

NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Inupiat Heritage Center  
Utqiagvik, Alaska  
April 3, 2019  
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gordon Brower, Chair  
William Hopson  
Esther S. Hugo  
Martha Itta  
Wanda T. Kippi  
Steve Oomittuk  
Tad Reich  
Edward Rexford

Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

Recorded and transcribed by:

Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC  
135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
907-243-0668/sahile@gci.net

1 P R O C E E D I N G S  
2  
3 (Utqiagvik, Alaska - 4/03/2019)  
4  
5 (On record)  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Good  
8 morning, everybody. I'll start off with an invocation  
9 this morning and then we'll get a roll call so that we  
10 can establish our quorum and then we'll go from there.  
11 And maybe I'll go ahead and do the invocation if that's  
12 okay with everybody.  
13  
14 (Invocation)  
15  
16 IN UNISON: Amen.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'll call the meeting  
19 to order and if we could do a roll call.  
20  
21 MS. KIPPI: Good morning. (In Inupiaq)  
22  
23 Gordon Brower.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here.  
26  
27 MS. KIPPI: Robert Shears.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Madame  
30 Chair.....  
31  
32 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, we  
33 have -- we have a couple updates on our Council  
34 membership. Both Robert Shears and Fredrick Neakok  
35 have just recently moved out of the region. And so  
36 they had planned to be at our February meeting before  
37 we had to reschedule due to the government shutdown.  
38 So they were still Council members until just recently.  
39 They're moving out of the region, that's one of the  
40 primary requirements is to live within the region you  
41 represent. So unfortunately we no longer have Robert  
42 Shears or Fredrick Neakok on the Council.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, that -- would  
45 it be appropriate to start recommending people and say  
46 apply, you know, because I like the Board to be full  
47 and have all of the communities represented. I know it  
48 don't have to all be that way, but it's the best to  
49 have all of the communities represented.  
50

1 MS. PATTON: Absolutely. And so we  
2 actually -- as you all know the process takes  
3 approximately a year from application to appointment.  
4 So we do have a new round of applications that will be  
5 appointed next year, but always very helpful to  
6 encourage people to apply so that we can have a full  
7 membership and representation from each of the  
8 communities.

9  
10 Thank you.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. It should be  
13 noted that there are several vacancies and, you know,  
14 Robert Shears was Barrow, Fredrick Neakok was Barrow,  
15 but we -- I think we're shy of Wainwright, Point Lay  
16 and Utqiagvik now. And Utqiagvik being key because  
17 that member is usually on the Subsistence Resource  
18 Commission on the Gates of the Arctic National Park.

19  
20 MS. PATTON: Correct, yes. And when we  
21 get started with the meeting we can visit that detail a  
22 little bit because we still have a connection through  
23 Esther Hugo on the Gates of the Arctic SRC. So we  
24 still -- this Council is still connected through that  
25 process, but.....

26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. And  
28 thanks for the update there.....

29  
30 MS. PATTON: Yeah.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....Madame  
33 Coordinator.

34  
35 MS. KIPPI: Okay. Moving on.

36  
37 Wanda Kippi. Here.

38  
39 Steve Oomittuk, Point Hope.

40  
41 MR. OOMITTUK: Here.

42  
43 MS. KIPPI: Edward Rexford.....

44  
45 MR. REXFORD: Here.

46  
47 MS. KIPPI: .....Kaktovik.

48  
49 Martha Itta, Nuiqsut.

50

1 MS. ITTA: Here.  
2  
3 MS. KIPPI: Tad Reich.....  
4  
5 MR. REICH: Here.  
6  
7 MS. KIPPI: .....Utqiagvik.  
8  
9 And William Hopson, Utqiagvik.  
10  
11 MR. HOPSON: Here.  
12  
13 MS. KIPPI: All right.  
14  
15 Mr. Chair, I believe we have a quorum.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. (In  
18 Inupiaq) Madame Secretary Wanda. And we have a quorum  
19 I believe. And like I said in about 20 minutes I'm  
20 going to request to be excused for about -- give me  
21 about 15 minutes to go introduce my other staff to the  
22 PRC and get their work going at the assembly room and  
23 then I'm going to come right back over here and work  
24 over here.  
25  
26 Anyway welcome and introductions.  
27 Well, I'm going to go ahead and start off from myself  
28 and then we'll just go around with introduction. And  
29 maybe we'll start with the audience and online to get  
30 those out of the way first. And I think that -- and I  
31 -- it would be appropriate for you to come up to the  
32 mic because it is being recorded. And so we'll start  
33 with those online real quick. Please introduce  
34 yourselves and welcome to the meeting with -- for the  
35 North Slope Regional Advisory Council.  
36  
37 MR. JOLLY. Hello, Mr. Chair. This is  
38 Kyle Jolly, I'm a wildlife biologist with Gates of the  
39 Arctic National Park.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning. What  
42 was that again, Mr. Jolly?  
43  
44 MR. JOLLY: That's correct, yeah. Kyle  
45 Jolly and I'm with Park Service.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Very  
48 good.  
49  
50

1 MR. HILDRETH: Good morning. This is  
2 Derek Hildreth. I'm a permit specialist with the  
3 Office of Subsistence Management.  
4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.  
6

7 MR. BURCH: Good morning. This is Mark  
8 Burch with the Department of Fish and Game in Palmer.  
9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mark.  
11

12 Just got a request from the -- is it  
13 the stenographer?  
14

15 REPORTER: Close enough.  
16

17 (Laughter)  
18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Don't talk too close  
20 to the mic, it sounds muffled. So just be cognizant  
21 that we're recording. The guy before Mark could say  
22 his name again.  
23

24 MR. HILDRETH: Derek Hildreth.  
25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Derek Hildreth.  
27

28 MR. HILDRETH: H-I-L-D-R-E-T-H.  
29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Derek, she  
31 got it.  
32

33 MR. DUNN: Good morning. This is Eric  
34 Jack Dunn (ph) with the Office of Subsistence  
35 Management.  
36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.  
38

39 MS. VOORHEES: Good morning. This is  
40 Hannah Voorhees with the Office of Subsistence  
41 Management.  
42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Good  
44 morning. Is that Hannah?  
45

46 MS. VOORHEES: Yes, correct. Hannah  
47 Voorhees.  
48

49 MR. REAM: Good morning, Mr. Chair,  
50

1 members of the Council. This is Joshua Ream,  
2 anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence  
3 Management.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Good  
6 morning, Joshua.

7  
8 MS. OKADA: Good morning. This is  
9 Marcy Okada, Subsistence Coordinator for Gates of the  
10 Arctic National Park and Preserve.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Marcy. All  
13 right. That seems to have quiet down on the  
14 teleconference or whoever hold your peace if you didn't  
15 say your name.

16  
17 With that I'm going to start with the  
18 audience participants here this morning.

19  
20 MR. LIND: Good morning, Chair, Board  
21 members. My name is Orville Lind, I'm the Office of  
22 Subsistence Native liaison. Good morning.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning,  
25 Orville.

26  
27 MS. LaVINE: Good morning, Chair,  
28 members of the Council. My name is Robbin LaVine and I  
29 am the anthropologist for Southcentral and Southwest  
30 and Kodiak Aleutian Islands and I'm so very lucky to be  
31 here for my second time today -- second time in  
32 Utqiagvik.

33  
34 Thank you.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq), Robin.  
37 Some of these guys don't even need introductions.

38  
39 MS. BEAR: My name is April Bear, I'm a  
40 fisheries biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish  
41 and Game out of Fairbanks.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, April.  
44 Let me guess.

45  
46 MR. MATHEWS: Good morning especially  
47 to the new members. I'm Vince Mathews, Refuge  
48 Subsistence Coordinator for Arctic, Kanuti and Yukon  
49 Flats Refuges. So it's good to see a full Board. And  
50

1 that's all. So have a good meeting.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Vince.

4

5 MR. SCANLON: Good morning. My name is  
6 Brendan Scanlon, I work for the Department of Fish and  
7 Game, I'm the area fisheries biologist for North West  
8 and North Slope. And this afternoon I'm going to give  
9 a presentation on FRMP funded project on dolly varden  
10 char.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq)

15

16 MS. DAGGETT: (In Inupiaq)

17

18 My name is Carmen Daggett, I live here  
19 in Utqiagvik. I'm the area biologist for Alaska  
20 Department of Fish and Game and I will be giving a  
21 presentation later.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Carmen.

24

25 MR. PERRY: Good morning. My name is  
26 Phillip Perry, I work with Fish and Game, with Carmen.  
27 I live down in Bethel.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Phillip.

30

31 MR. CHEN: Aloha, Council members, Mr.  
32 Chair. My name's Glenn Chen, I'm the subsistence  
33 branch chief for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Always  
34 good to attend your meetings.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq)

37

38 Did you say aloha?

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's almost common  
43 around here because we like to go to Hawaii.

44

45 MS. DAMBERG: Good morning, Chair and  
46 members. My name is Carol Damberg, I work for the U.S.  
47 Fish and Wildlife Service out of the Anchorage office.  
48 And my position there is a regional subsistence  
49 coordinator as well as the Interagency Staff Committee

50

1 member for the support of the Federal Subsistence  
2 Board. My first time here and really excited to be  
3 here and actually be in person with the Board.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Welcome. It looks  
8 like BLM.

9

10 MS. JONES: Good morning. My name is  
11 Shelly Jones, I'm the Arctic district manager for BLM  
12 and my duty station is Fairbanks. But many of you know  
13 we have an employee that works for BLM up here, Roy  
14 Nageak, who will be here a little bit later today as  
15 well as another guy that's going to introduce himself  
16 next. So happy to be here.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq)

19

20 MR. VOSBURGH: Good morning. My name  
21 is Timothy Vosburgh. I'm a wildlife biologist with the  
22 Arctic district in Fairbanks, BLM. Nice to be here.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Timothy.

25

26 MR. EVANS: Good morning, Mr. Chair,  
27 members of the Council. My name's Tom Evans, I'm a  
28 wildlife biologist with OSM. My regions are  
29 Southcentral, Kodiak Aleutians and North Slope.

30

31 REPORTER: Lynn, court reporter.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Lynn. I  
34 kept hearing a little bit of chiming on the -- if you  
35 haven't introduced yourself on the telephone it would  
36 be appropriate to go ahead and do that.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, I'm  
41 going to start off with maybe Steve.

42

43 MR. SUMMERS: Hello. This is Clarence  
44 Summers with the National Park Service in Anchorage.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thanks,  
49 Clarence.

50



1 MR. OOMITTUK: Good morning. My name's  
2 Steve Oomittuk, I serve in unit 23, Point Hope.

3  
4 MR. HOPSON: Good morning. Thank you.  
5 My name's William Hopson, I'm from Utqiagvik. I bring  
6 me -- with me a lifetime of subsistence hunting  
7 experience and some Fish and Wildlife background. I  
8 participated in the 1963 famous duck-in. So I bring  
9 with me a little bit of experience.

10  
11 Thank you.

12  
13 MS. KIPPI: Good morning. My name is  
14 Wanda Kippi, I represent Atqasuk and I'm a subsistence  
15 hunter.

16  
17 (In Inupiaq)

18  
19 Thank you.

20  
21 MR. REICH: Good morning. My name is  
22 Tad Reich, I'm from Utqiagvik and Barrow whaling  
23 captain. So season's here and I wish you all a good  
24 morning.

25  
26 Thank you.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq)

29  
30 Good morning, everyone. Gordon Brower,  
31 I represent Utqiagvik and the region too. As they  
32 always say we represent the North Slope as a whole and  
33 we have a lot of things in common with each other. So  
34 I've lived here all my life. I'm also a whaling  
35 captain and I do a lot of fishing in Federal lands and  
36 do a lot of other stuff besides and manage the  
37 Borough's land management. I work -- also work as the  
38 Borough's land management administrator throughout the  
39 entire Borough.

40  
41 So with that, thank you.

42  
43 MR. REXFORD: Edward Rexford, Sr.,  
44 representing Kaktovik, unit 26C in the Arctic National  
45 Wildlife Refuge area.

46  
47 Thank you.

48  
49 MS. ITTA: Good morning. Martha Itta

50

1 from Nuiqsut. I work as a tribal administrator for the  
2 tribe and I serve as a vice mayor for the city  
3 government. I'm glad to be here and I'm excited to  
4 learn from this Board and of course, Gordon Brower.  
5 Good to be here.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, we did get new  
10 people, I think it was Roy Nageak from BLM. If you  
11 would want to introduce yourself at the mic or doesn't  
12 really require introduction. We know Roy.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. NAGEAK: (Indiscernible - away from  
17 microphone).....

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Wow. April Fool's is  
20 already past, man.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Madame Coordinator, I  
25 don't know if we want to take a few minutes break or if  
26 you guys want to press on. I need to go get another  
27 meeting started real quick. All I got to do is  
28 introduce my CIP staff to the PRC and then hand the  
29 reins over to my deputy director and then I'll be right  
30 back. No more than 15 minutes I would say. So what's  
31 the wish of the Commission, you guys -- Council. You  
32 guys want to take a -- have some coffee and mill around  
33 for a few minutes or you guys want to press on.

34

35 Okay. We're going to take a small  
36 recess just for the Chair to step out for a few minutes  
37 and get another meeting going and then escape from that  
38 too.

39

40 Okay. We're going to recess for about  
41 15 -- 10 minutes.

42

43 MS. PATTON: Okay. Folks on  
44 teleconference, it'll just be 10 or 15 minutes here.  
45 We'll have a brief break and then reconvene our entire  
46 Council again.

47

48 (Off record)

49

50

1 (On record)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I think  
4 we're going to get back to the business of the Regional  
5 Council of the North Slope and get out of recess. And  
6 I think we did welcome, introductions. Is there a  
7 motion to adopt the agenda.

8

9 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on  
12 the floor from Point Hope and.....

13

14 MR. HOPSON: Second.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....to adopt the  
17 agenda, seconded by.....

18

19 MR. HOPSON: Second.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....William from  
22 Utqiagvik.

23

24 MS. PATTON: And, Mr. Chair and  
25 Council, I do have a couple updates if we can address  
26 some additions to the agenda and a little bit of  
27 timing.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We're  
30 under discussion. Let's go ahead and entertain any  
31 changes that may be needed for the agenda.

32

33 MS. PATTON: We have -- one of the main  
34 things on the agenda for the Council today is -- and  
35 you'll see on page 2 of your meeting book under new  
36 business, we do have the call for wildlife proposals.  
37 And you'll see there's a little note under there, we  
38 like to provide the Council with all the caribou and  
39 other wildlife updates for the Council so you have the  
40 latest data and management information prior to  
41 considering the proposals. And we do have Carmen  
42 Daggett here in person and other staff on  
43 teleconference as well. So probably we'll get to that  
44 early this afternoon.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. And I just  
47 need some clarification. You want us to pencil in  
48 something on one of these with a name or.....

49

50

1 MS. PATTON: Just for the Council  
2 awareness that when we discuss the call for wildlife  
3 proposals.....  
4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.  
6

7 MS. PATTON: .....we'll introduce that  
8 to the Council and then we'll have in particular  
9 caribou updates so that the Council's aware of the  
10 latest population and biology and management  
11 information. So.....  
12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. It's  
14 going to be a very interesting day.  
15

16 MS. PATTON: And then kind of a big  
17 timing issue is tomorrow we have to conclude the  
18 meeting a little early. When we had to reschedule due  
19 to the government shutdown there was already another  
20 group scheduled at the end of the day tomorrow. So  
21 we'll have to conclude around 4:00 or 4:30. So we want  
22 to make sure we get through all the action items for  
23 the Council and then a couple of the agency reports by  
24 the end of the day today so our hope was that we could,  
25 you know, break for lunch, but then continue the  
26 meeting until about 6:30 so that we can cover some  
27 extra.....  
28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is there a need to  
30 reshuffle in order of priority so that we can get some  
31 of those that -- that might help facilitate that issue?  
32

33 MS. PATTON: So all the action items  
34 for the Council come first on the agenda.  
35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.  
37

38 MS. PATTON: So we will be addressing  
39 those action items and again I think we'll -- because  
40 the Council member reports are very important, we take  
41 time for that. So we'll probably get to the.....  
42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.  
44

45 MS. PATTON: .....you know, the  
46 wildlife proposal in the.....  
47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we're.....  
49  
50

1 MS. PATTON: .....in the session this  
2 afternoon.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....just supposing  
5 we might be here a little bit later than normal?

6  
7 MS. PATTON: Yeah, so the plan was.....

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....you might be  
10 buying pizza?

11  
12 MS. PATTON: Well, the -- out plan was  
13 actually if we can work, you know, up until about 6:30  
14 that we'll have potluck this evening immediately  
15 following our recess. So we'll have food ready and  
16 welcome friends and family to come join us. So our  
17 hope was we could run late in order to cover a little  
18 extra material today. We'll have a couple  
19 presentations at the end of the day once we finish our  
20 action items. So we'll do some of the video and Power  
21 Point presentations for the fisheries and also our  
22 Native liaison chair. So we're going to try to squeeze  
23 in some of the agency reports tonight to get through  
24 some of those.

25  
26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: How's that sound to  
29 the Council, to extend a little bit and get some of  
30 this stuff out of the way. It looks like there's a  
31 scheduling conflict tomorrow that we might need to  
32 adjourn a little bit earlier tomorrow because of a  
33 scheduling conflict. So I don't see any show stoppers  
34 here. So.....

35  
36 So any other discussions on the agenda?

37  
38 (No comments)

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none.

41  
42 MR. REICH: Question.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question called for  
45 the adoption of the agenda with the discussions as  
46 dealt with with Madame Coordinator signify by saying  
47 aye.

48  
49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed  
2 same sign.

3  
4 (No opposing votes)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Agenda has passed.  
7 Okay. We have an agenda.

8  
9 All right. Madame Coordinator, I'm  
10 going to ask item six on election of officers. Do we  
11 need everybody here to do that or should -- or can we  
12 go ahead with election of officers?

13  
14 MS. PATTON: Absolutely. So this is  
15 our entire Council at this time since we do have a few  
16 vacancies. So the current Council membership is seven  
17 until those vacancies get filled.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we're good to go  
20 for election of officers?

21  
22 MS. PATTON: Yes. And I can introduce  
23 the election of the Chair and then once the Chair is  
24 elected then the Chair will take over.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Let's  
27 yield to Madame Coordinator for some elections.

28  
29 MS. PATTON: And just to let our new  
30 Council members know that we do hold election of  
31 officers every year and our current Chair is Gordon  
32 Brower and Wanda Kippi has been our Secretary. We are  
33 missing a current Vice-Chair due to losing some Council  
34 members with the appointments. But we do this every  
35 year, it's at the wish of the Council. We can do, you  
36 know, all in favor say aye with the nominations or call  
37 it secret ballots if you want.....

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Secret ballot.

40  
41 MS. PATTON: .....or secret sticky  
42 note.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

45  
46 MS. PATTON: So as the Council wishes,  
47 we can do either way. And nominations don't require a  
48 second. So at this time I'll open the floor for  
49 nominations for Chair of the North Slope Subsistence  
50

1 Regional Advisory Council.

2

3 MR. OOMITTUK: I'd like to nominate  
4 Gordon Brower as Chair and ask for unanimous consent  
5 from the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory  
6 Council.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq)

9

10 MS. KIPPI: I second the motion.

11

12 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.....

13

14 MS. KIPPI: Or I don't need -- you  
15 don't need a second.

16

17 MS. PATTON: Yeah. Mr. Chair and  
18 Council, but we will just check in, you know, with the  
19 Council if you feel comfortable with a unanimous vote  
20 or if anybody would like to do a ballot. So just  
21 feedback from the Council if you're comfortable with  
22 unanimous vote.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other nominations  
25 for Chair?

26

27 MR. REICH: Close the nominations.

28

29 MS. PATTON: Okay.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Nominations have been  
32 closed for Chair. All those nominating Gordon Brower  
33 as your Chair signify by saying aye.

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Madame Chair, we have  
38 a reaffirming of the current Chair, Gordon Brower, for  
39 the North Slope Regional Advisory Council.

40

41 Thank you for your confidence in me. I  
42 do my best to represent the North Slope as a whole to  
43 the extent that I can. So and I just appreciate all  
44 your support. And to the new ones this is how it goes.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq)

49

50

1 I'm going to open the floor to  
2 nominations for Vice-Chair. We don't have a sitting  
3 Vice-Chair, the last one I think was Rosemary, wasn't  
4 it?

5  
6 MS. PATTON: Correct. Rosemary and  
7 then just last year there was support for Lee Kayotuk  
8 to.....

9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Lee Kayotuk was  
11 also a Vice-Chair in the past.

12  
13 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh. Yeah, and  
14 Rosemary was long time Vice-Chair as well,

15  
16 Thank you.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So nominations on the  
19 floor for Vice-Chair.

20  
21 MR. REICH: Mr. Chair, I'd like to  
22 nominate Steve Oomittuk for Vice-Chair.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seeing nomination of  
25 Steve Oomittuk for Vice-Chair. Any other nominations?

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 MR. REXFORD: Move to close the  
30 nominations.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on  
33 the floor to close nominations for Vice-Chair by  
34 Kaktovik. Do I hear a second?

35  
36 MR. HOPSON: Second, Mr. Chairman.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a second.  
39 Any discussion before we close nominations?

40  
41 MR. HOPSON: Call for question.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been  
44 called for to close nominations for Vice-Chair.  
45 Signify by saying aye.

46  
47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Being  
50



1 that there's only one nomination it turns out that  
2 Steve Oomittuk is elected as the Vice-Chair.

3

4 Congratulations, Steve Oomittuk.

5

6 (Applause)

7

8 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. I'll do my  
9 best to take over when you're gone, hopefully you'll be  
10 here forever.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: At the rate things  
15 are going it might just be. My dad was almost 90 years  
16 old.

17

18 (In Inupiaq)

19

20 Now that we have a new Vice-Chair,  
21 Steve Oomittuk, I'd like to open the floor for  
22 nominations for the Secretary. Our current Secretary  
23 is Wanda. And I'll open the floor to nominations.

24

25 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

28

29 MR. HOPSON: I nominate Wanda Kippi of  
30 Atqasuk and ask for unanimous consent.

31

32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Wanda has been  
35 nominated and asked for unanimous consent. Do I hear a  
36 second?

37

38 MR. OOMITTUK: I second that motion.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded by  
41 Point Hope.

42

43 MS. ITTA: Call for question.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been  
46 called for. All those in favor of nominating Wanda as  
47 the Secretary signify by saying aye.

48

49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We now have a new  
2 Secretary which is the old Secretary.

3  
4 MS. KIPPI: I'm the old one. I'll be  
5 the old one.

6  
7 Thank you.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: These are always fun  
10 I think. It kind of feels like we're in high school  
11 and electing student council or something.

12  
13 (Laughter)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's fun. All right.  
16 Review and approval of previous minutes.

17  
18 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,  
19 you'll find your minutes from the previous Council's  
20 meeting on page 5 of your meeting books. And for our  
21 new Council members we -- we -- again we record the  
22 meetings so we have a transcript of the meetings and  
23 then we provide a summarized meeting minutes for each  
24 meeting. And then the Council reviews and approves  
25 those at the following meeting. So we have four new  
26 Council members today, welcome, and really excited  
27 you're here with us. And so it's a new review for you  
28 of the minutes to know what the Council was working on  
29 at the previous meeting and we'll ask our long time  
30 Council members to review and find any edits, changes,  
31 especially name spellings, always can use help with  
32 place name spellings.

33  
34 Thank you.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Madame  
37 Coordinator. So we have the minutes before you.

38  
39 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, I make a  
40 motion to approve the meeting minutes of August 22,  
41 23rd of 2018 as presented.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on  
44 the floor from Tikigaq, Point Hope, to approve the  
45 minutes from that time period. Trying to look at it  
46 again here. Was it from August? August 22 and August  
47 23, 2018 minutes. There's a motion on the floor. Take  
48 a few minutes to take a read. That was kind of pretty  
49 interesting. It's always good to read and recap

50

1 because some of those things start to get refresh and  
2 restart an argument or something.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair, I so move to  
7 approve.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on  
10 the floor by Steve already.

11

12 MS. KIPPI: Oh. Okay.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe it needs a  
15 second.

16

17 MS. KIPPI: I second the motion.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. It's been  
20 seconded. Any discussion?

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MR. HOPSON: Call for question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been  
27 called for on the approval of the minutes for August 22  
28 and 23. All those signify by saying aye to approve.

29

30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed  
33 signify by saying aye.

34

35 (No opposing votes)

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It looks like the  
38 minutes are approved.

39

40 All right. We're past the minutes.  
41 Item eight, reports. I'm going to start with Council  
42 member reports, maybe Steve. If you want to start off  
43 we'll start off from Tikigaq.

44

45 It's always good to hear what every  
46 region is going through. I strive to try to get all  
47 the communities represented so we can hear their  
48 subsistence concerns and we should always advocate for  
49 that. I'd like to see Wainwright membership and Point

50

1 Lay and Anaktuvuk Pass reestablished and try to get  
2 people nominated from those regions.  
3

4 MR. OOMITTUK: Good morning. For the  
5 record, Steve Oomittuk from Point Hope. 2018 has been  
6 a good year for us. We got seven whales.  
7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq)  
9

10 MR. OOMITTUK: The weather, you know,  
11 is still unpredictable. We had a month of storms from  
12 the east -- south, southeast winds. The caribou have  
13 been good this year since the closure the last couple  
14 years, since the closure of unit 23 to nonresidents and  
15 sport hunters we've seen the migration patterns, seem  
16 like they're coming back and the caribou are staying  
17 around or more often we don't have to go 30, 40 miles  
18 to look for a caribou in the last few years. The  
19 abundance of seals and (in Native).  
20

21 And our freeze-ups, you know, the ocean  
22 is not freezing up when it normally does. You know, we  
23 have a tradition where we always celebrate the born of  
24 the ice, when it's (in Native). The elders always told  
25 us if the -- if the ice forms on the south side where  
26 the slush ice connect to the land, we call that (in  
27 Native) the born of the ice. If it -- if it (in  
28 Native) on the south side that means we'll have a good  
29 hunting season. But if it (in Native) on the north  
30 side it's going to be a tough season for us. And it's  
31 been coming later, the last two years are -- the form  
32 of the ice has been coming in late November. Usually  
33 we celebrate the born of the ice in October, first part  
34 of October.  
35

36 And we notice the change of the winds,  
37 the animal migrations, the -- you know, the hunting is  
38 still pretty good. We're very fortunate that the  
39 animals' migration is still coming through. We notice  
40 the walrus the last few years don't come back in the  
41 falltime like they used to, not as much.  
42

43 And but other than that, you know, we  
44 have a lot of concerns of the Northwest Passage opening  
45 up and, you know, we know that there's a number of  
46 ships that we don't know that are coming through the  
47 Northwest Passage. You know, we have a lot of concerns  
48 of pollution in the Arctic with ships dumping their  
49 sewage or whatever they dump out there. You know, our  
50

1 ocean is delicate and we want to ensure that we keep  
2 track of these ships and barges and there's a lot of  
3 concern from the community because we have no  
4 jurisdiction other than three miles and then after that  
5 it's Federal waters and but we have a lot of concern  
6 because the ocean has always fed us, clothed us and  
7 sheltered us all our lives and we want to ensure the  
8 safety of the animals so we can continue living and  
9 being who we are as a people, you know, because the  
10 animals are our identity. We don't want to lose our  
11 identity as a people because without the animals we  
12 would not be here.

13  
14 So but I thank you all and thank the  
15 audience. Looking forward to the two days of the  
16 meeting and a bunch of laughter.

17  
18 Thank you.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq), Steve,  
21 from Tikigaq. It's always good to hear every region,  
22 what their struggles are. It brings us -- when you're  
23 at the Council like this to hear all of the land  
24 managers, biologists and stuff to hear some of these  
25 things that advocate for subsistence and things like  
26 that. It's always -- to me it's always informative for  
27 me as well. So (in Native).

28  
29  
30 With that I'm going to go to William  
31 Hopson of Utqiagvik.

32  
33 MR. HOPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
34 My first meeting, I don't have much of a report, but  
35 what I would like to bring out is our freeze-ups are  
36 getting so late we're missing out on fish that come  
37 out, the whitefish. It's not freezing up as early as  
38 it used to. When it does freeze-up we're -- the first  
39 have already gone out to the river and almost  
40 impossible to go up there with a boat to get them. And  
41 basically in the winter, falltime when we get them they  
42 freeze right away versus if we go up with a boat they  
43 won't freeze, you know, they kind of stay in a thawed  
44 stage. And we're losing that opportunity to bring the  
45 freshest fish home because of that. Up at (in Native)  
46 which is the (indiscernible) about 25 miles from here  
47 we -- it's our fish camp and last summer was the first  
48 time we seen grizzly bears around that area. We're  
49 really never seen them up this close. We know we hear

50

1 about them, you know, Gordon and the Chip River,  
2 they're always up there, but not this far that I know  
3 of.

4  
5 Other than that they have to -- whalers  
6 are getting ready. We have (indiscernible) I'm not too  
7 sure. We get by, but we going to work it out. So  
8 anyway I do have comments, but looks like I can get  
9 them out on the next agenda item. And that would be my  
10 report for today.

11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq),  
15 William. It's always good to hear and something I  
16 might miss somebody else can catch it.

17

18 I'm going to go to Atqasuk with that.

19

20 Wanda.

21

22 MS. KIPPI: Okay. Thank you. Good  
23 morning. For our season for 2018 it was a early  
24 spring, it thawed out too early, too fast and our geese  
25 hunting was good though we ran out of snow. I barely  
26 made it back home from camp on that slushy, soft snow  
27 and lots of (in Native) ground. So but it was a good  
28 last season for my boys, they got enough (in Native)  
29 for that -- for that time. And during the hunting for  
30 caribou it was all right, people were catching. But  
31 for me it was -- seems like it was farther, I had to go  
32 farther. I usually just hunt around my cabin area and  
33 a lot of -- everybody's been going through there all  
34 the time. So the caribou migration is changing in that  
35 area quite a bit and I have to go farther south or  
36 west, mostly south they've been doing. But I try to  
37 hunt around in my camping grounds and not try to go  
38 very far, but once in a while I have to go farther than  
39 usual. So this year it was a little farther than  
40 usual.

41

42 And our berry picking was very slim.  
43 There was no -- there was no berries, no blackberries,  
44 no blueberries, no cranberries, no salmonberries. We  
45 didn't get to pick any last year.

46

47 And for fishing the (in Native) the  
48 broad whitefish and the humpback broadfish, it was a  
49 good fishing season for those that go netting for them.

50

1 Even though it froze up late they -- during the summer  
2 they got quite a bit, during the falltime. And then  
3 freeze-up they would go out to (in Native) or around  
4 the river near our Atqasuk River or (indiscernible)  
5 river and put out nets close by. And they did pretty  
6 good and they put out their (in Native). And they  
7 catch (in Native) except for the freeze-up for (in  
8 Native) time it was too late. I already had gone home,  
9 it was -- it didn't freeze-up when I'm normally fishing  
10 at that time, but I went home and I never got to ice  
11 fish when I got home. So it was late. They catch some  
12 (in Native) graylings, but it was so late and after  
13 freeze-up that, you know, you catch only so much per  
14 day. But the ones that were really -- love to go fish  
15 they keep going and they would catch, but not as much  
16 as usual because it's a late freeze-up. So I didn't  
17 get to catch enough (in Native). There's -- it's my  
18 son that would mostly go after it really froze up so he  
19 caught some that was enough, but not as normal enough  
20 as what we normally catch. Because I share my fish and  
21 my catchings with the community and my mother.

22  
23 So with that said I think that's -- I  
24 think the bears, I didn't see as much bears last year  
25 as I did, but I saw a couple, but they didn't come  
26 close to my cabin, I just saw them from afar. They  
27 started coming towards the cabin, but they always start  
28 heading west towards Wainwright after they come through  
29 springtime and late fall. I haven't -- I never really  
30 saw a bear during that time which was good for me  
31 because I'm always out camping by myself I always say.  
32 And.....

33  
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's the best.  
35

36 MS. KIPPI: Yeah. Yeah. The best  
37 times. The longest I ever stayed up there was over a  
38 month, like one month and one or two days. That's how  
39 much I love camping.  
40

41 Let's see, what else am I missing.  
42 Everybody always never talk about ptarmigans. I  
43 finally notice these past two, three years we're  
44 starting to see more ptarmigan, nothing like five years  
45 ago or five to seven years ago there was hardly any  
46 ptarmigans, now they're in abundance in our community.  
47 I see then and which is good to see.

48  
49 And I heard of one of the hunters  
50

1 caught a rabbit out in area, south from our town. One  
2 rabbit and they ate it and they say it was pretty good.  
3 Which was interesting. I want to catch a couple too,  
4 they better come further over here to our area. I hear  
5 they're good eating. I tried them before when I used  
6 to live in the -- when my parents brought us to  
7 Kotzebue I tried rabbit before. So when I was young,  
8 long time ago, tasted really good fried, my mother  
9 fried it and it was very delicious.

10

11 I don't know if I'm missing anything  
12 else. I think that I covered I think everything. If  
13 you have any questions I'll be happy to answer them.

14

15 (In Inupiaq)

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq), always  
20 interesting Wanda. I always like to listen to her  
21 report.

22

23 With that I'm going to go to Tad Reich  
24 of Utqiagvik.

25

26 MR. REICH: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.  
27 Chair. Being newly appointed on the Council I wasn't  
28 ready for a report either. So but as my observations  
29 on the ocean, I also noticed the ice conditions have  
30 changed dramatically. So it really puts a burden on  
31 our hunting for bearded seals, walrus.

32

33 With that being said I also went to the  
34 east side over toward Nuiqsut this summer so I was able  
35 to watch the people going out moose hunting. So that  
36 was really a game changer for me to see the whole  
37 community going out for moose. So other than that I  
38 actually took my son out caribou hunting this -- for  
39 the first time and he was able to catch his first  
40 caribou. So it was kind of exciting to watch him catch  
41 his first caribou.

42

43 Other than that next time I'll be more  
44 prepared for a report.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq), Tad.  
49 Just want to say, you know, when we do a Council member

50



1 report it's kind of like your observations. Well, you  
2 know, kind of shoot the breeze and what happened out  
3 there, you might have seen something unusual.

4

5                   Anyway well, since we're going this way  
6 I'm going to do mine just as a Council member. And I  
7 think, you know, my -- I do a lot of hunting and then I  
8 hear a lot of hunting, my nephews kill everything  
9 so.....

10

11                   (Laughter)

12

13                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....and that's good,  
14 I like to -- because they like to bring me a little  
15 share and sometimes they said ah, (in Native), we got  
16 -- they got a moose. They went up Ikpikpuk and went to  
17 the headwaters and they actually got a couple moose way  
18 the heck up there. That would be -- if you're by Fry  
19 Creek that's about 160 miles from Barrow going up.  
20 That's quite a ways. And to the valley of the willow.  
21 So I guess high water at that time is -- help  
22 facilitate some of our hunters that are willing to go  
23 and get exotic food like moose way far, you know.

24

25                   Anyway but caribou was pretty good  
26 early on in early August. And Ikpikpuk was full of (in  
27 Native), I'll tell you that much. And some of the  
28 observations that the wildlife biologists saying that  
29 the calving is moving a little bit more to the west,  
30 well, we're really seeing that. In Ikpikpuk there's --  
31 of that Teshekpuk herd, I don't know if it's actual  
32 Teshekpuk herd, but I believe it is because you know we  
33 get -- when you're up that far on Ikpikpuk and Ship,  
34 you get the outer periphery of the Western Arctic herd.  
35 It's a little bit different herd. If you go up a  
36 little ways, you go a little ways you're hunting two  
37 different herds now. So and that's always good for us.

38

39

40                   And several couple seasons have been  
41 pretty good in that we're still catching some reindeer  
42 in that area around -- especially around calving area.  
43 And we know they're reindeer, they're different, they  
44 look different and they taste a little bit different.  
45 But it seems like they're not going too far. And I  
46 don't know exactly where they come from, maybe from the  
47 Nome area and then they just follow the Western Arctic  
48 herd and then they get left behind or something. But  
49 they're really good eating, you know, I like to eat

50

1 that kind.

2  
3 Fishing, like some of the observations  
4 here, you know, I fish quite a bit and I take time out  
5 to do that. But the -- there's a very specific period  
6 of time if you're going to go and fish. When they come  
7 out of the lakes and out of these rivers to go where  
8 they spawn, you practically have to catch them at the  
9 right time or you're going to miss. And that's about  
10 the third week in September to the second week in  
11 October. (In Inupiaq) and they -- as soon as they're  
12 done spawning you might catch 50 in one day, the next  
13 day you're going to catch only three. That's what they  
14 call (in Native). That means they disappear  
15 immediately after they're done spawning. I don't know  
16 where they go, suddenly they're not crazy enough to go  
17 in the net anymore. After spawning they become real  
18 smart and avoid them or something. Who knows. But  
19 that's the period of time that I target and I've been  
20 doing it for 40 plus years and long before that with my  
21 folks and then their parents.

22  
23 And Aulavik in the 1920s, '30s, was a  
24 big mecca, it was actually a community just down by  
25 (indiscernible). They call it Aulavik, used to have  
26 sod houses, (in Native) and they would make warehouses  
27 out of ice from lakes and fill them up with fish to the  
28 top just so (in Native) and what won't get them. And  
29 then they would haul them during wintertime by dog  
30 team. And that went -- that's a mecca (in Native).

31  
32 And just getting to a point where  
33 several consecutive years very difficult to achieve  
34 putting nets under the ice. Once in a while it'll do  
35 it fantastic and if I can put nets under the ice  
36 September 20, between September 20 and September 27,  
37 I'm doing good. If I can't do that which last year  
38 just as an example when I fish and with my folks time  
39 and I try to do as much as they did, get like 75 sacks.  
40 One sack is about 120 pounds. And then we stack them  
41 up and then haul them back to town. And I managed to  
42 pull 25 sacks last fall and stored them in the way they  
43 froze up good. But the difference was I wasn't fishing  
44 under the ice. I had to continue to break up the --  
45 and save my nets almost every day because that (in  
46 Native) and that snow that's moving in the water, would  
47 fill them up. You have to find these right eddies to  
48 do. That's a -- that was like 60 percent more work to  
49 pull nets like that versus under the ice and you got a  
50

1 platform, you can pull them out and do that. I mean, I  
2 got a lot of pictures of them and a lot of pictures  
3 over the years with my boys. You know, some years we  
4 made 80 sacks, some years we make 75 sacks.

5  
6 But, you know, one difference from last  
7 fall we went to go haul them in December because of the  
8 difficulty of freeze-up. And then when we did haul  
9 them all my fish turned to (in Native), all of them,  
10 every sack. They're still good to eat, elders like  
11 them, but like I said we're used to letting the  
12 temperature keep them fresh. You can still bake them,  
13 you can make (in Native) out of them, cook them. These  
14 you got to eat the way they are. You try to cook them  
15 and it kind of tastes funny. But when you (in Native)  
16 like that they're really good when you eat them frozen  
17 with (in Native). And every one of my sacks. To the  
18 common person you would say they're all ruined, they're  
19 kind of stink a little bit. But for people like me, I  
20 mean, I -- I eat them and they're very tasty. In fact  
21 I think I sent a whole bunch to Kaktovik for funeral  
22 too over there. I try to share those.

23  
24 So I'm just saying consistent with some  
25 of the reports here that the temperature is wreaking  
26 havoc on food security issues like that. You know,  
27 back in the days when there -- you could be able to  
28 charter an airplane for \$300, you can't even have a  
29 charter service up here anymore to help haul your fish  
30 and bring them into large scale freezers. And maybe we  
31 need to think about that, how do we help subsistence  
32 activities because my catch goes to the festival. At  
33 (in Native) time even if I don't catch a whale, I give  
34 it sometimes to the -- another whaling captain to serve  
35 it to the people. And, you know, I serve -- I feed my  
36 family, other people come to my house and, you know,  
37 sometimes I do sell them. You can sell subsistence  
38 caught food just because it's super expensive to bring  
39 them back, you know, at least a couple thousand dollars  
40 worth of fuel and the time to do that. And it's  
41 allowable under customary trade to do some of this  
42 stuff. But about 80 percent of my catch goes to (in  
43 Native) and served to the community and I always made  
44 that available when I had a good catch like that and my  
45 folks did the same thing.

46  
47 Anyway long story short that's -- you  
48 know, weather is kind of wreaking havoc. I'm hoping  
49 the next season is always better. The caribou they

50

1 come back again. Maybe four years before we're  
2 complaining like mad. You know, we had USGS putting a  
3 connex over here, a connex up here and another connex  
4 up here and then you got 15 little really bright dome  
5 tents that look like -- it looked like, you know, those  
6 cones that you put on the street that look -- glow in  
7 the dark type and you can see them from a long ways.  
8 What the hell's going on. You go over there and those  
9 areas -- if they had talked to local people, you (in  
10 Native). And you don't put something like that in a  
11 major migration area where caribou are normally passing  
12 unless you (in Native) that whole herd. And that's  
13 what was going on for about four years, they diverted  
14 herds.

15  
16 The other thing when I went to go visit  
17 them they were collecting all these antlers that we put  
18 on the ground. Sometimes we use those. If you're a  
19 trapper you put the antler and put it in the ground,  
20 that's your tie-down for -- because it gets frozen into  
21 the ground and it's a natural animal attractant because  
22 it's biological, the (in Native) and foxes attract to  
23 those thinking they might catch a little bite because  
24 it smells like food, those antlers. They're -- we put  
25 them in the ground to -- for trappers and let them  
26 freeze in because they can't pull them out when they're  
27 -- when they freeze in the ground. In your area where  
28 you're going to trap anyway, they're pulling all of  
29 those things and I had to tell them when I went to go  
30 see in one of these camps, don't pull these antlers  
31 out. They said, but they're all over. Yeah, they're  
32 all over because the trappers use them like that.

33  
34 And the -- anyway some of those things  
35 that, you know, if they talked to local people about  
36 the land use and stuff. Well, anyway I think they  
37 moved some of those and we're starting to see caribou  
38 come around again. And I don't know if they're related  
39 or if they just took a break for a while, but I  
40 certainly think it's related, you know. That we got to  
41 be careful especially when we're -- when we're  
42 subsisting. We don't have an endless pocketbook,  
43 right. It costs a lot of money especially to go to my  
44 area and my cabin is 75 miles from here. I mean,  
45 that's way out there. It's about six, seven hours one  
46 way on snowmachine. And I don't haul ass either, you  
47 know, I go so my sleds won't break up, go charging my  
48 way up there. And the cost of doing things that way in  
49 a very productive region you've got to be successful.

50

1 If you're not successful you might not have the  
2 resources to do it again. So it's important to be  
3 successful and work together and let land managers know  
4 there's people depending on the land. There are people  
5 -- and there are people that are depending on the land  
6 plus they're sharing for the entire region. And they  
7 got to get enough.

8  
9 One thing I always want to explain to a  
10 large degree before oil and gas, before any other North  
11 Slope Borough, there was a subsistence economy big  
12 time, subsistence trade. And that's seldom recognized  
13 that we need to continue to view this because there's  
14 customary and traditional trade in our regs. How do  
15 you do that. That's how come it was catalogued and  
16 recorded. And we're just not there to -- for personal  
17 hunting, we're trading, they're -- we're doing things.  
18 Artisans use materials and there's -- just for an  
19 instance I got maybe 30 sacks of (in Native) and about  
20 40 sacks of (in Native), I would take -- my dad would  
21 tell me, he said take five (in Native) sacks over to  
22 (in Native), I need five of his (in Native). And they  
23 would trade, these captains, and they didn't exchange  
24 money. They would exchange -- you know, (in Native)  
25 was the best to (in Native), these fish with eggs  
26 fresh. I could trade seal skins for my boat and be  
27 able to do traditional trade. And that's part of doing  
28 and maintaining subsistence and making sure all you  
29 land managers and biologists recognize our needs and  
30 dependency on these resources.

31  
32 With that I'm going to go on way too  
33 long until maybe next week if I -- I'm not curable --  
34 careful here. That's my report. And I didn't go geese  
35 hunting, but my nephews were so abundant, you know, I  
36 didn't even have to shoot one duck and I had 50 of them  
37 in my yard.

38  
39 (Laughter)

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And so that's what I  
42 say my nephews kill everything.

43  
44  
45 With that I'm going to go to Kaktovik.

46  
47 MR. REXFORD: Edward Rexford from  
48 Kaktovik. I wasn't expecting to do a report also, just  
49 new on the Board and learning the ropes as we go along.

50

1  
2  
3 And we also have changing warming trend  
4 in our area. Last month we have over 50 above one day  
5 and it's been melting up in the mountains already. And  
6 well, we have a polar bear tourism economy going on now  
7 and I'm pretty sure folks are aware of that. And seems  
8 to be some negative impacts with that, bears  
9 habituating to humans and coming into the community  
10 looking for food and displacing our fishing areas, the  
11 Barrier Islands. We have a very limited fishing area  
12 now for our fish nets to do encroachment by polar  
13 bears.

14  
15 Fishing's been okay, people are  
16 catching their Arctic chars and whitefish. And we've  
17 been catching caribou.

18  
19 The only problem right now we're trying  
20 to straighten out is our moose quota that we've been  
21 getting from the Refuge manager okaying certain hunts  
22 on certain areas. We're -- our community is trying to  
23 come to a better mechanism to maybe improve on that. I  
24 don't know if -- I know the Refuge manager was given  
25 leeway in the past few years to open specific hunts in  
26 the Refuge and that's one item I think we need to look  
27 closely at and improve on if we can.

28  
29 And we're also getting a lot of  
30 earthquakes south in the Brooks Range. And which is a  
31 -- something we haven't experienced in the past. And  
32 they're far and more, you know, they're -- seem like  
33 almost every other day we have earthquakes up there.  
34 So my son went up there three weeks ago to check on one  
35 of our camping areas and he noticed the whole side of  
36 the mountain came down during the earthquake. So I'm  
37 pretty sure there's a lot of mountains that, you know,  
38 was damaged during that quake. But I don't know if  
39 there's going to be a survey done maybe during sheep  
40 surveys to see if there was more damage. That would be  
41 interesting to find out. And there's local concerns of  
42 the hot springs up there, are they getting hotter, do  
43 we need to worry about volcano in the future, you know,  
44 stuff like that.

45  
46 So, yeah, we're in a different part of  
47 the state, different ecosystem kind of, you know, it's  
48 kind of different that 26B or A. And I'm glad I got on  
49 and try to see if I can help our community doing our  
50

1 subsistence activities especially with the Refuge and  
2 the ANILCA language in the law.

3

4 So that's all I got right now. Thanks.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq),  
7 Kaktovik, Edward Rexford, Sr. There's a long -- I've  
8 been here 20 years probably and Fenton, one of your  
9 predecessors would be one of those that was advocating  
10 on moose quite a bit and many of us have been -- some  
11 of the staff here that have been here long enough know  
12 the issues on moose. And there's been a long, in my  
13 view, questioning whether some of these moose, even if  
14 you kill them all, that they're transient. They come  
15 back from the other side and they repopulate. And  
16 because they miraculously come back again all the time,  
17 you know. And they got to be -- and there was a  
18 biologists that mentioned that to me, that's how come I  
19 take it to heart. The moose in that Park, from the  
20 point of view of an area biologist telling me at one  
21 point, yeah, they're transient in nature. These moose  
22 they come from another part and find habituation here.  
23 Even if they were to be consumed they would -- they  
24 would come back again because they're coming from  
25 somewhere else. And anyway there's been arguments like  
26 that that we need to continue to fight on your behalf I  
27 think and help you in some of these endeavors.

28

29 Anyway with that I'm going to go to  
30 Nuiqsut. Martha.

31

32 MS. ITTA: Good morning, everyone.  
33 Martha Itta for the record. Like a few of you here I'm  
34 new to the Council and I'm learning the ropes of being  
35 on the RAC and I'm honored to be here serving on the  
36 Board for my community.

37

38 That being -- I don't have a report --  
39 written report, but I would like to suggest the  
40 concerns of my knowledge as a tribal administrator and  
41 vice-mayor for my community. I don't want to take  
42 everybody's time because there's so many concerns and I  
43 can go on and on and on about those. But the main  
44 concerns that I hear from my community is about our  
45 subsistence lands depleting. Due to infrastructure  
46 construction that happens all year long that is  
47 depleting our subsistence resources in areas. We're  
48 not allowed to subsist in areas that has infrastructure  
49 such as Alpine. We've lost areas, now they're on to

50

1 the west. And that's a really big concern as, you  
2 know, development is expanding we're just losing more  
3 and more land to subsistence. That is really hurting  
4 our community.

5  
6 The -- that being said, you know, our  
7 subsistence hunters are being to get off the land, you  
8 know, even on their own Native allotments which is in  
9 -- you know, is really hurting our community as they're  
10 trying to protect their lands and, you know, use their  
11 allotments for subsistence and camping. So that's  
12 happening at -- you know, at this time as we're being  
13 told we can't hunt in our subsistence areas. That's  
14 really hurting our community.

15  
16 The other thing is we're -- our river  
17 is -- due to, you know, us being surrounded by  
18 development there's a lot of contamination flowing into  
19 our rivers from these infrastructures to where, you  
20 know, some of our elders are setting their nets at  
21 lakes instead of our river. So and there's also been  
22 more hunters, fishermen, bringing in their fish to be  
23 tested because they're seeing mold or something wrong  
24 with them. There's organs that were missing. Some  
25 people are sending their caribou to the Wildlife for  
26 testing because they're finding the meat is yellow,  
27 green and they're finding things in their caribou or  
28 they're having to leave them where they hunted them  
29 because they don't -- they notice that they're sick and  
30 so they have to leave their caribou there.

31  
32 With the tiktaalik, we're tiktaaliking  
33 right now, we're fishing for tiktaaliks and that's been  
34 pretty good. People are catching those. I didn't hear  
35 any issues on that.

36  
37 So right now pretty much the main  
38 concern is our hunting subsistence areas are depleting  
39 due to infrastructure.

40  
41 Thank you.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq), Martha.  
44 And those are interesting comments and I think, you  
45 know, coming from the community it's pretty important  
46 to hear what the communities express. And as far as  
47 caribou do you know what the ratio is for the amount of  
48 sick animals that are being collected for analysis? I  
49 know a few years ago my nephews brought me some caribou

50



1 and I had to take it to the Wildlife Department because  
2 it was full of tapeworms.....

3  
4 MS. ITTA: Yeah.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....inside the meat,  
7 you know, inside the muscle.

8  
9 MS. ITTA: Yeah.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I don't know if they  
12 had internal rupture or something because usually  
13 tapeworm is in the -- in the -- inside the internal  
14 organs, right, in the stomach and these.....

15  
16 MS. ITTA: Yeah.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....but these had  
19 made its way to the meat. And it was good that it was  
20 fresh because when I looked at it and see something  
21 moving inside the.....

22  
23 MS. ITTA: Yeah.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....inside the meat.

26  
27 MS. ITTA: Yeah.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Normally I would -- I  
30 could freeze that and I would eat it without cooking  
31 and would not know that it was doing that. And I -- I  
32 had it -- I had brought it over to Wildlife Department.  
33 Turns out it's -- there are a few reports like that of  
34 caribou being that sick that they got.....

35  
36 MS. ITTA: Yeah.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....some other  
39 living organism taking over their body or something.

40  
41 MS. ITTA: Yeah.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So I was alarmed when  
44 I saw that even here in.....

45  
46 MS. ITTA: Yeah.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....some of that.  
49 And some of the Wainwright guys that were reporting

50

1 some of that kind of stuff.

2

3 MS. ITTA: Yeah, that's.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You got to watch out  
6 for your meat. Don't to mention when it gets  
7 brucellosis or some other -- some other -- what do they  
8 call that hoof disease, you know.....

9

10 MS. ITTA: Yeah.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....those kind of  
13 things. So that -- it's important to know when your  
14 animals are sick because I come across that too, yeah.  
15 Yeah, in -- into some cases.

16

17 MS. ITTA: Yeah, that's -- that's  
18 something that they're finding in the caribou, the  
19 worms too. It's hard to say what's been reported.  
20 There -- there's some that bring there's to the Fish  
21 and Wildlife, but a lot of the hunters are just leaving  
22 them where they -- where they caught them. Because  
23 they use a lot of gas to go out there to -- you know,  
24 they have to travel farther away so, you know, if they  
25 catch a caribou and it's sick they're going to -- and  
26 they have to keep traveling to go, you know, catch a  
27 healthy one so they'll leave their caribou there and  
28 travel further away to go try to catch a healthy one.  
29 So it's hard to say, you know, how many of them are  
30 being reported.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, it's good and  
33 it was fun visiting you guys in Nuiqsut with the tri-  
34 lateral last week I think it was. And one of our -- my  
35 deputy director thinks she took him out to fish and she  
36 -- somebody said oh, you have to wait until midnight.  
37 So the fish know what time is midnight.....

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....and then you got  
42 to wait after the blast from the gravel pit.....

43

44 MS. ITTA: Yeah.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....and then they'll  
47 start biting. So they did that, after midnight they  
48 went over there and then Mable pulled out a tiktaalik.  
49 I think she could have won because I guess there's.....

50

1 MS. ITTA: Yeah.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....a fishing derby  
4 going on because her tiktaalik was about.....

5

6 MS. ITTA: Yeah.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....it was a big  
9 tiktaalik. But we did notice a lot of caribou though  
10 because we went on all the ice roads because being a  
11 land manager I wanted to go see the development  
12 pressure and went through all the ice roads and came  
13 around. You can go by Alpine, go by the bridge, come  
14 around to the Alpine resupply road, shortcut to  
15 Nuiqsut, come this way for the heavy haul ice road.  
16 And there's quite a bit of caribou just laying around,  
17 just not doing too much. So it was important to see  
18 some of that from -- as a land managing standpoint of  
19 the -- of the amount of wildlife that was in and around  
20 the activities there.

21

22 MS. ITTA: Yeah, that was the area of  
23 concern to where -- where we tried to go and catch  
24 those caribous and we were told that we're not allowed  
25 in that area due to construction and gravel hauling.  
26 So we were kicked off that area and told we were not  
27 allowed to go in that area. And that's the area of  
28 concern where all the caribou were.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Yeah, it was  
33 -- it's important to note these things and it's  
34 important because I must have seen about 50 B70s, you  
35 know, those real heavy haul.....

36

37 MS. ITTA: Yeah.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....and trying not  
40 to get runned over from some of those. It was pretty  
41 heavy duty construction for that time.

42

43 MS. ITTA: Yeah.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. But I do know  
46 the general use of the gravel roads, you know, there is  
47 a -- pretty much surface use agreement that allows for  
48 subsistence to occur out of those roads. Yeah. But I  
49 think when it comes time to the heavy haul, when you

50

1 got 50 B70s with, you know, 70 tons or so, I don't know  
2 if that's what it is, maybe 50 tons of can't stop  
3 immediate momentum type stuff.....  
4

5 MS. ITTA:  
6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....they -- they  
8 generally as a safety practice try to make sure that  
9 resident use -- try to use different arterials instead  
10 of the heavy haul ice roads.  
11

12 That's -- that was my observation when  
13 I was there and it -- I thought it was a pretty good  
14 meeting there too as well.  
15

16 MS. ITTA: One more thing, the other  
17 concern that came up by hunters is the way the roads  
18 are built for these projects. They have these pullouts  
19 for subsistence hunters to cross, they're too steep to  
20 where they can't climb and they can't cross the road.  
21 So they have to go all the way around the road to just  
22 cross. So we've been trying to get those concerns  
23 addressed, the infrastructures are really deteriorating  
24 our subsistence lands and affecting our hunters.  
25

26 Thank you.  
27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, and those are  
29 good points and -- those are really good points, yeah.  
30 And from another standpoint, you know, we did take  
31 those concerns even to the (indiscernible) project and  
32 say, hey, you guys got to make these crossing areas and  
33 then don't put stop signs at the top. It's like  
34 subsistence hunter and they're crossing, they put a  
35 stop sign on the way up. I say how you going to get  
36 going again if you got a full load on a sled beside you  
37 and you're on an incline. The big trucks should stop  
38 on the road. So they're remedying some of these things  
39 to make it friendly for subsistence. They want to make  
40 sure that subsistence has the right of way and I think  
41 we've expressed that. And that came from you guys too.  
42

43 MS. ITTA: Yeah.  
44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we're -- they're  
46 going to change those stop signs where when it's on the  
47 main road industry has to stop, subsistence has the  
48 right of way and the inclines and not making them so  
49 narrow and making them round at the bottom would be  
50

1 better.

2

3

4 So you guys bring very good  
5 observations. And I know Nuiqsut brings in specialized  
6 concerns on subsistence because of the sheer  
7 infrastructure related issues that are around the  
8 community.

8

9

10 So on the agenda the next item was the  
11 chair's -- was there an independent chair's report and  
12 I think it had at home in my other packet and I didn't  
13 bring it with me.

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MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, the  
only -- I guess the main update is your involvement in  
the Federal Subsistence Board meeting and I know that  
was a long time ago now. So.....

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

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MS. PATTON: .....but that.....

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Was that our proposal  
when I was there to go advocate for 26B and C with the  
haul road and those things to do the Federal closure?

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MS. PATTON: Uh-huh.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. It didn't  
pass, I think we lost by one vote. And that -- I  
thought it was pretty close.

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And the village area of influence

1 definitions are pretty important for a community's  
2 plans. Which means the immediate environment outside  
3 the village district boundary that provides for the  
4 contemporary and traditional use, subsistence, for the  
5 community. That means outside of the village district  
6 boundary you draw your village area of influence. And  
7 the resources that are within that village area of  
8 influence should have a higher priority for subsistence  
9 and not put non-rural residents in there, the guides in  
10 there to divert the herds and prioritize those uses  
11 because at that point they're scarce. The community  
12 can be subjected to unreasonable and maybe unmitigable  
13 adverse impact when you put that much competing uses,  
14 when there's no other food resource that can be that  
15 abundant for them to take.

16  
17 Those are very important things to  
18 grasp by land managers is look at that village area of  
19 influence. I often hear from Anaktuvuk anyway that the  
20 caribou didn't come, maybe the guides diverted the herd  
21 or some other thing happened. And it's important to  
22 convey those sentiments. And even when the caribou are  
23 liberally managed, right, there's what, 200,000 Western  
24 Arctic herd, even when they were 490,000 -- even when  
25 there were 490,000 caribou you could still deplete that  
26 resource out of the reach of subsistence users by mere  
27 diverting that herd even though you're having a liberal  
28 management scheme. I always like to re-emphasize that.  
29 You can deplete those resources and make -- and have to  
30 do a tier hunt even the herd is 490,000 if you divert  
31 those out of the reach of reasonable subsistence users  
32 where they're normally found. And we've made that  
33 determination in the past in terms of creating  
34 mitigation fund advisory committees for the Borough.

35  
36 And I just like to express that and it  
37 needs to resonate with all the land managers and those  
38 that write about impacts to subsistence. Those are  
39 important word to -- just give you an example. The  
40 bowhead whale, we're able to manage those things even  
41 from the Borough. We don't say well, you got to stack  
42 up your seismic equipment, you can't barge over to  
43 Badomi, you can't barge over to Point Thomson unless  
44 you have a conflict avoidance agreement, a working  
45 relationship with the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission  
46 so that the availability of bowhead whales for  
47 subsistence harvesting can be accomplished. In fact  
48 we've done cease and desist orders to operators that  
49 didn't coordinate. Those are standing policies in the  
50

1 Borough in land management.

2

3

4 Now should we develop those kind of  
5 policies that say we need to have in the village area  
6 of influence that kind of strength to manage caribou.  
7 I would think we would want to work together to see  
8 what's the best methodology we can work together on  
9 like village area -- did you know that ADF&G, DNR, DOT,  
10 have to conform to Borough laws and ordinances. It's  
11 right in the Alaska statute. To the extent that the  
12 president carves you out from abiding by the Borough  
13 laws that the Federal agencies have to abide by them,  
14 has the President of the United States said oh, don't  
15 listen to local laws and ordinances. That's what it  
16 says and we do everything we can to work together to  
17 provide for subsistence.

17

18

19 I'm so long winded and I apologize all  
20 the time because I get passionate about protecting  
21 subsistence activities, resources and when we -- when  
22 we start talking about how the State develops the ANS,  
23 the amount necessary for subsistence, all of these  
24 things which I tend to believe they're playing with  
25 games and numbers. Sometimes they say oh, well,  
26 caribou are so abundant we're going to combine the  
27 Teshekpuk herd with the Western Arctic herd and combine  
28 the ANS so that there could still be a liberal  
29 management hunt. It's important to make sure that the  
30 residents, the rural residents, when they're expecting  
31 these you don't pass on an argument. There are  
32 children that are watching and learning about  
33 traditional activities. You don't want to pass on  
34 arguments, you want to pass on traditional history of  
35 respectable harvesting practices, not arguments. Those  
36 are important things to grasp.

36

37

38 Anyway I don't have my Chair's report  
39 before me and so I just made one up because those are  
40 -- those are part of what I went through at the Federal  
41 Subsistence Board and also witnessed the Ahtna tribe  
42 getting a special arrangement with the Interior  
43 Secretary to manage caribou resources in that part of  
44 the world which I think we can do up here too.

44

45

I yield the balance of my time.

46

47

MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chair.

48

49

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Kaktovik, go right on

50

1 ahead.

2

3

4 MR. REXFORD: Yeah, we had the same  
5 sentiments in our area of how the folks in Ahtna did  
6 their management scheme. And my brother, Fenton,  
7 figured we need to try to get involved in something  
8 like that for our area instead of being dictated where  
9 and how to hunt. So we could be involved.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq),  
13 Kaktovik. It's good to be able to express freely our  
14 opinions because we're a Council member and it should  
15 be heard, somebody should scribe like our Madame  
16 Coordinator and all of those OSM guys that are very  
17 good at scribing things down. Unless I start writing  
18 it by myself and making a plan on my own.

19

20 With that, that's the Chair's report.  
21 And was that an action item or not.

22

23 MS. PATTON: No.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. With that I'm  
26 going to go to item nine, public and tribal comments on  
27 non-agenda items available each morning. And do we  
28 have tribal and public tribal comments.

29

30 And I'm going to take some direction  
31 from Madame Coordinator if I need to go down this list  
32 here or not.

33

34 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,  
35 yes. And you are correct, this is available on both  
36 mornings so if we have more folks from the public  
37 joining us tomorrow. I know as you all know this was a  
38 very busy week of meetings, I think non-stop all the  
39 way from last week Steve has been in meetings with the  
40 North Slope Borough. So I think we are slim on the  
41 public this morning, but we do have that opportunity  
42 again tomorrow morning as well and we'll be engaging  
43 the public in the discussion on wildlife proposals as  
44 well.

45

46 But we have some other comments from  
47 Council here.

48

49 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chair.

50



1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I yield the mic over  
2 to William Hopson under public and tribal comments.  
3 And I'm just going to keep that open all day, you know,  
4 that if we got public in and they want to provide some  
5 tribal and public comments as the Chair and if the  
6 Council agrees that if somebody wants to come in we're  
7 going to let them say their piece.

8  
9 William.

10  
11 MR. HOPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
12 Thank you for the comments. I thank Martha Itta from  
13 Nuiqsut for her comments. And there's a couple of  
14 items I wanted to bring out in regards to the caribou  
15 at Prudhoe Bay. I just want to use an example. Years  
16 ago they used stranded gas to try to get that going and  
17 I've been observing Nuiqsut hunters, their comments  
18 when they have the Fish and Game meetings and I just  
19 wanted to bring something out. The reason I said  
20 stranded gas, the way I see the caribou in Prudhoe Bay,  
21 once they get into the grid lines of all the pipelines  
22 and everything, I see them as a stranded caribou.  
23 They're probably -- are they afraid to -- once they get  
24 into the grid line of the pipelines are they afraid to  
25 go out. And concerns from Nuiqsut is there are a lot  
26 of caribou in the oil fields and we cannot get to them,  
27 it's we're not allowed to hunt them.

28  
29 What I want to bring out is at the same  
30 time the caribou are eating, who knows, contaminated  
31 soil, breathing contaminated air, drinking contaminated  
32 water. What I wanted to bring out is something that  
33 probably never been done, but who knows it might work  
34 to ease the needs of Anaktuvuk and Nuiqsut hunters. Is  
35 I think what will work is if we have our own people and  
36 work with the oil companies to get inside the grid  
37 lines of the pipelines and keep the caribou moving  
38 because it is a migrating, moving animal. Once they  
39 get in the pipeline it seems like they sit there for  
40 weeks. And they need to have a mechanism to keep the  
41 caribou out of the Prudhoe Bay, the grid lines between,  
42 you know, all the pipelines. And move them out of that  
43 area. It might work to ease the needs of the village  
44 of Nuiqsut. Because I've heard it many times, there  
45 was caribou across the road and they were needing  
46 caribou, but they could not hunt there. That needs to  
47 be addressed.

48  
49 And again one of the concerns from

50

1 Nuiqsut is the Colville River cleanup. And I think we  
2 need to start something to help the river cleanup or  
3 get the (indiscernible) cleanup to get rolling instead  
4 of waiting for the whole dump at Umiat to go down the  
5 Colville River.

6

7 And I just wanted to bring those out.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq),  
12 William. And just -- I know we make comments to the --  
13 on the EIS for the Umiat from the Borough side of  
14 things. And we'd rather let them mine gravel as a  
15 cover from the river itself because the Borough's own  
16 policy says you can't mine gravel from anadromous  
17 streams and from active river channels and stuff. And  
18 we frown about that because it's an ecosystem, the  
19 largest river. And one of the proposals was to mine  
20 gravel for the Umiat landfill and do other things from  
21 the Colville River.

22

23 And we didn't want to -- and our  
24 preferred methodology is, you know, dig everything up  
25 and, you know, get it out of there. That -- you know,  
26 that's -- I think they're starting to looking for ways  
27 of moving that project forward because I think the EIS  
28 for that may now have completed. Because about a year  
29 ago we were developing comments to the Corps of  
30 Engineers on that. So maybe we need an update on Umiat  
31 cleanup on the next time or whenever we can because  
32 there are issues about contaminates, PCBs and what  
33 others of that landfill. A very productive watershed  
34 over there and it's been there since -- probably 70  
35 years now. And a lot of people have said there's  
36 things in that landfill, you know, that are -- could be  
37 detrimental. You don't know what the military did back  
38 then and they had -- back in the '50s, you know,  
39 letting people have iodine 131 shots, they were trying  
40 to make us glow in the dark for goodness sake, you  
41 know. We don't know what they were doing. I mean,  
42 those are real issues out there, you know, and I would  
43 like to see that Corps of Engineers come here and make  
44 a presentation on what's going on, are we moving  
45 forward, what the heck's the problem, somebody get \$900  
46 million and clean it. That's what it's going to cost,  
47 about \$900 million.

48

49 Anyway as far as caribou I think we'd

50

1 love to hear concerns. I would love to see some of the  
2 caribou biologists talk about the movements of caribou,  
3 some of the animation that's developed over 15 years of  
4 collected data, startling information on how these  
5 caribou move. You could tell which caribou is which.  
6 And the way they move down the corridors from over the  
7 Brooks Range and on to Point Hope and Point Lay and  
8 Umiat and you could see Teshekpuk herd and its  
9 movement. And its pretty astonishing the amount of  
10 technology that are watching the caribou movements.  
11 And it's an eye opener, it would -- it maybe look at  
12 the maybe different opinions about the caribou and how  
13 they move around infrastructure. And I would say that  
14 should be coming as a new members join us what we've  
15 already seen, we should continue to provide those kind  
16 of very good, up to date information to the Council.  
17 And it just gives you a better insight as to what all  
18 these folks are doing to monitor the resources on your  
19 behalf. And, you know, I think they're very important.

20  
21 Any other tribal comments and I need to  
22 refer to -- when there's proposals we go through this  
23 list, right?

24  
25 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,  
26 correct. And so for this meeting today is an  
27 opportunity for the Council to develop a proposal so at  
28 the fall meeting all the regulatory proposals that have  
29 been submitted for Federal subsistence wildlife  
30 regulatory changes will come before the Council and  
31 that's when we follow these procedures.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

34  
35 MS. PATTON: So today.....

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is that an example  
38 maybe.....

39  
40 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....let's just say  
43 Eddie has some concerns about moose.....

44  
45 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....but I think at a  
48 different meeting we had an arrangement if I could  
49 recall correctly with the Refuge manager to make the

50

1 call, right. And if that relationship is good and to  
2 evaluate whether that is working or not or to bring it  
3 back over here and let them go through the Federal  
4 Board process again of proposals or working directly  
5 with the Refuge manager. I'd like to see how that's  
6 working and get a report on that relationship. And I  
7 think it's important because that was a direction we  
8 all voted to go and I think Lee may have been here when  
9 that happened to work directly with the Refuge manager  
10 on allocation of moose or something like that or  
11 special hunt. They just talk to the Refuge manager and  
12 said hey, we're going to do this, you know. And I'd  
13 like to see that kind -- I mean, those are proposals  
14 that could be made to change that if it's not working.  
15

16

17

So other than that any other.....

18

19

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

20

21

MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

22

23

24

MS. PATTON: Oh, if I may quickly  
25 respond so you know what's coming up on the agenda.  
26 There's a couple things. So what you're referring to  
27 is the delegation of authority letter.....

28

29

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right.

30

31

32

MS. PATTON: .....and you're correct,  
33 this Council had reviewed that delegation of authority  
34 letter and approved that for the Arctic National  
35 Wildlife Refuge manager to be able to manager that  
36 moose hunt with more flexibility rather than going  
37 through a full regulatory process which is rather time  
38 consuming.

39

40

CHAIRMAN BROWER: That would have been  
41 more responsive if it was our goal.

42

43

44

MS. PATTON: Correct. Yes. And the  
45 Refuge manager, Steve Berendzen will be here. Oh,  
46 there he is. So we'll have that opportunity, you know,  
47 that feedback, that dialogue. And that will be coming  
48 up on our agenda a little later today. We're going to  
49 be talking about the closure review for moose in 26C  
50 and then we'll also have the report from the Refuge  
which is likely to come up tomorrow, but we can discuss  
-- you know, as we're discussing the closure review,

50

1 you know, to discuss that delegation of authority.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You mean for moose?  
4  
5 MS. PATTON: Correct. Yeah, so that's  
6 on the agenda.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Closure.....  
9  
10 MS. PATTON: Yes.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.  
13  
14 MS. PATTON: That closure review is on  
15 the.....  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.  
18  
19 MS. PATTON: .....agenda and Tom will  
20 be addressing that with the Council. So that feedback,  
21 that dialogue with the Refuge managers, we have that  
22 opportunity here. And we'll be revisiting that closure  
23 review, that's part of what the Council does as well.  
24 So an update on the biology of the moose and all of  
25 that background. And that's actually coming up on our  
26 agenda pretty quick here before we get into the.....  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sounds interesting.  
29  
30 MS. PATTON: .....get into the wildlife  
31 proposals.  
32  
33 Thank you, Mr. Oomittuk.  
34  
35 MR. OOMITTUK: You know, I -- it would  
36 be good to hear about, you know, the number of  
37 predators that are out there now. You know, in the  
38 last few years we see our local hunters getting more  
39 and more wolves and wolverines, you know, the abundance  
40 of wolves that are being caught and wolverines and, you  
41 know, the predators that are out on the North Slope in  
42 all our areas within our communities, you know, that  
43 usually help keep the migration of the animal --  
44 caribou going. Now does the wildlife or Fish and Game  
45 know the number of predators that are on the North  
46 Slope area, you know, what kind of reports do they  
47 have. You know, because seem like within the last few  
48 years -- like I said our local hunters are catching --  
49 coming home with wolves and wolverines, you know,  
50

1 daily, you know, and sometimes they come home with four  
2 wolves, sometimes they come home with three wolverines,  
3 you know, we never seen the abundance of predators like  
4 that, you know, whether they're trapping. But it would  
5 be good to know, you know, the number of predators that  
6 are within our regions and then how it help to keep the  
7 migration roaming.

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Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq), Steve.  
Interesting, yeah. We see it everyday almost on  
Facebook, somebody's got 15 wolves or something. But  
that's interesting because, you know, from my office I  
see I think organization called WWF it's called, like  
the World of Wrestling Federation folks or something,  
you know. But they're doing studies on (in Native) and  
other things like that. I think there are attempts by  
conservation groups to look at the abundance of fur  
bearing animals and things like that. I get to read  
them because they come through my office as well and  
look at some of the studies that are going on from  
birds, bird nestings, to remember the big N1 something  
flu for birds. And they study all the (in Native) and  
see if there's an epidemic about to occur or not. And  
we don't even get feedback on were they sick or did  
they find anything. We need to get those kinds of  
reports and hear about, you know, some of these issues  
that they decided to study. I think some of them were  
-- Fish and Feathers were studying it. And so it's  
important to get and hear some of these studies and get  
the feedback because they're interest -- we're  
interested to hear, right, we want to hear what's going  
on especially with our (in Native).

Carmen, there's a -- well, one of the  
local biologists here.

MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, and the other  
question I had about was, you know, the studies that,  
you know, they're -- we know that there's a proposal to  
put a road from the Dalton Highway to Ambler. And  
we're -- there was a lot of concerns about the  
migration of the Western Arctic caribou herd moving  
down to their winter grounds, you know, and what kind  
of effect would that have having that road right in  
their migration route to their winter grounds and  
coming up where they're calving and, you know, feeding  
grounds in the north. And we know there -- there's a

1 lot of minerals right there around Ambler and having  
2 all that traffic going back and forth through there,  
3 you know, they always say -- they said it wouldn't be  
4 used for public use, but that's -- that's what they  
5 said for the pipeline road also, you know, and it's  
6 utilized quite a bit. But there was a lot of concerns  
7 about the Ambler Road that's coming up.

8  
9 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, and  
10 we will have an Ambler Road update from Marcy Okada  
11 likely on the agenda tomorrow we'll get to that part.  
12 And -- and I know Carmen also has updates for the  
13 Council as well on wildlife reports for the region so  
14 she might be able to address your question on  
15 predators.

16  
17 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you. This is  
18 Carmen Daggett for the record. And I mostly just  
19 wanted to address your questions about predators,  
20 specifically you mentioned wolves and wolverines. So  
21 there was a research project that was done on  
22 wolverines on the North Slope and it was pretty  
23 extensive actually. And I'd be happy to get you a copy  
24 of that report if you'd like. They were basically  
25 looking at occupancy so the likelihood that a wolverine  
26 might live in a certain area based on a couple of  
27 different things like soil type mostly driven by what  
28 animals they're going to be attracted to wanting to eat  
29 more or less. And so it's a pretty interesting paper,  
30 it's worth reading and you can take a look at, you  
31 know, what they were saying about wolverines on the  
32 Slope.

33  
34 I think there has been quite a few  
35 wolverines that I -- that have been sealed at my office  
36 this year. And so -- and then the hunters that I'm  
37 talking to seem to think that wolverine numbers are  
38 pretty high right now. That's one thing that we don't  
39 regularly survey, they're kind of difficult to survey  
40 which is why they did that occupancy study. However  
41 when hunters seal their furs, meaning that they just  
42 get a tag to put on their fur, we get some information  
43 that's really helpful for us to determine numbers and  
44 people's ability to get animals helps us kind of figure  
45 out how many are being taken. Not that we're trying to  
46 restrict how many are being taken, but that it's good  
47 for us to just know how successful people are being and  
48 can document that.

49  
50

1                   So maybe that's something hunters might  
2 want to consider is thinking about sealing or tagging  
3 their furs. And it doesn't cost anything, it's free  
4 and it only takes a couple minutes. I'm pretty  
5 efficient about doing it. So that's something to  
6 consider for how you guys can help us figure out how  
7 many animals are out there.

8  
9                   And same thing with wolves. I would  
10 say it seems like the data that we have for wolves over  
11 a long period of time on the Colville specifically  
12 suggests that the number of wolves right now is pretty  
13 low in that part of the North Slope. I recognize  
14 you're way on the western side which is pretty far away  
15 from where we're doing that survey. And so, you know,  
16 in areas that are further away from areas that we're  
17 doing regular surveys on wolves, it's even more  
18 important that we get information from sealing records  
19 to really help us track that stuff. So when you go  
20 back to your communities and there's hunters that you  
21 know that are out there, if you can encourage them to  
22 tag their furs, that's a really helpful thing. And  
23 they can even do it over the phone, they don't have to  
24 bring the fur into the office unless it's a lynx. We  
25 usually want to get measurements on lynx. But, yeah,  
26 that can be really helpful.

27  
28                   So not too many wolves right now coming  
29 in from trappers. We've had -- I guess I've sealed a  
30 couple this week, I've sealed about four this week.  
31 But that's the majority of what I've sealed all winter.  
32 So that's kind of what I know from the hunters that do  
33 come and bring their furs in which I recognize is  
34 probably a pretty small number in comparison to how  
35 many people are actually out there hunting and  
36 trapping, but I'm hoping those numbers will continue to  
37 increase.

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just a question. Are  
40 you just sealing the ones that are in Barrow or  
41 outlying villages as well?

42  
43                   MS. DAGGETT: All of them, yeah. So I  
44 have a couple of hunters out in the villages that are  
45 super good about just giving me a call, they even just  
46 text me, hey, I got this many (in Native) today, this  
47 many miles away from Nuiqsut on this river and I need  
48 this many tags sent to me. And then I -- well, the one  
49 hunter's super good, I have all of his contact  
50



1 information already so I just copy it over everything.  
2 But it can be really simple and pretty painless and  
3 hopefully try not to be too much of a burden on people.  
4 Yeah.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I mean, it  
7 might be important to know your contact information.  
8 If there are villages that are not used to  
9 reporting.....

10  
11 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah. Yeah.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....you know, their  
14 catch and.....

15  
16 MS. DAGGETT: For sure.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....you know, it  
19 seems to me, I mean, there's never really mind the  
20 census on these kind of things, but like you said  
21 occupancy type studies and things like that.....

22  
23 MS. DAGGETT: Uh-huh.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....just because  
26 it's difficult to manage a survey of this type. I  
27 could remember early 1990 or late 1990s when the  
28 Fortymile caribou herd was struggling out of Fairbanks  
29 and Delta, they asked the North Slope region, hey, you  
30 guys want a whole bunch of wolves transplanted up here.  
31 Yeah, go put them over about this -- over here by this  
32 river, and then tie them up over here by that log, I'll  
33 go get them all. So, you know, we -- that happens  
34 sometimes, you know, we help another region and they  
35 want to relocate some wolves and they had relocated  
36 some black ones, some real pretty ones. And just  
37 they're abundant when, you know, one wolf can have, you  
38 know, 10 puppies, you know. So that kind of thing. So  
39 anyway it's a good information.

40  
41 Thank you.

42  
43 MS. DAGGETT: There will be more later  
44 in my report about other things. So I will save that.

45  
46 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other tribal and  
49 public comments on non-agenda items?  
50

1 MR. OOMITTUK: I'm just.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Roy.

4

5 MR. OOMITTUK: .....you know, wondering  
6 if.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, Steve.

9

10 MR. OOMITTUK: .....we still -- you  
11 know, the population of the Western Arctic caribou  
12 herd, I don't know if we're going to have a report on  
13 that, on the numbers, just coming up or things. So we  
14 should have a report. Okay.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq) Mr.  
19 Nageak.

20

21 MR. NAGEAK: Good morning. I'm going  
22 to be public this morning because there's some concerns  
23 that are happening on the North Slope and State of  
24 Alaska. We know that State is finding itself in  
25 financial straits and some of the concerns that we have  
26 is management of the caribou. And like (indiscernible)  
27 of the State biologists covering the whole North Slope.  
28 And they issue -- and comments made by the Governor in  
29 regards to taking over subsistence management. When  
30 they make comments like that and we look at what we  
31 have on the North Slope where 80 percent of the lands  
32 are -- I think it's 80 percent if I'm correct are under  
33 Federal management. Arctic National Wildlife, NPRA,  
34 Gates of the Arctic and the other Parks east of here  
35 where 80 percent of the lands are managed by the  
36 Federal management and then maybe 20 percent by the  
37 State. But they have the overall management of the  
38 caribou and our subsistence. In regards to them to me  
39 it's -- we've got to make statements like we'd rather  
40 be under the Federal management than the State  
41 management and we -- these are issues that this body  
42 had talked about before. And now it's becoming more  
43 persistent from the State to take over.

44

45 And the concerns from Martha Itta in  
46 regards to the pollutants and stuff, the air pollution  
47 -- well, not the pollution, but the air monitoring  
48 belongs to the State ADEC. And I don't know how  
49 Federal management, it was -- but when it's managed by  
50 the State it's a question on whether the resources

50

1 would be available to address some of the concerns of  
2 air quality around the village of Nuiqsut if it's  
3 managed by the State and their ability to do it. So  
4 means to me that when the State don't have financial  
5 resources to do any of their work and the majority of  
6 the lands that are up here on the North Slope are  
7 Federal and I think anyway that we would prefer Federal  
8 management over State management of our subsistence way  
9 of life.

10

11 I just want to point that out because  
12 it's starting to become an issue on a statewide basis.

13

14

15 And I like the comments. I wasn't  
16 aware that Ahtna and the Federal government had that  
17 ability to work together, to protect their management  
18 areas.

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Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq), Roy.  
And I think those are important comments, you know, as  
the State is dealing with a fiscal crisis. And they're  
finding they can't afford themselves, you know. What  
are they, 1 billion something in the hole and they need  
to cut down their government either that or tax  
everybody to, you know. I don't think they want to tax  
everybody, but that's a lot of gap.

And it's important to also recognize  
when ICC was happening, ICC is the Inuit Circumpolar  
Conference, a coalition of Arctic nations that has an  
ear to the United Nations and they're listening about  
food security issues and the identity of the indigenous  
people's rights to exist. That we all in the Federal  
process is pretty much tied to the customary and  
traditional use of these resources, tied to the  
indigenous people's rights which is a international  
group looking at these issues as well like ICC. Their  
big concern about management and how we can work better  
together in the best interests of the indigenous  
people's rights on these lands.

Because we don't have Walmarts up here,  
we do not have McDonald's everywhere you go. These  
communities are remote and very isolated areas where  
you have to be successful. If you're not successful  
you may not have the same resources to do it again. Or

1 people pool resources together. What does it mean when  
2 we pool resources together. My aunt, my cousin, my  
3 nephews and stuff, they might put \$2,000 worth of money  
4 together to buy \$2,000 worth of gas to go get food and  
5 they want to be successful. That's how important it is  
6 and it's under the guise of food security issues. Food  
7 security also meaning global climate issues about how  
8 to preserve the food in traditional ways is not  
9 happening anymore, food's getting spoiled. How do we  
10 do this and make it better.

11

12 So I think it's important for the State  
13 to recognize their shortcomings in funding, look at the  
14 Feds and look at the tribes. We need to think out of  
15 the box and recognize the issues about food security is  
16 an underlying factor.

17

18 So boy, Roy can -- and bring up one  
19 little key word topic and then we go flying off the  
20 handle about talking about it.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So a very important  
25 subject. I can tell you that much.

26

27 MR NAGEAK: Thank you. I just got a --  
28 you mentioned something and ever since the North Slope  
29 Borough began and one of the first issues that they  
30 address was our ability to hunt the whales. And they  
31 went on a partnership with the Federal government. And  
32 that relationship the tribal government under ICAS  
33 which began the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, an  
34 organization that goes all the way from Savoonga to  
35 Kaktovik. And it was an ongoing partnership where  
36 eventually to make sure that the United States is doing  
37 it right they put (indiscernible) onto the auspices of  
38 the International Whaling Commission. And for us it  
39 took many years, like 40 years, and they went in  
40 partnership to make sure that the population of the  
41 whale was healthy. And I remember being a radical back  
42 in the early days in the '70s, I'm going to confess I  
43 was a hippie once.....

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 MR. NAGEAK: .....where the radical  
48 thing was to challenge the Federal government or  
49 anybody with power to make sure that our rights were

50

1 protected. And I remember a lot of our younger people  
2 were involved with that. But our elders reflected on  
3 avoidance of conflict and to work with the Federal  
4 government and eventually got involved, got into  
5 meetings with the International Whaling Commission.  
6 And this was a body that had many nations from the  
7 earth having meetings every year or if it -- to control  
8 whaling, especially commercial whaling. In all those  
9 years that the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission were  
10 protecting our rights to hunt whales. Kept going there  
11 and being persistent in protecting our right to hunt  
12 whales.

13  
14 This year, the last year that they went  
15 and we know about this, eventually they through the  
16 studies that were -- so they help on the North Slope  
17 Borough, NOAA and there's some of the arms of the  
18 Federal government, a good relationship that testify  
19 the population of the bowhead whale, I think it was  
20 18,000 or 19,000 somewhere in there. And when you look  
21 at a population to justify taking whales or any other  
22 species, 2 percent is healthy, it won't impact the  
23 course of a body of a species of animal. And then when  
24 you take 2 percent of 19,000, it's around 300 to 400  
25 range and then we only -- our quota -- given a quota of  
26 what, 75, 80, in all the whaling villages.

27  
28 This year the International Whaling  
29 Commission as a body voted to allow Alaska Eskimo  
30 Whaling Commission to start forwarding any unused quota  
31 forward into each year. And we know that at AEWC  
32 there's lot of unused strikes. And in a sense as they  
33 do that and keep moving it forward, our ability to go  
34 over the 75 a year in a way we could hunt like we used  
35 to hunt before the State ever came around and before we  
36 got involved with fighting for our rights along the  
37 same time with Native Claim Settlement Act. United  
38 States in a signatory -- giving signatory and signing  
39 that to what you mention, United Nations as a whole,  
40 and the way that United Nations need to protect  
41 subsistence or the rights of indigenous people around  
42 the nation of the United States became a signatory to  
43 that.

44  
45 And when we start seeing the reflection  
46 on that it's how a State or the Federal government if a  
47 species is healthy and our ability to hunt freely could  
48 be protected as it was before. And for the experience  
49 at the North Slope area Inupiaqs and all the hunting  
50

1 people has with International Whaling Commission an  
2 (indiscernible) with a lot of the countries sat onto  
3 the United Nation, it -- it's going to reflect on our  
4 ability. And if anybody from the State, but we love to  
5 work with the Federal government. But if anybody tried  
6 to stop from the statewide basis we could approach the  
7 United Nations and say our right are being trampled.  
8 And we haven't really used those avenues yet, but it's  
9 something that the Federal government like I say has  
10 signed onto for the protection of indigenous people.  
11 And now with our relationship with the International  
12 Whaling Commission we know that we could work with them  
13 and stop some of these areas of conflict for the  
14 betterment of our people and protect our subsistence  
15 rights.  
16

17 So I want to point that out that we as  
18 a people know how to work in an international arena and  
19 we know how to work in the State arena. It's just a  
20 management issue and yet there's prior laws that's  
21 being overlooked that need to protect our subsistence  
22 rights, they're there. They're just -- we're just now  
23 pointing them out to avoid conflict of interest or  
24 conflict, avoiding simple conflict. But if we need to  
25 those are areas that we as a people for subsistence  
26 right that we need to just keep at a low level, but if  
27 they want to start challenging us there's so many  
28 avenues from an international perspective that we could  
29 look at.  
30

31 Thank you.  
32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq), Roy.  
34 Another interesting -- you know when I was at the ICC  
35 and that very subject was being talked about, about the  
36 indigenous people's rights in this arena through ICC,  
37 the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the United States is  
38 a signatory no more than seven times to that language  
39 and affirmed no more than seven times already that the  
40 indigenous people's right to exist on the subsistence  
41 resources that they depend on. I don't think you guys  
42 can grasp some of that because it's important because  
43 we work at the international level too and listen to  
44 these things especially when it comes down to food  
45 security issues. And I wish it was conveyable in a way  
46 that it translated that you have to implement some of  
47 these things. But when -- if it comes -- push come to  
48 shove I think those kind of things are going to  
49 surface. Because the United States like Roy said is a  
50

1 signatory to that language and affirmed no more than  
2 seven times in an international arena including United  
3 Nations. I'll leave it there.

4  
5 Any old business, I think we were still  
6 on public and tribal comments.

7  
8 Madame Chair, is there any old  
9 business?

10  
11 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, we  
12 don't have any old business at this time.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Or Madame  
15 Coordinator, not Madame Chair.

16  
17 MS. PATTON: I hope I didn't say Madame  
18 Chair, Mr. Chair. Yeah, we don't have any old business  
19 on the agenda at this time. Under the new business we  
20 will be getting into that wildlife closure review  
21 addressing the unit 26C moose and we have Tom Evans  
22 who's up to address that with the Council.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, before we do  
25 that I see we got about 15 minutes and I don't know  
26 about the rest of the guys, but there might be a little  
27 hunger pain here and there. I don't know how long Tom  
28 would take, but seems like that's an interesting one  
29 that might consume more than 15 minutes of time.

30  
31 And what's the wish of the Council, you  
32 guys want to take lunch or allow Tom to start and then  
33 shut him down at noon and continue or we could take an  
34 early lunch and come back at 1:00 o'clock.

35  
36 MS. KIPPI: Early lunch.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I guess that's  
39 appropriate. All those signify that want to take a  
40 recess and go to lunch signify by saying aye.

41  
42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say  
45 oppose.

46  
47 (No opposing votes)

48  
49 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, and  
50

1 just so we can get a return time.....  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: 1:00 o'clock I think  
4 is good, huh, what do you guys think, 1:00 o'clock?  
5  
6 MR. HOPSON: 1:00 o'clock.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. 1:00 o'clock.  
9  
10 MS. PATTON: Okay.  
11  
12 Thank you.  
13  
14 (Off record)  
15  
16 (On record)  
17  
18 MS. PATTON: .....teleconference we're  
19 just gathering our Council back here after lunch. And  
20 maybe as we convene here, Mr. Chair, we can just  
21 quickly check in on teleconference and see if there's  
22 anyone else that's joined us this afternoon that we  
23 didn't get an introduction this morning?  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, while we're  
26 waiting on at least one or two more Council members,  
27 those that haven't introduced themselves to the  
28 Regional Council, if you haven't been introduced this  
29 morning if you would recognize yourselves now that are  
30 on the phone.  
31  
32 MS. BRUMMER: Hi. This is Christine  
33 Brummer with the Office of Subsistence Management. And  
34 I was on the phone this morning too, but I just came in  
35 a little late.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Christine.  
38 Just making sure that those that haven't been  
39 introduced get introduced for a matter of record.  
40  
41 MS. LEONARD: Hi, Mr. Chair. This is  
42 Beth Leonard from the Alaska Department of Fish and  
43 Game in Fairbanks.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Did she  
46 say Pamela Anderson?  
47  
48 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Beth Leonard.  
49  
50



1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, Beth Leonard.

2 Oh, all right.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I guess I need  
7 hearing aids. All right, Beth Leonard. There are some  
8 people cracking up really big. It's my bad. And I got  
9 to be careful because sometimes I get scolded from my  
10 girlfriend and she goes how come you're always saying  
11 yeah all the time. I didn't -- you said yeah to  
12 something that didn't require a yes. Explain I think I  
13 need a hearing aid. Maybe.....

14

15 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Did you say yeah  
16 back?

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Pardon.

19

20 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Did you say yeah  
21 back?

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I don't know. You  
26 know, you tend to say yeah just like you're just trying  
27 to get along in life, but you can only say yeah so many  
28 times before you're not supposed to say yeah.

29

30 Well, we'll go to new business, right,  
31 we're under new business and we got Tom Evans, OSM  
32 wildlife biologist, and I think you're going to do  
33 something about something.

34

35 MR. EVANS: That's correct.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And that's one of  
38 these lists here. Is that 26B and C moose?

39

40 MR. EVANS: So I'm going to start off  
41 with talking about the closure review process which  
42 we've changed a little bit in OSM. And then I'm going  
43 to go ahead -- go ahead and do the closure review  
44 itself which is the 11A. And then I'll go ahead and do  
45 the call for wildlife proposals and then hopefully Fish  
46 and Game folks will give us -- and the Federal agency  
47 people will give us an update on caribou and other  
48 wildlife updates. And then we can discuss if there's  
49 any wildlife proposals that you would like to generate

50

1 at this Council. So that's kind of the order that I  
2 was planning to work on.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. So we're  
5 officially out of recess I think. All the Council  
6 members are present and we'll hand the mic over to Tom  
7 to do your -- is that WCR 18-31?

8

9 MR. EVANS: Yes, I'll get to that after  
10 I give a brief overview of the closure process.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

13

14 MR. EVANS: So good afternoon, Mr.  
15 Chair and members of the Council. My name's Tom Evans  
16 and I work as a wildlife biologist for OSM.

17

18 Like I said I'm going to start off with  
19 giving you a little brief summary of the closure review  
20 process because we've changed it a little bit. And  
21 then I'll go ahead and talk about the closure review,  
22 WCR 18-31.

23

24 So section 815 of ANILCA allows the  
25 Federal Subsistence Board to restrict or close the  
26 taking of fish and wildlife by subsistence and non-  
27 subsistence users on Federal public lands when  
28 necessary for the conservation of healthy populations  
29 of fish and wildlife and to continue subsistence uses  
30 of such populations. When a fish and wildlife  
31 population is insufficient to sustain all subsistence  
32 users the available resources shall be apportioned  
33 among the subsistence users according to their  
34 customary and direct dependence upon the populations as  
35 a mainstay of livelihood, local residency, availability  
36 of alternative resources or and then there's a few  
37 other things. When the fish and wildlife populations  
38 are insufficient for anyone to fish then the population  
39 will be closed to everybody.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tom, just for clarity  
42 and for my sake, is there a page number in here that we  
43 can reference as -- what you're reading?

44

45 TOM EVANS: I don't know if there's a  
46 preface on the -- on the closure review process, there  
47 is on the closure review itself will be on page 19.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

50

1 MR. EVANS: So.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I just wanted to --  
4 you know, I don't want to second guess what was before  
5 and what the new revised closure review process is and  
6 then how does that go about, is that the Federal Board  
7 of Game that makes the changes or is it the Interior  
8 Secretary or is it a combination of recommendations  
9 from the Councils?

10

11 MR. EVANS: I'll explain that. Okay.  
12 So prior to this we would have -- there's probably 40  
13 to 60 closures throughout the State in any one year.  
14 And sometime back it was mandated that we review the  
15 closures every so often to make sure that the -- things  
16 haven't changed and closures weren't remaining in  
17 perpetuity throughout the process. So we've been  
18 reviewing the closures approximately every three years  
19 up to this point.

20

21 After the February, 2008 subsistence --  
22 Federal Subsistence Board work session we realized that  
23 there were some other things. They're -- if you looked  
24 at the closure review policy as it was originally  
25 written we were -- there were some things that we were  
26 doing -- we weren't doing and so now we're in the  
27 process of implementing that. And I'll just read you a  
28 couple paragraphs here that should summarize what we're  
29 doing now and then I'll explain how it works with the  
30 closure review and then we'll go over closure review.  
31 So hopefully it all becomes sort of evident of how this  
32 process works with an example as well.

33

34 So as of February, 2018 the Federal --  
35 at the February, 2018 Federal Subsistence Board work  
36 session OSM staff recommended revisions to the Federal  
37 Subsistence Board closure policy in order to more  
38 accurately track and implement existing wildlife and  
39 fisheries closures in future years. As a result the  
40 Board approved changes to the policy to allow for the  
41 review of half of all the closures on a staggered four  
42 year cycle, with the other half being reviewed the  
43 following four years. So for wildlife that's on the  
44 even years and for fisheries that's on the odd years.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Clarity. Then there  
47 will be -- once you close it reviewed for -- another  
48 opinion on that four years after?

49

50

1 MR. EVANS: Yeah, so we would review  
2 it. OSM -- if there haven't been any proposals to  
3 change that closure in the four year interim period  
4 then OSM would go through the process it itself and  
5 looking for any changes in.....  
6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And just for my sake,  
8 anytime between that closure and that four year period  
9 elapsed, could another proposal be submitted for  
10 limited open?  
11

12 MR. EVANS: Another proposal could be  
13 submitted to change.....  
14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Just wanted  
16 that clarity.  
17

18 Thank you.  
19

20 MR. EVANS: And anyone could submit  
21 that proposal. Upon further review of this closure  
22 policy OSM staff believed additional clarification was  
23 needed, prompting discussion with the DOI solicitor  
24 with regard to the Federal Subsistence Board action on  
25 closure reviews. The solicitor and OSM staff clarified  
26 the FSB closure policy intends that the Federal  
27 Subsistence Board take final action on the closure  
28 review analysis during its wildlife and fisheries  
29 regulatory meetings. Closure review analysis are to be  
30 addressed by the Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils  
31 and the Federal Subsistence Board in the same manner as  
32 regulatory proposals. Therefore deference to the  
33 Council recommendations will apply when the Board takes  
34 final action on the closure reviews. And closure  
35 reviews are to be treated in the same way as the  
36 regulatory proposals to retain, modify or rescind  
37 individual closures. Similarly the Interagency Staff  
38 Committee and the State of Alaska will be asked to  
39 submit comments to the Board on the closure review  
40 analysis. Follow on proposals from the Councils to  
41 request that the existing closure be modified or  
42 rescinded will no longer be required as part of the  
43 closure review process.  
44

45 So before we would have a closure come  
46 up we review it, we present it to the RAC and then you,  
47 the RAC, would come up and they'd make a decision as to  
48 whether to maintain the status quo, whether to change  
49 the proposal. And at that point if you recommended  
50

1 that there be a change then the RAC would submit a  
2 proposal for the next regulatory cycle to change it.

3  
4 Now the way it's going to work is  
5 you'll -- we'll present the information to the RAC, the  
6 RAC will make a decision as to whether modify or  
7 rescind, same thing, but instead of submitting a  
8 proposal we will put -- at the end of the closure  
9 analysis we will put your recommendation at the end of  
10 the closure analysis and present that to the Federal  
11 Subsistence Board. So there doesn't have to be another  
12 whole analysis done on the closure review because it's  
13 already been reviewed they felt adequately already.

14  
15 So that's sort of the process. And  
16 then as I go through this closure, we'll go through  
17 this and when I talk about this closure review here  
18 then we'll go through the process and you'll see at the  
19 end you guys will still have an action item, you'll  
20 still have to come up with what you want to do with the  
21 proposal -- the closure, whether you want to maintain  
22 status quo or whether you want to change it. And then  
23 you'll develop a justification for that and then that  
24 will go into the -- I'll attach that into the closure  
25 review before it goes to the Board.

26  
27 In the fall we'll -- we'll go over this  
28 briefly again probably just to remind you because it'll  
29 be -- you know, it won't get acted on until the Federal  
30 Subsistence Board on 2020.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Follow-up question  
33 real quick here. I don't know when it was or if it was  
34 a different Interior Secretary that wanted to give more  
35 weight to the decisions and recommendations for  
36 Regional RACs. Now does any of this modification  
37 interfere with that?

38  
39 MR. EVANS: No, Mr. Chair. That --  
40 your -- the same deference to the RACs still occurs.  
41 So your decision basically carries the most weight with  
42 regard to the Board. And up to -- you know, in the  
43 past up to about 90 percent -- 90 or greater than 90  
44 percent of all the RAC recommendations have been  
45 accepted by the Board. So that's been policy all  
46 along.

47  
48 Okay. So now I'll go ahead and present  
49 the closure review for WCR 18-31. And that's on page  
50

1 19 of your book.

2

3

4 Okay. Hunting on Federal lands in  
5 units 26B remainder and 26C are closed to the hunting  
6 of moose except by rural Alaskan residents of the  
7 village of Kaktovik. The current regulation is for one  
8 moose by Federal registration permit for the residents  
9 of Kaktovik only. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge  
10 has delegated authority to determine annual quotas, set  
11 open and closing dates and determine the number of  
12 permits to be issued. And in recent years the Arctic  
13 National Wildlife Refuge has issued a number of permits  
14 of like up to three moose taken out the Kongakut River  
15 drainage area.

16

17 Moose harvest has been restricted in  
18 units 26B and 26 C since 1996 when the seasons were  
19 closed under the State and Federal regulations. The  
20 closure was modified in 2004 to allow for a limited  
21 harvest for the Kaktovik residents only under the  
22 Federal regulations. The closure was last modified in  
23 2008 when the closure was lifted in a portion of unit  
24 26B. The closure in 2004 was implemented for  
25 conservation reasons, low recruitment and survival of  
26 the moose population that occurs in the Arctic Coastal  
27 Plain area with a provision to allow for only the  
28 residents of Kaktovik to harvest one moose because of  
29 the limited availability of moose under -- in unit 26C.  
30 The closure was last reviewed in 2012. That has  
31 suggested that there are two populations in unit 26C, a  
32 resident population on the coastal plain north of the  
33 Brooks Range and I'll refer to that as the North Slope  
34 population from now on and the Old Crow Flats  
35 population which occurs in the Firth, Mancha and Upper  
36 Kongakut River drainages in Alaska and the Old Crow  
37 Flats in the Yukon.

38

39 The Old Crow Flats population is  
40 migratory. The moose calve and summer in the Old Crow  
41 Flats in the Yukon Territory and move to the Brooks  
42 Range in the winter. In the winter the moose from the  
43 Old Crow Flats population use the Firth, Mancha,  
44 Kongakut, Coleen and Sheenjok River drainages in  
45 Alaska. Fall movement to wintering areas occurs in  
46 August to early September and the spring movement  
47 occurs in March and April.

48

49 Although the sample size is small none  
50 of the moose collared in the Old Crow Flats have been

1 -- have moved into the coastal plain on the north side  
2 of the Brooks Range even though there some -- we  
3 suspect that some animals may be able to do that. Data  
4 indicates that unit 26C moose population overlaps with  
5 the unit 25A moose population. The portion of unit 26C  
6 which includes the Firth, Mancha and the upper Kongakut  
7 River drainages was surveyed -- last surveyed in 2011  
8 and the population was 339 at that point. The data  
9 indicated that the moose population in this area has  
10 fluctuated with data -- with recent data suggesting  
11 that the moose populations may have recovered from  
12 lower numbers observed in 2000 to 2002. So this is a  
13 population that's kind of on the other side of the  
14 Brooks Range.

15

16 Since there have been no surveys of the  
17 Old Crow Flats population since 2011, the focus of this  
18 analysis will be on the North Slope population.

19

20 The closure in 2004 was implemented for  
21 conservation reasons, again for low recruitment and  
22 survival, with a provision to allow for only the  
23 residents of Kaktovik to harvest the moose given the  
24 limited availability of moose in 26C. The State  
25 management objectives of the moose for unit 26B are to  
26 maintain a population of 300 moose with short  
27 yearlings, those are moose that are roughly 10 or 11  
28 months old, comprising at least 15 percent of the  
29 population. In unit 26C the objective is -- this is  
30 for the Arctic Coastal Plain population, to maintain a  
31 population of at least 150 moose while -- this is in  
32 unit 26C, 150 moose with short yearlings comprising 15  
33 percent again based on a three year average of the  
34 population. For both to maintain a bull/cow ratio of  
35 at least 35 bulls per 100 cows when hunting seasons are  
36 open in units 26B and 26C.

37

38 A comprehensive moose survey has not  
39 been conducted for units 26B and 26C, but smaller scale  
40 surveys have been conducted in areas where moose  
41 concentrate to assess population needs. The moose  
42 population in the eastern portion of unit 26B including  
43 the Canning River rebounded from low levels in 1998 to  
44 2000 to 335 in 2005. the moose population in the  
45 eastern unit 26B declined to 104 in 2015 following high  
46 counts during 2005 and '8. Since 2016.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question. A decline  
49 of 100 moose in one year or a couple years?

50

1 MR. EVANS: No, that was several years.  
2 So.....

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And do you have a  
5 reason why that many would disappear?

6  
7 MR. EVANS: It was.....

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Or did they just walk  
10 away and go to another unit somewhere?

11  
12 MR. EVANS: The moose in the -- on the  
13 area in the Arctic are kind of at extremes of their  
14 range so they're fairly susceptible to weather events.  
15 So it's probably due to hard winters and stuff that  
16 would kill. When they're up on the North Slope, at  
17 least when they're in unit 26C, the moose often will  
18 concentrate in kind of the willows and the river  
19 drainages, you know, and they're not -- they don't  
20 occur much outside the river drainages.

21  
22 So the last estimate was 2012 and 2016  
23 so they've increased a little bit since 2005, 2008 when  
24 they got down to -- yes, so they declined to 104 in  
25 2015 and 2016 they started to increase. And the  
26 composition of the short yearlings which measure the  
27 recruitment in the population averaged 16 percent from  
28 2005 to 2008, declined to 4 percent in 2016 and then  
29 increased to 21 percent in 2018. So it seems like the  
30 population in unit 26B is increasing.

31  
32 The central portion of unit 26C which  
33 consists of the foothills and coastal areas is surveyed  
34 every other year by the ANWR staff or sometimes every  
35 year if they can pull it off. Between 2003 and 2011  
36 the population in the surveyed area remained fairly  
37 stable at about 52 animals. The moose population on  
38 the Arctic Coastal Plain which is the North Slope  
39 population, increased from a low of 23 in 2014 to 94 in  
40 2018. In 2018 the composition of short yearlings was  
41 approximately 15 percent. So that population because  
42 it did increase, that's the reason why the Arctic  
43 National Wildlife Refuge opened up the ability to hunt  
44 some of the moose in the Kongakut River drainage.

45  
46 Harvest on Federal public lands in  
47 units 26B remainder and 26C has been limited to the  
48 residents of Kaktovik since 2004 with up to three  
49 permits annually and a combined harvest quota of three.  
50



1 Since 2004 10 bull moose have been harvested with zero  
2 to two animals being harvested annually.

3  
4 OSM's recommendation is to maintain the  
5 status quo for WCR 18-31. The North Slope -- the  
6 justification is the North Slope population in 26B has  
7 increased in recent years and is now above 50 animals  
8 which has been the long term average for this marginal  
9 population. Most of the increase has been in the  
10 Kongakut River drainage and remains low elsewhere in  
11 the Arctic Coastal Plain. As of 2018 the moose  
12 population in the eastern portion of unit 26B including  
13 the Canning River has increased, but is still below the  
14 State management objectives which is 300. Current  
15 Federal regulations allow management flexibility the  
16 Refuge manager of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge  
17 so they have been actually issuing permits to harvest  
18 some of the moose in the Kongakut River drainage in the  
19 last couple of years. Continuation of limiting the  
20 moose on Federal public lands in units 26B remainder  
21 and 26C is recommended given the small North Slope  
22 populations.

23  
24 So that concludes my presentation on  
25 the closure review.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And this closure  
28 review, are you -- is this an action item that we need  
29 to take at another time, is it just a review or is this  
30 a -- get all this Interagency Staff comments, ADF&G  
31 Advisory Group comments, are we going through that  
32 gambit?

33  
34 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, no,  
35 we don't need to go through this proposal procedure  
36 process. It is an action item in that the Board is  
37 seeking the Council's recommendation again whether to  
38 support, you know, as it is, to rescind the closure or  
39 to support it with modification.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Thank you.  
42 And what I'm trying to get clear at, you used so many  
43 different number and fluctuating from 100 low to a 300  
44 number and then -- and then in another year there's a  
45 -- down to 19 and then the next year it's 94 or  
46 something like that. So and then at the end you say  
47 it's recuperating and there's a -- there is an increase  
48 in the population of moose. But to maintain the  
49 closure, but allow for ANWR manager to work with the  
50

1 village on one moose.

2

3 MR. EVANS: So just in summary. So  
4 basically the last count on the Arctic coastal, North  
5 Slope population was 98 which is high, which is one of  
6 the higher -- I mean, one of the highest estimates that  
7 there's been in many, many years. And there is a  
8 limited hunt now allowed on that population and the  
9 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge runs that hunt by --  
10 through delegation of authority. So they act under the  
11 Board's -- the Board gets basically permission and they  
12 decide on who's -- on how many permits they think the  
13 population can withstand.

14

15 Unit 26B the last population estimate  
16 was 212. The State recommendation for that population  
17 would be about 300. So it's still below, but it is --  
18 you know, that's been three years ago since that  
19 population estimate was there. I don't know if Beth or  
20 anyone else on -- from the State has anymore recent  
21 estimates on that population, but that population from  
22 what we know now is increasing and doing better, but  
23 not up to the State's minimum recommendation of 300 for  
24 that population.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just another follow-  
27 up question. Is this proposal looking at 24B and 24C  
28 as one in the same population on both?

29

30 MR. EVANS: No. So this is looking at  
31 26, not 24, 26C for the North Slope population that  
32 occurs in the Arctic Coastal Plain north of the Brooks  
33 Range and the 26B population which occurs kind of along  
34 the eastern portion of unit 26B including the Canning  
35 River. And they're separate populations.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And this proposal  
38 affects both populations?

39

40 MR. EVANS: Correct.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You know, that's  
43 where I get a little mixed up when you start to -- when  
44 you start to gang up on herds, you know. It seems to  
45 me one with 300, you might have a little bit of  
46 opportunity there because Kaktovik has C&T, that means  
47 that got C&T on the haul road and that's in 26B, right.  
48 And then 26C where there's 94 and you say that's a  
49 separate population. It's almost like again we're

50

1 playing with ANS type information where they combine  
2 Teshekpuk herd caribou with Western Arctic herd caribou  
3 with the State and calculate an arbitrary ANS number to  
4 make it almost manageable liberally to allow for other  
5 hunts. And it's apples and oranges, but it's  
6 different, but kind of the same.  
7

8 MR. EVANS: Yeah. And you're correct,  
9 I mean, this does involve two separate populations.  
10 They're close to each other, they kind of affect the  
11 same communities in terms of subsistence and I think  
12 that's why they're lumped together. There have been  
13 times when there's been a hunt allowed in unit 26B,  
14 currently there's no -- in the eastern portion of 26B  
15 so it's actually a specific portion of 26B. And there  
16 hasn't been a -- and there's been no hunting in the  
17 North Slope population in 26C. But these were combined  
18 I think because of the -- basically they -- you know,  
19 the Kaktovik residents, this is primarily affecting the  
20 community of Kaktovik. And so.....  
21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here's my problem  
23 with it. Because we want to conserve, right, we're all  
24 conservative people. And the 94 animals -- I think  
25 ANWR wants to protect that quite a bit, you want to  
26 protect that quite a bit, I just want to eat them, you  
27 know. That's the problem sometimes. But those 94  
28 animals coupled with 300, you're talking about 400  
29 animals now. Two populations affected by one  
30 regulation, one closure potential.  
31

32 MR. EVANS: The closure covers both the  
33 eastern portion of 26B and 26C.  
34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we're able to say  
36 and help you think more thoughtfully that anything in  
37 26B we should maybe make that a percentage of the 300  
38 animals.  
39

40 MR. EVANS: Currently it's not 300,  
41 it's 215 as of the last, you know, census on that  
42 population. But, yeah, this is something that you as a  
43 Council can decide.  
44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.  
46

47 MR. EVANS: You could decide to open up  
48 a portion of 26B, you could decide to keep the  
49 continued opening and -- keep the continued delegated  
50

1 authority that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge  
2 which has allowed for a limited hunt in unit 26C for  
3 the North Slope population. So these are decisions  
4 that you as a Council can make and you could separate  
5 them out and make them into two separate closure  
6 reviews. So this is -- these are decisions that you  
7 can decide on.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And just to be clear  
10 all other users are closed right now other than  
11 subsistence?

12  
13 MR. EVANS: That is correct.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Just want to  
16 make sure everybody understand what we're talking  
17 about. So basically limiting the amount here with this  
18 closure the subsistence take?

19  
20 MR. EVANS: Correct.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. So I'd like to  
23 hear from Council members and just -- if there's  
24 anymore clarity that needs to be added because we're  
25 used to listening, I'm used to getting a biologist that  
26 might be on my side a little bit, what do you think  
27 about this thing. You know, you think they're telling  
28 the truth here and are these really so few in number  
29 and they -- if we killed them all off and ate all of  
30 them and next year you're going to have 10 more arrive.  
31 Is that the case and one biologist said that's the  
32 case, Mr. Brower, that if you happen to kill all of  
33 these moose right now and ate them all the biologist  
34 said yeah, about 10 more will come next year from the  
35 other side. They were -- you're talking about  
36 transient animals that come in and out. And that we  
37 were arbitrarily protecting a amount of animals that  
38 come from somewhere else that had a larger population  
39 and arbitrarily naming them as the North Slope  
40 population when they're just coming through.

41  
42 Anyway those are some of the arguments  
43 I've heard over time, the last 20 years I've been here.  
44 And it's hard to swallow a big pill like that sometimes  
45 when we're hungry and want to just basically provide  
46 food on the table. In any event, you know, I would  
47 like to hear what Eddie's got to say, what everybody's  
48 got to say on this thing. So I'm going to yield the  
49 mic.

50

1 Go ahead, William.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, if I may just  
4 very quickly so we're not going to interrupt the  
5 Council here. We really need folks on teleconference,  
6 sounds like somebody's doing dishes in the background  
7 there, if you could please mute your phones. So  
8 everyone push star six on your phone and that will mute  
9 the background noise so we're not interrupting the  
10 Council as the Council is speaking here. So star six  
11 or if you have a mute button you can push that.  
12 That'll help us out a lot.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.

17

18 MS. PATTON: Mr. Hopson, thank you.  
19 Sorry.

20

21 MR. HOPSON: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.  
22 Chairman. Maybe for some clarification on this  
23 proposal. You know, when I was growing up my father  
24 always told me if you're hungry never mind the law, you  
25 listen to your stomach otherwise you're not going to be  
26 here in the next -- you going to starve. But I just  
27 wanted to say that.

28

29 But my question is you had so many  
30 numbers in here, 2013, 2010, 2007. My problem with and  
31 has always been when the Federal and State biologists  
32 come to you and ask you -- maybe use this closure for  
33 an example. You know, they come to you and -- boy,  
34 it's hard, and it's closed, but the way you determine  
35 and my problem has always been when you make those  
36 determinations for example for 2019 determination for a  
37 closure, some biologists use three, four year old data.  
38 And for example a polar bear researcher is working on a  
39 quota for this year and he's working off eight year,  
40 six year old science. These studies are not published  
41 for at least two years and that's using old science.  
42 In two years things have changed. And that needs to be  
43 considered here.

44

45 I know when I was with the North Slope  
46 Borough -- I'm still with the North Slope Borough Fish  
47 and Game Management Commission. With Nuiqsut asked for  
48 an emergency moose hunt we all helped them out with a  
49 resolution when availability is there. But the big  
50

1 question is are we determining a closure for 26C using  
2 old science.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 MR. EVANS: Through the Chair to  
7 William. So the reason for -- I apologize if the  
8 numbers got confusing. Basically it was to show that  
9 both these populations fluctuate up and down fairly  
10 significantly. As a -- and the most recent estimate  
11 for the 26B population was in 2016 so we're 2019 so  
12 that would be three year old data. It happens to be  
13 the best available data we have available. So and I  
14 understand that, you know, we -- in an ideal world we'd  
15 like to be able to survey every year, but we don't  
16 always and we don't always have the opportunity so we  
17 have to -- we have to use what we have available.

18

19 And for the Arctic -- for the North  
20 Slope population that data is very recent, that was in  
21 2018. So that data's very recent than '94 or '98,  
22 whatever it was in that year.

23

24 So that answers -- I think that covers  
25 your question. It's not a perfect world.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq)

28

29 MS. LEONARD: Mr. Chair, this is Beth  
30 Leonard. And I've got some update on that 26B moose.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Beth. I  
33 think it would be welcome news to hear. I think some  
34 of the Council members are concerned about updated type  
35 information.

36

37 Go ahead, Beth.

38

39 MS. LEONARD: Okay. And, you know, I  
40 apologize if Tom hasn't -- you know, he hasn't  
41 communicated very well recently, he didn't get our most  
42 recent data. But as he mentioned that -- and as you  
43 guys know that herd is a (indiscernible - distortion)  
44 population, goes up and down and at the edge of their  
45 range. And so that unit 26B moose population is --  
46 that herd has been closed for several years now. It  
47 has declined to very low numbers. It has been slowly  
48 increasing and last year in April of 2018 we counted  
49 212 moose and there was -- 21 percent of those were  
50

1 short yearlings. So that was a really good number.  
2 And it's been slowly increasing over the previous year  
3 for years.

4  
5 Another update I have is -- and just on  
6 this recent management report, I changed the management  
7 objective from 300 moose to 200 or more moose to  
8 consider opening -- reopening (indiscernible -  
9 distortion) so that's new information. And that was  
10 kind of based on some of the information that you folks  
11 have provided over the last few meetings about, you  
12 know, what is a number (indiscernible - distortion) to  
13 provide opportunity. And so like now we're just at  
14 that number. I plan to count, do a survey here in the  
15 next couple of weeks. I just want to make sure it's  
16 still around 200 moose.

17  
18 And then on the State side what we can  
19 do is -- there's a -- a hunt that's in unit 26B that  
20 excludes the Canning River. That is a winter hunt  
21 during February 15 to April 15. It's like a two  
22 period. And we open that hunt when travel conditions  
23 are good. And a lot of this is to accommodate folks  
24 from Kaktovik, you know, when travel conditions are  
25 good and they thought they wanted to go that far. We  
26 excluded the Canning River drainage part because that  
27 was included the unit 26C Federal moose hunt and so we  
28 didn't that was -- we didn't want anymore pressure on  
29 that moose population.

30  
31 And so we're hoping that in the next --  
32 like next year at this time there can be a State hunt  
33 that opens in the spring. And usually when that  
34 happens it's very few hunters, sometimes zero, but it  
35 provides an opportunity especially for Kaktovik  
36 residents if they want to come over that far.

37  
38 And then.....

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I got a question,  
41 Beth.

42  
43 MS. LEONARD: Okay.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I know you're  
46 throwing out a lot of numbers and I think there's a few  
47 of us that want to.....

48  
49 MS. LEONARD: .....then.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....and dissect some  
2 of your.....  
3  
4 MS. LEONARD: Okay.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....information.  
7 You said a threshold of 200 would start to be an area  
8 where you would consider a hunt, right, if you can  
9 maintain it there?  
10  
11 MS. LEONARD: Correct.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And my question is  
14 whose hunt, is it non-rural residents, is it a  
15 subsistence hunt or is that the threshold to where  
16 everybody has a shared opportunity? That's just one  
17 question, let me hear that.  
18  
19 MS. LEONARD: Okay. So for that hunt  
20 it -- it's open to any State resident and there are two  
21 -- two things that are going on. One of them is that  
22 spring hunt where.....  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.  
25  
26 MS. LEONARD: .....when we did that it  
27 was usually like folks from Kaktovik. And then.....  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Let us.....  
30  
31 MS. LEONARD: .....in the fall it's  
32 a.....  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, let's us  
35 continue to dissect real quick. I wanted to hear whose  
36 hunt at 200 threshold. Two hundred ain't nothing.  
37  
38 MS. LEONARD:  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Now I think you need  
41 to do a census, what's the ANS required for Kaktovik  
42 hunt. Amount necessary for subsistence. I know the  
43 Feds don't like to hear ANS, but the State sure do.  
44 The State always looks and calculates -- they look at  
45 the population and then they derive the amount  
46 necessary for subsistence. If you can -- if you can  
47 sustain that and then -- and then go beyond that then  
48 you're able to allocate these resources to the rest of  
49 the State. I think it's very, very egregious to even  
50



1 consider a statewide hunt with that kind of population  
2 at 200 animals and open it up to Fairbanks, Anchorage,  
3 Juneau, whoever wants to come up and get a moose.  
4

5 That's my point of view and that's  
6 where there's a big divide because there is a rural  
7 subsistence priority in Federal management which the  
8 State has never recognized. And quite frankly if I was  
9 the governor I would change that rule so quick and have  
10 a constitutional convention to get that rural  
11 subsistence priority in place. Because that was the  
12 impasse in '94, somewhere around there, that -- why the  
13 Federal management took over. And it's important to  
14 recognize I think 200 is -- if you want to have -- open  
15 it up to all the other non-rural residents to shoot it  
16 up you should have probable 2,000 moose. That's more  
17 manageable and sustain at 200. Yeah, the -- when we're  
18 trying to fight for one moose, one dang moose for the  
19 entire community of Kaktovik. That's mismanagement.  
20 That -- that's -- it hurts, it hurts in the heart.  
21

22 Rural subsistence priority is the law  
23 of the land in the Federal land. We should have 10 for  
24 that -- goodness sake for a village now. If you're  
25 going to try to open it up over at 26B for everybody  
26 else and say well, you know, they'll get a permit and  
27 then we'll allow for one extra moose for subsistence in  
28 this area. That doesn't make any sense in my view.  
29 Regardless if the State -- the State should be at a  
30 tier hunt. What is it, tier 1, tier 2, tier 4, which  
31 they never use until it's a disaster in management.  
32 This is a disaster right now unless you're going to --  
33 what the State and Federal government did, right, they  
34 got muskox from Greenland and they brought them all  
35 over and put them all over the North Slope and then  
36 said don't hunt them until they grow up or something.  
37 And we still can't hunt them.  
38

39 And why can't you guys if you want to  
40 have a statewide hunt why don't you transplant 1,000  
41 moose to the North Slope like you relocated 50 wolves  
42 to protect the Fortymile herd. I mean, aren't we  
43 playing with numbers like that.  
44

45 It just -- I don't know, I -- my blood  
46 can get boiling like this. These are the same  
47 arguments we've had by the way for the longest time. I  
48 could be sitting right here and Fenton Rexford would be  
49 arguing the same thing. It's like a little revolving  
50

1 door on a population that never grows. It's been like  
2 that, transient. And I'm sorry, but having new  
3 population numbers like that and say oh, we're  
4 considering a State hunt and a hunt that's going to  
5 include non-rural residents. That means -- non-rural  
6 is what, that's Fairbanks, Anchorage and everybody else  
7 come down the haul road and shoot up your moose. Maybe  
8 they'll disseminate them in one fall, they'll kill them  
9 all.

10

11 But you know what, it goes to a lot of  
12 money to regulate just a few animals, if we shoot them  
13 all and just eat them all up then the argument will go  
14 away, you know.

15

16 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eddie, Kaktovik. Go  
19 ahead. I got ques -- he's got questions for Beth  
20 Leonard.

21

22 MR. REXFORD: Yeah, Beth, this is  
23 Edward Rexford. You kind of mentioned that people in  
24 Kaktovik decided if they want to hunt in 26B in the  
25 past. Who in Kaktovik decide for Kaktovik that  
26 determination? I haven't heard of that process in the  
27 past.

28

29 MS. LEONARD: Through the Chair, Mr.  
30 Rexford, I can't recall the names, it was a long time  
31 ago when we were discussing like what would -- what  
32 kind of seasons would work for folks. And I know --  
33 you know, if I recall correctly it didn't happen very  
34 often because it's a long ways to go, but I also know,  
35 you know, that in years that that Porcupine caribou  
36 herd is not available that sometimes -- and there  
37 aren't a lot of moose in 26C, that sometimes folks  
38 would go that far. Or that's what -- that's what I  
39 believe.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And maybe just for  
42 informational purposes, I've been here a long time, 20  
43 years. So I remember the C&T questions. But anyway,  
44 Eddie, there was a period of time when Fenton was here  
45 and others when -- and then before that, there was not  
46 much before that because Federal management started in  
47 '94 I think. And then the Regional Councils were  
48 starting to get active.

49

50

1 But there was questions on unit 26B  
2 about who had customary and traditional use  
3 determination in this area. I think it was Nuiqsut and  
4 Kaktovik because it's almost split between that -- the  
5 divide between Nuiqsut from this side on the haul road,  
6 Kaktovik on this side. So it was determined that  
7 customary and traditional use on moose and caribou and  
8 other resources that Kaktovik could enjoy subsistence  
9 activities on the haul road corridor on unit 26B.  
10 Basically if you went to Fairbanks, go get a new car,  
11 and then go down this way and get on the  
12 (indiscernible) River and then you see a moose over  
13 there, as long as you were away from the non-fire zone,  
14 right, because the haul road has a fire arms limitation  
15 about a mile on either side, something to that effect,  
16 you can go over here and catch your moose as  
17 subsistence.

18  
19 So you have a customary use  
20 determination that way in that area. I don't know if I  
21 do, I'm so far at Barrow I don't know if I have C&T for  
22 the haul road area.

23  
24 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, if I may, and  
25 Edward Rexford. So Tom could address on the Federal  
26 side too that it's keeping that opportunity open for  
27 Kaktovik and the process to ensure that if residents  
28 want to or can travel to that area, that that's still  
29 an opportunity. And Tom can speak a little bit more to  
30 that discussion on the Federal side as well, to keep  
31 that Canning River population that there's opportunity  
32 for Kaktovik. Recognizing it's a long ways to travel,  
33 but if someone did want to do so they would have that  
34 opportunity.

35  
36 Thank you.

37  
38 MR. EVANS: So in 2015 the Board  
39 approved a special action that was submitted by the  
40 Kaktovik -- the folks of Kaktovik that have to -- the  
41 request was submitted by (indiscernible) in response  
42 continued to low moose number in the Arctic Coastal  
43 Plain. Oh, no, that's -- sorry, wait a minute. Let's  
44 see here. That -- I thought there was a time where we  
45 had a special action where we actually opened the moose  
46 population for -- because Kaktovik hadn't been able to  
47 get their moose so we opened up a limited special  
48 action to allow them to hunt there. They didn't get  
49 any, but they -- but it was open to them for -- huh.

1 So.....

2

3 MS. PATTON: So, Mr. Chair and Council,  
4 so that was -- there was a winter.....

5

6 MR. EVANS: Yeah.

7

8 MS. PATTON: .....when Kaktovik didn't  
9 get their moose harvest.

10

11 MR. EVANS: Yeah.

12

13 MS. PATTON: Yes. And Kaktovik  
14 submitted a special action request and the Council  
15 supported that. Yeah.

16

17 MR. EVANS: And that was 2013. So,  
18 yeah.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I thought that was  
21 fantastic because the regular season they didn't get it  
22 because of weather conditions, couldn't go out there,  
23 we extended the season a few more months as a special  
24 action and then somebody eventually got a moose. I  
25 think that was -- that was a success in my books.

26

27 But there's still this question and I  
28 -- I'm very afraid. That's how come I think the  
29 proposal could be flawed maybe, I'm not sure. Because  
30 you're talking about 26B population that's what, 212 at  
31 the latest count, 94 over in 26C and under one closure.  
32 I'd say it should be closed, but the moose should be  
33 about 10, not one. And maybe seven on them 26B, three  
34 of them in 26C. Because I don't think -- and this  
35 Board should very cognizant about what the ACs are  
36 doing, that's the State side, right. We're Regional  
37 Advisory Council, the RAC, and there's the AC side on  
38 the State. We should be commenting to their program  
39 saying you can't open up a non-rural hunt with 200  
40 animals. That's suicide of that 200 animals. Because  
41 you try to say you're going to open it up and give only  
42 10 permits to non-rural residents when maybe there  
43 might be something else going on. I don't know.

44

45 But you should -- there should always  
46 be an estimate of what the village really needs. I'll  
47 give you an example. Barrow, Alaska needs about 1,200  
48 caribou every year to have a life. I mean, if you -- I  
49 mean, this is arbitrary, I'm just saying this. Now

50

1 Kaktovik should have about -- what they have, maybe 400  
2 people, maybe they need about 150 to 200 caribou  
3 annually as their ANS as a whole. Moose being a little  
4 bit different you're probably looking at annually to  
5 serve that community properly, 50 moose a year. Until  
6 you reach that and can sustain 50 moose a year, then  
7 only then you might start to think about the non-rural  
8 people.  
9

10 I'm not kidding, I mean, that's the way  
11 you -- this management should be. Somebody's learned  
12 how to say well, 200 animals, that should open it to a  
13 hunt, that we give 10 of them to Fairbanks, five of  
14 them to Anchorage, three of them to Juneau and give  
15 three to Kaktovik just to be even. I think that's a  
16 very demented way of allocating resources when there's  
17 -- you can go to Fairbanks and go to Walmart, you can  
18 go to a Sam's Club, you can go to McDonald's. You  
19 can't do that in these villages. You can't do that.  
20

21 And there's ANILCA, there's rural  
22 subsistence priority. There's also local laws and  
23 ordinances. Local laws and ordinances that say there  
24 is an area of influence for each village. There is a  
25 area define, the area of influence in each village  
26 where it says the definition of the area of influence.  
27 Immediately outside the village district boundary,  
28 right, that's the city limits. Immediately outside the  
29 village district boundary is described and determined  
30 by the village as a contemporary and traditional use  
31 patterns of the village. That you should give  
32 deference to the residents. You put weight and  
33 emphasis for those uses of subsistence to those  
34 residents.  
35

36 By golly, what -- where does it go.  
37 Does it go in here and come out the other ear. Does  
38 anybody understand deference or does the laws and  
39 ordinances of the local government have no weight and  
40 bearing upon these bodies. Which Alaska statute says  
41 State conform to the local laws and ordinances. That  
42 what it says in Alaska statute. To the extent that the  
43 President say don't listen to us, listen to us. That's  
44 what it says.  
45

46 All right. I'm tired of being a father  
47 figure right now. But those are important things to be  
48 said. We have area of influences where there is  
49 deference to be had for the local people, the local  
50

1 use, the needs of the community defined.

2

3 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Nuiqsut.

6 Martha.

7

8 MS. ITTA: I have a question in regards  
9 to the boundaries, the unit boundaries. I see Nuiqsut  
10 is right on the boundaries of 26A and 26B. I'm trying  
11 to understand because it looks like Nuiqsut is in --  
12 within the 26A, but we utilize a lot of the areas in  
13 26B all the way to the Dalton Highway. And I'm trying  
14 to understand. So when it comes to our subsistence  
15 issues and making decisions on these units so would  
16 Nuiqsut fall under both 26A and 26B, right?

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I always like to call  
19 you -- I love to call her Madame Mayor, you know,  
20 because she always be mayor whenever I go to Nuiqsut.  
21 And you're absolutely correct. You have deference and  
22 you have use in 26B, 26A. And that's how come that we  
23 try to work with the State, maybe we stepped on our  
24 feet by ourselves if we try to align regulations. So  
25 if you go to 26B that's State land. And you go to 26A,  
26 that's Federal land. Sometimes those regulations don't  
27 completely align. You might be doing something on 26A  
28 that's illegal on 26B.

29

30 MS. ITTA: Okay.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You have to know  
33 those rules a little bit because State and Federal  
34 lands are a little bit different. And but we did go  
35 through a formal realignment and try to get the State  
36 regs to align with the Federal regs and to where it  
37 vice versa. Sometimes it was more heavy on the State  
38 side that we were conforming to the State language  
39 rather than the Federal language. That's how come I  
40 say maybe we might have stepped on our own toes a  
41 little bit by allowing that to occur, but because I  
42 think.....

43

44 MS. ITTA: Okay. So.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....I think Federal  
47 side is the way to go, you know.

48

49 MS. ITTA: Okay. So when it comes to

50

1 numbers within those units and do they like combine  
2 them like for Nuiqsut because we utilize a lot of the  
3 area?  
4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: In terms of what  
6 we're talking about if there was a closure and there is  
7 a closure currently by the way, right, it hasn't been  
8 reopened and this is like a review, but still  
9 anticipating a single moose to my understanding unless  
10 Tom can clarify for me for the village of Kaktovik in  
11 26C where that population is at 94. But there must be  
12 some deference according to the area of influence given  
13 to Nuiqsut on 26B population along with Kaktovik.  
14 Maybe four for Nuiqsut and four for Kaktovik in 26B.  
15 If that was the argument to be had over this 212 number  
16 and then this argument about opening it as the  
17 management hunt level threshold at 200, you better  
18 first meet the community needs that have C&T to this  
19 stuff.  
20

21 MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman.  
22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Tom.  
24

25 MR. EVANS: So under the Federal  
26 regulations now for unit 26B remainder and if you look  
27 on page 23 of your book and you'll look at the map  
28 there, you can see where 26B remainder is. There's a  
29 may be announced season, one moose by Federal  
30 registration permit by -- for the residents of Kaktovik  
31 only. Okay. It does say one moose by Federal  
32 registration permit. Now the Arctic Refuge in recent  
33 years has issued more than one permit, it's allowed up  
34 to three moose to be taken out of the 26C area. So  
35 just bringing that to the forefront here to let you  
36 know.  
37

38 And as far as Nuiqsut, Nuiqsut's not  
39 currently authorized to hunt in that area for the  
40 moose. It's pretty far south, I don't know that they  
41 really would hunt in there because it's a long way.  
42 But and even for the residents of Kaktovik, 26B  
43 remainder is a long way to go. It's a significant, you  
44 know, cost for them to go all the way down to hope to  
45 get a moose, I mean, it's a long way.  
46

47 MR. REXFORD: But we do utilize the  
48 Canning River summertime by boat to hunt caribou. I  
49 don't know why you guys are saying we don't really want  
50

1 to hunt moose there. That's misrepresenting our  
2 community when you talk like that.

3  
4 MR. EVANS: Well, you -- well, I've  
5 heard from like Lee. He says that when they did that  
6 moose hunt back in there there was -- it was a long way  
7 to go. It wasn't that they didn't hunt on the Canning  
8 River by any means, but it was a long way to go in the  
9 winter, they usually hunt the moose in kind of the  
10 winter -- you know, the wintertime or the end of the  
11 wintertime and it was a long way to go then to get one  
12 moose.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I got a  
15 question. And that's the -- and by the way, did he  
16 answer your question, Eddie?

17  
18 MR. REXFORD: Kind of, yeah. And I  
19 didn't know our representative was talking to the Board  
20 with this kind of misinformation from -- for our  
21 community. That shouldn't have happened. I think like  
22 -- you know, he doesn't report to our community of  
23 meetings he have. So I'm caught off guard knowing that  
24 we could have been hunting in 26 B all this time.

25  
26 Thank you.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And, Tom, maybe you  
29 could clarify a little bit more for us too. In 26B  
30 remainder is that State land and is that what Beth is  
31 talking about -- alluding to to start a -- the  
32 threshold of 200 to where an open hunt would -- or  
33 limited would occur with non-rural residents in that  
34 remainder or is it 26B, anywhere in that area?

35  
36 MR. EVANS: 26B remainder is primarily  
37 on Federal land.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

40  
41 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, if  
42 I may help clarify a little bit too because we have new  
43 Council members who haven't been through the review  
44 process before. And just to clarify because we were  
45 getting moose population updates from Beth and so we  
46 skipped a little bit to the State side. But what we're  
47 reviewing right now is the Federal subsistence closure.  
48 And so it's dealing with the Federal lands. It's  
49 easier to see, it's primarily Arctic National Wildlife  
50



1 Refuge. And so 26C primarily and then that little  
2 strip of 26B remainder which is quite a ways.....  
3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I see it.  
5

6 MS. PATTON: .....to the east.  
7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I see it. But the  
9 question I'm going to have is in that remainder are you  
10 talking about 212 is in there?  
11

12 MS. PATTON: So in the Federal lands it  
13 is restricted, the closure is actually closure to all  
14 other users. Kaktovik is the only community that is  
15 able to hunt in unit 26C.....  
16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.  
18

19 MS. PATTON: .....and that unit 26B.  
20 And that's what the Federal closure review.....  
21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right.  
23

24 MS. PATTON: .....is. So only Kaktovik  
25 is able to hunt for that moose.  
26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: In other arguments  
28 when it was over here and I think both Nuiqsut and  
29 Kaktovik does have C&T in this 26B, not just the  
30 remainder, but the 26B itself. That's what I'm getting  
31 upset about where Beth has mentioned the threshold  
32 level for a hunt is 200. Start allocating these  
33 resources for non-rural and subsistence, it's just too  
34 small. I mean, it's important to realize, you know,  
35 what we're up against when there is not a rural  
36 subsistence priority dialogue going on and they seldom  
37 ever invoke the -- what do they call that, the  
38 conversation methodology of going to tier hunts when  
39 the resources are at severe decline and just start the  
40 tier hunts. They'd rather just continue we're going to  
41 do the hunt even at a very severely declined  
42 population, we're just going to manage them to their  
43 demise. That's what it amounts to, that's managing  
44 those kind of resources to their demise if you're not  
45 even looking at the tier 1, tier 2 and tier 3, which  
46 there's State law that you must do.  
47

48 And I don't know I get boiled over too  
49 easy I think in the -- maybe I shouldn't even learn  
50

1 anymore regulations and stuff. But it's important.  
2 Yeah, but on the remainder I'm still a little concerned  
3 there because you're using numbers to describe the  
4 remainder area as -- and if that number, 212, 26B  
5 remainder, 212 is part of that remainder line and if  
6 they're -- if the moose will recognize that line and go  
7 to the other side and it's -- they're not in the  
8 remainder anymore. And there's that kind of movement  
9 where they're -- you're saying one's 212, the other's  
10 94, we're going to still want one.

11  
12 MR. EVANS: Mr. Chair, we might ask  
13 Beth for a little clarification on this, but I think  
14 it's 212 for unit 26B and 26B remainder is a very small  
15 segment of 26B. So I would assume there's less moose  
16 in there. From my understanding is again it's very  
17 similar -- not exactly the same as the North Slope  
18 population which is Coastal Plain, but again it's  
19 limited river habitat with willows there and there's  
20 not that many moose in that area. So.....

21  
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, maybe if Beth  
23 wanted to -- if we didn't scare her away already, but  
24 if she wanted to say something.

25 MS. LEONARD: Mr. Chair, I'm still  
26 here. Tom is correct in that 212 number was for all of  
27 unit 26B. We saw all those river drainages and that's  
28 the total number. In the portion of the remainder --  
29 well, what you guys are talking about when you talk  
30 about the remainder of 26B, that's the really the  
31 Canning River drainage and we find about 20 to 25 moose  
32 in there a year. And so that's in that particular  
33 drainage. And then plus the other 90 that have been  
34 found in 26B.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. That  
37 really gives me a little bit better picture, I mean,  
38 for my own sake. So we're really talking about 112  
39 moose maybe?

40  
41 MS. LEONARD: Correct.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And has is there any  
44 -- maybe some of the biologists. I know the State in  
45 particular has these determinations about the amount  
46 necessary for subsistence. And I think it's a bad word  
47 to you, right, because you're a Fed, Tom?

48  
49 MR. EVANS: It's not a bad word. We  
50

1 just don't -- we just don't look at it that way. We  
2 provide opportunity for subsistence hunters, not the  
3 amount necessary for subsistence. So we don't  
4 calculate that or try to use those numbers.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. I mean, to  
9 some extents there's some good rationale based on the  
10 actual census, right, you try to determine what amount  
11 of that population could be used for subsistence. But  
12 that's got to be different than the actual community's  
13 need versus the pressure on the population itself of  
14 the herd of moose versus the needs of the community.  
15 So arbitrarily I -- if you were going to put a number  
16 out there for Kaktovik you need about 40 to 50 moose to  
17 meet the subsistence needs over there annually. And we  
18 should make that a target -- annually you should be  
19 able to sustain that level of hunt for subsistence  
20 before you introduce other hunts like sport hunt or  
21 non-rural hunt.

22

23 And that's a important key feature  
24 about sustained yield. Sustain yield. Key word the  
25 yield. And we need to look at these things and  
26 indoctrinate even the State in this pattern which their  
27 lawyers are going to say nope, we got to manage it for  
28 the use of the State residents regardless if they live  
29 anywhere else. They even refuse to use their tier hunt  
30 levels when the population is detrimental from any  
31 hunt.

32

33 I love the State because I work for a  
34 political subdivision of the State, but I don't  
35 subscribe to their methodology in allocating resources  
36 for subsistence because they don't. They literally  
37 don't. And it's important I think -- I think I agree  
38 now with the closure, keep it closed, but I disagree  
39 with the amount to take home.

40

41 MR. EVANS: Okay. So that -- so this  
42 is -- we're at the point here where the Council's  
43 making recommendations. So propose that to the  
44 Council, make the -- make the recommendation on the  
45 numbers you would like to see and then that is what  
46 we'll put on the end of the closure review and that's  
47 what the Board will see. So it.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, what's the wish

50

1 of the Council. I would think something like this as  
2 well that we put some different whereases in that  
3 thing. Whereas the subsistence needs of Kaktovik are  
4 not met that a proper allocation of moose resources to  
5 the village before any other hunts would occur would be  
6 a sustained yield of 30 moose annually. And that the  
7 current closure we will support with a upward tick in  
8 subsistence take home of maybe four moose from  
9 Kaktovik. I don't -- I don't know what it is that --  
10 if you take four moose out of about 112 and maybe we  
11 need to target a sex. I mean, I wouldn't want to get a  
12 cow that might have a calf in it. That means you might  
13 get two of them. I would say maybe limit it to a bull  
14 or something. And something to that effect.

15

16 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I'm going to  
19 yield the mic to Kaktovik here. It's their -- in their  
20 neck of the woods and I'm speaking way too much here  
21 with passion.

22

23 MR. REXFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
24 You're absolutely right. We have struggled with this  
25 moose quota system forever, especially after the Board  
26 gave the Refuge manager the okay to dictate where and  
27 when we can hunt and it's not working for our  
28 community. I just want to make you folks aware of  
29 that.

30

31 We -- right now they have the moose  
32 open for us in April. Nobody wants to hunt a skinny  
33 bull moose. We like to eat fat moose like everybody  
34 else in the State, when they're prime and ready to  
35 harvest.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: August, September.

38

39 MR. REXFORD: So that's another big  
40 problem we're having is the time of the hunt and the  
41 location. The location is a non-traditional hunting  
42 area near Canada. And our tribe doesn't like to travel  
43 long distance to try to go get one moose. It costs  
44 hundreds of dollars for gas for your snowmachine, wear  
45 and tear on parts and we just want to have the  
46 opportunity to harvest a bull moose when they're prime  
47 and fat like everybody else, not when they're skinny  
48 and non-edible. We don't like to eat skinny moose.

49

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead there,  
6 Steve, from Tikigaq.

7

8 MR. OOMITTUK: You know, it wasn't that  
9 long ago that, you know, we lived free off the land,  
10 you know, we had no regulations. You know, our  
11 parents, our grandparents, you know, in order to  
12 survive we hunted. We followed the animals. We knew  
13 when the animals were going to come. We lived a cycle  
14 of life due to the animals. You know, and when oil was  
15 discovered and the land claims a lot of our land was  
16 taken away and we were told, you know, Federal  
17 subsistence management regulations, you know,  
18 harvesting of wildlife. When we can hunt, when we  
19 cannot hunt, where we can hunt.

20

21 You know, these lands on the north, we  
22 utilize them for thousands of years. These are places  
23 where we harvest our food source to survive. And now  
24 we got so many regulations stating that we can only  
25 hunt so many at this place, we can't hunt, you know --  
26 you know, Refuge, you know, we have regulations on  
27 Federal and State lands. You know, it's just -- you  
28 know, time after time, you know, we keep fighting for  
29 our way of life, you know, to subsist, to eat the food  
30 that we've always eaten, that's been passed from  
31 generation to generation.

32

33 You know, I'm way of the west side of  
34 Alaska, you know, Barter Island is on the east, you  
35 know. You know, I agree with the Barter Island, you  
36 know, I -- you know, to go a long ways and to be told  
37 that they can harvest one moose and the State wants to,  
38 you know, regulate it and, you know, give non-residents  
39 places to hunt and take their food source away, you  
40 know, I mean, you know, we seen a lot of changes in our  
41 time and our population depleted because over hunting  
42 from -- whether it was non-residents, whether it was  
43 the whales -- the commercial whalers. You know, it's  
44 time for, you know, the people of the north to regulate  
45 their own way of hunting. Time after time we're told  
46 what to do and what not to do. I think we need to have  
47 a change.

48

49 And, you know, the Advisory Council,

50

1 we're here for all the people on the North Slope, the  
2 residents of the North Slope, you know, to continue  
3 harvesting the wildlife in our area. You know, we know  
4 when we can hunt certain animals. But, you know, you  
5 have stuff like, you know -- you know, and I've heard  
6 you duck in, duck out, you know. And these kind of  
7 things that happened to us in the north, how many  
8 whales we can hunt, you know, how many caribou. You  
9 know, they put so much the -- the regulations that we  
10 have to go through and the numbers you have to -- you  
11 know, you're trying to look at these numbers and, you  
12 know, sometimes it's hard to understand, you know, what  
13 the State puts before us. You know, and certain  
14 regulations and using letters and numbers and we should  
15 -- you know, I like what Gordon says, you know, if you  
16 have a resolution stating these things at -- you know,  
17 something that we can understand more and, you know,  
18 having to look through pages and go back into things.  
19 You know, if you have a proposal, you know, we want to  
20 see that proposal in front of us. And, you know, the  
21 paperwork.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq), Steve  
26 from Tikigaq.

27

28 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: William Hopson,  
31 Utqiagvik.

32

33 MR. HOPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
34 You know, when you determine these numbers for the  
35 population and I've heard it more than once, the count  
36 is done in the summertime. And I've heard during the  
37 count they got a number. And they say there was one  
38 here, one here, but I heard from the villagers they  
39 didn't count these 30 over here, they didn't count  
40 these 15 over here. The number you use to me with a  
41 count done in the summertime you're missing 50 percent  
42 of the population when you make that estimate. The way  
43 you get the population number and maybe you need to  
44 think about it a little more, it should be done in the  
45 wintertime when they are visible, not in the spring or  
46 summer where oh, my gosh, you know, we counted a  
47 hundred. Well, they didn't know, the villagers are  
48 even -- are telling them, you didn't count these 20  
49 over here, they were hiding, you didn't count these 15.

50

1 It adds up to be a sustainable number and okay to hunt.

2

3 So I want you guys to visit the way you  
4 get your numbers and how you count the population of  
5 the moose. And I just think that's a very important  
6 factor in the way you bring out numbers because you  
7 have two conflicting numbers, the count by you folks  
8 and the number of moose that were not counted that were  
9 known by the people living in that area.

10

11 I wanted to bring that out.

12

13 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq),

16 William.

17

18 MR. EVANS: I was -- Gordon, if I  
19 could.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Tom.

22

23 MR. EVANS: Through the Chair. I was  
24 wondering if maybe the Refuge manager for the Arctic  
25 National Wildlife Refuge, Steve, might like want to  
26 comment on that.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve, maybe you can  
29 enlighten us on some of the concerns.

30

31 MR. BERENDZEN: Yes, Mr. Chair. For  
32 the record Steve Berendzen, Refuge manager for Arctic  
33 National Wildlife Refuge.

34

35 We actually have a -- Mr. Hopson is not  
36 here, but -- okay. We actually have a survey going  
37 right now for moose. It started yesterday. And that's  
38 -- this is typically when we do the moose survey in  
39 Arctic Refuge. So we try to -- hope to do it every  
40 year, we have not been able to every year, but we do  
41 get it roughly three-fourths or -- of the time of the  
42 years.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just a question if I  
45 may here. What's your methodology, is it a camera or  
46 is lydar, is it radar, what is it?

47

48 MR. BERENDZEN: No, it's aerial survey  
49 counting. So it's -- on the North Slope the pilots  
50

1 will fly small planes, small aircraft with a pilot who  
2 does an observation and another observer who does  
3 observations. So you've got essentially two observers  
4 flying the drainages and this time of year the moose  
5 are all concentrated in the drainages and.....

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Can we.....

8  
9 MR. BERENDZEN: .....we fly all of  
10 those.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....can we help you  
13 in -- I've seen this new methodology to count 200,000  
14 plus caribou where you can use electronics digitally  
15 and turn other features off and then suddenly these  
16 things pop up that might be inside the willows and  
17 other animals that might not be easily visible by the  
18 naked eye for one thing. And then they're almost  
19 sending out heat signatures to where this new  
20 methodology I think a trend that's occurring. I mean,  
21 we're looking at it for Western Arctic herd and things  
22 like that. Seems to me that if you're going to affect  
23 food on the table for people, you better not have a guy  
24 that has giant thick eyeglasses that are so that -- and  
25 that's who's looking for them. You know, I would want  
26 to make sure he's got 20/20 vision and almost X-ray  
27 vision to boot to help find the count. But it's that  
28 way and we've been battling it forever. They're always  
29 saying there's only three left, we'll only give you a  
30 hoof, you know, something to that effect.

31  
32 MR. BERENDZEN: And, Mr. Chair, I can't  
33 really speak to the technology that's available  
34 nowadays. I am not up on the biology or the technology  
35 that's utilized. Maybe a biologist who is present can  
36 speak to that.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm just saying -- I  
39 mean, there's -- it just seems archaic. I've got an  
40 archaic system in permitting and I'm trying to update  
41 it right now because I think it's time to change and  
42 modernize. And it's important at least, you know, I  
43 think for the community it's important. It's  
44 important. I can't under estimate that.

45  
46 MR. BERENDZEN: We agree, it is  
47 important. Actually I was talking with Mr. Rexford at  
48 lunchtime today about what we're hoping to do, We  
49 would like to do more thorough surveys not just once  
50



1 this time of year because we acknowledge that some of  
2 those moose are transient and we may be missing them in  
3 some areas that they might be in at other times of the  
4 year. So we would like to try to do possibly two or  
5 three surveys a year if we could. I don't know if  
6 we're going to be able to do that. But maybe some of  
7 the technology you're talking, maybe that -- there  
8 might be some capability there.

9  
10 The other thing we're talking about  
11 doing is putting radio transmitters on some animals to  
12 see what kind of movements we get from those marked  
13 animals. And, you know, see how transient they are  
14 from a study like that.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The other thing I'd  
17 like to know is how old are some of these animals. Is  
18 the oldest one only five years old? That leads me to  
19 believe they would have come from somewhere else if  
20 it's only five years old, you know.

21  
22 MR. BERENDZEN: I have no idea. I  
23 don't even know if we age the animals that are  
24 harvested although that would be a good idea.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. I mean, if  
27 it was 25 year old moose sitting right there and lived  
28 the remainder of its life right there maybe that would  
29 be some sign of proof that they're local versus all of  
30 these things that are coming from -- or even the  
31 genetics.

32  
33 Anyway I think we add way too much more  
34 work for you when we start questioning you, but it's  
35 important. You know, I've been thinking about this  
36 stuff for a long time and we've always talked about  
37 whether -- even some of the biologists, I mean, I don't  
38 think they can come up here and with a straight face  
39 and tell you that these moose are here and throughout  
40 the remainder of their life span and that they move in  
41 and out.

42  
43 Anyway I appreciate your responses.

44  
45 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, I think we got  
48 the -- you know, I don't know about you, but I think  
49 the closure should remain, but I'm just having some  
50

1 issues about one moose when that language should  
2 include some determination of the subsistence need of  
3 moose for the entire village, first say that. We  
4 recognize that Kaktovik needs 50 moose annually. And  
5 we also say that there's 112 right now in here, even in  
6 the unit 26B remainder that we're talking about, about  
7 112. But recognizing that the State's going to start  
8 taking part of that 112 or 212 if we don't say  
9 something to the ACs, say hey, I don't think 200 is a  
10 threshold level to start a hunt. Hey, think about this  
11 twice. It should be on a tier level in 26B. It should  
12 really be a tier hunt in these areas only to  
13 subsistence. And go right smack into the middle to say  
14 we're going to start a hunt, you know, give a few of  
15 them to Anchorage and Fairbanks, and maybe give one to  
16 Nuiqsut and one to Kaktovik. That's -- you know,  
17 that's how they operate and it's terrible because they  
18 don't recognize the rural subsistence priority issues.  
19

20 I'd like to, you know, think that we  
21 say that in that, recognize the subsistence need of the  
22 communities that would be sustainable and say if there  
23 was unlimited hunting on this herd what would be a  
24 could subsistence take for the community that would  
25 take care of them along with other subsistence foods  
26 like whale and caribou. I think about 50 to 35 moose  
27 that community would absorb well. Then you plan from  
28 that number. Holy cow, we only got 110 caribou if they  
29 -- 110 moose to deal with, the community really needs  
30 35 to 50 moose annually, there should never be other  
31 hunts until that 35 moose can be had for that  
32 community. And then once you surpass that you might  
33 have to have a population of about 1,400 in order to  
34 liberalize that hunt to where other non-rural hunts can  
35 occur.  
36

37 If I was all your guys' boss, that's  
38 what I would be saying. That's a sustained yield  
39 principle which is part of the language that you have  
40 to be guided by. Sustained yield. I vote for four to  
41 five moose, man.  
42

43 MS. KIPPI: I'm with you.  
44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I don't know what the  
46 Federal Subsistence Board will say, but if these guys  
47 don't write it the way it is, you know, they better  
48 write it with our concerns behind why it is, you know.  
49 They got to write it with the views of what we're  
50

1 expressing, not some dinky dory, yeah, you know, they  
2 said five moose ought to -- they pulled a number out of  
3 hat, you know. I mean, I don't -- you guys should  
4 support us in writing that in a way it should be  
5 supported because you're staff. I don't know who  
6 you're staff to sometimes, to -- you know, to the State  
7 or to us.

8  
9 MR. EVANS: So do you want to designate  
10 a certain number of moose for each herd since they are  
11 separate herds?

12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe for the unit  
14 26B remainder because of the numbers you popped out.  
15 What did you say?

16  
17 MR. EVANS: That said that there's  
18 probably 20 to 25 moose in the 26B remainder area out  
19 of the 212.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Maybe one in  
22 that area. And then unit 26C, anywhere within 26C you  
23 should be able to -- I think just listening to the  
24 villages having to travel a hundred miles and when  
25 they're already seriously limited by -- I know they're  
26 limited in ANWR. Over here in Federal public land I  
27 could take a four-wheeler and go crazy out there and go  
28 get a caribou, maybe a moose. I might go to jail, but  
29 who knows. If I get a moose which I won't, I'm a law  
30 abiding guy, but they don't have that privilege over  
31 there either. I think they're limited to boats and the  
32 shoreline, right, am I -- am I wrong. They can't just  
33 go ride around. We should give them wherewithal --  
34 where to get this moose, if it happens to be three  
35 miles away, yeah, somebody should pop that thing, you  
36 know, with -- within the law, you know.

37  
38 MR. REXFORD: Yeah, that's kind of how  
39 the -- our community feels because we do get across the  
40 island, some swim to the island in the summertime.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There is -- just  
43 listening there is serious restrictions. You know who  
44 uses ANWR? Let me see here, Jim Shockey. He'll bring  
45 in a plane with a helicopter with about 15 crewman and  
46 have a show, murder about 15 caribou and put it on the  
47 hunting channel, you know. You know, they're  
48 millionaires. You made it into a millionaire  
49 playground, you know, instead of the local people  
50

1 trying to hunt.

2

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

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anyway and by the  
7 way, you know what, we helped. We've helped pick up  
8 the dead bodies that the grizzly bears eat from this  
9 recreational users. I've seen them on -- twice. Our  
10 local search and rescue has had to be dispatched  
11 because the recreational use from somewhere else, from  
12 California or some other place, see these as a  
13 playground, bodies half eaten, it had to be recovered.  
14 State Troopers and the North Slope Borough Police doing  
15 perimeter, looking for the bear that's got human parts  
16 in its guts to put it down, to -- I know that for a  
17 fact. And you need to look at the subsistence use. We  
18 don't have helicopters, we don't have planes, we can't  
19 even go on there with a four-wheeler. You'd rather  
20 have us on there with a dog team. And as if we're a  
21 relic of some sort. That moose should be caught  
22 anywhere in -- within 26C.

23

24 MR. EVANS: Anytime of the year?

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think -- I mean,  
27 we're very smart because we don't like our meat to be  
28 stunk, right, that's how come we tried to work with the  
29 State when we were told that we're going to start to be  
30 conservative in the management of caribou for Western  
31 Arctic herd because of a drastic decline. And the  
32 State was going to start putting regulation. I said  
33 well, let's do something on our part to show that we  
34 can regulate ourselves, we put in our own regulations  
35 and say we're not going to hunt the bull moose or the  
36 bull caribou from October 10 until December 5 because  
37 they stunk. They're not really edible, the bull ones.  
38 So that made us automatic conservatives because we  
39 don't hunt them anyway. Why don't we account for that.  
40 So we were already nature's conservatist. Conservation  
41 is on how best management practice there is.

42

43 I don't know if the guides eat the  
44 meat, but by the way when they're stunk is when they  
45 got the best racks on earth because they're -- they're  
46 killing other bulls and stuff because they're -- they  
47 look pretty and you can mount them on the wall because  
48 that's when the racks grow when their testosterone  
49 levels are off the charts. And their racks are at

50

1 their peak. That's when -- that's why there's a  
2 preferred hunt that period.

3  
4 I would yield to Kaktovik when is the  
5 best time. If he says all year, but limited to a  
6 conservative number that might be palatable would be  
7 important to hear. Maybe I'll -- if Kaktovik had this  
8 and they could hunt anywhere is there a time frame or  
9 is it availability when they get into prime or when  
10 they're just available? I would prefer them in fall  
11 when they're primed up and, you know, in the fall  
12 caribou can have that much fat, man. Holy cow. You  
13 know, that's the best time in my books.

14  
15 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chair.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Eddie.

18  
19 MR. REXFORD: Yeah. I think a long --  
20 a longer season would help, not just in April. That  
21 doesn't seem to be helping hunting conditions and long  
22 ways to travel. Yeah, I'd prefer our traditional moose  
23 hunting areas which is the Sadlerochit River drainage  
24 which has a whole bunch of willows and we see a whole  
25 bunch of moose there every spring, every winter going  
26 up to the mountains. Sometimes you can count -- one  
27 year we counted 17 moose in a two mile strip on a side  
28 stream of the (in Native) Mountains. So there's a lot  
29 of moose that, you know, utilize the Refuge and they're  
30 not being counted because the counts don't happen  
31 during that part of the year. Yeah, we like to hunt  
32 for moose in their prime like everybody else and not  
33 during the rut when they stink, you know.

34  
35 Thank you.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I would just say  
38 something like I think it should be anywhere here when  
39 it's in 26C, but I know he's got a preferred location.  
40 I would want to go moose hunting with him now because I  
41 seen he's knows where they are. But, you know,  
42 considering distance, time and things like that and  
43 just subsistence in general, if you see one right  
44 outside of the community you should be able to harvest  
45 it in accordance with the law with provisions like  
46 that. And it might be a one off that moved around  
47 because I've seen a moose come down by Tasigarok (ph).  
48 actually. Tasigarok is 20 miles from here. And  
49 somebody else got a moose I think on the Mead River. I  
50

1 mean, these are -- well, I'm telling on people there,  
2 I'm not, I'm just saying I went there. But I think  
3 it's important to recognize the hardships. You can't  
4 use four-wheelers, you're limited to river drainages  
5 and along the edges. And I think wherever it's  
6 advantageous and just knowing the number of the  
7 population I think four or five sounds good.  
8 Remainder, 26B, there's about 25 over there annually in  
9 there. I would think you limit that to whoever decide  
10 and can get that far and it looks like about an easy 90  
11 miles. About 90 miles. Whoever wants to go that far  
12 maybe one moose in that area based on that population  
13 that's counting on the 26B side.

14

15 MR. EVANS: Bulls only?

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Bulls, I think. I  
18 don't think in a population that's struggling you would  
19 want to get any cows.

20

21 MR. EVANS: Okay.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I mean, that's the  
24 way I would do it. Because a cow can have a baby and  
25 it can make two of them. Sometimes they can have  
26 twins. And that's a really big deal, you know. And  
27 then the remainder I think three or four in 26C.

28

29 MR. EVANS: Okay. Through the Chair.  
30 So, Eva, maybe I can draft something tonight and we can  
31 run it by -- run it by the Council tomorrow and see if  
32 that's agreeable language and then that'll be your  
33 recommendation. It'll go on the end of the closure  
34 review that we submit to the Board. So if that's  
35 satisfactory we'll -- I'll work on that tonight for you  
36 guys.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: With a caveat that we  
39 try to affect the AC because they're talking about  
40 having a 200 threshold of that amount to open it to a  
41 general hunt or a limited hunt where I'd rather see  
42 them that they exercise the tier hunt methodology which  
43 they should have in hand and not immediately go into a  
44 limited hunt, a tier hunt.

45

46 MR. EVANS: So I don't think we can  
47 address that State -- that's State, not Federal lands.  
48 But Beth has been on the line, has heard you.....

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

2

3 MR. EVANS: .....so I think that she  
4 understands where you're coming from. So.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: To my understanding  
7 even we're a Federal RAC we can comment on the State  
8 ACs.

9

10 MR. EVANS: And another opportunity to  
11 comment on the State Board of -- I think, you know,  
12 correct me if I'm wrong, Eva, but I think up to May 1st  
13 the Board of Game is going to have another meeting,  
14 it's going to cover the Arctic. That might be  
15 something that the Council might want to submit a  
16 recommendation to the Board of Game.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here's one thing,  
19 right, just take this maybe not with a grain of salt  
20 because remember the State coming to us and say, hey,  
21 we don't want the law to be different on this side of  
22 the aisle and you jump over the river to the State side  
23 and it's a different law and we're going to break the  
24 law. Didn't they say they want to align our regs.  
25 Maybe we say that now on the 26B the law should be  
26 aligned with the Federal side now. Isn't that fair  
27 because they did that to us on caribou, they did that  
28 to us big time on caribou. And it's important to see  
29 where when they ask us and we like an olive branch  
30 let's align our regs so the laws won't be different  
31 when we cross the border. It's an important note that  
32 the -- it's time for us to step on their toes too a  
33 little bit. I'm not saying that to be facetious or  
34 anything like that, I just think they asked it and now  
35 we're -- I think it's important we say, yeah, let's do  
36 that. We're working on this side, say, no, it should  
37 be closed and by the way we need to meet 50 moose for  
38 the community first before you open it up to any other  
39 kind of hunt.

40

41 Anyway I think we'll -- anybody have --  
42 any of the Council member, do you think that's a good  
43 recommendation that they realign that proposal with our  
44 recommendation and then fight very hard on our behalf  
45 to bring it to fruition.

46

47 Do we need to do that in a motion or  
48 wait until you get the language in place so that we can  
49 formally adopt it as a recommendation?

50

1 Eva.

2  
3 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
4 Because there was a lot of discussion about the  
5 different aspects that you wanted to include in the  
6 recommendation on the Federal closure review so we'll  
7 take that up, Tom and I can work on drafting that up  
8 tonight so we'll bring a clean copy based on what we  
9 heard and the Council can work through that tomorrow,  
10 make a formal recommendation on what your  
11 recommendation is for the Federal subsistence closure  
12 review.

13  
14 And you are correct, the -- this  
15 Council also has an opportunity to make recommendations  
16 to the State Board of Game and Board of Fish process,  
17 all the Councils do. And right now the proposals are  
18 open to submit wildlife proposals to the Board of Game  
19 through May 1st. And so if the Council wanted to  
20 request that language for 26B then the Council can make  
21 a motion on the record to so there too.

22  
23 I think we should just try to keep  
24 clear the Council's recommendation to the Board on the  
25 closure review first so that we have a clear  
26 recommendation on the Federal side. And then we can  
27 move into the -- what the Council would like to submit  
28 on the State side.

29  
30 Thank you.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I like the way  
33 you make it better -- you make it sound better than me.  
34 So, yeah, we'll follow that advice.

35  
36 All right. So you'll come back  
37 tomorrow, you guys will work on language and be read  
38 into the record and we'll -- whether everybody likes it  
39 or not. I like the closure part, it's just I have  
40 trouble with the amount.

41  
42 All right. That was somewhere on the  
43 agenda.

44  
45 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. So  
46 that was the closure review and then we do have the  
47 call for Federal subsistence wildlife proposals. Tom  
48 was going to provide an introduction into that proposal  
49 process and then -- and then we were going to have  
50



1 updates for the Council on caribou and other important  
2 subsistence wildlife. So you have the latest  
3 information and data to consider if the Council wants  
4 to develop any Federal subsistence proposals.  
5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Tom, you  
7 got the floor. Let's see, give us some directions on  
8 how to affect all of the wildlife resources in our  
9 region so we can make some proposals.  
10

11 MR. EVANS: Okay. Well, Mr. Chair and  
12 members of the Council. So as you know in the past  
13 every two years these proposals are updated and  
14 changed. And these proposals include changes to the  
15 season dates, harvest limits, harvest restrictions such  
16 as age and sex of animals that are harvested, methods  
17 and means of the harvest and customary and traditional  
18 use determination. Typically these proposals are open  
19 from like January 15th to like March -- end of March  
20 roughly. This year the proposal period ended on March  
21 27th. Obviously it's later than that now and this is  
22 due to the furlough that we had in April and we had to  
23 change the scheduling of the meetings. So any  
24 proposals that the Council submits at this meeting will  
25 still be -- will still be submitted and they will  
26 submit it for consideration by the Federal Subsistence  
27 Board.  
28

29 The Federal regulations pertain to  
30 Federal public lands only and the Federal public lands  
31 include the National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges,  
32 National Forest, National Wild and Scenic Rivers,  
33 Bureau of Land Management areas that are not part of  
34 the national conservation system. Federal regulations  
35 do not apply to State of Alaska lands, private lands,  
36 military lands, Native allotments or selected Federal  
37 lands by Native -- State or Native corporations.  
38

39 Councils may work with the.....  
40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Can I have a quick  
42 question?  
43

44 MR. EVANS: Sure.  
45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Let's just say a  
47 moose went on my allotment, it's right in my  
48 boundaries, there's four corners there, it's right in  
49 the middle. I can blast it to kingdom come?  
50

1 MR. EVANS: Actually you'd have to  
2 confer with the State regulations.

3  
4 (Laughter)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Because  
7 you said it didn't apply to Native allotment. Just  
8 checking, you know.

9  
10 MR. REXFORD: Yeah, that happened to me  
11 once. I harvested a moose in the Refuge on my father's  
12 Native allotment and I got a fine. I don't know if  
13 that's what the Federal government do or was -- you  
14 guys were in partnership with the State when that  
15 happened.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sorry, but just  
18 sounded like that the law wasn't applicable on the  
19 Native allotment. You just pointed it out, man, you  
20 know.

21  
22 MR. EVANS: So the Federal regulations  
23 have nothing to do with the State or Native allotments.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Wait, hold on.  
26 Native allotment is Federal trust land. Federal trust  
27 land. It has nothing to do with the State, it can't  
28 even be taxed by the Borough. Federal trust land. He  
29 better get his money back for that fine, man.

30  
31 MR. EVANS: I don't.....

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a Federal  
34 trust responsibility on Native land, BIA. Goodness, we  
35 should steer all the moose to Native lands, you know.

36  
37 MR. EVANS: Okay.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm just -- I'm sorry  
40 to beat a dead horse here. I didn't know you didn't  
41 know that Native allotments, they're Federal trust  
42 lands, they're not at the purview of the State at all.  
43 These are Federal trust lands, indian reservations.  
44 They're actually indian lands.

45  
46 MR. EVANS: I did not know that so I  
47 will check with my -- with the people in our office to  
48 check on that, but.....

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Holy toledo. That's  
2 important. Yeah, they -- we need some indoctrination  
3 going on, you know.

4  
5 Aloha.

6  
7 MR. CHEN: Aloha, Mr. Chair and Council  
8 members. Glenn Chen from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.  
9 So with regards to fish and wildlife management on  
10 Native allotments, those are considered private lands.  
11 The BIA does have trust responsibility, but in regards  
12 to fish and wildlife management those are considered  
13 private lands and thus under the purview of State  
14 management. And they don't fall under the Federal  
15 subsistence management program.

16  
17 Hopefully that answers the question.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, blew out a big  
20 candle though. All right.

21  
22 All right. So go ahead.

23  
24 MR. EVANS: Okay. So in the past we  
25 have asked for -- you know, typically you have your  
26 name, organization, your contact information, the  
27 regulation that you would like changed and how you'd  
28 like it changed. In the past we've asked to see --  
29 we've asked like how would this affect the subsistence  
30 users, how would this affect the populations. We don't  
31 ask those questions anymore, but if you do have the  
32 answers to those questions it really helps in terms of  
33 the -- in looking at the proposal and seeing the -- you  
34 know, the context and why you're submitting the  
35 proposal, what the reason is for submitting the  
36 proposal.

37  
38 So that being said you can submit the  
39 proposals by -- typically you would be able to submit  
40 them by mail or hand delivery to OSM, you would be able  
41 to submit them through the Federal rule making portable  
42 or you'll be able to submit them at a Federal Regional  
43 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting. So  
44 we'll -- you'll be able to submit them at this meeting,  
45 but not after this meeting. So your time to submit  
46 proposals is during these two days basically.

47  
48 So that's all I have for submitting a  
49 -- the proposal process and now we'll probably hear  
50

1 from other folks on the status of different  
2 populations.  
3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for Tom  
5 on the proposals? And it would be awesome you could  
6 like have a small example of what a proposal might be,  
7 like is it -- here's a proposal. I'd like to change  
8 caribou harvest of bull caribou to.....  
9

10 MR. EVANS: Yeah, I mean, you can -- so  
11 I'll just pick a proposal out of the book. I'll pick  
12 one out of unit 26C.  
13

14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, if  
15 I may. Several of us -- we did have a discussion with  
16 members of the public who were interested in seeing  
17 some changes in the seasons based on local feedback of  
18 when the caribou are in the area and good to hunt. And  
19 so there was interest expressed from the public to  
20 change the season for the bull caribou hunt.  
21

22 So that's an example of -- you know, if  
23 you see in the current regulations, you know.....  
24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Change in season or  
26 bag limits?  
27

28 MS. PATTON: Change in season or bag  
29 limits and based on your local knowledge and the  
30 feedback that you gotten from each of your communities  
31 if there should be a change there to address that. And  
32 Tom could provide another example for you, but that was  
33 a prime example as we heard from the members of the  
34 public this morning of a change that they would like to  
35 see in the regulations to reflect that local knowledge  
36 in the community needs.  
37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you,  
39 Eva. Knowing that we have a few newer members and they  
40 might have a general idea of what a proposal could be  
41 besides a marriage proposal, you know.  
42

43 (Laughter)  
44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So a proposal that we  
46 submit in terms of effectuating some wildlife or  
47 fisheries or something that under this program that  
48 might need to be changed. Some hunters have proposed  
49 that we change the season for wolves to extend it  
50

1 another month, that they're still good up until May and  
2 sometimes they do that. And the open season for  
3 trapping and things like that. So those kind of things  
4 that are examples just to give ideas that they might  
5 hear of a local hunter struggling and because they're  
6 waiting on some regulatory hurdle to get over first to  
7 actually start doing part of the trapline or something.  
8 That kind of thing.

9  
10 MR. EVANS: Yeah, I think you and Eva  
11 have actually covered it pretty well unless the Council  
12 members have anymore questions of how that works. I  
13 mean, I can give you another example, but it would be  
14 -- I mean, okay, I'll just go ahead. And let's say,  
15 okay, brown bear, unit 26B, it's one bear, it's open to  
16 the residents of unit 26, it's open from January 1st to  
17 December 31st so basically that's a year round hunt.  
18 So someone could say well, we don't think you should  
19 take, you know, brown bears during the -- I don't even  
20 know why you'd say it, but during -- let's say you only  
21 want to open the season between June 1st and December  
22 31st or something like that. You can make -- someone  
23 can make a recommendation to make that the proposal and  
24 then they would have a justification as to why you  
25 propose the change in season, whether it was because of  
26 -- you know, there's -- bears are more susceptible to  
27 being over harvested earlier on or something like that.  
28 So that's just kind of a hypothetical.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's a good  
31 example. But bears we don't like them, you know,  
32 they're them. We don't have much mercy for (in Native)  
33 all right. But the only time I would think if you were  
34 going to make an example out of it was maybe from  
35 November to March because they're sleepy, they're very  
36 lethargic and tired, you know, just like they're  
37 hibernating. That would be a protected period, you  
38 know, in my books.

39  
40 Okay. Any questions for Tom on the  
41 proposal section?

42  
43 (No comments)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, thank  
46 you very much. Is there anything else on the agenda  
47 for you to entertain us on there, Tom?

48  
49 MR. EVANS: Nothing unless I can help  
50

1 you with proposals.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any  
4 proposals, if you think of some they could be here  
5 tomorrow too to provide a proposal period and it's open  
6 until May?

7

8 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
9 No, just to confirm. So for the Federal subsistence  
10 proposals this is the call for Federal subsistence  
11 proposals. This meeting is the last opportunity.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, okay.

14

15 MS. PATTON: So.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The last opportunity.

18

19 MS. PATTON: Yeah. So for both the  
20 Council and public attending today and tomorrow.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

23

24 MS. PATTON: .....the Council can.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Knowing that what's  
27 the moose period and what's the -- that 156 something  
28 lat/long or something for moose on the Ikpikpuk. I've  
29 been wanting to get rid of that for years because I've  
30 got to go practically past Chip 13 in order to get a  
31 moose, right. And that's like 140 miles of -- you  
32 don't even see a moose come down from there anyway, but  
33 once in a great while they do.

34

35 MR. EVANS: Okay. So the regulation  
36 that you're referring to refers to moose in unit 26A,  
37 it's open to the residents of unit 26 except for  
38 Prudhoe Bay Industrial Complex, Anaktuvuk Pass and  
39 Point Hope. So residents of 26, Anaktuvuk Pass and  
40 Point Hope could all hunt in this area. And it says  
41 unit 26A, that portion west of the -- of 156 degrees  
42 west longitude and excluding the Colville River  
43 drainage, one moose. However you may not take a calf  
44 or a cow accompanied by a calf. And the season's July  
45 1st to September 14th. So that's the regulation I  
46 think you're referring to with the 156.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: July, what was it?

49

50

1 MR. EVANS: 1st to September 14th.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is that the -- like a  
4 month and a half or something open?

5

6 MR. EVANS: That would be July, August  
7 and half of September so two and a half months.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, it should  
10 actually be up to about September 20th, you know.

11

12 MR. EVANS: I think they were maybe  
13 thinking the moose might be in rut so that was probably  
14 maybe why they cut it off at 14.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. But anyway  
17 that -- what was it 156.....

18

19 MR. EVANS: 156 degrees west longitude.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

22

23 MR. EVANS: And it was changed 10  
24 degrees back several years ago. I forget why, but.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Was it -- I thought  
27 it didn't take because if we had moved it like 10  
28 degrees it would have started to include like Aluktuk.

29

30 MR. EVANS: Oh, maybe that was it.  
31 Maybe my memory's incorrect.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I remember it  
34 failed.

35

36 MR. EVANS: Okay.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I don't know why  
39 they sticking to it and sticking and pointing at us and  
40 say you can't get it unless you go thousands of miles  
41 up river.

42

43 Go ahead, Carmen.

44

45 MS. DAGGETT: So this is Carmen Daggett  
46 for the record. And I just kind of wanted to explain a  
47 little bit of the historical reason why that line  
48 exists. So it is my understanding that the majority of  
49 the moose population on the Colville, where the moose

50

1 populations are more dense, are -- tend to be eastward  
2 of that line. And then westward of that line you tend  
3 to be in an area that I think you guys were talking  
4 about being transient area before. And it's been  
5 described to me and it makes sense to me that that area  
6 that's westward of that is area that is transient area.  
7 And that regulation is meant to provide opportunity for  
8 people who might rarely see a moose on the western  
9 portion of 26A to be able to have the opportunity to  
10 take a moose when they are available in that area.  
11

12 So eastward of 156, we might see quite  
13 a few more moose and I believe in the State regs it  
14 says that you are able to take a moose -- a moose. So  
15 you could take a female west of 156 too if it happens  
16 to be there. I think part of that logic also is that  
17 moose aren't able to make a living westward of 156 very  
18 well and so the likelihood that they're going to be  
19 able to make it living that far west is pretty minimal  
20 anyways. So those animals are likely to die anyway.  
21 And so that's why that regulation is in existence is to  
22 provide opportunity for those transient animals.  
23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You know, it's a good  
25 explanation and you might want to hang out for a  
26 second. But why do you got to put numbers that -- like  
27 that west 156. It's almost disinformation. I always  
28 meant it to be you can't hunt that moose until you pass  
29 that line and going up -- going up that far. There's  
30 no real explanation. And some of my nephews, the France  
31 boys, they go out of their way to pass that 156 west.  
32 That's 130 miles from Barrow. And it's -- they're  
33 likely not to survive anyway so we should kill them.  
34 And they should be available, not put this number  
35 there. If we saw one 40 miles downriver -- 40 miles  
36 from that arbitrary line that's in the regs, 40 miles  
37 downriver, I'm already 60 miles upriver. I mean, going  
38 that far, I mean, you got to have a mission to go that  
39 far, you know. It's like almost going to Fairbanks in  
40 my -- in my book because that's how big the North Slope  
41 is. That's way, way far, you know, it's 140 miles.  
42

43 MS. DAGGETT: So I guess my question is  
44 -- I recognize that having a boundary be a line of  
45 longitude is not necessarily the best reference when  
46 you're out on the landscape. And I've had the thought  
47 before looking at a map what would be a river drainage  
48 that might be a better reference for hunters who are on  
49 the ground. But that still doesn't address your issue  
50



1 of needing to travel a certain distance to be able to  
2 harvest a moose at a particular time of year.

3  
4 And so I guess what I would say is if  
5 you -- I'm going to have some information later about  
6 trend counts and where the moose are more abundant.  
7 And I think that when you look at that line of  
8 longitude is on a map in comparison to where we see the  
9 most moose on the Colville River in higher  
10 concentrations, that that line kind of aligns with the  
11 area where you go from an area where there's lots of  
12 abundant moose to almost none. And so that's kind of  
13 why that line exists is to kind of divide up the  
14 Colville River area into an area that is kind of in two  
15 parts, one that's really populated and an area that's  
16 not really populated.

17  
18 So that's my understanding and I  
19 recognize that it's maybe not the most convenient for  
20 people who are living in Barrow, but it does have some  
21 biological significance as far as the distribution of  
22 moose goes on the Colville River.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm on that language,  
25 unit 26A, west of 156, west longitude excluding the  
26 Colville moose. One moose, however a person may not  
27 take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf. And if you  
28 look at 156 it's kind of like it takes it out of the  
29 Chip River and moves it -- anyway there's -- I don't  
30 see the longitude here and things in here. But we had  
31 argued to remove that language before. Yeah, so you  
32 can only get your moose to the west of 156. And we had  
33 -- because there's moose here once in a while we were  
34 thinking to move that line way the heck over here, you  
35 know, so we can have an opportunity.

36  
37 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

40  
41 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Martha,  
44 from Nuiqsut.

45  
46 MS. ITTA: I have a question pertaining  
47 to proposal process. Eva mentioned that this is the  
48 last time to do proposals by the Council. When would  
49 be the next time we would -- being a new Council member  
50

1 and I'm not to sure if the past representative, you  
2 know, reached out to community members and --  
3 pertaining to subsistence proposals. I just wanted to  
4 get a timeline of when we can -- if we don't have  
5 enough time to bring out proposals from our community  
6 at this meeting when's the next time we can bring them  
7 forth to the Council?

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm going to refer  
10 that to Tom and see because I guess it's the last day  
11 to do a proposal.....

12  
13 MS. ITTA: Yes.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....and another  
16 cycle will be what, two years from now maybe?

17  
18 MR. EVANS: Correct.

19  
20 MS. ITTA: Two -- two years?

21  
22 MR. EVANS: Okay.

23  
24 MS. ITTA: The reason why I asked this  
25 question is, you know, me being a new Council I don't  
26 -- I don't know if the past representative had reached  
27 out to subsistence hunters in my community. There was  
28 a hunter/trapper who voiced his concern about his --  
29 where his traps are. There is infrastructure going up,  
30 the ice roads are being built where he traps and does  
31 his hunting. Would we be able to put in proposals on,  
32 you know, regulating in the -- you know, on behalf of  
33 this hunter's concern?

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's important to let  
36 your constituents because, you know, that's how come I  
37 like to get representatives of each community because,  
38 you know, your trapping season might be different maybe  
39 than another village.

40  
41 MS. ITTA: Yes.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But it's important to  
44 look at because there's different units on the North  
45 Slope. You got 26B, 26C, 26A, 23, 26A control use,  
46 there's all kinds of different things here. And it's  
47 important to recognize that your own hunters/trappers  
48 are needing to get addressed and you can submit them.  
49 On depending on whether it's on State land or on  
50

1 Federal land you could still advocate and make comments  
2 and request this body to make a regulation proposal on  
3 the AC Board, to the State Board of Game on State land.  
4

5 MS. ITTA: Okay. I'm just wondering  
6 and trying to figure out how we can address this  
7 hunter's concern pertaining to his traplines.....  
8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.  
10

11 MS. ITTA: .....within the area of  
12 infrastructure that's going on.  
13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.  
15

16 MS. ITTA: Thank you.  
17

18 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, if  
19 I may respond too. So Gordon is correct, you know, one  
20 of the important things to help understand is whether  
21 his trapline is on Federal lands or State lands.  
22

23 MS. ITTA: Okay.  
24

25 MS. PATTON: And the Board doesn't have  
26 jurisdiction over the development specifically. And so  
27 but we can -- the Council can also help to find ways if  
28 there's a request to industry or if it's a permitted  
29 process through BLM which is one of the Federal land  
30 managers.  
31

32 MS. ITTA: Yeah.  
33

34 MS. PATTON: If it's a permitted  
35 process through BLM we have a voice through them to  
36 ensure that subsistence needs are met. If it was an  
37 issue of timing, you know, if there was a better time,  
38 if it was a Federal or State trapping season, and I  
39 don't know if that was like the timing of when they  
40 were doing development was interfering with the  
41 trapping, if there was a different season that would be  
42 helpful.  
43

44 MS. ITTA: That development was  
45 happening during the trapping season.  
46

47 MS. PATTON: Okay.  
48

49 MS. ITTA: They were building the ice  
50

1 roads and, yeah, that's when they go trapping. And  
2 they went right over his trap, his -- the area where he  
3 puts his traps. And he had to find another place to  
4 put it. So.....

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. All right. I  
7 think those are important things to do and I think they  
8 should -- if industry's trampling those kind of things,  
9 I mean, appropriate land managers at BLM, you have a  
10 BLM officer over here, even to the Borough, I'm pretty  
11 sure they're affecting permits not to interfere with  
12 subsistence opportunities. You can get fines, in fact  
13 we had fined Western Geophysical in the 1990s for  
14 trampling multiple traplines and they had to compensate  
15 the trap -- the trapliners back in the '90s. Even  
16 though their permits says you need to have a  
17 subsistence rep, work with them, work with local  
18 hunters and trappers so that you're not impacting --  
19 when you're impacting trapping and hunting fur bearing,  
20 you're impacting a subsistence trade. Trading which is  
21 the first economy that we need to -- this part of these  
22 hunting regs protect.

23  
24 MS. ITTA: Well, did my understanding  
25 he did voice his concern to Bureau of Land Management  
26 and I believe it was to the North Slope Borough during  
27 a public hearing for these projects that were seeking  
28 permits. So he did voice his concerns and we never got  
29 word back on how that was going to be addressed. So he  
30 did voice his concerns within the public meetings and  
31 public hearings.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Martha.  
34 Can I get back to the moose, like you said we won't be  
35 able to affect any regulation change for two years now,  
36 right. This one portion that says -- this is from the  
37 Federal regs, unit 26A, that portion of -- west of 156  
38 west longitude and excluding the Colville River  
39 drainage, one moose. However you may not take a calf  
40 or a cow, July 1 to September 14. So I got this map  
41 with 156 west. I assume from this line going west that  
42 applies, right, on Federal land. When I look at the  
43 rivers that are affected, I see my cabin, I see a lot  
44 of people that can't get a moose. If they do they're  
45 outlaw, right. This 156 west is delineated right here,  
46 right down here I could see exactly where my cabin is.  
47 I don't get lost, I know where my cabin is.

48  
49 MR. EVANS: It says excluding the

50

1 Colville River drainage. So if you're outside the  
2 Colville River drainage you should be able to get one  
3 moose except you cannot take a cow with a calf or a  
4 calf.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: See the language is  
7 so complicated I still don't even understand what you  
8 just said, you know. It says, okay, come to me and  
9 show me if I can catch a moose right here. Does that  
10 language allow for me to catch a moose right here, I  
11 put a big dot on it and it's east of 156. Can I catch  
12 a moose there with that language? And I just wanted to  
13 make sure it's record if you -- if it says yes then I'm  
14 real happy, but the other people on the other side  
15 won't be happy.

16  
17 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, I  
18 do recall because the Council did pursue a  
19 proposal.....

20  
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

22  
23 MS. PATTON: .....and this was a couple  
24 cycles ago when Geoff Carol was here as the.....

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

27  
28 MS. PATTON: .....caribou biologist.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I seem to recall we  
31 couldn't catch a moose and we tried to move the line  
32 to.....

33  
34 MS. PATTON: Yeah.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....154 or  
37 something.

38  
39 MS. PATTON: That's correct. So the --  
40 so your camp where you're referencing was outside of  
41 that hunt area.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right.

44  
45 MS. PATTON: And the Council.....

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I got to advise  
48 my nephews, hey quit catching moose, you guys are going  
49 to go to jail, man. They going to take your guns away,

50

1 they going to take your boats away and all that kind of  
2 stuff.

3  
4 We shouldn't be outlaws in the food  
5 that we want to eat, you know. We're already a hundred  
6 miles from town, you know.

7  
8 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, so if you look  
9 at the section that says unit 26A remainder where it  
10 says one bull.....

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

13  
14 MS. DAGGETT: .....that would include  
15 the area that you're talking about in that season. The  
16 difference between the 156 west longitude portion is  
17 that it's for a slightly different time of year. So  
18 for July 1 through September 14th you can hunt westward  
19 for one moose as long as it's not a cow with a calf.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Of any sex?

22  
23 MS. DAGGETT: Right. So but in 26A  
24 remainder where you're talking about wanting to hunt,  
25 you can only hunt a bull. You can't hunt a cow  
26 basically.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And then that  
29 remainder for a bull is from August 1 to September 14?

30  
31 MS. DAGGETT: Correct.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, you know,  
34 that's about the prime time, but we're always cutting  
35 it very short. You know, we should be up to like  
36 September 20, just before boating can't even go  
37 anymore. About -- that's about September 20 when the  
38 rivers start to ice up and it gets slushy.

39  
40 Now that it's better explained and  
41 that's what we lack is explanation, you know, why they  
42 have to make so many fricking laws and say 156 west and  
43 then never bother to explain, oh, yeah, you can get a  
44 moose and you can still get a bull. And it's important  
45 -- it's so over complicated with language. Who ever  
46 devised 156 anyway, should just say along with you can  
47 get one bull or you can get a female that doesn't have --  
48 that's not a calf or a female and just keep it like  
49 that instead of -- it just seems so arbitrary to

50

1 confuse the general public.

2

3                                   Anyway confusion is the law of the  
4 land. But anyway.....

5

6                                   MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

7

8                                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, William.

9

10                                  MR. HOPSON: Can we call for a five  
11 minute break?

12

13                                  CHAIRMAN BROWER: Let's take a break,  
14 right. And it was good exercise anyway to hear about  
15 regulations and I always wondered what 156 was and  
16 because I always thought it was evil or something.

17

18                                  (Off record)

19

20                                  (On record)

21

22                                  MS. DAGGETT: My name is Carmen  
23 Daggett. As I mentioned before I'm the biologist here  
24 in Utqiagvik. And I'm just going to give you a little  
25 overview of the Teshekpuk caribou herd here and a few  
26 other things that I'm going to go through my overview  
27 here for a second.

28

29                                  There's a few things before I get  
30 started that I wanted to address. I gave all the  
31 Council members a caribou and moose disease and other  
32 animals booklet. It's a really handy reference, it'll  
33 fit in your back pocket. When you go out in the field  
34 if you're unsure about something -- what you're looking  
35 at, that can help decide if you maybe want to take  
36 special precautions with the animal that you have in  
37 front of you. And it might help reduce some waste that  
38 might be necessary. So go ahead and take a good look  
39 at those, if you want more there's more on the table  
40 over there.

41

42                                  May 1st is the proposal deadline for  
43 Board of Game proposals for this region for the State.  
44 And so, you know, if you have any proposals that you  
45 think you might want to submit, they're due May 1st.

46

47                                  And so those are kind of the issues  
48 that kind of came up earlier that I just want to make  
49 sure I covered.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So on proposals  
2 deadline for May 1st for the State Board of Game is  
3 that on only designated State lands within the --  
4 within this area or because sometimes I think you guys  
5 are managing caribou even on Federal lands, does that  
6 include Federal areas just out of curiosity. And then  
7 the issues about aligning State and Federal regs.  
8 Sometimes we did that in the past and maybe some of  
9 that would be important to hear.

10

11 MS. DAGGETT: So for proposals that  
12 would be submitted for -- by May 1st, it would be  
13 mostly regarding State and private lands in this area  
14 to start with. And oftentimes if everybody likes the  
15 proposal that comes up, it gets -- ends up getting  
16 submitted on the Federal side too to try to align  
17 things. And generally alignment between State and  
18 Federal regulations is easier on the hunters, they only  
19 have to know one set of regulations instead of knowing  
20 two sets of regulations. And keeping simple and  
21 consistent regulations between the two systems is ideal  
22 for trying to keep things simpler on the hunters are  
23 most people's feelings on the matter.

24

25 So, yeah.

26

27 Does that answer your question?

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, that's.....

30

31 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you for those  
32 questions, Gordon. So anyway today I'm going to review  
33 some information about Teshekpuk caribou herd and the  
34 current population status. I'm going to talk a little  
35 bit about Colville River moose and the most up to date  
36 information that we have about Colville River moose.  
37 I'm also going to talk a little bit about some proposed  
38 muskox research that might be coming up here soon so  
39 I'll have a short discussion about that. And then talk  
40 a little bit about some outreach efforts that we've  
41 been trying to do between Fish and Game and Fish and  
42 Wildlife Service and recent history and then also plans  
43 for the future here for doing outreach work.

44

45 So to start out I'd just like to  
46 outline -- you guys probably are all pretty familiar  
47 with this information, but this is just a compilation  
48 of years of data on Teshekpuk caribou herd and their  
49 seasonal ranges. This outer black line here is their

50



1 total extent of range which includes the time periods  
2 when they might join other caribou herds for a brief  
3 period of time. And then in the summer they tend to  
4 stay up in this area in the northern portion of 26A  
5 which I'm sure many of you are quite familiar with  
6 because that's probably when you might consider getting  
7 some of them since they're a little bit closer to town.  
8 And then during calving time they migrate as you well  
9 know up towards Teshekpuk Lake and hangout there  
10 primarily focusing on the eastern side of Teshekpuk  
11 Lake during their calving time period. However as  
12 Gordon mentioned before we definitely see animals  
13 calving over in this area. I remember seeing an animal  
14 kind of closer to Atqasuk this last summer. And there  
15 was definitely some as far eastward that we tracked out  
16 by Judy Creek. So there's definitely a wide range that  
17 caribou are calving across the North Slope.  
18

19 In addition to those areas they also  
20 have some winter areas that they tend to frequent.  
21 This area just a bit eastward of Anaktuvuk Pass and  
22 this year kind of seems like more maybe in this area  
23 and just a bit north of Anaktuvuk Pass and around this  
24 area. They've been hanging out there quite a bit  
25 lately. And then just westward of Nuiqsut and around  
26 Anaktuvuk Pass and just south of Barrow here. And  
27 there's definitely been some animals around Barrow too.  
28

29 MR. HOPSON: I got a question.  
30

31 MS. DAGGETT: Yes, William.  
32

33 MR. HOPSON: I got a question on the  
34 green area. It's been reported and I've seen them,  
35 there are so many snow geese (indiscernible) Teshekpuk  
36 Lake that the snow geese are -- they eat the roots of  
37 the plants and they tear up the tundra where there's no  
38 more vegetation growing for years. Is that maybe a  
39 reason why they're moving away from Teshekpuk Lake that  
40 vegetation deterioration, is that being studied. That  
41 was my question.  
42

43 Thank you.  
44

45 MS. DAGGETT: That's a fascinating  
46 observation, William, thank you for sharing that.  
47 Currently I am unaware of any research that's being  
48 done to look at that particular question. However that  
49 doesn't mean that something couldn't happen like that  
50

1 in the future. Most of the survey work that we're  
2 doing in the summer around Teshekpuk Lake is aerial  
3 based. And so we're not on the ground as much as you  
4 guys are. So I think it's really important for us to  
5 hear what you guys have to say on the ground because  
6 that's a different level of understanding that's super  
7 important. So thank you for sharing that and we'll  
8 have to keep our eyes open for something like that in  
9 the future.

10

11 MR. HOPSON: Yeah, I just wanted to  
12 bring that out because the -- where they calve has  
13 expanded around Teshekpuk Lake. And in some meetings I  
14 actually heard the Feds possibly doing a bounty hunt  
15 for snow geese because the population yearly went from  
16 3,000 to 350,000 in one year. And that's a -- you  
17 know, that's a question that something should be looked  
18 into because 300,000 and a lot of tundra being torn up  
19 by the snow geese right in the.....

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, definitely  
24 something that we should keep our eyes open for. So  
25 thank you for that, that's an excellent point.

26

27 So Gordon was asking me about looking  
28 at population trends for caribou. And so this is the  
29 Teshekpuk caribou herd through time here. And across  
30 the bottom we've got year and on the Y axis we got  
31 population of caribou. And just for you guys'  
32 reference, the blue dots on here are an estimate of the  
33 caribou based on when we do the surveys and the type of  
34 estimation that we do. Between using collars and  
35 counting animals we can get a better estimate of how  
36 many animals we think are there. The Xs are we know we  
37 have at least that number of animals in the herd. So  
38 but we think that there's likely closer to this number  
39 of animals in the herd. So the last population  
40 estimate was about 55,288 animals. And we think that  
41 according to the models that we have been using that  
42 population may have grown to more like 56,000 animals  
43 now.

44

45 We were not able to do a survey in  
46 2018. That number that I just gave you, the 55,288  
47 number, was a number from 2017 photo census survey.  
48 And so we hope to try to get a survey of this herd  
49 again this summer. Last year weather conditions were

50

1 kind of difficult. As you all might remember it was  
2 kind of a cool summer last summer and it wasn't ideal  
3 for bugs which meant that they didn't aggregate very  
4 well.

5

6 So does anyone have any questions on  
7 this slide? I know it's kind of a lot going on.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MS. DAGGETT: Okay. So in addition to  
12 the photo census information where we estimate the  
13 total number of caribou there's a couple of other  
14 parameters that we look at or other indicators of  
15 population health. One of them is adult female  
16 survival. I'm sure most of you are aware -- I kind of  
17 like looking at you guys. Most of you are aware that  
18 females are the engines of the population, they help  
19 produce calves and help the population grow. And so if  
20 they're surviving well then we have more animals coming  
21 into the population normally. So the population looks  
22 like their survival for adult females is pretty high,  
23 92 percent this last year. So that's looking positive  
24 for this herd.

25

26 Yearling recruitment we do in the  
27 springtime. I'm actually going to go out and do this  
28 next week. And we look at the number of calves per  
29 hundred cows. This kind of gives us an indication of  
30 how many animals that are calves made it through the  
31 winter and might be coming into the population as  
32 adults this next year.

33

34 So 17 calves per hundred adults is  
35 pretty average, maybe slightly above average for this  
36 herd and is looking well for continuing population  
37 growth in Teshekpuk.

38

39 Calf production during the summer.  
40 Females seem to be exhibiting -- more females seems to  
41 be exhibiting signs of being pregnant. We look for  
42 distended udders and presence of hard antlers during  
43 the summer, during calving time and also obviously  
44 presence of calves. And so that production last summer  
45 was around 82 percent. So lots of new calves coming  
46 into the population during the summer so that's looking  
47 good.

48

49 And then during the falltime we

50

1 sometimes have the opportunity although the weather can  
2 be kind of tricky flying as some of you might know when  
3 you're trying to get home to your villages and such and  
4 traveling. It can be kind of foggy and a little bit  
5 difficult to travel by air during that time period. So  
6 the last time the survey was done was in 2016 and  
7 during that time period we had 28 bulls per hundred  
8 cows which is a little on the low side and 48 calves  
9 per hundred cows which is a good sign to have that many  
10 cows per -- that many calves per hundred cows.

11

12 But William is right in that -- in  
13 talking about using older data and, you know, at some  
14 point we'll try to get this survey going again so that  
15 we can get out and get -- update that information.

16

17 All right. Was there any questions  
18 about Teshekpuk animals, Teshekpuk caribou?

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MS. DAGGETT: Okay. Great. So I'm  
23 going to talk a little bit about Colville moose now.  
24 So we do our spring -- we do our surveys in the spring.  
25 I'm actually going to go do them next week at the same  
26 time that I'm going to do the spring recruitment  
27 surveys for caribou. And the reason why we do it in  
28 the spring is one, because there's more daylight, we  
29 need daylight to count moose. And we also like to have  
30 good snow cover. And so that snow cover obviously  
31 means that we can track animals, it means that we can  
32 see them more easily and it also means with higher snow  
33 levels that the moose get pushed towards the river and  
34 get concentrated. And so we use all those things to  
35 try to guide the best time period to try to count and  
36 account for most of the moose that we can possibly see  
37 on the Colville.

38

39 The last moose census that we did or  
40 minimum count of the Colville population was in 2017.  
41 We counted 339 moose in that survey. We do an annual  
42 trend count survey as well. And last year in the  
43 springtime we counted 218 moose in the trend count  
44 area. And that trend count area accounts for a little  
45 over half of the total animals in the population total.  
46 So just to kind of give you a reference for that.

47

48 It appears that this population  
49 according to the trend count area is slowly increasing.

50

1 It has experienced some steep declines in the past down  
2 to its current numbers for various reasons, but it  
3 appears to be slowly increasing now.  
4

5 Harvest over the past five years has  
6 ranged from three to nine moose with an average of  
7 five. This year I suspect there was approximately  
8 seven moose that have been harvested although if anyone  
9 knows of any moose that were harvested in this last  
10 year on the Colville I would love to know about it.  
11 There's -- a lot of the moose are under reported and so  
12 it's difficult to know how many animals are actually  
13 being taken out of the population and trying to account  
14 for people's needs. So the more information I can get  
15 on that the better. I'm not trying to get you in  
16 trouble, I'm just trying to get some more information.  
17

18 All right. Muskox. I should ask are  
19 there questions about Colville moose or any comments?  
20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I have.  
22

23 MS. DAGGETT: Okay.  
24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You didn't show a  
26 graph of previous years count. And what was the high  
27 count on the moose. I see that there's 1,180, 2005,  
28 1,500, 1990 something and we're at 339.....  
29

30 MS. DAGGETT: Uh-huh.  
31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....why is it so low  
33 right now?  
34

35 MS. DAGGETT: So I could speculate a  
36 little bit on why I think the population is low right  
37 now. So in the mid '90s, early 2000s, there was a very  
38 sharp population decline, you can see it on this graph  
39 pretty abruptly, right. And during that time period  
40 there were a few things that happened that were  
41 documented. And those included copper deficiencies,  
42 increases in the amount of disease prevalence, there  
43 was a fair amount of brucellosis in a lot of the  
44 animals. There was definitely a lot of animals that  
45 were just dying during that time period. And at that  
46 same time I remember Geoff noting in his management  
47 reports that the number of rabbits were increasing in  
48 the area too. And so what I would like to do in the  
49 future and I've actually talked to a small biologist  
50

1 about doing this, is to keep track of the number of  
2 rabbits and what that population is doing because  
3 rabbits tend to cycle in population. And there's  
4 actually a fair more amount of lynx around Umiak too in  
5 that area. So I don't know, there might be some  
6 interesting dynamics going on with caribou, moose, lynx  
7 and rabbits, hares. But that would require some  
8 research to for sure say, but those are just some  
9 options, kind of cause and effect. The cause being  
10 that they might be nutrient deficient from willows  
11 being mowed down by rabbits and then the moose having a  
12 hard time accessing that nutrition somehow.

13  
14 But that's all speculation, it needs  
15 some more research, but interesting things to chew on.  
16

17 And then population growth through this  
18 time period. And, yeah, it's certainly a little bit  
19 more of a decline here. Populations naturally cycle  
20 too so but it's -- as Beth pointed out in the Kaktovik  
21 population of moose in the 26 D and C populations were  
22 at the periphery of where moose can really make a  
23 living and the Colville is kind of the oasis of places  
24 to live on the North Slope for a lot of moose. And so,  
25 you know, if we have a really hard year it's likely to  
26 impact them too.  
27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you. I  
29 just wanted to see because I remember back sometimes we  
30 had a considerable number of moose, then a drastic  
31 decline.....  
32

33 MS. DAGGETT: Uh-huh.  
34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....and then we're  
36 still at a pretty low number com -- with comparable  
37 years from the '70s, '60s, all the way to 1990s and why  
38 we're still low. I if it's based on predation or if  
39 it's -- and I don't know what the hunting pressure was  
40 like back in the -- between the '80s and '90s, if there  
41 were pretty liberal hunts going on or not. And anyway  
42 let's see, 339 being pretty low knowing that they were  
43 over thousands in these areas before.  
44

45 Thank you.  
46

47 MS. DAGGETT: Absolutely. Yeah, we can  
48 talk more about historical harvest at some point too if  
49 you like, but I'm going to go back to my more --  
50

1 presentation for now.

2

3 So at the last AC meeting and actually  
4 the last couple meetings that I've been to up here,  
5 there's been some discussions about interest about  
6 having muskox hunts and from different areas. So  
7 people from Nuiqsut have brought up being interested in  
8 hunting muskox and then also people in Wainwright and  
9 Point Lay have talked about being interested in  
10 harvesting muskox.

11

12 And so the Nuiqsut population is sort  
13 of interesting. That area because there's so much  
14 going on over there, we actually feel like we probably  
15 have a pretty good idea of how many muskox are over in  
16 that area. There's -- there's surveys that are done by  
17 ABR, Alaska Biological Research, and there's also  
18 surveys that are done by Fish and Game in that area.  
19 And recently those surveys have happened and it appears  
20 like the populations are around 250 muskox. And again  
21 there's sort of a magic number threshold where they  
22 would like to open up a hunt and it would be a tier two  
23 hunt if it did get opened up for that area and that  
24 particular herd. So that population needs to grow just  
25 a little bit more before it's likely that that hunt  
26 will open up.

27

28 However alternatively on the other side  
29 of 26A around Wainwright and Point Lay, which is really  
30 hard to see on this map, it's really light, but so  
31 we're just like that little hook just north of  
32 Wainwright here and then kind of down here about Point  
33 Lay. That area doesn't get looked at very often. We  
34 don't go over to that area often doing hardly any of  
35 our survey work. And so that area just looking at  
36 muskox over there we don't have good ideas of numbers  
37 over there.

38

39 And so I have put together this study  
40 design and I wanted to ask people about it because I  
41 know that there's a lot of concerns about air traffic  
42 and disruptions of air traffic and also, you know,  
43 having interest in having a muskox hunt means we need  
44 to understand how many animals are in that population.  
45 So I guess I would be interested to hear what people  
46 would have to say about having a survey take place  
47 relatively soon in this area. Basically what we would  
48 do is we'd just fly these lines back and forth. This  
49 is just an example, it's -- this is kind of still in

50

1 the works, but basically we would fly the coast mostly  
2 and try to focus our intensity of effort on the coast  
3 because that's where muskox tend to like to be. And  
4 then as they -- as we get further inland kind of widen  
5 out towards Atqasuk. So I guess, you know, Atqasuk may  
6 be seeing airplanes too a little bit.

7  
8 So does anybody have any comments about  
9 that other than, you know, that people in the villages  
10 would like to know when we're planning on doing surveys  
11 so that we can, you know, have good communication  
12 there. Is there anything else that you guys have as  
13 far as concerns about this type of survey?

14  
15 Yes, William.

16  
17 MR. HOPSON: That's a lot of square  
18 miles and when you do this survey keep in mind there's  
19 folks hunting and keep in mind from deterring that  
20 wildlife from -- from the fish camps, from the hunting  
21 camps. Because we know you're telling us this is going  
22 to happen, you know, give plenty of time to notify if  
23 this is going to happen. Notify everybody that's going  
24 to be affected, give them a timeline. Because, you  
25 know, when this happens a lot of people don't know and  
26 then they start calling you, why is this airplane going  
27 back and forth and, you know, this was the only herd  
28 that's coming by and they deterred it. And just keep  
29 that stuff in mind, that's all I ask because seems like  
30 every study they use airplanes and we could, you know,  
31 complain and people trying to find out who is this,  
32 what are they doing.

33  
34 I just wanted to bring that up.

35  
36 Thank you.

37  
38 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, that's excellent  
39 feedback. And we will definitely do our part to notify  
40 people when we're doing that.

41  
42 One thing to keep in mind with muskox  
43 surveys too is that we usually do them at a really high  
44 altitude so normally we shoot for at least like a  
45 thousand -- we call it AGL or that's the altitude that  
46 we try to stay above the ground. And we've even talked  
47 about being a little bit higher for this survey because  
48 there's so much ground to cover. So, you know, we're  
49 definitely not going to be flying low to the ground

50



1 with this survey.

2

3 But, yeah, thanks for that feedback,  
4 William, that was really good feedback.

5

6 All right. Anything else about muskox?

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MS. DAGGETT: Okay. Great. So just to  
11 outline a few of the things that we've been doing for  
12 outreach recently. I've been trying to travel  
13 personally to all the villages. I've made it to Point  
14 Lay twice, Wainwright, Atqasuk and Nuiqsut. I'd like  
15 to try to make at least one trip a year if not two  
16 trips a year to every village on the North Slope just  
17 to keep my ears to the ground and to answer questions  
18 and to be there for people. So if I call your office  
19 and talk to you, I'm just -- I'm just trying to do a  
20 little bit of outreach work.

21

22 I do have plans to go to Anaktuvuk  
23 Pass, I'm probably going to end up going there right  
24 after I finish my survey work because I have to fly by  
25 there anyway. So that's kind of those outreach  
26 efforts.

27

28 We've been -- I don't know if you guys  
29 received those posters in your mailbox, we did a mass  
30 mailing of posters that summarize all the regulations  
31 that are in this book. We summarized all those and  
32 mailed those all to the box holders in 26A. So if  
33 people, you know, looked at those and decided that  
34 there's some regulations that you didn't know existed  
35 and they kind of scare you, you can -- you can submit a  
36 proposal to change them by May 1st.

37

38 And more than anything I just -- I  
39 think it's important that at least people are aware of  
40 what the regulations are. So I know sometimes they get  
41 -- that people don't read this book because it's  
42 intimidating, but a poster that you can hang on your  
43 refrigerator is a little bit more handy and a little  
44 bit more accessible.

45

46 So another thing that's going to be  
47 coming out, I worked with Beth on a little postcard  
48 that's going to be going out to Nuiqsut about the  
49 permits. And she was going to send one out with

50

1 Central Arctic caribou herd information anyway so I  
2 just kind of jumped on board with that. So Nuiqsut's  
3 going to get a postcard and it's possible we might be  
4 able to do something like that for the rest of 26A at  
5 some point too.

6  
7 In addition to that I hope to work with  
8 Ernest some more on public outreach here in Utqiagvik  
9 and try to get more interaction with people because I  
10 love it when people come to my office and talk to me.

11  
12 MR. HOPSON: Sorry about that.

13  
14 MS. DAGGETT: No, you're fine.

15  
16 MR. HOPSON: Thank you for all of your  
17 work. I just had to bring this out being all your  
18 outreach efforts. We're not just concerned about our  
19 hunting, our regulations, we're concerned all of our  
20 animals. And when I see the State and Federal  
21 biologists come up and look at their outreach efforts,  
22 I think there's one important piece missing from the  
23 science that you are doing. And that is to track all  
24 the invasive species and what -- get to know what harm  
25 are they going to do to our local species and even  
26 that's an important concern that needs to be tracked  
27 before it gets out of control. And, you know.....

28  
29 MS. DAGGETT: Uh-huh.

30  
31 MR. HOPSON: .....everybody's concerned  
32 about invasive species  
33 and since this was outreach efforts that's another  
34 thing maybe you can start tracking, either State and  
35 Federal.

36  
37 I just had to bring that out because  
38 I've seen invasive species taking over our river and,  
39 you know, we'll be lucky to get our whitefish next  
40 summer.

41  
42 I had to bring that out.

43  
44 Thank you very much.

45  
46 MS. DAGGETT: That's an excellent  
47 comment. Thanks, William.

48  
49 And certainly, you know, when we're

50

1 traveling out to different places and even here in  
2 Barrow we do hear people talking about an invasive  
3 species. I remember being in Nuiqsut and people  
4 talking about muskrat for example and seeing a lot of  
5 muskrat. And I even saw a muskrat when I was in Umiak  
6 last time I was there and people have been talking  
7 about that that's kind of new.

8  
9 And I think, you know, rabbits -- you  
10 know, Wanda was talking about them finding a rabbit and  
11 I don't know, maybe in some ways, you know, people  
12 might make some benefit out of new species coming in,  
13 but they definitely have other impacts too. And so  
14 you're spot on with that, that's a great comment.

15  
16 So I've talked about the Teshekpuk  
17 caribou herd, talked a little bit about Colville moose  
18 and gave an update about them. Talked a little bit  
19 about muskox and some of the outreach efforts. So if  
20 anyone else has any other questions, that completes my  
21 presentation.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good.

24  
25 MS. DAGGETT: Okay. Thank you.

26  
27 MS. PATTON: And my understanding is we  
28 have Beth Leonard on teleconference and I think we can  
29 probably put the screen up and gather Council members  
30 back.

31  
32 Beth, are you still online with us?

33  
34 MS. LEONARD: Yes, Eva, I am. I don't  
35 have a presentation because I wasn't here because I  
36 wasn't sure we were going to be able to do that over  
37 the phone so I didn't send a presentation.

38  
39 MS. PATTON: And that's fine. Are you  
40 able to provide some brief updates for the Central  
41 Arctic and Porcupine herd over the phone?

42  
43 MS. LEONARD: Yes. Yes, I can do  
44 that.....

45  
46 MS. PATTON: That.....

47  
48 MS. LEONARD: .....whenever the Chair's  
49 ready.

50

1 MS. PATTON: .....would be wonderful.  
2 I think we're all gathering back at the table here and  
3 the lights are on so the floor is yours.

4  
5 Thank you so much.....

6  
7 MS. LEONARD: Okay.

8  
9 MS. PATTON: .....Beth.

10  
11 MS. LEONARD: Okay. So for the record  
12 I'm Beth Leonard, I'm the wildlife biologist out of  
13 Fairbanks (indiscernible - distortion) the Central  
14 Arctic and the Porcupine caribou herd.

15  
16 The Central Arctic caribou herd if  
17 folks remember had declined during 2010 to 2016 from  
18 about 68,000 caribou to 23,000 caribou in 2016. In  
19 2017 we got another photo census (indiscernible -  
20 distortion) used that digital camera, and we estimated  
21 28,000 caribou. We didn't necessarily think the  
22 caribou increased from 2016 to 2017, we think that our  
23 digital camera system is just a little more accurate.

24  
25 Since 2017 we think the herd is stable  
26 based on our (indiscernible - distortion) rates and our  
27 composition surveys and our mortality rates. So we  
28 think the herd is stable. We were hoping for a little  
29 bit of growth and I'll find that out -- I'm hoping to  
30 find that out this summer when we get a new photo  
31 census.

32  
33 The hunting pressure on the Central  
34 Arctic herd has been very low the last couple years  
35 since we implemented different harvest restrictions in  
36 2016. Just from reported caribou harvest tickets and  
37 so that's mostly from hunters from outside the area.  
38 This year there's maybe 160 caribou taken, last year  
39 there was maybe 250. And then we estimate around a  
40 hundred caribou by Nuiqsut residents.

41  
42 And then -- so right now I'm not  
43 proposing any regulatory changes for the Central Arctic  
44 herd, there may be other folks that are proposing  
45 different changes, but the Department is not.

46  
47 And then are there any questions on the  
48 Central Arctic herd before I talk about the Porcupine  
49 caribou herd?

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. LEONARD: Okay. The Porcupine  
4 caribou herd was estimated in 2017 at 218,000 caribou.  
5 They have been increasing since 2010. We think it is  
6 still increasing. We had a -- or the caribou had a  
7 fantastic calving year last so. So if we get a photo  
8 census this year we expect the number to be a little  
9 bit higher.

10

11 Harvest pressure on that herd's been  
12 very low. Harvest pressure in Alaska is low in  
13 general. I know Kaktovik residents have told me that  
14 they've been having a harder time getting Porcupine  
15 caribou because they're not coming to the coast. And  
16 then in the winter they've been wintering in Alaska on  
17 the south side of the Brooks range. So residents of  
18 Canada have not been able to hunt caribou where  
19 normally that's where our higher harvest come from.

20

21 And that's all I really had for the  
22 caribou. It hasn't changed much in the last couple of  
23 years.

24

25 Are there any questions?

26

27 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, William,  
30 from Utqiagvik.

31

32 MR. HOPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
33 My question is the calving grounds of the Porcupine  
34 herd. How much of the Porcupine herd calves in  
35 Teshekpuk area and do you know how much actually calves  
36 in the 10-02 area?

37

38 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Beth.

41

42 MS. LEONARD: Through the Chair. Yeah,  
43 so this last year the Porcupine caribou calved  
44 partially in Canada and then all the way from like  
45 Canada to like the Canning River. And they were -- so  
46 there was a portion of them in the 10-02 area, but not  
47 all of them. And they haven't -- the Porcupine hasn't  
48 -- that we've seen in recent years anyway, hasn't  
49 calved much farther west than the Canning River.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I think  
2 that was saying it doesn't go to Teshekpuk. Canning  
3 River is the extent of Porcupine herd.

4  
5 And so thank you, Beth.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Once in a while it  
8 would be good to see.....

9  
10 MS. LEONARD: You're welcome.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....the animation  
13 that's -- that we've been privy too once in a while  
14 over years of collar data that moves around the North  
15 Slope. That's always a very startling reminder of how  
16 these caribou kind of differentiate from each other at  
17 the peak calving periods. Basically all at the same  
18 time, but they go to distinct areas that -- it's pretty  
19 important to see that kind of stuff.

20  
21 MS. LEONARD: And, Mr. Chair, I did  
22 hear you mention that earlier and I think we are in a  
23 position, me being a little bit the Western Arctic and  
24 the Teshekpuk on the number of satellite collars to  
25 provide that kind of animation. And this summer I  
26 worked with some folks quite a bit to try to get all  
27 that data together. And so I got that on my agenda to  
28 try to get that ready for one of those -- one of the  
29 upcoming RAC meeting because it sounded like it was  
30 really important to you.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you,  
33 Beth. One of the other things that over the years  
34 there were some efforts to work with school kids to  
35 interest them in this type of field of work. And  
36 because we live in such a diverse biologic area with  
37 fish and caribou and whatnot, basically all of the  
38 known caribou herds, the big ones anyway, come up to  
39 the North Slope. You might at any one time during  
40 calving could have a million caribou on the Slope. And  
41 it's a good opportunity to provide -- because I've seen  
42 I think school kids in Nuiqsut they named their caribou  
43 there, the collared one. And then they watch it and  
44 report on it on where their caribou went.

45  
46 And I thought that was an important  
47 educational thing for school kids to learn about their  
48 resources and what they do and how it's managed. I  
49 think it's important to continue those kind of things

50

1 and I hope, you know, the OSM folks working with others  
2 on the Slope like Wildlife Department or even  
3 industrial study requirements continue to work in  
4 collaboration with our young people. And I thought it  
5 was important.

6  
7 MS. LEONARD: That's a good idea. I  
8 think I -- I can see where that would be maybe  
9 interesting and useful for kids in school.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Beth, we got  
12 somebody raising their hand and I think it's a BLM  
13 northern field director or manager. One of them.

14  
15 Sorry if I couldn't -- if I.....

16  
17 MS. JONES: My name is Shelly Jones,  
18 I'm a district manager for BLM in the Arctic district.  
19 And that topic that you bring up about the collars is  
20 an interesting one to me. I'm not a wildlife  
21 biologist, but I get a lot out of the collar data.  
22 I've watched the animation several times over the years  
23 and just one of the things I've been curious about, I  
24 don't know if Fish and Game might have an answer to  
25 this, but I wondered what percentage of the herd is  
26 desirable to have a collar. You know, I pay attention  
27 to the population data and I understand they get that  
28 mostly from the photos and that kind of census, but  
29 there's a lot of interesting things that I've gotten  
30 lately out of the GPS collars that I didn't use to know  
31 about from the radio collars in terms of the speed that  
32 they're moving and during migrations that they're  
33 actually moving almost twice as far and night and day  
34 versus, you know, milling around, you know, going from  
35 seven miles a day maybe just during the daytime to when  
36 they're migrating going, you know, 20 or 30 miles night  
37 and day, constantly moving. It's very interesting and  
38 I can see why the school kids would be interested in  
39 it, it's -- the technology is really amazing what we're  
40 getting out of that. But the collars are expensive and  
41 the work to put the collars out is risky and impactful  
42 as you know to the animals.

43  
44 And so -- and people never really say  
45 in the case of our integrated activity plan for BLM,  
46 we're trying to describe the special areas. Some of  
47 them -- most of them have to do with the boundaries of  
48 special habitat for things like calving or  
49 overwintering, migration routes and that kind of thing.

50

1 And we get that from noticing what percentage of those  
2 collars are using that area during those times. I see  
3 that from the maps that I review, but I've never really  
4 known the relationship between the number of collars  
5 that they have deployed in the different herds and the  
6 confidence that they have in the estimates. You know,  
7 that if there's -- maybe that's only 50 percent of the  
8 animals there and the other 50 percent are somewhere  
9 different or they're not that confident.

10

11 So I'm just curious about that aspect  
12 of it. Thanks.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Shelly. I  
15 think it's -- all of us strive to want to understand  
16 better what the radio collaring and -- because there  
17 was a die off that occurred in association with the Red  
18 Dog Road, crossing probably issues that diverted  
19 caribou back to the north side of the Brooks Range and  
20 try to come across. And there was a high mortality  
21 rate on calves that year because of the coldness and  
22 trying to get the calves that were just born that  
23 summer across to the other side, and then south side of  
24 the Brooks Range to where they go to their wintering  
25 areas.

26

27 And I won't -- there was a mortality  
28 rate that was kind of high that season and I wanted to  
29 find out what does one collar represent in that herd.  
30 I think it was like one collar represented 5,000  
31 animals in a ratio. And then if two collars quit  
32 moving and died on the north side does that represent  
33 10,000 animals just died. Because of that there's like  
34 an accidental study with the Red Dog Mine Road which  
35 the Western Arctic herd, a portion of that population,  
36 went back north and then tried to come back south later  
37 time and then there was a high mortality rate that was  
38 occurring.

39

40 That was my understanding, but the  
41 amount of collars that quit moving and it became a  
42 harsh climate for them to endure. And I don't even  
43 know if it was climate related or it was predator  
44 related, but to my understanding when I was told that  
45 one collar probably represented about 5,000 animals out  
46 of that herd I said well, if two of the collars quit  
47 moving does that mean there's a lot of dead caribou  
48 over there. You know, that kind of thing.

48

49

MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, I'd like

50



1 to.....

2

3

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Carmen.

4

5

MS. DAGGETT: .....try to answer that  
6 question a little bit here. So we try to shoot for  
7 about a hundred collars in a herd to do the photo  
8 census. So if you did a percentage for example for the  
9 Teshekpuk caribou herd it would be less than 1 percent  
10 would be accounted for by, you know, a hundred collars.  
11 And one collar would represent approximately 560  
12 animals if you said that the population estimate was  
13 56,000 which is where we estimate it right now.

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

Now if you're talking about a Western  
Arctic collar it would be different because that  
population is much higher. So, you know, if you have a  
hundred collars and a population of animals that's over  
200,000 the number of animals that's going to be  
represented by that one collar is higher.

22

23

24

25

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31

But one thing that I would caution  
about, you know, pegging an animal that has died with  
several thousand is that you could just have one animal  
that was eaten by a bear or was shot by a hunter or  
something like that and they just happened to be one  
that had a collar. But if you saw a large group of  
them die in the same spot, you know, maybe you could  
start to think about those sorts of generalizations a  
little bit more.

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

But I'm familiar with this die off that  
happened up in the Lisburne Hills and whether it was  
directly related to the Red Dog Road or not, I'm not  
sure, but there was certainly some weather related  
things, some rain on snow events that happened during  
that time period that may account for some of that  
happening. And I think there was some starvation  
associated with that.

41

42

43

44

Thank you.

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. JONES: Right. I just have a final  
thought on that and then I'll take my normal seat. But  
as a land manager and person that sits in a lot of  
boring -- somewhat boring meetings to discuss budgets  
and try to get money, it would be helpful to know for

1 my point of view, you know, the reliability. I mean,  
2 right now it just seems like there's such a low  
3 percentage of the total herd that's collared that we'll  
4 never have enough. You know, 1 percent is -- or less  
5 than 1 percent is collared, that's low, and maybe we'll  
6 never reach that limit where we're asking ourselves  
7 like I am already about does each collar make us more  
8 confident in our answers. If so that would be good to  
9 know as a easier way to sell a project based on that  
10 kind of a relationship than just the more the better I  
11 guess.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, there is some  
16 concerns that were raised and I think they were  
17 expressed at ACs, at the Advisory Committees about  
18 collars. And they were encountered by some subsistence  
19 hunters that caught one, happened to catch one with a  
20 collar. And I guess it didn't release or did something  
21 and had eaten away on the fur. And it -- maybe the  
22 animal was a young buck or younger and then it grew out  
23 and it did -- the collar became tight and exposed the  
24 skin, bare skin at that point. And there was -- one of  
25 the hunters that harvested one of these things and  
26 there was an outcry to modernize to different kinds.  
27 If you can put a GPS tracker on a whale that's just a  
28 little tagging thing, it seems like you could do  
29 something different on caribou, maybe on the ear or  
30 right on the ear itself to something that would be less  
31 invasive and more friendly to the animal.

32

33 That was a concern that I was privy to  
34 and heard some concerns about collaring to -- so that  
35 it wouldn't affect a caribou as it matures. Like, you  
36 know, if it's a buck, young one, it grows into a big  
37 bull and you got that collar and especially during rut  
38 time when they puff themselves up and, you know. Yeah,  
39 apparently that was a problem.

40

41 MS. LEONARD: Mr. Chair, this is Beth  
42 Leonard. I had a couple of more comments to elaborate  
43 if you wanted to -- on the collar issue.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Beth.

46

47 MS. LEONARD: Okay. So first of all,  
48 you know, Carmen made -- pointed out that we aim for  
49 about 100 radio collars to do our photo census. And we

50

1 have learned that that is about the number we need to  
2 make an -- you know, as accurate an estimate as we can.  
3 If we don't need any more than that many collars. And  
4 so that's one of the most important pieces of  
5 information we collect and so we look at that as sort  
6 of an objective, that 100 collars.

7  
8 There's a couple of other things that  
9 are associated with that though and that is that we  
10 cannot manage more than 100 to 130 radio collars on a  
11 herd. It's just it's too hard to keep track of them.  
12 And so you start to have collars on animals that you're  
13 not paying attention to and so you shouldn't be  
14 collaring animals that you're not going to be  
15 collecting good information on.

16  
17 The other thing is that we've heard  
18 over the years, we've tried to work with North Slope  
19 residents and you have -- this was a big thing to start  
20 radio collaring caribou. And so we took those concerns  
21 to heart and tried to really think about if we're going  
22 to put a radio collar on an animal what kind of  
23 information are we going to get out of it that's worth  
24 putting a collar on an animal because it is a big deal.

25  
26  
27 And so taking those things into  
28 account and then also we recognize that the 100 radio  
29 collars is a very small percentage of the herd. We --  
30 so that is why we -- you know, we need to work with  
31 North Slope residents or other hunters and just collect  
32 the other traditional information and (indiscernible -  
33 distortion) information because we could miss something  
34 that we're not seeing with the radio collars. We do  
35 think that the radio collars have provided us with more  
36 information than we might have otherwise. We think  
37 we're in a better situation to know what's going on  
38 compared to herds that don't have radio collars. And  
39 so we think it's been a good way to look at caribou,  
40 but we've also taken into account the concerns that  
41 residents have had about putting collars on animals.  
42 So, you know, we don't take that lightly actually.

43  
44 So even though we've been saying, you  
45 know, a bigger sample size is better, you have to  
46 really think about what information we're getting out  
47 because a bigger sample size means putting a radio  
48 collar on an animal and it -- that's an impact to the  
49 animal.  
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Beth.

4

5 So I would like to see where we're at  
6 here, Madame Coordinator.

7

8 MS. PATTON: Thank you very much, thank  
9 you for being online with us, Beth. Helpful  
10 information. I know it's super busy for you so really  
11 appreciate those updates for the Council.

12

13 And so to get back to our agenda I was  
14 wondering if we had any further wildlife updates or any  
15 further questions from the Council on the wildlife  
16 reports. If not, the Council has the time today and  
17 again we can come back tomorrow morning too and revisit  
18 the proposals. So you all have a chance to think and  
19 think about, you know, what you've heard from your  
20 communities, things that might be issues of concern  
21 that you'd like to explore whether a proposal to the  
22 Federal Subsistence Board to change the wildlife  
23 regulations. So again because the -- our meeting got  
24 pushed back to this time frame we're, you know, on the  
25 last opportunity to submit a Federal subsistence  
26 proposal. But we do have tomorrow and so there's time  
27 to think about it. I know as folks have mentioned, you  
28 know, some of the regulations can be confusing. And  
29 that's -- there's an opportunity too if you want to  
30 submit a proposal to help clarify the regulation so  
31 it's easier for people to understand, this is an  
32 opportunity to do that also.

33

34 So it's at the Council's wish. If you  
35 have any proposals you'd like to consider now or if  
36 you'd like time to think overnight and we'll revisit in  
37 the morning for any further proposals you'd like to  
38 submit. And then again Tom and I will work on the  
39 language for that closure review and have that for you  
40 in the morning as well.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. So  
43 under the note the Council received caribou and other  
44 wildlife updates prior to discussion on potential  
45 proposals. So I haven't heard any potential proposal  
46 other than that closure that we've been working on  
47 earlier. I am upset about west 156, why in the heck do  
48 we have that, you know, but I guess we leave it there  
49 for another argument another day. But I don't even

50

1 know how it got there, somebody devise that language.

2

3

So the Council's charter review?

4

5

MS. PATTON: Yeah, and, Mr. Chair, I'll  
6 just say it was Tad and other Council members, we had a  
7 conversation this morning with a member of the public  
8 who was interested in looking at revisiting the seasons  
9 for 26A for the caribou seasons. And so we have an  
10 opportunity to do that as well. I don't know if you  
11 want to think about that and get some more feedback  
12 from folks tonight, Tad, or.....

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MR. REICH: Yes, thank you, Madame  
Coordinator. Tad Reich for the record. This morning  
we did hear a concern on the open season wording. She  
was thinking that our season ended in October for the  
caribou in 26A. And I just wanted a little bit better  
clarification or wording on the open season. So if we  
can clarify that a little bit better for the public to  
understand a little bit better, that would be awesome.

MS. PATTON: And, Mr. Chair and  
Council, I might call our wildlife biologist, Tom  
Evans, up here too. That's why we're hoping she might  
be able to come back and join us to help articulate  
what her concern was.

So currently in 26A, and you'll find in  
the reg book on page 131. And it may have been a issue  
with our -- with these -- with the formatting of the  
flyers because it wasn't real clear about, you know,  
whether it was just bulls, would bulls could be  
harvested.

MR. REICH: Correct.

MS. PATTON: And so maybe for Tom she  
wanted to clarify that indeed bulls may be harvested  
July 1st through October 14th and then also December 6  
through June 30th.

MR. EVANS: That's correct.

MS. PATTON: Yeah. And so I think it  
was probably the formatting on our flyer because it  
looked the little line went over and it looked like  
bulls may be harvested was only December 6th.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Madame  
2 Coordinator, I'm going to interject a little bit here.

3  
4 MS. PATTON: Yeah.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I know we can --  
7 you know, we went through a period of time when the  
8 caribou was declining drastically, right, several years  
9 ago 2014 being one of those where we were in Anaktuvuk  
10 I think and everybody's arguing about caribou and the --  
11 we had 490,000 Western Arctic caribou herd and now we  
12 were dealing with 200,000. Over 290,000 animals  
13 missing. Did we eat them all, I don't know. But that  
14 was a issue we had. So the State was working on  
15 regulations to change from a liberal management to a  
16 more conservative management style which we all were  
17 worried about. And working with the Wildlife  
18 Department we thought well, we should step up before  
19 somebody else imposes regulations on us. What do we do  
20 traditionally that we already are conservative and make  
21 those into laws so we could minimize the loss of our  
22 regulations by the State being affected to change  
23 those, bag limits, harvest periods and stuff.

24  
25 One of them was bulls. We can get them  
26 July 1 and we had determined somewhere around in  
27 October they start to stink, right, (in Native). And  
28 that was traditional. We always told -- even I was  
29 told don't shoot the bulls, shoot females now. You  
30 know, we used to go as soon as they start to rut  
31 because we were trying to get food, we're not trying to  
32 get the trophy. And we argued on dates and some said  
33 October 5 and some dates were like December -- I think  
34 up to January 1. And being that I was always hunting  
35 quite a bit, I said hey, the bulls always get better  
36 somewhere around December even though they drop their  
37 antlers. Yeah, they drop their antlers and we shoot  
38 them up and get them. They look like females, but big  
39 females because they got no antlers, the bulls. The  
40 ones that were rutting anyway. And they get good again  
41 somewhere around the first week through second week of  
42 December you can get them again.

43  
44 So being that we were conservative in  
45 nature that was intended to solidify the rut, October  
46 14 to December 6 was a period of time that I don't  
47 think Tad's going to try to get a bull or William's  
48 going to try to get a bull because they're rutting.  
49 (In Inupiaq) they always say -- my dad used to always  
50

1 say (in Native). You can smell like watermelon almost  
2 through their snout if you go to it. And then if you  
3 skin it, boy that's another story.  
4

5 Yeah. Accurate. There was a joke on  
6 me from my dad, he said why don't you skin it. I don't  
7 trust you to see whether it's rutted or not. He just  
8 laughed at me about it.  
9

10 But then from December 6 to June 30 you  
11 go back to -- you can hunt those bulls again.  
12

13 And then the other part that we were  
14 being conservative about was the cows, especially a cow  
15 with a calf. We don't try to hunt the cow with a calf  
16 unless it's a yearling, already a yearling calf. You  
17 know, sometimes they hangout with the cow a little bit  
18 longer. But in -- a long time ago a yearling like that  
19 would sought after for clothing. We would harvest them  
20 for clothing. They didn't have the really big furs and  
21 stuff like that, but they were just right for making  
22 parkas and stuff, they didn't have the big (in Native)  
23 like the older ones. So that was intended to look at  
24 that, we didn't try to harvest a cow with a calf. And  
25 then cows in general somewhere around March there's a  
26 period of time that we know they're going to be giving  
27 birth (in Native). And that would be around June they  
28 would drop calves, but they're pretty in -- their  
29 gestation period is -- they're very noticeable. In  
30 February you can catch a caribou and you -- a female  
31 one and it's got a fully form fetus in there. You  
32 know, we all done that before, you know.  
33

34 And so that was intended to recognize  
35 being conservative that period of time.  
36

37 So I don't know if that's what you're  
38 looking for in trying to get a little more  
39 clarification on what our harvest for caribou turned  
40 out of trying to use some of our own traditional  
41 practices and make them into a law and letting the  
42 outside recognize hey, we're being conservative. We  
43 were always conservative. Yeah, the guides and all  
44 those outfitters are going to try to hunt these bulls  
45 because they got the biggest rack at this time, but we  
46 don't -- we go out of our way to avoid those things  
47 just because we can't eat them or don't want to eat  
48 them. Actually I've had some rutted caribou. If --  
49 you almost got like a hot flash going or something.  
50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But -- yeah.

4

5 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6 Yes. And again I wish she could be here to hear that  
7 because the Council was very involved in that  
8 discussion and to make sure that the local timing and  
9 knowledge got incorporated into these regulations. And  
10 I think her primary was -- concern was -- it was a  
11 little confuse -- our flyer, the formatting was a  
12 little confusing because it just has the line at the  
13 bottom. And so just a -- it is actually much clearer  
14 in the reg book which is not often the case. But I  
15 think that was -- her confusion was the way the flyer  
16 was formatted. She wanted to confirm that the dates  
17 are July 1 to October 14 and December 6 to June 30 and  
18 not just that bottom one that had the line.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And then our bag  
21 limits, you know, we had pretty liberal bag limits back  
22 then. I think it was 10 or 15 per day. Man, if my son  
23 got five and then I got five and my sweetheart got  
24 five, you'd be skinning 15 caribou in one day. And I'd  
25 rather skin maybe only two and then wait a day and cook  
26 up some tongues and whatnot. And then keep on doing it  
27 again. I don't want to hunt everything in three  
28 minutes and say well, let's go home. I want to camp  
29 for a month, you know.

30

31 But, you know, we -- these are some of  
32 the things we decided were important enough to solidify  
33 into regulation because we were already conservative by  
34 nature. And if we didn't do that I was -- we were  
35 afraid that the State regs and the Feds would  
36 arbitrarily start cutting somewhere because the herd  
37 had start to come way down. And we also were going to  
38 be in the mix with the Teshekpuk herd going down and it  
39 was a much smaller herd and the Western Arctic herd was  
40 a big herd, but it was 50 percent down. And we were  
41 arguing about hey, you can't combine the amount  
42 necessary for subsistence from two herds and calculate  
43 them as one subsistence resource because it -- they're  
44 just different herds. They should -- the hunting  
45 pressure on the Teshekpuk herd would have been greater  
46 because it was a smaller herd. And to look at those in  
47 that way.

48

49 Anyway I'm just trying to give a little

50



1 bit of feedback as to how these regs decided to unfold  
2 on us. It was our attempt to be good stewards and make  
3 traditional practices into a conservative -- from a  
4 liberal management style into a conservative management  
5 style using traditional knowledge to the extent that we  
6 can.

7

8 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 Thank you for that.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. That was --  
13 was there any other questions on -- for potential  
14 proposals and stuff or clarifications?

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So hearing none at  
18 this point I would need to believe that we would be  
19 down the agenda under Council charter review?

20

21 MS. PATTON: Correct. So on page 61  
22 you will find the Council's charter. And we did have  
23 an opportunity to meet with our new Council members a  
24 few hours yesterday and provide an overview of the  
25 Council's authority and process. And again the Council  
26 is authorized under section 8 of ANILCA and you all as  
27 you know are appointed by the Secretary of the  
28 Interior. And the Council is actually chartered. So  
29 it gives the Council's authority to make those  
30 recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board --  
31 through the Federal Subsistence Board to the Secretary  
32 of the Interior. And so you're governed under the  
33 Federal Advisory Committee Act. And the charter is  
34 kind of your guidelines and your law and your  
35 authorities. And every two years the Council reviews  
36 and re-approves the charter.

37

38 And so this is that process. There's  
39 actually not much that can change in the charter.  
40 Again because you are authorized under title 8 of  
41 ANILCA those authorities come directly from that  
42 statute. And we can just quickly provide an overview  
43 of what the objectives and the duties are of the  
44 Council.

45

46 There's only a couple things that you  
47 can change or modify. One of them is like number of  
48 Council membership or if you want to specify kind of a  
49 breakdown of where the seats would come from. I know  
50

1 this Council always strives to have representation from  
2 every village, all eight villages within the region.  
3 Sometimes it's not always an option due to the  
4 applications that we get, but there's only -- you can  
5 change your name if you really want to and you can  
6 change that recommendation for Council membership  
7 makeup. Some regions are much bigger, for example the  
8 YK Delta likes try to have Council members from the  
9 Yukon River and the Kuskokwim River and the coast  
10 because it's a different region. So if the Council  
11 wanted to, you know, put it in the charter that you'd  
12 like representation from each village, I know that's --  
13 the Council strives to do that anyway.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

16

17 MS. PATTON: But the -- again the  
18 Council authority is set out under the Alaska National  
19 Interest Lands Conservation Act and under the authority  
20 of the Secretary of the Interior. And the objective of  
21 the Council is to provide a forum for the residents of  
22 the region with personal knowledge of local conditions  
23 and resource requirements to have a meaningful role in  
24 the subsistence management of fish and wildlife of  
25 Federal lands and waters in the region. And so the  
26 Council recommends proposals or evaluates proposals and  
27 makes recommendations to the Board on both regulations,  
28 policies, management plans and other matters relating  
29 to uses of fish and wildlife in the region.

30

31 You provide a public forum for the  
32 expression of opinions and recommendations by any  
33 person interested in the issues in the regions. So  
34 each of you again, you're a representative for your  
35 community, but you're also a representative for the  
36 region to hear from the community and the public. We  
37 encourage the local and regional participation in the  
38 decision making process affecting the taking of fish  
39 and wildlife from public lands within the region.

40

41 And the Council prepares an annual  
42 report and that's what we're going to get to next is an  
43 annual report that goes to the Board and it's actually  
44 directed to the Secretary of the Interior as well on  
45 the issues of importance to subsistence that you want  
46 to bring awareness to the Board or ask for the Board's  
47 assistance to address an issue. And that report is  
48 part of the Council's communication to the Board and to  
49 achieve changes or directions in policies. If you see

50

1 a change in wildlife, I know there's a lot of  
2 discussion here and changes that you're seeing on the  
3 land. If you're anticipating will be changes in  
4 subsistence needs to help inform the Board and the  
5 managers of those changes and needs. And we'll be  
6 getting to the annual report after the charter review  
7 next. So each year the Council drafts that report to  
8 the Board and then you have a chance to review it  
9 before it gets finalized.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So in terms of the  
12 Council's charter review, the approval every two years  
13 by the Regional Advisory Council, is it now time -- is  
14 this the second year, somebody makes a proposal or a  
15 motion to approve the Council's charter and whether to  
16 make changes on it or not or approve it as is, it's an  
17 action item now?

18

19 MS. PATTON: Correct. It's an action  
20 item now and essentially you're reauthorizing  
21 yourself.....

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

24

25 MS. PATTON: .....to continue this  
26 work. And that the Councils will, you know, continue  
27 indefinitely as long as it -- you keep approving the  
28 work that you are doing. And again there's very  
29 limited amount of changes that can be made to the  
30 charter because it's essentially describing your  
31 authority under ANILCA. Unless you want to put in  
32 writing the type of membership you want to see on the  
33 Council.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. So membership  
36 being one, what's the other two?

37

38 MS. PATTON: You can change your name  
39 if you really want to.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You mean my personal  
42 name?

43

44 MS. PATTON: No. You can change the  
45 Council's name. You know most Councils they're named  
46 by the region in which they.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, okay. So we  
49 don't have to be the North Slope Regional Advisory  
50

1 Council, we could be, you know, Martha's Best  
2 Friends.....

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....Council.

7

8 MS. PATTON: If the Council truly  
9 wanted to change that you could. And then the other  
10 one is that, you know, if you wanted to put in writing  
11 a Council membership makeup. Again this Council always  
12 strives to have membership from each community, but it  
13 is something that you could.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

16

17 MS. PATTON: .....put in writing as  
18 well.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. I mean, I  
21 would propose to alter the charter that there should be  
22 some language that adequate representation for every  
23 community be represented in the charter period.

24

25 I make that as a motion, boys and  
26 girls. You know, I think it's important -- you know,  
27 there's been periods of time where there's not a  
28 representative from Point Lay, we have a hard time once  
29 in a while to get representation out of Wainwright and  
30 we -- and those are -- I mean, Anaktuvuk is not in the  
31 mix right now. And they have a large -- to a large  
32 degree depend on a lot of the terrestrial mammals that  
33 migrate through the North Slope and has a high  
34 dependency and concern. They have to a large degree  
35 some of the more extensive comments in caribou  
36 movements and stuff. So if there's a spot somewhere to  
37 identify the makeup that I would advise that it be  
38 added or amended that the charter membership be  
39 reflective of all the communities on the North Slope, a  
40 member from each community. And I would make that as a  
41 motion because this is an action item before we  
42 recommend approval of the charter.

43

44 MR. OOMITTUK: Was that in the form of  
45 a -- so moved, Mr. Chair. Is that a form of a motion,  
46 is that what.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I do that in the form  
49 of a motion.

50

1 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes. So moved.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on  
4 the floor to amend -- modify the makeup of the charter  
5 for the North Slope Regional Advisory Council to be  
6 representative of all the communities on the North  
7 Slope. That's in the form of a motion.

8

9 So it's been moved, we need a second.

10

11 MR. REXFORD: Second.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded by  
14 Kaktovik.

15

16 MS. KIPPI: Call for question.

17

18 MR. HOPSON: Question.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been  
21 called for. All those in favor of amending the charter  
22 as requested signify by saying aye.

23

24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say  
27 nay.

28

29 (No opposing votes)

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ayes have it.  
32 Formally I think amended the charter. So I think if  
33 there's any other further amendments to be made it's  
34 the time to look at it now or we can go into approving  
35 the charter with the amended changes.

36

37 I'd like to hear from the Council at  
38 this time. If we don't get it I don't know if they're  
39 going to keep us on or not.

40

41 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, William.

44

45 MR. HOPSON: Was that the only  
46 amendment you wanted to make. If that's the thing I  
47 move to approve the charter.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on

50

1 the floor.....

2

3

MR. OOMITTUK: Second.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....to approve the charter with the amendment, seconded by Point Hope.

7

8

9

MS. KIPPI: Question.

10

11

12

13

CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been called for. All those approving of the North Slope Regional Subsistence Advisory Council with the amendments signify by saying aye.

14

15

IN UNISON: Aye.

16

17

18

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say nay.

19

20

(No opposing votes)

21

22

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24

CHAIRMAN BROWER: The ayes have it. Our charter is approved with that -- with a modification to the makeup.

25

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36

I think it's always important we try to do that . It -- it's -- I think it's really important to the -- you know, and sometimes we say hey let's meet in Anaktuvuk, they got a lot of concerns. We did that one year and it was important. And I think those that are under represented in our communities, once in a while we should go to those communities, we should hold a RAC meeting over in Point Lay or Wainwright to peak their interest in the work that goes on in -- because we're I think a very important role in the Federal subsistence management of these resources.

37

38

39

40

Thank you for the charter review. We'll go to the next agenda item is the approval FY 2018 annual report.

41

42

Eva.

43

44

45

46

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50

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, you'll find your 2018 annual report on page 41. And this is the draft annual report based on the issues and topics that the Council had developed over the past year. And so it's just coming before the Council now for your review and approval. If there's any edits

1 that you would like to make to it and I know we have a  
2 number of new Council members who since you weren't  
3 here for the previous year, the subjects may be new to  
4 you. And we do this every year so we'll begin develop  
5 additional topics for the next year's annual report.  
6 And so all our new Council members will have an  
7 opportunity. And we base that both on the feedback  
8 that we get from this meeting and then we specifically  
9 visit it at the fall meeting to develop another annual  
10 report.

11

12 But you'll find -- give everybody a  
13 chance to take a look at it again before making a  
14 motion to approve that. If you see.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If it's the Council's  
17 wish I can read, I am a fast reader sometimes.

18

19 MS. PATTON: Sure.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm just wondering,  
22 you know, if you haven't gone through it and.....

23

24 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....this is our  
27 report to Anthony Christianson, Chair of the Federal  
28 Subsistence Board. I could read it or you could digest  
29 it.

30

31 MS. PATTON: Maybe I'll just -- you  
32 know, just a quick reference for folks. So big concern  
33 was development impacts to caribou and access to  
34 healthy subsistence resources. And, you know, a lot of  
35 this feedback was concern from Nuiqsut and the impacts  
36 that are occurring both to the migration and to  
37 subsistence activities around the community. A lot of  
38 concern coming out of the section 810 analysis that,  
39 you know, had reported that there will be impacts to  
40 subsistence and requesting support from the Board and  
41 from the Federal subsistence program and BLM for ways  
42 to address those impacts to the community. And I know  
43 Rosemary Ahtuangaruak at the time had a lot of input on  
44 that and being from Nuiqsut, you know, even though you  
45 didn't have a chance to visit this annual report  
46 certainly, you know, if you see things in there that we  
47 need to add.....

48

49 MS. ITTA: Okay.

50

1 MS. PATTON: .....please do let me  
2 know. And the topic number 2 was effective  
3 communications networks and navigating the complex  
4 regulatory process which is what you all are doing here  
5 today. You know, we certainly all understand these  
6 regulatory processes are complex, they're often hard to  
7 understand and the overlap between the State and  
8 Federal system. So, you know, the Council's asking as  
9 much support as possible to help communities to deal  
10 with those complexities. And, you know, we've had  
11 discussion here today too about, you know, ways to help  
12 simplify or make it less complicated.

13 And there was concern about muskox  
14 fatalities. And this was, you know, over a year ago,  
15 but, you know, the Council reports on issues through  
16 the past year. There was a road kill incident on the  
17 haul road. And again this was of particular interest  
18 to Nuiqsut. Communities are wondering, you know, is  
19 there a way if in the unfortunate event there is, you  
20 know, a vehicle hit or strike of muskox and that animal  
21 is killed to utilize to the meat, to have a system in  
22 place where local communities can get meat and also the  
23 resources from the skins and the hide and the fur for --  
24 you know, for sewing. And so the Council had wanted  
25 to find or help set up that avenue if that were to  
26 happen again in the future.

27  
28 Ongoing concerns about aircraft  
29 harassing and deflecting wildlife. It's been a long  
30 ongoing concern for all the communities in the region  
31 and still struggling for how to address that with the  
32 FAA and also with, you know, all the monitoring and the  
33 permitting processes in the region. And so the  
34 Council's asking again for support from the program to  
35 help find a way to address that.

36  
37 Information on emergency preparedness  
38 and prevention to address increased marine shipping  
39 traffic through the Northwest Passage and that was a  
40 real concern from Council member Steve Oomittuk from  
41 Point Hope and also other coastal communities as the  
42 Northwest Passage is opening up, ways that communities  
43 can be prepared and being engaged with that process.

44  
45 We have had invites to the Coast Guard  
46 to help address some of those issues and weren't able  
47 to do that for this meeting. It was a big shake up  
48 with the government shutdown with people's time, but  
49 we're still striving to do that hopefully for the fall  
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1 meeting.

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And also the Board replies to this letter. So the intent is to get action from the Board or make a request of the Board to support addressing an issue. So we'll get a letter in reply at the fall meeting. But we are also working on getting those resources or those people to address the Council directly. And so hopefully for the fall meeting we can have a representative from the Coast Guard or others here.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, that would just about cover that, right, and it is an action item.

MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, I make a motion to approve the FY 2018 draft annual report.

MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

MR. HOPSON: Second it.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Utqiagvik, William Hopson. Any discussion?

MR REXFORD: Question.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question's been called for. All those in favor of approving the FY 2018 draft annual report signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say nay.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, we have a report to submit to Anthony Christianson.

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council. And again the Board responds to the Council's report and letter and so at the fall meeting we will receive a letter from the Board, their reply to your report. So we'll have that.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I got a question. I  
4 mean, it seems so long, you know, seems like we should  
5 be quarterly or thirdly, three times a year or  
6 something. But one meeting, you got to wait another  
7 six or eight months and by that time you're almost  
8 sufficiently have to re-read everything to remember  
9 what kind of took place.

10

11 Any way, just my observation. It's --  
12 but, you know, we've been doing that for 20 years plus.

13

14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Counsel and  
15 understood and this is -- you know, this is the annual  
16 report so it's bringing issues throughout the year to  
17 the Board's attention.

18

19 Another avenue that's open to the  
20 Councils at anytime is if there is an issue that is  
21 urgent that you would like to bring to the Board's  
22 attention or an agency's attention, you know, or a  
23 request, the Council can always discuss and make a  
24 motion on the record to draft a letter. And so it  
25 doesn't have to.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Or a request for an  
28 emergency action, we just get together and call you up  
29 and somebody needs to have a moose right now and it's  
30 right outside the door and we need to kill it.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MS. PATTON: No, that -- that's right.  
35 So there is an opportunity -- well, this is the two  
36 year regulatory cycle to submit proposals during the  
37 regular cycle. If there is an urgent matter and as  
38 Gordon had noted this had come up with Anaktuvuk Pass.  
39 If there's an urgent matter for subsistence needs or a  
40 conservation concern, members of the public, the  
41 community, the tribe, can always submit what's called a  
42 special action request to change.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

45

46 MS. PATTON: .....regulations for a  
47 short period of time to address an urgent issue. And  
48 so that is always available.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, that was what I  
2 was trying to get at.  
3  
4 MS. PATTON: Yeah.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sometimes I.....  
7  
8 MS. PATTON: Yeah.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....animate the  
11 request wrong.....  
12  
13 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....just to get it  
16 out there. Yeah.  
17  
18 MS. ITTA: That being.....  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Martha.  
21  
22 MS. ITTA: That being said is it  
23 possible that we can increase the number of meetings  
24 due to all the activities and issues pertaining to  
25 subsistence and land management?  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm going to have to  
28 refer that to Madame Coordinator and frequency of  
29 meetings.  
30  
31 MS. PATTON: Yes. And so the Councils --  
32 and this is, you know, part of the charter authority.  
33 The Councils are asked to meet a minimum of two times a  
34 year. And the Council can request to meet more  
35 frequently than that. Recent budgetary issues have  
36 been a challenge and a restriction. But the Council  
37 always can request -- you know, if there's an issue  
38 that wasn't able to be addressed at this meeting and  
39 the Council's done this before, to request a follow-up  
40 meeting by teleconference. Teleconference isn't always  
41 the best way to do it, but it is the option that  
42 provides that flexibility if the budgets are limiting  
43 that we can't hold a third meeting in person. The  
44 Council can always request and we will submit a budget  
45 request and, you know, when the interest and concern  
46 for holding an additional meeting beyond the two  
47 regularly scheduled ones and bring that to the program.  
48 If you have recommendations for that or there's a  
49 particular need to address issues outside of those two  
50

1 meetings which is an option.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I always -- this is  
4 Gordon Brower. I always thought we should periodically  
5 meet in our villages. Last time we went to a different  
6 village was 2014 and that's a long time ago already and  
7 we heard a lot, a lot of comments. It's that in  
8 Anaktuvuk a very heartfelt testimony, public testimony  
9 from villages. We seldom go to those villages. I  
10 mean, I think we should do it every other year, go to a  
11 village every other year. Have to go. One of those,  
12 either the winter or fall meeting, one of them has to  
13 be in a village every other year just to get to hear  
14 from the outlying communities and systematically do all  
15 of our villages that way.

16

17 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Counsel,  
18 absolutely. And that has been an ongoing issue of  
19 great concern for this Council that more often than not  
20 the Council meets in Barrow due to budgetary  
21 restrictions. However the Council has brought it up in  
22 a couple annual reports to the Federal Subsistence  
23 Board to express that. Very critical matter of  
24 reaching out to all the communities in the region and  
25 to have that community feedback directly, you know,  
26 made a big difference being in Anaktuvuk Pass and being  
27 Nuiqsut and being able to meet and hear from the  
28 community. Even though the meetings are  
29 teleconference, it's a very, very difficult way for  
30 people to participate from the other villages.

31

32 And so each time and at the end of the  
33 meeting the Council, you know, selects a meeting date  
34 for the next two meetings and also a location. And  
35 each time the Council, you know, has requested, you  
36 know, Wainwright has been a real critical interest,  
37 Point Hope.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

40

41 MS. PATTON: .....interest to meet back  
42 in Kaktovik. So the Council is encouraged to request  
43 the community that you would think would be most urgent  
44 to meet in next and we submit that request along with a  
45 budget analysis. I would also recommend because you're  
46 expressing just how important that is, if -- you know,  
47 we've had it in the annual report, but if, you know, a  
48 separate letter of request to the Federal Subsistence  
49 Board (indiscernible - background noise) to support

50

1 that. And expressing, you know, the real concern and  
2 need for that.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think it's  
5 important and I think we should continue to advocate  
6 for those things. Maybe on scheduling of next meeting  
7 too we could discuss some of that.

8

9 With that agency reports, item 12. I  
10 know it's 5:00 o'clock and we were asked to stay here  
11 and keep working, right?

12

13 MS. PATTON: Well, Mr. Chair and  
14 Council, we have a couple things. We had -- so we had  
15 a couple things this evening that we thought would be  
16 nice to address today. We have folks here that have  
17 been working on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
18 Program research projects both on Chandler Lakes and  
19 maybe an opportunity to talk a little bit about ideas  
20 and plans for the Colville River grayling since that's  
21 the Nuiqsut region. And I think you had some fun video  
22 to go along with that. So we were hoping we could get  
23 that presentation tonight.

24

25 The other thing too is one of the  
26 things that is kind of hidden on the agenda, but it was  
27 under agency reports is apology from both the Federal  
28 manager, Fish and Wildlife Service and it was  
29 Commission Sam Cotton signed a letter of apology  
30 addressing the management of migratory birds to the  
31 communities. And we have both Steve Berendzen and Phil  
32 Perry. We're going to bring that to the Council and  
33 the community as well and that might be a nice  
34 opportunity to do that tonight. And Ernest Nageak also  
35 is here for the Barrow Field Office. So we were hoping  
36 maybe we could squeeze that in this evening if that  
37 works for those folks and for the Council to hear.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I've just got a  
40 question. Apology about migratory birds. And is that  
41 to this Council or to the general -- general public?

42

43 MS. PATTON: That was to the indigenous  
44 people of Alaska. But it is a very important issue I  
45 know for many on this Council and for this community  
46 and for the region and so had wanted to help bring that  
47 forward so that people are aware of it. We have the  
48 letters and, you know, some representatives from Fish  
49 and Wildlife Service and ADF&G that can address that.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You know, it's  
2 important to realize the affect of these things  
3 especially when a Federal agency is delivering  
4 something like that. I think it would be important in  
5 my -- because we're representative of the people and  
6 our limited dissemination in our pool of contacts, I  
7 would say who is delivering that, why don't you go see  
8 the mayor of the Borough and talk about that. And  
9 maybe perhaps do it at the Assembly where it's  
10 broadcasted throughout the North Slope. In some cases  
11 they'll hear it in Canada over here and other parts.  
12 Because things like that shouldn't be taken lightly,  
13 they should be taken with reference for the people that  
14 were affected.

15  
16 And that is -- yeah, I'd love to hear  
17 the apology for what it's worth. We heard a little  
18 bit, there were people that were around when hunger  
19 knows no law talk about our birds and the duck ins and  
20 things like that. And they're important because  
21 they're fought with the same voracity we fought for our  
22 rights to hunt the bowhead whale. And making sure our  
23 people can eat and provide that food on the table. I  
24 think that's -- I think it's that important.

25  
26 Ernest.

27  
28 MR. NAGEAK: Ernest Nageak, Barrow  
29 Field Office. We're just the beginning. It started  
30 off with the apology with the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-  
31 Management Council, now we're starting to go through  
32 Councils and we're trying to work with the Mayor's  
33 office and get on the -- this upcoming summer's  
34 festival to let the whole town know, the outlying  
35 villages that come up for the festival to hear this  
36 apology. So we're just bringing it out to -- you know,  
37 starting off with the Councils and, you know, starting  
38 that forgiving process to continue to work together.  
39 So we're working with the Mayor's office to try to get  
40 on the festival schedule to make it a North Slope wide  
41 apology.

42  
43 Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq)

46  
47 It's good to hear and that's my train  
48 of thought and you guys are -- you guys are on it, you  
49 know. By the way at (in Native) it's going to be  
50

1 Northwest Arctic Borough and it's going to be Canada  
2 and Greenland, who knows, you're going to have all  
3 kinds of representatives. (In Inupiaq) is that kind of  
4 event. So and this town will probably swell to almost  
5 double, who knows. But I think that's important.

6  
7 Thank you.

8  
9 Just it's good to hear that.

10  
11 So where are we now, we're agency  
12 reports? You guys got 15 minutes or less approved in  
13 advance.

14  
15 Tribal governments? We usually have  
16 Native village, ICS or any other tribal representatives  
17 sometimes give an agency report.

18  
19 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: William. Utqiagvik.

22  
23 MR. HOPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
24 I'd like to say a couple words from tribal governments.

25  
26 I am with Inupiaq Community of the  
27 Arctic Slope, I am the Vice President. I just wanted  
28 to comment on the apology on the birds. They're about  
29 50 years late. I was there in person. I was the  
30 youngest person ever to be cited for possession of a  
31 illegal water fowl. This apology is a little bit late.  
32 Out of 300 of us there's probably over 200 have passed  
33 on. And I'm not too sure how I'm going to react to  
34 this apology. It should have been done that day back  
35 then in 1963. But I will -- you know, they'll  
36 apologize to me. I will say thank you 50 years later  
37 after they do that. I was part of it so they're a  
38 little late.

39  
40 I don't know, we put them on the spot.  
41 There was a marshal in there, four guys standing room  
42 only in a cell. There's 300 of us. We brought our  
43 ducks, we had a pile of 300 ducks outside the jail. We  
44 actually had three pots of duckshoe boiling outside the  
45 jail door. Everybody was eating. And we waited to get  
46 arrested. Anyway it was close to lunch time when we  
47 did that and we knew Alaska has an old F27 that came  
48 once a week. Anyway we got worried, you know, why is  
49 he not going to arrest us. Well, we found out when we  
50

1 hear Alaska F27 landed the marshal crawled out the back  
2 window of the jail and ran to the airport and left town  
3 never to be seen again.

4

5 So anyway thanks for bringing that up.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Those are incredible  
8 accounts. It's good to hear some of these. And we're  
9 happy that you're still around and some of those that  
10 can express some of these things that, you know,  
11 indigenous people been suffering a long time. And I  
12 know that -- I don't know if they even apologize about  
13 shooting a lot of people up with iodine 131 back in the  
14 '50s. That's another story and seeing if we can glow  
15 in the dark or something. But those kind of things  
16 happened to Native people.

17

18 Anyway I'll leave it there.

19

20 (In Inupiaq) for tribal concerns.

21

22 I'm going to go down the list for  
23 Native organizations.

24

25 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,  
26 often we'll have others from ICAS here or the ICC  
27 group. We don't for this meeting this time, but we  
28 hope we'll have them for the fall meeting again.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We just  
33 keep going down the list, right?

34

35 MS. PATTON: Well, Mr. Chair and  
36 Council. So what we were hoping to do is we're just  
37 going to shake things up a little bit so we'll have the  
38 presentation on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
39 Program projects.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

42

43 MS. PATTON: He's got some good Power  
44 Point and some video even. And then after that then  
45 we'll address the apology letter if that works for the  
46 Council this evening.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So we're  
49 going to watch a Power Point, right, the screen going

50



1 to come down or.....

2

3 MR. SCANLON: For the record Brendan  
4 Scanlon, Department of Fish and Game. Mr. Chairman,  
5 Madame Coordinator, we need to just swap out the  
6 laptops because our video was not playing on the one  
7 that's currently hooked up. So we'll need just a  
8 couple minutes.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sure.

11

12 MR. SCANLON: .....and then we'll be  
13 ready to go in five minutes or so.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. So take a  
18 three minute break. For those that like to have a  
19 cigarette, it's your opportunity. I'm blessed that I  
20 haven't smoked in two years.

21

22 (Off record)

23

24 (On record)

25

26 MR. SCANLON: Mr. Chair, members of the  
27 Council. My name is Brendan Scanlon. I am the area  
28 management biologist for the Department of Fish and  
29 Game, Division of Sportfish. And today we're going to  
30 talk about three fisheries resource projects that were  
31 funded through OSM, the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
32 Program. The first one will be the results of the  
33 first three years out of a four year project looking at  
34 dolly varden char or I guess it's (in Native), is that  
35 correct? Is that good enough? And on five North Slope  
36 Rivers.

37

38 April Bear who is in -- back there in  
39 the DJ booth is a research biologist. She will be  
40 talking about the final results of a lake trout project  
41 we conducted on Chandler Lakes west of Anaktuvuk Pass.  
42 And then finally we'd just like to have some discussion  
43 this evening or tomorrow about the project beginning  
44 next year or I'm sorry this summer over on Colville  
45 grayling to look at -- Colville River to look at Arctic  
46 grayling principally for the people of Nuiqsut.

47

48 So I'll go ahead and get started with  
49 this one. For this project we are estimating the

50

1 abundance of dolly varden in five northern Alaska  
2 rivers. This project partially addresses a priority  
3 information need identified by the RAC in 2014 looking  
4 at overwintering, fidelity and abundance of fish on the  
5 North Slope.

6  
7 So dolly varden char are a very  
8 important resource for people on the North Slope  
9 particularly in the village of Kaktovik. And we don't  
10 have great harvest information, but we believe about  
11 10,000 fish a year are harvested. And this is the --  
12 mostly marine fishery so they're catching them in the  
13 marine waters right out in front of town so it's a  
14 mixed stock fishery. They're catching fish not from  
15 just the nearby Huluhulu River, but from several other  
16 rivers including some Canadian ones as well.

17  
18 So just to give you a little bit of  
19 information on their life history. Dolly varden are  
20 anadromous, they spawn and rear in freshwater. And  
21 when they turn about three to four years old they start  
22 to conduct annual migrations out to saltwater to feed.  
23 And unlike Pacific salmon they need to come back in to  
24 overwinter because they can't handle the super cold  
25 water that occurs in the Beaufort Sea in the wintertime  
26 where the ice locks up the available freshwater and the  
27 water underneath the ice can actually go below zero.

28  
29 When they're about seven they begin to  
30 spawn and they spawn only every other year once they  
31 become mature and they get to be about 15. And we know  
32 that particularly from western Alaska tagging studies  
33 that these fish can travel long ways. In fact some  
34 tagged fish from the Wulik River have been recovered in  
35 St. Lawrence Island, Unalakleet and in Russia.

36  
37 So just give you a little background.  
38 The dolly varden on the North Slope spawn and  
39 overwinter in upwelling springs. And these springs as  
40 the winter goes on the available fresh liquid water  
41 that's available for overwintering gets smaller and  
42 smaller and these fish become quite concentrated in  
43 several areas. The streams that are known to support  
44 significant populations are the Ivishak, the Kongakut,  
45 Huluhulu, Canning and Anaktuvuk Rivers. There's are a  
46 couple others that aren't as important like the Jago  
47 get some occasionally, so does the Kavik.

48  
49 Aerial surveys started around pipeline  
50

1 days in 1971, but it's been really sporadic and none  
2 have been done since 2008. And because of the  
3 importance of these fish and in addition to being named  
4 a priority information need we decided we would like to  
5 try to do these surveys again. So this is a four year  
6 project.

7  
8 Here's what we think we know. There's  
9 about 50 to 100,000 dolly varden and this is a spawning  
10 age fish, so these are fish seven and over. Most fish  
11 spawn and overwinter in the same river. They all spawn  
12 in their Native streams, but in years they don't spawn  
13 they can overwinter in different streams. Dollys from  
14 the Canadian rivers, the Firth, the Babbage and the  
15 Rath, have been caught in Alaskan marine waters in the  
16 summertime. And there's almost no dolly varden found  
17 between Barrow and Point Hope. It's kind of a --  
18 little bit of freshwater fish desert. The streams are  
19 really small, a lot of them dry up completely in the  
20 summertime.

21  
22 So the objective for this project was  
23 to conduct a single aerial survey count with a mid  
24 September overwintering of dollys in these five  
25 streams. The mid September component is important.  
26 Dolly varden that aren't spawning, that are out in the  
27 sea feeding will stay out as long as they can to  
28 maximize their groceries. And so the later you go  
29 before freeze up the more you're going to count.

30  
31 Okay. So aerial surveys have some good  
32 and bad. We'll start with some good. They're pretty  
33 useful for indicators of relative abundance. So if you  
34 just want to know if there's a lot of fish or not very  
35 many these surveys are good for that. And it is  
36 expensive to rent a helicopter, but it is actually  
37 quite a bit less than it would be to send a crew of six  
38 to eight people out to do a big tagging study or to run  
39 the sonar for four months.

40  
41 On the North Slope fish diversity is  
42 low, rivers are clear and typically shallow and there's  
43 very little overhanging vegetation to disrupt your  
44 counts. And your data's available right away, you  
45 don't have to go back and analyze it. By the time you  
46 land you have a good idea of what you just saw.

47  
48 So the bad is it's dependent on  
49 favorable weather and water conditions for flying and  
50

1 for seeing the fish. And there's information that  
2 shows that as the number of fish increases the ability  
3 to count them decreases. So the more there are the  
4 more you're going to under count what is there. You  
5 really would like to have a long time series to look  
6 for trends and variability. Since you don't handle any  
7 fish you don't get any information on age, sex, length  
8 or fish condition. And it can be just a little spooky  
9 doing low level flights in the Arctic in the winter  
10 going sideways.

11  
12 Okay. So we based out of Happy Valley,  
13 at the -- it's on the banks of the Sagavanirktok River  
14 along the Dalton Highway. Fish and Game has a camp  
15 there and we're able to use fuel from the State  
16 Troopers' storage facility. These are the five rivers  
17 in the study areas. These are areas -- these study  
18 areas are the known locations of overwintering fish,  
19 there's available water, they range in length from 31  
20 to 70 kilometers.

21  
22 Okay. For our method. So we're going  
23 to take a step back and talk about a project that was  
24 funded by the FRMP in early 2000s where we did a  
25 concurrent mark recapture tagging project to estimate  
26 abundance and also conducted aerial surveys. The  
27 purpose of this project was to see how well the aerial  
28 surveys counted what was there. And so the person who  
29 flew the aerial surveys did not know what the results  
30 of the mark recapture project estimate was. However  
31 each survey counted about 22 to 26 percent of what the  
32 estimate of abundance truly was. So these surveys, we  
33 only count about a fourth of what's there.

34  
35 And so for this project we multiplied  
36 our counts by four to stay consistent with this project  
37 to get a truer idea of what is there. They're  
38 conducted in these established overwintering areas, we  
39 know right where to go and there's just one observer  
40 per study. So there's no bias.

41  
42 All right. So we're using a R44 Raven.  
43 We've had two different pilots, both of them are  
44 experienced in fish counts. They do this in other  
45 parts of the State. It's really pretty simple once you  
46 get the chopper you just need some good sunglasses and  
47 a digital voice recorder. You want to conduct these  
48 counts at a time when the sun is at its peak and we  
49 have just an easy condition scale of one to three to  
50

1 evaluate the weather and the water conditions. And  
2 these flights are conducted upstream going -- should be  
3 going down for best conditions. Since these streams  
4 all flow almost due north you want the sun behind you  
5 instead of in your face.  
6

7 So this is what optimal conditions look  
8 like. It's obviously pretty late in the year, there's  
9 snow on the ground, water's low, there's no chop and  
10 there's no ice, weather's good.  
11

12 So for me when I started doing these I  
13 started out over on the Wulik River as part of a  
14 contract the Department has with Red Dog Mine to  
15 monitor the water and the fish. And so I was able to  
16 take some pictures in the Wulik River and I was able to  
17 look for patterns. So the first -- this small group of  
18 fish that's kind of off by itself in real shallow  
19 water, we know from netting that a lot of times that  
20 just a little group of Arctic grayling so I'm going to  
21 ignore those all together. And then you start to get  
22 an idea of what a group of 10 fish looks like and 20  
23 fish and 50 fish and a hundred fish. And in this  
24 slide, I didn't count them all, but I think there's  
25 somewhere between 2,500 and 3,000 fish.  
26

27 Okay. So here are our results so far.  
28 So we really wanted to try to get all five rivers. We  
29 realized that with the weather it was probably going to  
30 be unlikely that we would get all five every year. And  
31 we were able to do the Ivishak in all three years, the  
32 Canning in two years, one year we got the Huluhulu, one  
33 year we got the Anaktuvuk. The Kongakut is far and  
34 away the most distant from Happy Valley, it's kind of  
35 challenging to time it with the weather and also fuel.  
36

37 And so the asterisks are surveys  
38 conducted under poor counting conditions and the  
39 numbers in the parentheses are the extrapolations. So  
40 it's the count just multiplied by four. So the top  
41 number is what we counted, the bottom number is what's  
42 probably really there. 2016 the water quality was  
43 really poor on the Ivishak and Canning due to turbidity  
44 coming from springs in the tributary streams. It's  
45 pretty alarming stuff, I have some photos and some  
46 video to show afterwards. And also the water and air  
47 temperatures were warm, it was getting up in the low  
48 50s during the day and the water was so warm. So there  
49 was likely a lot of fish still out in the ocean that  
50

1 hadn't moved up into the overwintering areas yet. So  
2 those counts were probably fairly low. 2017 the water  
3 had cleared up a bunch in the Ivishak, that was  
4 encouraging. However our pilot never made at Atigun  
5 Pass. However we were lucky enough there was a BBC  
6 film crew camped out across the street filming Survivor  
7 Man TV show with Les Strout. And for letting them  
8 borrow one of our generators they let us a borrow a  
9 helicopter for a few hours. So we were able to get the  
10 Ivishak count done. 2018 the timing was good for  
11 weather and water, however the Ivishak clouded back up  
12 and so did the Canning. The Anaktuvuk River, this is  
13 the first time I'd been over there, was a lot of fish.  
14 And this is just the number that was in the study area.  
15 There's also a lot of fish that were still outside the  
16 study area. It's a big river, it looks like a good  
17 place. There was quite a few salmon in there too. I  
18 saw lots of ones and two of chum and sockeye salmon,  
19 but I did see one group of about 60 chum salmon at the  
20 mouth of the Telugu River, looks like there was a  
21 spawning group there.

22  
23 Some of you may have seen this picture  
24 before. This is the top of the study area on the  
25 Ivishak River and coming in off to the left is a  
26 tributary called the Saviukviak (ph) and at the top of  
27 that river there's some iron colored water coming out  
28 of -- just bubbling out of the ground. And it  
29 encompassed most of the study area. This is the very  
30 top of the study area like I said.

31  
32 If you look over -- if you can see  
33 those little dots in the side channel, those are  
34 spawning reds so those were that had been laying some  
35 eggs.

36  
37 This is further up the Saviukviak River  
38 near the source of the turbidity. This is even closer.  
39 It's pretty dramatic stuff. It's kind of milky blue  
40 here and as it goes down it oxidizes and changes to  
41 more of that orange color. And one thing I was not  
42 prepared to see this the first year I was up there,  
43 2016, so we were -- did not have any water quality  
44 sampling equipment with us. However, April, who's in  
45 the booth went back up shortly after we were done and  
46 collected some water and took some water measurements  
47 there. And she found that the pH in this stretch is  
48 low, the conductivity is high, the concentration of  
49 iron is really, really high and the fish probably  
50

1 really don't like this.

2

3

4 All right. So this is some drone  
5 footage we took showing how dramatic it is. So that's  
6 the plume coming out of the Saviukviak. So I'm not a  
7 hydrologist, but I spoke to the Water Resource Center  
8 at University of Alaska and we talked about this a  
9 little bit. They said it's actually fairly common and  
10 they told me to be careful about attributing this to  
11 climate change. It's more likely that it's just a  
12 spring that became overcharged and basically just had  
13 to leak out. But it may do this for several years.

13

14

15 There's groups of fish just outside  
16 these plumes. It's hard to tell in this shot, but  
17 there's a whole bunch stacked up along the bank over  
18 there and that little black is a group of fish right  
19 there as well. I can't see in the plume to see if  
20 there's fish in there. I doubt that there is. So you  
21 can see just outside there's this -- two small groups  
22 of fish.

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39 The University was concerned about this  
40 as well. They went up in the wintertime to see if the  
41 water was the same color in the winter and it is not.  
42 Thankfully it locks up in the winter. The rocks are  
43 still stained, but the water runs clear.

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69 So some of the concerns I have are that  
70 there may be some changes to the dolly varden  
71 population, but we may not see it for several years.  
72 The effect of this may be that it makes very poor  
73 recruitment of dollies. So they lay their eggs in these  
74 areas and they just become silted over with this stuff.  
75 There's an analogous situation over on the Selawik  
76 River where a thaw slump, a whole cliff side fell into  
77 the water above the sheefish spawning grounds and  
78 there's been very little recruitment of sheefish since  
79 then.

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94 And this is just some cool underwater  
95 fish footage. I don't have much to say here, but now  
96 would be a good time to take any questions if you have  
97 any.

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106 Thank you.

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114 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You said something to  
115 the effect about sheefish. Just interested to hear a

1 little bit about that.

2

3

MR. SCANLON: Sure.

4

5

CHAIRMAN BROWER: My father used to be geodetic surveys in the '40s and then '50s and roaming around. And he talked about areas with sheefish in them too up on the North Slope.

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MR. SCANLON: Thank you. So the example I was thinking of was over on the Selawik River near the village of Selawik. It's a very important sheefish river and it runs parallel to the Kobuk which is also an important sheefish river. In 2004 I believe it was a whole cliff thawed and fell into the river about 20 miles upstream of all the sheefish spawning area. And so and it got bigger over time and leached this way for years. It has since moved far enough off the river to where the water's cleared up. But there's sheefish abundance studies going on in the Kobuk that Fish and Game is running and some going on on the Selawik that Fish and Wildlife Service is running. And what we found is there's large numbers of spawners in both rivers right now, but there's almost no fish in the Selawik that were born after the thaw slump. So there's lots of really, really big old fish, nothing really coming up after that. On the Kobuk it's not that case. The water hasn't had that kind of thaw slump action and there's lots of fish and there's also lots of age groups coming up behind.

So that's kind of a useful control to show us that the effect of the thaw slump in the Selawik is real. The water's cleared up now so hopefully they'll be able to recover, but I'm a little concerned about the Selawik because they are fished on in the wintertime primarily as they mix with the Kobuk sheefish is Hathin (ph) Inlet. There was a small commercial fishery going for a while. I'm going to try to stop that as best I can. But hopefully they recover from that. So we may not see the effects on the fish in the Ivishak and the Canning Rivers for a while, but concern that there by some notable affects on abundance in the future.

Thanks.

MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, I was kind of surprised when you said, you know, Point Hope. We rely



1 on the dolly varden or the char. I've fished the  
2 majority of my life and, you know, we usually get them  
3 in August to late -- early September when they're  
4 coming back where they're on the north side or the  
5 south side and they will follow -- they go right to the  
6 edge of the beach and we can average 10 to 15 sacks a  
7 night if, you know, we fish all night long. But, you  
8 know, throughout the '60s, '70s and '80s they were in  
9 abundance in our area then in the '90s and 2000s we saw  
10 a shortfall. We didn't see them as much or get them as  
11 much like we used to. But seemed like today they're  
12 starting to come back more and more. It's a delicacy  
13 in Point Hope. We call them char or dolly varden.  
14 But, you know, and some of them they do look like  
15 salmon, you know. But it is a delicacy for the people  
16 of Point Hope, the Arctic char and dolly varden.

17  
18 MR. SCANLON: Sure. Thank you. And I  
19 should have been clear about that. I realize that the  
20 Kukpuk River right there at Point Hope does have fish.  
21 I was just using that as a boundary. But we have  
22 actually had tagged fish from the Noatak be recaptured  
23 in the Kukpuk River. So I've never been there myself,  
24 but I believe you're right. There's actually a decent  
25 number there. But between that and Barrow I don't  
26 think there's very many.

27  
28 But, thanks. I didn't know that.  
29 Okay. Thank you.

30  
31 Next up April Bear's going to talk  
32 about lake trout on Chandler Lakes.

33  
34 MS. BEAR: Thank you Brendan, Mr.  
35 Chair, members of the Board. April Bear, I'm a  
36 biologist with Fish and Game in Fairbanks. And I  
37 wanted to give you an update on Chandler Lakes Lake  
38 Trout Assessment project. The biologist who did this  
39 project is actually out on another lake trout project  
40 right now so I'm giving you guys an update for him.

41  
42 This was an OSM Fisheries Resource  
43 Monitoring Program study conducted by us. As you know  
44 it was a two year study that occurred in July, 2017 and  
45 '18 to address the 2016 priority information need  
46 documentation of longevity and abundance of lake trout  
47 in the upper Anaktuvuk River drainage. And of which  
48 the Chandler Lakes system is the biggest and supports  
49 the largest subsistence fishery for Anaktuvuk Pass.  
50

1                   So I just want to give you -- it's my  
2 understanding that you already had an update of this  
3 last year so I'll try to be brief. I want to give you  
4 an overview of our objectives, methods, results,  
5 conclusions and then a couple questions that we still  
6 had after this research.

7  
8                   So to start out a little bit about lake  
9 trout. They're really slow growing, long lived as you  
10 guys probably already know. They have very specific  
11 habitat requirements. They like deep oligotrophic or  
12 nutrient poor lakes. They mature really late or  
13 relatively late and they don't spawn necessarily every  
14 year which makes them a prime candidate for over  
15 harvest or potentially.

16  
17                   Chandler Lakes is situated there in the  
18 Brooks Range, is about 25 miles west of Anaktuvuk Pass.  
19 And it drains into the upper Colville River drainage.

20  
21                   We had three objectives for this  
22 project, to estimate the number of catchable size lake  
23 trout in both of the lakes combined, estimate the  
24 length composition of the population and then the  
25 sustainable harvest. And then we also had a secondary  
26 objective to contribute to an existing US Geological  
27 Service or Fish and Wildlife Service kind of like  
28 length, age, data set. And we wanted to get more  
29 information for that data set.

30  
31                   So to estimate abundance and the length  
32 composition we conducted a two event mark recapture  
33 experiment. During 2017 we captured, measured and  
34 tagged lake trout and then we went back in 2018,  
35 captured fish again and examined them for tags and we  
36 were able to estimate abundance based on the proportion  
37 of tagged fish in our catch.

38  
39                   For objective three to estimate  
40 sustainable harvest we use a -- it's a model, a lake  
41 area model. I'll talk about that in a little more  
42 detail in a little bit. But basically this model  
43 allows us to estimate sustainable harvest using the  
44 surface area of a lake and fish weight. So we had to  
45 weigh our fish in 2017.

46  
47                   And then lastly for that secondary  
48 objective we asked the subsistence fishers from  
49 Anaktuvuk Pass to collect the heads from their  
50

1 subsistence catch so we could extract small bones from  
2 the heads of those fish and those bones were used to  
3 determine age. Basically rings are laid down on this  
4 bone called an otolith and you can count them just like  
5 a tree ring.

6  
7 So for every fish we recorded date,  
8 time, gear type, the general location where the fish  
9 was captured, length, weight of every other fish, tag  
10 number and fish condition.

11  
12 We sampled in the spring right after  
13 ice out during both events and these boats were really  
14 important for the success of this project because we  
15 primarily trolled. And we trolled with a lot of gear  
16 in the water. And we also fished from shore.

17  
18 And the second most important  
19 ingredient of this project was this floy tag or an  
20 individually numbered tag set. It's a benign tag set  
21 in the muscular beneath the dorsal fin. And that  
22 allowed us to uniquely identify the fish we captured.

23  
24 This is a picture of how we measured  
25 the fish, this is the project leader on the left there.  
26 You notice he has scissors in his hand. This was just  
27 to give the fish a secondary fin clip so in case that  
28 tag fell out we were still able to identify the fish.

29  
30 So if anybody catches a tagged fish  
31 from Chandler Lakes system or any tagged fish for that  
32 matter, if you write down the tag number and color  
33 there should be contact information on that tag too and  
34 then we can tell you how much the fish grew or where it  
35 was originally tagged.

36  
37 We normally had a crew of about five to  
38 six people during each sampling event, a gigantic pile  
39 of gear. We had a nice camp on the north end of the  
40 lake. You'll notice this centralized kind of larger  
41 tent, that was like our cook tent. And it was a  
42 lifesaver on days like this when the weather was really  
43 terrible. And we got some of -- a pretty wide range of  
44 fish, some small ones and some pretty big ones. I  
45 believe this is our ANSEP student from 2017. I believe  
46 he gave you the update last year. We also caught very  
47 nice size grayling and char.

48  
49 But back to lake trout. So for some  
50

1 results. In 2017 we captured and measured 603 unique  
2 fish and weighed 207 or 273 of those fish to estimate  
3 sustainable yield from both lakes. And then again in  
4 2018 we went back and we caught 700 lake trout. And of  
5 those 700 65 of those had tags. And you'll notice that  
6 a lot of these dots are -- these are capture location  
7 and you'll notice they're kind of oriented towards the  
8 shore, but we put a significant amount of effort  
9 throughout the entire lake, we didn't just fish the  
10 shoreline. That's just where most of the fish were  
11 hanging out and we caught fish.

12  
13 So looking at just catchable size fish  
14 and for this project that's a fish that's greater than  
15 or equal to about 19 inches in total length. That's  
16 where our data was strongest. We had about 546 fish of  
17 this size during the first event, 636 during the second  
18 event and 62 of which were recaps. So that gave us an  
19 abundance of about 5,700 fish. And 95 percent  
20 confidence interval of 4,400 to 7,100.

21  
22 So to put just these catches and  
23 numbers in perspective, sometimes lake trout are really  
24 hard to catch as many of you know. So the biologist  
25 who did this project he really got phenomenal catch  
26 rates, he's quite good at this.

27  
28 Looking at the length composition, we  
29 estimated the length composition for catchable size  
30 fish and 55 percent of the population was between 21  
31 and 23 inches. And you'll also notice this right-hand  
32 tail of these larger fish.

33  
34 Moving on to sustainable harvest, that  
35 lake area model I mentioned. So the lake area model  
36 was developed using Limnologica characteristics that  
37 are related to lake surface area along with some  
38 detailed stock assessment information from the  
39 Fisheries Division of Ontario Ministry of Natural  
40 Resources, but basically this model allows us to  
41 predict sustainable harvest based on a lake surface  
42 area. So for Chandler and Little Chandler Lake  
43 combined, they're about 4,000 acres and the model tells  
44 us that about 1,800 pounds can be removed annually.  
45 And using the weights we measured in 2017, that's about  
46 400 lake trout. So this is a very conservative  
47 estimate of annual yield and it's not a maximum  
48 sustainable yield.

49  
50

1                   So what is harvest. So subsistence  
2 harvest is not estimated annually, but two recent  
3 household surveys from Anaktuvuk Pass have been  
4 conducted, one in 2011 and another in 2014. And these  
5 surveys are just for area lakes, not specific lakes, so  
6 this isn't just Chandler Lakes. But harvest range from  
7 500 to 900 fish.

8  
9                   And lastly that length, age data set  
10 that we wanted to contribute to, otoliths were  
11 collected from 50 fish with paired length information.  
12 And those fish were six to 47 years old. So that's a  
13 pretty old fish. So what this tells you based on the  
14 -- or tells us based on these results that high density  
15 of lake trout in Little Chandler and Big Chandler and  
16 that presence of the larger, older fish, this project  
17 is supporting the current level of harvest just fine  
18 and it's healthy.

19  
20                   So we still had kind of two remaining  
21 questions after this project. One was we really don't  
22 -- one missing piece of the puzzle is that we really  
23 don't know like what percentage of that subsistence  
24 harvest does come from Chandler Lakes and that would be  
25 interesting to know.

26  
27                   Another question that we had is do lake  
28 trout drop out into the river during summer. And if  
29 this is the case -- so for instance some kind of like  
30 telemetry project could get at that question. And if  
31 this is the case that fish could drop out into the  
32 river we know they're caught in the Colville, maybe  
33 they go back up into Chandler Lakes to overwinter, then  
34 the population could be potentially larger than what we  
35 saw.

36  
37                   So that's all I had for the Chandler  
38 Lakes update. And I do have a short video. But I have  
39 to play it separately. I'll just play it in the  
40 background.

41  
42                   And I'd be happy to answer any  
43 questions.

44  
45                   And we were able to get permission to  
46 use a drone out there and this just gives you an idea  
47 of our sampling and it's just -- it's a really special  
48 place.

49  
50

1 MR. OOMITTUK: You know, just out of  
2 curiosity, was there any sort of contaminants found in  
3 any of these lakes or, you know, with the abundance of  
4 earthquakes in that area, you know, and everything. We  
5 notice in our area that we have some lakes that are  
6 going dry. Are there any lakes -- you know, we seen  
7 abundance of earthquakes or little tremors or whatever,  
8 has there been affect on the lakes or anything that you  
9 noticed?

10  
11 MS. BEAR: Not that I can speak to. I  
12 don't know of any research that's looked at that or if  
13 anybody has looked at contaminants in this area. But  
14 I'd be happy to ask some questions and try to find out.

15  
16 Yeah, so just a little bit of footage  
17 of us at the lake. This is actually on the north end  
18 of the lake, the inlet. Fish were feeding on something  
19 dropping out of that creek. We had pretty good luck  
20 there. This is actually the outlet of Little Chandler  
21 Lake and we caught some of our largest fish here. So  
22 that kind of spurred the question, you know, are these  
23 fish dropping out of the -- can they drop out of the  
24 lake to feed which this would indicate maybe they do.

25  
26 Well, thank you very much for having  
27 me.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Making me  
30 hungry.

31  
32 (Laughter)

33  
34 MS. BEAR: So as Brendan mentioned we  
35 also have an upcoming OSM project to discuss the  
36 priority information need of baseline information  
37 including abundance, distribution, movements and health  
38 of Arctic grayling in the lower Colville River and its  
39 tributaries. And I think it's -- we're looking at  
40 habitat -- seasonal habitat and migrations of grayling  
41 in the lower river relative to the Nuiqsut subsistence  
42 fishery. So we plan to tag fish around Umiat in July  
43 and then potentially Nuiqsut in the fall. And so we  
44 were really hoping to get some input from you guys  
45 about timing and fishing around Nuiqsut. Maybe the  
46 size range of fish that we could expect. We have a --  
47 we can only tag down to a certain size so we need a  
48 fairly large fish to tag.

49  
50

1 So I have a handout on the table here  
2 with that project biologist contact information. So,  
3 yeah, if anybody has suggestions for us we'd really  
4 appreciate it. We would like to hire someone to help  
5 us out in Nuiqsut and we realize there's been a lot of  
6 concern about air traffic and so we want input on that  
7 too like time and areas to avoid. So again phone  
8 number's on here and, yeah, let us know.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, I  
13 believe both you and Brendan will be here tomorrow as  
14 well. And so if you want to take that with you tonight  
15 and, you know, if you think of questions or issues that  
16 they should be aware of then we have time this evening  
17 too while we're eating dinner or tomorrow. And that  
18 would be a great opportunity to provide feedback from  
19 Nuiqsut. And then I believe you were also planning to  
20 reach out to the tribe this spring as well looking at  
21 setting up a meeting with the community too.

22

23 MS. BEAR: Yes.

24

25 MS. PATTON: Thank you. And we do have  
26 a video that was developed addressing the migratory  
27 bird apology letter. And we thought it would be nice  
28 to start with an introduction to that with a video for  
29 the Council and then again we have representatives from  
30 both Fish and Wildlife and ADF&G. We'll provide you  
31 with copies of that actual letter and review that  
32 letter for the Council.

33

34 But if you like we could start with the  
35 video and people speaking in their own words. So we  
36 can go ahead and play.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 (Video played for Council)

41

42 MS. PATTON: Yes, I -- my apologies. I  
43 think the internet isn't going to be able to play this  
44 well enough. We had the video downloaded. So if you  
45 can push pause.

46

47 So my apologies, Council. The video  
48 didn't download to play correctly off the computer so  
49 we were able to stream it so it would play clearly.

50

1 And I don't think we have the internet capacity to play  
2 that video smoothly here. We can try again tonight to  
3 see if we have another way to get that downloaded so  
4 the file will play correctly on our computer. I know  
5 the video was a very important part in the heartfelt  
6 apology.

7

8

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

9

10 MS. PATTON: And we do have the letters  
11 for the Council if -- as you wish, if you'd like to  
12 address the letter tonight and we can try to download  
13 that video to get it to play correctly in the morning.  
14 And I'll check with our folks that are here now as  
15 well.

16

17

18

19

20

Okay. My apologies for that. We seem  
to have some firewalls in our computers that don't  
allow the download to function properly.

21

22

23

24

We did have -- I think Orville was  
ready to address tribal consultation this evening too.  
Do you want to address that if we're not getting to the  
letter or would you like to do that tomorrow?

25

26

27

MR. LIND: I think we should do it  
tomorrow. I think we're almost ready to.....

28

29

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33

MS. PATTON: Okay. All right. Well,  
we'll give it a try again tonight, see if we can find a  
work around on these government computers. And thank  
you so much. Yeah, it's a very heartfelt video so we'd  
like to see that properly.

34

35

36

37

And I think we have dinner ready soon.  
Let the Council gather so we can recess and eat some  
food.

38

39

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41

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Madame  
Coordinator, on our agenda on agency reports, are we  
past that now or do we have additional agency reports?

42

43

44

45

46

47

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,  
there are still quite a few agency reports to come, but  
we have tomorrow as well. So we will try again to see  
if we can get the video to download correctly so it'll  
play well for the Council.....

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We.....



1 MS. PATTON: .....and address that in  
2 the morning.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.  
5  
6 MS. PATTON: And then we will revisit  
7 the Council's recommendation on the special action --  
8 or not the special action request, the closure review  
9 in the morning and any other proposals if those arise  
10 for the Council. And then we do have the general  
11 agency reports for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the  
12 Barrow Field Office, we have BLM, a very comprehensive  
13 report from BLM and both the manager and biologist for  
14 BLM. Marcy Okada is joining us on teleconference for  
15 Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve update.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. So what I'm  
18 thinking now is that the remainder of agency reports,  
19 we'll entertain those tomorrow morning.....  
20  
21 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....and I think the  
24 letter was going to be circulated to us before we  
25 adjourn.  
26  
27 MS. PATTON: And then we'll address  
28 that tomorrow morning with the.....  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.  
31  
32 MS. PATTON: .....with the video.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we can take it  
35 home and digest it.  
36  
37 MS. PATTON: Yes, that would be  
38 wonderful. And I'll hand that out to the Council now.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And then once we do  
41 that we can recess until tomorrow and have our -- I can  
42 smell food, I can smell food all right.  
43  
44 And once that letter's passed out we  
45 can recess and have our potluck.  
46  
47 MS. PATTON: Absolutely. Time to eat.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Well, I  
50

1 think we should entertain a motion to recess until  
2 tomorrow so we can grab a bite. And for those that  
3 want to grab a bite and reconvene in the morning.

4

5 MS. PATTON: Yes.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We can take this  
8 home, digest it and I guess there are larger picture  
9 for the apology coming looks like at (in Native). I  
10 think that's going to be awesome.

11

12 (In Inupiaq) you guys want to recess.

13

14 MS. KIPPI: I so move to recess and to  
15 adjourn to restart in the morning.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on  
18 the floor to adjourn for tomorrow.

19

20 MR. HOPSON: Seconded.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded.

23

24 MS. ITTA: Call for question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been  
27 called for. All those in favor of adjourning for today  
28 signify by saying aye.

29

30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say  
33 nay.

34

35 (No opposing votes)

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The ayes have it.  
38 Let's have some munchies.

39

40 (Off record)

41

42 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
 ) ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through \_\_\_\_\_ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 3rd day of April in Utqiagvik, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 20th day of April 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22