMP process as Pat mentioned was made
50

1 by the Federal Subsistence Board. This Council has an
2 avenue directly to the Federal Subsistence Board to
3 bring your concerns to them, to make requests, research
4 requests, information requests. And that's actually
5 part of our final discussion at this meeting is the
6 issues the Council would like to bring in your annual
7 report. So we've had a lot of discussion on this
8 concern and we can -- we can add one of the topics to
9 that report to request removing the contaminants for
10 the FRMP and all the justification you've discussed
11 here. And so I draft that up after this meeting and we
12 get it back to the Council and then the Council
13 actually approves that report at our winter meeting so
14 we can fine tune and make sure we get all the language
15 that you would like to convey to the Board on this
16 concern and make that request.

17

18 MS. ITTA: Okay. Thank you.

19

20 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh. Thank you. I
21 think we're at the stage now where we can gather the
22 Council back here for the final discussion with Karen
23 on the projects that were submitted for this year. So
24 you guys can sit down, that was it for the Power Point
25 and we'll turn the lights on.

26

27 (Pause while Council gathers)

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I guess
30 we'll get back to where we were. And I appreciate the
31 presentation and all the dialogue and the Fisheries
32 Resource Monitoring Program. And I thought that was a
33 pretty good, you know, exchange and, you know, I know
34 it gets heart-wrenching sometimes when we get to these
35 things that affect subsistence and local users.

36

37 So was there any questions from the
38 Council that they wanted to pose to Karen on her
39 program and her presentation, any further questions.

40

41 MR. SCHAEFER: Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Jack.

44

45 MR. SCHAEFER: Has there been any
46 projects that were rejected by your group when they
47 were brought up?

48

49 MS. HYER: No. During our request for

50

1 proposals we only received four proposals for this
2 region. So there's nothing that was rejected.
3 Everything that was submitted was on this list. And
4 once in a while we might get a proposal that absolutely
5 doesn't quality, it's very rare. And so every proposal
6 this year -- or maybe it wasn't complete or something
7 was wrong with it, but this year every proposal that
8 was submitted is in a regional book to be commented on
9 by the RACs. It's rare that a proposal is rejected. I
10 won't sit here and say it's never happened, but in the
11 north everything that came in is in the books. So
12 unfortunately we only received four proposals for this
13 region.
14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And those four
16 proposals were the ones that you showed, the one for
17 salmon and the one in Northwest Arctic area for
18 whitefish and not very much specific to the North Slope
19 region, but to the Northwest Arctic region and maybe
20 the Seward Pen region.
21

22 MS. HYER: Yes. Yeah, unfortunately we
23 didn't get a proposal that was directly related to this
24 region. The four proposals we received are on page
25 154. And then below that when you go further in the
26 book their executive summaries start on page 158. And
27 so I just am asking.....
28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And just a question.
30

31 MS. HYER: Absolutely.
32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: In those four
34 proposals being that they're not exclusively or not
35 related to the North Slope region's RAC and you're
36 asking this North Slope RAC for some sort of ranking on
37 those things?
38

39 MS. HYER: No, I'm not asking for a
40 ranking. So I -- just before I answer your question I
41 just want to step back and the reason we're coming to
42 you is because the northern region, research region,
43 has three RACs. So we're posing these questions to the
44 -- all RACs and every RAC has the opportunity to weigh
45 in. And sometimes we have a lot of proposals from this
46 region and nothing from Seward Peninsula. But we still
47 allow them because the region for research purposes is
48 considered -- and for funding purposes is considered a
49 whole, so we seek input from all three RACs.
50

1 And what I'm seeking as input is to
2 answer two really specific questions. And I'm seeking
3 the Council's wisdom and recommendations. And given
4 these projects we want to know if you have any
5 recommendations to ensure that the selected projects
6 are implemented successfully. And sometimes we've had
7 proposals that the timing is wrong. And in Anaktuvuk
8 when we had that proposal that was -- in Anaktuvuk they
9 said we love this proposal, but you can't come in
10 during this time of year because you'll disturb our
11 caribou. And so we had to work with the investigators
12 to choose a new time to successfully implement that
13 project.
14

15 And so and then we've had projects
16 before in the past where Bob has said, you know, you
17 need to look at these rivers and you need to add this
18 river because we know traditionally that these fish
19 move and you want.....
20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Just a
22 question here.
23

24 MS. HYER: this. So -- yeah,
25 absolutely.
26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: These four proposals
28 not being in my neck of the woods, I would prefer to
29 give deference to the Regional RAC that they emanated
30 out of and say we give deference to them. And that --
31 they make those determinations whether or not the
32 timing is off because I don't think maybe those guys
33 know the timing of Ikpikpuk River spawning. I have
34 very intimate knowledge about that. And I don't think
35 somebody from the Nome or Seward Pen area would have as
36 much knowledge of the rivers up north that are in my
37 neck of the woods. And to suggest add this river and
38 add that river and I -- I mean, is it proper just to
39 say we recommend that you give deference to the
40 regional RAC where these proposals were proposed from
41 and that we support these things because they are --
42 they're trying to figure out something that's troubling
43 them.
44

45 MS. HYER: That is absolutely
46 acceptable to make that statement.
47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And are you looking
49 for something in the form of a motion or do we just say
50

1 well, our recommendation, we're just going to tell you
2 give deference to the RAC that it came from and I think
3 they really need support and we support these studies
4 to go on.

5
6 MS. HYER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. That --
7 that's absolutely fine. This is not an action item, we
8 don't need a motion. We just need input. And if you
9 feel that the expertise is not in this area and that
10 you want to give deference to the other RACs that is
11 absolutely fine.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And by the way, just
14 one more question. Is it the RACs that's proposing
15 this or is it the tribe on some of these things or is
16 it a -- somebody's keen interest in doing the study?

17
18 MS. HYER: So the RACs propose the
19 priority information needs, but the response to those
20 needs is by the investigator. So it's people that are
21 interested and have the expertise to do the research.
22 And I think we had talked a little bit about some of
23 your interests that haven't been addressed yet. And so
24 I expressed that it was really important to keep those
25 in front of the researchers. And we just need to do
26 more outreach because it's entirely possible that
27 somewhere there's a researcher that has that expertise
28 and they either have been too busy, sometimes people
29 have -- because this is funding that's cyclic,
30 sometimes they have so many projects going on that
31 they're interested, but they can't take on another
32 project and they might need to wait several years or it
33 could be we haven't sent it to the right person that
34 says, oh, yeah, I've got the expertise and the interest
35 in that. So there are different factors that can cause
36 PINs to stay on the list for sometime until we find
37 somebody that can address them.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Karen.
40 Any additional questions for her presentation? And
41 there's no action item here, we could, you know,
42 individual concerns about supporting these study
43 designs and stuff is one of her endeavors I think.

44
45 Mr. Schaefer.

46
47 MR. SCHAEFER: Do you have arrangements
48 with other tribes to perform those functions and the
49 monitoring projects and how do we get involved should
50

1 we have interest. And do you have a priority to -- are
2 these contracted out, do you do it in-house or do you
3 contract with tribes because of location, you know, and
4 -- or corporation. How does that work?

5
6 MS. HYER: So when we put out the
7 notice of funding opportunity which I call the call for
8 proposals because that makes more sense to me. But
9 when we publish that we have funding and this is where
10 we'd like to see the research focus. Anybody,
11 including Gordon's kitten, can submit a proposal. And
12 so a tribe can. And we do have projects that are
13 implemented. The Native Village of Eyak runs
14 fishwheels on the Copper River and they produce chinook
15 salmon abundance for that river. And until they
16 started doing that there was no chinook salmon
17 abundance on that river, they had no idea how many fish
18 were really going up that river. And there are other
19 places where like the Native Village of Napakiak helps
20 with projects on the Kuskokwim. And there are -- we
21 have different groups that are involved.

22
23 So anybody can submit a proposal, but
24 like I had said before our strongest proposals tend to
25 be ones that have several different investigators
26 because different people bring different expertise.
27 And so you might need the Native village to provide the
28 local knowledge expertise and you might need the
29 scientist with the biologist to provide that part. And
30 we have had successful projects out of Kotzebue where
31 the Native Village of Kotzebue has partnered with the
32 university because they both need each other to
33 implement a successful project. And those tend to be
34 really successful because usually one individual
35 doesn't have all the expertise.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So and I think Jack
38 posed a good question about because we're lacking that
39 aspect of it ourselves too, of the know how. But it's
40 -- the more you talk about it, here's a -- here's a
41 picture that's formed from Jack's question and your
42 response.

43
44 I'm Native Village of Barrow, I have a
45 big problem with my Tasigruaq Lake, it's a big lake,
46 it's 10 miles long and five miles wide. It's a big
47 lake, lot of fishermen fish in there. So I'm Native
48 Village of Barrow, I write this like I'm seeking a
49 grant. With your proposal that you're going to do
50

1 calls for proposals and you're going to have a document
2 that we can use as a template maybe, and you're nodding
3 in the affirmative, use your template. We write as --
4 what the fish concerns that we're hearing from the
5 fishermen and then we think about maybe there's a
6 spawning problem here. Let's write about the
7 reproductive nature of this fish and find out why it's
8 not reproducing in this lake at the rate to sustain all
9 of this fishing and the sudden decline of those things.

10

11 And then as Native Village of Barrow
12 I'm going to contract with Koniag and Jim Bob and those
13 guys that are willing to take time to go fish in that
14 lake and collect their data.....

15

16 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER:and maybe get a
19 sample or two to figure out what's -- the type of fish
20 and try to find out what's going on with reproductive
21 whatever, I'm not the biologist, I'm just trying to
22 write it in my mind. And then a portion of my study
23 from my tribe, I'm going to talk with the fish wildlife
24 biologist at the Wildlife Department of the Borough and
25 give them a \$5,000 grant to study some of those fish
26 and maybe a trip or two to the lake itself in various
27 times of -- from spring breakup, during the summer
28 season when they're -- whatever they do during their
29 lifecycle, to figure out -- and this is probably going
30 to be a 10 year study. And I'm going to have an
31 expectation to get that funding to do this for a period
32 of time.

33

34 Now is that what you're talking about
35 in the study that might be more fundable provided we're
36 within the guidelines that the -- you can't do this
37 one, you can't do this, but you can do this, this and
38 that. And then we sufficiently wordsmith it so key
39 words are met and suddenly we're using local people,
40 we're using North Slope Borough scientist and maybe
41 you're involved as a fish biologist, you want to go
42 proof it and whatnot. And then -- and they'll study it
43 and make a recommendation, say we recommend that we
44 take some of the fish from the lake and put them in a
45 bucket and make them spawn and put them back in the
46 lake with the same water and that's the -- I'm just --
47 it's just a study. And you just -- you don't fund
48 recruiting or restocking and things like that, but that
49 might -- that might be the outcome of what needed to be

50

1 done to -- because the lake was healthy or something,
2 it was just some other variable was interrupting the
3 reproductive rate for sufficient catch.

4
5 Is that a reasonable study and that'll
6 start to get ranking in one of your study designs and
7 possibly get \$500,000 funds to do that?

8
9 MS. HYER: So, Gordon, just for the
10 record I was with you all the way to the bucket.

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MS. HYER: That is exactly what we
15 want. In just -- I just want to point out like this
16 year it's too -- we have about 1.5 to \$2 million so a
17 \$500,000 project might not fare well under the cost
18 benefit of the things I said we look at. But you've
19 got your priority information need and then you
20 identified local partners and you identified people
21 that probably have the expertise to execute some of the
22 project that you didn't have expertise to execute and
23 you -- you're talking about a partnership and you're
24 engaging local people. So that is a really great start
25 to a project. Those are the things we look for. And
26 you even talked about your budget and you had some
27 thoughts on a budget. And that's part of our proposal
28 is what does the budget look like. So I would say you
29 were really well on your way to developing a good
30 project with those kind of thoughts. Those are exactly
31 the line that.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: See that's what's
34 been missing.....

35
36 MS. HYER:you should be thinking
37 about.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER:is being told
40 that we have to do that.

41
42 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're just thinking,
45 you know, we let you know our problems and then we can
46 go to sleep, somebody's going to take care of it. And
47 it's not happening. And we've been saying this for
48 five, six years. And it's important to have enough
49 feedback to know what we should be actually doing. The
50

1 tribes can get these monies, I can do it my own as just
2 a person including my cat can submit, I'll write for my
3 cat, Fin Fat, my fat cat, is going to study the fish
4 because he loves to eat fish, you know, that's --
5 something like that. You -- but somebody has to be
6 willing to write it and do it and it just seems the
7 interest is not there from biologists to take up the
8 torch is what I'm saying.
9

10 MR. RISDAHL: Mr. Chairman, Greg
11 Risdahl, Subsistence Division Fisheries leader.
12 Karen's exactly right. You laid -- you laid a sketch
13 out of a project that would -- somebody might be very
14 interested in funding, helping you, working with you.
15 Except for the bucket part, she's right, that probably
16 wouldn't go over.
17

18 The only other thing I wanted to point
19 out was that the projects you said for 10 year. Our
20 projects typically are funded for four years at a time.
21 So what would happen is after the four years or just
22 prior to if you wanted to continue your study, you were
23 getting some good information and you felt it was
24 worthwhile to continue to gather information, you would
25 submit another project to continue that, that same
26 project. So you would have in effect another four
27 years so eight years. And a lot of research is done
28 that way. But we don't fund 10 years right up front.
29 It would be a commitment to do four years at a time
30 depending on availability of funding.
31

32 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.
33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Martha,
35 from Nuiqsut.
36

37 MS. ITTA: I have a question. In
38 regards to what you're talking about, the tribes being
39 able to -- if they decided to contract -- contract out
40 for people to do the studies for them or we collect the
41 fish and contract somebody to test them. My question
42 is if we were able to do that are we able to use these
43 studies and information within the EIS process, have
44 like the Bureau of Land Management, Army Corps who are
45 the lead in the EISes to put them into the EISes if we
46 were to go that route?
47

48 MS. HYER: So if you're talking about
49 an EIS you're talking about a specific -- because we do
50

1 EISes for a specific reason. And I think the
2 information that you collect from a Fisheries Resource
3 Monitoring Project could be used in an EIS. But they
4 are two separate processes for completely different
5 things. The information we collect is information that
6 is published. And so it can be used in different
7 arenas and sometimes it's used as the basis for further
8 studies. Sometimes it's used, you know, for -- well,
9 it is used for management decisions and that's why
10 we're collecting it, but it is also used for other
11 studies and things too.

12
13 MS. ITTA: Okay. If -- that leads to
14 my next question. If there are -- is there like a
15 couple of studies being done on the same thing to
16 compare the studies. Like if you guys are doing one
17 and then if we contracted out for somebody to, you
18 know, test our fish, is that something that we can do
19 and, you know, compare the studies that's being done?

20
21 MS. HYER: So we try to keep up on
22 what's happening so we don't duplicate studies, but
23 often studies complement each other. And so we might
24 not pay for contaminants, but we can pay for a
25 population study and then you might get money for the
26 contaminants work someplace else. And while you're
27 studying the population some of those samples are taken
28 back and looked at for contaminants, something like
29 that. We often have complementary studies. Like the
30 particular study I was talking about on the Copper
31 River, they have these fishwheels, they're counting
32 salmon, but they use those fishwheels as platforms for
33 other studies too. And those other studies have
34 different funding sources, but they complement each
35 other. And then.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I just want to add
38 one thing too because our Borough scientist feed off of
39 a trend. So it's not bad to have a duplication study
40 and to verify on your own because it starts to add to
41 the trend, to make a verifiable statement at the end is
42 my -- you know, when I look at the amount of years I've
43 seen caribou studies go, there's a lot of duplication
44 of effort to doing some of those. But those are good
45 because they add to a trend and notable differences in
46 the abundance or mortality or some other thing that may
47 be affecting them, even their movement, because it just
48 merely adds to the trend and strengthens the overall
49 study. So it's not a really bad thing when there's a
50

1 duplication going on.
2

3 MS. ITTA: Okay. Where I'm trying to
4 get at what's in these studies and how they're used in
5 the EISes for these projects that are being proposed.
6 My community has zero faith in these studies that are
7 being done because it's all being done and funded
8 through the oil industry. And they've voiced that
9 concern time and time again. So we have no trust in
10 any of the system, you know, these reports that are
11 being done. And that's why I'm asking if we are able
12 to implement our -- you know, do what -- you know,
13 collect the fish, have a contractor test them for us
14 and then implement them into the EIS that would show
15 the impacts of the community. It's been an ongoing
16 issue within my community on these reports and they
17 voiced it time and time again and we're still not
18 getting any answers back.

19
20 Thank you.
21

22 MS. HYER: So if I'm understanding what
23 you're saying, you're asking if there's a study done
24 and it's different from the EIS would that be support
25 for saying the EIS is wrong?
26

27 MS. ITTA: My question is if we can do
28 the work ourselves opposed to having -- well, in my
29 area ConocoPhillips does the studies, North Slope
30 Borough, and they're all funded under the industry.
31 And my community has zero faith in those reports
32 because time and time again, meeting after meeting,
33 they voice their concerns with no answers back and
34 they're really frustrated in that process. So I'm --
35 where I'm trying to get at is, you know, trying to get
36 the accurate studies and the reports that we want to
37 see. Because it's tiring, meeting after meeting,
38 that's all our calendar is is oil industry meetings.
39 That takes a lot from our children, children's
40 activities. So, you know, I'm just trying to -- trying
41 to see how we can better the process for my community
42 and, you know, doing the studies and getting the
43 accurate information.
44

45 MR. RISDAHL: Martha, through the
46 Chair. This is Greg. You're -- normally when we do an
47 FRMP project it is not directed at answering questions
48 or collecting data for an EIS. Those are usually two
49 very separate things. However as Karen was -- I think
50

1 she was indicating that you could take that information
2 from your FRMP project and say, hey, wait a minute,
3 look at this. This study shows that what you're doing
4 is really harmful to us and the land and the fisheries
5 or whatever in contrast to what you're saying. I mean,
6 you can use that data for anything, but the FRMP
7 project -- program itself is designed to collect
8 information to benefit subsistence fisheries. So you
9 design a project with assistance from whomever, the
10 North Slope Borough or whatever, and say this is what
11 we -- these are the questions that we have. And some
12 of the questions may directly answer the types of
13 things that we collect for FRMP, stock status and
14 trend, ecological knowledge kinds of things, whatever.
15 But they -- you may also have some other things that
16 you learn in this process that you can transfer over
17 and say look, this is what we found in our FRMP
18 project. And it contrasts with what you're saying in
19 your EIS.

20
21 So whatever you -- I mean, you can do
22 that and people do all the time. So that what's Karen
23 was saying that you can have information from one study
24 and it can be used for other things as well. But the
25 FRMP projects do not specifically -- they're not
26 typically -- as far as I know they never have been
27 specifically done to support an EIS.

28
29 MS. HYER: Right.
30

31 MR. RISDAHL: But you can use that
32 information for any purpose you want. See what I'm
33 saying, you just have to design your project so that it
34 also maybe answers some of the questions -- which I
35 don't know what they are, but I do feel your pain
36 especially now with -- under the current situation, the
37 administration, they're trying to speed up the EIS
38 process. We're all having to go through the same thing
39 like, oh, you need your information done or comments in
40 15 days instead of having a year to do it or whatever.
41 So we understand that.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What I'm
44 understanding here is is put your study design like we
45 were talking about, what your concerns are from your
46 community, right, without any other (in Native), you
47 know, without any other weight behind it other than the
48 concerns raised by the community. And then put that
49 study design in and then when you get funded and
50

1 conduct and carry out that study, the literature that
2 is born out of all that studying can be used for
3 anything. It could be used for confirming a trend or
4 it could be used to corroborate another statement that
5 needed to be verified or it could be used to conflict
6 and say, hey, that study was compromised somewhere
7 because this study carried out the same concern and the
8 same type of study design to answer a certain question
9 and came out with a different answer. And then now
10 you're able to challenge something in my view.

11
12 So I wouldn't be so frustrated that
13 there's no path forward other than I would say we have
14 work to do, we can get money and rank on a study if we
15 look at the guidelines and use local people to even do
16 the studies, you know. And then get some use of the
17 local science that you're comfortable with, maybe
18 Steven Brown and Associates or something like that,
19 that might help make the literature palatable in a way,
20 in a format that is acceptable for publishing or
21 something to that -- that's the mechanism that I think
22 makes it more advantageous for getting the grants or
23 the funding. That's what I'm understanding and it's
24 almost like turning on the light bulb a little bit for
25 me too.

26
27 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

30
31 MS. ITTA: I just wanted -- I'm just
32 trying to, you know, between the getting input from the
33 community and the studies and going to the decision
34 makers in DC on the Department of Interior approving
35 these projects. And, you know, and what they're
36 receiving from these studies or from within the EIS.
37 Like for GMT-1 the EIS stated that there was no
38 significant impact, there's no impacts. Same with GMT-
39 2. Now they're saying we're not impacted, we're not
40 significantly impacted or there's no impacts which is a
41 false statement. So I'm trying to figure out between
42 these studies here, the organization, companies,
43 getting this information, bringing it to Washington,
44 D.C. and then saying that we have no impacts which is
45 false information. Where in that process is something
46 going wrong.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Martha.
49 Unfortunately I think we're kind of like apples and
50

1 oranges, we're subsistence, we're very highly
2 subsistence here and the type of things you're talking
3 about, probably the mitigation measures that often go
4 with revealing a large project and many of the new
5 roads from GMT-1, CD-5 onto Alpine and those have
6 created new kind of mitigation measures that you don't
7 see in proper Prudhoe Bay where you can use the
8 existing new infrastructure for advanced access to
9 subsistence priority lands. That means they'll be used
10 for oil development on top of being used for
11 subsistence, conventional automobiles and stuff going
12 through these industrial roads for subsistence.

13

14 So I think they're apples and oranges,
15 but you can still I think make a study design and
16 capture some information in a study. And but it is a
17 long process I think to try to get this -- I mean, you
18 have a two year cycle is what I understand. And your
19 proposal period is coming up next year.

20

21 MS. HYER: Yes.

22

23 MS. PATTON: And Mr. Chair and Council,
24 if I may. So after we have -- conclude the FRMP
25 discussion here we do have agency reports which we do
26 want to ensure that we get to today. There will be a
27 comprehensive overview from BLM and we do have their
28 staff online and a handout for the Council. So
29 there'll be some discussion and overview directly from
30 BLM and might be able to address some of the questions
31 at that time from -- directly from.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, and I think
34 that was part of the agenda as we go through that will
35 go to there.

36

37 So do we have any other questions for
38 Karen?

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I know we've had
43 extensive time with you and I think it's always
44 wonderful to do that. So, you know, we always have
45 concerns about fish and.....

46

47 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER:monitoring

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1 requirements.

2

3

Mr. Hopson from Utqiagvik.

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MR. HOPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'll comment. And I know it's very important that the fish that we need to study and it's become to a level where what I see what has happened and what I see in the very near future. This water contamination, the fish mold and everything, climate change included, just the water alone itself study -- maybe should be stepped up another knock. And the way I see it Nuiqsut, our people over there in the oilfields, Nuiqsut is going to be the next Flint, Michigan and it's right in our own back yard. I just wanted to bring that out.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), William. Any other questions for Karen before we move on?

MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve, Tikigaq.

MR. OOMITTUK: You know, I think in future proposals, you know, utilizing, inserting the -- you know, using local knowledge, local expertise, local people, to help with in these studies, you know. You know, we're very low income communities and are outlying village. There's a lot of knowledgeable people with expertise on, you know, what's in the lakes, what's in the rivers, you know, utilizing local knowledge and local people within these proposals, if you do the proposals that the money comes to the community also, you know. Local hire.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Steve. And I think that's an important part of if we try to get the tribes to do the proposals to some of these things. I think it's an important aspect and should be education all the way around the -- all the tribes on the North Slope that can put in studies for these things.

Anyway any other questions for Karen before we move on?

MR. OOMITTUK: There's Jack.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we have Native
2 Village of Point Hope.

3
4 MR. SCHAEFER: We expressed, you know,
5 our concerns about environment and impacts for a long
6 time. And we had -- once in a while the North Slope
7 Borough would get our leadership and we'd all go up to
8 Barrow. And there was a time that we had a director of
9 the North Slope Borough Grant Writing Department, Steve
10 Sameda. And so he coordinated that and had a bunch of
11 agencies go up there. There was myself, Sam Nash and
12 George Kenuk. That was a few years back. And they're
13 real proud about writing grants. And that's the
14 tribe's weakness that we have. And we try to get grant
15 writers and they charge us money and we don't -- we
16 can't afford to pay.

17
18 Anyway that was offered at that time
19 and it would be nice if that could be revived in a way
20 that we could actually see results because we had a
21 difficult time with that while he was there. And but
22 the Department of Agriculture did indicate that there
23 are villages that are eligible for grants that the
24 North Slope Borough is not. And so, you know, I do
25 hope that there's some influences made to the North
26 Slope Borough to look at that program and find out a
27 way to improve that in order to answer a lot of the
28 questions that are going on in dealing with Umiat and
29 subsistence area funding because even though I go
30 college for five years I still can't write very good.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Jack.
33 Any other questions for Karen?

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none we're
38 going to move on to the next and go to the ADF&G. So
39 we'll ask ADF&G for -- I think it's the Board of Game
40 stuff.

41
42 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You know what.....

45
46 MS. PATTON: That would come at the end
47 of the agency reports.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, yeah.

50

1 MS. PATTON: So we have a whole host of
2 -- we do have ADF&G, we have Beth Lenart who's been
3 online with us to provide updates for the Central
4 Arctic and Porcupine caribou herd.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're going to item
7 C, identify issues FY19.

8
9 MS. PATTON: Yes, we'll very quickly
10 cover that and then we'll go down agency reports
11 under.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good.

14
15 MS. PATTON:item 12 there. And
16 then we do have BLM online as well, Debbie Nigra had
17 joined us from BLM and we have a comprehensive update
18 from BLM as well I know the Council is wanting to get
19 to.

20
21 So very quickly, as we just discussed
22 with Martha and the Council earlier in the meeting, the
23 Council has a direct voice and avenue to the Federal
24 Subsistence Board and all of your recommendations at
25 the meeting here go to the Board, but we also draft a
26 report on your behalf for the issues and concerns that
27 you would like to bring to the Board's attention.
28 Throughout the meeting I keep track of those requests,
29 the concerns, your observations that you would like to
30 highlight, information needs, research needs. And so
31 we've discussed some specific things here. Other
32 topics may come up in your discussion with the agency
33 reports. And I will compile that draft of the
34 Council's interest and concerns and get that back to
35 you after the meeting.

36
37 And that at our winter meeting we
38 review that draft, there's an opportunity for the
39 Council if you want to add and refine, you know, add
40 subject matter to that annual report to the Board and
41 refine it at the next meeting.

42
43 So there is information in your book on
44 the process on 167 and then there's also a reply from
45 the Board from your previous year's annual report.

46
47 So at this meeting I've been keeping
48 notes of interests of the -- of concern, issues that
49 you would like to have addressed at your next meeting.

50

1 And I'll get that back to the Council as a draft. And
2 it's a working draft and then we can add to it at the
3 next meeting as well.

4
5 And then under agency reports there's
6 often a lot of good discussion there too and so I'll
7 keep track of these issues and concerns that come from
8 the Council. And if there's anything specific that you
9 want to add as well then just keep me posted here at
10 the meeting.

11
12 But we do want to get to agency
13 reports. It's about 4:00 o'clock and we do have a
14 number of people that have been online through the
15 meeting, listening to the Council's concerns. We have
16 a comprehensive update from BLM we want to make sure we
17 get to, the Central Arctic caribou herd and Porcupine
18 herd, Beth Lenart is online for that. We do have Steve
19 Berendzen here from Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and
20 Vince Mathews. And then Marcy Okada is also online
21 with Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.
22 So.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And where are we on
25 the agenda there, Eva.....

26
27 MS. PATTON: So unless there's.....

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER:are you done?

30
31 MS. PATTON:unless there's any
32 question on the annual report we can move on to the
33 agency reports.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sounds good. Time
36 limit 15 minutes unless approved in advance. So sounds
37 like people have to talk real fast.

38
39 Okay. We'll go to item 12, agency
40 reports, tribal governments, Native Village of Point
41 Hope. You have an opportunity to provide an agency
42 report to the Council.

43
44 So Native Village of Point Hope.

45
46 MR. SCHAEFER: Thank you for allowing
47 me to say something.

48
49 We have gone through several, you know,

50

1 what we refer to as Wildlife officers or our Wildlife
2 Department over time. And I never thought I'd wind up
3 in that slot. I was always excited that somebody would
4 pursue it as a career. We've been severely underfunded
5 within that area, but have been very lucky to have a
6 department that's funded by the BIA, that's Wildlife
7 Department.

8
9 There used to be a publication that was
10 published by the National Science Foundation called the
11 Arctic Research and it used to be published twice a
12 year. The first part of the year would indicate what
13 agency was working on what and what their intentions
14 were. The second report was their results, whether it
15 be one year or two year program. And that used to be
16 published every year and it used to land on our village
17 corporation desks all the time. And we were really
18 proud of it because we knew all of the agencies and
19 what they were doing on the Arctic Research. Then they
20 made some changes in the Arctic policy and it goes
21 through cycles. And they quit doing these publications
22 in the year 2000. And that's really unfortunate, now
23 they only do their reports of what they want to do.
24 But that allowed us to monitor to see what the U.S.
25 Fish and Wildlife Service was doing, what the agency
26 for disease registry and contaminant registry, that
27 agency, what they do in the Arctic which is something
28 that you're looking at.

29
30 We really would like to see that
31 revived again because it's a actual document and it's
32 there. Electronics is something that's kind of
33 complicated and can always change, you know. And after
34 what Trump has done with all his fake news stuff, you
35 know, it kind of makes us have a problem with trust.

36
37 Anyway that Arctic research policy is
38 something that we need to keep going. And it has been
39 dead for a long time and we lost the ability to follow
40 what was happening with out Health Department and all
41 of that. And so I do hope that that is revived again
42 because that's something that allows us to do, you
43 know, our planning.

44
45 We have two Refuges that are located
46 around our area. They're Alaska Maritime Wildlife
47 Refuges, Cape Lisburne and Cape Thomson. There's
48 ability to contract and manage those Refuges and there
49 are tribes that are doing that and we're looking at

50

1 that. I don't know where we are with that and where
2 things are on a statewide level other than two tribes
3 are doing it as we speak. And there may be more.

4
5 We really, really, really would like to
6 have, you know, interagency and partnership
7 arrangements in resolving conflicts. An example. Earl
8 Kenuk was our Wildlife officer back in the mid 2000s.
9 And they gave him a little funding to do something so
10 he grabbed a bunch of high school students, took them
11 and brought them up to -- up inland with Hondas and
12 they go and they -- caribou were close and he's go and
13 shoot with pistol. And they'd cut them up real fast
14 and they'd go home real quick. And then he'd come to
15 me the next day, I sure feel real funny, I made it look
16 easy, he'd say that to me because they were kids. And
17 just like that, you know, real fast.

18
19 And so there are things that we can do.
20 We are fortunate here in Point Hope to not be too
21 engulfed with stuff, but there are arrangements. You
22 can have a youth program established with cooperation
23 with agencies, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have
24 kids go out and catch caribou without the rifle, you
25 know, with (in Native) in order -- as a mitigation type
26 thing if you're having problems with your subsistence,
27 gathering or too much friction or regulation.

28
29 So that was one thing that came up
30 during ICAS when Department of Interior came up and met
31 with ICAS. We brought that up indicating that
32 arrangements like that need to be made in order to
33 continue to survive and to avoid hunger. We don't have
34 a youth program, but we sure would like that, they sure
35 were real proud. I mentioned it last year to these
36 ones that were working helping the seniors through the
37 North Slope Borough employment program. I don't know
38 the name of it. Anyway I tell them that story and two
39 of them look at me, I remember that day and they were
40 adults with kids already. How does time go by so fast.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So, Jack, I think the
43 employment program you're referring to is EPT.....

44
45 MR. SCHAEFER: Uh-huh.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER:which is not a
48 Borough entity, is using EPT to train residents to be
49 operators in service area 10. Even tribes can work to

50

1 get EPT funding from the Human Resources Department in
2 the Borough to have students or others work under EPT
3 for tribes too. So remember that.

4
5 MR. SCHAEFER: And maybe we will do
6 that if we don't -- can't find any other way of doing
7 it.

8
9 But anyway that was a really good
10 experience and they were real proud of it, those kids.
11 And then they reflected it (in Native) because I didn't
12 remember who they were until they said, yeah, I
13 remember that.

14
15 I did mention that in 2003 that the BLM
16 had a Resource Management Plan section 810 hearing.
17 And what we were told, you know, versus what we talked
18 about earlier today was that they were doing a rezoning
19 thing. Years later I asked for the transcripts and I
20 finally got it from somebody from Fairbanks, someone
21 that is very close to (in Native), a BLM employee. And
22 she said that it was a section 810 hearing. I was
23 asking for the Northwest Resource Management Plan
24 hearing, that's was what -- what I was told that it was
25 by those BLM people. And she said, no, it was a
26 section 810 hearing. And she sent me those
27 transcripts.

28
29 And we were concerned about the
30 conflict between the area that was owned by village
31 corporation and Federal recreation classified area
32 where they were getting the caribou, running up towards
33 us and interfering with that. And those three people
34 from Kotzebue that were testifying about the impact
35 that it had on them in Kotzebue. And, you know, we
36 were kind of wondering why they had this hearing all of
37 a sudden here in Point Hope. And then they told their
38 story, you know, and we were saying that we needed to
39 establish our own program because that reduces the
40 amount of friction by having complete control.

41
42 And so, you know, it was explained the
43 section 810 had to deal with early phases of
44 environmental impact statements and to reflect and
45 address and reflect any type of subsistence impacts. I
46 heard elsewhere a phrase added on to it, if there are
47 any future impacts you can call for a section 810
48 hearing. And that is not what I heard today. I don't
49 know if that's true. I for one am forced to trust and
50

1 I've been having this trust thing all my life. And I
2 always have that and it sure backfire on me a lot, but
3 I still have it.

4
5 So that always stayed in my mind
6 because Red Dog has 20 more years as was stated
7 earlier. They're getting ready to put a pipe and run
8 it right into the ocean to -- before that dam ruptured
9 and all of that black stuff washes out into the ocean.

10
11
12 We haven't done the 810, but it's
13 there. We may be forced into it, we don't know yet.
14 They're still proposing to do a pipeline. We thought
15 that there would be some impacts, we wanted to do
16 something about it. Sierra Club was waving your arm
17 saying we'll represent you in court and they lost. And
18 so we were frustrated with that.

19
20 We went to, you know, the Chariot thing
21 and that's how we found out about the agency of Toxic
22 Substances and Disease Registry which would give you a
23 report as to the contaminants of any area. They are
24 very, very controversial just like the Government
25 Accountability Office, the GAO reports. But those
26 reports are good because you can use them when you
27 trigger either one of them. And we've done that and we
28 had a real tough time with the agency of Toxic
29 Substances in regards to Chariot because they gave us
30 the wrong information, saying that, you know, the only
31 time that you'll get sick is if you eat the dirt over
32 there which was an extreme statement.

33
34 Anyway we had to use a private entity
35 to come up with samples to be matched with the Federal
36 government. They were upset with it, but we followed
37 the protocol. They call it protocol. If you follow
38 the protocol you can't question it. And all of that
39 science stuff is supposed to follow a protocol. And
40 the problems that we have with contaminants on an
41 international level is that there is no protocol in
42 regards to the metric and the system that we use today
43 in the United States, you know, the metric system. And
44 we have two different measuring systems and they
45 haven't agreed as to the contaminant, which one we're
46 going to use so we still have that problem.

47
48 We've had a reindeer grazing lease, we
49 may want to revive it again. It involves a large area
50

1 and we might, you know, use it for other programs
2 whether it be, you know, for, how you say, dealing with
3 crimes instead of sending them to prison.
4

5 I did talk about our polar bear issue
6 and what we went through. It was difficult for us to
7 express a point that polar bear are not endangered, but
8 they use this old data and then use these clusters of
9 areas and combined them together to justify what
10 they're doing now in regards to forcing us into a
11 quota. I don't know how we're going to resolve that,
12 but we did go on record.
13

14 And that's one good thing about being
15 able to do that and I learned that from Etuk. He
16 always push stuff, even if it's a different hearing.
17 Just so we could have it on record so that when someone
18 does their research they could find it and he's done
19 that many times.
20

21 We haven't been able to look at all the
22 studies that were done, but there was a lot that was
23 done in regards to pre ANSCA and during ANSCA and
24 dealing with the chemical studies that have been done,
25 how much arsenic is in Kukpuk River for example to
26 determine the amount of mineral possibilities per se.
27 And that was done in 1975. So there is some stuff
28 that's -- and you can use them as baseline sometimes.
29 But it is if you follow the protocol.
30

31 Bycatch. You know, I had mentioned
32 that we were concerned about our subsistence and the
33 interference with subsistence. I mentioned that I
34 married a Yup'ik. I have three grandkids that are in
35 Yup'ik country. They can't have king salmon. They
36 want to trade muktuk for king salmon, but the other
37 families won't share it because they're limited big
38 time. When I was first marrying my wife in 1980 we did
39 not have this quota on king salmon and we were okay per
40 se other than getting tired of eating fish every day.
41 We were able to survive. Now it's really hard both for
42 Kuskokwim and the Yukon River. And the State of Alaska
43 had indicated what they would do with their bycatch as
44 a way to address, you know, self sustainability for a
45 state which is required. You know, you got to sustain
46 yourself if you're going to become a state. And so
47 they had to justify this stuff by saying what they say
48 and bycatch was one of them.
49
50

1 And I do hope that they do make some
2 changes in regards to that. I don't know what they do
3 with their bycatch, but other than what was stated
4 earlier that was interesting to hear. And a way to
5 save money in keeping that fish or establishing a
6 facility in each of our region to receive those and
7 process them to save money. It might be something that
8 we might want to do as a group.
9

10 I did ask at one time when I was
11 something like eight years old, my grandma caught me
12 with a seal skin face, dry. And I was throwing it like
13 frisbee to my brother. She got real mad at me and
14 holler at me and grab -- that's mine. I wondered what
15 she was doing with that. And later on I found out that
16 she was selling them for 25 cents each and that paid
17 for her Gold Star chewing tobacco.
18

19 And so I asked U.S. Fish and Wildlife
20 Service what was that in regards to the connection with
21 the seismic work that was going on offshore and the
22 issues that were going on with the walruses going this
23 way and that way from those different -- three
24 different projects that were taking place. And I asked
25 them about that seal, what was that about. U.S. Fish
26 and Wildlife Service gave me as government official,
27 John Trent. John Trent was the caribou man that worked
28 forever as a caribou man. I don't know if he's still
29 alive, but he was there for a long time and even
30 introduced and showed off the radio collar migration.
31 John Trent. And he said that that was done because the
32 commercial fishermen were complaining that the seals
33 were tangling up the nets and licking the nets. And so
34 they put a bounty on the seal and that was the
35 explanation. I never saw anything in written, I didn't
36 go that far in regard -- I don't know where to look,
37 but I'll probably find out.
38

39 Anyway species recovery is something
40 that we really desire because we had a lot of pride in
41 regards to what we used to do. As I mentioned before,
42 you know, one time there were 10 boats of fish, I mean,
43 caribou that were brought from Kukpuk and given to the
44 village in 1960. And this was a letter that was
45 written to the Federal government that was put in a
46 congressional report. And that they did the analysis
47 of those animals before they arrived. So they had the
48 wrong time of doing the analysis which had a different
49 level of contamination. And that was what that letter
50

1 was about.
2

3 But I just wanted to say that in the
4 past there were arrangements that were made to help our
5 community in our own way. And in the 1990s it was a
6 big problem in the Yup'ik country where they had to
7 fight for getting 50 caribou for their village and
8 fighting the State and them using the ultimate -- what
9 they call the ultimate sustain yield argument deny the
10 50 caribou for their village. And I just thought I'd
11 mention that because there's people that talk about
12 statistics and what maintains our life and how far it
13 goes and what we could go -- how far we go in order to
14 live comfortably in dealing with species recovery
15 because a lot of that is really difficult. And we need
16 to really try to do something about it and was able to
17 have something documented to reflect that difficulty in
18 regards to some of those species that they were
19 struggling with by 2020. I don't know if anybody's --
20 if you guys seen that book that was published a few
21 years ago in the Arctic by 2020.
22

23 By hearing that there's a 40 percent
24 bycatch of salmon that deals with Kuskokwim, I always
25 -- you know, that's what bothered me and why I brought
26 it up earlier about bycatch and worried about whether
27 it's going to affect us.
28

29 We know that there's exercises that are
30 going on and the Russians and the Americans are really
31 building themselves up. The military did their report
32 during AFN. One of them had to deal with contaminants.
33 And what was interesting was that none of the areas
34 around Point Hope area and Kivalina area were marked.
35 So there was no communication that we had with the
36 Department of Defense on the clean ups that are taking
37 place. There was a time where clean ups were stopped
38 and done in-house for a while, they quit contracting
39 them out. That's what we were told and so we weren't
40 able to do anything.
41

42 I guess there's something going on with
43 Unimat and is that a DEW line site or something.
44 Anyway I guess they're reviving that again and we have
45 some areas that we have concerns about regarding that.
46

47 When we did this polar bear thing and
48 trying to address and protect our subsistence rights,
49 just our of curiosity we asked -- you know, they talked
50

1 about who the parties were, who plays a role in regards
2 to the polar bear. And I blurted out what's a
3 501(c)(4). How many 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization
4 are in the Arctic slope. And there's this young
5 attorney, Hensley, I think that's her name, said
6 there's one. It's called Voice of the Arctic. That
7 501(c)(4) organization can spend funds for mitigation
8 and use it as a business expense. And so looking at
9 that instrument and trying to utilize all the tools
10 that we have, we may be able to wiggle away some things
11 that can work for us, whether it be the amount of money
12 that we need for actually sampling and then meeting
13 those protocols, hiring a college student to look at
14 all the other reports that have been generated by
15 industry and whether they follow the protocols or not
16 for the purposes of determining the trends that go up
17 or down.

18
19 And anyway as a tribe Native Village of
20 Point Hope is so excited about being able to do stuff.
21 And I really, really do hope that I can be able to get
22 somebody that excited to take over and follow these
23 steps and then be able to brag about it with all of us
24 together and work things out because it looks like
25 we've been going in circles and not really getting
26 anywhere per se sometimes. But we don't give up. I've
27 been doing this since 1983. And I still try and
28 understand, you know, what roles are played in dealing
29 with, you know, the functions that we are surrounded
30 with and how we are able to protect our interests. And
31 at the same time move forward and still be able to have
32 that Halloween candy and Christmas presents from
33 another source.

34
35 Boy, you know, it's good to enjoy life
36 and it's even better to fix. We go through a lot of
37 struggles that really impacts us healthwise. And I do
38 look forward to a better way. And it's unfortunate
39 that sometimes we don't get along with each other
40 because of political reasons and things that are going
41 on. And protocols and stuff like that are something
42 that we can work out. And honesty is something that's
43 really valuable. Like I said, you know, there's people
44 that are fighting in order to keep the price of oil up
45 and are looking for some other commodity to make money
46 off of. And so we're trying to deal with that.

47
48 I don't want to be able to lose that
49 program as a tribe. There are other tribes that can
50

1 make use of it and make a career out of it. I always
2 joke Federal employees, only you could prevent forest
3 fires. We got no trees up here.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 MR. SCHAEFER: Anyway, you know, we
8 have contracting, we have compacting which is a
9 government to government relationship that started out
10 as a government -- governmental demonstration project
11 where you perform all the functions that every other
12 agency does. And that's what tribes are able to do and
13 that's what compacting is. And we do hope that we can
14 be able to get to that point so that we can have more
15 flexibility as long as you have your numbers correct
16 because it's hard to get your numbers right. We had a
17 real hard time trying to ensure that we were getting
18 the right level of healthcare funds and their compact
19 arrangement is done every five years. You got to have
20 your numbers right, if you don't you're going to be
21 stuck if you use -- if you run out of money before that
22 five year period. And we were going through that in
23 the mid 1990s. Even though we really didn't have an
24 existence as an Arctic people. We went there as ICAS
25 and we were the only ones that were there that didn't
26 really have a presence of representing the Arctic
27 slope. All the other, Kodiak area, you know, all of
28 those regions were there. And my purpose there was to
29 deal with cancer and the caribou connection at that
30 time.

31

32 And so there are solutions, it's just a
33 matter of having a good sit down and sort out what all
34 we have and get those geniuses together to, you know,
35 how to do some stuff. And I'm still learning. I would
36 like to be able to do stuff, but politics is an ugly
37 animal. And I fought for the ocean and I got
38 persecuted for it. And it's unfortunate, we might have
39 lost some things as we went on. And I wish I had told
40 those kids not to give up, education is so important
41 because we're relying on educated people and a lot of
42 it's not there. I try to get my grandkids to go to
43 school and they go for a little while and think they
44 don't have to. And here we are 20, 30, 40 years later,
45 you know, and we had those dreams and responsibilities
46 that we wanted and expected back then. And here we are
47 now. Again we don't give up. And so I have seven
48 grandkids, two of them are here, one's in Anchorage and
49 three of them are with their mom and one of them is

50

1 just about ready to dunk a ball and he's eighth grade.
2 But I can't really -- I try to encourage them. We do
3 need help for encouraging.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Jack,
8 for providing Native Village of Point Hope's agency
9 report. And it's all recorded and will probably be in
10 our minutes as well.

11
12 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: With that we'll go
15 down the lists, Native organizations. Is see we have
16 Inuit Circumpolar Council, but as a.....

17
18 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER:informational
21 handout.....

22
23 MS. PATTON: Yeah. Mr. Chair and.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER:is what it is.

26
27 MS. PATTON: Yeah. Mr. Chair and
28 Council, they were not able to present at the meeting
29 so I do have some handouts to send home with the
30 Council. But they won't be on for this meeting.

31
32 We do have then Alaska Department of
33 Fish and Game. I'm wondering if Beth Lenart is still
34 online with us, she's been on throughout the meeting
35 here and we have a handout from her.

36
37 Beth, are you online still?

38
39 MS. LENART: Hi, Eva. I'm still
40 online.

41
42 MS. PATTON: Wonderful. Thank you so
43 much, Beth. She's been with us throughout the meeting
44 here on teleconference.

45
46 I have your handout here for the
47 Council members and the floor is yours.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Who's got the floor,
50

1 me or Beth?

2

3 MS. PATTON: Go ahead, we can
4 accomplish that.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I know. It
7 seems we do a tag team thing with our Madame
8 Coordinator. But that's fine because.....

9

10 MS. LENART: I couldn't hear you at the
11 end. Did you want me to go through the handout or.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead. I
14 wasn't -- you know, sometimes Eva talks so fast and
15 then -- and then I lose track of where I'm at.

16

17 MS. PATTON: Can you hear now, Beth.
18 So everyone has the handouts here, you're welcome to
19 proceed.

20

21 The floor is yours now.

22

23 MS. LENART: Okay. So for the record
24 my name is Beth Lenart. I'm a wildlife biologist with
25 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and I work on
26 the Central Arctic and Porcupine caribou herds.

27

28 So for the Central Arctic caribou herd
29 update. Right now the 2017 population estimate was
30 28,000 caribou. The population objective is 28,000 to
31 32,000 caribou. We conducted a photo census this
32 summer in 2019, but the caribou weren't grouped very
33 tightly. We're still counting photos and trying to
34 determine the quality of the photo census.

35

36 The pregnancy rates in 2019 were high.
37 Lots of calves, calves were observed in the photo
38 census photos. And we also conducted a fall October
39 composition or rut survey and we saw lots of calves in
40 that survey also. So summer calf survival looks good.

41

42 And then the preliminary data indicates
43 that the bull/cow ratios from that October rut survey
44 were also good at 50 bulls per 100 cows.

45

46 Mortality rates were not high during
47 July, 2017 through June, 2018, but they were high from
48 2018 to June, 2019. And so -- and then now we're going
49 into the next year. But given all of that data we

50

1 think that the population is stable.

2

3 So that's the information on the
4 population side. I was going to talk a little bit
5 about harvest if folks didn't have any question about
6 the population.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for
9 Beth on the population size on the Central Arctic herd?
10 This herd is primarily -- we always kind of refer it as
11 the Haul Road herd. It comes down and travels pretty
12 much annually right down the Haul Road and then splits
13 in two between Badami and the KRU and splits in two for
14 its core calving areas. And if I'm wrong you can
15 correct me with that too.

16

17 But any questions on the population
18 size? And if not we'll go ahead and go into the
19 harvest.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MS. LENART: Okay. For the harvest,
24 the allowable harvest or the harvestable surplus is 840
25 caribou which no more than 75 can be cows. In 2017 and
26 2018 we estimated approximately 100 caribou are
27 harvested by residents of Nuiqsut and the cow season is
28 open in that northwest portion of unit 26B to
29 accommodate the needs of Nuiqsut residents.

30

31 And then in -- so in 2017 is when the
32 regulations were restricted for other hunters. So in
33 2017 we had a total of 617 hunters reported harvesting
34 230 caribou. So that includes Alaska residents and
35 nonresident hunters, but excludes the residents of
36 Nuiqsut. And in 2018 about 500 hunters reported
37 harvesting 215 caribou. And again that would be Alaska
38 residents and nonresidents combined, excluding the
39 residents of Nuiqsut.

40

41 So right now we are harvesting well
42 below harvestable surplus. There just aren't as many
43 hunters up there as there has been in the past and I
44 think they're hunting in other places. I think a lot
45 of those folks are actually hunting like the Fortymile
46 caribou.

47

48 So that was what I had for the Central
49 Arctic herd and I can give you a brief update on the

50

1 Porcupine caribou herd.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions on the
4 harvest.....

5

6 MS. LENART: For the Por.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER:of the Central
9 Arctic herd?

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I do have a
14 question. When do you expect the census to be complete
15 for the 2019 photo census?

16

17 MS. LENART: Okay. Yes. So I'm hoping
18 in the next month or so. I -- I'm pretty close to
19 getting the photos counted and it looks very similar to
20 or very close to around 28,000 caribou. But I want to
21 lay everything out and make sure because the groups
22 weren't as tight as we -- well, at least for the
23 Central Arctic, they usually have really tight groups
24 and I want to make sure I'm not doing any double
25 counting the caribou. It doesn't seem like it right
26 now. And so I think I'll have that number out in the
27 next month.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. An additional
30 con.....

31

32 MS. LENART: And this.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER:additional
35 question.

36

37 MS. LENART: So before I go on to the
38 Porcupine I did want to let the Council know there are
39 a couple Board of Game proposals regarding the Central
40 Arctic caribou. And I think Carmen may be going over
41 some of them because they cover unit 26A, B and C,
42 where there are requests for increase for resident
43 hunters' bag limits in 26B and also nonresident hunter
44 bag limit in 26B.

45

46 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We've got a question.
49 Go ahead, Steve Oomittuk from Tikigaq.

50

1 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. You know on --
2 you know, in 2017 a total of 617 hunters and harvested
3 was 231. 2018, 490 hunters and 215 were harvested.
4 And it says, you know, this excludes the residents of
5 Nuiqsut. And you -- you know, so half the hunters went
6 homeempty-handed, is that what we see or is that the --
7 there -- it says it -- it includes residents and
8 nonresidential hunters, excludes residents of Nuiqsut.
9 This is the Central Arctic caribou herd update.

10
11 MS. LENART: Through the Chair. Sir,
12 that's correct. So those -- that data comes from the
13 harvest ticket reports. And then the Nuiqsut harvest
14 is an estimated harvest based on other surveys. But
15 for those resident hunters, like I'm -- so I'm talking
16 about people from Fairbanks or Anchorage or Wasilla and
17 then nonresident hunters that might come from the Lower
18 48. That's correct, all of their harvest was around
19 200 caribou. So their success rates were like 40
20 percent. So that's correct, a lot of folks went home
21 empty-handed. And some of that had to do with just
22 where the caribou were, they weren't accessible when
23 they were up there hunting.

24
25 MR. OOMITTUK: So when you say
26 residents and nonresident, you're talking about
27 residents in Alaska, not on the North Slope, just and
28 sport hunters; is that who.....

29
30 MS. LENART: Correct.

31
32 MR. OOMITTUK:nonresident
33 hunters?

34
35 MS. LENART: Correct. It's not the
36 residents of North Slope, it's other Alaska residents
37 like -- that's correct.

38
39 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. One additional
42 question I had was what ratio or how many radio
43 collared caribou are monitored through the range?

44
45 MS. LENART: About 100. And that
46 includes adult females, adults bulls and then we try to
47 put out collars on some yearlings. And so it's around
48 100 collars.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And the only reason I
2 ask about that portion and probably will be extended to
3 any other caribou herds that come up on the North Slope
4 is I think there needs to be I think an annual --
5 annual presentation on the migration using the
6 animation that showed. There's been a fair bit of
7 turnover in these Councils and the more we talk about
8 what herds go where and there's some perceptions that,
9 you know, one herd is gracing many different
10 communities when in fact it might be a different herd.
11 So it's important to look at these -- because there's a
12 slew of data that helps to identify what villages are
13 hunting from what herds. And I think if we do that
14 annually I think it's an important thing to bring to
15 the understanding of some of the wildlife issues up
16 here on the Slope.

17
18 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

19
20 MS. LENART: Mr. Chair, I heard that
21 yesterday that you had -- you talked about that and
22 Carmen and I have talked about it. And so we will be
23 prepared to have that available at the next -- at the
24 next meeting. And we're in a position now -- for
25 several years the Central Arctic caribou herd didn't
26 have very many or any satellite collars, but now we do.
27 And so we can make those animations, we can present
28 those to you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Martha
31 from Nuiqsut.

32
33 MS. ITTA: Yes. My question is do they
34 know where these caribou are getting caught at, is
35 there a report to say where they're being caught,
36 right, within -- because I'm curious on where they're
37 actually getting caught, is it like right in the middle
38 of, you know, their migrating. I'm trying to kind of
39 get an idea of where these caribou were -- you know,
40 where they're getting caught and why AKP is not getting
41 their caribou. Is it because, you know, where they're
42 getting caught and, you know, is their migration being
43 deferred.

44
45 MS. LENART: Through the Chair. That's
46 a good question. So most of these caribou in the last
47 couple years that we're talk -- that I'm talking about
48 right now, they're harvested close to the Dalton
49 Highway. And in the last couple of years the
50

1 distribution of that herd, most of that herd or a large
2 proportion of that herd has been west of the highway
3 between like the Haul Road and Nuiqsut. And they've
4 been seen pretty far north even in the fall. And at
5 least a good proportion of them have. And then some
6 have gone further south.

7
8 Traditionally or I say traditionally,
9 in the last 10 years that caribou herd frequently did
10 not go to Anaktuvuk Pass, but in the last couple of
11 years portions of them have at least been towards
12 Anaktuvuk Pass. Generally it's the Western Arctic herd
13 and the Teshekpuk herd that are usually accessible.
14 But so we'll see what happens this year, right now
15 they're still mostly in -- you know, mostly east of
16 Anaktuvuk Pass. But they're still moving right now.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Does that help,
19 Martha?

20
21 MS. ITTA: Yes.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Beth. Go
24 on, Beth.

25
26 MS. LENART: Okay. Would you like me
27 to give you a brief update on the Porcupine herds?

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We sure would. We
30 like to hear about them.

31
32 MS. PATTON: Go ahead, Beth. Sorry,
33 it's hard to hear I think on your end from our.....

34
35 MS. LENART: Okay.

36
37 MS. PATTON:side here. Go ahead.

38
39 MS. LENART: Okay. The 2017 population
40 estimate is 218,000 caribou. The population objective
41 for the Porcupine is 135,000 caribou so we're above
42 that. We think the population is stable and possibly
43 slowly increasing. We did not get a photo census this
44 year. By the time -- photo census time is usually like
45 the end of June, the first couple weeks of July and at
46 that time most of those caribou were already back in
47 Canada.

48
49 The pregnancy rates were at or above
50

1 average and early calf survival also looked at -- was
2 also at or above average. So we think it's -- the
3 population is likely stable.
4

5 And the harvest is very low on the
6 Porcupine caribou herd in Alaska. They're just not --
7 when they are in Alaska they're not accessible to a lot
8 of hunters. And then they haven't been wintering along
9 the Dempster Highway, that's where the -- that's where
10 a lot of harvest occurs. But because they often
11 wintered in the Alaska the last couple years the
12 harvest has been low.
13

14 And that's all I had on those two
15 herds.
16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Beth. Any
18 questions on the Porcupine herd?
19

20 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.
21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve.
23

24 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, Steve for the
25 record. Just out of curiosity what was the population
26 in 2015 and 2016 of the Porcupine caribou herd. When
27 you say stable, you know, 2017, 218,000 caribou then a
28 year later they drop by half, 2000 -- but what was the
29 numbers in 2015 and 2016, I just -- do you have those
30 numbers?
31

32 MS. LENART: Through the Chair. Are
33 you asking about the Central Arctic or the Porcupine
34 herd?
35

36 MR. OOMITTUK: The Porcupine.
37

38 MS. LENART: Yes, sir. We did not have
39 a count in 2015 or '16. The count before the 2017 if I
40 remember correctly was in 2013 and at that point they
41 were at 197,000. So they've been increasing.
42

43 MR. OOMITTUK: What was the population
44 for 2016, I didn't hear that?
45

46 MS. LENART: In 2 -- yeah. So the last
47 photo count before the 2017 was in 2013. And I think
48 that was a -- let me look real quick, I think that was
49 197,000.
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Steve, they
2 didn't count on 2016 and the last population count
3 estimate was in 2017, 218. So the 2013 one is 198,000
4 is what I'm -- seems like there's an increase, but they
5 want to -- the objective is to maintain a minimum of
6 135,000. So they're well above objectives I think.

7

8 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It just seems like
11 they don't count every single year. And the period of
12 times they try to count sometimes they're having
13 difficulty, maybe it's clouds or something. And then
14 to my understanding they're trying to do a new way with
15 some sort of digital signature which is -- they're
16 trying to figure that out too.

17

18 Beth, was that -- is that the amount of
19 presentation you're about to give in this area?

20

21 MS. LENART: Mr. Chair, that's correct.
22 I'll still be on the line if there's other questions.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. So I know
25 we had -- I added some asterisks that we amended the
26 agenda item for some Board of Game proposals we're
27 monitoring. And then a State systems, just a walk
28 through about the levels of concerns from conservative
29 to liberal management to tier levels and try to
30 understand some of those things that the State has in
31 their bag of tools to manage herds or emergency actions
32 or anything like that.

33

34 So with that I would continue to have
35 somebody from the State, Alaska Department of Fish and
36 Game, go through those Board of Game proposals.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
39 do have Carmen Daggett here, but again that is going to
40 come at the end of our agency reports because we do
41 have the Federal agencies still on land, BLM, NPR-A and
42 Gates of the Arctic National Park on the agenda as well
43 as Fish and Wildlife Service. So the Board of Game
44 proposals we will address, but Carmen is here in person
45 and she has a presentation to provide the overview and
46 discuss.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So are we done with
49 ADF&G is my understanding at this point?

50

1 MS. PATTON: Yes. For the caribou
2 reports. And at the end of.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

5
6 MS. PATTON:the agency reports
7 then we'll get that.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. I think we
10 need to be very clear when we start putting asterisks
11 around here, amending thesesethings that -- becauseI'm --
12 I get the feeling we didn't communicate well. And
13 I've got these asterisks where we amended the agenda to
14 include these items at this time. So.....

15
16 MS. PATTON: Correct.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER:there's just
19 been a fair amount of miscommunication or something.

20
21 MS. PATTON: Correct. Yeah, because we
22 expected to get to those last night and we were unable
23 to. But we still have to get through the rest of the
24 Federal agency reports prior to the end of the day
25 before we address the Board of Game proposals today.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So we're
28 going to move on down the line and I'm going to ask
29 BLM.

30
31 MS. PATTON: And do we have BLM, Debbie
32 Nigro, I know you were online with us for much of this
33 meeting. Are you still with us at this time?

34
35 MS. JONES: Debbie Nigro had to step
36 away so this is Shelly, Eva, Shelly Jones. I'm on the
37 line now and able to give our BLM report.

38
39 MS. PATTON: Wonderful. Thank you so
40 much, Shelly, for staying online. And I do have your
41 printout report here. You have the floor and I'll hand
42 this out to the Council.

43
44 Thank you very much.

45
46 MS. JONES: Okay. And thank you. And
47 to the Chair and Council members for the opportunity to
48 present to the RAC today. And mostly what I've got
49 here is our permitting and planning activities that
50

1 relate to the Arctic region. So with that I'll try to
2 go quickly through the different topics here, but if
3 there are questions please interrupt. And if I skip
4 anything that you were interested in you can just ask
5 and I'll go back to that.

6
7 So the first portion of the report here
8 is just an overview of our BLM lands within the Arctic
9 region that we're charged with managing. Most of them
10 are in the National Petroleum Reserve that has about 23
11 million acres of BLM managed lands in that. But we
12 have some significant acreage of land outside the
13 Petroleum Reserve as well. And so I just showed a
14 little broader picture, particularly west out towards
15 Point Hope and north of Kotzebue there's a significant
16 block of land, about 1.3 million acres I think of
17 habitat near the coast that's an insect relief area for
18 the Western Arctic caribou herd.

19
20 So the second page there then shows the
21 lease tracts that are currently available in the
22 National Petroleum Reserve. And the green areas on
23 that map are areas that are currently unavailable for
24 leasing. Some of them have older leases that are still
25 being held within them, but currently those aren't
26 being offered for sale. So the ones that have sold so
27 far are 215 leases that covers about a little over one
28 and a half million acres of the 23 million acres. And
29 ConocoPhillips is the biggest leaseholder, they own 169
30 out of the 215 leases.

31
32 We're currently working a couple of
33 major EISes. We've got also some smaller EA, different
34 levels of NEPA environmental assessments which are a
35 shorter document than an environmental impact statement
36 and don't take as long to prepare. We use that form of
37 NEPA for authorizing a lot of our permits. And some of
38 them -- a lot of the ones that we authorize every year
39 in the same location we can use yet another NEPA
40 analysis called a categorical exclusion and rely on the
41 original analysis to cover the topic. So last year in
42 2019 we had 39 different use authorizations, 30 of
43 those were done through categorical exclusions and nine
44 were environmental impacts or environmental
45 assessments, excuse me. And they covered a variety of
46 different type of permits that BLM authorizes. A lot
47 of them are related to oil and gas development. Those
48 are typically the applications for permit to drill and
49 rights-of-way associated with those. We also have a
50

1 few special recreation permits that cover the big game
2 hunting guides and some research permits, there's quite
3 a few of those.

4
5 So in addition to those -- and I'll
6 talk more about some of those permits here in just a
7 minute, but I'm going to start off with the three major
8 environmental impact statements that are ongoing right
9 now.

10
11 We have -- the first one here is our
12 Willow Master Development Plan. BLM's the lead agency
13 on that, doing an environmental impact statement for a
14 proposed development by ConocoPhillips on some of their
15 leases in the Bear Tooth unit. So that's a little bit
16 west of the Mooses Tooth unit where they are currently
17 operating. And that would -- as they propose it it
18 would have a central processing facility and five drill
19 pads with up to 50 wells on each pad. Different
20 options or alternatives within the proposal or within
21 the environmental impact statement have different
22 configurations for the in-field roads. The airstrip,
23 the pipeline routes are pretty much the same across all
24 the alternatives, but the -- there's a large gravel
25 mine associated with that project about -- I think it's
26 about 300 acres of a new gravel deposit that they want
27 to develop to use for those pads and roads as well as
28 to construct a temporary island to support the module
29 delivery via sealift barges. So that would be -- I
30 think it's an 11 acre, I believe it is island, and they
31 propose it just a little ways offshore near Atigaru
32 Point. But we also looked into an alternative just a
33 little bit further offshore near Lonely.

34
35 So the comment period has been extended
36 on that. It's out for public comment now and we've
37 been having meetings and we're still taking public
38 comments until October 29th.

39
40 So there's a map on the next page there
41 that shows that project and the contact information.

42
43 The next EIS we've got that we're
44 working on is to rewrite our Integrated Activity Plan.
45 That's our overarching land use plan for the Petroleum
46 Reserve. But it really isn't as broad, it doesn't
47 cover all the topics that a lot of land use plans that
48 BLM has, it's pretty restricted and mostly covers
49 leasing. So we got a new Secretarial order, 3352, that
50

1 required us to look into sort of maximizing the acreage
2 that we could make available for leasing. So there's
3 different alternatives that cover the existing acreage
4 as well as more conservative alternative and then two
5 alternatives that are more -- would offer more areas
6 available for leasing.

7
8 And we have a lot of partners on that
9 particular EIS, the North Slope Borough and the State
10 of Alaska as well as ICAS, Fish and Wildlife Service,
11 the adjacent Park Service managers and the BOEM, the
12 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

13
14 So they -- right now we are trying to
15 get a draft ready to go out for public review and
16 hopefully we'll be able to publish that in the next
17 couple of weeks I think. And if so then it'll start a
18 45 day public comment period on that draft and we will
19 be scheduling or trying to get our meetings scheduled
20 for public comment in November. So we don't quite know
21 yet, but that will be upcoming.

22
23
24 And the last project -- both of those
25 projects they're trying to work towards a schedule
26 where they would get the comments from these drafts and
27 then respond to them, make some adjustments in the plan
28 and finalize them I think in like February or March,
29 this coming spring.

30
31 The leasing plan for the Coastal Plain,
32 the 1002 areas of the Arctic Refuge, that EIS has been
33 finalized now. It went through all of the different
34 draft stages and was pretty controversial I think.
35 They're still currently working on the record of
36 decision which will ultimately be available to the
37 public to show what the -- what the management plan and
38 what -- more importantly I think what the lease
39 stipulations will be that would carry forward and be
40 associated. The Tax Act had a requirement for BLM to
41 hold no fewer than two area wide lease sales within 10
42 years. And the first lease sale needs to be within
43 four years of the date of the Tax Act and the second
44 lease sale within seven years. So there's some
45 requirements on the acreage that has to be made
46 available and stuff like that. So there's a website
47 for where you can go to look at the more specific
48 information and the alternatives that they evaluated.
49 I don't really have a date I don't think quite yet on
50

1 when they believe that that will be available, the rod,
2 so but it should be soon. I just don't know when.

3
4 The next major EA that we're working on
5 is really a new proposal that just now came in a week
6 or two ago from the ConocoPhillips for their 2019/2020
7 winter exploration program. I think it's pretty
8 similar to the last year's program and maybe even kind
9 of similar to the last two years. It's a pretty big
10 program, they want to do some drilling, exploratory
11 drilling, at up to seven new locations near the Willow
12 area that they're already planning to develop. But
13 they requested a permit to actually -- for us to
14 approve 10 new drill locations so they would have some
15 flexibility to pursue different opportunities. But
16 ultimately would not plan to drill more than seven new
17 wells. Then they also plan to go back out to three
18 wells that they have in a suspended status and inspect
19 those and decide if they should plug and abandon them
20 or leave them for further testing.

21
22 So that has a big program of associated
23 ice roads to -- and prepacking that will be starting
24 probably when they get -- just first start to get snow
25 they'll be going out to compact the snow and then begin
26 building ice roads in December if they get -- when this
27 EA gets finalized and they get their permit.

28
29 So I just wanted to also mention the
30 two existing areas that ConocoPhillips has already
31 developed within the Petroleum Reserve and give just a
32 little info on them. GMT-2, Greater Mooses Tooth 2,
33 that one was approved in 2018 and is almost fully
34 constructed. The pad and the road are there. They're
35 still doing a little bit more work on the gravel as it
36 thaws out and working it a little bit. But it's
37 estimated to -- it should hold up to 48 wells and is
38 estimated to start production in 2020 and has an
39 estimated peak of 30,000 barrels per day.

40
41 And the GMT-1, which is a little bit
42 further to the east of GMT-2, that one was approved in
43 2015 as a 12 acre pad and it has -- it will hold a
44 maximum of 33 wells. That one is considered to be one
45 of the Alpine satellite development projects. It's
46 connected back to CD-5 by a road and that was the first
47 area that was drilled and had production on the Federal
48 leases in the NPR-A. So currently there are seven
49 wells that have been drilled and nine are expected by
50

1 2021. The production began last October, 2018. It's
2 currently producing 13,500 barrels per day and has peak
3 production expectations of 20,000 barrels a day on
4 that.

5
6 And maybe now would be an okay time to
7 mention that the last probably five or six pages of
8 this report is some information I pulled off line about
9 the State's program for Impact Mitigation Funds. And
10 so I just wanted to bring that in as sort of an
11 offsetting positive opportunity for the region. The
12 way the revenue sharing works with the Federal revenue,
13 wells that are in production on Federal lands, we share
14 the revenues, 50 percent goes to the Federal Treasury,
15 50 percent goes to the State of Alaska. And I think
16 they split into the Impact Mitigation Fund, I believe
17 it's 50 percent of that goes into the Impact Mitigation
18 Fund. And that can be made available to the Borough or
19 the city. The tribal governments can't apply for it,
20 but the city and the Borough can and get grants to do
21 different projects to hopefully offset some of the
22 negative impacts they are experiencing from the
23 development.

24
25 So I included in there some of the
26 expected amounts going into the future. As the -- more
27 and more wells go into production, that fund is
28 expected to really grow. And then I also looked into
29 the different grants they've already awarded from that
30 fund just to show some of the possibilities. And I do
31 think some of the discussion that -- this afternoon
32 about, you know, other cooperative studies or things
33 that could be proposed by, you know, the city of
34 Nuiqsut or Wainwright or any of the communities in the
35 North Slope could apply for these and, you know, do any
36 kind of health impact or other studies that you might
37 think that the agencies -- there might be gaps, things
38 that are following through the cracks. And I'm not
39 sure if we would be able to partner on those projects
40 if that was wanted, but we could look into that or
41 surely be an advisor if that was wanted.

42
43 So just to carry on then with the
44 different projects, some of them that BLM has. We
45 installed some temperature probes in the ground at
46 seven different spots along the community winter access
47 trail. So this will be the third year that -- of a
48 five year right-of-way that we issued to the North
49 Slope Borough for -- to manage a snow trail, snow road
50

1 system basically, to connect the north -- some of the
2 communities within the NPR-A basically. Right now
3 there's also one segment of it that comes off the Haul
4 Road that's -- will connect Anaktuvuk Pass directly
5 back to the Dalton Highway. So they can at wintertime
6 hopefully be able to transport fuel and private
7 vehicles and goods overland across that trail.

8
9 So we got some good information last
10 spring that the -- kind of a closeout of how the season
11 went with the Borough and found out more about the
12 number of vehicles that traveled. They have to join a
13 convoy and travel with an escorted Borough escort with
14 a tucker to help in case anyone needs assistance or
15 gets stuck along the way. But it seems like a really
16 good program so far. There were a few spots that the
17 snow blew off and had a little bit of damage, but it's
18 overall for the -- you know, it's several hundred miles
19 of snow trail and not as a percentage very much damage.
20 But we just want to keep an eye on that, keep
21 monitoring that with the Borough. So we're starting to
22 get a little bit more into keeping track of the
23 temperature for the frozen ground as well as the snow
24 depth nearby to help inform the decisions about when it
25 should be open.

26
27 And then we have a project with the
28 Native Village of Barrow to support them on a clean up
29 project that they're working on a Skull Cliff. It's a
30 longstanding -- I think it's down to just solid waste
31 now, but they're working on staging that debris that
32 needs to be hauled out this fall. And if they can't
33 get it all out this fall they'll work on it next winter
34 as well.

35
36 We had a couple of permits to the State
37 of Alaska to explore for gravel. That's been a big
38 kind of source of interest for different people. The
39 State is particularly interested and they went out for
40 two weeks and drilled about 11 different sites looking
41 for gravel and we haven't gotten the actual data back
42 that we will be getting, but I guess it didn't go very
43 well as far as -- you know, they didn't find any gravel
44 to speak of. So they'll be doing a little bit more
45 next summer I think.

46
47 They also -- we issued them a permit to
48 go over in the Arctic Refuge on the western edge
49 nearing the Canning River along the benches there to do
50

1 some sampling of gravel as well.

2

3 And I already mentioned the community
4 winter access trail.

5

6 We finally issued the right-of-way for
7 a fiber optic line to go between Utqiagvik and Atkasuk.
8 And I think they'll be bringing the fiber cable and
9 other things over from Deadhorse this winter via
10 rolliagons I think. Originally they were going to
11 bring it up by barge, but some things may have come up
12 that way, I'm not really sure. But I think currently
13 it'll be coming overland this winter. And that's kind
14 of an unusual one, it'll be the first time we've
15 authorized a fiber optic cable to be laid on the
16 surface and not -- it's normally trenched in, but we've
17 had a lot of issues with that along the Dalton Highway,
18 there's a lot of -- permafrost isn't a great place to
19 dig a ditch and we've had a lot of erosion. So I think
20 the surface installation will work out a lot better for
21 the environment.

22

23 A few years ago we also issued a permit
24 to the -- a group that got a grant from the National
25 Science Foundation to put -- they called them IRIS
26 earthquake monitoring systems in. Now I think they've
27 been out for five years, it's time to start pulling
28 them out. So we extended the right-of-way to give them
29 time over the next couple of years to start going out
30 and retrieving the -- I don't know what they're called,
31 seismic equipment I guess.

32

33 We also have had an ongoing permit and
34 it got renewed with the Alaska Clean Seas Oil Spill
35 Response. They provide that as a service to the
36 industry and they deploy clean up materials in
37 different caches, booms and different things and they
38 do training exercises basically to keep their
39 capability sharp in case of an emergency.

40

41 We had a big contract last winter and
42 we will again this winter for legacy well clean up.
43 That's a big project for BLM. There I think 136 wells
44 that were drilled historically by the Navy and USGS
45 back all the way from the '40s. And a lot of them
46 weren't plugged and abandoned properly so now BLM's
47 been working as funding's been available to get some of
48 them plugged and abandoned properly. And last winter
49 they did three wells, two of them were called Gubick 1

50

1 and 2 and then there was a third one called Grandstand.
2 And OC Services, Olgoonik's Construction Service did
3 the -- that work and they got the award again this year
4 to remediate, I think it -- it looks like four wells if
5 I'm reading this right, the Simpson cluster, they call
6 them, but it's the North Simpson, Simpson 1, 26 and the
7 South Simpson. And there's a map and a strategic
8 report on our website that you can read about the
9 legacy wells summary report. And they're doing that to
10 update it with the things that have already been
11 cleaned up and then reprioritize the remaining wells.
12

13 So if you have any thoughts on those
14 wells or issues that you might be aware of that we
15 should know about to prioritize things you can let us
16 know. I put the contact information there, the people
17 that are in charge of that program.
18

19 And also then wanted to mention as a
20 requirement of GMT-2 there was a best management
21 practice that was suggested by Nuiqsut
22 to have a web page that would make all the available
23 data, maps, reports and anything that had to do with
24 studies around Nuiqsut, I think it was within 50 miles
25 of Nuiqsut. So ConocoPhillips has been putting
26 information through the North Slope Science Initiative.
27 They -- the North Slope Science Initiative is in charge
28 of the web page and they've been putting into there.
29 And so if we -- there's approximately 400 reports in
30 there right now and I think it's got a really good GIS
31 interface so you can click on the map and then it'll --
32 you can pull up different reports, if there's air
33 quality or subsistence harvest information and
34 fisheries and what not.
35

36 Then I think I'll skip the next one,
37 that's just a continued interest in that route between
38 Utqiagvik and Atqasuk. The lidar is some aerial
39 photography that was flown to maybe look into the
40 future of a road or just have more information of that
41 route. It's a -- has a annual fuel haul and now the
42 fiber optic line. So -- and the CWAT trail as well
43 goes to Atqasuk.
44

45 So BLM issued a permit, I think we were
46 a little bit of a partner, but mostly we just -- might
47 have been involved in just the permit for the ADF&G
48 research on the grayling. I won't go into that, that
49 was just in case they were going to land helicopters on
50

1 the BLM -- on the west side of the Colville for that
2 project.

3
4 And we also have a long term Inventory
5 and Monitoring Project, it's not really that long term
6 yet, but it's one of those kind of studies that's
7 supposed to be detecting long term change that might
8 be, you know, from climate change or just other
9 variables. And then also they're -- this year they
10 went out -- they went out in 2012 and did some baseline
11 work and then this year they studied the vegetation
12 closer to the road around the development. So they
13 might -- if we get the report which we should soon,
14 we'll be able to know more about how the road might be
15 affecting the vegetation differently if that's the
16 case.

17
18 So we also have a partnership project
19 with UAF to study lake drainage. And that one has to
20 do with kind of also long term hydrologic model that
21 the university is working on to maybe be able to
22 predict how the landscape would respond under different
23 future climate conditions.

24
25 And that's it. Then it just starts
26 that part about the NPR-A Impact Grant Program.

27
28 So that's the end of my report and if
29 there's any questions.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Shelly,
32 right, our northern manager, right?

33
34 MS. JONES: Yeah, right. Yes, Shelly
35 Jones. That's right.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any
38 questions to Shelly on her -- the BLM report submitted
39 to the regional RAC?

40
41 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I'll recognize
44 Martha from Nuiqsut.

45
46 MS. ITTA: I guess this is where I make
47 my statements that I made earlier to Bureau of Land
48 Management.

1 Good afternoon, Shelly. It's Martha.

2
3 MS. JONES: Hello.

4
5 MS. ITTA: Okay.

6
7 MS. JONES: Hi, Martha.

8
9 MS. ITTA: I have a few things like I
10 stated before. I don't know if you heard me online.

11
12 In regards the big issue is the
13 reports, the studies that are being done within the
14 areas of proposed development and the reports that
15 we're receiving from not only BLM, but everything
16 that's involved in the permitting process. You heard
17 time and time again from our village oh, you guys were
18 just there in regards to rezoning and you heard my
19 community, they opposed this project along with the
20 corporation. There's many concerns that were brought
21 up at that meeting as to the impacts and how the
22 studies are being done and how the information is
23 getting from my community to the decision makers in
24 Washington, D.C. that is showing in these EISes or in
25 these studies that there are no impacts or no
26 significant impacts within these projects which is
27 false information.

28
29 That was my first question is where in
30 the process does this information being misled or
31 miscommunicated within Bureau of Land Management and
32 the Department of Interior.

33
34 The other concern I have is in regards
35 to the comment period. It says that the draft EIS is
36 going to be coming out in looks like November,
37 December. And we only have 45 day comment period to
38 turn in our comments after receiving and reviewing the
39 draft. And I would like to request an extension as
40 these drafts, these EISes are very big and takes a lot
41 of time to review which, you know, give us so much time
42 to review and turn in comments to where it, you know,
43 we put every issue and every concern or what have you
44 into our comments. That's another -- that's another
45 concern that our community has.

46
47 Just experience by GMT-1, GMT-2 and
48 past projects, you know, for instance GMT-1, Bureau of
49 Land Management agreed with the tribe on the least
50

1 environmental alternative which was alternative B, but
2 then they to our -- what we were told was that Conoco
3 was going to pull their leases if they didn't get their
4 way and which Bureau of Land Management sided with
5 alternative A with ConocoPhillips. An alternative that
6 was not the least impact alternative for Nuiqsut is my
7 other concern.

8
9 We need more time to review these
10 drafts and to be able to turn in comments in a timely
11 manner to address every issue and concern that we have
12 in our community.

13
14 The studies. We discussed this
15 earlier. You know from meeting after meeting, Shelly,
16 we have zero faith in the reports that are being given
17 and who's doing the studies. That needs to be
18 addressed and that needs to be in the control of the
19 community that is impacted.

20
21 And I would like to -- well, I'm
22 hoping, you know, to get the support of other
23 communities who are going to also be affected to turn
24 in comments to the Bureau of Land Management because it
25 seems nobody really understand. You know, other
26 communities never seen a pipeline or infrastructure or
27 been impacted by industry and, you know, for them not
28 to know and understand what they're going to be facing
29 is really concerning to me as we've been dealing with
30 this for 40 plus years.

31
32 It's really scary, our animals are
33 sick, now we're having a hard time with our whaling.
34 We voiced our concerns time and time again way back to
35 CD-5. We told Bureau of Land Management, we told the
36 Department of Interior how we felt and what will happen
37 if they put these projects up. And right now it is
38 happening without no answers and without no support
39 from the Federal government on how to address our
40 concerns and impacts all the way to our health. We
41 lost too many people, we don't want to lose anymore, to
42 bury a child and nobody being responsible for that.
43 That is unconscionable.

44
45 So I would like to ask the Bureau of
46 Land Management or the Regional Subsistence Advisory
47 Council for support to make sure that the Bureau of
48 Land Management is following their protocols and
49 hearing the concerns of my community.

50

1 Thank you.

2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Martha.
4 Any other comments and.....
5

6 MS. JONES: Thank you, Martha. I
7 really know that's heartfelt and I get that, I get that
8 when I am out in Nuiqsut and appreciate the comments
9 even when it's hard to hear and hard to say I'm sure
10 too, but I take them seriously. I'm trying to look for
11 ways all the time, problem solving, looking for better
12 mitigation or different opportunities. So I really
13 appreciate you just continuing to stick up and share
14 the things that you know about and work with us, keep
15 working with us. And we've got -- I take notes, we
16 type up the transcripts from our meetings when we meet
17 and pass them forward to our leadership. And I think
18 it makes a difference.

19 I know our State director came out to
20 Nuiqsut and that's sort of unusual for a State director
21 to get out to the villages. He was really hopeful and
22 had wanted to come out to Point Hope for this meeting
23 actually. I think it makes a big difference to him, he
24 sits on the Federal Subsistence Board with the other
25 Federal agency managers and I think he really gets it,
26 gets the local issues and the importance and how unique
27 and important Alaska is. But it's also conducted to
28 our department and knows that Alaska's an important
29 piece in their energy initiatives. So we're doing what
30 we can to just bring the best information forward in
31 these analyses and just -- yeah, I took notes on what
32 you said there and just keep trying to work on the
33 issues that we can.
34

35 We don't have a compensatory mitigation
36 program anymore, I think that's maybe confusing to a
37 lot of people. We have had that in GMT-1, but GMT-2
38 did not have that, the -- this administration doesn't
39 support that kind of mitigation. So other agencies
40 still have it, I think the Corps and others can look at
41 those opportunities. But currently we can't. So we
42 have to either just find actual mitigation that we can
43 attach to the project in the way of a stipulation or --
44 yeah, or we have that opportunity through the State for
45 those Impact Mitigation Fund where the communities
46 themselves could develop grants to get funding.
47

48 MS. ITTA: Shelly, my other concern is
49 within that Mitigation Program. For GMT-1 it was
50

1 guaranteed that it was going to stick and that's what
2 we were told during the GMT-1 process. And that was
3 the reason why the Regional Mitigation Strategy was
4 implemented for future projects. And that was supposed
5 to carry on to GMT-2. Well, that in our eyes was a
6 violation and an injustice to our community to take
7 that away when it was set -- it was already decided
8 within the GMT-1 process. And it was going to
9 carryover to GMT-2. That needs to be corrected because
10 it's also in your ROD and in your EIS to be able to
11 keep that program intact throughout these projects.
12

13 I understand, you know, things were
14 changed, but you guys are there for the impacted
15 communities, you guys are doing these EISEs, SCISEs and
16 what have you that gives the Department of Interior the
17 power to make decisions on our behalf which impacts us
18 and, you know, it doesn't disclose any of our concerns
19 or addresses our concerns the way we would like.
20

21 The mitigation process. We have -- our
22 community has an issue being the only impacted
23 community. We shouldn't have to, you know, fight over
24 this money because Nuiqsut get only 1 percent of that
25 money, the royalties. And, you know, of course the
26 corporations, the State of Alaska, Bureau of Land --
27 the Federal government gets all that money and they go
28 to programs and we never really see those come to our
29 community, we never see those royalties. I need to
30 remind you 85 percent of our community are not
31 corporation shareholders so we do not get those
32 royalties and we're just impacted. And that's what I
33 just wanted to state on the regional mitigation
34 strategy concern and the mitigation process.
35

36 The other thing is we requested BLM to
37 open an office in Nuiqsut so we can have a
38 representative there at all times to be informed about
39 what is going on in our community because a lot of
40 times, you know, they work with our corporations, ASRC,
41 Kukpik, ConocoPhillips, leaving out our community. So
42 a lot of us don't know what's going on until it's
43 actually being built or being constructed. And that
44 caused our community to fight amongst each other which
45 is really troubling and it's caused by the Federal
46 government and those who are involved in the permitting
47 process and approving these projects.
48

49 I believe -- who was it within the
50

1 Bureau of Land Management is the community liaison,
2 Shelly, or do we even have one?

3

4 MS. JONES: Well, right now we have one
5 in our state office, his name is Ralph Eluska.

6

7 MS. ITTA: So where is he.....

8

9 MS. JONES: He's been out there with us
10 a couple of.....

11

12 MS. ITTA:besides coming to the
13 meetings with you guys.....

14

15 MS. JONES:times, but.....

16

17 MS. ITTA:come to Nuiqsut?

18

19 MS. JONES:we also -- Chad
20 Padgett, our State director, has been really supportive
21 of the request for a position in Nuiqsut. And so he's
22 asked me to start working on it and I've been inquiring
23 a little bit on available office space and currently
24 trying to get a position description classified so that
25 we can hopefully get a job announcement out. So it's
26 not as fast a process as it should be, but with the
27 State's director support I think we will get a position
28 out there this year.

29

30 MS. ITTA: Okay. Yes, we need someone
31 to work with a local person within our community to
32 make sure that our community is aware of what is going
33 on, what is being said and done and make sure our
34 community members are informed and included into these
35 discussions with the Department of Interior, BLM,
36 Conoco and the corporations. I would like to request
37 that they start including our community in their
38 meetings because that's what we don't see. We don't
39 see no agreements, we never, ever get to see the
40 agreements between the corporation and the Federal
41 government on these projects. So we would like to
42 request that you work hard in getting a liaison to work
43 with our -- a local liaison to improve your guys'
44 transparency with our community.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Martha.

49

50

1 MS. JONES: Thanks, Martha.

2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
4 to the BLM on the report?

5
6 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve Oomittuk from
9 Point Hope.

10
11 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, out of curiosity,
12 you know, I see that, you know, the Bureau of Land
13 Management, Alaska Arctic District Office, you've been
14 in existence since 1976, is that what I saw in there?

15
16 MS. JONES: Yep, I think that's right.
17 That's the date of our organic act so to speak for BLM.

18
19 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. You know, when
20 the Naval Arctic Research opened up in Barrow area in
21 -- around 1947, who permitted them to receive these
22 lands there, BLM during that time, was it the United
23 States Defense, who permitted all these DEW line
24 stations, were they -- were in existence for many
25 years, who gave that right for them to take this land
26 from people that were living there, had camps there,
27 you know. And, you know, my grandfather -- you know,
28 there was people living at Cape Lisburne, both my
29 grandparents lived up there. In the springtime we came
30 back to Point Hope.

31
32 And one year in the late '50s after he
33 built a brand new wooden house they say they going to
34 have a DEW line and a radar station here. They kicked
35 everybody out and there was about 50, 60 people living
36 over there, and that this land is no longer theirs. My
37 grandfather just built a brand new wooden house, they
38 burned it down, bulldozed it, built a runway right over
39 it. Nothing was compensated, you know, nothing was
40 given to him. They let everybody move out of there.

41
42 But who -- who was in charge of this,
43 you know, before BLM was in existence in Alaska, was it
44 -- you know, Alaska didn't become a State until what,
45 '59, you know, who permitted the United States
46 government to have all these DEW lines. Now there's a
47 lot of clean up. BLM is doing it here at Cape Simpson,
48 clean up was awarded to Olgoonik Corporation.

49
50

1 MS. JONES: So.....

2
3 MR. OOMITTUK: And I see all these
4 permits for (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).....

5
6 MS. JONES:I think that might
7 have been I want to say President Harding, Warren
8 Harding was the -- signed the Naval Petroleum
9 Production Act, the NPRPA, Petroleum Reserve Production
10 Act I think it was called. And that was -- at that
11 time it was managed by the Department of Defense.

12
13 MR. OOMITTUK: And then, you know, when
14 we talk about Project Chariot, you know, and Department
15 of Defense and the impact it had on our community, not
16 just Project Chariot, but Cape Lisburne also. And, you
17 know, doing the environmental impact statements that
18 BLM does. You know -- you know, there's a lot of
19 documents on Project Chariot that are top secret. You
20 know, you're talking over 50 years ago. Fifty years
21 ago that -- you know, what was going on. We still want
22 to know exactly what -- is BLM, you know, Department of
23 Defense, I don't know why they don't want to declassify
24 all these top secrets. You know, you're Bureau of Land
25 Management, you know for the Arctic district.

26
27 We want to ensure that all the clean up
28 in our areas are cleaned up. What exactly was going on
29 there in Project Chariot, what did they bury over
30 there. Are these bombs, atomic bombs that they wanted
31 to blast are still underground. Is your -- the holes
32 that they drilled, the deepwater harbor that Edward
33 Teller's plan was to commercialize the atomic bomb and
34 reshape the world by using nuclear bombs. And this was
35 150 times stronger than Hiroshima that they were going
36 to do a blast, 23 miles from Point Hope. And we still
37 don't know to this day if those bombs are in there.
38 There were some planes that came in with top secret
39 stuff, stuff that was unloaded over there.

40
41 They came into the village, said that
42 we're going to move you guys to Nome, that they were
43 going to do this detonation and we were the last ones
44 to find out about it. And to this day we still don't
45 even know that there's -- they had a big meeting, a
46 town meeting that they were going to move the people to
47 Nome and after the detonation they can move back. They
48 wanted to do it in April when there was a strong north
49 wind so all the fallout would go out on the ice and all

50

1 the contaminants would blow away when the ice left.
2 But they fought them. You know, the people of Point
3 Hope fought them for three years and it didn't go
4 through, they had to move out.

5
6 But something was buried over there,
7 something was done over there. They just recently
8 cleaned it up not too long ago. But not all documents
9 were declassified, there was a lot of top secret stuff
10 that went down there that we still don't know about.
11 We have one of the highest rates of cancer for our
12 community, you know.

13
14 Is there any way BLM, Bureau of Land
15 Management for the Alaska District Office can
16 declassify some of these documents and get this stuff
17 cleaned up within our land?

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.
20 And just want to remind that we're working on the
21 report for BLM.

22
23 I do know there's a RAB that comes
24 through that has military, Air Force, Navy. It's
25 called a Restoration Advisory Board. And I'm not sure
26 if they meet periodically. I know they come through
27 Barrow and visit communities. And I think there's one
28 that's formed for Point Lay, for the DEW line and clean
29 up over that way to work with communities. But I think
30 that is the entity which has a host of defense agencies
31 under the Restoration Advisory Board and we work with
32 those quite a bit from the Borough as well.

33
34 But, Shelly, I know it's not on the
35 report here, but just wanted to add that into the
36 response.

37
38 MS. JONES: Yeah, thanks. I had
39 forgotten about that. We have our hazmat person does
40 participate on that or goes to the meetings of that
41 Restoration Advisory Board and when they have -- we
42 have taken responsibility for these orphan legacy
43 wells, but the other military issues, possible
44 contamination or other things are like that, we don't
45 have access to classified materials, as far as I know
46 our agency doesn't. But we can, you know, ask up
47 through our leadership to try to get information. And
48 a lot of times like in the case of Umiat the Corps of
49 Engineers will take responsibility for managing, take
50

1 the lead to work on clean ups usually when they're
2 going to be kind of a long term and expensive. And
3 then in that case we're a partner even though we're
4 also the land manager.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

7

8 MS. JONES: But I am encouraged at
9 least when I used to keep a lot more information in my
10 head about the Western Arctic caribou herd and the Fish
11 and Game veterinarian that would go out and do the sort
12 of necropsy analysis of an animal or so from each herd
13 and talk about the health. And I think people were
14 always kind of hope -- you know, grateful to know that
15 the quality of those animals, you know, seemed good.
16 And so I was taking that as an encouragement that
17 hopefully the -- if there is contamination it's not
18 getting into the animals.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Shelly.
21 And with that, any other questions to BLM on their
22 district office update on permitting and activities?

23

24 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead there,
27 Wanda.

28

29 MS. KIPPI: Bringing up that Willow
30 plan, Willow Master Development Plan about the -- in
31 the future for the project in the -- or the development
32 in -- near the Atqasuk area. I'm pretty concerned
33 about that coming around to our area because all the --
34 what all I hear from Nuiqsut and see, it's going to
35 hurt our community too and it's one of the smallest
36 villages on the North Slope and we depend on our
37 caribou and our fish that we harvest every year to make
38 it through the -- make it through the winter. And if
39 they come and start their development there it's going
40 to hurt our community like 100 percent. And if they
41 want to come up and do our development they better --
42 they better come and be ready to help in taking care of
43 our land and our air and our rivers, our lakes. I
44 don't -- I do not want to see the impacts in our
45 community.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Wanda.

50

1 Any other comments on the BLM report?

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
6 you, BLM. Thank you, Shelly, for providing in depth
7 report.

8

9 MS. JONES: Okay. You're welcome.
10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: As we go I see in
13 looking at the time and it's 5:45, I don't know what's
14 the wish of the Council. It's getting late, I think we
15 had a lot of time to talk about many various things.
16 If you guys want to reserve the rest of the reports for
17 next year, into the next season, because we only have
18 two meetings every year, right.

19

20 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
21 I may just offer. We do have just two more agency
22 reports. It's Fish and Wildlife Service, Arctic
23 National Wildlife.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No, we heard you.
26 I'm just gauging here. We see the reports that's
27 needing to (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).....

28

29 MS. PATTON: And Gates of the Arctic.
30 So Marcy's online there so they might be able to
31 do.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, what's the wish
34 of the Council, you guys want to.....

35

36 MS. PATTON:quick reports as
37 well.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER:continue or take
40 a dinner break or you guys want to try to push a few
41 more reports? I did have particular interest on ADF&G
42 Board of Game reports, but doesn't seem like we might
43 have too much time to talk about those. I'm very
44 concerned about some of those things. And because --
45 I'm just concerned about them.

46

47 But what's the wish of the Council?

48

49 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

50

1 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, let's
2 continue with these reports since they're here.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Let's --
5 without taking lunch or dinner break or -- unless you
6 want to order something and bring it on over, you know,
7 that might be a possibility. Because by the time we
8 get done the restaurant will probably be closed. And
9 maybe you can get burgers for everybody or something.

10
11 MS. PATTON: The restaurant is open
12 until 11:00 p.m. tonight. That's their usual hours is
13 until 11:00 p.m. So they are open for dinner if the
14 Council's hungry.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, but are what
17 you going to do if our stomachs are growling all the
18 way through that?

19
20 MS. PATTON: If the Council's hungry we
21 can order and pick up meals as well.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Do you guys want to
24 order while we're working and let them bring it here or
25 something or do you guys want to just go ahead and just
26 work through this?

27
28 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Martha.

31
32 MS. ITTA: Are we able to go take a
33 dinner break and then come back or actually I think
34 they're having bingo for a fundraiser tonight.

35
36 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, they.....

37
38 MS. ITTA: To my understanding is what
39 they said yesterday, they're going to have bingo
40 tonight for fundraising for the family.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

43
44 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

47
48 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, they are having --
49 they're doing a fundraising. It's a pay week and --
50

1 you know, payday for I think the Borough. This is one
2 of their biggest nights for funding. I feel that we
3 should continue and hear these last two reports that we
4 need to and then go from there. And they won't start
5 until 8:00 o'clock. So the restaurant is open to
6 11:00, the Pizza House is open for dinner right now
7 until 8:00 o'clock.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. We got until
10 8:00 o'clock. Let's see that little thing that says
11 limit time -- time limit of 15 minutes. Each one's
12 been about 30, 40 minutes here. If we could try to --
13 if we followed this we might make it until -- before
14 8:00 o'clock, right.

15
16 All right. So I just wanted to make
17 sure -- engage the Council's attentiveness and if they
18 were getting hungry.

19
20 So we'll go to Fish and Wildlife
21 Service, National Wildlife Refuge.

22
23 And just let us know if we need to
24 order something I guess.

25
26 All right. Steve and Vince.

27
28 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 Steve Berendzen, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
30 manager. In the interest of time I will try to -- I
31 will hit the highlights and try to get within the --
32 stay within the 15 minutes. If there are questions or
33 anything that you have for me while I'm delivering this
34 you're welcome to interrupt and ask any questions at
35 anytime.

36
37 So you've got this handout, I don't
38 know if you've had an opportunity to take a look at it,
39 but I'll just through like I said the highlight things.

40
41 It starts off with management staffing
42 changes. We have had quite a bit of turnover in the
43 last few years in our -- among our staff. About a
44 third of our positions have been vacant for the last
45 few years. We're trying to fill priority positions,
46 recently filled the deputy manager and assistant
47 manager positions. So that was very helpful for the
48 Refuge.

1 Next topic is oil and gas leasing
2 program. Shelly Jones gave a good update on that. I
3 don't think I need to talk about that one.
4

5 One thing that is associated with it a
6 little bit is we -- the Refuge is supporting and
7 participating in several studies that are associated
8 with oil and gas development. So we've got several
9 projects that have been done on the Coastal Plain last
10 summer especially, things like providing baseline
11 information on existing resources. And this is various
12 studies like vegetation surveys, wetland surveys,
13 hydrography and more geological surveys as well as some
14 animal and plant species studies.
15

16 Biological research and monitoring. We
17 have had some staff changes there. We hired a mammals
18 biologist. That position had been vacant for nearly
19 four years. So Bill Acock is our new mammals
20 biologist. But not too long after that or very
21 recently we had our supervisory biologist, Steve
22 Author, retire. So we're -- again we fill a vacancy
23 and we lose another one.
24

25 Beth provided an update -- a good
26 update on the Porcupine caribou herd so I don't think I
27 need to talk about that one.
28

29 So moving on to the moose update which
30 we've talked about a little bit earlier, but I can
31 try to a quick overview of that.
32

33 We held a public hearing in Kaktovik
34 earlier this month and we proposed to extend the season
35 from October 20th through April 30th. We opened the
36 entire 26C unit as well as well as 26B remainder.
37 That's what we have oversight of and control of. We
38 opened the entire area to the moose -- the subsistence
39 moose hunt and rather than restricting the hunt to the
40 area of the Kongakut where the majority of the moose
41 overwinter. So we also increased the number of permits
42 to where we had issued 10 permits for -- with a quota
43 of three bulls for the community to harvest. So the
44 community was appreciative of that. They were very --
45 unanimously supported that, those who attended the
46 meeting. And we do have that in place.
47

48 And then one other thing that we have
49 been discussing with the community and offered to do is
50

1 additional surveys. Last spring we counted 155 moose
2 on the North Slope, but all but eight were in the
3 Kongakut drainage which is a long ways for Kaktovik
4 residents to go to try to harvest moose. But we agreed
5 to try to do surveys in the fall as well and just two
6 weeks ago we did a survey of the area west of the
7 Kongakut. Daylight was too short for us to do the
8 Kongakut itself, but the area west of there from the
9 Sadler Road to the Chilkat River we came up with 14
10 moose. So that number had increased from what we'd
11 seen last spring. Was it moose moving, was it maybe
12 some additional recruitment into the population, we
13 don't know. But at least the -- it was encouraging
14 that that number had increased some.

15
16 Another thing we're planning to do is
17 have a radio telemetry study implemented where we will
18 collar up to 25 moose with radio transmitters. Hoping
19 to do that this spring and be able to track them and
20 get a lot more specific information on their movements
21 that will answer a lot more questions than just doing
22 surveys once or twice a year.

23
24 Sheep is the next topic. We -- sheep
25 numbers have generally -- are -- generally appear to be
26 increasing since the icing event of 2012 and '13 that
27 knocked their numbers back significantly. And the --
28 but it seems like the numbers are increasing. We only
29 survey one-third of the Refuge each year so we don't
30 survey the entire population each year. We also
31 recently changed the methodology that we're doing so
32 it's still we think comparable, but not directly
33 comparable. And just what we're noticing, it seems
34 like the population is slowly increasing. The best
35 indicator is that we're having a significant number of
36 lambs, a relatively high number of lambs, and it looks
37 like pretty good survival of lambs. And so that is
38 providing some optimism that the population is
39 increasing.

40
41 And then the common eider study on the
42 Barrier Islands of the Beaufort Sea. We're studying
43 the reproduction of these birds. There are concerns
44 with the earlier ice melt or the pack ice receding
45 further and melting earlier, that we're getting
46 increased storm surges that impact the nesting of these
47 birds. And their numbers were really knocked back a
48 lot, you know, 60, 70 years ago. And we do have, you
49 know, concern about that population.

50

1 We're also monitoring shorebirds and
2 waterfowl at the Canning River delta. This has been a
3 collaborative effort for several years with the Manomet
4 Bird Observatory who has been very interested in
5 especially the shorebirds. And in collaboration with
6 them we've been adding the waterfowl nesting into the
7 program and looking at changes over time on their
8 nesting species population and shifts in their use
9 areas. And about 16 years of looking at the trends in
10 these -- the bird usage there.

11
12 Moving on to public use management. We
13 issue commercial permits for several commercial
14 activities such as air taxis, hunt guides, rafting
15 guides, polar bear viewing guides and commercial
16 photographers. We -- and that's, you know, that's just
17 something that we wanted to mention. For these
18 commercial activities we do have to issue permits or
19 permit and come up with sideboards or regulations that
20 direct how they are managed.

21
22 The next topic is human/polar bear
23 safety. We work with the Marine Mammals Management
24 Program and the Village of Kaktovik on polar bear.
25 Polar bear visits into the community or polar bear
26 proximity or problems that they cause. And we do
27 support the village with funding polar bear patrols.
28 We've also funded food lockers to freezers that they
29 can put meat, whale meat, muktuk and caribou and so on
30 in. And these things we think have helped the village
31 some, but there are still certainly some problems that --
32 with bears still coming into the village.

33
34 The next topic is polar bear viewing
35 management. We have developed a plan for polar bear
36 viewing and we're hoping to release that to the village
37 to let them take a look at that. We've had several
38 public meetings discussing the impacts, discussing
39 potential solutions. We have not been able to release
40 that plan. At this time the Department of Interior has
41 told us to hold on to that. They are looking at other
42 potential options. So we're -- we would really like to
43 release this plan and implement the plan. We think it
44 would resolve many of the issues that are associated
45 with polar bear viewing, but at this time that's on
46 hold.

47
48 Visitor outreach. I'm going to let
49 Vince take this first item right here. He's dealt a
50

1 lot more with the visitor outreach we've done.

2
3 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is
4 a follow-up to your appreciation of youth being there.
5 And the visitor outreach for the Arctic Interagency
6 Visitor Center is dependent on what are called student
7 conservation association interns. So if you know of a
8 student in or students in your community who want to
9 know more how to get involve din that program let us
10 know. But the two students are pictured there and they
11 were involved with other programs that were going on.

12
13 MR. BERENDZEN: We also had a study
14 that wasn't really a study, it was just a lot of
15 information that was gathered and put into a --
16 essentially put into a computer and results determined
17 from that, but economic impacts from visitors. We put
18 lots of data into this program and in 2017 using data
19 from that year they generated a report that shows that
20 visitors to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
21 contributed more than \$29 million to Alaska's local and
22 State economies that year and it's extrapolated. That
23 was pretty much an average year so they think that's
24 pretty much every year it would be somewhere in that
25 \$29 million ball park. And that's visitors who are
26 coming to the Refuge and the associated transportation,
27 food, lodging and, you know, all the recreational
28 activities that they do and the support that's provided
29 at -- you know, for various vendors in supporting them.

30
31 So just wanted to mention that.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I failed to mention
34 the other visitor outreach that's extensive. Edward
35 would know about it. It's in Kaktovik greeting people
36 that are coming into that community for polar bear
37 viewing.

38
39 You can see the outreach programs that
40 are there for -- you know, our cultural camp at Arctic
41 Village, that's been going on for quite a few years.
42 It's well received there. The students learn -- listen
43 and learn from an elder throughout camp and they learn
44 all their skills that are there. So that's an
45 important program that is ongoing there. And there's
46 some pictures some showing in there and what they're
47 doing and that.

48
49 The rest of it shows other activities

50

1 that we're doing to get the message out about the
2 importance of conservation and the importance of
3 wildlife Refuges and that. So you'll see dragonfly day
4 which is a program with multiple Refuges and that. So
5 that's somebody to cover with you and then I already
6 gave my little sales pitch on -- I'll just shorten the
7 title to the Native Youth Congress, but I'll have Eva
8 pass around some information on that. But
9 realistically there was great youth in the room today.
10 The one gentleman sitting next to me I wish I could
11 spend more time with because he was definitely
12 analyzing the analysis in the book. So anyway so
13 that's an opportunity that is sponsored by the Fish and
14 Wildlife Service and if they're selected all expenses
15 paid.

16
17 So I think that -- unless Steve has
18 something else.

19
20 MR. BERENDZEN: That's all we've got.
21 If there are any questions we'll do our best to answer
22 those.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Council,
25 any questions for Steve and for Vince on ANWR stuff
26 and.....

27
28 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve.

31
32 MR. OOMITTUK: I just want to comment
33 thank you.

34
35 MR. BERENDZEN: You're welcome. Thank
36 you for giving us the opportunity.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: And, Mr. Chair, as always
39 these summaries, if there's anything you want in
40 addition to it, want it changed or if you want a more
41 in depth presentation, if that's the right term, just
42 let us know. This is basically a synopsis of what your
43 Refuge is doing.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. It's
46 important to note, you know, the mayor has taken time
47 to visit the community as well with some concerns that
48 were generated and I happened to have been dragged
49 along with the mayor to go visit. And we've been

50

1 trying to coordinate time with the Refuge manager about
2 the polar bear viewing with the local North Slope
3 Borough government and our permitting authority as
4 well.

5
6 One of the things that we found that
7 was alarming was the amount of visitors inundating the
8 community. We know there's a lot of willing tour
9 guiding operations to go on, but it seems to me that
10 the -- there was a widespread concern about people
11 needing to go to the hospital and not being able to get
12 on airplanes because they're all booked by guides. No
13 resident is able to get on these flights to get out to
14 even go to the hospital and missing appointments at
15 ANMC or some other hospital.

16
17 The other one is their return back to
18 the community. There's some cases that were -- we were
19 listening to where two weeks waiting in Fairbanks
20 because there's no seats available at that resident's
21 dime. They're paying hotel or trying to find a place
22 to live until they got a seat on a plane to go home
23 because these flights are so inundated by polar bear
24 viewing, the guides to that community. That's what we
25 were hearing. And there seems to be there needs to be
26 maybe a synergy developed by the Borough, the ANWR
27 managers, whatever, Fish and Wildlife Service, the
28 community and probably the air service provider that
29 there should be first priority seats for residents on
30 these flights for fear that even getting people to
31 dialysis machines and other medications that people
32 need in villages that they don't do it at the detriment
33 of people's health. And that was a widespread concern
34 that we heard out of Kaktovik when we were there.

35
36 So I don't want to elaborate too much
37 on that.

38
39 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 Yeah, the Refuge does not have any jurisdiction on
41 Barter Island itself. We only have jurisdiction of the
42 lagoon waters surrounding it. So the only authority we
43 have is for -- of the commercial polar bear viewing
44 guides on boats on the lagoon waters. But we have been
45 working with the community and actually the -- I'd
46 heard the stories about the lack of seats on airplanes
47 for -- in previous years. Two years ago some of the
48 boat guides started using charter aircraft to get their
49 clients up there and I think that alleviated two
50

1 seasons ago that problem somewhat. This past season,
2 just the last few months, they've been doing a lot of
3 more of that. And what I -- what I was told is that
4 most of the flights back and forth this past few months
5 have had empty seats on the Ravn commercial flights.
6 So what that indicates to me is that that has
7 alleviated that overcrowding concern to a large extent.

8
9
10 And then if we could get our plan
11 implemented, that's one of the things we would like to
12 incorporate is that any visitors who are going up there
13 for less than two nights would fly a charter rather
14 than flying the commercial flights. We don't want to
15 overdo it because if we have everybody go -- all the
16 tourists go up there on charter flights then Ravn would
17 probably cut back some of their daily flights. And
18 that has happened or that happens at certain seasons of
19 the year. So we don't want to cut Ravn's business out
20 too much, but we think we can find a good balance
21 there.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And thank you. It's
24 just notes because we were there this summer and with
25 those types of concerns that were being raised. And
26 just -- and that reason this summer.

27
28 So the other thing is always I think
29 when commercial recreation is they got to -- there's a
30 mandatory requirement to get permits from the Borough
31 as well. And a lot of guides are like cowboy
32 mentality. And I've been to the Big Game Services
33 Board meetings where licensing and sanctions and stuff
34 from guides at the Big Game Services Board meetings do
35 happen and it's important to realize that some of these
36 guides don't see fit to follow all the rules. And we
37 try to take the time to put language in our permits
38 that other regulatory -- this doesn't excuse you from
39 abiding by other State and Federal regulatory
40 requirements that you may need to abide by and that's
41 the -- when we get a client making sure that, hey, you
42 better check with ANWR manager or Fish and Wildlife
43 Service, you may need to get a guide's permit for that
44 region over there as well.

45
46 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47 And we do the same with our permits that we issue. We
48 notify all permittees that the North Slope Borough
49 indicates that they also require a permit of commercial
50

1 activities and that they need to check with the North
2 Slope Borough.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.
5 And I had a hand raised up back there from ADF&G.

6
7 Carmen. I'm going to recognize Carmen
8 from ADF&G.

9
10 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 And this is Carmen Daggett for the record. And I --
12 one thing that I wanted to ask about was how much
13 outreach is going into the school districts on the
14 North Slope about these internship programs. I had the
15 privilege recently to participate in teacher in-service
16 for the North Slope teachers to discuss opportunities
17 for education outreach that those teachers can have
18 with Fish and Game and to also increase information
19 about hunter safety in the region. And it was a
20 discussion that included all of the school districts on
21 the entire Slope.

22
23 And I'm wondering they -- they were
24 talking about having me come back to talk about these
25 types of things again in November. And so if there's
26 something that you would like to share that I could
27 share with the school districts I would be happy to do
28 that. I think that there's -- I'm trying really hard
29 with education and outreach stuff. There's only one of
30 me though so I'm doing as much as I can. But I think
31 the connection with the school district is -- school
32 districts is really important and hoping to encourage
33 these types of things more in the future too. And I
34 think it's a great program so I would really like to
35 try to help promote it if I can.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carmen.
38 And I agree with you 100 percent. We had students here
39 earlier from the Harpooners School and I think we
40 should be doing wherever we have influence and to look
41 at the Park Service or the ANWR itself to include
42 students from those regions. And I like the culture
43 camp, if that's what you're doing on the other side, on
44 the south side of the ANWR for Venetie or for Arctic
45 Village and that area, should be doing that for
46 Kaktovik too.

47
48 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 And I guess in response to summarize what the Refuge
50

1 has been doing in Kaktovik, for several years now we've
2 had what we call an Arctic Youth Ambassador's Program,
3 is working with the high school students mostly. And
4 that has gotten them involved in -- mostly the focus
5 has been on the polar bear interpretation, so
6 interpreting some of the history and information about
7 the community and also guidance on how to behave in the
8 village, how to avoid polar bear encounters and safety
9 facts and things like that. But now that we've got a
10 resident liaison up there, he's been expanding that
11 with the school and doing other natural resource
12 activities too.

13
14 As far as the culture camp, there is a
15 collaborative up there, Ken Dunton, you may have heard
16 the name, I don't know, but he's been doing research in
17 the lagoons for several years now. And he hosts a
18 youth summer camp every year and we do participate in
19 that and help out with that. But we don't host a
20 summer camp ourselves up there, Ken is doing that each
21 year.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: And in response to
24 Carmen. Yes, I'll contact the State office for the
25 Student Conservation Association internship. I have
26 all those materials back on my desk. But they did have
27 a booth at AFN. So I'll get that information and get
28 it out. I didn't cover all the qualifications of it,
29 but that's beside the point, the information needs to
30 get out there. So I'll let that office get ahold of
31 Carmen and.....

32
33 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Wanda from Atqasuk.

36
37 MS. KIPPI: When Carmen mentioned the
38 programs or the things they were doing for the school
39 or for the students, last year during the winter I was
40 asked by our school to go speak about hunting and
41 survival. So I did that voluntarily. So I just wanted
42 to put that out there that I did speak with students.
43 And there were some young hunters that were there and
44 it was very interesting to talk with them too. I just
45 wanted to put that out.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Wanda.

50

1 (In Native). We got to think about our young folks.
2 They're important and we need to continue to include
3 young people in what we do.
4

5 MR. BERENDZEN: Mr. Chair, one more
6 thing in response to what Carmen was asking and also
7 reflecting somewhat of what was -- just said. The
8 three Refuges based out of Fairbanks, Kanuti, Yukon
9 Flats, and Arctic have among them about four or five
10 individuals who are instructors for hunter education,
11 I'm one of them.
12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Right.
14

15 MR. BERENDZEN: And we have been doing
16 hunter education programs for villages for several
17 years now. And if there's an interest from North Slope
18 communities or schools in having hunter education
19 programs provided, I think we would be very happy to
20 come up and do that.
21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
23 for Fish and Wildlife Service and Arctic National
24 Wildlife Refuge from the Council?
25

26 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.
27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you very much.
29 It was informative and.....
30

31 So we'll move on to Gates of the Arctic
32 National Park Service and Preserve. It sounds like
33 Marcy maybe if she's still awake.
34

35 MS. OKADA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
36 is Marcy Okada, subsistence coordinator for Gates of
37 the Arctic.
38

39 The Gates of the Arctic National Park
40 Subsistence Resource Commission met this past April in
41 Anaktuvuk Pass. Their main discussions were focused on
42 studies that have taken place in areas surrounding the
43 community as well as Park Service and Alaska Department
44 of Fish and Game updates on the Western Arctic caribou
45 herd, the Teshekpuk caribou herd and dall sheep. The
46 meeting had good community participation and the SRC
47 was able to hear local concerns and the next meeting is
48 scheduled for November in Fairbanks.
49
50

1 Related to the Western Arctic caribou
2 herd, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game conducted
3 a successful census in July of this year. The results
4 are still pending. A new analysis was published
5 looking at factors associated with the herd's
6 distribution and an analysis of spring migration, year
7 round movement and survivorship is currently underway.
8 Just recently a few weeks ago 49 radio collars were put
9 out at Onion Portage which is in Kobuk Valley National
10 Park.

11
12 In regards to moose in Gates of the
13 Arctic, the Kobuk River Preserve unit which is the
14 southern preserve unit of Gates of the Arctic was
15 surveyed this past spring. Population estimate was 601
16 moose which is down from 720 moose surveyed in 2014,
17 but calf recruitment improvement from 2014. It was
18 seven calves per 100 cows and it is now currently 23
19 calves per 100 cows.

20
21 Related to bears. Grizzly bears
22 numbers were down in the 2018 survey as compared to
23 2010, but snow conditions might have impacted the
24 results. The field component of the bear collaring
25 project is completed and the results are currently
26 being written up.

27
28 A dall sheep survey was conducted in
29 July in the Itkilik and Anaktuvuk areas by two pilots
30 and two observers. All transects were completed.
31 Overall numbers appear to be stable in both areas with
32 no major increase or decrease. Lamb recruitment
33 appears to be good in both areas. The data will be
34 analyzed and the results will be available at your next
35 meeting.

36
37 The National Park Service will continue
38 annual surveys in these two areas of the Park in order
39 to monitor changes in the sheep population. And next
40 year, 2020, a park wide dall sheep survey is scheduled
41 to be conducted.

42
43 For the Ambler Mining District Road on
44 August 23rd the National Park Service released its
45 draft environmental and economic analysis otherwise
46 known as an EEA for public review for comment. This
47 document was prepared in response to a right-of-way
48 application submitted by the Alaska Industrial
49 Development and Export Authority as part of the
50

1 proposed Ambler Mining District Industrial Access
2 Project. Approximately 20 miles of the proposed road
3 crosses National Park Service lands in the southern
4 Kobuk River unit of the Park. The comment period is
5 currently open for 60 days and comments are being
6 accepted via online and postal service until next
7 Tuesday, October 29th.

8
9 And lastly there was a total of three
10 wildland fires in Gates of the Arctic. All three fires
11 were in the Kobuk River Preserve unit in the southern
12 portion of Gates of the Arctic and all three fires were
13 declared out by August 21st.

14
15 And that's it for my update. Does
16 anyone have any questions?

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Marcy. Do
19 we have any questions for National Park Service?

20
21 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve Oomittuk.

24
25 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. For the
26 record Steve Oomittuk.

27
28 On your Western Arctic caribou herd,
29 you know, it states that the Alaska Department of Fish
30 and Game conducted a successful census July 2019, but
31 the results are still pending. Can you release those
32 results and what exactly number did you, it was
33 successful, but there's no numbers there.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good point.

36
37 MS. OKADA: So we currently have a
38 biologist for the Park Service that studies the Western
39 Arctic herd, but it's the Alaska Department of Fish and
40 Game that does the actual census. And our agency
41 doesn't have the results of those -- of the census that
42 was recently conducted. I don't know when those
43 results are going to be released, but Park Service
44 doesn't have that information right now.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Marcy. We
47 do have ADF&G willing to cough up something here.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

1 MS. DAGGETT: So the Western Arctic
2 caribou herd photo census did happen this last July.
3 It -- when we do the photo census we take photographs
4 of the groups of caribou and those photographs have to
5 be processed. And so we are in the middle of
6 processing those photographs so that we can get a
7 count, but it takes some time. And so that's what
8 happening right now, biologists are counting those
9 photographs.

10
11 So that's where we were at. And I would
12 anticipate that we'll probably have a number sometime
13 this winter, maybe December time frame, but I'm not
14 going to guarantee that just because I don't know how
15 long it's going to take that whole process to happen.
16 But it should -- I would assume it would be sometime
17 this winter that we would get those numbers.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carmen.
20 Just a follow-up question. Did you guys do photo
21 census for Central Arctic herd, Western Arctic herd,
22 Teshekpuk herd, Porcupine here, did you guys do all of
23 them across the board?

24
25 MS. DAGGETT: So Beth answered some of
26 those questions about the herds that she managed when
27 she did her report. So I would encourage you to refer
28 back to the information that she handed out. But
29 Porcupine herd, most of the herd was in Canada when
30 they were going to try to do the photo census so it was
31 not possible to do the Porcupine caribou herd count.

32
33 The Central Arctic herd count. We went
34 out, we took photographs, they're working on processing
35 those photographs right now. And so Beth is working on
36 finalizing those numbers and is hoping to get a number
37 for you relatively soon here.

38
39 Teshekpuk caribou herd. We had a
40 couple of opportunities, unfortunately during this same
41 time period that we had a couple opportunities to take
42 photographs the plane that -- we only had access to one
43 plane to take photographs and that plane the days that
44 we had good enough weather to do it was occupied
45 photographing some of the other herds in the Arctic.
46 So we had some overlap of ideal days and it meant that
47 the Teshekpuk caribou herd didn't get photographed. So
48 that one is on a high priority list for next summer to
49 be photo censused.

50

1 And then Western Arctic caribou herd
2 was photo censused as we talked about earlier. And
3 they feel like they got a pretty good solid photo
4 census when they took the photographs. They just have
5 to finish processing that.
6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And just one final
8 one. Are you guys using a new method of digital type
9 so you can discern much easier and be able to -- I used
10 to do a lot of digital work when I was a map maker, I
11 used to make maps for a living, and you can calculate a
12 figure and then a whole bunch of other ones just like
13 it light up. Are you -- is that what we're talking
14 about in terms of being able to use digital imagery to
15 better count and make a more accurate count of these
16 animals?
17

18 MS. DAGGETT: So the answer to are we
19 using digital systems, the answer is yes. We've pretty
20 much completely switched over to doing digital
21 photography for doing photo census. And as far as the
22 counting process goes when we count we can select each
23 individual animal on the image and count those animals
24 and even go as far as to be able to -- sometimes to be
25 able to distinguish between adults and calves. It
26 depends on the quality of the photographs that were
27 taken, but most of the time the quality is pretty good
28 and we can do that. So we go through and mark the
29 photographs and have a digital counter when we go
30 through and count those photographs.
31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Thank
33 you, Carmen. I think we're going to go back to Marcy
34 because we deviated a little bit from her report.
35

36 But, Marcy, if you could continue.
37

38 MS. OKADA: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
39 Council members. That was the end of my update and
40 I'll take any other questions if there are any.
41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any
43 further questions for Gates of the Arctic for Marcy
44 Okada?
45

46 (No comments)
47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, thank
49 you, Marcy. We'll move right on down the line.
50

1 MS. OKADA: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: North Slope Borough,
4 Department of Wildlife Management.

5

6 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
7 do not have them online at this time. They were
8 invited to participate and I know.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

11

12 MS. PATTON:we did hear back from
13 them.

14

15 So I did want to let the Council know
16 the Office of Subsistence Management is the last report
17 on your Council and it's really concluding statements
18 for the Council, it's not a huge report. So we can
19 leave that for last.

20

21 If the Council -- we do have Carmen
22 Daggett here who was prepared to provide an overview on
23 the Board of Game proposals. We did slice up some
24 sausage and cheese and crackers for an appetizer. It
25 would be an opportunity for the Council to at least get
26 an overview because there's many Board of Game
27 proposals. And even if you didn't have the time to
28 deliberate on all the proposals that you like to
29 tonight.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

32

33 MS. PATTON:to get some
34 information.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sounds good. And if
37 Madame Coordinator can get us cheese and sausage we'll
38 drill the Board of Game proposals.

39

40 So I think it's important because some
41 of these Board of Game stuff, even though it's the
42 State system I think we have -- we should hear about
43 them. And some of them are concerning enough that I
44 think the -- this RAC should influence some language in
45 there.

46

47 So with that I'm going to ask Carmen to
48 do some of the Board of Game proposals, in particular
49 those that are -- could be impactful to communities on

50

1 the Slope.

2

3 And I see somebody back there that
4 hasn't -- there's opportunity to be recognized by the
5 Council if you want to come down. We usually have
6 people be recognized as attendees to the RAC.

7

8 MR. OOMITTUK: Paul. He's a bingo
9 worker.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, yeah. Paul, if
12 -- I know you're the bingo worker I guess, but you're
13 welcome to be a formal attendant with the RAC. And it
14 sounds -- if the bingo worker's here we got to hurry
15 up, you know, we got to get right.

16

17 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, I think it
18 would be ideal if we maybe took a five minute break to
19 give people a chance to maybe use the restroom and grab
20 a snack. And then I can set up my projector and you
21 guys can have a little bit of a break.

22

23 I think that would be a good idea if I
24 can be so bold as to do that.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sounds like a good
27 plan, but we got to hurry, right, because they're going
28 to be doing bingo.

29

30 (Off record)

31

32 (On record)

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Carmen.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Carmen
37 Daggett for the record and I'm just going to go over a
38 few unit 26A proposals.

39

40 The first one on my list actually is
41 proposal 26. And proposal 26 can be found on page 30
42 of the blue books that are out on the table and there's
43 also handouts. So again it's proposal 26 and this is
44 the proposal that Gordon had mentioned that he wanted
45 to discuss. And it's to reauthorize the antlerless
46 moose season west of the 156 west longitude and north
47 of the Colville drainage in 26A.

48

49 The Department -- it's a Department

50

1 proposal and the local department recommendation is to
2 support this proposal.

3
4 So just a little bit of background
5 information on this proposal. If you take a look at
6 this map that we have on the screen the portion of area
7 that we're talking about that this proposal would be
8 applicable for is the brown portion in this map that is
9 where the 156 west longitude line is.

10
11 This population that lives in this area
12 of moose does not have a year round population. This
13 regulation actually has been in effect for the past 11
14 years. And during this 11 years there has been a grand
15 total of four antlerless moose reported harvested in
16 this area.

17
18 The season lasts from July 1st through
19 September 14th. And this proposal -- reauthorization
20 proposals, this one and then also proposal 27 -- not
21 proposal 27, sorry, proposal 3 which is after this,
22 both have to be discussed every year by the Department
23 as well as the Advisory Committees. And they both have
24 to approve them in order to allow those hunts to
25 continue the way that they are.

26
27 So this proposal basically creates
28 opportunity or continues to create opportunity for
29 people to be able to take antlerless moose in this part
30 of the State.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I've got a question.

33
34 MS. KIPPI: (Indiscernible - away from
35 microphone).....

36
37 MS. DAGGETT: Sure.

38
39 MS. KIPPI: What was your last
40 sentence?

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Daggett. What are
43 you asking her last name?

44
45 MS. KIPPI: Yeah, what was your last
46 sentence?

47
48 MS. DAGGETT: It creates opportunity
49 for residents -- it continues to create opportunity for
50

1 residents to hunt antlerless moose in this part of the
2 state.

3
4 MS. KIPPI: Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Can I get
7 somebody from OSM, what's the current -- what can I do
8 right now on Federal public land for moose?

9
10 MS. DAGGETT: It's the same in this
11 area. The regulations are the same between the State
12 and Federal.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Does it say
15 antlerless?

16
17 MS. DAGGETT: I'm pretty sure it does.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Or does it say a bull
20 moose?

21
22 MS. DAGGETT: It -- I'm going to double
23 check myself, but I'm fairly certain that it says
24 exactly the same thing.

25
26 So 26A, that portion of the Colville
27 River drainage upstream and including Anaktuvuk River
28 drainage, one moose -- I'm sorry, it says one moose,
29 however you may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by
30 a calf. So I guess it doesn't say antlerless moose, it
31 says one moose.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: One moose. So I just
34 want to -- I want to be clear because there's been a
35 habit of saying it's the same when.....

36
37 MS. DAGGETT: I understand the
38 distinction, yes.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I want to make
41 sure because I don't want my nephews to get in trouble
42 because they always try to go way far -- that far and
43 get something.

44
45 MS. DAGGETT: And I just.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we already have
48 this opportunity on Federal public lands with a rural
49 preference. I don't know if it's all residents can go

50

1 up there and do that, but the language that you're
2 proposing to put that in State regs, right, through the
3 Board of Game?

4
5 MS. DAGGETT: It would be continuing a
6 regulation that already exists onward to allow the
7 harvest to occur the way it has been for the last 11
8 years in that area for residents.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But you're the State.
11 Wouldn't there be a proposal already in place that --
12 that's enacted by the Federal Subsistence Board already
13 and you're talking about taking this to the State Board
14 of Game?

15
16 MS. DAGGETT: So as I described before
17 this proposal has -- it needs to be reviewed every
18 year. The regulation already exists in the Federal
19 proposal book, you're correct there. It's on the books
20 for the Federal regulations.

21
22 So does that answer your question?

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. It just seems
25 like we don't hear -- you said it has to be done every
26 year. I don't think we heard it last year.

27
28
29 MS. PETRIVELLI: It's ADF&G.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

32
33 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, you guys haven't
34 been reviewing Board of Game proposals it sounds like.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm just alarmed.....

37
38 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
39 The Council has taken up Board of Game proposals when
40 there's been a request to take action on specific
41 proposals. I guess probably the last the Council was
42 most engaged in was the Western Arctic caribou herd.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I just
45 want to keep my train of thought here and not get so
46 cloudy.

47
48 The current regs on this area, 156
49 west, who created that think anyway. I mean, I've been
50

1 trying to live by that thing for eons. And, you know,
2 156 west, I got to go another 50 miles up to comply
3 with that. That's probably by Harry's cabin at chip
4 13. Did Harry make that law, you know, for
5 himself.....

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER:so he can be
10 outside his door and catch the moose? I'm just saying.

11

12 But 156 west is way up there and I've
13 asked to move it so that there's a little bit more
14 flexibility. I'm not saying the moose are come down,
15 but at the same time what's the current -- is the -- is
16 the whole world allowed to use 156 west right now or is
17 it just the rural preference because it's a very
18 limited population and it's not a d-- there's no
19 conservation concern here?

20

21 MS. DAGGETT: So thank you for that
22 question, Mr. Chair. So initially when antlerless
23 moose hunts were allowed in 26A it would have included
24 that entire area, that green and brown portion. And in
25 regulatory year 2015 it was -- the Board adopted the
26 proposal to limit the area where the antlerless moose
27 were able to be taken because the portion that is west
28 of 156 and north of the Colville River drainage was
29 determined to be a population that is not year round
30 and that the animals that wandered over into that
31 portion of the State were likely to be in poor moose
32 habitat to start with and so they weren't likely to
33 make it. And they wanted to protect the breeding
34 population of the moose that exist in the green portion
35 which were having a conservation concern.

36

37 And so it was to allow people to be
38 able to take moose in a time of conservation concern
39 that were antlerless, for residents to be able to take
40 those moose and have some opportunity while the
41 population was still low in the other portion.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It says in the
44 Federal regs, residents of unit 26, except Prudhoe Bay
45 these regulations apply to, right, in the Federal reg?

46

47 MS. DAGGETT: It does say that.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. And it says

50

1 right here that it -- it doesn't give -- it seems like
2 you have to have a C&T to use this 156 west if -- or is
3 it just a resident of -- it says resident of unit 26.

4
5 MS. DAGGETT: Uh-huh. So I would
6 imagine that there is both State and Federal land in
7 that area and that you would want to.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's all Federal land
10 in.....

11
12 MS. DAGGETT: Even around Anaktuvuk or
13 around Atqasuk, all the land around -- and.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I mean, I'm just
16 talking about the 156 area.

17
18 MS. DAGGETT: Uh-huh.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It would be another
21 hundred -- maybe another hundred miles to go to State
22 land on either direction.

23
24 MS. DAGGETT: Right. So the
25 regulations in both State and Federal land would be the
26 same. And there certainly are some State lands that
27 exist within that portion of 26A that we're talking
28 about. Around some of the villages there certainly
29 some State land exists. And it would also count for
30 private land as well. So State regulation apply on
31 private lands.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, I think
34 we're.....

35
36 MS. DAGGETT:in addition to
37 Federal.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER:clouding
40 something here because this says unit 26A, that portion
41 west of 156 longitude excluding the Colville River
42 drainage, one moose. And excluding the Colville River
43 drainage.....

44
45 MS. DAGGETT: Right.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER:meaning that
48 that's the boundary of State and Federal land. If you
49 look at the Colville River drainage there's kind of
50

1 like the Colville River is almost where the NPR-A
2 boundaries are if you look at these things. So if the
3 Board of Game took this and then it starts to exercise
4 it as residents, is your regs going to say residents of
5 unit 26 to do that or do you going to have to -- that
6 we would modify to say a tier hunt in your regs in unit
7 26A west of this area. And that's how come I wanted to
8 understand where do you -- how do you do this when --
9 how do you do what the Feds are doing?

10

11 MS. DAGGETT: So this is exactly what
12 it would say and exactly what it says now. And
13 actually it doesn't say antlerless moose.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: One moose. Okay.

16

17 MS. DAGGETT: It just says one moose.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. But when it
20 goes to your system, because you're going to say
21 resident somewhere is my concern.

22

23 MS. DAGGETT: Uh-huh.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: This one here says
26 resident of unit 26, excluding Prudhoe Bay, Anaktuvuk
27 Pass and Point Hope these regs apply to. If you -- if
28 you just start to think about what it's saying because
29 it's easy to get mixed up and mired up in language.
30 Because you're going to have two conflicting views
31 because your resident's going to say you don't have to
32 be a resident of unit 26, you just got to be a resident
33 because you manage it for the State.

34

35 MS. DAGGETT: So for the areas that are
36 State land on this map or on private lands this.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe we should show
39 them west 156 that you're talking about because there's
40 no State land in that.....

41

42 MS. DAGGETT: There is.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER:in that portion.

45

46 MS. DAGGETT: There definitely is.
47 It's right here.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

50

1 MS. DAGGETT: This is the west 156
2 line.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

5
6 MS. DAGGETT: And any white area would
7 be under State management.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

10
11 MS. DAGGETT: So hunters if they wanted
12 to catch a moose and let's say they saw.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But I'm just
15 saying.....

16
17 MS. DAGGETT:one around --
18 can.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm just saying
21 because the distance -- I'm saying 156 west, you're
22 talking about State land that's nearly a hundred miles
23 to the west, but your language is going to effectuate
24 not just on the State land, but on Federal public land
25 where it says resident of unit 26.....

26
27 MS. DAGGETT: Uh-huh.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER:will now be
30 overlain and covered with resident will be allowed to
31 get a moose.

32
33 MS. DAGGETT: So I understand what
34 you're saying. I think that in this case there is
35 currently consistency between the two regulations and
36 that.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. If we -- they
39 don't -- if they -- I think it would be all right if it
40 say that, but your rule would apply only on the State
41 land. And then this language here would apply to
42 Federal public land where there's a rural subsistence
43 priority. I really think there's a con -- there's
44 conservation matter at stake here as well.

45
46 MS. DAGGETT: I mean, I think they're
47 the same, but.....

48
49 MR. RISDAHL: So, Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.
2 Greg, right?

3
4 MR. RISDAHL: Yeah. So basically the
5 State of Alaska has management authority over the whole
6 State.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
9

10 MR. RISDAHL: The Federal program of
11 course only has management over the Federal public
12 lands. So technically this regulation does apply to
13 both State and Federal lands. And, yeah, there could
14 be some confusion. If you're a Federally-qualified
15 user you can use the State regulations or you can use
16 the Federal regulations. But if you're not from that
17 area, you're not a local Federally-qualified user you
18 can only use the State regulations which means that you
19 can only hunt on the white area.
20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.
22

23 MR. RISDAHL: Excuse me, I'm saying it
24 backwards. I'm saying it -- no. The Federal -- the
25 State hunters can hunt this entire area, they can hunt
26 the white -- yeah, I don't know where I was going with
27 that. Yeah, they can hunt on the State lands and on
28 the Federal lands.
29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I understand that.
31 But when there's a conservation concern, just like when
32 we were talking about Federal closure except to
33 Federally-qualified users because this patient rule was
34 created because there's a limited, very limited amount
35 of moose that go into the Ikpiuk River drainage.
36 That's my understanding. Because they just walk around
37 from Colville, from that other side and they make their
38 way and very limited moose population in this Colville
39 -- mainly in the Valley of the Willows, that's what I
40 -- it's way up there.
41

42 And you're not treating this the same
43 as how you treat 26 -- 25A and B where Kaktovik is.
44 You're treating them absolutely different when it's the
45 same issue. It's a conservation concern as well.
46

47 MS. DAGGETT: I think the reason why
48 we're supporting this proposal is because there's only
49 been four moose harvested in the last 11 years in this
50

1 region. And so this portion.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So you're trying to
4 open it up to make it more attractive and.....

5

6 MS. DAGGETT: No.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER:advertising it
9 so people can hear more about it?

10

11 MS. DAGGETT: No. This proposal.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's what it draws
14 attention to.

15

16 MS. DAGGETT:this proposal has
17 been on the books for 11 years. It's been this way for
18 11 years. There hasn't -- this is not a change in
19 regulation at the moment. This is the same way it's
20 been for 11 years. And in those 11 years we have to
21 review this every year. And so it becomes -- it comes
22 before the Advisory Committees and the public every
23 year for discussion. And it's something that I
24 actually am mandated to do. I'm required to bring this
25 before -- for discussion every year because female
26 moose are a big deal for moose populations, we have to
27 approve this every year. If there were a moose that
28 were on State land in 26A right now and it happened to --
29 and it was on State land and not Federal land and it
30 was an antlerless moose or a female moose, people
31 couldn't shoot it that were local either.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

34

35 MS. DAGGETT: They wouldn't be able to
36 do that. They would only be able to do that on Federal
37 land if this proposal didn't pass.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

40

41 MS. DAGGETT: So it creates opportunity
42 for people who -- and it also creates consistency
43 between State and Federal regulations across that
44 portion of 26A.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, that's what I
47 -- I think we shot ourselves in the foot way back then
48 when we started talking about, hey, let's be consistent
49 across the board, you know, because we got rural

50

1 subsistence priority issues to deal with. And the
2 State doesn't really like to do any conservation issues
3 in my view when there's 50 percent decline in
4 population and there's still liberal management and
5 reluctance to recognize village area of influences, the
6 needs of communities, but still manage it for the
7 entire State. That's what I have seen, literally seen
8 for years.

9
10 And that's always been -- and we may
11 have a -- we may have a difference of opinion, but
12 that's what I have seen. And I don't want to really,
13 you know, dominate the dialogue, but I get afraid when
14 I start to see some of the language that was intended
15 in my view to try to be able to harvest locally
16 incidental moose that's coming across in an area where
17 there was large die offs before and the population
18 isn't such to support a resident hunt.

19
20 MS. DAGGETT: Uh-huh.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It should be a tier
23 hunt under the State and it should be a rural
24 subsistence priority for -- you should be a resident of
25 that unit.

26
27 MS. DAGGETT: Just so that you have
28 some familiarity with how the rest of the Colville
29 River moose hunt is managed, so currently we have 339
30 moose in this population according to the last full
31 census that we did in this area. It's not very many
32 moose, right. And the harvestable surplus for this
33 population is around 16 moose. Given that I have the
34 harvest of -- the number of moose that have been
35 harvested in this region that have been reported over
36 the last several years. And we're still well under
37 that harvestable surplus. There's no nonresident hunt
38 in this area.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here's the thing.
41 Sixteen moose harvestable surplus. That's is a very,
42 very -- that herd should be protected beyond measure at
43 this point. There should be drawings just like in
44 Kaktovik for those three moose for these 16 moose from
45 Barrow or from Atqasuk, whoever can make it to there.
46 And you're not doing that, you're looking to make this
47 into a resident opportunity for one thing in my view
48 and it -- there's a conservation concern at stake. And
49 300 moose, those go extinct very quick and in my view

50

1 these 16 moose should be community of unit 26 is what
2 I'm trying to get at. Just like there is -- you need
3 to have a moose registration just only for the
4 community of Kaktovik in to even get those three moose
5 in unit 25. This is the same -- one and the same
6 argument.

7
8 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, I'd like you
9 to look at the reported harvest for moose in 26A.....

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

12
13 MS. DAGGETT:for the last.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What does the
16 report.....

17
18 MS. DAGGETT:eight years.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER:of harvest got
21 to do with it. You only got 16 harvestable surplus.

22
23 MS. DAGGETT: Right. But if we're not
24 getting anywhere near harvesting that with our
25 current.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We don't need to.
28 We're.....

29
30 MS. DAGGETT:scheme.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER:we're being
33 conservative in my view. You're just -- I think your
34 point is we only get four so maybe we should let
35 Fairbanks, Anchorage and those other people get the
36 remaining 10.

37
38 MS. DAGGETT: They could already go do
39 that except that they can't fly there.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

42
43 MS. DAGGETT: It's already -- the
44 flights are already -- flying airplanes into that area
45 other than into State airports.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

48
49 MS. DAGGETT:they can't go fly in

50

1 that area to hunt moose anyway for.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we're going
4 to run out of time.....

5

6 MS. DAGGETT:where most of the
7 population is.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER:here. And I
10 think in the best interests of -- in time, I really
11 think that we should oppose and make language and that
12 the regional Council up here recommends this piece of
13 AC regulations be opposed, that we are opposed to this
14 because we're going to go around in circles. And until
15 we understand and the willingness for the State to look
16 at these things in a way that facilitates community
17 use. And you can easily do that to allow for
18 communities to have an opportunity to do subsistence.

19

20 MS. PETRIVELLI: Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Pat.

23

24 MS. PETRIVELLI: I'd just like to make
25 one comment though. If -- because under our regs we
26 allow the antlerless moose now, just one moose, the
27 State has the same exact season. There's so little
28 State land, but if a local hunter was hunting by their
29 village which is closer to them and they harvest an
30 antlerless moose and you -- and the Board of Game
31 opposes it, then that person would be in violation,
32 they would get a ticket.

33

34 And so now it's -- they would be able
35 to harvest it under either State or Federal regulations
36 and they get the maximum opportunity to get one moose
37 under State or Federal regulations.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

40

41 MS. PETRIVELLI:during the period
42 July 1 through September 14th.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And here's my
45 concern. That language is not the same because it say
46 resident of unit 26. Your language just says
47 residents. So if you were going to mirror the language
48 in unit 26 to be a resident what's the tier level that
49 would allow you to say that. Because I don't

50

1 understand your tier levels yet.

2

3

Yeah, go ahead.

4

5 MS. PETRIVELLI: The Board of Game
6 would not restrict it to certain residents only. And
7 they probably wouldn't feel the need to because the
8 idea of when there's 16 allowable moose harvest and
9 only three moose are being harvested why would they
10 make a restriction. So but they don't have the
11 capacity to make restrictions by community. They would
12 have to make restrictions based upon the tier II
13 criteria which Carmen explained about, like -- and they
14 have criteria like -- seven or eight criteria about
15 economics, about distances, about harvest history. And
16 then they would have to apply for a permit. And then
17 if we made restrictions then, you know, how Kaktovik
18 has to negotiate with the Refuge to get their three
19 moose quota, then we would start making restrictions
20 and saying whoever wants to get a moose in that area
21 has to negotiate with somebody to get their three
22 moose. Right now anyone who's hunting in there could
23 get a moose and the regulations are one moose and you
24 can get it from July 1 to September 14th.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Is it not the
27 case, I mean, I understand exactly what you guys are
28 saying, but is it not the case that there's already a
29 conservation concern on the moose as such there's a
30 closure except for subsistence?

31

32 MS. DAGGETT: There are conservation
33 concerns and -- for this population. And we feel that
34 or at least the intent is to protect the population of
35 moose that are the breed population of moose that are
36 going to continue to contribute.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. You're saying
39 way too much and confusing everything. I'm just saying
40 here there's all -- the reason why there's three moose
41 in Kaktovik is that there's what, a hundred moose left
42 on the planet over there.

43

44 MS. DAGGETT: Uh-huh.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We've got to fight
47 for that. We've been arguing over transient animal
48 movements for years, that they recruit from the other
49 side. So there's a conservation concern. This area,

50

1 156 west that is being described, allowed for one
2 moose. It doesn't say antlerless, it just says one
3 moose.

4
5 MS. DAGGETT: You're right.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I'm just
8 concerned that the language you're about ready to
9 introduce will be different in nature just because it's
10 a different system. It's -- just because it's -- if
11 you were going to mirror the type of language that's in
12 here that says resident of unit 26, but it has some
13 exclusions that these regulations apply to, resident of
14 unit 26 except for Prudhoe Bay, Deadhorse Industrial
15 Complex for moose. And then it goes on to say certain
16 areas, right. But when you're going to introduce your
17 language it'll say almost the same thing, but it will
18 say resident without the unit -- resident of unit 26 is
19 my guess. It's going to be one moose in unit 26 for
20 residents.

21
22 MS. DAGGETT: Right. So the State
23 can't distinguish between residents.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, you can by using
26 the tier levels, by.....

27
28 MS. DAGGETT: Right.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER:recognizing the
31 conservation concern.

32
33 MS. DAGGETT: So can I -- can I
34 describe to you what the tier system process looks
35 like?

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, and we wanted
38 to do that, but in the best interests of time because I
39 think we're going to run out for bingo here and those
40 things that we really wanted to hear about describing
41 the State system and I hope it's not laborious and more
42 understandable.

43
44 MS. DAGGETT: So let me give you an
45 example. In unit 23 I used to go around and hand out
46 tier II permits to communities. And I would go to all
47 of the communities that were within the range of those
48 muskox hunts there were a tier II hunt. And residents
49 would have to apply ahead of time for those permits and

50

1 then they would get categorized based on those
2 applications, how many points they would get, that they
3 would drawn out of a hat for that. Right now when
4 residents here want to hunt moose I just give them a
5 general season harvest ticket and it takes two minutes
6 and they can go and harvest a moose if they want to
7 under that harvest ticket and it's very simple. If you
8 went through a tier II system you would have to go
9 through that whole application process ahead of time
10 and you would have to fill out -- every resident that
11 wanted -- that thought they might want to hunt a moose,
12 they would have to fill it out ahead of time. Right
13 now you can get those general season harvest tickets
14 year round.
15

16 So just realize that if you're asking
17 for a tier system that it would end up operating like
18 that instead of a general season harvest ticket that it
19 does now.
20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I don't think we're
22 asking for a tier system, but we're already regulated
23 156 west through the Federal regulations, we go by
24 that.
25

26 MS. DAGGETT: Uh-huh.
27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But you're overlaying
29 it to include that language and justifying it because
30 there's State lands over here in 26 that a hundred
31 miles to the -- to the west. And that it would be more
32 difficult for Point Lay that would -- to get their
33 moose because they're on State land. Because that's
34 where it would -- because that's where the border of
35 NPR-A is in that white section is unit 26A as well.
36

37 So I'm just saying that your language
38 should mirror what the Federal regs is saying, that one
39 moose for residents of unit 26A, that's what it -- it
40 says you have to be a resident in unit 26. That's what
41 the -- I'm reading what the regs say. I don't think
42 it's a -- it's not disguised in any way unless somebody
43 wrote it in a way that doesn't say resident means you
44 have to be a resident in unit 26A. I'm just saying
45 your language, in order for it to say that would have
46 to come with a comparable regulation that would say
47 something like that. And then it would be effective on
48 State land and I would still be able to do my stuff
49 using Federal regs on Federal land without having to go
50

1 to the tier system. The tier system would be enacted
2 over here.

3
4 MS. DAGGETT: So you're correct that we
5 would have to -- in order to be able to distinguish
6 between Alaska residents that we would have to go to a
7 tier II system.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

10
11 MS. DAGGETT:on State and private
12 lands in order to allow people to harvest a female
13 moose in that part of -- that we're talking about.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Yeah, well
16 it's not even saying female, it just says one moose.

17
18 MS. DAGGETT: Right. But there's
19 regulations for bulls -- other regulations for bulls.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. So I'm
22 just.....

23
24 MS. DAGGETT: So this seems to be able
25 to include a female.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER:I'm just saying
28 -- I'm just saying you're putting apples and oranges
29 together where it's hard to mix. And I don't want it
30 to be all of sudden the State regs are the law of the
31 land in Federal public lands where the term resident
32 has diminished the Federal reg of saying you must be a
33 resident in unit 26A. Now it's going to say you must
34 be a resident of the State of Alaska to get one moose
35 in unit 26A.

36
37 And that's the difference. It may be
38 subtle, but it's huge. And if we're going to say you
39 can use State regs or Federal regs then it defeats the
40 purpose of why the Federal reg is there to have rural
41 preference in a conservation concern of that species.

42
43 And that's all I'm trying to project.
44 There's a conservation concern. Even if it's just 16
45 moose. And if it's -- you know, if we were going to
46 say maybe we need to do a preponderance of the evidence
47 that the community's dependent on these to such that it
48 required 200 moose to feel -- make the nutritional gaps
49 of caribou, fish and others, we need 200 moose. We

50

1 will -- it will indefinitely be a resident of unit 26
2 until we can harvest 200 moose and that harvestable
3 surplus of others then can be extended to somebody else
4 outside of that unit.

5
6 And that's where the State fails in my
7 view because they -- you have the mentality to manage
8 it for the whole State. That's all I'm saying. And
9 it's important to recognize that.

10
11 And that's where a lot of the arguments
12 don't end from Anaktuvuk because there's State land
13 north and the State will never do a tier hunt north.
14 They'll make a controlled use that are meaningless at
15 some points. And they still have those concerns. I
16 don't know what the variability is, what the cause of
17 those caribou not coming through, I have a big idea
18 it's the periphery of the herd has shrunk so much that
19 it doesn't grace as much. Right now Anaktuvuk is
20 hunting at Nuiqsut to provide food on the table.
21 That's what it's come down to right now.

22
23 And you should be focused on why is
24 Anaktuvuk hunting in Nuiqsut right now and trying to
25 fix that dilemma and then -- and trying to cloud a
26 Federal system that's geared to protect the community
27 already is what I'm trying to say. And I think anymore
28 words added by you is going to be the State mentality
29 versus the Federal mentality. And I'd be willing to be
30 my own lawyer in court to see who would win, you know.
31 But I'm -- that's just me. I'm saying the regs here,
32 the Federal regs say you must be a resident of unit 26
33 to catch that moose. And your regs say the State of
34 Alaska, you must be a resident of the State to catch
35 that moose. That's the difference. And that's where
36 the State had the impasse in 1994 when they couldn't --
37 in their constitutional convention failed to make a
38 rural subsistence priority come to life.

39
40 Anyway I think that's the only -- you
41 picked the right one to argue because that would take a
42 long time and I don't know at this point what the
43 Council wants to do. Maybe we stay silent, but I
44 wouldn't stay silent because it's -- if your proposal
45 was that there would be a tier hunt for moose in this
46 area that mirrored the language and limited those
47 incidental moose that might come around this State
48 area, that kind of mirrors the language of what the
49 Federal regs say, you must be a resident of unit 26A to

50

1 catch that moose. But you're not, you're saying you
2 must be a resident of the State to catch that moose.

3
4 So you need -- I don't know what tier
5 level or special words that need to be changed into
6 your proposal to mirror that Federal language. And I
7 think it's time for the State to do that. I think it's
8 time for the State because we've stepped on our foot
9 and say, yeah, let's align and work together and we'll --
10 once you cross boundaries from State to Federal lands
11 that we're not going to have different laws. And maybe
12 the Federal side is the right side. I think the
13 Federal side is the right way because there's already
14 been so much crying from Anaktuvuk. I got a little
15 note right here from Esther Hugo, really wants
16 representation here on this RAC right now, but she
17 can't represent her community. She's not on the RAC.
18 I have this note given to me, Esther Hugo from
19 Anaktuvuk because they're hurting for caribou. All
20 their hunters are flying to Nuiqsut to catch food.

21
22 MS. KIPPI: Wanda for the record. She
23 had asked me also to have someone represent Anaktuvuk
24 Pass when I had spoken to her before I traveled here
25 for this meeting.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So what's the wish of
30 the Council, do you guys want to say something about
31 that Board of Game proposal from the RAC. My
32 inclination is maybe support with modification that it --
33 the language actually mirrors unit 26A Federal reg
34 that you must be a resident of unit 26A for that moose.
35 And that means you would have to probably modify it to
36 some level of a tier hunt on the remaining State land
37 on unit 26A is what I'm trying to get at.

38
39 I think we take pride in that we're in
40 this area where there's not very much moose, there is a
41 conservation concern. Those 16 moose should be all
42 gobbled up by the communities, they're so far and in
43 inhospitable areas it takes a millionaire practically
44 to go get them. That's how come you don't get all 16
45 of them because you got to be really rich. That's how
46 come I say take that 156 line off and disappear that
47 line because it's bothered me for the last 10, 12 years
48 that I've seen that language in the regs. But I
49 understand it's based on a conservation concern.

50

1 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
4 William.

5
6 MR. HOPSON: Yeah, I see this argument
7 is not going to end.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

10
11 MR. HOPSON: And the only solution, I
12 mean, to reintroduce it and come back in the next
13 meeting. We have to show a little respect on both
14 sides. We're not here to argue. Please respect that
15 and let's reintroduce this to the next meeting and
16 maybe we can have a rational meeting.

17
18 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), William.
21 Yeah. Yeah. I think there's some time constraints as
22 well. I don't know when the Board of Game is going to
23 take this up.

24
25 MS. DAGGETT: January.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: In January. And our
28 winter meeting is probably going to be March or
29 February. And we would have missed the boat at that
30 point to influence in any way what the Board of Game
31 might say in this. So it's probably our only
32 opportunity unless there's a special meeting to talk
33 more about it.

34
35 I think arguments, I think this is
36 constructive because we have regulations already on the
37 book on the Federal side that says you must be a
38 resident in unit 26A to harvest that moose, 156 west.
39 That's the language and that's what she is proposing to
40 go to the State Board of Game to bring that proposal to
41 -- through the RAC is what it is.

42
43 Anyway, yeah. Argument, I know it's
44 hard to hear these things, but, you know, my heart is
45 with the people that need the -- if we don't argue
46 these things pretty soon you will have those concerns
47 that -- in a conservation climate there's, hey, we can --
48 I'm -- I got a airplane in Fairbanks and which we --
49 it's their right, they see this opportunity here that's
50

1 overlain by State regs that may have -- you can hunt by
2 State reg or Federal regs in my books in these areas
3 and that would allow them to come in from Fairbanks and
4 Anchorage and all -- any other places in the State of
5 Alaska as a resident to take that moose in 156 west.
6 When our Federal regs say you must be a resident, that
7 means you must be living in Atkasuk, Barrow or Nuiqsut
8 or Wainwright or Point Lay. Those are the residents in
9 this area.

10

11 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

12

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

15

16 MS. ITTA: My question is if we don't
17 take any action tonight right now, will the Board --
18 will Fish and Game be approving or disapproving this
19 proposal even before our next meeting. Is that what
20 I'm hearing?

21

22 MS. DAGGETT: So if you guys weren't to
23 meet before January, the Board of Game would make the
24 decision whether they would want to support or oppose
25 this proposal and pass it on. It would be a Board of
26 Game decision. And it.....

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: In a sense, yes.
29 With all those many words, yes.

30

31 MS. ITTA: Okay. So that being said
32 and I don't think we're going to be having a special
33 meeting just in regards to this or in the near future
34 so I think, you know, it's really that we give our
35 input and, you know, give -- go through this proposal
36 tonight.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think it's
39 just -- what we're going to do is provide comments as a
40 RAC. We're not going to make a decision for them.
41 It's just going to let the Board of Game know that this
42 RAC listened to the proposal and we can suggest that we
43 don't like it or we can say well, I think it would be
44 better if you added the language, mirror the existing
45 regs on the Federal side that you must be a resident of
46 unit 26A because it doesn't say that in -- it just adds
47 resident. I kind of read it and looked at it and it
48 scares me when they add resident because resident means
49 -- it may trump, you can hunt on State regs or Federal
50

1 regs on Federal public lands and if they introduce that
2 and it's going to say one moose, 156 west, harvestable
3 by resident. That means, Fairbanks, Anchorage, Juneau,
4 anybody else that want to come up and go take that
5 moose.

6
7 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
8 And I'm going to have to interrupt here because we do
9 have -- our community is going to be in here at 8:00
10 o'clock so.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We know
13 that. So.....

14
15 MS. PATTON:we are going to have
16 to conclude the meeting soon.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We understand that,
19 but I think when we're talking about something and
20 we're -- you're almost limiting us from saying
21 something that we might want to say. And we understand
22 that the community's going to do bingo here in a few
23 minutes.

24
25 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Martha.

28
29 MS. ITTA: That being said the comments
30 that you just made and the questions and concerns, are
31 those going to be taken as comments?

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It will be -- here's
34 what will happen. If we make a motion and say we
35 support with modifications that -- with the -- only if
36 their proposal mirror the language in the Federal regs
37 in unit 26A that included you must be a resident of
38 unit 26A to harvest that moose. That means they're
39 going to have to do something like a tier hunt in order
40 to do that.

41
42 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
45 the floor to comment on the State Board of Game for 156
46 west that we support it with modifications that the
47 language mirrors the Federal regs that allow for a
48 resident of unit 26A to harvest that moose.

1 MS. ITTA: I second it.

2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Nuiqsut.

4
5 MR. OOMITTUK: Question.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question. All those
8 in favor of providing these comments signify by saying
9 aye.

10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
14 same sign.

15
16 (No opposing votes)

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ayes have it. Those
19 are the comments of the Regional Advisory Council on
20 that proposal. And I don't know exactly what the
21 number is, 26. Okay. So we -- so that's our comments
22 and I don't think we have anymore time to entertain the
23 three remaining proposals.

24
25 MS. DAGGETT: I'd like to respectfully
26 thank you for your comments.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

29
30 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think at this
33 point, what do we need to do, do we need to adjourn or
34 set the next meeting date.

35
36 MS. PATTON: Yes, we do need to set the
37 next meeting date and I don't know if there's some
38 closing comments that Greg would like to make on behalf
39 of OSM. But while -- we can go to your calendars in
40 the back of your meeting book at 178 and 179.

41
42 And, Greg, you're welcome to come up as
43 we're looking up the calendars.

44
45 So I'd like to on 178 to take a look at
46 the winter meeting calendar. The North Slope Council
47 had selected February 19th and 20th. And we would just
48 need to reconfirm that those dates work for the Council
49 members or if there's an alternate date that's needed.

50

1 And then for the fall, 2020 meeting calendar we'll need
2 to select those fall dates. And right now for 2020
3 it's open except for the week that typically is AFN,
4 Western Interior, Eastern Interior, so that week of
5 October 13th is closed.

6
7 But we're going to let Greg provide a
8 brief OSM update and closing comments on behalf of OSM.

9
10 Thank you, Greg.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Greg.

13
14 MR. RISDAHL: Mr. Chairman, members of
15 the Council. It feels a little bit like I'm going to
16 get blamed for eating the last of the cereal out of the
17 cereal box.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 MR. RISDAHL: But I actually had -- it
22 is a short, less than 15 minutes, summary of three
23 things, 2019 Federal Subsistence Board actions,
24 accomplishments, highlights for OSM and then the update
25 on the OSM staffing. Now I can do one part, two parts
26 or three parts, it's -- I guess I leave it up to you
27 depending on how ready you are to close the meeting.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of
30 the Council? You have to read everything or I think he
31 probably can summarize pretty good at this point.

32
33 MR. RISDAHL: I'll do my best to
34 summarize it even less than it is.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

37
38 MR. RISDAHL:if that's the wishes
39 of the Council.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We're
42 seeing some nods.

43
44 Go ahead, Greg.

45
46 MR. RISDAHL: Okay. Thank you very
47 much.

48
49 Okay. Beginning with the Federal
50

1 Subsistence Board actions. During the April, 2019
2 regulatory meeting the Federal Board took action on 19
3 fisheries regulatory proposals. The Board also
4 implemented a system of temporary special actions to
5 cover the improved changes to the fish regulations
6 until they were published because we got a late start
7 from the furlough, et cetera. It all worked out in the
8 end.
9

10 At the Board's July 19 teleconference,
11 the Board took action on three wildlife temporary
12 special actions. One for unit 13 moose and caribou,
13 WSA 19-03 which failed. One for unit 10, Unimat Island
14 caribou, that was supported, that was 19-05. And a
15 caribou hunt for units 20E, 25C and 20F and that was
16 also supported, wildlife special action 19-06.
17

18 At the Board's August, 2019, public
19 work session the Board reviewed the Regional Advisory
20 Council nominations and charter package. And that was
21 submitted to the Secretary's office, reviewed by the
22 Assistant Secretary's Office, Steve Wackowski, the
23 Special Assistant and the U.S. Regional Forester.
24

25 The Board also took action on three
26 more wildlife temporary special actions associated with
27 unit 18 moose and that was supported with modification
28 to give the delegated authority to the in-season
29 manager. Unit 2 wolves, that was also supported. And
30 a third was with unit 23 moose which they also
31 supported.
32

33 The Board also reviewed two Federal
34 Subsistence Program informational videos. One was
35 titled how to submit a proposal and the other was how
36 to become a member of the Regional Advisory Council.
37 Additional videos are being developed on such things as
38 how to submit a special action request or how to
39 request a cultural or educational permit. These videos
40 were produced in partnership with the Alaska Teen Media
41 Institute. They are available from the OSM web page,
42 on Facebook or YouTube.
43

44 The Federal Subsistence Board currently
45 has scheduled the following meetings. This is fairly
46 important. There's a January 28th to 30 Board retreat
47 and public work session which is tentatively planned to
48 be held in Anchorage. The Board there will address the
49 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program that Karen had
50

1 given you guys the update on earlier.
2

3 In April of 2020 the wildlife
4 regulatory meeting will take place. That is scheduled
5 to take place in Copper Center and of course the Board
6 will discuss and take action on all the wildlife
7 regulatory proposals and other agenda items that may
8 come up.
9

10 As far as the Subsistence office
11 highlights, 55 wildlife proposals were analyzed by OSM
12 staff this year and they're all scheduled to be
13 presented to each of the Regional Advisory Council.
14 You guys only heard some crossover proposals and one
15 statewide proposal because there were no specific
16 wildlife proposals for this area.
17

18 The Board will take action on all of
19 the proposals during the April meeting as mentioned.
20

21 The Anthropology Division conducted
22 analyses on 10 customary and traditional use
23 determinations for Southcentral, Southeast and the
24 Interior Alaska region Councils.
25

26 So far the OSM staff has analyzed eight
27 wildlife temporary special actions. The Board has
28 taken action on six of those requests and two are still
29 in review.
30

31 In total there were 17 wildlife closure
32 reviews that had to be done this year by OSM staff and
33 each of them are being reviewed one by one at the
34 respective Councils where they take place in.
35

36 The OSM staff also made comments on 46
37 Alaska Board of Game proposals like -- kind of like the
38 one you guys were just working on here.
39

40 The Federal subsistence chinook salmon
41 fishery was restricted by the Federal Subsistence Board
42 on the Kuskokwim River this year and two Federal
43 subsistence chinook salmon fisheries were closed
44 through the emergency special action process, one on
45 the Situk and one of the Stikine Rivers.
46

47 Two subsistence sockeye salmon
48 fisheries were also closed this year through Federal
49 emergency action due to low returns. And that -- one
50

1 was on the Chignik and the other one was the Stikine.
2 And Orville mentioned the one on the Chignik. Although
3 it was not nearly as drastic as what happened the
4 previous year when almost nothing returned.

5
6 Six subsistence rulemaking documents
7 were published in the Federal Register this past year
8 which include two proposed rules, three final rules,
9 one notice on information collection for permits and
10 the Council nomination packets. The three final rules
11 were the 2018, 2019 and 2020 subsistence taking of
12 wildlife. The second one was the Cook Inlet area
13 regulations that the Fisheries staff reorganized and
14 the Board voted to accept them the way they'd changed.
15 And the third final rule was the 2019, 2020 and 2021
16 subsistence taking of fish regulations.

17
18 Orville mentioned that he'd conducted
19 numerous consultations. I think he said 149 Federally
20 recognized tribes here in Alaska and 10 regional
21 corporations. He's also conducted 10 tribal engagement
22 sessions and worked with a number of high schools in
23 four regions with the goal of increasing awareness of
24 the Federal Subsistence Program and its objectives.

25
26 You may recall that in 2017 the Board
27 adopted a new policy on the nonrural determination
28 process. In the spring of 2018 the first call for
29 proposals went out and one nonrural determination was
30 issued for the community of Moose Pass. That proposal
31 will be analyzed by the Board in their January, 2021
32 meeting.

33
34 The OSM staff are drafting a best
35 practices document to be finalized by the end of this
36 year and it will provide general guidance for data
37 requests and exchanges of information between the State
38 of Alaska and OSM.

39
40 Moving on to the Regional Advisory
41 Councils. One of the primary functions of the Councils
42 is to provide recommendations to the Federal
43 Subsistence Board on the take of fish and wildlife on
44 Federal public lands. This past regulatory cycle the
45 Board received 20 fisheries proposals, one was
46 withdrawn by a proponent and they were all acted on.
47 The -- let's see, the Board accepted the majority of
48 the proposals and the RAC recommendations in whole or
49 with modification for 18 of the 19 proposals.

50

1 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
2 is preparing to start another year for 2020, the notice
3 of funding opportunity. And we reviewed 28 Resource
4 Monitoring Program proposals. And as Karen had said
5 the proposals were reviewed by the Technical Review
6 Committee and they were scored and the final results
7 will be coming out in January, which projects are
8 actually funded. And it's based essentially on the
9 availability of funding which we're -- we're still
10 working through that process. But essentially the
11 Board approves it and the ARD for OSM, the assistant
12 regional director, makes the final decision.

13
14 As far as Partners Program goes, this
15 year seven proposals were funded for the 2020 to 2023
16 funding period. The awards are going to Bristol Bay
17 Native Association, ONC, the Tanana Chiefs Conference,
18 the Native Village of Eyak, the Native Village of
19 Napakiak and two new partners this year, the Yakutat
20 Tlingit and Qawalangin Tribes.

21
22 In total this year OSM awarded \$4.3
23 million dollars to these programs together.

24
25 The last thing that I wanted to mention
26 is the current staffing situation at OSM. We have 32
27 permanent staff in place right now with 12 vacancies.
28 And I mentioned that the OSM ARD position cert is out
29 for the third time in about a year and currently the
30 Federal Subsistence Board members that are on that
31 committee are putting together a review panel to
32 interview folks. And I don't know who they are for the
33 most part, we'll hear more on that hopefully in the
34 near future.

35
36 Our other vacancies right now and our
37 priorities to fill as soon as possible are our three
38 administrative assistant positions, Anthropology
39 supervisor, two fish biologists, two wildlife
40 biologists, the Council Coordination supervisor,
41 cultural anthropologist and subsistence policy
42 coordinator.

43
44 And I can say happily in the last two
45 weeks the region, Alaska region, has finally come up
46 with an interim plan to fill these positions. It's
47 been really difficult because of the transition from
48 having our own in-house HR staff to this -- what they
49 call the JAO, the Joint Administrative Office. They --
50

1 basically the Department of Interior created a
2 completely new agency and they're combining all this
3 administrative work for all the different agencies that
4 fall under DOI. And it's been quite a process to get
5 those folks up and running. And anyway we have an
6 interim process to try to get some of these positions
7 filled more quickly. I'll just leave it at that.

8
9 In the meantime we do have some details
10 filling in. Tom Doolittle, he's the deputy ARD, so
11 he's still acting as the ARD. Suzanne Worker is --
12 she's a wildlife biologist for us now and she's the
13 acting subsistence policy coordinator, a very important
14 position. I am the acting deputy assistant director
15 when I'm not doing the Fisheries stuff and Tom Kron is
16 the acting council coordinator supervisor.

17
18 We talked about ANSEP a little bit. On
19 a bright note we hired and placed 11 Alaska Native
20 Science and Engineering Program interns in the field
21 with biologists to expose them to careers in biology.
22 And this included four ANSEP summer bridge students
23 entering their first year in college and six ANSEP
24 university success students with career interests in
25 the Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife Service and other
26 conservation kinds of organizations including tribal
27 ones.

28
29 With that I'd be happy to answer any
30 questions.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of
33 the Council, does anyone have any comments to Greg?

34
35 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

38
39 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

40
41 MR. RISDAHL: My pleasure. Thank you
42 very much. Really appreciate all the work you guys do.
43 You have stamina, that's all I can say.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Greg, as
46 well. And thanks for all the staff. You know, we
47 didn't come here to beat anybody up and if you felt
48 beat up by us on some of the regulatory proposals, I
49 think we're just trying to look out for the residents
50

1 around here, you know. And I think we have a big heart
2 for making sure subsistence up here is the law of the
3 land in these parts.

4
5 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

8
9 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, just one more
10 comments. It starts getting light around 9:30. So we
11 want to do a tour so before you guys leave we'll try to
12 do a tour about 9:30, see the sights of Point Hope
13 before you leave.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And Steve's going to
16 be our tour guide. He's one heck of a tour guide, I'll
17 tell you that much. He's pretty good.

18
19 MR. RISDAHL: Mr. Chairman and Steve,
20 just for clarification. You mean 9:30 tomorrow
21 morning, correct?

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MR. RISDAHL: Well, thank you guys very
26 much. We really appreciate all you do and we'll see
27 you at dinner.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
30 you.

31
32 MR. OOMITTUK: Just one more thing.
33 The city is doing a fundraiser for a local family so if
34 you like to play bingo there's open floor over here.
35 You pay \$1 a card, you could win \$40. So but it is a
36 fundraiser for family members that we recently had a
37 death and they're trying to get all the family members
38 back home. So if you like to play bingo come on down.

39
40 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

41
42 MR. RISDAHL: Steve, what time would
43 that be?

44
45 MS. ITTA: 8:30.

46
47 MR. OOMITTUK: Half hour.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Soon as we get out of
50

1 here bingo starts.

2

3 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead,
6 Martha, from Nuiqsut.

7

8 MS. ITTA: I would like to thank the
9 Board and the community of Point Hope for a nice
10 welcome. This is my first time here in Point Hope and
11 I really enjoyed it here. So thank you to Steve and
12 your community for the warm welcome.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native).

15

16 (Applause)

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We that we need to
19 just codify is that February 19, February 20 of our
20 next meeting for 2020?

21

22 MS. PATTON: Correct. If the Council
23 can just confirm if that meeting date still works and
24 then select.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is that good,
27 February 19 and February 20, that's.....

28

29 MR. OOMITTUK: So move.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been moved
32 for.....

33

34 MS. ITTA: Seconded.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER:February 19.
37 Seconded.

38

39 MS. ITTA: Question

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question's called.
42 All those in favor of February 19, February 20, signify
43 by saying aye.

44

45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
48 same sign.

49

50

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The ayes have it.
4 We're going to have our next meeting on that date and
5 it looks like it's in Barrow.

6

7 MS. PATTON: And Mr. Chair and Council.
8 Just one more meeting date. So we do tentatively
9 select the fall 2020. If you'll look on page 179, the
10 next page over, that entire block is open. Any of
11 those weeks except for that week that starts with
12 October 12th. So everything's open except for the week
13 of October 12th through the 16th.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we should do
16 something earlier like in August or something, you
17 know.

18

19 MS. ITTA: I suggest.....

20

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

22

23 MS. ITTA:August 18th.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
26 the floor for August 18 and August 18 and I think it's
27 usually two days, right?

28

29 MS. PATTON: Yeah.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So 18 and 19 or you
32 guys want 17 and 18?

33

34 MS. ITTA: Either one.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Going to have to
37 travel on the weekend though so I think we should do 18
38 and 19 that way they can pay us, you know.

39

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

41

42 MS. ITTA: Seconded.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. All those
45 in favor of August 18 and 19 signify by saying aye.

46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,

50

1 same sign.

2

3 (No opposing votes)

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ayes have it, August
6 18 and 19 for fall, 2020.

7

8 All right. Motion to shut the mics
9 off.

10

11 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
12 One more announcement is that I just want to let folks
13 know that Tom Evans will be retiring this December.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Bye, Tommy, I
16 will.....

17

18 (Applause)

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Man, I'm not going to
21 be able to argue with Tom anymore.

22

23 MR. OOMITTUK: Can I -- I have a
24 question. Where are you retiring so I can go visit?

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MR. EVANS: Anchorage.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's close enough.
31 All right. I need a motion to adjourn.

32

33 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
36 the floor to adjourn.

37

38 MS. ITTA: Second.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Been seconded.

41

42 MS. ITTA: Call for question.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those want to
45 adjourn say aye.

46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those that don't

50

1 want to just say something.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 (No opposing votes)

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The ayes have it.

8 We're adjourned.

9

10 (Off record)

11

12 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

13

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