

NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Inupiat Heritage Center  
Utqiagvik, Alaska  
November 15, 2017  
9:11 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gordon Brower, Chair  
Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak  
Esther S. Hugo  
Lee Kayotuk  
Wanda T. Kippi  
Steve Oomituk  
Robert Shears

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 - 11/15/2017)

4

5

(On record)

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's after 9:00 o'clock and we should get started. I'd like to see if anybody wants to volunteer to do an invocation. And if not, I'll do it.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good.

Lord, we come to you today with the work for the people of North Slope to look at the lands and the resources that are abundant for the benefit of all the residents on the North Slope, whether it be fish, caribou, all the fur bearing animals, Lord. Those folks that are here to listen, to provide guidance. And Lord, we look to them, too, as well to provide good information and to help us as we deliberate the day's work and decide these things that would be beneficial for the residents. And Lord, for those that have lost their loved ones we pray for comfort and peace of mind and healing in their hearts. Those that are in jail or incarcerated, Lord, just be with them and give them peace of mind and help those as well.

And Lord, as the holidays come forward that all these resources that are abundant on the North Slope that are shared with every community member, Lord, we continue to look at these things in a way that is healthy for our communities, to provide community needs, and Lord, to make the understanding of all of these land managers to subsistence management that the needs of the people under sustain yield principles be understood well and to provide for our communities.

We ask all of these things in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

With that, I'd like to call the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m. We're a little bit late. And I'd like to have the roll call and to establish a

1 quorum done by the secretary. And if we could have  
2 that to get the meeting going.  
3  
4 Is that Lee.  
5  
6 MS. PATTON: It's Wanda now.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, Wanda. Oh, yeah.  
9 We had elections, right. I apologize.  
10  
11 MS. KIPPI: Good morning, everybody.  
12 Okay. For the North Slope Subsistence Regional  
13 Advisory Council, Gordon Brower.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here. Here.  
16  
17 MS. KIPPI: From Barrow. Robert Shears  
18 from Barrow.  
19  
20 MR. SHEARS: Good morning.  
21  
22 MS. KIPPI: Good morning.  
23  
24 Wanda Kippi, Atqasuk, here.  
25  
26 Steve Oomituk, Point Hope.  
27  
28 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
29 Steve is in Anchorage with his mother today, but he was  
30 hoping to call in by teleconference this afternoon when  
31 we're covering caribou proposals.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Eva. He did  
34 tell me that he would make an effort to call in as  
35 well. He was here yesterday for assembly meeting, but  
36 had to take a.....  
37  
38 MS. PATTON: Yeah. Okay.  
39  
40 MS. KIPPI: Ester Hugo, Anaktuvuk Pass.  
41  
42 MS. PATTON: And Mr. Chair and Council.  
43 Ester Hugo is going to be arriving later this morning  
44 and join this afternoon. She's currently at the Gates  
45 of the Arctic SRC meeting, which is overlapping. So  
46 she'll be coming up from Fairbanks this morning to join  
47 us this afternoon.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I am glad she's doing  
50

1 that part. Thank you.  
2  
3 MS. KIPPI: Lee Kayotuk, from Kaktovik.  
4  
5 MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning. I'm here.  
6  
7 MS. KIPPI: And Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak,  
8 Nuiqsut.  
9  
10 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Here.  
11  
12 MS. KIPPI: My pen's not working.  
13 Something else?  
14  
15 MS. PATTON: Technical difficulties  
16 there.  
17  
18 MS. KIPPI: That's all I have to say?  
19 Just.....  
20  
21 MS. PATTON: Yeah. That's it.  
22  
23 MS. KIPPI: That's it?  
24  
25 MS. PATTON: So we have a quorum.  
26  
27 MS. KIPPI: Yes. We have a quorum.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Madame  
30 Secretary. Thank you very much.  
31  
32 And Eva, it looks like we can conduct  
33 business.  
34  
35 I must advise as well I'm a director  
36 for the planning and community services and yesterday  
37 the election was canvassed. And we don't know exactly  
38 what's going to happen today, so there's a director's  
39 meeting and I -- that I would have to scurry away about  
40 10:00 o'clock for a little while. I expect to return  
41 soon after the director's meeting with the newly  
42 elected reelection of Harry Brower. And I'm one of his  
43 appointed directors, so I'm -- about 10:00 o'clock I'll  
44 need to go take care of that. I expect to be about  
45 11:00 o'clock, 11:30-ish. And I should be able to come  
46 right back. Very important to me that I be here at  
47 present, but also this important aspect of my dual  
48 roles around these communities that I need to do that.  
49 And I'd like to be able to be excused to accomplish  
50

1 that.

2

3 So we have a quorum. And welcome and  
4 introductions. So let's start off with Eva and then go  
5 around this way. And then we'll get the folks here  
6 present to introduce themselves.

7

8 I think it's real good to do that.

9

10 MS. PATTON: Good morning. Eva Patton,  
11 Council Coordinator for the North Slope Subsistence  
12 Regional Advisory Council. Good to see everyone.

13

14 MS. KIPPI: Good morning, everybody.  
15 Wanda Kippi, with the North Slope Subsistence Regional  
16 Advisory Council, from Atqasuk.

17

18 MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning. Lee  
19 Kayotuk, Kaktovik, Alaska. Good morning.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq)

22

23 Good morning, everybody. Gordon  
24 Brower, from Barrow.

25

26 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Rosemary  
27 Ahtuanguaruak, Nuiqsut.

28

29 MR. SHEARS: Good morning, everybody.  
30 Bob Shears, Barrow.

31

32 REPORTER: My name is Tina, and I'm the  
33 court reporter for this RAC today.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. If you  
36 guys can come to the mic. Don't run up there all at  
37 once though.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Good morning. This is  
42 Megan Klosterman, wildlife biologist with the Office of  
43 Subsistence Management.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Welcome, Megan.

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: Vince Mathews, Refuge  
48 Subsistence Coordinator for Arctic, Kanuti and Yukon  
49 Flats, out of Fairbanks.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Vince.  
2  
3 MR. MATHEWS: Good morning.  
4  
5 MR. TWITCHELL: Good morning, Chair,  
6 Council. Hollis Twitchell. I'm the assistant manager  
7 for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Hollis.  
10  
11 MR. EVANS: Good morning. My name is  
12 Tom Evans. I'm a wildlife biologist for the North  
13 Slope, Southcentral, and the Kodiak/Aleutians  
14 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils.  
15  
16 Thank you.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom.  
19  
20 MR. KLIMSTRA: Good morning. Ryan  
21 Klimstra, with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.  
22  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq) Ryan.  
25 Good to see you again.  
26  
27 MR. KLIMSTRA: Good to see you, too,  
28 Gordon.  
29  
30 MR. JOHNSON: Good morning, Mr. Chair,  
31 members of the Council. Carl Johnson. I'm the council  
32 coordination division chief with OSM. And good to see  
33 you all again. The last time I saw you was when you  
34 were in Anaktuvuk.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Carl.  
37 Good to see you.  
38  
39 MR. REAM: Good morning. My name is  
40 Joshua Ream. I'm an anthropologist for the North  
41 Slope, the Northwest Arctic, and the Seward Peninsula,  
42 through the Office of Subsistence Management.  
43  
44 Thank you.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning and  
47 welcome, Joshua.  
48  
49 MS. LENART: Good morning. I'm Beth  
50

1 Lenart, with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
2 based out of Fairbanks. I'm an area wildlife biologist  
3 for the Northeastern part of the Slope from like the  
4 Colville River to the Canadian border.

5  
6 It's nice to see you guys.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good to meet you,  
9 Beth.

10  
11 MR. BRUNING: Good morning. Darren  
12 Bruning, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm the  
13 Division of Wildlife Conservation regional supervisor  
14 out of the Fairbanks office. Thank you.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Darren.

17  
18 We were doing introductions, so if  
19 you're just coming in, introduce yourself. I see Joe  
20 and Ernest and.....

21  
22 MR. NAGEAK: Ernest Nageak  
23 (indiscernible - away from mic)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm not sure the  
26 recorder got that so you might want to press the button  
27 and come on up and say hello.

28  
29 MR. NAGEAK: Good morning. Ernest  
30 Nageak, Alaska Native Affairs Specialist for the U.S.  
31 Fish and Wildlife Service, Barrow Field Office.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq) Good  
34 morning, Ernest. (In Inupiaq)

35  
36 MR. LEAVITT: Good morning. Joseph  
37 Leavitt. I'm a local subsistence hunter.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Joe.  
40 (In Inupiaq) Good morning.

41  
42 MS. LEAVITT: Good morning. I'm Nancy  
43 Leavitt, subsistence hunter, retired.

44  
45 Thank you.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq) Good  
48 morning, Nancy.

49  
50

1 All right. Any of those that are on  
2 teleconference, if you can introduce yourselves. It  
3 would be more appropriate now that the introductions  
4 have been in person that are present.

5  
6 MR. LIND: Good morning, Chairman and  
7 Council members. This is Orville Lind, with the Office  
8 of Subsistence Management. I'll be in and out of the  
9 office today, but good to hear you on.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning,  
12 Orville.

13  
14 MR. GORN: Good morning. This is Tony  
15 Gorn. I work for the Department of Fish and Game,  
16 Division of Wildlife Conservation, in Nome. I'm the  
17 Region 5 regional supervisor.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tony.

20  
21 MR. SHARP: Good morning. This is Dan  
22 Sharp, with Bureau of Land Management, in Anchorage.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dan.

25  
26 MR. BURCH: Mark Burch, Department of  
27 Fish and Game, in Palmer.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mark in  
30 Palmer. Hey, my son's going over that way starting  
31 tonight. They're going to have a big wrestling meet, I  
32 heard. So he'll be down there wrestling.

33  
34 MR. BURCH: Very good.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If that's everybody  
37 online, teleconference with their introductions, then I  
38 would move to item five review and adopt the agenda.

39  
40 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Motion to adopt the  
41 agenda.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on  
44 the floor to adopt the agenda.

45  
46 MR. KAYOTUK: Second.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Kaktovik.

49  
50



1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I  
2 have just a couple of updates in terms of order on the  
3 agenda. We have the wildlife proposals were listed in  
4 their chronological order of their wildlife proposal  
5 number, but in terms of the flow for the review for the  
6 Council, we were suggesting to take up the Council's  
7 own proposal, which is WP18-57 first. We'll have an  
8 overview of the caribou data and information from both  
9 ADF&G and Federal Staff, so we'll have that information  
10 come before the Council before taking action on  
11 proposals. And then we would take up the other  
12 regional caribou proposal.

13  
14 So we can -- as we're taking up the  
15 proposals, we'll explain which one next so that it's in  
16 the best order for the Council's consideration.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Madame Coordinator,  
19 so we're juggling under new business that items in  
20 there or are we moving new business elsewhere to juggle  
21 that? Or.....

22  
23 MS. PATTON: It's just the order of the  
24 caribou proposals as they fall under.....

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

27  
28 MS. PATTON: .....under the wildlife  
29 proposal. So we're not moving it on the agenda. We're  
30 just.....

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And that is WP18-57?

33  
34 MS. PATTON: Yeah.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's.....

37  
38 MS. PATTON: So we would take that one  
39 up first.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Okay.

42  
43 MS. PATTON: We'll cover the updates on  
44 the special actions that occurred this year and then  
45 have the caribou overview so that the Council has that  
46 most recent data and information to consider in your  
47 deliberations on the proposals.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Madame Chair

50

1 [sic], I think -- that amendment I think sounds good.  
2 That we can juggle some of these. I think in the best  
3 interest of when we've got a quorum as well because we  
4 may come in and out of a quorum today and the following  
5 day. And I think to be able to act on them when we can  
6 is going to be important. Sounds like a plan.

7  
8 MS. PATTON: And we do have one other  
9 thing on the agenda. Under the Fisheries Resource  
10 Monitoring Program for the FRMP projects we do have two  
11 ANSEP students, Alaska Native Science and Engineering  
12 students, that will be joining us tomorrow. And  
13 they're just here for the day and the evening and so we  
14 wanted to ensure that we were able to get their  
15 presentations for the Council before they have to  
16 depart. So if we're able to get their presentations by  
17 the end of the day tomorrow, then that would be great.  
18 I know the Council's been wanting to hear from the  
19 younger generation and so that would -- that falls  
20 under the FRMP, but if we're able to get their  
21 presentations before recessing tomorrow evening, that  
22 would be good.

23  
24 Thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Madame  
27 Coordinator, it would be appropriate for -- if you  
28 could let us know when that time and I think those --  
29 is it ANSEP, you said?

30  
31 MS. PATTON: Yes.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And that we  
34 accommodate their needs as well. I think it's  
35 important to hear from the youth. And I'd like to  
36 think that, you know, they're going to take over here  
37 sometime. Somebody's got to take over when we retire  
38 from these things. And I think the youth is a very  
39 important part of subsistence. And they hunt all --  
40 you know, my son gets all my caribou practically  
41 nowadays. So I think the youth is very important and  
42 should be included.

43  
44 Thank you.

45  
46 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead, Mr.  
49 Shears.

50

1 MR. SHEARS: I want to comment on that  
2 subject. I agree. Completely agree. If you concur,  
3 if we could -- I mean you said they're only here for  
4 today and tonight?

5  
6 MS. PATTON: Tomorrow. So they'll be  
7 arriving tomorrow morning's flight. They get in around  
8 11:30. So.....

9  
10 MR. SHEARS: Okay. Very good. Okay.

11  
12 MS. PATTON: Probably after lunch they  
13 would be here and ready to present. And they're here  
14 through till Friday morning, so just as long as we make  
15 sure we are able to get their presentation.....

16  
17 MR. SHEARS: We could put them in.

18  
19 MS. PATTON: .....before the end of the  
20 day tomorrow.

21  
22 MR. SHEARS: Okay.

23  
24 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Sounds good.

27  
28 One other thing. Didn't you guys have  
29 a drawing contest.

30  
31 MS. PATTON: Yes. And we've got some  
32 of those fliers on the table over there.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

35  
36 MS. PATTON: So that's open right now  
37 through -- I'll have to look at the conclusion date.  
38 It's through early 2018. So any help we can get in  
39 getting that out to students here in the community.....

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

42  
43 MS. PATTON: .....and back home to each  
44 of your communities, that would be wonderful. So we've  
45 got a bunch of those flyers here.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Yeah, Madame  
48 Coordinator, that -- I had -- you had forwarded me that  
49 maybe six -- maybe five months ago or something and I

50

1 had sent it to the school district so that -- to try to  
2 disseminate it that way. So I think it's important.  
3 It's subsistence-related stuff. And I take the time to  
4 try to forward things like that. That's how come I  
5 asked. I thought maybe it was time to select the  
6 drawing or who won or something.

7  
8 MS. PATTON: Yeah. No. It's still  
9 ongoing. And the packets do get sent out to most of  
10 the school districts throughout all of Alaska, but that  
11 local help of -- you know, you know students who are  
12 interested and artists, so any help we can get in  
13 getting the word out, that would be great.

14  
15 Thank you.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other changes to  
18 the agenda.

19  
20 (No comments)

21  
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, I think  
23 we have an amended agenda for consideration.

24  
25 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Motion to approve  
26 the amendments.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on  
29 the floor to accept the amendments to the agenda with  
30 those that have been presented by Madame Coordinator  
31 Eva Patton.

32  
33 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Atqasuk.

36  
37 MR. KAYOTUK: Question.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question been called  
40 for on approving the amendments to the agenda, signify  
41 by saying aye.

42  
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Back to the agenda.  
46 We're still under discussion. And we've already  
47 amended it and made the amendments to it, so we're  
48 ready to vote on the agenda.

49  
50

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Call for question on  
2 the agenda.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question's been  
5 called for on the amended agenda and I'd like to hear  
6 the vote on it. Signify -- all those in favor of the  
7 amended agenda, signify it by saying aye.

8  
9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,  
12 say nay.

13  
14 (No opposing votes)

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ayes have it. We  
17 have an amended agenda to work with.

18  
19 Before we get started, I know a few  
20 people trickled in. And if you haven't introduced  
21 yourself, it would be important to -- we like to make  
22 sure people are recognized when they come in and join  
23 us. So I see a couple of new faces and if you would  
24 like to introduce yourself.

25  
26 I think there's Roy and Leo. If.....

27  
28 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: Roy Nageak, Sr. I'm  
29 with Bureau of Land Management. Welcome.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. There's a mic  
32 right there, but we heard you though.

33  
34 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: There's a mic there?

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

37  
38 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: For the record, I  
39 plead the fifth.

40  
41 (Laughter)

42  
43 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: Roy Nageak, Sr.,  
44 Bureau of Land Management, Federal Office. Welcome.

45  
46 (In Inupiaq)

47  
48 (Laughter)

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq) Good  
2 morning, Roy Nageak.  
3  
4 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: Good morning.  
5  
6 MR. KALEAK: Good morning. Leo Kaleak  
7 resident of Barrow. Good morning to your Staff.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq) Good  
10 morning. (In Inupiaq)  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Going down the  
13 agenda, we've adopted it. Item 6, review and approval  
14 of previous minutes -- meeting minutes.  
15  
16 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Motion to approve  
17 the minutes.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on  
20 the floor to approve the March 15 through 16, 2017  
21 meeting minutes. Motion on the floor.  
22  
23 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, the  
24 meeting minutes begin on page five. And I know our  
25 previous Council member James Nageak, I called him the  
26 professor. He would do all the spelling corrections.  
27  
28 (Laughter)  
29  
30 MS. PATTON: So if you see names in  
31 particular -- you know, any misspellings and also, you  
32 know, content, please let me know if there's anything  
33 you see that's.....  
34  
35 MS. KIPPI: I have one.  
36  
37 MS. PATTON: Wanda caught one. Good.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. And  
40 that's always -- was really good about James because he  
41 would practically do all the spell checking right here,  
42 you know.  
43  
44 MS. KIPPI: Correction needed to be on  
45 Wanda Kippi - Atqasuk. They spelled Pikuktuuq the  
46 wrong way.  
47  
48 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh.  
49  
50

1 MS. KIPPI: That needs to be corrected.  
2  
3 Thank you.  
4  
5 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Wanda.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And what page was  
8 that?  
9  
10 MS. KIPPI: Page.....  
11  
12 MS. PATTON: Page nine.  
13  
14 MS. KIPPI: Page nine.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Pikutuak?  
17  
18 MS. KIPPI: Yes.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.  
21  
22 MS. PATTON: Do you have a spelling  
23 that you know or should I look up.....  
24  
25 MS. KIPPI: And Aanaakliq.  
26  
27 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh.  
28  
29 MS. KIPPI: They put Anakluk and  
30 Pikutuak.  
31  
32 (Laughter)  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Madame  
35 Coordinator, when -- you know, sometimes we can help  
36 with spelling if you want to get correct spelling. And  
37 also IHLC is a great resource if you want to use the N  
38 with a tail with a dot and those kind of things. Yeah.  
39 IHLC is real good with helping with that. So.....  
40  
41 MS. PATTON: Thank you. Yeah. You  
42 know, I'll call for corrections. I was using an older  
43 dictionary. An Inupiaq dictionary. So if it's  
44 been.....  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. I'm that way,  
47 too. I spell Inupiaq with alphabets because I never  
48 really got the hang of with the little tail and the dot  
49 and the little thing, you know. So we try.  
50

1 MS. PATTON: Thank you. I will call my  
2 experts for the spellings.  
3  
4 Thank you.  
5  
6 (Laughter)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq) Wanda,  
9 for that.  
10  
11 So we have a motion for adopt the  
12 minutes from our previous meeting.  
13  
14 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Also a correction  
15 Fred Tukrook. It's a K instead of a T, on page 11.  
16 You've got a T. It's a K.  
17  
18 MS. PATTON: Okay.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Fred Tukrook.  
21  
22 Yeah. On people's names you should  
23 make sure you've got that right.  
24  
25 (Laughter)  
26  
27 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Hearing no  
28 additional amendments, motion to approve the  
29 amendments.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So was that a  
32 question on the.....  
33  
34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Hearing no further  
35 amendments, motion to approve the amendments on the  
36 minutes.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. There's a  
39 motion to approve the corrections on the minutes to be  
40 amended.  
41  
42 MR. SHEARS: Second.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Bob  
45 Shears, of Barrow.  
46  
47 MR. KAYOTUK: Call for question.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question been called  
50



1 for to amend the minutes with the corrections, signify  
2 by saying aye.

3  
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,  
7 say nay.

8  
9 (No opposing votes)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And that carries  
12 forward. We're on the main motion to adopt the  
13 minutes.

14  
15 MR. SHEARS: Call for question on the  
16 main motion, Mr. Chair.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.  
19 Question's been called for on the main motion to adopt  
20 the minutes.

21  
22 All those in favor of the amended  
23 minutes, signify by saying aye.

24  
25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,  
28 say nay.

29  
30 (No opposing votes)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ayes have it. The  
33 minutes have been passed.

34  
35 Thank you.

36  
37 Going down the agenda. And reports.  
38 Council member reports.

39  
40 So I'm going to start off with -- let's  
41 start from Bob Shears coming this way. So.....

42  
43 MR. SHEARS: All right. Thank you.

44  
45 Good morning, Mr. Chair. Reporting  
46 primarily from my knowledge of constituents that reside  
47 primarily in Wainwright, it was a very successful year  
48 since March meeting. I wasn't hear at the last meeting  
49 so I might probably even precede that with basically a

50

1 fishing and trapping season that kicks off in January  
2 1st of 2017.

3  
4 It was successful on all counts with  
5 predatory animals taken. Wolves, wolverines, foxes had  
6 a strong population. No indication of disease.

7  
8 The smelt fishery in the coastal  
9 estuaries was strong, healthy, although some people are  
10 reporting a slightly different flavor in the ones taken  
11 from the Kouk River estuary near the mouth of -- near  
12 Wainwright.

13  
14 The waterfowl harvest in May and late  
15 April through early June was phenomenal. Waterfowl  
16 were very plentiful. Some problems with -- which was  
17 just a human problem was just being able to harvest  
18 them was the lack of availability for shotgun shells  
19 locally. People worked around it and people from  
20 Barrow helped out. Helped the community of out a lot.  
21 But even Barrow had a shortage of shotgun shells for  
22 some time, which kind of hindered the harvest of  
23 waterfowl.

24  
25 The summer was healthy. It was, you  
26 know, right amount of rainfall, right amount of heat.  
27 It was good for berry production. It was not as bad an  
28 insect year this summer as we've seen before.

29  
30 The caribou. It was pretty easy to  
31 harvest caribou in August and September; however, a lot  
32 of the hunters had to limit their intake because of the  
33 inability to store them because of the warm  
34 temperature. So people were not maxing out their  
35 harvest limits in August and September like we used to  
36 be able to. When weathers were more freezing we had  
37 the ability to store food when we got it home.

38  
39 Freezers. You know, being able to, you  
40 know, put away enough food to sustain a family of five  
41 for an entire year takes four or five large chest  
42 freezers if you don't own a cellar. And a lot of  
43 people, you know, with our housing problem on the North  
44 Slope is getting more and more impacted. Our  
45 population has grown, but our footprint of our housing  
46 or our ability to shelter equipment like freezers is  
47 hindered. We're just filling up all those spaces with  
48 people and we no longer -- we are very, you know,  
49 impacted by our ability to store and freeze food in

50

1 warm temperatures. The expectation for colder  
2 temperatures that usually arrive -- we usually hit  
3 freezing temperature that don't -- you know, five years  
4 ago wouldn't go above freezing by mid-September.

5  
6 And so we've -- you know, a strong  
7 availability. A very healthy capability to harvest  
8 within the existing game limits, harvest limits was  
9 encountered in October and a lot of people took a lot  
10 of caribou with the expectation that they would be able  
11 to freeze it outdoors. A lot of people built their  
12 meat boxes and started hanging their meat and getting  
13 ready to -- you know, it takes a lot of caribou to feed  
14 a family through a winter. A family of five can  
15 consume a caribou in ten days.

16  
17 So it -- the meat that is not -- the  
18 meat's not removed from the bone. The bone is  
19 essential nutrients for a diet and so the -- you know,  
20 freezing the meat and then cutting it and sawing it up  
21 with the bone in it takes even up -- takes up even more  
22 space. And so a lot of people had their meat stored  
23 outdoors when we encountered above freezing conditions  
24 late in October and early November.

25  
26 What the nutritional loss is to that --  
27 to our communities is yet to be experienced, but I  
28 suspect it's severe and we're going to be impacted  
29 later this winter.

30  
31 That's my report, Mr. Chair.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Bob.

34  
35 And I'm going to ask Rosemary for her  
36 report.

37  
38 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I got back into  
39 Nuiqsut in July. It was a great time to come back. I  
40 heard a lot of stories of our hunters going out. In  
41 the springtime we had a great furbearing year for our  
42 village. A lot of furbearers were harvested.

43  
44 One of the biggest concern comes from  
45 the meeting related to Putu. It's a new oil and gas  
46 development site. One of our young mothers shared her  
47 concern of harvesting caribou in October and having the  
48 caribou be sick. And sharing the difficulties she felt  
49 of sharing with the community, multiple family members.

50

1 And when they harvested that caribou and saw that it  
2 was sick with pus areas in the animal, they could not  
3 share that harvest. And the hardship that it gave to  
4 talk about unable to share that hardship was a very  
5 strong testimony that was given in the meeting at --  
6 for Putu.

7  
8 When you go out and harvest from our  
9 lands and waters, you share it with all the families.  
10 But if you harvest an animal that has an illness in it  
11 and you cannot share with all of the families, that's a  
12 big burden to carry when you know that so many families  
13 need that food.

14  
15 There are a lot of concerns. Multiple  
16 community members have expressed their concern with  
17 having harvested caribou that doesn't look ill, but  
18 when you start to cut it up then you find abnormalities  
19 within the meat and internal organs. And that puts a  
20 strain carrying on into the local community meeting  
21 process. It's an important part of bringing that  
22 discussion.

23  
24 This year we've had less reaction to  
25 the fish mold. We still have a few people who have  
26 harvested a few fish that do show signs of the fish  
27 mold, but not like it has been in the other years. The  
28 coolness that we had this year really changed that  
29 factor. We did not have as many harvested fish with  
30 those lesions.

31  
32 The quantities were still up there, but  
33 the conflicts of trying to go out and harvest in  
34 traditional ways, there were a lot more comments to our  
35 community meetings of trying to go out to harvest and  
36 having other activities occurring in the normal harvest  
37 locations that were impacting the ability to harvest,  
38 whether it be increased float or boat activities  
39 associated with that.

40  
41 But the effort from the community was  
42 extensive to try to continue at harvest levels at what  
43 the community needs were. Even though there were more  
44 conflicts, our hunters went out more times to try to  
45 harvest the needs for our community and there were  
46 multiple success.

47  
48 My sons went out and got caribou that  
49 were of good shape this year and it was very nice to  
50

1 have the caribou come in those fashions, but the rut  
2 seemed to occur later this year. People were out  
3 harvesting towards the end of October and the caribou  
4 were not in the rut yet. And that was a concern that  
5 multiple hunters shared. That definitely the rut  
6 seemed to occur later in the year this year.

7  
8 The community did have a very good  
9 effort in waterfowls this spring. They were able to  
10 harvest appropriate quantities. But they are very  
11 concerned about the harvest that occurs in preparation  
12 for our blanket toss. Increasing activities on the  
13 Colville River with additional thoughts to develop  
14 further right across from Freshwater Lake. That's an  
15 area where our hunters go in to harvest for our (In  
16 Inupiaq). And now that's being planned for  
17 development. And there was a lot of conflict to try to  
18 go out and harvest in that area. Hunters are very  
19 concerned that that's going to be an area that is lost  
20 for further harvesting efforts and what that means to  
21 our feasting activities is a big concern.

22  
23 There was a lot of concern over the  
24 increased activity at Putu and the risks for our  
25 community at that close location. It's only three and  
26 a half miles from our school. And if there is an  
27 adverse event there is a lot of concern as to what  
28 could happen there.

29  
30 As well as there's a lot of concern  
31 with the increased erosion at Freshwater Lake. There's  
32 an area on the Colville River where the river -- the  
33 riverbank connects to the lake bank and it has eroded  
34 and we've lost about 15 feet along the Colville River  
35 where the Freshwater Lake is spilling into the river.  
36 There's a lot of concern as to what's going to happen  
37 with that source and if that is going to affect the  
38 fish population in the river, as well as our freshwater  
39 source. That's a major amount of erosion that could  
40 really affect the quality of our water source. And  
41 that has been brought out in multiple meetings this  
42 summer.

43  
44 Thank you.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

47  
48 Now I'm going to go to Atqasuk, and  
49 Wanda.

50

1 MS. KIPPI: Thank you.

2  
3 For my report, there was -- during the  
4 summer we had caribou with a couple abscess with that  
5 green pus. And this one caribou, I actually got to see  
6 it from another hunter, and it had pus all over the  
7 neck area. And that was a lot of -- and on the back  
8 towards the (In Inupiaq), somewhere on the side, too,  
9 there was a lot of pus like that, too, on that one. So  
10 there was two that I heard of that were like that. So  
11 I think we're seeing more of that now.

12  
13 And the hunting was okay during the  
14 summer. They were catching a lot of caribou during the  
15 summer, but near the fall people were going farther out  
16 -- farther out to go catch caribou and quite a few of  
17 them came back with nothing in September -- to the end  
18 of September. And in October they -- I think they  
19 started catching more because they started coming  
20 around closer. I think the migration of the caribou  
21 has changed since last year. They seemed to go hunt  
22 farther for caribou.

23  
24 And the geese season was good. There  
25 was a lot of nuguluks and snow geese. There were some  
26 snow geese I saw. And I noticed the -- last year there  
27 was a lot of owls and (In Inupiaq) and this year  
28 there's no owls in our area this year.

29  
30 And our fishing -- in November 1, a  
31 lady from Barrow caught a silver salmon. (In Inupiaq)  
32 And that was a surprise. And I've heard of someone  
33 catching a trout, but I'm not sure of that. But that  
34 was straight down from town.

35  
36 And our -- oh, let's see what else I  
37 thought of. And our bears -- I didn't see any bears  
38 this year. I heard them on the VHF from the Barrow  
39 camps farther east. There was more bears out that way  
40 this year. I said thank you. I don't have to worry  
41 about bears this year.

42  
43 (Laughter)

44  
45 MS. KIPPI: But those guys, I heard  
46 them on the VHF talking and they were catching them  
47 from one cabin to the other along the rivers and that  
48 was -- that was interesting to hear when they were  
49 talking about the bears. When they were talking with  
50

1 each other from one camp to the other that I could  
2 hear. It was interesting. I said yes. I don't have  
3 to worry about the bears. I haven't seen one. Maybe  
4 just heard of one.

5  
6 And let's see what else. I'm trying to  
7 remember every -- everything that I seen. But other  
8 than that, the fishing was all right. There was a late  
9 freeze up. As usual, warm weather. Warm weather after  
10 freeze up would open up the stream at the creeks for a  
11 little while and cause double icing like and overflow.  
12 And that was same as last year, but a little different.  
13 There was slush under the ice and another layer. So it  
14 was different fishing in some areas of the river this  
15 year.

16  
17 And the fishing was slow because it  
18 starts so late, the freeze up now. Yeah. It takes  
19 longer to -- slower on catching grayling. And the fish  
20 netting, they did all right. At the beginning it was  
21 slow. Then like during this week I think they catch  
22 more (In Inupiaq) and (In Inupiaq) in their net. Like  
23 at least up to 20 -- 20 or more this last week, as to  
24 catching 1 to 3 to 8 in a day.

25  
26 So I think that's all I could cover.

27  
28 Thank you.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq) Wanda.

31  
32 And I need to be excused at 10:00  
33 o'clock. I need to be at a director's meeting with the  
34 confirmation and canvassing yesterday. The director's  
35 meeting start at 10:00 o'clock today.

36  
37 But I'd like to just make a brief  
38 report and then hand the chair over to the vice-chair  
39 Lee.

40  
41 If that's okay, Lee.

42  
43 MR. KAYOTUK: Yes.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And so I wasn't able  
46 to go out like normally I do. I'm usually out at fish  
47 camp and, you know, put in all my nets and go gung-ho  
48 and get everything out there. And due to a lot of  
49 things that kind of snowballed on me from broken

50

1 outboard motors to not being able to. But I keep my  
2 ears wide open and hear from my nephews. I provide  
3 them gas and let them go out and so I can have a share  
4 of what they catch when I can't go.

5  
6 So from I've heard, in August, you  
7 know, my nephews were very busy. They had a lot of  
8 tuttu. Fat ones around the Ikpikpuk and Chip River  
9 area. They must have been hanging across that way  
10 maybe from Atqasuk, usually around (In Inupiaq) area  
11 coming this way. They would be in between by (In  
12 Inupiaq) and that (In Inupiaq) area. But they seemed  
13 to have concentrated a little bit more on the Chip  
14 River side is what I'm hearing.

15  
16 And so I did hear that it wouldn't  
17 freeze up for a long time, but the fishing was good.  
18 The fish runs are always the same. Whether it freeze  
19 or not, they're going to spawn. Yeah. It's -- so it's  
20 -- the only difficult part is if don't freeze you're  
21 going to have slush and then you can't -- and it stays  
22 warm, then you can't freeze the Savigunnaq and they  
23 start to turn orange and change color from yellow. So  
24 we always look out for that and this is -- if you can  
25 get them home right away, you can save them. But if  
26 you're battling warm weather and you're out to try to  
27 get the Savigunnaq fresh with eggs, they can spoil the  
28 eggs pretty quick.

29  
30 So that's one of the things we battle  
31 with is the change in weather pattern. And if you  
32 don't got a (In Inupiaq) then you don't have a way to  
33 freeze those. So right now I'm a dependent person. I  
34 call my nephew and see if he's got Savigunnaq this  
35 year.

36  
37 And with some good folks in Nuiqsut  
38 that are catching (In Inupiaq), we're very fortunate to  
39 be able to get some of their share. And they're  
40 willing to share with us and trade over this way, so I  
41 find that is a very healthy trading environment right  
42 now. So it's very good and I really enjoyed that.

43  
44 So I think the hunting was very good,  
45 but the weather is just not really cooperating to do  
46 certain things. And that -- you know, those are just  
47 some of my concerns.

48  
49 I'm sure I can talk about it a lot more

50



1 and I'm just happy to get a little bit of tuttu.

2  
3 The other thing is some of the shares  
4 that I got from around the Barrow area and I had sent  
5 my son out with my other nephews to go harvest caribou,  
6 they got caribou -- two of them that were infested with  
7 -- inside the muscles. Either with tapeworms because  
8 they were moving inside all the muscles. The  
9 hindquarters. Not just the internal organs, but inside  
10 the meat. You know, usually caribou is so clean that  
11 you just eat it. You (In Inupiaq) and eat it frozen.  
12 Make (In Inupiaq) and you ferment it. And now you've  
13 got to -- you're a little bit leery. You have to look  
14 at the meat.

15  
16 And I don't know what's going on with  
17 that, but on -- through Facebook as well, folks in  
18 Wainwright encountered some of that kind of caribou as  
19 well that have a whole lot of infestation inside the  
20 meat. You can actually see them moving. And I took my  
21 samples over to the wildlife department to take a look  
22 at that. I guess it happens once in a while, but it  
23 seems to be more common this year that the tuttu is --  
24 you've got to be a little careful to watch when you (In  
25 Inupiaq) them.

26  
27 (In Inupiaq)

28  
29 They were fat, but they still had these  
30 little critters inside the meat. It was just kind of  
31 scary.

32  
33 With that I'm going to hand the chair  
34 over to Lee. And then you can -- and as soon as my  
35 meeting is done with the Borough this morning I plan to  
36 scurry right back.

37  
38 And I find these meetings to be  
39 informative and very important and I encourage young  
40 folks -- because we have vacancies. This Council keeps  
41 getting vacancies and it needs to be manned with the  
42 young folks that like to be out hunting and have a --  
43 and care about their communities harvesting and things  
44 like that.

45  
46 And that's how come I joined. I've  
47 been on it about -- probably about since 1998. I had  
48 only one break for about three years and then I  
49 rejoined. So, you know, going on 20 years almost of

50

1 enjoying being on these Councils.

2

3

4 Because we care about the resources.  
5 And that's -- we want to make sure that they're  
6 healthy, provide good information to the resource  
7 managers. And, you know, I think we provide a very  
8 good information exchange for the regulators that  
9 manage NPR-A, the Gates of the Arctic, ANWR, and those  
10 folks in making sure that community needs stay on a  
11 high priority and making sure that principle is always  
12 upheld. You know, that the rule of subsistence  
13 priority is the law of the land and it should stay that  
14 way always when it's Federal subsistence.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

I know we've had these arguments with the State and the State doesn't recognize a rural subsistence priority and we need to change that somehow and then strengthen these ideals of rural subsistence priorities.

Thank you. And I need to be excused.

Lee, I'm going to give you the chair.

ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair, thank you. I hope you have a good, good meeting this morning.

We'll continue on to our -- following the agenda with the reports.

And Bob Shears, Barrow.

MR. SHEARS: Excuse me, what?

ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Did you do a report, I guess I misplaced your report, earlier. Thank you.

But I do have reports for Kaktovik at this time. I know we had a bad season of hunting and the caribou wasn't so good this summer. And the village probably caught about maybe at least 15 caribou this summer.

And, you know, the Porcupine Herd is -- I notice -- I think it's being followed all the time. That, you know, that's not so good, you know, that people in the -- like the tourists or whoever, you

1 know, like to follow the caribou. And, you know, I  
2 think I see it, in a way that's directing the caribou  
3 in a different direction. Because you have the caribou  
4 that migrate and you've also got the people that follow  
5 the caribou, which is not too good, I see it in a way.

6  
7 And it was a tough summer for Kaktovik  
8 for not getting too much caribou. At least maybe 15  
9 and it wasn't too good for the Porcupine Herd.

10  
11 The fishing was good. People were  
12 catching some fish this summer. And about like maybe  
13 right now at least we had like 60 polar bears this  
14 fall. And tourist season is -- you know, it's -- every  
15 fall season we have tourists coming around in the fall  
16 time and leaving October.

17  
18 Right now we've got like maybe about  
19 15, 20 bears right now. And we did see a few brown  
20 bears this fall and not too close to the village  
21 anyway, which is good.

22  
23 And we had a few planes -- private  
24 planes flying around again this summer. And the ice  
25 conditions for boating came in early. Came in like  
26 several -- maybe a week before July 4th, we're boating,  
27 so, you know, again, we have a early breakup and a late  
28 freeze up. And right now our ocean is all broken up  
29 and not safe to go in the ocean.

30  
31 Everybody -- there was a few people  
32 that went to the mountains and got some caribou up  
33 there. There's probably like maybe 70 caribou on the  
34 Hula-Hula at this time. And they have been able to get  
35 some caribou to bring back. They caught a few sheep  
36 and -- which is good to know these things. You know,  
37 they spent a few days up there and just kind of get  
38 used to the land back to winter again and try to find  
39 out where the caribou are. You know, sheep that we can  
40 provide for our Kaktovik that -- you know, that have to  
41 travel 100 miles to provide food for the community.

42  
43 But again, you know, we had like 20 to  
44 30 caribou hanging around, but they disappeared like a  
45 couple of weeks ago. And we did not find them on the  
46 FortyMile Range, you know, way, but they did find some  
47 caribou in the Brooks Range, which was good to bring  
48 back a little bit of fresh meat for their family a this  
49 time.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 Eva, at this time we don't have any  
4 more Council reports.

5

6 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
7 Yes. Thank you for your reports.

8

9 When Ester joins us this afternoon,  
10 maybe we can provide some time for her to give updates  
11 from Anaktuvuk Pass. And also if Steve joins us on  
12 teleconference then hopefully we can hear from them  
13 this afternoon.

14

15 As Gordon Brower had mentioned, number  
16 8 on the agenda that called for Regional Advisory  
17 Council applications and I think Gordon spoke very well  
18 to that. As the Council is aware we've got several  
19 vacancies on the Council currently. And it's -- you  
20 know, it's been a real concern for the Council to make  
21 sure that there's full representation from all the  
22 communities in the North Slope Region. So we've been  
23 reaching out to Wainwright and to Point Lay. And also  
24 additional representation from Kaktovik and Atqasuk and  
25 Nuiqsut and Anaktuvuk Pass.

26

27 We do have -- there were a couple of  
28 early vacancies with the late chair, Harry Brower,  
29 Junior, being elected as mayor. And so we have  
30 appointments coming up. Hopefully by the end of  
31 December is when they're due from the Secretary of the  
32 Interior. And hopefully those will go forward in a  
33 timely manner.

34

35 So we do have applications from last  
36 year and a couple of the seats that will be filled in  
37 December with these new appointments, so looking  
38 forward to that. And those Council members would then  
39 start their first meeting at the winter 2018 meeting  
40 with the Council.

41

42 So we will have new people coming on,  
43 but always reaching out. We'll still have, you know,  
44 additional seats opening up.

45

46 And so we have Council member  
47 applications for folks that are here with us. And the  
48 application period is open until February 2nd, 2018.  
49 So we're encouraging more applications to serve on the

50

1 Council. You know, both elder representatives and as  
2 Gordon spoke, a younger generation will be the next to  
3 step in.

4  
5 And for all of you, if you're able to  
6 take a handful of these back to your community, reach  
7 out to folks that you think would be interested.

8  
9 Nominations can also happen. So people  
10 can apply if they're interested, but you can also help  
11 nominate or encourage a tribal council or city council  
12 to nominate someone to serve on the Council as well.

13  
14 So -- and then we do have a couple of  
15 seats that are coming open. So each term is appointed  
16 for three years. And we have a new simpler process for  
17 people to reapply, so I'll make sure we get the  
18 incumbent application to those seats that will be  
19 opening up here.

20  
21 So there's a bunch of these  
22 applications up on the table there and some more  
23 information about the Federal Subsistence Program. And  
24 everyone is welcome to just give me a call, so give my  
25 number out to folks if people have questions about the  
26 process.

27  
28 So hopefully we'll continue to get more  
29 representation from across the North Slope and a full  
30 Council again.

31  
32 Thank you.

33  
34 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.

35  
36  
37 I find it very important to fill these  
38 vacant seats for each village. I mean, you know, we've  
39 got some three vacant seats, but I find it very  
40 important to -- hopefully that we get some vacant -- I  
41 mean some people to fill in these seats for their  
42 Region or their villages.

43  
44 At this time, so I'd like to move  
45 forward then to.....

46  
47 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

48  
49 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: To agenda item 8

50

1 at that time.

2

3

Eva.

4

5

6

MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. One question I may ask Eva in regards to this question.

7

8

9 This is a strange year. You know, the  
10 Office of Subsistence Management is a very secure  
11 agency that's been well and continuously recognized for  
12 decades. But this year I experienced a little  
13 nervousness when receiving the letter from the office  
14 that the program was kind of in a limbo with the  
15 appointment of the new Secretary of the Interior having  
16 to make a decision on -- you know, we were originally  
17 scheduled to meet even earlier than this, but that  
18 meeting was set aside due to some questions about the  
19 viability of continued funding for the program or  
20 recognition of it.

20

21

22

You know, in reaching out to people to -- you know, to recruit people, that type of question -- that kind of unnerved us.

23

24

25

You know, so could you address so how that issue has been involved or.....

26

27

28

MS. PATTON: Sure. And actually I'll let Carl. He can address all of it to the specificity.

29

30

31

32

MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair.

33

Robert.

34

35

So that wasn't related.....

36

37

MR. NAGEAK: For the record.

38

39

MS. PATTON: Introduce yourself.

40

41

MR. JOHNSON: Oh, sorry. Carl Johnson.

42

43

MR. NAGEAK: Thank you.

44

45

(Laughter)

46

47

MR. JOHNSON: Office of Subsistence Management.

48

49

50

1 So that wasn't related to funding. So  
2 back in May our office received a memo from the  
3 Interior Department. And this Council, while it was  
4 created by Title VIII of ANILCA, procedurally it falls  
5 under what's called a Federal Advisory Committee Act or  
6 FACA for short. There are a lot of these types of  
7 committees around the entire country. Some were  
8 created by a law like this one and others are created  
9 just to deal with a problem, come up with solutions,  
10 whatever, so they're called discretionary.

11  
12 And what Interior did was they  
13 initiated a review of all FACA committees. They wanted  
14 to have all these committees produce information to  
15 Interior about how they were created, why they were  
16 created, what they do, what sort of recommendations  
17 they make to the agencies that they participate in, and  
18 to kind of study whether or not these committees were  
19 effectively operating, that they were meeting their  
20 mandates, that they were providing for good opportunity  
21 for State and local input into decision-making.

22  
23 So that review took place through the  
24 summer and early fall. So that's why the original  
25 August date was rescheduled. Because they didn't want  
26 to have any FACA committees meeting during the time  
27 when this review was still ongoing. And there were  
28 some BLM meetings, for example, that -- or FACA  
29 committee meetings that were postponed. That were  
30 scheduled over the summer that were postponed for  
31 later. And that was also part of this review.

32  
33 So it wasn't related to budget so much  
34 as the Interior Department wanted to make sure that  
35 these committees were meeting their intended functions.  
36 So for us, we're -- these committees are created by  
37 statute, so there's no discretion about whether or not  
38 they continue unless Congress amends Title VIII of  
39 ANILCA. So that's why we're meeting.

40  
41 There are still some discretionary  
42 committees that have still been postponed. As far as I  
43 know, this review of FACA committees actually did not  
44 complete on schedule. It's still undergoing. In fact,  
45 we're still answering data requests from Interior  
46 Department related to the functions of these  
47 committees.

48  
49 So it's still an ongoing review, but  
50

1 it's more of a policy review than a budgetary review.

2

3 MR. SHEARS: Okay. And so thank you.

4

5 And so there won't be a subsequent  
6 decision made based on the results of this review or  
7 audit that could change the existence of the original  
8 Advisory Councils?

9

10 MR. JOHNSON: And Through the Chair.

11

12 Now, whatever the outcome of this  
13 review is, it would take an act of Congress to change  
14 -- to eliminate the Regional Advisory Councils.

15

16 MR. SHEARS: That's my point. It would  
17 be -- would someone be moving forward with sponsoring a  
18 change under an act of Congress as a result of this  
19 review?

20

21 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair.

22

23 As far as I know, this process was not  
24 initiated by any inquiries from Congress. It's purely  
25 from Interior. And we have not heard of anything at  
26 all about anybody in the Congressional delegation or  
27 any members of Congress seeking to tinker with Title  
28 VIII of ANILCA.

29

30 MR. SHEARS: Thank you.

31

32 And so that's my point, Eva, Mr. Chair.  
33 Is that I'm a big recruiter. I've been -- everybody I  
34 can talk to, you know, I'm really elevate -- it's like  
35 come over here. Get with Eva. Here's the website. Go  
36 apply.

37

38 And I just -- it -- Carl, this really  
39 helps me explain, you know, what we are. And it really  
40 solidifies, you know, the importance of the committee  
41 and the role that we serve.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Carl.

46

47 Robert, thank you.

48

49 At this time are we done with Item 8

50



1 for the Regional Advisory Council?  
2

3 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Just a quick  
4 question. Have we been able to receive interest from  
5 areas where we don't have a presence. Do we have all  
6 the villages covered. Have we received applications  
7 from village members.  
8

9 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. So  
10 for this year, since the application period is open  
11 through February of 2018, I am still in the process of  
12 reaching out, you know, calling the Tribal Council,  
13 and, you know, mailing. The mailings have already gone  
14 out to city council, tribal council in all the Regions.  
15

16  
17 But to draft a letter saying, you know,  
18 here's -- you know, your community, we currently don't  
19 have representation on the Council, then -- so I'll be  
20 continuing to reach out especially to Wainwright, Point  
21 Lay.  
22

23 But again, you know, all the  
24 communities, it's good to -- you know, for interest and  
25 application so that we have, you know, more than one  
26 representative even from each community. So.....  
27

28 Yeah. So all your help back in your  
29 communities to continue with that outreach and -- yeah.  
30 And to reconfirm for Title VIII of ANILCA, if people  
31 are interested in the origins and the importance and  
32 the role of the Council, it's in -- you're in Title  
33 VIII of ANILCA. It's an important role, making  
34 recommendations directly to the Federal Subsistence  
35 Board regarding management of subsistence fish and  
36 wildlife.  
37

38 So yeah. And keep taking -- you know,  
39 directing people my way. And again if they have any  
40 questions or concerns because they know, you know,  
41 there's been a lot of flux kind of in the new  
42 administration here, if we can help answer those  
43 questions, that would be good.  
44

45 Thank you.  
46

47 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: (In Inupiaq)  
48

49 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, Mr. Chair. If I  
50

1 could add some more.

2

3

ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Go ahead.

4

5

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7

8

And again for the folks on the phone,  
this is Carl Johnson, with OSM.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

Just to kind of expand on that. So  
currently we don't -- we haven't received any  
applications for North Slope, but that's not to worry  
because typically we get a big flush of applications  
within the last like three weeks of the application  
period. So that's pretty normal.

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

Historically though, this Region has  
had a very low number of applications. As long as I've  
been at OSM, we typically don't even get enough  
applications to fill vacancies. And sometimes some of  
the folks who apply don't get on the Council because of  
the vetting process that they use in D.C.

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

But I think the thing to add that I  
want to add to what Eva was just saying. And that is  
when people, you know, wonder whether or not it's worth  
their while to do this, over the history of this  
program the Federal Subsistence Board has adopted 90  
percent of Regional Advisory Council recommendations  
over time. And that's I think a pretty powerful  
message for people when they're wondering whether or  
not they're going to spend their time doing something  
and whether or not it will be worthwhile and will have  
an impact. I think that it's safe to say that if you  
serve on a Regional Advisory Council it has impact.

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

And that again goes back to Title VIII,  
where Section .805, you know, requires the Board to  
give deference to Regional Advisory Council  
recommendations under -- with limited exceptions. And  
that's why you have such a high threshold of 90  
percent. I have no idea if there is data out there on  
the role on, you know, Advisory Committee  
recommendations to the Board of Game, but I can tell  
you for that Regional Advisory Councils in this program  
it definitely is very meaningful and very effective to  
serve on a Regional Advisory Council.

48

49

50

Thank you very much.

1                   ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Did you get  
2 everything you needed there?

3  
4                   MR. SHEARS: Yes.

5  
6                   ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you.

7  
8                   Now I'd like to continue on with our  
9 agenda item on -- are we done with the nominations at  
10 this time?

11  
12                   MR. LEAVITT: Good morning. Joseph  
13 Leavitt from Barrow. I sent a letter of interest for  
14 the Advisory Council to the City of Barrow, so I didn't  
15 know it takes a lot of -- it's a lengthy process, but  
16 I've sent a letter of interest to the City of Barrow.

17  
18                   Thank you.

19  
20                   MS. PATTON: Thank you, Joe.

21  
22                   Yes. And I might add, as Joe noted, it  
23 is a lengthy process, so we -- you know, when the call  
24 goes out it takes almost a full year until the  
25 appointments are made. And so when we get applications  
26 I, you know, try to stay in touch with folks to let  
27 them know it's still in consideration.

28  
29                   So we get applications and then there's  
30 a panel of people that participate in an interview  
31 process. And then the nominations go to the Federal  
32 Subsistence Board. And the Board convenes in the  
33 summer of 2018 for the next round. They review all the  
34 applications and recommendations and then the Board  
35 submits their recommendations to the Secretary of the  
36 Interior. And then it sits there for a few months or  
37 more.

38  
39                   And so the Secretary's office goes  
40 through their own vetting process, so there's another,  
41 you know, round of review from the Secretary's office.  
42 And then we wait for their final nomination and to send  
43 out the nomination letters.

44  
45                   And as you may recall, there has been  
46 some delays in the past. We're hoping that the  
47 appointments for this year will go through smoothly so  
48 that we have our Council members seated -- our new  
49 Council members seated in 2018.

50

1                   Yeah. As Joe noted, it is a very long  
2 process. And so we -- you know, we try to keep people  
3 apprised once they apply of where we're at in that  
4 process.

5  
6                   And thank you for making those  
7 recommendations to the city.

8  
9                   ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: (In Inupiaq)  
10 Yeah. I'd like to continue on with the agenda here.

11  
12                   We're down to number 9, public and  
13 tribal comments and non-agenda items.

14  
15                   MR. NAGEAK, SR.: Good morning. Good  
16 morning. I'd like to respond to some of the comments  
17 already.

18  
19                   For the record, my name is Roy Nageak,  
20 Sr. I'm a subsistence hunter and I'll make some public  
21 comments in regards to how the Regional Advisory  
22 Council subsistence is being looked at, especially by  
23 younger people.

24  
25                   And the way that we have taught our  
26 young people and how my dad had taught me, we always  
27 had the freedom to do as we please with the animals  
28 that were created by God for our food. And now we feel  
29 that ever since I was growing up and I had the freedom  
30 to do that. We had the freedom to do as we please with  
31 the food that we hunt from the land and the sea. And  
32 those all were things that we learned from our elders.

33  
34                   And when you always had that freedom,  
35 it belongs to you. Nobody gave it to you except for  
36 being created in the image of God and the animals  
37 created for our subsistence food. And that's always  
38 been like that. And the comments made that it's hard.  
39 It's hard to get people to apply for Regional Advisory  
40 Council. Advisory. Especially when you had lived a  
41 life with not having any recognitions of loss that are  
42 -- that have burdened our people.

43  
44                   And I always remember the (In Inupiaq).  
45 The first challenge by the State of Alaska in 1959 when  
46 it became a State, they started coming in with these  
47 laws. It just so happened I was coming in with a sled  
48 load of eider ducks, about 200. And I had to use (In  
49 Inupiaq) extra dogs because we had so much ducks for  
50

1 wintertime for the ice cellar. And then I always  
2 remember they used them old trucks with the big,  
3 balloon tires and we lived in the old Barrow side and  
4 across Browerville was just a point of houses.

5  
6 And this is game wardens -- game  
7 wardens and I got stuck right on the beach in front of  
8 Barrow where some of the gravel have -- and then all  
9 the men were out whaling and hunting. And I got stuck.  
10 And I must have been like an 11, 12 year old because  
11 the men were hunting -- too busy hunting, trying to  
12 gather for the harsh winter and I was like 11 or 12  
13 years old. And I couldn't move. And some women came  
14 out of the houses and they started running towards my  
15 sled. And they practically picked it up, helped me  
16 take it into the yard.

17  
18 And during that week when they started  
19 doing the hunting with the laws that were basically  
20 backwards. We were using southern laws in October,  
21 which is their hunting season. But in October it's  
22 frozen and springtime is our hunting season.

23  
24 So when you look at these -- most of  
25 the ducks that we brought in, they were used to -- for  
26 the (In Inupiaq). Because I always remember that. (In  
27 Inupiaq) When the guys that kept -- men kept running  
28 into our shed to go get the ducks so they could be put  
29 in jail. And that's always a threat in regards to how  
30 our way of life has been impacted by State and Federal  
31 regulations. Rules and regulations that tend to  
32 control.

33  
34 And we know (indiscernible) our America  
35 was created. And I don't need to go there. Because  
36 we're here. Because we've seen starvation. Our  
37 fathers, our parents have seen starvation. Not by  
38 their rules and regulations, but by impacts of where  
39 the animals used to migrate and when -- I want to get  
40 away from there because it's not good to go back.

41  
42 It's good to go forward.

43  
44 And that's why a lot of these Advisory  
45 Councils were made.

46  
47 And now I'm going to switch hats a  
48 little because I work with Bureau of Land Management in  
49 the Barrow office. And right away when the new person  
50

1 came -- and this is kind of like what happened in  
2 Alaska. When you have Republican majority house and  
3 then they make these laws or regulations that are --  
4 took advantage of economy driven industry. We're  
5 driven by the industry and we're lucky that our elders  
6 that had created the North Slope Borough that could  
7 take advantage of what is happening within our land.  
8 But now it's starting to go away again of how our input  
9 into what is impacting our people, especially through  
10 subsistence.

11  
12 And I hear it. I've seen it on  
13 Facebook. How some of the trappers through the seismic  
14 work are infringing on their trapping lines and scaring  
15 all the animals that they trap for. And we've heard it  
16 from Nuiqsut. And one of key organizations was the  
17 Advisory -- or not the Advisory, but the working crew.  
18 The working crew of NPR-A, which was a critical because  
19 it's recommendations from that Advisory.

20  
21 And that's why when Councils, groups  
22 are Advisory. And that was a problem that a lot of our  
23 people had noted. That most of their Advisory words  
24 were then to be set aside and not be recognized. And  
25 that had been a big problem before. And that's why  
26 when the Secretary -- and they were starting to get  
27 active on NPR-A -- made up a working crew that wasn't  
28 really Advisory, but making recommendations.

29  
30 Because the traditional knowledge is  
31 key. Traditional knowledge of our people and what  
32 areas will be impacted by development. And how  
33 development really impacts, especially in seismic, day  
34 one, seismic -- but learning how. The Federal  
35 government and the State government -- if they ever  
36 learn how and get out of that mental state that we are  
37 lower people than they are, that our knowledge of our  
38 land and our seas are critical to them.

39  
40 Because we see a lot of mistakes,  
41 especially by companies that come in, not knowing the  
42 land and the seas. And they keep making mistakes and  
43 keep spending money with mistakes. If they just take  
44 some of our knowledge, traditional knowledge and work  
45 with us, then they could save a lot of money. But no,  
46 they know better. They always know better.

47  
48 And that's why from a distance -- long  
49 distance that when they're regulating and doing things  
50

1 with our way of life and trying to change it, a lot of  
2 our young people that we have taught have the frame of  
3 mind that we're still free. One nation under God,  
4 indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. And  
5 that's the part that when you look at the Constitution,  
6 the preamble for the Native Americans is the key.  
7 Seeing that's -- that's the root of how that Advisory,  
8 but to recognize the original owners of the land and to  
9 comply with their traditional knowledge.

10

11 And if there's going to be development,  
12 a lot of our people are for development on land. But  
13 at the same time use some of the things that are --  
14 especially the working crews NPR-A recommendations that  
15 they be part of development plans where they work.  
16 Work together so they can stop making stupid mistakes.  
17 And one really coming to mind is British Petroleum  
18 casing and the blowout that they had. And then found  
19 out later that there's 100 abandoned well oil rigs that  
20 have the same design and the permafrost is shoving them  
21 along where they're going to start leaking.

22

23 And it's almost like NPR-A projects for  
24 oil rigs that were done back in the 1940s and the 1950s  
25 and where a lot of leakage was happening and they're  
26 cleaning that up. But when you look at Prudhoe and how  
27 they had promised that when they go away, they will  
28 leave the place as pristine as it was. But now right  
29 in the middle of development happening NPR-A and it  
30 seems like happening in Prudhoe where the permafrost is  
31 melting impacting some of those abandoned wells that  
32 they had.

33

34 I think that will be a record on how  
35 they will be able to respond to what were happening to  
36 those. Like over 100 more than what was in NPR-A. And  
37 they're in the process of finally buttoning up a lot of  
38 the old wells. And now they're coming up and entering  
39 NPR-A.

40

41 But we need -- it's always interesting  
42 because I always remembered my father, Vincent Nageak.  
43 And he always said oh, no, we have another Republican  
44 president. And I says what do you mean? I mean you  
45 could always tell that when there's a Republic  
46 president the money that the Federal government gives  
47 out -- Social Security and money that tends to help  
48 everybody -- every citizen of the United States tends  
49 to stop. And the comments that were make -- especially

50

1 true.

2

3

4 When the dollar leaves America,  
5 Washington, D.C., we only see like two cents of it in  
6 Alaska or in our Region. It's still -- it's still --  
7 it's still there. But then when rules and regulations  
8 are made, they're made for us. All the other rest of  
9 the country are almost industrial wasteland, except for  
10 the ones that are recognized for wilderness areas or  
11 parks, which we must keep dear to our hearts.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

And that's where some of the Federal agencies, when they have a new administration and new people in, they get scared. I saw it. They get scared because they have Federal jobs where by the stroke of a pen they could lose their jobs and everything else. Their security. And these are -- to us, they're job is providing food on their table. And we see them scared.

The Federal government employs a lot of people in the State of Alaska. And that must be recognized. All the people that come to our Federal meetings and all the State people that come, it's for a reason. And instead of trying to allow us to comply with laws that are backwards, it doesn't provide freedom to do as we want. Freedom to hunt as we want and just to get what we want. They're there to stop us.

And one of the things that really irks me is the State of Alaska and their ability to control what goes over the North Slope, especially the planes. I remember one story that this time of the year or in February or March when the caribou have survived to dig through the ground, my father -- grandfather-in-law -- my wife's grandfather told a story on radio. He says once you see a herd and they start running, then just constantly follow them for like a day. They will stop. Because if they don't eat within that day -- less than a day, they will just be standing around.

And he said that he did that one time with a herd of caribou. And then he threw his gloves at them. Got close enough where he just threw his gloves -- his mittens at them -- and they didn't even move. They didn't have the strength to move. And the comments made were tourists, that's a tourism. Really following the big herds, that impact that they have -- when there's planes that are constantly above them and



1 watching them move or urge them to move a day -- just a  
2 day will impact that caribou herd.

3

4 And that's why traffic -- and I hear  
5 you, Rosemary. When there's airplane traffic  
6 constantly harassing or in a sense driving the caribou  
7 for a day, it impacts their health.

8

9 And that's why the State -- and it's  
10 Constitutional law. And especially in ANILCA that  
11 states that the subsistence hunters will have priority.  
12 And then when I saw one of the things that I collected  
13 in Anaktuvuk Pass, you could see where they were  
14 catching more caribou. And then this year more of the  
15 in-state hunters are catching more than the Anaktuvuk  
16 Pass. And we see that.

17

18 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Right. Uh-huh.

19

20 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: In the urban areas a  
21 lot of the animals that were available have been kind  
22 of caughten, and for some strange reason the FortyMile  
23 Herd around Fairbanks is growing by 100 -- 200,000.  
24 And then they said that we're losing like 102,000 (ph)  
25 and I think they found out where they went.

26

27 Just my comments.

28

29 Advisory, the Republicans and with  
30 their development and their disregard for local people  
31 especially at the end of the world, in our country  
32 we're nothing. We're nothing. We've got to abide by  
33 their laws and most of those laws are created by  
34 legislatures in conquests that are paid and bought for  
35 by people.

36

37 I'm sorry to say that, but it's always  
38 like that. It always will be like that. We're  
39 (indiscernible) industry, we'll have the say-so on who  
40 makes the rules and regulations. And it's so obvious.  
41 We watch it every day on news.

42

43 Thank you. Some people say. Thank  
44 you.

45

46 MR. SHEARS: Thank you, Roy.

47

48 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.

49

50 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Roy,

1 for that report this morning. Thank you.

2

3

Joe.

4

5

MR. LEAVITT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7

8

9

10

Joseph Leavitt, for the record. I just want to say I agree with Roy on you need -- you need to use more public, you know, knowledge. I really agree with that.

11

12

13

14

15

And take a look at the walrus. They were just -- you know, they were declared to be endangered, but -- and they come back and they tell us they're not going to put them in that category.

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

Even the caribou, you know, that's really hard. I've had a chance to testify in front of the Alaska State Board. And when I listened to some of the people at the State Board of Game, I didn't agree with some of their science at all. That -- you know, that really bothered me.

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

And even just I'll set an example. Because I'm a whaling captain. And they told us our whales were running out in '77, but when the Board set up a science department over here -- a wildlife department -- they used good science, and that's why we're still whaling.

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

And when I listened to some of the proposals that the Board of Game -- some of the science I don't agree with at all. It's -- that really bothers me. And if you're going to make proposals like that -- you know, like endangered or -- you have to use good science.

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

That's what I want to -- I just wanted to say. You have to use good science. Because in the Board of Game some of the reports I heard, I just don't agree with them at all. So we have to use good science and local knowledge is -- it's got to be in there, too. Because you've still got people that are knowledgeable on the caribou, on the whales, and we have to use that. It's very important for me.

46

47

48

49

50

That's why I back up a scientist. If it's good science, I'll back it up. But when it's bad science I can tell right away. And they're putting

1 regulations on us by using bad science. That's what I  
2 don't like at all. It's just -- it just really bothers  
3 me.

4  
5 So I recommend, you know, you've got to  
6 use good science and local knowledge while people are  
7 still knowledgeable about our animals, you know. It's  
8 we -- that's what I'm really getting at.

9  
10 Thank you.

11  
12 MR. SHEARS: Thank you.

13  
14 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.

15  
16 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Joe.

17  
18 At this time let's take a 15-minute  
19 break here and continue on with our agenda items at  
20 this time.

21  
22 Thank you.

23  
24 (Off record)

25  
26 (On record)

27  
28 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: We'll call the  
29 meeting back to order at this time.

30  
31 Good morning. And thank you, Eva.

32  
33 We'll call the meeting back to order at  
34 this time. And we're going to continue on with our  
35 agenda here at this time. We're going to continue on  
36 with our public comments for this morning.

37  
38 And just check in with the  
39 teleconference people. If you can -- if you're still  
40 here with us, we'll continue on our agenda at this  
41 time.

42  
43 Thank you.

44  
45 Eva, if we would continue on with the  
46 public and tribal comments to continue at this time.

47  
48 Thank you.

49  
50

1 MS. LEAVITT: Good morning. This is  
2 Nancy Leavitt, for the record. I was raised in -- I  
3 was born and raised at Point Lay, Alaska. All my life  
4 until I moved to Barrow.

5  
6 But lately over the last couple of  
7 years my hometown of Point Lay, Alaska had not getting  
8 much caribous. They said they move over 50 miles away  
9 from the village. And it was hard for them to go out  
10 and harvest the caribou.

11  
12 I would just like to say that it would  
13 be good if someone would find out how the caribou are  
14 moving away from their regular migration. That would  
15 help the villages very much. I know the other  
16 villages, too, did not get caribou till later. And my  
17 freezer is still empty of caribou.

18  
19 I went to Point Lay one time for a  
20 meeting and they said you want to look at my freezer.  
21 Took me to their garage, opened their freezer, they had  
22 three or four layers -- large layers of (In Inupiaq).  
23 Salmon berries. That's all they had in their freezer.  
24 They didn't have any meat.

25  
26 And plus their store was having a hard  
27 time stocking -- restocking because they didn't have  
28 enough money to go to the store and get money to order  
29 or whatever kind of problems they were having down  
30 there.

31  
32 So I would just like to point that out.

33  
34 And thank you very much.

35  
36 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

37  
38 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,  
39 Nancy.

40  
41 Any more tribal or non-tribal public  
42 comments at this time.

43  
44 MR. KALEAK: Good morning. Leo Kaleak  
45 from -- Leo R. Kaleak, born and raised in Barrow.

46  
47 I just wanted to recognize I grew up  
48 the way of subsistence life throughout my lifetime and  
49 born and raised into it with my late parents. Late  
50

1 Allen Kaleak, Sr. and my mother Helen Kaleak.

2  
3 I just wanted to recognize one year me  
4 and my older -- I brought my older brother to our  
5 campgrounds. And that's right off the Meade River.  
6 And I wanted to go up and get some fish and caribou the  
7 way I was raised to live off the land. And as we got  
8 into our campgrounds, as soon as we entered the Meade  
9 River area and right in front of our camp what startled  
10 me was there was dead whitefish on both sides of the  
11 river. And this was a few years back. About 15 or 16,  
12 one of those two years of me coming out back and forth  
13 from Anchorage and Prudhoe Bay at the time.

14  
15 So I just wanted to recognize that.  
16 That startled me and I didn't know what to think. I  
17 didn't even want to set my nets anymore -- I mean, you  
18 know, to begin with, I mean. And so that brought to me  
19 that's allowed. There's fishing, right.

20  
21 So we a hold of search and rescue and I  
22 don't know if they even relayed the message to the  
23 Department of, you know, Wildlife up here. And so at  
24 that point we decided to stay at camp and hunt caribou.  
25 But at the same time there was no caribou around. We  
26 stayed for a couple of weeks and we didn't even  
27 encounter any. Only one that came across our  
28 campground and I harvested it because it was the only  
29 one and it was the whole two weeks that we were there  
30 we didn't encounter no caribou because of the migration  
31 I guess or something.

32  
33 So I just wanted to come up here and  
34 share that with you guys. Let you guys know that. If  
35 there's anything that the Department is going to -- I  
36 don't know how long expanded periods that they go out  
37 and, you know, inspect wildlife. Because that really  
38 bothered me when I seen dead fish -- whitefish that I  
39 was raised on.

40  
41 I -- throughout my life, like I said,  
42 through the early '70s through the late '80s. And I've  
43 recently gotten back home to continue on to do my  
44 subsistence way of life. Because that's the way I like  
45 it. And a lot has changed since -- I've noticed since  
46 I've been home. And it's not the same. And I'm just  
47 trying to get back on my feet again so I can continue  
48 on the way I was raised.

49  
50

1 So I thought I'd come up here and share  
2 with you guys that like I said along the Meade River  
3 there was a lot of dead whitefish.

4  
5 MR. SHEARS: What time of year was  
6 that?

7  
8 MR. KALEAK: That was in the  
9 summertime. In late July and beginning of August.

10  
11 Okay. Thank you.

12  
13 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Leo, did you notice  
14 any change in the water level or any other factors that  
15 might have contributed?

16  
17 MR. KALEAK: At the time we got there  
18 -- in the years that I've experienced, yeah, I noticed  
19 a lot of changing. Like I said, I was raised out  
20 there. I had the best mentor in my life as my father.  
21 And I've seen a lot of changes in those periods of time  
22 that I was out there.

23  
24 Hunting has changed a lot since their  
25 environment, you know, due to Mother Nature and  
26 everything. I've seen a lot of changes.

27  
28 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.

29  
30 MR. KALEAK: Okay. Thank you.

31  
32 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Leo,  
33 for that report.

34  
35 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: For the record, Roy  
36 Nageak. That was the time they did ia lot of seismic  
37 activity. And they used to use explosives. And I think  
38 seismic activity have really technology-wise grown, but  
39 still seismic activity impacts over land activity.

40  
41 Because I heard somebody on Facebook  
42 that it was impacting their trapping lines because  
43 there's a lot of seismic activity. But back then they  
44 used to use explosive, 15 to 16 years ago and it was  
45 not only on the Meade River. It was on the Inaru in  
46 all those other years that they used explosives.  
47 Because I remember those years. And there was a lot of  
48 dead fish. It didn't matter what kind of fish they  
49 were. (In Inupiaq) Least Ciscos, Piktaliks, all the

50

1 fish in all the rivers that some kind of testing and it  
2 took quite a few years for the fish to rebound.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. I'd like  
7 to share another point that I didn't get to talk to  
8 about this morning.

9

10 One of the big changes that I am  
11 seeing. I do a lot of cross country skiing and there  
12 has definitely been a tremendous amount of change to  
13 the vegetation around Nuiqsut. There is more long  
14 grass that's about two feet tall than I'd ever seen  
15 before. Greatly impacts when you're trying to go cross  
16 country skiing. Normally you would go up on top of the  
17 snow, but when the long grass breaks through the snow  
18 you don't have that packing that occurs. And it  
19 affected my ability to move with the skis  
20 appropriately.

21

22 When I would break through the snow my  
23 ski tips would get tangled in the long grass. It's  
24 very concerning in the rapidity of this change and  
25 what's going to happen with the food source for the  
26 caribou. We know that they eat a variety of tundra  
27 plants, but when we're seeing large areas where long  
28 grass has grown a different week and oat -- that's not  
29 normal in this area.

30

31 The quality of the feed for the animals  
32 at their important times is a big question. Are they  
33 going to get the appropriateness that they need when  
34 they need it.

35

36 Definitely with the increasing rain  
37 patterns that we're having in the falltime, you can see  
38 the change in the density of the snow, the granularity  
39 of the snow. It's definitely since it's been so warm  
40 out the caribou can still break through it. But when  
41 we have those cold freezing events it's going to become  
42 an issue for the caribous ability to get their food  
43 sources.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,  
48 Rosemary.

49

50

1 Do we got any more public comments or  
2 anything else at this time.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 MS. PATTON: Maybe I'll just check in.  
7 We have a little bit of time here.

8  
9 Ernest Nageak went to pick up his  
10 nephews, but he'll be back and then was going to give  
11 an update for the Barrow field office and also some  
12 information on the open house tomorrow evening that the  
13 Council is invited to. So it will probably be just a  
14 few minutes before Ernest gets back.

15  
16 And I thought maybe we might be able to  
17 get some more information or some dialogue with folks  
18 here. Questions that both Nancy and Leo had mentioned.

19  
20 Oh. We've got another from Joe here.

21  
22 Thank you.

23  
24 MR. LEAVITT: Joseph Leavitt again,  
25 Barrow.

26  
27 I'd like to speak up on some of the  
28 changes that are occurring right in our area. Back in  
29 the '80s, when we'd go fishing on the lakes -- I do a  
30 lot of fishing on the lakes. Back in the '80s the  
31 willows used to only be three, four feet tall. And  
32 then a couple of years ago we -- before freeze up I  
33 went down to the (In Inupiaq) we call it. Right now  
34 the willows are way above our -- way above where our  
35 tent stands. That's how much change has occurred with  
36 the weather changing and all that. The willows are so  
37 tall you have to find a little hill to see over the  
38 willows. And, you know, that's a big change, too.

39  
40 And some of the changes that are on --  
41 fishing for in the summertime, people are telling me  
42 that they're catching more salmon than the whitefish.  
43 When I was in Bethel I was telling the people that and  
44 they kind of laughed at me. And they said how come you  
45 guys don't like salmon. Because we're so used to our  
46 Aanaakliq, the whitefish. That, you know, the fish we  
47 prefer. They asked me the same thing about the  
48 caribou. How come you guys don't like moose.

49  
50



1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. LEAVITT: I mean we hardly get any  
4 moose up here. That's why we prefer caribou.

5

6 And that's some of the changes that are  
7 occurring. Even on our sea ice. Even on our sea ice.  
8 When I was a kid in the 1960's that was our big  
9 playground. Because the ice would come back even in  
10 September. Even in August the ice would be there.  
11 That was our big playground. We used to go hop around  
12 from ice to ice and to us that was our playground. And  
13 you could fish -- actually fish in the summertime for  
14 TomCod.

15

16 The big change for the ocean is we're  
17 not getting any more of the multi-year ice. We're --  
18 the ice we get now is formed in November. And once in  
19 a great while the multi-year ice will come back and it  
20 -- it seems like it goes back to a long time ago. The  
21 days I used to remember that -- when the ice would  
22 always come back. When the multi-year ice comes in  
23 it's just like long time ago ice. But that is very  
24 short lived now.

25

26 Right now the big change on the ocean  
27 is when the sea ice takes off it don't want to come  
28 back to Barrow no more. You have to go further and  
29 further to hunt our bearded seals. When -- you know,  
30 what we skin our skin boats with. And it's -- that  
31 really affects our hunting, our whaling.

32

33 And that's a big change too on the  
34 ocean is once the sea ice goes out it don't want to  
35 come back. And our window for hunting bearded seal in  
36 the summer is, you know, it's just a very short, short  
37 time that we get to hunt on the ice. So we've got to  
38 go out earlier to do our seal hunting.

39

40 That's some of the changes I've seen in  
41 the last 10, 15 years. Even 20 years ago maybe.

42

43 But that's some of the changes that I  
44 just wanted to mention.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.

49

50

1 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Joe.

2

3 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: For the record again,  
4 Roy Nageak.

5

6 I just -- I was a foot away from living  
7 how my parents used to live. Strictly subsistence and  
8 basically following the animals wherever they go.  
9 That's the generation that have seen starvation not  
10 from impacts, from weather, the ability of caribou and  
11 sometime fish. But there are certain places my father  
12 taught me that they will never run out of fish, like in  
13 front of Meade River. Where the young man stated, that  
14 used to be one area and that's where we used to have a  
15 camp.

16

17 But when I was younger, starting from  
18 January, when the sun came out our people would start  
19 getting ready for whaling. And they start looking at  
20 digging out all the food that was put into the ice  
21 cellars. The ones that they hunted all summer when  
22 there was 24-hour daylight. And then they would pull  
23 them out. And at that time was the time that our  
24 people kind of wanted food. And that's why they store  
25 a lot in their ice cellars. And that's when they  
26 started spreading the food around. And they still do  
27 today. That they put a lot of muktuk and a lot of meat  
28 in ice cellars, along with caribou, along with fish,  
29 along with the geese, along with the ducks that we hunt  
30 during a short period of time.

31

32 And we go with the seasons. That was  
33 the time that they tried to catch caribou for sleeping  
34 mats because they were the thickest, too. The big  
35 bulls. And that was the time the taste of the caribou  
36 started changing so you could make (In Inupiaq). (In  
37 Inupiaq) is burying the caribou for two to three days  
38 and let it ferment from inside and that would -- that  
39 was one of the best tasting raw meat I ever had. And  
40 hardly ever do that anymore because of the weather  
41 patterns that have changed. Because the coldest winter  
42 would provide the best tasting (In Inupiaq) when you  
43 cover -- completely cover it with snow.

44

45 That's the one thing that I've seen.  
46 Because of the change of winters which are warmer. And  
47 then the time of getting ready in March, February --  
48 but there was always seal hunting all year when the ice  
49 got attached. November was always a good time to go

50

1 seal hunting.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

At the time when a lot of -- when you had to travel a long ways to catch caribou. And you don't do that no more. There's no more solid ice to hunt seals on. You see the water wide open in November. But it used to freeze that middle part of September, which will provide a stable ice to go out seal hunting with. That don't happen no more because you see the ocean's still open.

That used to be the time seal was a year round thing. But now it's not anymore. That's one staple that used to -- in the dead of winter that used to be the food that saved a lot of people from starvation, was the seal. But that's -- the future of the seal is a debate right now because there's no ice.

March was the time when the polar bear skins were at their best. And that's when they started doing polar bear hunting. When you go with the seasons. And that was the best time for the fur. And they used to use them for matting, too, and for pants, especially when we were hunting whales, which starts in April.

This was the first year. And I started hunting whales, or being involved with whales since I was nine years old. This is the first time ever in the Barrow area that the only place to hunt whales with safe ice was past the point. East of the point where -- the whales caught in the springtime were east of point because the whole area from the point going west was ice -- young ice that had piled up so much that trying to break a trail and the ice in some places was open. You know, that was frozen right around April and it was really dangerous trying to skirt around or trying to move towards the lead which was like four or five miles away in front of Barrow. It was too far. With all the different ridges that were created because of the young ice.

And that's the only kind of ice we see now is young ice, one to two feet. Two feet at the most. And then that's why this year is the first year that ever the only whales caught were east of Barrow. And that might be -- we don't know what might be the case this year. It might be the same thing because we're starting to get cold now, even though it gets

1 cold it takes like a month for the ice to form out in  
2 the open ocean. For it to get solid enough to try to  
3 create a fast sea ice. And that's what we -- we don't  
4 see anymore is the creation of the solid grounded ice.  
5 It usually starts in October. It doesn't anymore.  
6

7 So the question of spring whaling. And  
8 it was so lucky that we do fall whaling from Kaktovik  
9 to -- Wainwright is doing fall whaling, too. And they  
10 had an unsuccessful year. But we did have a real  
11 successful year in regards to our fall whaling. They  
12 caught all the whales. And their -- our people are  
13 more selective.  
14

15 And with agreements that were made  
16 what, almost like 40 years ago. When that Alaska  
17 Eskimo Whaling Commission and the United States, along  
18 with the International Whaling Commission, the form of  
19 agreements that still allows us to have the freedom to  
20 hunt the whales for our food. And then when got the  
21 whales, most of them were small. Our people have  
22 gotten to the point where they selectively catch non-  
23 breeding whales, which are around 30 foot, 35 foot.  
24 They're the non-breeding whales. The breeding whales  
25 are the ones that are like 40, 45 foot. Anything above  
26 40 foot, 45 are the breeding whales.  
27

28 And two or three years ago I got a  
29 whale that was like 49 foot, but it was a fat female.  
30 And I told the biologist, this one's got a baby in it  
31 and they says nah. How do you know. Look at the water  
32 seeping out of it, and when we were cutting up the  
33 whale and we exposed the belly, out pops a small whale  
34 14 foot long. And they told me that was the biggest --  
35 the biggest one that they have recorded was a 14  
36 footer. It was inside the whale. And then we cut it  
37 up, too, and gave it to the elders.  
38

39 But these are things that we're noting,  
40 that our people through treaty agreements that work.  
41 And there's some -- if there are good agreements that  
42 still allows us to do what we needed to with the  
43 animals that we use for food. Follow what the Alaska  
44 Eskimo Whaling Commission has done with the whales.  
45 And now the whales are expanding. There are more.  
46 There's more smaller whales out there.  
47

48 And that's why in Barrow they got the  
49 small ones, which are what we call butterball. And  
50

1 they're just right for us. I think our elders prefer  
2 it, but for Wainwright they like the big ones. They  
3 grew up eating the big ones. I say why don't you try  
4 catching smaller whale. Oh, we grew up eating the big  
5 ones. We like the big, tough muktuk.

6  
7 (Laughter)

8  
9 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: But there are still  
10 lots, too.

11  
12 All along the coast improvement of  
13 weaponry. Point Hope, in prior years used to lose a  
14 lot of whales, but I think they obtained the quota all  
15 the way down the coast because of working with the  
16 Federal government and working with weaponry are good  
17 examples of what agreements could do for the betterment  
18 of our people and for the freedom of our people to hunt  
19 as we please.

20  
21 But at the time same work together to  
22 improve the weaponry. That was classic. I mean these  
23 are classic ways to help each other rather to butt  
24 heads just to see who's got the rights. The rights to  
25 make the laws or the rights to have the freedom to  
26 hunt. And when you're in agreement and try to work  
27 together as citizens of the United States, sometimes it  
28 becomes questionable for us. We're really the United  
29 States citizens where we're the only ones that have to  
30 comply with these man made laws. The only ones that  
31 are made for us to stop us hunting off the ocean.

32  
33 And now with the -- we need to -- when  
34 you look at the industry, and when you look at the  
35 State of Alaska. And we saw it in the last couple of  
36 weeks trying to make these billion dollar agreements  
37 with countries like China. And then when you see Trump  
38 in there and they're talking with Trump and they're  
39 mentioning the North Slope, there's going to be greater  
40 impacts for us.

41  
42 Now would be the time to start to set  
43 up agreements like the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission  
44 with agreements for our cari -- for the caribou of the  
45 land, for the fish of the land, for all the animals  
46 that we depend on. Because it's really going to impact  
47 us -- the development will impact us because of the  
48 agreement the United States are making with other  
49 international countries.

50

1 And like I said, we're familiar with  
2 international law and we have learned to work with  
3 them. And the person that said science -- if science  
4 -- good science is going to be designating endangered  
5 species. It's got to be backed up with good science.  
6 Good science.

7  
8 And we know that industries or anybody  
9 could buy a scientist and have him study something and  
10 say this is what we know. We've learned how to deal  
11 with like issues like that. And traditional knowledge  
12 is always the best. The knowledge of the local people  
13 which was passed on for hundreds and thousands of  
14 years.

15  
16 We still hunt the whale with the  
17 knowledge that was there a thousand years ago. With  
18 the way that the whale move and the way that you  
19 approach this whale with the least amount of stress and  
20 worry to the whale, they don't know what hits them in a  
21 sense, especially with the new improved weaponry.

22  
23 And once we're done whaling then we go  
24 spring geese hunting. And spring hunting for the ducks  
25 because they come by the hundreds and thousands. And  
26 these are the ones that come from all over the world,  
27 all the birds and the ducks in our land. They come to  
28 the North Slope to breed. And I will say that the  
29 North Slope Region is made with love.

30  
31 (Laughter)

32  
33 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: Because a lot of  
34 animals and a lot of birds come to the North Slope to  
35 go breed. For some reason God made it that in the  
36 wintertime it looks like a wasteland, but in the  
37 summer, in the springtime hundreds of birds and  
38 hundreds of duck some. And those will be definitely  
39 impacted, too.

40  
41 Because while we were ice fishing there  
42 was this one owl and he was chasing a lone eider duck  
43 and somehow when our people saw that, it's like all the  
44 animals getting so desperate, too, now because of  
45 what's happening within the change.

46  
47 Me and my wife love to go beach combing  
48 north and south. In the fall the storms are coming up  
49 earlier and impacting the land. And the warm weather,  
50

1 we had a wet season this year and we never really went  
2 up inland hunting because of the wet tundra. Because  
3 it bogs our vehicles down. We never really did any  
4 summer caribou hunting because of the wet season.  
5 Because you can't travel far with four-wheelers when  
6 it's so wet.

7  
8 And then one thing I've noticed because  
9 we usually have these high bluffs south of here, the  
10 rivers -- two of the little creeks that are crossable  
11 all summer long, the current and the open ice or open  
12 ocean, there's one creek that's the closest one to  
13 Barrow called (In Inupiaq), we can't cross that in fall  
14 time because of the water that is rushing in. That's a  
15 change. Big change. These were small creeks we used  
16 to cross real easy with four-wheelers. You can't cross  
17 no more because of the currents that are coming. And  
18 you have to go a long, long ways.

19  
20 And the bluffs which were high, you  
21 could tell that because of the (indiscernible) you  
22 could see more of the mud fluffing off into the beach  
23 and getting muddier. And one thing I notice is the  
24 height of those bluffs, it's almost halfway down. What  
25 does that say. That says that the land around our  
26 Region is getting lower while the water is getting  
27 higher. And for us, we don't know what our future will  
28 hold, especially we're right by the sea and you see the  
29 protection that we put in the front of Barrow. I mean  
30 you go out and see the gravel berms. That's not  
31 enough. And we're putting our resources and providing  
32 services for our people, but trying to make a  
33 protection -- a seawall in front of Barrow, we need  
34 help from somebody.

35  
36 And if they're going to be selling  
37 natural resources from the North Slope with billion  
38 dollar trades and stuff with China and issues like  
39 that, we need to have our share to save our villages.  
40 That's the only thing that we ask. Is to look at the  
41 villages that we have and the impact that the climate  
42 change -- and I don't know why they went away from  
43 global warming because it is impacting our Region so  
44 bad, that if they're going to be trading the resources  
45 that are on the North Slope with billion dollar deals  
46 with China. Because we see the news, too. We see the  
47 needs for resources from the North Slope. All we ask  
48 is from the Federal government -- because we know the  
49 State don't have no more money, is to help us protect  
50

1 the lands that we have and our villages.

2

3 And the help that we need to make a  
4 transportation corridor to our villages. Because we  
5 pay the highest for our local airlines. When it costs  
6 like 1,000 bucks from Barrow to Kaktovik from one end  
7 to the other, where it used to be like \$200, \$300.  
8 Right now it costs like 1,000 bucks just to go to  
9 Kaktovik roundtrip.

10

11 So those are issues that our people are  
12 being impacted. It's a higher cost of living. At the  
13 same time needing the resources to live off of. Like  
14 in my family we eat like 90 percent of what we hunt.  
15 Every time we sit down to have dinner, 95 percent -- 90  
16 to 95 percent is what we hunt because of the high  
17 prices from the store. And that's one thing. If it  
18 wasn't for the food and the changes that are happening  
19 back in our wild animals, we don't know what's going to  
20 come.

21

22 And that's why while people are looking  
23 at the North Slope to start selling the resources, we  
24 need our part to make it easier to transport a lot of  
25 commodities that are needed to our villages with a road  
26 system somewhere in there. Like I say, if they're  
27 going to be taking out a billion dollars worth of  
28 resources, the people on the North Slope need to see  
29 their share, too, to offset the costs. That we're  
30 utilizing subsistence food, but that is being changed,  
31 too, because of global warming or climate change.

32

33 And all we ask is make sure that we  
34 have a road system or system set in where we don't have  
35 to pay the high cost of air freight.

36

37 Thank you very much.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Roy,  
40 for that.

41

42 MS. LEAVITT: Good morning. This is  
43 Nancy Leavitt. I was going to mention something about  
44 the fishing. The fishing in Point Lay have been kind  
45 of poor, but maybe the last two or three weeks when  
46 there was a cold spell, the Kuparuk River managed to  
47 freeze. Like freeze over maybe to four inches. And  
48 the ones that were ready who had gas went fishing and  
49 they got a few fish. And then the next day my son got

50



1 ready and by the time he went up there, there was not  
2 -- it had already thawed out.

3  
4 So they're kind of having a poor  
5 fishing season. But they keep trying. I told them  
6 never stop. Just keep trying.

7  
8 That's what we're doing now even with  
9 the whales, even with all of the marine mammals we used  
10 to get earlier. You just have to get used to an empty  
11 freezer. Full of hamburger.

12  
13 Thank you.

14  
15 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,  
16 Nancy, for that part.

17  
18 I know it's pretty tough for, you know,  
19 like areas of the villages where you have to depend on  
20 food off the land. But, you know, it's hard. You  
21 know, gas and oil and snowmachines and things like that  
22 is really expensive. You can't just go out anytime you  
23 need to. You know, you've got to work for your gas or  
24 oil or things like that in order to make your machine  
25 reliable to bring you out there and bring you back  
26 home.

27  
28 Anyway, at this time, you know, if  
29 anybody else got more comments or public comments they  
30 would like to make at this time.

31  
32 (No comments)

33  
34 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Like I said,  
35 welcome back, Gordon.

36  
37 We're still on the number 9, public and  
38 tribal comments and non-agenda items. We just  
39 continued on with some of the people on the floor that  
40 was putting their input about what's -- how they're  
41 living and hunting and things like that in the area.

42  
43 Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Lee.

46  
47 I just want to let the -- Eva that I'm  
48 back, and thank you, Vice-Chair Lee.

49  
50

1 And so I guess we're on public and  
2 tribal comments and non-agenda items. And it'll be  
3 available each morning. And if there's folks that want  
4 to address the Council and I think that's a good time  
5 for that.

6  
7 So I don't know how long we've been on  
8 it. And maybe you could advise me as to what's next.

9  
10 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh. Yeah. Yeah.  
11 We've had, Mr. Chair and Council, a lot of good  
12 comments.

13  
14 And as was noted that local and  
15 traditional knowledge is very important and your  
16 feedback and observations help inform both the  
17 decisions of the Council in recommendations to the  
18 Board. And really appreciate everyone sharing this  
19 morning.

20  
21 And as Gordon noted, we have that  
22 opportunity in the mornings on each day of the meeting.  
23 So that's always available. And then of course through  
24 -- as we're discussing the regulatory proposals, too,  
25 we have that opportunity for each of the proposals to  
26 hear feedback from the community as well.

27  
28 And I do know some of the other  
29 communities -- the Tribal Council had hoped to call in.  
30 So we check in with folks online, too, if they have  
31 comments.

32  
33 We did -- we had checked in with Ernest  
34 here. We were trying to juggle the agenda a little bit  
35 so that we didn't move on to any action items before  
36 you got back.

37  
38 Ernest had offered to give an update  
39 for the Barrow field office. If you want to do that  
40 now prior to lunch and then we can move into the  
41 special action updates and the caribou reports this  
42 afternoon when Ester and Steve are able to join us as  
43 well.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you,  
46 Madame Coordinator.

47  
48 What's the wish of the Council.

49  
50

1 And we'll give Ernest an opportunity  
2 to.....

3  
4 MR. SHEARS: Yeah. Sounds good.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sounds good.

7  
8 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Okay.

9  
10 MR. NAGEAK: (In Inupiaq) For the  
11 record, (In Inupiaq) So I'd like to introduce myself.  
12 Ernest Nageak, Native Affairs Specialist for Fish and  
13 Wildlife Service.

14  
15 I introduced myself in Inupiaq because,  
16 you know, we kind of vitalize our language. And I tell  
17 you guys my relatives, I might be related to you guys  
18 from Kaktovik or Atqasuk.

19  
20 Also, you know, we teach our Federal  
21 employees, you know, to introduce themselves in their  
22 own native languages wherever they may come from, their  
23 lineage, and the history of, you know, their people and  
24 their family. Just, you know, open up and get to know  
25 a little bit about each other. Because, you know,  
26 we're all here with -- we all have a history. We all  
27 have like going on.

28  
29 Because as a Federal employee, the Fish  
30 and Wildlife Service, you know, always came around and  
31 always was one-sided. And they came in and told us  
32 when and -- when to hunt and when not to hunt, you  
33 know, birds and animals.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ernest, isn't that  
36 how the Duck-Inn started?

37  
38 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah.

39  
40 (Laughter)

41  
42 MR. NAGEAK: So the Federal government,  
43 Fish and Wildlife Service, you know, is doing  
44 improvements on, you know, building relationships.  
45 It's now required that, you know, Federal employees  
46 that work in rural areas have a native relations  
47 training that Crystal Leonetti and some of our native  
48 employees for the Fish and Wildlife Service holds twice  
49 a year. And it's becoming, you know, improved every  
50

1 year.

2  
3 It happens for a week long, Monday  
4 afternoon to Friday afternoon, where we have elders  
5 from each Region, you know, talk about what to expect  
6 in villages. You know, how to interact with people in  
7 the villages. How to communicate. How to provide  
8 outreach. And it's -- we're trying to make it broader  
9 to -- you know, with the other sister departments in  
10 the Interior, like BLM and the Park Service.

11  
12 So I'm proud to announce in January all  
13 you Department of Interior employees will have maybe a  
14 100-employee native relations training that provides  
15 outreach for all the Federal employees that work all  
16 over Alaska. Just to have a cultural breakdown.

17  
18 And it's very good for them. You know,  
19 it opens up and it makes interactions in the villages  
20 better and what to expect. So if you guys haven't  
21 signed up, I think that's end of January.

22  
23 Keep in mind it's twice a year and for  
24 some it's -- you know, it's required mandatory training  
25 for rural employees. So.....

26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ernest, if I may ask  
28 a question on that part.

29  
30 MR. NAGEAK: Yes. Go ahead.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq)  
33 Somewhere else or are they going to have that here?

34  
35 MR. NAGEAK: It's always -- the last  
36 maybe seven or eight trainings it's been at the Alaska  
37 Native Heritage Center.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

40  
41 MR. NAGEAK: So we have, you know,  
42 these -- they have a walk through with all of the  
43 different cultures. And I think that would be --  
44 that's been the best place that worked out for all our  
45 training because it has like different -- like they  
46 have different cultures, and different areas. They  
47 show their cultures and they show their -- how their  
48 houses and how their stuffs were built.

49  
50

1 And that's where we have our meetings  
2 now. At Alaska Native Heritage Center.  
3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. In terms of  
5 relationship building and outreach, we're having  
6 similar outreach projects. A-Star being one of them.  
7 Trying to get -- making sure the State knows how to  
8 coordinate with villages and talk well with villages.  
9

10 It might be good to see how the  
11 Borough, the State, and those kind of folks maybe can  
12 help participate in -- if that's something that we  
13 could all work toward maybe.  
14

15 MR. NAGEAK: Uh-huh. And we're kind of  
16 looking for an elder. We have a lady out there from  
17 Kotzebue Region because we have an office over there,  
18 but we just got out from meeting yesterday and we were  
19 looking for an elder from maybe Kaktovik or Nuiqsut or  
20 Barrow. If you guys have any recommendations that  
21 would -- willing to go to our training and provide  
22 their knowledge and share their stuff about their  
23 Region and, you know, the willingness to share their  
24 knowledge and work together to make our relationships  
25 better.  
26

27 Because our office -- you know, it's  
28 been around since 2008. And if you guys haven't known  
29 the reasoning was there was endangered bird killed on  
30 the side of the road and that caused an uproar with law  
31 enforcement coming up and dealing with birds during  
32 that time.  
33

34 But Fish and Wildlife Service has been  
35 around over 20 years with the schools, the students.  
36 Since 1999 Neesha (Indiscernible) been coming up and  
37 recruiting students to partake in the studies of the  
38 endangered around that area, the stellar and spectacle  
39 eider and we also look out for the yellow-billed loon.  
40 So that's been going on about 20 years.  
41

42 And we hired ten students this summer.  
43 I usually update you guys with numbers, but my -- I  
44 couldn't connect to my computer this morning to get  
45 those numbers. But we had a late season because the  
46 snow melted late. You know, we were -- our kids were  
47 trained, you know, in bear safety and all the safety  
48 training before going out into the field. So they were  
49 ready by end of May. You know, expecting it to be  
50

1 thawed out. But like by the first week of June we had  
2 a delay. There was still a lot of snow and a lot of  
3 birds haven't laid down their nests.

4  
5 So our bird nesting wasn't that good  
6 for the stellars. I'd say maybe they found 18. And  
7 about eight or nine were dispatched by, you know, foxes  
8 or predators. And about seven students were a part of  
9 that Arctic journey. And we also had three students  
10 with the lemming monitoring, where they say there's  
11 correlation. If there's a lot of lemmings, then that  
12 may be a good year for the birds to lay their eggs.  
13 You know, somehow they may know. They're still trying  
14 to figure that out. But if there's a lot of lemmings,  
15 then that might be a good year for them to lay eggs.

16  
17 We also used to do a predator control  
18 with the Arctic foxes, but this year we discontinued  
19 that. There was concern from the North Slope Borough  
20 and the people that -- you know, they were -- to them,  
21 we thought they were -- we were teaching them to trap  
22 foxes, you know, when their furs were no good. And not  
23 utilizing them in the summertime. So they were kind of  
24 asked to put a hold on that because, you know, we  
25 weren't quite proving it was effective whether we --  
26 you know, with the predator control.

27  
28 And this spring, to try something new  
29 other than kill them all, we had some people -- two  
30 people tried to come up in June to -- before all the  
31 snow melted to try and trap these foxes live and try to  
32 mark them to see if they go to -- certain ones go to  
33 bird nests or certain ones not. So they were unable to  
34 get foxes during that time.

35  
36 And that was our summer with the  
37 students. And every year in the springtime we have a  
38 spring gathering. You know, kind of like welcome all  
39 of the migratory birds. We have people from law  
40 enforcement come up. We have -- do outreach for the  
41 upcoming season. And we do hire the students and --  
42 and after the season we do a post-season open house.  
43 And that -- where the students come in and share their  
44 Power Point. And they will have the numbers of how  
45 many birds they found.

46  
47 And so this year they will try to  
48 improve their predator control from the birds up top.  
49 They tried to use a nest cover on the bottom on the (In  
50

1 Inupiaq). I don't know the English word. The (In  
2 Inupiaq) and the (In Inupiaq). There's a (In Inupiaq)  
3 I think or pink long tail. Yeah. They tried to test  
4 that out on those and the birds did return to the nest.  
5 And those ones that had the little camouflage cover on  
6 top, about 80 to 90 of them worked I think.

7  
8 But I don't know if some foxes. I  
9 didn't hear if some foxes went under those things, but  
10 that's just.....

11  
12 Tomorrow at 5:30 we'll be having our  
13 open house so that you'll be able to hear from the kids  
14 themselves. You know, it's at our office, 5146 Boxer  
15 Street. It's up the road from the clinic and it's the  
16 32 unit. So we'll be having duck and goose soup and  
17 updates from marine mammals.

18  
19 We also work with Point Lay on haulout  
20 and also meet -- we'll have somebody from marine  
21 mammals talk about the polar bear co-management  
22 agreements that's been in the talks for the last year  
23 to try and figure out what's going on with that.

24  
25 So question.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Ernest. And  
28 maybe some of the -- if there's elders here, too.

29  
30 (In Inupiaq)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's just a concern  
33 I've heard from elders in the past. That the spectacle  
34 and stellar eiders, they were never really numbers that  
35 rivaled like (indiscernible) and those (In Inupiaq) and  
36 stuff. They were -- they never numbered to rival those  
37 kinds of migratory birds. But they were always here.  
38 But there was never a very huge influx that everybody  
39 hunted those.

40  
41 So I'm trying to wonder over the course  
42 of -- I could remember when this started about 1997  
43 when we started hearing the concerns with planning and  
44 wildlife department to try to make conservancy an issue  
45 for spectacle and stellar eiders and naming Barrow as  
46 their prime habitat.

47  
48 And I'm wondering if those numbers are  
49 over the period of monitoring from the time that we  
50

1 started hearing these things. That if they're starting  
2 to have a growth pattern or is there a trend or is it  
3 still stable.

4  
5 MR. NAGEAK: With the.....

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I'm real happy  
8 for the students that are doing these and I certainly  
9 encourage that.

10  
11 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq)

14  
15 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah. When we talk with  
16 the elders they've always told us there was less  
17 numbers for the stellar eiders, the smaller ones. And  
18 that number has still been kind of low. The stellar  
19 eiders is still our main concern. And their numbers  
20 really haven't been moving.

21  
22 But on the other hand, spectacle eiders  
23 -- there's over -- I hear there was over a couple  
24 hundred thousand and they're meshing into the king  
25 eiders and sometimes hunters actually shoot a  
26 spectacle. Sometimes there's consequences still. So  
27 with those increased numbers hopefully the spectacle at  
28 least will kind of get off the threatened list.  
29 Because the spectacle eiders are becoming plenty.  
30 Because you could see them springtime when you're on  
31 the edge of the ice. You see the flocks. You could  
32 see maybe ten or fifteen of them have spectacles around  
33 their eyes.

34  
35 So that's where I notice them the most.  
36 When you're right on the edge of the ice. We see  
37 increased number of spectacles flying with the king and  
38 common, so -- and with the late seasons and the ice not  
39 freezing up, I happened to see two flocks of eiders  
40 yesterday. So there's still ducks and (In Inupiaq) out  
41 there along the coast.

42  
43 And we'll hear more tomorrow from our  
44 field office. If you guys have any other questions  
45 about our summer work -- and we tried -- I know there's  
46 village, we tried to get villages to come up. One year  
47 we had someone from Kaktovik and one year we had  
48 someone from Point Lay, but that was when we had gotten  
49 funding from the Borough to, you know, hire more

50



1 people. But we have no places for them to stay, so if  
2 we do happen to hire them, they would stay with their  
3 relatives or people out there.

4

5 MR. SHEARS: Question, Mr. Chair.

6

7 So the cover on the duck nest, it  
8 worked with the smaller birds. Any plans to do the  
9 paperwork and actually try putting covers on an  
10 endangered species of duck, like a spectacle or  
11 stellar?

12

13 MR. NAGEAK: I haven't asked them that  
14 question, but they have been, you know, trying out new  
15 things.

16

17 MR. SHEARS: Yeah.

18

19 MR. NAGEAK: Every year to try and  
20 improve the.....

21

22 MR. SHEARS: I can imagine the  
23 bureaucracy to get a permit to do that.

24

25 MR. NAGEAK: Uh-huh.

26

27 MR. SHEARS: It's quite significant.  
28 It would be a lot of effort.

29

30 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah.

31

32 MR. SHEARS: But I'd be interested in  
33 seeing that.

34

35 MR. NAGEAK: And listening to the  
36 concerns, you know, of the community and, you know,  
37 hearing good ideas or stuff we should improve on or  
38 stuff we shouldn't do or -- we're always -- our  
39 supervisor's always wanting to, you know, hear from the  
40 communities that are being affected or that our people  
41 are out roaming the tundra on.

42

43 Because, you know, it's good to hear  
44 from the elders. Like you guys said, if they hear our  
45 voice, you know, we'll help out each other. And that's  
46 the way the Fish and Wildlife Service and the people  
47 were -- they're trying to -- just starting to realize  
48 that it's good to hear the voices of the community.  
49 Because they can work hand in hand and work things out

50

1 to the betterment for everybody on both sides.

2

3

CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq)

4

5

6

Any other questions to Fish and  
Wildlife Service Ernest.

7

8

All right. We have one.

9

10

You can come up to the mic there, Roy.

11

12

13

MR. NAGEAK, SR.: Roy Nageak, for the  
record.

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

I've always noticed that USDA are the  
ones that have the permit to try to trap fox -- because  
I run into them when we're running around in the  
country in the summertime. And I'm going why do you  
expend all this money on trying to trap foxes in the  
summertime. Especially we're seeing that with Federal  
government employees you can't go out into the tundra  
with four-wheelers.

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

And then with traditional knowledge,  
wintertime is the time to trap foxes. When you could  
get a lot. And there's no limit in traffic. And I'm  
saying to get more bang for your money and allow people  
to have a little income especially around the Barrow  
area, why don't you allow them to -- not allow anybody  
to come up in the summertime. To expend a lot of this  
funding that's -- just a little tip of the iceberg.

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

And just allow people to somehow --  
because I remember because of poor salmon seasons in  
Alaska, my dad used to get \$10 for a snout if he sent  
it out to the Federal government outside of Barrow. In  
our younger days that's how we used to make money was  
to get those seal snouts and ship them out and they'd  
get 10 bucks in return.

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

And the way -- and I've seen different  
ways that they try to study the endangered species,  
stellar and spectacle eiders. Because I've been out on  
the tundra for so many years. One year I was seeing a  
lot of stakes -- wood stakes. And I says, what's that  
for. Oh, it's just to -- so that we could find the  
spectacle and stellar eider nests that we found. And I  
say it's good for the fox, too. Catch a fox when  
they're out on the tundra, when they see things that

50

1 are out of place they go to right away. And then they  
2 find the spectacle eiders or the endangered species.

3  
4 And one year we -- I've seen a little  
5 -- I heard a little explosion and I went over to a  
6 bluff, there was this guy and he was trying to trap a  
7 spectacle eider or a stellar eider using explosive nets  
8 -- boom.

9  
10 (Laughter)

11  
12 MR. NAGEAK: But the ducks used to fly  
13 real quick away from the net. And I'm going what the  
14 heck are you guys doing. We're trying to capture a  
15 spectacle or stellar eider with these nets and it blows  
16 up and then it spreads out and the ducks fly real quick  
17 right away from it. And I'm going you've got to be  
18 kidding me. There's got to be better ways to do this.

19  
20 So these are issues that we're seeing  
21 and they're getting better. But for a fox, the best  
22 time to get them in numbers is in the -- they're  
23 starting now. November 1st till what -- March 1st.

24  
25 And for our people -- I know where all  
26 the fox dens are. Because I've traveled the country  
27 between here and the Inaru. And I know where the big  
28 fox dens are and it's, like this time of year, that's  
29 where you need to set those fox traps.

30  
31 Because that's just -- that's  
32 traditional knowledge to impact the foxes so that we  
33 could have more endangered species birds. That's the  
34 way to try to do it. I'm just.....

35  
36 And he knows where they are.

37  
38 (Laughter)

39  
40 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah. Well, we had those  
41 concerns before. And, you know, the years we've done  
42 this -- the last five, six years -- you know, right  
43 before all the snow melted we would get 100, 125 foxes  
44 there in the month of May and beginning of June. And  
45 once we take all those out, here comes another herd of  
46 foxes. So, you know, whether we do them in the  
47 wintertime or the springtime, they'll be there in the  
48 summer in a new batch.

49  
50

1                   So I guess that's -- we heard that  
2 concern before, but we try to -- we used to try to get  
3 the foxes at -- you know, during the nesting time while  
4 they're around because if we dispatch them all in the  
5 springtime there was another batch right behind them.  
6 So.....

7  
8                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Joe.

9  
10                  MR. LEAVITT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11  
12                  That sounded like Wiley E. Coyote from  
13 the Road Runner.

14  
15                  (Laughter)

16  
17                  MR. LEAVITT: I just want to make this  
18 one real short. Why you need to work with local  
19 knowledge. Pretty soon you won't have any more local  
20 knowledge. People will not be knowledgeable, you know,  
21 about the land. You've got to use local knowledge  
22 while some people are still here that are familiar with  
23 local knowledge.

24  
25                  If you don't use the local knowledge,  
26 further down the road where are you guys going to turn  
27 to. Because that's why it's so important to use local  
28 knowledge.

29  
30                  Thank you very much.

31  
32                  CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq)

33  
34                  MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiaq)

35  
36                  CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I just wanted to  
37 also comment.

38  
39                  Back in the '50s there was a program.  
40 And I don't know who actually ran it. If it was the  
41 State or the Feds. But you could turn in either a take  
42 or something -- and that's how come there was a lot of  
43 trapping in the '50s. I think it was 10 bucks or 25  
44 bucks -- a lot of money back then.

45  
46                  And using local folks, local  
47 traditional knowledge like that, (In Inupiaq). You  
48 know, it's just incentive to. And I think it would  
49 reduce cost of trying to do the major studies of hiring  
50

1 biologists and to monitor them and doing this. If you  
2 had an incentive for a bounty type thing, which I don't  
3 think you will ever -- foxes will never go away. They  
4 trapped them and trapped them in the '50s. Hundreds  
5 and hundreds, you know, thousands of them, and they  
6 come back. They always come back. There's -- it's  
7 just no way that.....

8  
9                   Anyway, I thought that that was  
10 important to note in that.

11  
12                   MR. NAGEAK: And I also wanted to  
13 mention that, you know, Fish and Wildlife Service,  
14 they're trying to incorporate -- we call it TEK,  
15 traditional ecological knowledge, into the work they're  
16 doing and the research. And it's kind of like becoming  
17 a -- I think it's a requirement for them to incorporate  
18 TEK in the stuff they do and the paperwork and stuff.

19  
20                   So we try to incorporate, you know,  
21 traditional knowledge from the elders in whatever we  
22 do. So.....

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

25  
26                   I think Rosemary, you had to address  
27 Ernest.

28  
29                   MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I appreciate the  
30 effort that you're going about in trying to work with  
31 our people and bringing our people into this process.  
32 And I encourage everyone that's listening to this  
33 process that we do need the input from our community  
34 members. The people that are actually doing the lives  
35 of living and hunting and harvesting in our lands and  
36 waters.

37  
38                   Many are putting words on paper about  
39 what it is. But often when we come to a meeting we  
40 change what's being written by participating in sharing  
41 the knowledge that we have from living on our lands and  
42 waters.

43  
44                   So I encourage all of you to continue  
45 to participate in these meetings and share your insight  
46 and knowledge about harvesting on our lands and waters.  
47 Because our words have not been written and we often  
48 conflict with words that are being written by others.

49  
50

1 So thank you very much for coming out  
2 and participating with us in these discussions.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

5  
6 Any further questions to Fish and  
7 Wildlife Service from Barrow, Ernest.

8  
9 (No comments)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none.

12  
13 (In Inupiaq)

14  
15 MR. NAGEAK: (In Inupiaq)

16  
17 Hopefully you guys come to our open  
18 house tomorrow, 5:30. It will be good food and you  
19 guys could ask more questions to the marine mammals  
20 division that will be here. And there will be law  
21 enforcement officers.

22  
23 You know, they don't just come up  
24 anymore when an incident happens. They come up and go  
25 visit with the duck hunters and, you know, they're  
26 interacting with them and they're not running away from  
27 the law enforcement no more. They're going up to them  
28 and asking questions. So we're still improving.

29  
30 And thank you all for, you know, the  
31 willingness to work with the government. And thankful  
32 for the government to willing to work with the native  
33 people in the communities that depend on subsistence  
34 and our way of life.

35  
36 (In Inupiaq)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Ernest.

39  
40 Last one is -- when did you say? What  
41 was the date of your native outreach training at the  
42 Alaska Heritage Center?

43  
44 MR. NAGEAK: That's January 28 or  
45 February -- to February 2. During that week.

46  
47 And it changes every -- the date  
48 changes every year. It's usually beginning first few  
49 months of the year and October and November. You know,  
50

1 so out of the field season and where everyone's at  
2 their offices and able to participate.

3  
4 So it usually fills up fast. We  
5 usually have a 40 people capacity when it's just the  
6 Fish and Wildlife Service, but we have gotten interest  
7 from the Department of Interior, different agencies,  
8 you know.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq)

11  
12 MR. NAGEAK: People are more -- you  
13 know, getting more interested in the native way of life  
14 and wanting -- learning more so they could help them  
15 when they travel to villages and what to expect.  
16 So.....

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Once again, Quyana.

19  
20 I don't think we have further  
21 questions.

22  
23 (No comments)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And thank you so  
26 much.

27  
28 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of  
31 the Council. It's 12:15. Would you like to take a  
32 lunch break and -- all right.

33  
34 Motion to take lunch until 1:30.

35  
36 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: So moved.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll recess till  
39 1:30 it is.

40  
41 (Off record)

42  
43 (On record)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe we should have  
46 a gavel once in a while, you know, so it would be  
47 really loud. Or a hammer.

48  
49 (Laughter)

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Good  
2 afternoon, everybody.

3  
4 So we recessed till 1:30. And we're  
5 back. And we're also glad to have Ester from Anaktuvuk  
6 Pass join us this afternoon. It makes for a meeting  
7 when we have more representatives from the communities.

8  
9  
10 So with that maybe I'm going to give an  
11 opportunity for Ester to give a brief report from her  
12 community. And we all shared some of the reports  
13 individually from our respective areas and I want to  
14 make sure we extend that opportunity to Ester.

15  
16 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
17 And if we could, too, we were -- we were expecting  
18 Steve Oomituk was going to try to call in this  
19 afternoon, too.

20  
21 If we could check with who has joined  
22 us on teleconference and then we'll go with Ester's  
23 report.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes. Very good.

26  
27 Steve, have you joined us this  
28 afternoon?

29  
30 (No comment)

31  
32 MS. PATTON: Maybe we could check and  
33 see who's online. If they're able to hear okay.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Yeah.

36  
37 Is anybody online. And just to make  
38 sure our teleconference line is working.

39  
40 MS. OKADA: Hi. This is Marcy, with  
41 the National Park Service.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you,  
44 Marcy.

45  
46 At least there's somebody online.

47  
48 So with that, when Steve joins us,  
49 we'll acknowledge him.

50



1                   Madame Coordinator, we'll get out of  
2 recess. It's 1:35.

3  
4                   And extend the opportunity for Ester --  
5 here you go -- from Anaktuvuk Pass to provide a brief  
6 report of her area and anything else she feels should  
7 be shared with the Council.

8  
9                   Ester.

10  
11                  MS. HUGO: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair  
12 and those that are in here.

13  
14                  Good to see you all. It's been a long  
15 trip. Oh, my gosh. I was telling someone that I need  
16 to just starting doing a teleconference because I think  
17 it's ridiculous just to go from my home and head south  
18 and then north, you know.

19  
20                  But as we all here know that our tuttu  
21 didn't migrate again this fall. But as I speak there's  
22 some tuttu surrounding our area. And our people are  
23 getting out there and catching what they need to. And  
24 that's really -- it's -- I don't know how to explain  
25 it, but I'm really happy they're up there and we're  
26 going to be hunting them. Mostly the cows without  
27 calves. That's what we're going to be catching.

28  
29                  And as for the summer, we saw a lot of  
30 population of bears. When they'd go out for a day's  
31 trip or go camping -- either. I'm going out and we're  
32 getting to meet a lot of bears. Bears with cubs or  
33 just bears. Even people that went to the summer camp  
34 there, I think they caught maybe five or six harvest  
35 because they were just bothering. You know, coming in  
36 too close to the camp.

37  
38                  And berries didn't grow as much, (In  
39 Inupiaq), it was too wet and it got cold.

40  
41                  And we got a lot of weasels and a lot  
42 of rabbits. I've been observing that all this time.  
43 There's a lot of rabbits, lot of weasels in the area --  
44 in our homes -- in our (In Inupiaq). That's how come  
45 we keep our doors closed. Because my granddaughter  
46 woke up one day and right next to her was a weasel. And  
47 that teared -- bite her real bad. And my son had to  
48 get in the house and chase around this weasel to chase  
49 him out.

50

1                   And we got bears in the vicinity.  
2 Right across from my street. Right across from my home  
3 they caught a bear there. I mean they were close.  
4 When they notify us about the bears, they went down and  
5 looked for them till they got them because we've got a  
6 lot of kids that are -- like to play around and maybe  
7 go fishing. And they're there. And they're just  
8 hungry. They're so skinny.

9  
10                   That goes for the wolves, too. There's  
11 a lot of wolves and they're pretty hungry. I mean  
12 they're coming by really close to the village.

13  
14                   Other than that I think a couple of our  
15 people catch (In Inupiaq). And they've been sharing us  
16 that this past month, which is good for -- you know,  
17 because the moose is yea big and they can cut their  
18 ribs in half or, you know, all the others. The hind  
19 quarters.

20  
21                   So -- but we're looking forward for a  
22 good harvest, I hope, as we speak at home. Everybody's  
23 going out, looking out.

24  
25                   We don't have much snow and the rivers  
26 are still open, so it's kind of dangerous to be out  
27 there unless you know what you're doing.

28  
29                   And otherwise that's about it, I think.

30  
31                   Thank you.

32  
33                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions from  
34 the Council to Council woman Hugo.

35  
36                   (No comments)

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have one. I  
39 understand maybe you attended the Subsistence Resource  
40 Commission from the Gates of the Arctic. And if there  
41 was any updates of that would be beneficial maybe.

42  
43                   MS. HUGO: This is my first time  
44 meeting with them so I'm learning as I'm going.  
45 Because I didn't thought I would be chosen or, you  
46 know, they wrote me a letter, asked me if I can accept  
47 that.

48  
49                   And we had a lot of discussions

50

1 yesterday on the proposals. And a lot of them aren't  
2 passed by the North Slope Borough -- this committee.  
3 So it was good to talk with the people from the NANA  
4 Region. The caribou and the bears.

5  
6 And I just told them I'm happy to be  
7 there. This is my first time meeting with them. And I  
8 just kind of listened. And that's what I did. And  
9 hope to learn more and as I go on.

10  
11 I was pretty surprised they have  
12 records of when the -- when it started -- the RAC -- I  
13 mean the SRC back in 1980. And a lot of these people  
14 are not with us now. I said, wow. Amos Morry. You  
15 know, I haven't seen this name. But he was in one of  
16 the committees, so.....

17  
18 Other than that, I -- you know, it's --  
19 we went through the agenda and we talked a while, too.  
20 Talked with -- especially about the Ambler Road.  
21 That's before us. And I'm pretty disappointed to hear  
22 that, but, you know, we just have to work and see what  
23 happens.

24  
25 And also I kind of mentioned that there  
26 was a post on building roads within our NPR-A. I don't  
27 know if that's true, but to see such a thing is -- I  
28 mean, you know, the NPR-A as a whole, there's a lot of  
29 land there and they're going from each village and  
30 going to our village. Going what's going to happen to  
31 the camping grounds, you know. What's going to happen  
32 to the caribou that we are always depend on.

33  
34 So hopefully not in our lifetime that  
35 will happen. Maybe my great-grandkids, but keeping my  
36 fingers crossed it's after. I don't know.

37  
38 I just met up -- first time met with  
39 them. And it's good to see the neighbors from  
40 Allakaket and Kobuk and Shungnak. So -- and the  
41 superintendent for the Gates of the Arctic, Greg.

42  
43 I think that's about it.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq), Ester.  
46 And I'm pretty sure as you start to attend the SRC and  
47 gain more confidence in interacting with those folks  
48 that we're going to be blessed with more information  
49 and -- and then you will speak up more for your

50

1 community in the SRC and -- because the Gates of the  
2 Arctic does extend to areas that you're in -- in  
3 Anaktuvuk area.

4  
5 (In Inupiaq)

6  
7 And I'm encouraged and -- that the  
8 participation that you're starting to encounter is  
9 going to be beneficial I think.

10  
11 Any questions for Ester Hugo.

12  
13 (No comments)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I do have one. And  
16 the North Slope Borough is submitting snow trail --  
17 improved snow trails. And one of them goes from  
18 Anaktuvuk to the Dalton and to make a way for resident  
19 use of a snow trail.

20  
21 Also from Prudhoe Bay to Barrow to  
22 Atqasuk to Wainwright. Those permits have been  
23 submitted to DNR now and to BLM. They're seasonal  
24 access for residents. We have had lots and lots of  
25 search and rescue and many different attempts from a  
26 lot of local residents going through the tundra until  
27 to get stuck in many different places.

28  
29 And we've heard from the planning  
30 commission -- especially from Nuiqsut's planning  
31 commission about the multiple search and rescues every  
32 year that occur from that community trying to assist  
33 folks trying to transit on the tundra. And there was  
34 even folks from Atqasuk trying to go to Barrow and they  
35 went on the wrong turn and didn't know exactly what  
36 direction they were going and ran out of gas. That was  
37 a few years ago. And to my understanding that person's  
38 foot was amputated because he ran out of gas and help  
39 didn't come for a very, very, very long time. And in  
40 fact I think one of the freight haulers found that  
41 person and called search and rescue to pick them up.

42  
43 So these kinds of events and many  
44 tundra damage that occurs and the Borough is going to  
45 take responsibility and develop an improved snow trail  
46 with markers. Maintain it, fix the ruts, and have  
47 inspections. Enforcement on those roads with field  
48 inspectors. And do things that would be beneficial to  
49 communities that need to attempt to get on the main

50

1 highway to go to other parts of the State.

2

3 So that's an initiative that's out  
4 there. It has yet to land any funding, but we are  
5 putting the permits for five years. And we're hoping  
6 that the communities embrace this. There was a request  
7 from Anaktuvuk Pass city council at one point to study,  
8 have the Borough do a PAR, a project analysis report,  
9 which the Borough paid for and completed a report on  
10 the feasibility of doing these things.

11

12 And that's been collecting dust for the  
13 last five years. And this mayor has told us to get a  
14 brush and take the dust off these studies and implement  
15 some of these things and to try them. And see how  
16 economics may improve in villages if people can come in  
17 and out on these seasonal snow trails.

18

19 So that's what I thought maybe might be  
20 important to let people know about. And some of the  
21 comprehensive plans also reflect some of these types of  
22 requests and wish from communities.

23

24 And I think it's important to try some  
25 of these things.

26

27 With that -- that was one thing I  
28 thought maybe in terms of roads that maybe Ester needed  
29 to hear a little bit.

30

31 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
32 That was Steve Oomituk calling. So he was calling back  
33 in to the teleconference. I think he's online now.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

36

37 Steve Oomituk, are you online?

38

39 MR. OOMITUK: Yes. I am online.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq)

42

43 Well, we're almost pretty complete  
44 here. I don't know which community we're -- maybe it's  
45 Point Lay and Wainwright. But I think Bob fills in  
46 pretty good for Wainwright because he frequents the  
47 community and lived there for ten years, I think. So  
48 -- and we appreciate that.

49

50

1 MR. OOMITUK: Hello.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve, we're going to  
4 give you the opportunity to do a little report from (In  
5 Inupiaq) area and which was afforded all of the other  
6 Council members to report from their respective  
7 communities and we extend that opportunity to you as  
8 well.

9  
10 MR. OOMITUK: Okay, thank you.

11  
12 You know, this year I've been a real  
13 good year for Point Hope. The caribou are still  
14 around, you know, close by. And we actually had one in  
15 town just a few weeks ago -- a calf. But they're in  
16 abundance.

17  
18 We've had a lot of fish. A lot of  
19 grayling in the rivers. It's just -- you know, the  
20 last couple of years since the closing to non-resident,  
21 sporthunters in Unit 23, it seems like the caribou are  
22 coming back. Our hunters are not having to go so far  
23 away. You know, in the past it's been 60 to 80 miles  
24 just to look for caribou, but we actually -- they're  
25 staying right in the neighborhood. The last report I  
26 got, too, just a few days ago they're just five miles  
27 out of town.

28  
29 And all the -- and, you know, a lot of  
30 our freezers are finally -- you know, we finally have a  
31 lot of meat. And, you know, with the economy being so  
32 low and with a hard time finding jobs, subsistence is  
33 our number one source. And having fresh meat in our  
34 freezers, you know, the elders are happy. The people  
35 are happy, you know, but they -- the caribou are just  
36 so abundant these last couple of years, more so this  
37 year, you know.

38  
39 But our river -- our river is also, you  
40 know -- I mean it's been real warm, windy. A lot of  
41 wind, but warmer. And we have more abundance of  
42 southeast wind, you know. Not so much north wind. The  
43 northwest wind, you know -- but, you know, it's -- it  
44 didn't freeze up. It didn't snow. I mean we're still  
45 waiting for the border of the ice, you know, the slush  
46 ice that connects the land from the ocean.

47  
48 But we celebrate the border of the ice  
49 which has not happened and here it is the middle part

50

1 of November again, the same like last year, the canoe,  
2 we usually celebrate the border of ice in October. And  
3 in the past it used to be the later part of September  
4 or the first part of October and here it is the middle  
5 part of November and you know we pull out the whale's  
6 tail but, you know, and the caribou -- you know, I  
7 heard, you know, in Kotzebue, you know, finally the  
8 caribou came, too, they were running late, you know,  
9 because of the weather, but the caribou finally went  
10 through the Noatak and into the Kotzebue area again.  
11 We were very happy to see them even though they were  
12 late.

13  
14 Just, you know, I mean you could really  
15 feel the global warming is really taking an effect, you  
16 know, on the animals. You know, they go by weather,  
17 you know, and it's -- it's, you know, a changing time  
18 for everybody. But we are having a very good year and  
19 it's still going good. And the caribou look healthy.  
20 I mean the numbers are still low, but there's a lot of  
21 calves. A lot of calves.

22  
23 So yeah. But that's about it.

24  
25 The snow -- it didn't snow until late  
26 again, you know. But we're very fortunate that the  
27 caribou are, you know, making it back and the -- you  
28 know, the hard times that people have, you know, just  
29 to rely on their food sources that, you know, when  
30 you've got abundance of whales but it's always good to  
31 have, you know, that fresh meat of caribou, a change of  
32 diet, you know.

33 It's been a very good year.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq)

36  
37 MR. OOMITUK: (In Inupiaq)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions from  
40 Steve from any of the Councilmen.

41  
42 (No comments)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none.

45  
46 (In Inupiaq) Steve, thanks for your  
47 report. That's good to hear that tuttu been moving  
48 around across the North Slope. And it sounds like  
49 Anaktuvuk is finally getting that tuttu coming around

50

1 as well.

2

3 And it might be a little late and --  
4 because I think the bulls are -- we like to catch the  
5 bulls when they're not in the rut. But when they're in  
6 the rut.....

7

8 MR. OOMITUK: Right.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....like she stated.

11

12 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah. Yeah.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

15

16 Well, we're going to move along down  
17 the agenda.

18

19 And maybe you can, Madame Coordinator,  
20 help us along this -- which agenda item we're up  
21 against.

22

23 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. So  
24 we old business next, which was the special action  
25 updates. And Tom Evans will provide a report on --  
26 there were several special actions that the Board took  
27 action on, including the Council's own so Tom will  
28 provide those updates. And then after that we'll go  
29 into the caribou reports and then roll into the  
30 wildlife proposals.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Thank  
33 you, Eva.

34

35 Mr. Evans.

36

37 MS. PATTON: And maybe, Mr. Chair, I'll  
38 just pipe in.

39

40 The folks online, because we can't see  
41 you out there just pipe in. If you're having a hard  
42 time hearing just let us know so we can make sure that  
43 you're able to hear and able to participate as well.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
48 Members of the Council.

49

50



1 For the record, my name is Tom Evans  
2 and I work as a wildlife biologist with OSM. I'm going  
3 to present just a brief, brief summary of the Federal  
4 Board actions on special actions WSA17-01, 02, and 03  
5 -- or no -- 02, 03, 04.  
6

7 And so I'll start off with that. The  
8 Federal Subsistence Board rejected temporary special  
9 action request 17-02, which was submitted by the  
10 Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council,  
11 which requested that Federal public lands in Unit 23 be  
12 closed to moose hunting by non-federally qualified  
13 users during July 1st, 2017 to June 30th, 2018  
14 regulatory year.  
15

16 The justification for the decision was  
17 although the overall moose population is currently  
18 declining throughout Unit 23, harvest by federally  
19 qualified subsistence users has remained stable over  
20 the last ten years, indicating that local users are  
21 still able to successfully harvest moose despite  
22 declines in the overall population.  
23

24 In addition, non-federally qualified  
25 subsistence users make up a minority of the moose  
26 harvested in the unit when the reported harvest is  
27 combined with community harvest surveys. Therefore,  
28 closing Federal public lands in Unit 23 to non-  
29 federally qualified users will likely not have the  
30 desired impact to the overall moose population in the  
31 unit and may be an unnecessary restriction on the non-  
32 federally qualified users.  
33

34 In addition, non-federally qualified  
35 users would still be permitted to harvest moose on  
36 State lands and below the main high water line of many  
37 waterways within the Federal lands. Many of these  
38 lands are located adjacent to native corporation lands,  
39 which could cause more non-federally qualified users to  
40 harvest moose near these areas.  
41

42 If all the non-federally qualified  
43 users harvested moose on State lands, this could lead  
44 to overcrowding and increased user conflicts and would  
45 not lessen the overall moose harvest in Unit 23.  
46 Therefore, this closure may not have the intended  
47 effect of reducing the user conflict issues within the  
48 area.  
49

50

1 So that's all. And if there are  
2 questions, I'll stop by after each one and take  
3 questions I guess.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Were you done  
6 with 17-02?

7  
8 MR. EVANS: Yes.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So any questions to  
11 Tom on that action that.....

12  
13 Was that the Federal Board of Game's  
14 action not to adopt that or Federal Subsistence Board?

15  
16 MR. EVANS: The Federal Subsistence  
17 Board.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

20  
21 So you heard that. And I know it's a  
22 foregone conclusion now because it's been acted on, but  
23 some of the -- you know, we should raise concerns when  
24 a Regional Subsistence Advisory Council looking at the  
25 needs of communities to address those.

26  
27 And I've harped on this more than once.  
28 And in terms of how opening and closing affects  
29 communities there really needs to be a better  
30 methodology that recognizes community planning  
31 initiatives like comprehensive plans that define area  
32 of influence. Many of the area of influence that are  
33 created and defined talk -- they're created by  
34 contemporary traditional subsistence activities that  
35 are undertaken for the needs of that community.

36  
37 So when you mix different user groups  
38 in an area that's defined as an area of influence of a  
39 village, it's very easy to put obstruction and deflect  
40 migration paths and movement of animals where they  
41 should be normally found. That's what the design of an  
42 area of influence in comprehensive planning which many  
43 of the communities enjoy nowadays. And to adhere to  
44 some of these things.

45  
46 And I would caution OSM. Look at the  
47 planning tools that we use to try to guide development  
48 and other activities around villages. Look at the  
49 village area of influence and it should be telling you

50

1 a story about subsistence needs in these areas and to  
2 plan your regulatory schemes around them, too.

3  
4 One of the things I get alarmed at is  
5 this Statewide proposals from the Board of Game that's  
6 going to happen today or tomorrow taking regulatory  
7 oversight of non-residents is in here. I was looking  
8 at some of these proposals and saying you don't need to  
9 be guided anymore. If you live in Montana you have the  
10 same right as residents in the north, of the State of  
11 Alaska. You don't need to be guided anymore.

12  
13 The law is currently if you're not a  
14 resident of the State of Alaska to go hunt in Alaska  
15 you have to be guided. Now they're fixing under the  
16 State proposals to eliminate these things where  
17 management is going to be become a more daunting task.

18  
19 I could remember the public hearing we  
20 had here last May. May 10, I believe, where a dead  
21 caribou actually testified. A dead caribou was brought  
22 inside this building and allowed to testify. And  
23 saying the natives are wasting. I mean that's the kind  
24 of public hearing we had.

25  
26 And it's -- at the same time there was  
27 contradiction that there was minimal caribou takes on  
28 the Dalton Highway. And then you saw that come in here  
29 and say we have 2,000 vets that go on the highway. It  
30 seems like there's a disparity in how you -- how  
31 biologists see these things.

32  
33 I mean it's either a bald face lie or  
34 the vet that's expressed that he's got 2,000 other vets  
35 that come and use the Haul Road and go subsist on it --  
36 it's true. One say oh, minimal use. The others say  
37 it's 2,000. And to me, that surpasses some of the  
38 village takes. And it's -- that's not being accounted  
39 for.

40  
41 So I get afraid when I start to see OSM  
42 and others and -- oh, and they need to take sides. I'm  
43 easy to ramble on. It's just my heart is in some of  
44 these things to make sure our communities deserve due  
45 deference in making sure that the community needs are  
46 met.

47  
48 And that's my take on that. Because I  
49 support those that want to find better ways so that  
50

1 community harvest levels are kept up. And when we make  
2 it an even playing field for non-residents and non-  
3 rural residents -- they're Alaska residents, but they  
4 don't reside in the rural areas. And giving them the  
5 equal playing field to have conflict with villages is  
6 -- to me it's always alarming.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 Any questions to Tom Evans besides my  
11 ranting.

12

13 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead,  
16 Rosemary.

17

18 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Those are very  
19 important questions and concerns.

20

21 Nuiqsut has put forward many  
22 discussions around changes that come with the increase  
23 in roads and actions to increase that access to our  
24 rural areas.

25

26 We're really worried about what's  
27 happening. We know that some of our animals are  
28 becoming increasingly stressed and they're showing  
29 illness with the harvest that is occurring and what  
30 this compounding effort to discuss changes to our lands  
31 and waters are going to mean for the future  
32 generations.

33

34 We've had discussions around winter  
35 trails being improved upon, but with those public use  
36 of funds to allow that improvement then other public  
37 want to gain access. With the increased actions that  
38 have gone on the Dalton Highway, we had (Indiscernible)  
39 talking about traveling up after his medical  
40 appointments and watching vehicle after vehicle after  
41 vehicle go with snowmachines towed behind them in the  
42 springtime, traveling into the North Slope to go and do  
43 caribou hunting.

44

45 We know those numbers are more than  
46 what others that are doing this process of discussions  
47 on deciding numbers are available for other hunters,  
48 but those increased access is causing increased concern  
49 to the health and welfare of our people, as well as our  
50

1 animals.

2

3 I really worry about what we're seeing  
4 in our animals and the reality that we share these  
5 resources amongst our people. And the risk for our  
6 future generations to continue these actions.

7

8 These different changes that are  
9 happening, we don't know what's going to continue to  
10 happen. I know that animals in other areas use those  
11 long grasses, but our caribou have been dependent upon  
12 the tundra shrubs to nourish the new generations and  
13 those variabilities are going to cause different  
14 changes amongst our animals.

15

16 But when we allow the micromanagement  
17 with the different users to deflect the decisions from  
18 the grounds and waters from those of us that have lived  
19 here through generations and adding hunts that we  
20 disapprove of, these are very concerning.

21

22 We've gone through severe hunting  
23 shortages and we're trying to make the decisions to  
24 address how we're hunting to allow the resources to  
25 continue into the future, but we've got such a  
26 complexity as to all the variables that are affecting  
27 our animals all at once with increased industrial  
28 activity, increased road development with Department of  
29 Transportation, increased trails actions. All of these  
30 are compounding once you add the variables with the  
31 different temperatures and climate changes in the  
32 increased micro management of the different subsistence  
33 zones throughout the State.

34

35 They're meeting a need to put numbers  
36 in boxes. It's not meeting the needs of our  
37 traditional cultural uses into the future. And that's  
38 why we come to these tables to talk about it. We want  
39 to continue our important traditional and cultural uses  
40 because we don't have the stores in some of our  
41 villages for them to go hunt.

42

43 You heard the discussion from our other  
44 council member about -- I mean our community member  
45 that talked about Point Lay and not having any meat in  
46 the freezers. It's a reality of living in the bush.  
47 But we feed our families from our lands and waters.  
48 And when we allow these compounding issues to be words  
49 on paper, we're suffering through these words on papers

50

1 becoming a risk on our lands and waters.

2  
3 And those impacts are tremendous in our  
4 families. They don't just impact one season of  
5 hunters. It impacts generations of hunters. I still  
6 have family members that are talking about what  
7 happened to one of the hunters from Nuiqsut that moved  
8 here to Barrow and was arrested for their hunting  
9 techniques and ways that were not approved by others.  
10 I don't want to see us lose the seat at the table, but  
11 I also don't want us to lose the strength of what we're  
12 putting forward.

13  
14 These aren't just recommendations that  
15 we're putting forward to say we're going to hunt this  
16 year. These are recommendations we're putting forward  
17 to say that we're going to have hunters in the  
18 generations to come.

19  
20 And that's why we're trying to address  
21 these concerns.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

24  
25 Any other questions to Tom on WSA17-02  
26 from the commission.

27  
28 (No comments)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not, go ahead with  
31 your next special action report.

32  
33 Right? That's what we're doing?

34  
35 MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36  
37 Again for the record, my name is Tom  
38 Evans. And I work as a wildlife biologist for OSM.

39  
40 The Federal Subsistence Board has  
41 approved temporary special action WSA17-03 with  
42 modification, which was -- this was submitted by the  
43 Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
44 to close all Federal public lands within a ten mile  
45 corridor, five miles on either side, along the Noatak  
46 River from the western boundary of the Noatak National  
47 Preserve upstream to the confluence with the Cutler  
48 River within the northern and southern boundaries of  
49 the Eli and Aggie River drainages respectively and  
50

1 within the Squirrel River drainage to caribou hunting,  
2 except by federally qualified subsistence users for the  
3 2017/2018 regulatory year.  
4

5 The Board supports a more targeted  
6 closure at this time or prefer to leave the question of  
7 closure of all Federal public lands in Unit 23 to be  
8 addressed during the 2018/2020 regulatory cycles.  
9 That's what we're doing right now.  
10

11 The Board believes that the request as  
12 modified is reasonable and a reasonable compromise for  
13 all users. Closure of the some of the Federal public  
14 lands for continuation of subsistence uses is  
15 warranted. Continued complaints about conflicts  
16 surrounding the Noatak, Eli, Aggie, and Squirrel River  
17 drainages and the apparent benefit of the 2016/2017  
18 Federal closure to Noatak residents, as evidenced by  
19 letters and public testimony, support the closure of  
20 Federal public lands in these areas.  
21

22 And I think basically Steve Oomituk --  
23 you know, basically insinuated a little bit to that as  
24 well. So that's for Point.  
25

26 Additionally, the short term effects of  
27 aircraft on caribou behavior can negatively affect  
28 hunting success and harvest; however, the closure of  
29 all Federal public lands in Unit 23 represents an  
30 unnecessary restriction on non-federally qualified  
31 users.  
32

33 So I'll -- that's the end of that. And  
34 I'll open to questions.  
35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.  
37

38 Any questions on WSA17-03.  
39

40 Right.  
41

42 MR. SHEARS: One question, Mr. Chair.  
43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Mr. Shears.  
45

46 MR. SHEARS: Good afternoon, Tom.  
47

48 The closures on the tributaries like  
49  
50

1 the Squirrel River, that's all the way to the head  
2 waters on five miles on each side? Like.....

3

4 MR. EVANS: I believe the Squirrel  
5 River in its entirety, yes.

6

7 MR. SHEARS: Oh, okay.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

10

11 Any other questions.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have one if -- but  
16 I don't want to dominate the dialogue.

17

18 But I want to make sure there's an  
19 opportunity for the Council to express any questions to  
20 you, Tom, as well.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I've got  
25 one.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You know, several  
30 years ago we met jointly with Northwest Arctic's  
31 Regional Subsistence Advisory Council. And this was in  
32 Anchorage when a closure of caribou in Unit 23 was a  
33 very big dialogue. Based on declining caribou numbers  
34 of the Western Arctic Herd and the number of villages  
35 -- I think it was like 38 -- 38 villages that depend on  
36 the Western Arctic Herd.

37

38 And then the concerns were raised about  
39 how the State managed it, the herd size, to develop a  
40 harvestable surplus. And there was major concern  
41 because the State looked at the Teshekpuk Herd and  
42 Western Arctic Herd, it didn't differentiate at all  
43 that they were different herds. In fact, calculated  
44 the harvestable surplus based on the combined amount  
45 necessary for subsistence. I think that's the term.  
46 There's an acronym called the -- was it the ANS.

47

48 MS. PATTON: Yes.

49

50



1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The ANS is the  
2 acronym to develop a figure, an amount. And I like to  
3 refer back to that because to me and to the whole world  
4 -- to me that is a manipulation. It is a manipulation  
5 to work within the regulatory regime of the State to do  
6 more, to allow more access to these resources with an  
7 artificial harvestable surplus that couldn't be  
8 supported.

9  
10 You separate the Teshekpuk Herd which  
11 some of the State biologists, they are the preeminent  
12 counters. We trust them in their entirety to count  
13 these caribou. And I've seen the depictions. The  
14 radio collared movements over time of their migration.  
15 Teshekpuk Herd doesn't copy the Western Arctic Herd.  
16 Teshekpuk Herd goes over here, about 200 miles over  
17 here, and Western Arctic Herd makes a really hard left  
18 and goes towards Point Hope and Wainwright and that  
19 other village in the middle there -- Point Lay.

20  
21 Stark differentiation.

22  
23 You can't tell me that the Teshekpuk  
24 Herd and the Western Arctic Herd are one of the same  
25 and that you can devise a harvestable surplus number by  
26 combining those two herds. I think it's -- these  
27 things are very, very hard to swallow. In fact, they  
28 were elaborated to us in Anaktuvuk Pass in I think it  
29 was 2014 and then those questions came up.

30  
31 So, you know, we get concerns like  
32 this. And all along that I feel some were glad that  
33 the Squirrel River area which had -- NANA folks had --  
34 and Noatak Regions say it's almost like a war zone  
35 sometimes. You get a whole bunch of fly-in hunters,  
36 non-resident hunters, non-rural residents all together  
37 in this small area called the Squirrel River area. And  
38 I've heard Enoch talk about it. And I think it was  
39 Enoch Shiedt and some other folks over there.

40  
41 I'm glad somebody's listening about  
42 these conflicts. And I've heard that -- and it's been  
43 discussed that it was an exaggeration of conflicts.  
44 When there is a perceived -- from either OSM or the  
45 biologists perceive it to be an exaggeration. It may  
46 be a figment of somebody's own imagination that there  
47 is conflict.

48  
49 So I would continue to advocate for all  
50

1 of the land managers, whether it's the Refuge managers,  
2 Gates of the Arctic, Fish and Wildlife Service, the  
3 State. Especially the State, because we're State  
4 chartered on the North Slope Borough as well to develop  
5 these comprehensive plans that talk about area of  
6 influence, yet the State does not recognize -- even  
7 though Alaska statutes say we've got to build these  
8 comprehensive plans and part of that planning is to  
9 delineate for each community an area of influence.

10

11 The Feds should recognize that, State  
12 should recognize that and act accordingly to protect  
13 migratory routes for community needs in these area of  
14 influence that communities enjoy, that is protected by  
15 Alaska statutes, North Slope Borough regulations.

16

17 Anyway, I'm going on too long because  
18 that one was a good message, I think, with a little bit  
19 modification. But, you know, the Squirrel River area  
20 has been very contentious. We know about it because we  
21 hear our neighbors.

22

23 And so with that, any other questions  
24 to Mr. Evans on 17-03.

25

26 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: Can the public or  
27 just the Council.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I refer to Eva.

30

31 We can have residents that are  
32 attending say what their peace is about these special  
33 actions?

34

35 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
36 Yeah. We're open to public comments.

37

38 And then when we get into the  
39 regulatory proposals also the public testimony is a  
40 regular part of the process, so if you have a comment.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.  
43 Sometimes I just need a little guidance, too.

44

45 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Because I kind of  
48 knew -- I've been on the -- but, you know, new as a  
49 chairman but I've been listening for 20 years on this.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Yeah.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Roy. Go  
4 ahead.

5  
6 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: Thank you. Thank  
7 you, Mr. President or Chairman of the Advisory --  
8 Subsistence Advisory.

9  
10 You bring out a good point in regards  
11 to how our Region -- the North Slope Borough Region  
12 have taken and fought for their rights to be part of  
13 the State. And we remember those wars that we had with  
14 the industry and the State government in trying to  
15 become a North Slope Borough.

16  
17 People are always against the original  
18 descendants of the land and of the sea in America to be  
19 in a sense -- to create their own destiny. And the  
20 North Slope Borough has with our founding fathers that  
21 they did create the Borough in a sense to control their  
22 own destiny and do what they need to do to live their  
23 own lives the way that they had before, but at the same  
24 time be participant in the ability of the State and  
25 municipality to do what it powers to do -- empowered to  
26 do through State laws and Federal laws.

27  
28 And that means to tax and allow permits  
29 to do what needs to be done for the industry or  
30 whomever wants to do anything within our lands that  
31 they must acquire this law -- and it's law -- a State  
32 law that they go through a North Slope or a  
33 municipality that controls permits and has the ability  
34 to tax. And it's those State law, too, or follow what  
35 you just stated in regards to community and planning.  
36 The ability for self-determination on each village.

37  
38 And I believe -- I being in the North  
39 Slope Borough and just approving Atqasuk's  
40 comprehensive planning, and one more village to do and  
41 that's Nuiqsut, which will be I know very contentious  
42 but we need to do it to cover the whole North Slope  
43 area. And then after that it will be the North Slope  
44 area comprehensive plan after we do all the villages.

45  
46 And with those and using State law and  
47 being members and citizens of the State of Alaska and  
48 the Federal government United States, we have to learn  
49 to work with the laws that they have. And with those

50

1 laws we will control our own destiny through the  
2 municipalities that we have.

3  
4 And even then states just what we're  
5 talking about right here, making recommendations, but  
6 at the same time within ourselves to tell the State and  
7 the Federal government that we want these lands -- some  
8 areas of our lands not to be impacted by development of  
9 in a sense control using the permit system and their  
10 requirements by law.

11  
12 And with that in mind, it's a must for  
13 villages. And when we do this comprehensive planning  
14 it covers everything, subsistence, land use,  
15 development growth that could happen within the  
16 villages for economic opportunity. It really  
17 enlightens me that our forefathers, our elders that are  
18 far gone now -- not far gone, but their handwritings on  
19 all the things that allows us to do and control our own  
20 destiny are there.

21  
22 And we are doing that. And they cannot  
23 be shoving us under the rug, the State or the Federal  
24 government -- especially at a time when the State needs  
25 development within our boundaries that requires permits  
26 from the North Slope Borough and that requires under  
27 State law that they must converse with us and talk with  
28 us and ask us is this the right way to do it.

29  
30 And I want to point that out. Because  
31 also with subsistence and the caribou, it's very  
32 important that we be part of it. And like I stated  
33 earlier, it's better to co-manage. It's better to work  
34 together rather than butt heads with the renewable  
35 resources that we have that we use for food.

36  
37 It just so happened that I work in the  
38 Federal system when it -- it really disturbed me that  
39 any time there's a change in the administration in the  
40 capital of the United States that our -- the people  
41 that we have learned how to work with, that know the  
42 information that they have within the Regions that they  
43 work with, two of our top people from our Region are  
44 transferred. Maybe they weren't being politically  
45 correct for the party that is in power now, which is  
46 pro development. It's kind of disturbing that these  
47 people that we have learned to work with are being  
48 impacted, too. It's like their sense and loss of being  
49 paid so that they could live a comfortable life of

50

1 getting food. It's just like all these rules and  
2 regulations are being made so that we would have some  
3 comfort level in what we will have to eat the next day.

4  
5 Because all those animals we talked  
6 about don't know no boundaries.

7  
8 It was unfortunate that I lost my  
9 brother, who was a subsistence hunter while his wife  
10 was working. But he hunted for a lot of people. And  
11 while he was dying on his bed, he told me hey, bro.  
12 What's up. We were alone in his bedroom and he had  
13 only about a couple of weeks to live, and he says I'm  
14 going to tell you something, bro. What. You know all  
15 those animals in the sea that we love to eat in the  
16 lands and all the fish. Yeah. What about it. They  
17 don't know how to speak English. And I just kind of  
18 chuckle. That's why I want you to be involved and  
19 speak for them.

20  
21 And as a whole and as these Federal  
22 employees that I have come to know and some of them  
23 that we've worked with for so many years, that  
24 understand, that have knowledge of what we go through,  
25 and it doesn't matter, all these rules and regulations  
26 kind of threaten us with what we eat.

27  
28 And then we see our Federal employees  
29 and the State employees because they did massive cuts  
30 to bring down their budget, which was done by a  
31 Republican -- or not -- I mean excuse me. I won't say  
32 that. People that makes laws to give pro-development  
33 more chances to grow, they say. But it gave the State  
34 more changes to bear down on the revenue.

35  
36 And we see that. It's control it.  
37 We're being manageable. But we have to keep those in  
38 mind of who the people that makes the laws. And right  
39 now we're looking at trying to live with a Federal  
40 government that is pro-development. And it puts a lot  
41 of our Federal employees at a difficult place trying to  
42 work with us.

43  
44 And we see that. We feel that.

45  
46 But that's why we need to help each  
47 other because they want to fire a whole bunch of  
48 Federal employees and get rid of all the budget that's  
49 going to help at least study and do things.

50

1 So we all need to be together on this  
2 one. Because without us, every time we do something  
3 there's a Federal employee that's supposed to kind of  
4 oversee and take care of us at the same time. If we  
5 work together we could manage what's being done on all  
6 these rules and regulations.

7  
8 And if we work together, I'll cover  
9 your back and you cover my back.

10  
11 (Laughter)

12  
13 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: Thank you.

14  
15 (Laughter)

16  
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. (In  
18 Inupiaq), Roy.

19  
20 And that was the only point I wanted to  
21 make earlier. Was, you know, the concern about  
22 harvestable surplus. And when you separate those two  
23 back, the harvestable surplus wouldn't support non-  
24 resident hunts. And biologists already said that to  
25 me, so -- and I don't think the Federal government  
26 works with the State's scheme by combining those herds.  
27 But it already -- when you separate Western and  
28 Teshekpuk, they don't support non-resident hunt in the  
29 amount that they have, based on the 38 villages that  
30 harvest on the Western Arctic Herd.

31  
32 MR. SHEARS: Question for Tom, Mr.  
33 Chair.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead, Mr.  
36 Shears.

37  
38 MR. SHEARS: I know we're just only not  
39 even halfway into this 2017/18 closure in Unit 23, but  
40 do you have any preliminary reports from residents or  
41 other RAC members in that unit area that are testifying  
42 to the success of the program this year?

43  
44 MR. EVANS: Well, I think, you know, if  
45 you see -- certainly we've heard from Point Lay. We  
46 heard from the woman in the audience that said it was  
47 hard times there. Yet Point Hope sounds like it's  
48 doing well.

49  
50

1 I talked to Beth earlier, so she thinks  
2 that the harvest for the Central Caribou Herd is down  
3 probably somewhat this year already. So yeah, we are  
4 -- we do hear tidbits of things. And look, we've  
5 certainly from the past that some of the folks think  
6 that the restrictions that were done in Unit 23 have  
7 had a positive effect for both Anaktuvuk Pass and some  
8 of the other areas.

9  
10 Not necessarily a complete reversal of  
11 the populations, but certainly more caribou seem to be  
12 available for harvest in the last two to three years  
13 since we enacted regulations in 2015. So.....

14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions  
16 for Mr. Evans on WSA17-03 from the Council.

17  
18 (No comments)

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none.

21  
22 You can continue there, Mr. Evans.

23  
24 MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25  
26 The Federal Subsistence Board rejected  
27 temporary special action WSA17-04, which was submitted  
28 by the North Slope Regional Advisory Council -- this  
29 Council last year. This is -- it's the same proposal  
30 as WAP18-57, which we will discuss later.

31  
32 So this was the special action that  
33 went forward first for this regulatory year and now  
34 we're going into the -- and then when I discuss 57 that  
35 will be for the 2018/2020 season.

36  
37 The request was for Federal public  
38 lands Units 26A and 26B be closed to caribou hunting to  
39 non-federally qualified users during the 2017/2018  
40 regulatory year. The Board concluded that recently  
41 enacted conservation actions by the Alaska Board of  
42 Game and the Federal Subsistence Board for the Western  
43 Arctic, Teshekpuk, and Central Arctic Caribou Herds  
44 need to be given time to determine if they are  
45 effective in reducing the caribou harvest and slowing  
46 down or reversing the population declines of these  
47 caribou herds before additional closures are enacted.

48  
49 Closure of Federal public lands to non-  
50

1 federally qualified users would not likely have much  
2 effect as recent Alaska Board of Game actions that  
3 protect cows and reduce the overall caribou harvest  
4 particularly in the Central Arctic Caribou Herd in Unit  
5 26B. Much of the Federally qualified user harvest  
6 occurs on State lands and a closure runs the risk of  
7 concentrating hunters onto State lands which are  
8 adjacent to some of the villages, thereby increasing  
9 the impacts to these communities. And the communities  
10 we're talking about primarily would be Anaktuvuk Pass  
11 and Point Lay.

12  
13 The number of caribou harvested by non-  
14 federally qualified users is not biologically  
15 significant for the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk  
16 Caribou Herds in Unit 26A. And the potentially  
17 significant impact of non-federally qualified user  
18 harvest on the Central Arctic Caribou Herd on Unit 26B  
19 has now been addressed by the newly enacted State  
20 regulations for the 2017/2018 regulatory year, which is  
21 this regulatory year.

22  
23 The Board recommends that these changes  
24 take effect in lieu of enacting additional regulations  
25 at this time.

26  
27 So that concludes my summary of the  
28 special action for this area.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions from  
31 the Council on WSA17-04, which was submitted by this  
32 Council.

33  
34 (No comments)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I do have a question.

37  
38 I always have questions on these  
39 things.

40  
41 (Laughter)

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And it's kind of  
44 heart wrenching when we're faced with major decline of  
45 caribou herd. We heard it from population estimate  
46 counts, all those area photography, and the trend that  
47 was occurring for the last ten years.

48  
49 And then in 2014 -- and I'm going to  
50



1 harp on this all the time. 2014, my ears were wide  
2 open when in Anaktuvuk Pass we questioned the  
3 harvestable surplus about these things, it was with  
4 this Council, but with the State biologist present to  
5 talk about how they derived from that number. And that  
6 it was a combination/calculation of Teshekpuk Herd and  
7 Western Arctic Herd to come up with a harvestable  
8 surplus acceptable so that continued non-resident hunts  
9 which were being advocated for -- which were being  
10 advocated for -- to come up with a scheme of a higher,  
11 artificial number.

12  
13 And I asked directly to the biologist,  
14 if you separated Teshekpuk Herd from the Western Arctic  
15 Herd, will they support non-resident hunt. The answer  
16 was no. So there was a scheme to put these two herds  
17 together and say they're one herd and get a calculation  
18 like this that allowed for non-resident hunts to still  
19 be a viable industry when the decline was massive.

20  
21 Remember the Western Arctic Herd was  
22 490,000 animals ten years ago. Today you've got about  
23 200,000. And we're going to hear a little bit about  
24 that. About the count. See if it went up or down. I  
25 hope maybe it went up.

26  
27 But the management scheme from liberal  
28 management scheme supposed to scale down to a  
29 conservative management scheme when you have these  
30 kinds of decline, not artificially combine things and  
31 to keep a liberal management scheme alive maybe to the  
32 detriment of the herd. Keep an artificial high harvest  
33 rate for a very small herd versus a very big herd when  
34 they separate.

35  
36 These are at stake.

37  
38 So I'm going to harp on these type of  
39 questions when we've got a lot of little things that  
40 are going on. Remember when we were together and the  
41 State came over and said well, let's align our  
42 regulations so we can -- there's no overlap. Remember  
43 that scheme. That we should align the Federal regs and  
44 the State regs so there's no overlap.

45  
46 And then to me, that was a game. To  
47 me, that was a game. Because the minute we're aligned  
48 with regs that are about the same, there's other things  
49 that -- in these many different proposals for the State  
50

1 Board of Game to consider that we're not even aware of.  
2 We're not even a part of that. Which is potentially to  
3 -- will affect the North Slope as well.  
4

5 So I don't see anybody coming over here  
6 and let's align with the Feds and the State to look at  
7 these things when they're going to do it on their own.  
8 And then bring it to the -- maybe bring it after they  
9 enact them and say hey, let's align our rights. Should  
10 be like what we're doing by ourselves first.  
11

12 So those are my questions.  
13

14 I mean it's hard to imagine. And I  
15 appreciate Mr. Shears for printing these out on the  
16 Statewide regulations that are about to go in front of  
17 the State Board of Game today or tomorrow. And it's  
18 alarming to me. I mean because I read some of them.  
19 What the underlying statements of what some of these  
20 are saying.  
21

22 Anyway, I mean I hate to be a ranter  
23 because on this proposal 17-04 it was pretty close.  
24 One more vote and WSA17-04 would be law of the land  
25 right now around here. One vote shy.  
26

27 So there was a lot of advocacy for  
28 either way. This thing could have been swayed by one  
29 vote. And I'm still concerned. Because maybe we left  
30 -- we could have left Unit 26B alone. That was  
31 essential for the State to say no, no, no, no, no.  
32 Because I think the Central Arctic Herd is the biggest  
33 sufferer of all time.  
34

35 I'm a land manager for the Borough. My  
36 inspectors go on that road and they come back and say  
37 well, we saw five caribou running around with arrows  
38 sticking out of their rumps. Bow hunters, all kinds of  
39 hunters going on. These animals running around with  
40 inefficient kills, those kind of things.  
41

42 And then we saw the estimates last  
43 year. Seems like the Central Arctic Herd population  
44 just took a dive. Less than -- what is it. Less than  
45 10,000. Yeah. Something to that effect. When they're  
46 -- I've seen that herd as high as 55 and 60,000  
47 animals. And it seems to me nobody should be hunting  
48 off of that except subsistence goes onto our tier hunt  
49 system now.  
50

1 And I don't see any enactment by the  
2 State to start a tier hunt because they don't recognize  
3 rural subsistence priority. They don't recognize rural  
4 subsistence priority. That's what's wrong with the  
5 State at some of these levels.

6  
7 So anyway, any other questions for  
8 WSA17-04. Because it was our proposal.

9  
10 (Laughter)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

13  
14 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: To work with this  
15 proposal was thinking ahead through the generations.  
16 We really thought about this process because we saw the  
17 different numbers, but we also heard from our various  
18 hunters that there were changes in their ability to  
19 harvest.

20  
21 We were looking at putting this  
22 recommendation in to reduce the hardship over time by  
23 enacting restrictions now in hopes that less families  
24 would have hardships into the future. The conflicts  
25 that arise between understanding of what we should do  
26 versus what they want to do are two different things.  
27 And again we're at conflict with recommendations.

28  
29 We were looking at trying to protect  
30 our families into the future and have hopes that we'll  
31 have the ability to harvest. We're very concerned by  
32 not getting the support to oppose this that the  
33 hardship to our families will continue longer.

34  
35 And I really worry about what these  
36 next years of science are going to bring to us. A,  
37 we're having conflict with the ability to get the money  
38 to even go out and do the appropriate types of research  
39 that we want to have done versus what they're willing  
40 to let us have done.

41  
42 But the fragmentation of these  
43 discussions with three different recommendations show  
44 that we have a very difficult road ahead of us. The  
45 importance of continuing to try to put recommendations  
46 forward is imperative into the future. We may not have  
47 got this, but we have to continue to look at different  
48 ways that we may get some support to allow our  
49 communities to continue to harvest and reduce the

50

1 conflicts that are contributing to severe decline in  
2 these populations.

3  
4 I really worry about this. We put a  
5 lot of work to this process. We didn't get this. And  
6 we're up against some very difficult times ahead.

7  
8 I hope that we're able to effectively  
9 communicate and get support to try to protect these  
10 herds because waiting for the science is going to be  
11 very stressful.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions  
14 on WSA17-04.

15  
16 MR. SHEARS: Yeah. One question for  
17 Tom.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Mr. Shears.

20  
21  
22 MR. OOMITUK: Okay.

23  
24 MR. EVANS: Could I respond to Rosemary  
25 just for -- just a little bit on that?

26  
27 So in all fairness, the State  
28 recognized the decline of the Central Arctic caribou  
29 harvest and they enacted new regulations. They  
30 eliminated the cow harvest, so -- and they, you know,  
31 reduced the bull harvest to one bull for non-federally  
32 qualified users. In addition, they left the liberal  
33 regulations up by Nuiqsut to allow them to harvest  
34 their caribou.

35  
36 So I think, you know, sometimes you  
37 don't hear everything, but, you know, this is a good  
38 example I think of how people are hearing you and they  
39 are trying to make the regulations to protect the  
40 herds, as well as protect subsistence users.

41  
42 So I just wanted to put a plug in for  
43 them.

44  
45 Thank you.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom.  
48 That's always good to hear a little bit, but I know  
49 you're one of them though.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3

4

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead there, Mr. Shears.

5

6

7

MR. SHEARS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8

9 I read in the letter -- the news  
10 release from the Federal Subsistence Board describing  
11 the outcome to 17-04 on page 25 of our workbook, second  
12 paragraph.

13

14

15

16

17

18

The statement in here that when you read into it and interpret it literally puts the -- kind of puts the nail in the coffin for any special action proposal like this from succeeding in the near future, including the one on the table today in -- under new business.

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

It compares against the special action proposal 17-03 for Unit 23 and partial closure and the five mile radius of the Noatak River. It says we need to give those special action closures time to determine if they are effective before considering additional closures. It says in that statement -- in the first sentence -- we need to be given time to be determine if those other closures are working effectively in slowing down or reversing the population decline before additional closures are enacted.

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

But if -- where's the catch 22. What if it was effective in reverse -- that closure in Unit 23 was effective in reversing the population decline. Then what do we need a special action closure like this one for. It's a catch 22 either way.

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

Whether we have, you know, a population decline or a population increase, this special action closure proposal is dead at the starting gate until we can measure the effectiveness of other areas. And if the other areas are effective then we don't need this. If the other areas are not effective then obviously this won't work. So we can't use it anyway.

45

46

47

48

49

50

What's going on here.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Evans.

MR. EVANS: Remember it's just an

1 opinion of members of the Board -- of the Federal  
2 Subsistence Board. And they each have -- they each  
3 look at those things.

4  
5 But I think the general consensus was  
6 that we do want to see -- give regulations the time to  
7 see if they do reduce the herd. If they do reduce the  
8 -- increase the herd, reduce the decline, that's a good  
9 thing. That's a good thing for everybody.

10  
11 So I think, you know, that's important.  
12 You know, rather than trying to enact -- we've enacted  
13 some closures. Some closures have been enacted. We've  
14 enacted some changes in the regulations. Remember  
15 these caribou regulations until 2015 hadn't been  
16 changed for over 30 years. So -- but, you know,  
17 changing regulations for one year, I mean things in the  
18 biology of species and animals, they don't happen  
19 overnight. It could take five years before we could  
20 see the effects of the regulations.

21  
22 Will the regulations have an effect.  
23 We don't know. I mean regulations may or may not have  
24 an effect. I think definitely sometimes do. And  
25 obviously what we can control. We're not out there,  
26 you know, improving caribou habitat or anything. We  
27 can't try to lessen the harvest so that keeps the  
28 population from declining as rapidly as -- you know, as  
29 it is.

30  
31 So as managers we're limited somewhat  
32 as to what we can do, but I think it is important to  
33 try to give these regulations time to see if they  
34 affect -- rather than just say oh, this year didn't see  
35 any differences so we're going to just -- we're going  
36 to do something more drastic now.

37  
38 So it's just the nature of the -- of  
39 biology and what we have to do.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions  
42 to WP17-04 from the Council.

43  
44 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: One quick comment.

45  
46 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, if we may.

47  
48 So we're not onto the regulatory  
49 proposals yet. And.....

50

1 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: Oh, no.

2

3 MS. PATTON: And we'll have an  
4 opportunity for public talking when we're speaking  
5 about the proposals.

6

7 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: He was talking about  
8 a closure.

9

10 MS. PATTON: Right. Yeah. So these  
11 are the updates for the closure.....

12

13 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: Could I.....

14

15 MS. PATTON: .....the closures that  
16 happen. And then we'll be covering the Council's same  
17 proposal.

18

19 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: I know.

20

21 MS. PATTON: And that's when we have  
22 the opportunity.....

23

24 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: I don't want to talk  
25 about that. I want to talk about a closure that was  
26 done naturally.

27

28 When I saw on Facebook a lot of  
29 Kivalina people that -- and we just heard Point Hope  
30 stating that the caribou has come back. Noatak, this  
31 fall because of the rain and the change in the weather,  
32 was wet all the way across from NANA Region to here.  
33 The Noatak area and the rivers was so flooded that  
34 there was no place to land to hunt caribou.

35

36 And the statements made by Kivalina and  
37 you could hear what Point Hope said, that there was  
38 caribou finally going into their Region and getting --  
39 and they were getting their -- and I could see their  
40 pictures of their boats, Kivalina people getting  
41 caribou, and they said we haven't done this in so many  
42 years.

43

44 And then you have nature helping what a  
45 closure would do for the people that rely on caribou.  
46 And I just want to point that out. Because you could  
47 hear Point Hope reporting, too because of what nature  
48 did. Just to make you realize how nature helps and  
49 point out that things when they're closed naturally,

50

1 the caribou will thrive.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq)

6

7

Any other questions to Mr. Evans on

8

WSA17-04.

9

10

MR. EVANS: So I'd just like to make a

11

little comment since it's kind of apropos to what Roy

12

just said.

13

14

So because of the flooded rivers and  
stuff, some of the caribou in their migration delayed  
their time going down and crossing some of the rivers  
down in that Region. So they stayed north further and  
then turned around and went back a bit.

19

20

So yeah, there's a lot of variables in  
play with these things going on. But just wanted to  
mention that quickly.

21

22

23

24

MR. SHEARS: Well, let's not go patting  
our self on the back yet.

25

26

27

(Laughter)

28

29

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Well, you  
know, we could have patted ourselves on the back, but  
we're patting nature.

30

31

32

33

Because nature did what the government  
didn't want to do in a trial of itself and it worked.

34

35

36

So I think Roy brings out a good point.

37

38

39

MR. NAGEAK, SR.: And that's why we  
pray a lot.

40

41

42

MR. OOMITUK: Yeah. This is Steve  
here.

43

44

45

And I just wanted to say that I got  
disconnected for a few minutes, so I missed a portion.  
But I got back on. But I've been listening here for a  
few minutes, yes.

46

47

48

49

50



1 Sorry about that.

2

3

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.

4

5

MR. OOMITUK: But I'm back on.

6

7

8 So I just wanted to point out, yeah,  
9 you know, that nature works in mysterious ways. But,  
10 you know, the closing to non-resident hunters,  
11 sporthunters in Unit 23 in Federal lands, you know,  
12 these last two years we've seen some changes. And, you  
13 know, the ones we heard around Anaktuvuk Pass and  
14 trying to help them out also, you know, for the change  
15 of migration, you know, the Haul Road, people coming up  
16 the Haul Road and, you know, hunters, everything that  
17 Gordon said, you know, bow hunters, I mean people that  
18 want to hunt with bows and the animals, you know, we've  
19 always lived off the land, you know, the people of the  
20 North, the land, the sea, the sky, you know, the  
21 animals have always been there for us. And like what  
22 Roy said, you know, his brother, the animals don't  
23 speak English. You know, and that's what we're here  
24 for, you know, we're here to fight for our rights and  
25 speak for the animals that, hey, you know, they need to  
26 be protected. You have to stop certain things. And,  
27 you know, and the State is, you know, is always giving  
28 us such a hard time sometimes, even the Federal  
29 government, you know, we have to fight for our rights.

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

You know, we want to ensure that the  
animals can feed the next generation of people. You  
know, we don't want this decline, you know, we want the  
animals to always be there, we have to be their voice  
sometimes. You know, we have to speak for what is  
right, especially for our way of life, you know, the  
subsistence hunters that rely. I mean the high cost of  
living up on the North, you know, they say we have --  
you know, the job, the economy is low, we always depend  
on subsistence.

You know, subsistence was a given name  
to us, you know, we rely on this, the food source that  
is there, that is given to us.

And so we just want to ensure that, you  
know, these animals are protected too so that our  
future generations can continue living off the land.  
You know, we're seeing changes, the climate change  
happening to us, you know, how much longer is this

1 going to happen.

2

3 So, but, you know, I like what Gordon  
4 said and what Roy said, you know, I was listening to  
5 that until I got cut off.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.  
10 Representing Point Hope. (In Inupiaq)

11

12 Yeah. Any other questions to Mr. Evans  
13 on WSA17-04.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, I just wanted  
18 to reiterate what Mr. Shears shared about this preamble  
19 and this language on page 25. And it's kind of to me  
20 scary to -- what Mr. Shears is interpreting and reading  
21 out because I didn't really catch that frame of mind.

22

23 But if you read it, it seems to suggest  
24 our special action that's coming down the pike is  
25 already dead in its tracks. It's already dead in its  
26 tracks. And it's kind of heart wrenching when you want  
27 to see in another Region, Unit 23, to see if that  
28 works. When we're dealing with different herds that  
29 maybe rarely go over the mountain and go that way,  
30 talking about the Teshekpuk Herd, which is quite  
31 frankly is -- as expressed in the counting a major  
32 decline. Not to mention the Central Arctic Herd.

33

34 And I would hate to be an alarmist when  
35 you -- when the State acts. And I look at some of  
36 these other proposals about sliding scale bag limits  
37 based on population trends maybe by months. Who knows.  
38 A sliding scale harvest for Dall sheep and somebody's  
39 going to say oh, there's 70 Dall sheep. Oh, well.  
40 Sliding scales say we must take 15.

41

42 And seems to me you're managing births.  
43 You're managing births at that point. And you should  
44 allow these animals to be developed in a sustained  
45 yield principle. The concept of sustained yield means  
46 the herd must be healthy. Healthy enough to support  
47 harvesting from them. Not a sliding scale of there was  
48 30 births this year and we're going to take 15 of  
49 those. It seems like that's -- you could manage that

50

1 thing -- you're managing the decline.

2

3

Anyway, I worry about that.

4

5

6 And maybe some of our language in our  
7 proposal already has things dead in its tracks like  
8 26B. And it's a modification to look at that if the  
9 State really has also changed State regs on State lands  
10 to manage its 26B to reflect the drastic decline. It  
11 should be in its -- not even on a conservative  
12 management scheme. It should be at a preservation  
13 management scheme for the Central Arctic Herd at this  
14 stage.

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

And we're just advocating right now for  
conservation management scheme. A conservative  
management scheme. We've been living off of a liberal  
management scheme for 30 years and it's time to reflect  
and put the rubber to the road and do what's right for  
the communities.

I'm already saying since 2014 and the  
biologists already said you separate the harvestable  
surplus between these two herds, the (In Inupiaq) and  
the Western Arctic, they don't support non-resident  
hunts. They barely or even are at par for subsistence.  
And that -- those herds go to 38 communities. They're  
just not North Slope herds. And those are at stake.

With that, if there are any other  
questions on WSA17-04, they should be raised now. And  
then we'll allow Mr. Evans to proceed.

(No comments)

MR. EVANS: So Eva, did you want to  
have the agency do their reports now so we have a  
background of some of the current biology on the  
caribou herds before we go into the caribou proposals?

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We  
have both Ryan Klimstra and Beth Lenart here, as well  
as Darren Bruning, from ADF&G. Beth will be able to  
provide some updates on the Central Arctic Herd  
specifically and also the new regulations that were  
enacted by the State and an overview of both the  
Western Arctic and the Teshekpuk Herd, as well as  
information on the Porcupine Herd for Kaktovik.

1                   And so the idea was the Council would  
2 be able to get all the latest caribou updates, any  
3 regulation changes that have occurred with the State,  
4 and have that in mind. And then we'll go into your  
5 proposals after those updates.

6  
7                   Thank you.

8  
9                   MR. KLIMSTRA: Okay. Well, for the  
10 record, my name is Ryan Klimstra. I'm with the Alaska  
11 Department of Fish and Game. And I'm just going to  
12 provide a real brief overview of the Western Arctic  
13 Herd and the Teshekpuk Herd as of today. Where we are  
14 up to date, you know, for your consideration, when  
15 talking about these proposals coming up here.

16  
17                   Okay. So we're going to start off with  
18 the Western Arctic Herd, then move into the Teshekpuk  
19 Herd, and then we're going to briefly talk about the  
20 registration permit that started this July 1st, RC907,  
21 and then we'll kind of wrap up from there.

22  
23                   So just as a review, a little  
24 refresher here, this is the range of the Western Arctic  
25 Caribou Herd as we understand it. In the center there  
26 you've got the dark yellows, the calving grounds. And  
27 then the lighter yellow of course is the summer range.  
28 And then the red is kind of a migratory route. And of  
29 course blue is winter range and the white is the  
30 peripheral range which kind of just factors in all  
31 kinds of movements that we'll see throughout the years  
32 based on both VHF and satellite collar data.

33  
34                   And, you know, bear with me with the  
35 clicker here. So 2017 for the Western Arctic Herd we  
36 were able to get a photo census. The conditions  
37 weren't necessarily ideal, but we had a lot of positive  
38 things going on this year.

39  
40                   Number one, we have a new photo system  
41 that you've probably heard me talk about and others  
42 talk about and that's a digital photo system which  
43 really increases the accuracy that we're able to count  
44 these photos. As you can see on the slide here, this  
45 is an example of what it's like to count. We do it on  
46 a computer screen. They're in color. It's no longer  
47 black and white. You can zoom in and out on these  
48 images and really tell the difference between, you  
49 know, an adult and a calf. And so we expect good

50

1 things from this.

2

3 So for the Western Arctic Herd the  
4 weather and caribou aggregation conditions like I said  
5 were less than ideal, but, you know, the camera  
6 equipment kind of came through for us and we think  
7 that's going to help make this year, you know,  
8 countable and we'll have a good product we hope.

9

10 We're still in the process of counting  
11 these photos. I think we're approximately maybe  
12 halfway to three-quarters done. And we plan to have a  
13 number that we're able to, you know, release for the  
14 Western Arctic Herd working group meeting that's held  
15 each December. I think it's December 13th or something  
16 along those lines this year. So in about a month we  
17 expect that we're going to know or at least have a  
18 minimum count of the Western Arctic Herd at the very  
19 least.

20

21 And so it's the same system, too, that  
22 we use for the Teshekpuk Herd, so I'm not going to  
23 repeat this when we get to Teshekpuk Herd. But just so  
24 you know, the photo system has been upgraded and we  
25 expect that that's really going to help us out in the  
26 long run and have better.....

27

28 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Are the green  
29 spots calves?

30

31 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. So that's --  
32 yeah. Thank you, Jeff.

33

34 The question was are the green spots on  
35 the image calves and that's correct. So we count these  
36 photos using GIS actually. So these photos are brought  
37 into the GIS and we have a special tool that people  
38 worked really hard to develop that allows us to place  
39 different dots -- different colored dots on different  
40 animals.

41

42 And so it might be an adult. We have a  
43 dot for that, which is the red. We've got green for  
44 calves. Then there's even a dot for an unknown to go  
45 back and search all your unknowns and have a second set  
46 of eyes on those. Or there might be even, you know,  
47 other symbols. You know, like question mark, things  
48 like that.

49

50

1 So we're really excited about this.  
2 It's really going to change the way -- and Jeff can  
3 probably -- out of anyone in this room can attest to  
4 this is, you know, a huge relief in terms of counting  
5 photos and something to be really excited about.

6  
7 MR. SHEARS: You could count wolves  
8 with this.

9  
10 MR. KLIMSTRA: You can count anything  
11 with this, Bob.

12  
13 MR. SHEARS: Yeah.

14  
15 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. If you take their  
16 picture.

17  
18 MR. SHEARS: Yeah.

19  
20 (Laughter)

21  
22 MR. KLIMSTRA: Except maybe lemmings.  
23 Maybe lemmings would be tough on this system. But, you  
24 know, that's a.....

25  
26 (Laughter)

27  
28 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: What year did you  
29 start this?

30  
31 MR. KLIMSTRA: This is the very --  
32 thank you, Roy. He asked what year we started this.

33  
34 This July was the first time that we  
35 employed this system. And there was a whole lot of  
36 effort and practice going on and, you know, basically  
37 learning the equipment and learning all the software  
38 over the past year. Since basically 2016 we had the  
39 equipment and then it was just this huge learning curve  
40 for Nate (Indiscernible) and some of our pilots and  
41 others to basically learn the system and to employ it.

42  
43 And it's a rather complicated thing,  
44 but it makes the end result much easier to obtain and a  
45 whole lot more accurate.

46  
47 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: Oh. I'm glad you  
48 said that. Because we've been working with inaccurate  
49 numbers.....

50

1 MR. KLIMSTRA: No. No. Excuse me,  
2 Roy.

3  
4 I shouldn't say a whole lot more  
5 accurate in terms of with -- we're more -- we're  
6 happier with these counts. You know, in terms of  
7 accuracy there's no difference in thousands of caribou  
8 or anything along those lines we don't think. You  
9 know, it's just you're able to distinguish. You know,  
10 there's less unknowns.

11  
12 Let's put it that way. So there's less  
13 room for.....

14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is it faster than the  
16 old one?

17  
18 MR. KLIMSTRA: Well, that's -- we're  
19 actually studying that very thing. That was a good  
20 question.

21  
22 Gordon asked if it's faster than the  
23 old way. And we're actually studying that very thing,  
24 Gordon. We're kind of researching how this all -- you  
25 know, our effort -- man hours and effort compared to,  
26 you know, the old black and white photos. We're kind  
27 of looking at that to determine, you know, how much  
28 more efficient are we.

29  
30 And we think it will be quite a bit  
31 more efficient. So.....

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It seems like, you  
34 know, I have a GIS background.

35  
36 MR. KLIMSTRA: Uh-huh.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Having had a GIS  
39 background and I remember working to calculate  
40 features. And here you don't have to number anything.  
41 You just put a dot on a feature. And on a certain size  
42 here it looks like you can do different dots. And it  
43 seems to me it would be a lot faster because you'll be  
44 able to say light up the greens and.....

45  
46 MR. KLIMSTRA: Oh, exactly.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And then it will  
49 calculate it by.....

50

1 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. So you can search  
2 those attribute tables and you can -- and at the end of  
3 a counting session, for instance, you just pull up the  
4 attribute table and you know how many -- exactly how  
5 many calves and how many adults were in the photo. Or  
6 in the portion that you counted.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. And you  
9 don't.....

10  
11 MR. KLIMSTRA: There's no tallying and  
12 you don't.....

13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's no tallying.

15  
16 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's no getting  
19 mixed up where you've got to start from.....

20  
21 MR. KLIMSTRA: Exactly. Yeah.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....start from one  
24 all over again.

25  
26 MR. KLIMSTRA: Right.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. So I think  
29 this is being very beneficial and it's real good stuff.

30  
31 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. Great.

32  
33 Okay. So again this is -- you've all  
34 seen this particular graph here many times. And as I  
35 just explained, we don't have a count yet for the  
36 Western Arctic Herd, but we're working on it.

37  
38 I'm not going to spend a lot of time  
39 here, so just as you know we're right around 200,000  
40 animals. And that number was from a couple of years  
41 ago. And we're hoping to update this. And like I  
42 said, in the next month. And, you know, we'll see how  
43 that progresses.

44  
45 Again you've seen this exact -- you  
46 know, this exact figure. This is kind of we've got  
47 calf recruitment up at the very top and adult cow  
48 mortality on the bottom here. And on our left, as you  
49 can see, when calf recruitment is greater than adult

50



1 cow mortality, we tend to have growth.

2  
3 You know, and of course we had this  
4 major decline in the Western Arctic Herd which was kind  
5 of that righthand side where calf recruitment is below  
6 adult cow mortality. And I'd just like to point out  
7 that here on the past couple of years we kind of have  
8 gone back to calf recruitment being greater than adult  
9 cow mortality, but -- you know, so we're optimistic  
10 that things are looking better. So hopefully that will  
11 coincide with our count this December when we release  
12 that.

13  
14 So this is the Western Arctic caribou  
15 harvested from -- these are long term averages. I want  
16 to point that out right now. So this can vary. You  
17 know, there can be variation from year to year, but  
18 this is from 1998 to 2015.

19  
20 And so on the bottom there of course we  
21 have which units harvested what. So Unit 22, long term  
22 average is about 2,080 and 23 -- and this is per year.  
23 Unit 23, 6,980. Then 24, you know, was 1,140. 26A,  
24 1,220. And other Alaska residents, so that's what we  
25 often refer to as non-local residents. Other Alaska  
26 residents, 300 caribou. And then non-residents,  
27 meaning non-State residents, is 300 caribou. So a  
28 total of those people that don't live in those units,  
29 long term average is about 600 caribou per year.

30  
31 MR. SHEARS: For all four units  
32 combined?

33  
34 MR. KLIMSTRA: For the Western Arctic  
35 Herd.

36  
37 MR. SHEARS: Okay. Okay. Good.

38  
39 MR. KLIMSTRA: Okay. So moving into  
40 some of the new information that we have from the  
41 Western Arctic Herd for this summer. As you recall, we  
42 were starting a calf survival study, you know, to try  
43 to answer some of these questions on what was going on  
44 out there with calves. That was -- that actually was  
45 kind of a project that I believe originated from, you  
46 know, the communities and questions from, you know,  
47 some of the villages in the units. So it was great to  
48 be able to, you know, produce some of this information  
49 for them.

50

1 June 2017 there was about 78 calves  
2 that were collared. Eight of those had to be  
3 redeployed. That means within the first week that calf  
4 might have died.

5  
6 So what we know so far, mortalities on  
7 the calving ground was about 18, which means that there  
8 was about 77 percent survival of the calves that were  
9 collared. Of those 18 calves, the cause of mortality,  
10 we had brown bear, 11 instances; golden eagle, 4;  
11 abandonment, 2; and drowning, 1. So you can see what  
12 percentages those make up of the mortality there.  
13 So.....

14  
15 Oh, nuts. Here we go.

16  
17 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair. I have a  
18 question.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

21  
22 MR. OOMITUK: It's Steve here.

23  
24 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yep, Steve.

25  
26 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah. I know earlier you  
27 had mentioned that you did have a count, you know,  
28 since a couple of years ago. Why is that? I mean  
29 giving us some background (indiscernible) When are you  
30 going to be able to have that count.....

31  
32 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yes.

33  
34 MR. OOMITUK: .....of the Western  
35 Arctic Caribou Herd. You know, I would think that  
36 there would be a count number from, you know you're  
37 giving numbers on calves and numbers on these females,  
38 bulls, what is -- what's the delay on the count number  
39 of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd?

40  
41 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. Thanks for that,  
42 Steve. So yeah, that's a really good question.

43  
44 So the count, you know, a lot of things  
45 have to come together to have a good count on the  
46 Western Arctic Herd caribou. You know, they have to  
47 aggregate -- you know, the conditions have to be right  
48 with the weather and the insects and the temperature.  
49 And you want those groups to come together in very

50

1 large groups, you know, to basically during that insect  
2 harassment time. And that's when we photograph them.

3  
4 And so we've just had trouble previous  
5 years with weather and smoke. So whether it be fog or  
6 smoke from wildfires or high winds or things like that  
7 that just prevented us from being able to fly to take  
8 those photos, that's why there was a missing year  
9 there.

10  
11 But we're able to, you know, get these  
12 photos taken this year and we are working on that. And  
13 we're on schedule for this year. We don't feel like  
14 we're delayed in counting the photos that we took this  
15 summer. So we feel like we're right on schedule and we  
16 should have a number for the Western Arctic Herd  
17 working group in December.

18  
19 And I believe you'll be there; is that  
20 correct, Steve?

21  
22 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah. Thank you.

23  
24 MR. KLIMSTRA: You're welcome.

25  
26 So back to the calf survival study for  
27 the Western Arctic Herd, post-calving ground survival.  
28 So currently -- and this was as of about a week ago.  
29 There was a -- I think was the last flight maybe.  
30 There was 51 live animals that last survey. Oh,  
31 October 18th. I'm sorry. I've got it right in there.  
32 So a little bit longer than a week.

33  
34 So survival to date is about 65  
35 percent. So nine mortalities post-calving. Again out  
36 of those nine, two were brown bear; one was a golden  
37 eagle; one was a wolf; and two were unknown. And then  
38 three we were unable to retrieve so far.

39  
40 So that was just a little bit of an  
41 update of what we're doing with the Western Arctic Herd  
42 calves, which we feel is going to provide some good  
43 information.

44  
45 So we'll move right into the Teshekpuk  
46 caribou overview. And like I did with the Western  
47 Arctic Herd, just as a reminder -- I know you all know  
48 this stuff, but here is a map of the seasonal ranges  
49 for the Teshekpuk Herd. Of course right around

50

1 Teshekpuk Lake is the core calving grounds. And the --  
2 or excuse me. Like right on that east side to south  
3 side has been the traditional core calving grounds.  
4 And of course we see calving in that entire green area,  
5 which we call the calving grounds.

6  
7 And then, you know, the Teshekpuk is  
8 kind of one of those herds that never does the same  
9 thing twice it seems like. You know, they might  
10 winter, you know, around Atqasuk or around Barrow or  
11 they might be down in the Brooks. So they're kind of  
12 all over the place in terms of winter range. And then  
13 summer range is typically on the North Slope there, as  
14 you all know.

15  
16 So again we don't have a count yet for  
17 Teshekpuk Herd, but we were successful in photographing  
18 the Teshekpuk Herd this summer. We took 26 photos.  
19 There's 26 distinct groups, which is typically a lot of  
20 groups for a herd of caribou, but the great thing was  
21 these were all very tight groups. The photo census was  
22 conducted on July 14th. I don't know if anybody  
23 remembers the weather this summer on the 14th, but it  
24 was really hot and lots of insects.

25  
26 So this graph here just shows what we  
27 did for the last photo census. We were just above  
28 40,000 individuals. And we feel like things are doing  
29 well with this herd. And I'll talk about a few other  
30 things here.

31  
32 So other biological data for Teshekpuk  
33 Herd. Since July 1st of 2016, we've had around 90  
34 percent adult female survival, which is really good.  
35 And this is based on our sample of collared caribou.  
36 And our yearling recruitment is right around 15  
37 percent, which is kind of near the long term average of  
38 yearling recruitment. When I say yearling recruitment,  
39 I mean in April when we do a survey of how many  
40 yearlings are out there compared to cows, that's  
41 basically when we say those animals have been recruited  
42 into the population. They've made it an entire year at  
43 that point.

44  
45 Those yearling rates -- whenever we  
46 weighed animals in June were right around 91 pounds,  
47 which was pretty good. And then also our calving  
48 survey indicated that calf production was high again  
49 this year, 71 percent. We were unable to get a

50

1 composition survey again -- or not again, but this past  
2 October due to weather, so that's information from  
3 2016. 28 bulls to 100 cows, which is a little low, and  
4 48 calves to 100 cows, which again is high. So those  
5 are very encouraging metrics.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question.

8  
9 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yes, Bob.

10  
11 MR. SHEARS: The carrying capacity of  
12 the Teshekpuk Herd range, any ideas there or concepts  
13 on what the conservation versus preservation threshold  
14 would be for population?

15  
16 MR. KLIMSTRA: So you're asking, you  
17 know, if we looked at like a specific carrying capacity  
18 for the Teshekpuk Herd; is that right?

19  
20 MR. SHEARS: Yes.

21  
22 MR. KLIMSTRA: No. We haven't really  
23 looked at that.

24  
25 You know, it's -- essentially, you  
26 know, we just -- we're tracking like the population,  
27 you know, in terms of the size of it. But we haven't  
28 looked at, you know, how much can the landscape, you  
29 know, support.

30  
31 But that's -- you know, that's an  
32 interesting question. Yeah.

33  
34 So again just kind of as a summary for  
35 both the Western Arctic Herd and the Teshekpuk Herd,  
36 you know, as we have been in the past couple of years,  
37 we're kind of standing on that threshold of needing  
38 more active hunt management in both herds. You know,  
39 but that kind of dates back to when those new  
40 regulations went into place. And at this current  
41 moment both herds are exhibiting a lot of positive  
42 signs, you know, that we are seeing.

43  
44 Whether it be high calf production, low  
45 female adult mortality, you know, when we capture this  
46 animals just good body condition. There's a lot of  
47 positive things going on here and we feel encouraged by  
48 being able to capture two -- you know, a photo census  
49 for each. And we're excited to count those and we feel  
50

1 positive about those things at this time.

2

3 So I just want to talk briefly about  
4 the registration permit that was implemented this -- by  
5 the Board of Game that we kind of put into place July  
6 1st this year.

7

8 So this first graph that you're looking  
9 at -- and these are all preliminary results. And this  
10 has nothing to do with harvest so far. This is all how  
11 many permits have been distributed. So that's very  
12 important that we keep that in mind here.

13

14 So just as a quick comparison, in 2015  
15 the entire, you know, Region north of the Yukon --  
16 basically folks that hunt the Western Arctic Herd and  
17 the Teshekpuk Herd were under RC900, which was where  
18 you registered to hunt caribou. And the combined area  
19 we distributed 1,032 permits. And then in 2016 the  
20 Nome -- or Unit 22 implemented RC800, which is  
21 basically very similar to RC907. They've just got to  
22 jump on implementing that thing, so that's why it kind  
23 of breaks off there in 2016. And that and all the  
24 RC900 permits that were distributed in 2016 amounted to  
25 1,250.

26

27 And what I'm trying to point out here  
28 is that the number is slowly climbing. I know this  
29 last number is only 1,141 and that's RC800 and RC907  
30 for 2017, but the important thing we need to note here  
31 is that this -- we're only six months into the  
32 regulatory year. Those other two numbers there were  
33 entire regulatory years worth of permits. We're only  
34 six months in and we're almost at that level.

35

36 So we feel really good about the  
37 outreach that we've done and the distribution of  
38 permits at this point. So that's -- we feel like  
39 that's a real positive thing. And I must say owe a lot  
40 to some of the other offices for their efforts.

41

42 So to kind of dissect that just a  
43 little bit further, we have RC907 permits distributed  
44 in game management Unit 23 and 26A. Okay. So again  
45 going back to 2015, combined we had 551 permits, the  
46 RC900, that were distributed for the two units. And  
47 then 2016 went down a little bit to 531. And then we  
48 were already over that level -- and we're only six  
49 months into the reporting or into the regulatory year,

50

1 so we're at 570 permits combined for Units 23 and 26A  
2 at this time.

3  
4 And then one step further, we've got to  
5 hand it to Kotzebue and Unit 23. They account for  
6 about 94 percent of those 907 permits. And Unit 26A is  
7 about 6 percent. Now, I do want to point out that we  
8 know that there's an additional probably 10 or 15  
9 permits that haven't been logged into the system for  
10 Unit 26A, so that number is slightly larger.

11  
12 So that's where we are thus far with  
13 RC907 preliminary results on permit distribution.  
14 We're really encouraged on, you know, how many have  
15 been distributed at this time and the fact that we're  
16 only halfway through. We expect a lot more to come in  
17 or to be distributed.

18  
19 And that's all I had for my update or  
20 overview.

21  
22 I could probably take just a couple of  
23 questions and then I imagine we want to keep the ball  
24 rolling.

25  
26 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: When we started being  
27 regulated with our hunting whales due to the  
28 population, they always stated that we can't hunt over  
29 the birth weight, which is two percent. And when you  
30 look at the counts that are being done for the Western  
31 Arctic Herd and the Teshekpuk Herd and the Central  
32 Arctic Herd, when do those levels of sustainability or  
33 the levels of what you would call not to kill so that  
34 we could decrease the herd in a big manner.

35  
36 I mean they say that if you hunt below  
37 two percent of the whale population, it will manage to  
38 grow more. And yet in all the years that the North  
39 Slope Borough has counted whales from a low of maybe  
40 9,000, 10,000 and now way past 15,000 and two percent  
41 is like around 400, 500.

42  
43 MR. KLIMSTRA: Is a big number. Yeah.

44  
45 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: But we still have  
46 like 70 or 80 whales, which is way, way lower than what  
47 the percentage of recruitment or the herd keeps growing  
48 in that respect.

49  
50

1 And that's all for critical -- the  
2 critical number. But for the herd to be kind of left  
3 alone and to be hunted through that you just obtained,  
4 to be hunted at a higher yield. Like we know. We  
5 control our own hunting. We know what we need per  
6 family for our own needs.

7  
8 How would the State looking at the  
9 population say this is how much needs to be killed? Do  
10 you guys reflect on the total number?

11  
12 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. That's a good  
13 question, Roy.

14  
15 And, you know, I guess my main answer  
16 to that is, you know, that's a tough question and  
17 that's one we're always trying to get to. And better  
18 understanding harvest, you know, and the timing of  
19 harvest and harvest composition -- cows, bulls, you  
20 know, yearlings. Understanding those things, you know,  
21 can help us know what percent -- you know, like what  
22 you're asking there. Like are we -- at what levels are  
23 we harvesting.

24  
25 You know, those numbers I showed are  
26 based on household surveys and, you know, on estimates  
27 and things like that. So that's what we're trying to  
28 get at with, you know, the permit and the return on  
29 harvest. But, you know, that's -- certainly you bring  
30 up a good point.

31  
32 There's a certain level you don't want  
33 to harvest over, you know, and we don't feel that we're  
34 there right now. You know, and as we kind of saw in  
35 that one slide, the overwhelming majority of the  
36 harvest for the Western Arctic Herd is of, you know,  
37 residents of Unit 23 and then 22 and 26A. So that's  
38 where all that harvest is going.

39  
40 We don't, you know, want to restrict  
41 that or feel that it's necessary to restrict that right  
42 now.

43  
44 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: And I saw the  
45 pictures of what is available for the villages and I  
46 know there's just certain areas that the population of  
47 Barrow, Atqasuk, Wainwright, Point Lay hunts. But then  
48 the majority of the caribou herd and the way that it  
49 wanders is like wide open country and only air traffic  
50



1 cutting back those caribou.

2

3 And that's always been the running  
4 question, of how to manage those. And the State or the  
5 Federal government can't because they're under FAA.....

6

7 MR. KLIMSTRA: Uh-huh.

8

9 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: And somehow that  
10 discrepancy of not knowing what air traffic, air  
11 hunting, landing on lagoons or lakes, landing on gravel  
12 pits or gravel, the impact that it has. That's that  
13 variable in the sense unless they're all permitted,  
14 unless they all carry a permit.

15

16 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. Those.....

17

18 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: We don't really know.

19

20 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. Those -- I mean I  
21 can say that that is -- we do have the most confidence  
22 in understanding harvest, you know, from those non-  
23 local residents of the State and the non-residents. We  
24 certainly know that those numbers are accurate. You  
25 know, those folks.....

26

27 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: From the permits or  
28 the hunting licenses or -- but the air traffic.....

29

30 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. Through --  
31 through -- you know, they've been required to use  
32 harvest tickets, you know. And this year non-local  
33 residents are required to use the RC907. But we have  
34 -- we know those are accurate. Those folks are  
35 certainly turning those in.

36

37 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: Those look like  
38 Western Arctic Herd because of the color. And we  
39 always wait for those to.....

40

41 MR. KLIMSTRA: Those are Western Arctic  
42 Herd, Roy. Good eye.

43

44 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: .....because that's  
45 what I always wait for. Because they're fatter and  
46 they're less stressed.

47

48 MR. KLIMSTRA: What are you saying  
49 about our poor little Teshekpuk animals. Are you

50

1 saying they're not as fat?

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: They come from over  
6 that way.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: We always wait for  
11 the ones that come up slowly up on the coast. And then  
12 you see the white color, it's like I've got to get  
13 that.

14

15 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. No. They're  
16 pretty animals.

17

18 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: So it's been many  
19 years since I've seen those kind of color. I've hunted  
20 many years and I usually go to the west to try to get  
21 close to those. I haven't seen those for quite a few  
22 years.

23

24 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah.

25

26 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: Somehow they're  
27 stopping someplace.

28

29 MS. PATTON: Was that it for the  
30 PowerPoint?

31

32 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. That's it for me.

33

34

35 MS. PATTON: Okay.

36

37 MR. KLIMSTRA: All right. Thank you.

38

39 MR. EDWARDSON: Can I go up there.

40

41 MS. PATTON: Sure, come on up.

42

43 MR. EDWARDSON: My name is George  
44 Edwardson. I'm the president of Inupiat Community.

45

46 And when you were doing your caribou  
47 count, did you look on the Canadian side? Because with  
48 all the oil development close to ANWR, they have been  
49 chased over on the Canadian side.

50

1                                    You're talking about the Western  
2 Central Herd and the Porcupine Herd.

3  
4                                    MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. Thank you,  
5 George.

6  
7                                    I was just talking about the Western  
8 Arctic Herd and the Teshekpuk Herd, but I believe some  
9 of my colleagues are going to talk about Central Arctic  
10 and I think maybe touch on the Porcupine as well. So  
11 that's coming up soon.

12  
13                                   MR. EDWARDSON: Good.

14  
15                                   MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah.

16  
17                                   MR. EDWARDSON: That's where you're  
18 going to see them chase.

19  
20                                   Alaska ran into the same situation over  
21 the Nabesna Herd. Anchorage and Fairbanks over-  
22 harvested them, chased them into Canada. They're still  
23 sitting over there in Canada. Not that they're  
24 disappeared, but they were chased out of the State of  
25 Alaska's hunting system.

26  
27                                   MR. KLIMSTRA: That may be a green card  
28 issue.

29  
30                                   MR. EDWARDSON: And now you're going to  
31 do the same thing with us right here?

32  
33                                   MR. KLIMSTRA: No. I think you'll hear  
34 from Beth that -- in a few minutes here she'll talk  
35 about the Central Arctic and the Porcupine Herd.  
36 That's coming up. I don't want to steal her thunder.

37  
38                                   MS. PATTON: Yeah. So we don't have a  
39 Power Point for that, but we do have some handouts.  
40 And then Beth will speak to the Central Arctic Herd and  
41 the Porcupine.

42  
43                                   So we'll get that screen raised and the  
44 Council can have their seats back. And we've got some  
45 handouts from Beth.

46  
47                                   (Pause)

48  
49                                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'd like to see

50

1 maybe by show of hands if you guys want to take like a  
2 two or five minute break. There's one, two.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We've got  
7 a five minute break. Or is it two minutes.

8

9 MR. OOMITUK: Okay. Five minute break.  
10 I'll come back in about five minutes then.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Five minutes.

13

14 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Steve.

15

16 MR. OOMITUK: All right.

17

18 (Off record)

19

20 (On record)

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I think our  
23 five minutes were up about five minutes ago, but it was  
24 a great conversation.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I think  
29 our break is up and we're going to continue with agency  
30 report.

31

32 Is that what it is?

33

34 MS. PATTON: Yes. We have -- Beth  
35 Lenart is here. And she will continue with the caribou  
36 reports for the Central Arctic and the Porcupine  
37 caribou herds.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Madame  
40 Coordinator.

41

42 Go ahead, Beth.

43

44 MS. LENART: Thank you, Chairman  
45 Brower. Good afternoon, Members of the Council.

46

47 For the record, my name is Beth Lenart.  
48 I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, based  
49 out of Fairbanks. I'm the wildlife biologist for the

50

1 northeast portion of Alaska, which is the Yukon Flats  
2 and north -- the Eastern North Slope from the Colville  
3 River to the Canadian border, which includes the  
4 Central Arctic and Porcupine Caribou Herds.

5  
6 The Central Arctic Herd declined from a  
7 high of 68,000 caribou in 2010 to 23,000 in 2016. The  
8 North Slope Regional Advisory Council received a  
9 presentation last March 2017 about the decline. ADF&G  
10 completed a photo census this summer and preliminary  
11 data indicates that the number is similar to last year,  
12 maybe slightly but higher. But we are still completing  
13 counting the photos.

14  
15 And as Ryan mentioned, even if that  
16 number is a little bit higher, that could partially be  
17 due to these digital photos. So it's possible the herd  
18 is stabilized, but I would like more information on  
19 that and so we're still planning another photo census  
20 for next summer.

21  
22 MR. SHEARS: Beth, the number declined  
23 from what to 23,000. What was the initial count?

24  
25 MS. LENART: So in 2010 it peaked at  
26 68,000 caribou. So, you know, it had been growing up  
27 to 68,000 caribou and then after 2010 it started to  
28 decline.

29  
30 One of those declines -- or part of  
31 that decline occurred in 2013 when it was a very late  
32 spring that year and caribou were still migrating to  
33 the calving grounds. And we noted a fairly high  
34 mortality in yearlings and adult females that spring.

35  
36 Following the decline in 2016, ADF&G  
37 implemented a three percent harvest rate. And this  
38 kind of is in response to what Roy was -- questions Roy  
39 was asking about. And so we had to -- we were thinking  
40 that a three percent harvest rate would still allow for  
41 some growth in the herd to occur and some harvest  
42 opportunity.

43  
44 So we estimated harvestable surplus to  
45 be 680 caribou. In response to this, the State Board  
46 of Game significantly reduced hunting opportunity in  
47 Unit 26B in the geographical area where non-locals and  
48 non-residents hunt and allowed the season to remain  
49 liberal in the area where residents of Nuiqsut hunt.

50

1 So the Gate.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Beth. I've got  
4 a question.

5

6 MS. LENART: Okay.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You know, this -- the  
9 geographic area is kind of squirreling around in my  
10 head. And then the more liberal aspect to hunt out of  
11 the Central Arctic Herd being in the area where it may  
12 encounter local residents.

13

14 MS. LENART: Correct.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I am to the  
17 understanding that there's C&T to -- we work off of  
18 C&Ts, customary and traditional use, on those herds  
19 from Kaktovik and also from Nuiqsut. And the ability  
20 to hunt on the road system also exists for the local on  
21 Haul Road. And how does that compare to the non-  
22 residents that have a more restrictive now, I  
23 guess.....

24

25 MS. LENART: Uh-huh.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....a geographic  
28 area restriction. And if a local resident that's on  
29 the Haul Road takes advantage of the herd there to  
30 harvest, is it -- will they be questioned by residency  
31 or be governed by the geographical area?

32

33 Just a little question there.

34

35 MS. LENART: That's a very good  
36 question. And the answer is that they would be -- a  
37 local person would still have to hunt under the  
38 geographic regulation. So it would be a geographic  
39 area because the State can't really define by where  
40 you're -- you know, where you're from. So they can  
41 just define this geographical area.

42

43 In this case it's kind of where the  
44 residents hunt most of the time. And they can have a  
45 liberal season there. Technically, any Alaska resident  
46 can go in there and hunt under that liberal season. We  
47 just haven't really seen that because it's really hard  
48 to get to.

49

50

1 So unless you're from Nuiqsut and  
2 you're going east and you're hunting in the wintertime  
3 and.....

4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Just maybe a  
6 follow up. Because there's a.....

7  
8 MS. LENART: Yeah.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....few little  
11 things that you're saying that are peaking interest.

12  
13 MS. LENART: Yeah. Yeah. Okay.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That based on  
16 geographic area and a more liberal opportunity near the  
17 village.

18  
19 MS. LENART: Right.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But on State land.

22  
23 MS. LENART: Correct.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right.

26  
27 MS. LENART: Right.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And -- but not giving  
30 deference to the village, but to the State. That's  
31 what I'm hearing.

32  
33 MS. LENART: So -- correct. If that --  
34 if who -- whoever is hunting the Dalton Highway,  
35 whether they're from Nuiqsut or Fairbanks, would have  
36 the same regulation. And in this case it would be two  
37 bull caribou from August 1 through April 30th.

38  
39 So until that hunter from Nuiqsut got  
40 into the geographical area near Nuiqsut, their bag  
41 limit and season would be the same as anyone else's.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And Beth, just a  
44 follow up since you gave that good -- good explanation.  
45 Same goes for the geographical area by Nuiqsut where a  
46 more liberal hunt.

47  
48 MS. LENART: Right.

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And somebody from  
2 Fairbanks can go in that area and liberal hunt in the  
3 same way that you're looking at it because it's for the  
4 State. You don't differentiate somebody from Nuiqsut  
5 versus somebody from Fairbanks, Anchorage, Juneau.

6  
7 MS. LENART: Correct.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: They can go to that  
10 area and do a liberal hunt.

11  
12 MS. LENART: Correct. Only a resident  
13 hunter -- an Alaska resident could. Non-resident bag  
14 limit would not be the same.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. I mean I would  
17 be alarmed.

18  
19 MS. LENART: Yeah.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Because you do have a  
22 system -- a tier system to be able to effectuate that  
23 you have to be from that resident -- from that village  
24 in something like this when you're looking at drastic  
25 declines from 68,000 at peak to 20,000 and the concerns  
26 that I see here.

27  
28 MS. LENART: Uh-huh.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is you may have a  
31 concentration of non-resident hunters doing a very  
32 liberal hunt in an area designed to allow for the  
33 community to hunt. And same with Squirrel River.

34  
35 MS. LENART: Uh-huh.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You would ensue  
38 conflicting users to have a shootout over there over  
39 the caribou.

40  
41 MS. LENART: Mr. Chairman. That is  
42 correct. And that is one of the things that we're  
43 watching for because there hasn't -- historically there  
44 hasn't really been hunting in that area by non-local  
45 hunters. But if for some reason the change in the --  
46 or the difference in these seasons and bag limits  
47 attracted that, then we would respond differently.

48  
49 So we would think about how to, you

50



1 know, deal with that conflict.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just one follow-up thing. What are the other measures that could have required that you be a resident of Nuiqsut to that geographical area to have a liberal hunt? What would be the tool to be crafted? Is it Tier I, Tier II, Tier III?

MS. LENART: It would be a Tier II hunt. So -- and to get to that level -- I mean I haven't had to do that for the Central Arctic. I think the population would have to be even lower because it would have to do with harvestable surplus. Once harvestable.....

For example, if harvestable surplus was 100 -- right now we estimate about 100 Central Arctic caribou are taken by Nuiqsut residents, so we just left that. That's why that season's liberal. Because, you know, that's kind of what the har -- that's within that harvestable surplus.

If that harvestable surplus got below that or at that number, then that's when you would probably enter into a Tier II situation.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. And, you know, it's good to raise these questions.

MS. LENART: Uh-huh.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm always wanting to see what we can do better. And sometimes -- I know we're not the State Board of Game or we're not a State advisory council, but we can certainly I think propose regulation to the Advisory Council from another Advisory Council.

And I think we wanted to do some measures to look at that because it -- how it affects Federal land and the harvesting and just based on the numbers. And it seems to me that the concerns about the geographical area that is limited to non-residents and non-local Alaska residents -- the ones that are guided and.....

MS. LENART: Uh-huh.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....and those that  
2 come in through the Haul Road system. Just from the  
3 testimonies we heard last -- last May -- May 10 over  
4 here.

5  
6 MS. LENART: Uh-huh.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seems to suggest that  
9 you need to be monitoring the Haul Road because of the  
10 amount of hunts that are potentially not even being  
11 reported on the Haul Road. Some of the statements of  
12 the veteran advocate seems to suggest -- if you go back  
13 and listen to the tape recorded session -- I'm pretty  
14 sure it was tape recorded.

15  
16 MS. LENART: Uh-huh.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Some went up to a  
19 couple thousand vets take advantage of that as part of  
20 their post traumatic stress syndrome therapy. To --  
21 because, you know, they're vets. They want to -- you  
22 know, they're killers. They want to make sure they're  
23 continuing some level of doing what they were trained  
24 to do, but being able to eat it, I guess.

25  
26 But, you know, I love the vets. My dad  
27 was a veteran and we have a lot of people that were  
28 Armed Forces. But we shouldn't ignore the fact that  
29 the herds have declined drastically.

30  
31 You should be at a preservation model  
32 at this point in management. Not conservative, but  
33 preservation management. Just what I saw from Ryan  
34 Klimstra's little schematic that was on the screen,  
35 that the Central Arctic should be enjoying preservation  
36 at this point.

37  
38 MS. LENART: Uh-huh.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: With probably a Tier  
41 I hunt only for the community of Nuiqsut that it  
42 frequents.

43  
44 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. I agree  
45 with these.....

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

48  
49 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: .....discussions. I  
50

1 also am very concerned on the non-resident hunt or non-  
2 local hunters numbers that are given to us.

3  
4 If you're looking at the fly-in hunters  
5 as contributory for that number, that's one number.  
6 But when you take into those that are coming up the  
7 Dalton and using other modes of transportation, those  
8 numbers are higher and are very concerning in the  
9 assessment that's being presented.

10  
11 We've heard a lot of testimony around  
12 that discussion in our village as well, as well as  
13 participating in the teleconference that was done  
14 earlier this year. But these are really important  
15 discussions that are impacting the understanding of  
16 what is happening out there. And having a better  
17 understanding of others coming onto the North Slope to  
18 do their hunting is very important into the management  
19 of these populations.

20  
21 We're very concerned.

22  
23 We've had a lot of discussion around  
24 these issues and we hope that there is a better  
25 mechanism put in place to assess what is being taken  
26 through the Dalton Highway.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead,  
29 Beth.

30  
31 MS. LENART: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32  
33 I should clarify. I wasn't very clear  
34 that -- when I talked about the geographical area for  
35 non-locals, it would include -- it would be the same.  
36 It would be any Alaska resident, not just non-locals.  
37 So that was -- I misspoke there.

38  
39 So because of this decline, the Board  
40 of Game did significantly reduce hunting opportunity in  
41 most of Unit 26B where transporters hunt and where the  
42 Haul -- a lot of the Haul Road hunters are. And the  
43 bag limit was reduced from five caribou a year to two  
44 bulls a year for resident hunters. And then from five  
45 caribou a year to one bull per year for non-resident  
46 hunters from August 1st to September 15th.

47  
48 And preliminary harvest data from this  
49 particular hunt indicates that this fall about 155

50

1 caribou were taken. And that's much lower than what  
2 we've seen in the past. In the years when we had that  
3 liberal bag limit -- so that liberal bag limit was  
4 implemented in 2010. So from like 2010 through 2015  
5 when the caribou numbers were higher, we estimated  
6 about 1,300 hunters harvested about 800 caribou along  
7 the Haul Road and from the airplane hunters.

8  
9 And so right now our early indications  
10 are 155 caribou. That harvest will probably be a  
11 little bit higher, but I think a lot of those numbers  
12 are in. And so I think we expect this year's total  
13 harvest to be well below the harvestable surplus of the  
14 680. Because even when we include the harvest from  
15 Nuiqsut, it's still under 300.

16  
17 So this -- in that case it appears that  
18 the -- this new regulation is working as intended as  
19 far as with harvest and hunting pressure being  
20 significantly reduced in the Central Arctic, but still  
21 being able to provide the subsistence opportunity for  
22 residents of Nuiqsut.

23  
24 And that was the information I had for  
25 Central Arctic.

26  
27 If anyone had any more questions on the  
28 Central Arctic before I updated folks on the Porcupine  
29 Caribou Herd.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further questions  
32 on the Central Arctic Herd.

33  
34 Roy Nageak, (In Inupiaq).

35  
36 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: Thank you, Mr.  
37 Chairman.

38  
39 I've got two questions. Because  
40 there's always that debate on who's a resident. In  
41 some cases you've got 30 days to become a State  
42 resident, right?

43  
44 MS. LENART: I believe it's a year.  
45 But -- yeah.

46  
47 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: No. It's 30 days.  
48 That's what they always say. For people that come to  
49 the North Slope it's 30 days.

50

1 I know it's a year for a Permanent Fund  
2 Dividend check, right? A year or more? What's for the  
3 Permanent Fund Dividend check? Because that's more  
4 permanent.

5  
6 MS. PATTON: Yeah. It's a full year.  
7 And I believe in terms of residency, certainly, you  
8 know, being considered a resident in the Federal  
9 Program it's.....

10  
11 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: So they must have  
12 a.....

13  
14 MS. PATTON: .....it's one year.

15  
16 MS. LENART: One year.

17  
18 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: .....Permanent  
19 Dividend Check to -- but then how does the 30-day  
20 resident kick in. This is two conflicting laws.

21  
22 MS. LENART: I'm not sure what that's  
23 in reference -- if that's some other sort of benefits,  
24 but I don't think that's for hunting.

25  
26 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: You're considered --  
27 once you get into Alaska 30 days, you're eligible to be  
28 hired or something.

29  
30 MS. PATTON: I don't believe so. I  
31 could try to look into what -- if there might be other  
32 -- well, maybe Darren has some more specific  
33 information on the residency requirements.

34  
35 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: I just want some  
36 clarification on that. And I just want to make --  
37 before you answer that, I just want to make a comment.  
38 Because apparently if I'm a tourist and I want to see a  
39 big herd migrating, I could get into a guiding or a  
40 plane for charter and I could fly over all these  
41 caribou and go ooh, aah, let's get lower. I want to  
42 see all those caribou. I could do that apparently and  
43 nobody can touch me.

44  
45 And I think I'm going to hire somebody  
46 and start going around the Haul Road and start being a  
47 tourist and start getting low before those caribou --  
48 because apparently they can't do nothing about it.

49  
50

1 I'm just joking.

2

3

(Laughter)

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Roy. It's  
always interesting to hear you. So it's -- and it's  
certainly interesting.

7

8

9

(Laughter)

10

11

CHAIRMAN BROWER: And is that Darren?

12

13

14

MR. BRUNING: Yes, Mr. Chairman.  
Darren Bruning.

15

16

17

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. So you've  
got.....

18

19

20

MR. BRUNING: And members of the  
Council.

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

I just want to make sure that I  
understood the question correctly. As I understood the  
question, is when would someone be eligible to hunt as  
a resident under any of the hunts for caribou on the  
North Slope. And it's 12 months to be considered an  
Alaska resident that can participate in subsistence  
hunts.

29

30

31

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. That's  
good to.....

32

33

34

MR. OOMITUK: But Mr. Chairman. You  
know -- this is Steve here.

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

You know, I always thought that the  
Haul Road was closed to not use by the public -- the  
public, and, you know, I know people go up and down it  
in their vehicles. But, you know, I would think that  
the State would -- you know, a decline from 68,000 to  
23,000. You're talking more than half. You're talking  
two-thirds of a drop, you know. And we should be very  
concerned of that. And, you know, like what Gordon  
said, you know, just the residents, you know, until we  
find out more about what's going on with this herd.  
And, you know, are we seeing the numbers coming up.  
And, you know, monitoring that Haul Road and seeing  
what exactly is being taken, you know. You know, is  
anybody checking, you know, where they live, you know,

1 in the state. Or anybody monitoring, you know. I  
2 thought the Game Warden, you know, monitored that kind  
3 of stuff, of who comes and goes through Haul Road. I  
4 thought it was not supposed to be used like for hunting  
5 and things.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.  
8 Thank you.

9  
10 I'm going to allow Beth to continue  
11 with her presentation.

12  
13 MR. SHEARS: A question, Mr. Chair.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Mr. Shears.

16  
17 MR. SHEARS: I'm just trying to get a  
18 handle on the Central Arctic Herd. On our handouts on  
19 our table includes a range of the different herds. And  
20 I was looking at the green area, the Central Arctic  
21 Herd range. And kind of dissecting that, breaking that  
22 down to understand whose areas of responsibility that  
23 is for. And it's interesting.

24  
25 If I could just divulge that the  
26 characteristics of the Central Arctic's range is pretty  
27 divided between different entities. About one-third of  
28 that range is under the control of the State of Alaska,  
29 one-third of it is under the control of Federal hunting  
30 regulation -- federally regulated hunting areas, and  
31 one-third is under the National Parks. And so there's  
32 a division of responsibility for overall management of  
33 the Central Arctic Herd between three entities.

34  
35 My question to Beth is how well -- is  
36 there a coordination group that is working  
37 cooperatively to understand and manage the decline of  
38 the herd or is this kind of like the State of Alaska  
39 taking on the overwhelming responsibility of  
40 understanding the herd even though it only really has  
41 regulatory authority for just the core calving grounds  
42 area?

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Beth. And  
45 after you respond to that one I'm going to allow --  
46 there's a request from the ICAS president, George  
47 Edwardson, to address as well.

48  
49 So we'll get Beth to respond to Mr.

50

1 Shears and then Mr. Edwardson come right after.

2

3 MS. LENART: Through the Chair. Mr.  
4 Shears. Most of it is all through Alaska Department of  
5 Fish and Game. So on this range map, this was when we  
6 kind of drew the range when we had what we thought  
7 radio collar locations as far west and east as possible  
8 when the herd was high. So most of the time most of  
9 the herd is actually within that Unit 26B, which is  
10 mostly State lands. And that's probably why.

11

12 That being said, we are collaborating  
13 with Federal partners with USGS and with some radio  
14 collared caribou in understanding some movements of  
15 caribou. So it isn't just a single effort in that  
16 regard. We started that collaboration a few years ago  
17 and it's been a really good partnership because they  
18 can bring things to the table that we just don't have  
19 the manpower to do to help us understand some of those  
20 movements and relationships to.

21

22 One of the things that they want to  
23 look at is movement -- movement's relationship to the  
24 oil infrastructure. And we've wanted to do that for a  
25 while. And now we have enough radio collar data to do  
26 that because of their collaboration.

27

28 And so.....

29

30 MR. SHEARS: Very good. That just  
31 helps me understand who's point on this project.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr.  
34 Shears.

35

36 Mr. Edwardson, you have the mic.

37

38 MR. EDWARDSON: You know, it's kind of  
39 scary listening to you talk about who can hunt and who  
40 can't hunt. And when you look at our -- three of our  
41 villages, you're talking about if they're going to be  
42 eating that winter or not. You've talking about taking  
43 food from their tables. And these are people that do  
44 not work in the industry. The State don't count them  
45 because they don't collect unemployment. And these  
46 people do need to eat. And the only animal they can  
47 eat is the caribou, especially the ones up in the  
48 mountains.

49

50



1                   You're calling it hunting when these  
2 people are talking about feeding themselves. And they  
3 have kids, too. Those are complete towns.

4  
5                   And I can go after the Federal  
6 government and fix it so nobody from the State can  
7 hunt, but that's not going to be enough. The State --  
8 I've watched State people from Wasilla go up and go  
9 home with a boat -- a river boat that can travel in  
10 three inches of water. And that person came home with  
11 14 caribou in his boat. He was outside the reach of  
12 everybody that can monitor him. There's those kind of  
13 hunters going on.

14  
15                   And keep in mind these people in the  
16 villages, that's the only way they can feed themselves.

17  
18                   It's not hunting, it's surviving.

19  
20                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, George,  
21 ICAS President.

22  
23                   Beth, you can continue.

24  
25                   MS. LENART: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26  
27                   The Porcupine Caribou Herd has grown  
28 substantially since the 2000. We completed a photo  
29 census in 2013 and estimated the herd at 197,000  
30 caribou. We completed another photo census this  
31 summer, 2017, and we were still counting photos, but  
32 numbers will likely be high.

33  
34                   Calving this year was spread out across  
35 the coastal plain. And also when they calved was  
36 spread out throughout a pretty long period this year.  
37 But it looked like calf survival was pretty high.

38  
39                   We also noticed that caribou  
40 distribution during calving and post-calving was off  
41 the coast and more in the foothills, similar to what  
42 Mr. Kayotuk told us about during his report. So I just  
43 -- you know, we were just seeing the same things that  
44 residents of Kaktovik were seeing.

45  
46                   And during those years that the Central  
47 Arctic Herd were high -- you know, around 2008 to 2015  
48 -- part of that Central Arctic Herd would go over  
49 towards Kaktovik for about -- well, according to what  
50

1 these folks from Kaktovik were seeing and what our  
2 radio collars were saying, for like two or three weeks.  
3 And I think folks were able to get caribou from that  
4 herd for those years. Because during those years the  
5 Porcupine Caribou Herd often were not on the coast.  
6 They were more in the foothills also.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I've got a question,  
9 Beth, along those lines.

10  
11 Was there a period in the census where  
12 there was a drastic jump? I mean is there a census  
13 like 2010 and you look at 150,000. Then you go to  
14 2012, suddenly you've got 170,000. I mean has there  
15 been any anomalies like that recorded in some of these  
16 censuses?

17  
18 Because I've heard over the course of  
19 time -- before there was a TransAlaska Pipeline in the  
20 corridor there from, you know, really reputable hunters  
21 and elders that herds would collide sometimes. Big  
22 herds would actually collide. And then they'd break  
23 off again, sometimes taking a portion of another herd  
24 with them.

25  
26 And I'm just wondering if there's any  
27 dynamics like that being seen in the census.

28  
29 MS. LENART: That's a really great  
30 question. And actually that's what we think is part of  
31 what happened with the Central Arctic Herd. In 2010,  
32 when we estimated that 68,000 caribou, there were some  
33 Porcupine caribou with them. We tried to subtract some  
34 of that number out of that. We were seeing mixing  
35 during the summer or post-calving and we were also  
36 seeing it in the winter.

37  
38 So I do think that we were seeing the  
39 same things that some of your elders saw. That parts  
40 of those -- the smaller herds would kind of get swamped  
41 by the larger herds. Even some of the Central Arctic  
42 we've actually seen go with Teshekpuk.

43  
44 Also in the photo census we have also  
45 seen for the Porcupine segregation of sexes. So this  
46 year, for example, when we did the photo census most of  
47 those caribou were in the foothills near the  
48 Sadlerochit Mountains. And then about 20,000 or 30,000  
49 -- well, we haven't finished counting the photos, but

50

1 we're estimating 20 to 30,000 caribou that were mostly  
2 bulls were way in Canada, in the Richardson Mountain.  
3 And we had to get a photo census over there also.

4  
5 So that does happen where the -- during  
6 the photo census those herds will split. And this  
7 mixing has been -- while these herds were all high at  
8 the same time and this mixing was occurring, it was a  
9 challenge for the managers to try to figure out what  
10 the real number was. And then what caribou were on the  
11 landscape when people are hunting caribou so that we're  
12 not over harvesting a certain herd and whether or not  
13 these match up with the regulations that are in place  
14 and which herd is actually there at the time the  
15 regulations are in place.

16  
17 So that has been a huge challenge for  
18 us. And now that some of the herds have declined and  
19 some of that range has shrunk, those issues aren't  
20 quite as big as they were a few years ago, but that's a  
21 really good observation. Because we're been really  
22 challenged with that.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you. I  
25 mean I just wanted to note that.

26  
27 MS. LENART: Yeah.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But I think it  
30 shouldn't be -- it shouldn't just be hearsay. I mean  
31 if a herd has jumped in its size substantially, it  
32 should be noted in the census that this year -- I mean  
33 just to give you an example.

34  
35 MS. LENART: Uh-huh.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ten years ago or  
38 2010, they were at 150,000.

39  
40 MS. LENART: Uh-huh.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: 2012, there were  
43 175,000. Obviously, there's a 25,000 animal  
44 discrepancy. And then you look at the census in  
45 another herd that may be impacted by that and do --  
46 and, I mean you just do the math.

47  
48 It seems to me that you need to be able  
49 to look at that and have a definitive way of  
50

1 determining that that happened, I would think.

2

3 MS. LENART: Mr. Chair. I wish I could  
4 tell you we do have a definitive way to answer that.  
5 And we haven't. We've looked at it, but part of it is  
6 not always getting a photo census every year. So we're  
7 not really sure what the number is.

8

9 And you had asked whether or not -- or  
10 what the numbers were in the Porcupine. So there was a  
11 ten-year period due to weather and poor aggregations,  
12 we did not get a photo census of the Porcupine. And we  
13 thought based on other indicators the herd was either  
14 stable or declining. And that's when it had gone from  
15 100,000 to 169,000.

16

17 So obviously what we were thinking  
18 wasn't correct. There was growth going on in that  
19 herd. So it was 169,000 in 2010 and then 197,000 in  
20 2013. And that biologically made sense.

21

22 If some of those animals were Central  
23 Arctic, at that scale we couldn't figure it out.  
24 Because if it was 5 or 10,000 caribou, we couldn't  
25 really like make a math formula and account for that.  
26 And so -- but it has been noted.

27

28 You know when you see those confidence  
29 intervals around the bars on some of the graphs that  
30 Ryan showed. We say this is how confident we are that  
31 the caribou -- when they're bigger for the Central  
32 Arctic Herd, that's when there's mixing. We're not as  
33 sure. We're not as confident that that's what that  
34 number is.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. And finally, I  
37 just want to make sure, you know, we don't just jump  
38 into conclusions like that either.

39

40 MS. LENART: Uh-huh.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But, you know, it is  
43 clear, you know, when we look at the Western Arctic  
44 Herd from a beginning -- maybe it was 2010 --  
45 490,000.....

46

47 MS. LENART: Uh-huh.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....to today either

50

1 hovering at 200,000, you have a 290,000 animal  
2 discrepancy.

3

4 MS. LENART: Right.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Of decline over ten  
7 years. The trend is truly there.

8

9 MS. LENART: Uh-huh.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And is -- you know,  
12 and we haven't seen an aggregate of another herd taking  
13 in that much.

14

15 MS. LENART: Right. Yeah.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So that to me it  
18 seems to be a trend. When you look at Teshekpuk Herd,  
19 Western Arctic Herd, and then the population estimates  
20 for the Central Arctic Herd.....

21

22 MS. LENART: Uh-huh.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....seems to be  
25 consistent. So I would just be cautious at that point  
26 to say that the out migration or this effect from  
27 another herd that swallowed up a portion of it.

28

29 Just can't jump into conclusions, I  
30 guess.

31

32 Roy, BLM.

33

34 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: For the record, in  
35 one of my bloop (ph) in my computer I saw something  
36 which is completely outside of the caribou herds that  
37 we're talking about. I saw a bloop where the FortyMile  
38 Herd.....

39

40 MS. LENART: Uh-huh.

41

42 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: .....had somehow  
43 doubled. And they were increasing the winter hunting.  
44 Are you aware of that one?

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We know the FortyMile  
47 Herd because we helped them one year. And we said  
48 yeah, transport all of the wolves that are killing them  
49 and drop them off in the -- on the North Slope around

50

1 Ikpikpuk.

2

3

(Laughter)

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN BROWER: They transported a whole bunch of wolves one year, black ones. And.....

7

8

MS. LENART: Uh-huh. That's right.

9

10

11

MR. NAGEAK, SR.: Into the FortyMile Herd?

12

13

CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq)

14

15

16

17

MR. NAGEAK, SR.: Oh. So I was wondering when you're talking of issues like the drastic degrees and whatnot.

18

19

MS. LENART: Uh-huh.

20

21

22

23

MR. NAGEAK, SR.: And then I saw the bloop on the FortyMile Herd increasing almost double and then increasing the hunt for the wintertime.

24

25

MS. LENART: Through the Chair.

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

I don't work on that herd, but I think this was a -- partly a function of not getting good photo censuses for a few years, so the estimate was conservative and low. And that's what we often do. Is if we don't get a good photo census, we might still be able to count photos, but then that's a minimum count. And so then we manage off that minimum count because we don't know what's going on.

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

And with this new digital camera system that Ryan was talking about, they got a good photo census this year. Partially due to weather and aggregation, but also that digital camera can take photos in different kinds of lights. And they're -- those FortyMile are often in the mountains and in the trees. And so with the old film camera it was really hard to be able to even count them in the past.

44

45

46

47

So I think that's part of this -- these degrees. But that's really observant, thank you.

48

49

50

MR. NAGEAK, SR.: Well, I'm happy for you to say that there's a system already that would

1 automatically set you into being into a conservative  
2 mode.

3  
4 MS. LENART: Yeah. That's how we've --  
5 and even if -- yeah. We'll fall back on that minimum  
6 count if we're not.....

7  
8 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: And then we had  
9 discussions earlier why nobody's on a conservative mode  
10 for the Central Arctic Herd.

11  
12 MS. LENART: Uh-huh.

13  
14 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: We're not -- and I  
15 just want to point out because there was some  
16 discussion on these figures that we're handing out  
17 right over here for WP18-32 and WP18-57. They're  
18 almost the same figures. But when you look at the  
19 years 2006 to 2016 on Alaska residents and non-resident  
20 harvest from 2006 to 2016, on both WSP18-57 and 32  
21 you'll see the increase of non-residents increasing,  
22 doubling.

23  
24 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
25 These were handed out in the anticipation because we're  
26 coming up to these specific proposals.....

27  
28 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: I know, I.....

29  
30 MS. PATTON: .....so Tom Evans.....

31  
32 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: I know. I just want  
33 to point that out because there was concern.....

34  
35 MS. PATTON: .....will -- Tom Evans  
36 will.....

37  
38 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: .....that the State  
39 Game Board will open it considering non-residents to be  
40 residents.

41  
42 MS. PATTON: Tom -- Tom will address  
43 these particular graphs when we get to those proposals.

44  
45 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: Yes.

46  
47 MS. PATTON: So we have some more  
48 information there for you.

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Beth. And  
2 if you could continue on this.

3  
4 We've got a question. We've got  
5 Rosemary from Nuiqsut.

6  
7 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: When we're looking  
8 at these variations that we're going through with  
9 population decline, there are variables that you look  
10 at to manage the herd. In this instance you're talking  
11 about the amount that we're harvesting, but we also  
12 look at variables like cow and calf ratios and  
13 survivability of calves.

14  
15 The way that we're being presented with  
16 this information, we're very concerned about the  
17 various declines in the populations of the various  
18 herds. And how can we be assured that the discussion  
19 we're putting forward is really looking at what's  
20 needed to be managed at the times it needs to be  
21 managed?

22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Beth.

24  
25 MS. LENART: Through the Chair. So one  
26 thing I should say that is if we ever have -- the  
27 Department can always ask the Board of Game -- we can  
28 always do an emergency closure. So if we ever get into  
29 a situation -- for example, let's say I counted the  
30 Central Arctic this year and the number was 10,000  
31 less. We can do an emergency order and close caribou  
32 hunting on different parts of that herd. So we always  
33 have that option for conservation.

34  
35 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Exactly.

36  
37 MS. LENART: Right now though we also  
38 did do a composition count. You saw those numbers for  
39 the Teshekpuk. And this year for the Central Arctic we  
40 observed 39 bulls per 100 cows and 57 calves per 100  
41 cows, which is really high. And that should give me a  
42 lot of comfort, but we also had another study out there  
43 looking at calf survival which did not indicate it was  
44 as good as that.

45  
46 And so I am not 100 percent confident  
47 that this has turned around. And so we're still  
48 watching that. We're still going to look at calves  
49 again next year and do another photo census. Because  
50



1 there has still been a -- somewhat high mortality on  
2 the adult radio collared cows. It just seems like some  
3 of the data isn't telling me the same thing.

4  
5 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Exactly.

6  
7 MS. LENART: And so I am as  
8 uncomfortable saying, oh, don't worry, we're -- we've  
9 made it. I don't know that. I don't know. I'm glad  
10 -- I mean one of the things that made me feel a little  
11 better was that the photo census didn't show 10,000  
12 less caribou, you know.

13  
14 When I've went up there and I'm flying  
15 around, I'm like oh, you know, where are the caribou.  
16 And so coming back and being able to count those photos  
17 gave me a little bit of assurance that we aren't  
18 continuing that sharp decline. I do not deny that that  
19 was a sharp decline. I'm not trying to say that it  
20 wasn't.

21  
22 And I also wanted to clarify that even  
23 though we think maybe some of those caribou went with  
24 the Porcupine, most of that decline was not due to the  
25 caribou leaving or migrating out. It was due to  
26 caribou dying. And so we got that from other  
27 information.

28  
29 And so it -- you know, I don't think  
30 it's a huge fraction of what happened to the herd. I  
31 don't think that the caribou moving with the Porcupine  
32 was a huge fraction of causing that decline. I think  
33 it was a portion of it, but I don't think it was the  
34 majority of it. It was the caribou dying.

35  
36 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Right.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Beth, I've got a  
39 question here. You're State, right? You're not the  
40 Feds or anything like that.

41  
42 MR. SHEARS: That's Hollis back there.

43  
44 (Laughter)

45  
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And you're obligated  
47 to follow State laws and be in accord with those  
48 things. Being that the North Slope Borough is a State  
49 chartered subdivision of the State and some of the --

50

1 or all of the laws and ordinances derived from the  
2 State, Alaska statutes -- in fact, there's laws --  
3 Alaska statute says that all the departments of the  
4 State need to be in conformance with the Borough's law.

5  
6 And I can point you out to those parts  
7 of the law that say that. Meaning you're ADF&G.  
8 You're DNR. You're DEC. All of those need to abide by  
9 laws and ordinances of the Borough as well.

10  
11 MS. LENART: Uh-huh.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we used that  
14 language in the oil and gas forum on purposely pointing  
15 out these citations of Alaska statute requiring  
16 departments to abide by our laws and ordinances as  
17 well.

18  
19 When we develop the requirement --  
20 Alaska statutes requiring that the State -- the State  
21 requires that the Borough develop comprehensive plan.  
22 And in that comprehensive plan and developed and  
23 adopted by ordinance of the Borough delineates an area  
24 of influence for the village. What is that area of  
25 influence for each village. And we work with the  
26 community to identify area of influence.

27  
28 And that area of influence is defined  
29 by a -- by definition. In the definitions it would say  
30 that this area of influence is the contemporary  
31 traditional -- contemporary traditional harvest  
32 patterns of that community. And the Borough's  
33 subsistence policies to protect the subsistence  
34 resources and reasonable availability of these  
35 resources, that's a policy of the Borough. Reasonable  
36 availability of these resources to be available within  
37 that area of influence.

38  
39 How does the State look at that -- or  
40 the Federal government look at that in implementation  
41 of your geographic area designation for -- and then say  
42 oh, in the area of influence defined by the community,  
43 you're going to have a liberal hunt for the entire  
44 State of Alaska. When the area of influence is  
45 designed to maintain the integrity of traditional and  
46 subsistence resource needs of the community.

47  
48 I mean those are -- that's how these  
49 comprehensive plans are developed and adopted. And I  
50

1 know the State can't do real subsistence priority.  
2 That's -- that was an argument in -- when was it. 1992  
3 or something like that. There was an impasse under --  
4 was it Governor Sheffield or Governor Knowles or  
5 somebody else at that point, where the Federal  
6 government had taken over its own subsistence  
7 management on Federal lands with a rural subsistence  
8 priority.

9  
10 Even on the State land. Even in the  
11 Borough's comprehensive plan on the area of influence  
12 encompasses private land, State land, Federal land in  
13 defining these area of influences.

14  
15 Just wanted to get an opinion. Because  
16 seems to me there's overlooking these things when you  
17 have a geographic designation for a liberal hunt, but  
18 -- to benefit the community, but open it up to all  
19 residents of the State of Alaska.

20  
21 MR. BRUNING: Mr. Chairman and Members  
22 of the Council.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

25  
26 MR. BRUNING: Darren Bruning, from  
27 Alaska Department.....

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Darren.

30  
31 MR. BRUNING: .....of Fish and Game.  
32 Thank you.

33  
34 Very good thoughts, Mr. Chairman.  
35 Those are very valid and very good thoughts that need  
36 to be taken into consideration. I would offer today  
37 that those topics as you presented them are out of the  
38 sight or the purview of Beth Lenart's position, so it's  
39 outside of her area of responsibility or expertise.

40  
41 A lot of the topics that you brought up  
42 are actually under the purview of the Board of Game,  
43 who are responsible for the regulation of wildlife  
44 harvest in the State, and that would be the proper body  
45 to bring those topics to.

46  
47 For those decisions, those are outside  
48 of our department. So.....

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you very much.  
2 I just wanted to make sure I did a small exercise.  
3 Because we do these things with -- Alaska statutes says  
4 we've got to do this. And we're doing it.

5  
6 And your State organization, in tearing  
7 up the area of influence designed to have contemporary  
8 traditional activities defined in a geographic area so  
9 that migratory routes, the availability of subsistence  
10 resources are protected by Borough policies,  
11 subsistence policies. But the area of designation  
12 you're talking about completely demolishes the area of  
13 influence in putting a liberal hunting geographically  
14 area right smack in the middle of an area of influence.  
15 And say oh, by the way, I'm going to open this up to  
16 Fairbanks, Anchorage, Juneau, everybody else to come  
17 and have a very liberal hunt in a geographic area  
18 that's defined as an area of influence for a community.

19  
20 There's a conflict here.

21  
22 And I understand you're not the proper  
23 -- don't have the proper expertise and probably needs  
24 to go to the Board of Game to field this type of  
25 concern.

26  
27 Beth, if you could continue. I'm sorry  
28 if I.....

29  
30 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. Question while  
31 we've got Darren here.

32  
33 Has your office been tasked with  
34 evaluating the consequences of opening 10-02 to  
35 hydrocarbon exploration? Based on the activities of  
36 the Congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. this  
37 last couple of months?

38  
39 MR. BRUNING: Through Chairman Brower  
40 to Mr. Shears. Our office at the Fairbanks -- at the  
41 regional office for the Interior and Northeast Arctic  
42 Region has been tasked with gathering information and  
43 providing biological data that's being provided to  
44 decisionmakers.

45  
46 MR. SHEARS: Okay.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Bob.

49  
50

1 And I guess is there any.....

2

3

MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah.

4

5

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. We've got  
6 Nuiqsut. Rosemary, go ahead.

7

8

MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Furthering this  
9 discussion, the area of influence, would it be more  
10 protective for our communities if we still had these  
11 areas of influence considered as conservation units?

12

13

MR. BRUNING: Through Chairman Brower.

14

15

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead,  
16 Darren.

17

18

19

MR. BRUNING: Yes. And I don't have an  
20 answer for that today. We would have to investigate  
21 that and review that. And we could come back and  
22 report on that, but do not have an answer for that  
today.

23

24

MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.

25

26

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions  
27 to Beth.

28

29

(No comments)

30

31

CHAIRMAN BROWER: And if there isn't,  
32 I'm going to ask.....

33

34

MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.

35

36

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Lee, Kaktovik.

37

38

MR. KAYOTUK: Yeah. Thank you.

39

40

For the Porcupine Herd, you know, we --  
41 the past couple of years they haven't been to the  
42 beach, you know, and this fall, you know, this summer,  
43 you know, the migration route is away -- in the area  
44 but, you know, it's like 50 miles at least from the  
45 coast where we noticed that the caribou's not coming  
46 down to our village anymore. It just goes routely on  
47 the Brooks Range through the Sadlerochit and over  
48 towards Prudhoe Bay. In that area. And then comes  
49 back and goes around towards the high country on the

50

1 border there. And, you know, it's -- that's difficult  
2 to hunt.

3  
4 And, you know, we get like a -- like I  
5 said, you know, we probably got barely 15, 20 caribou  
6 at the village this summer. And, you know, it kind of  
7 helps out, you know, when that moose permit comes  
8 along, you know, and we still got to go 120 miles in  
9 order to harvest a moose. You know, at least we got  
10 one for the village and they were, you know, at least  
11 happy to get a little piece of meat to provide to the  
12 village there.

13  
14 But, you know, harsh times like this,  
15 and changes for harvesting or hunting caribou in our  
16 area is pretty difficult these times. Because, you  
17 know, the storms and everything just pushes away the  
18 caribou from the coast, you know, and sometimes, you  
19 know, in the late spring or something like that we  
20 could see, you know, dead caribou in the ocean, you  
21 know, from drowning or things like that. But the  
22 others are not.

23  
24 You know, it's a pretty tough  
25 situation. When, you know, in the past years coming to  
26 a head. You know, things are changing in our area for  
27 like, you know, ANWR and things like that coming up  
28 every other time, you know, and things like that. Our  
29 people want a road and, you know, it's going to be a  
30 very big matter when it comes down to caribou. They'll  
31 say where's the caribou now. Well, you know, they're  
32 way off our boundaries. So, you know, it's -- again  
33 it's a tough situation to deal with these herds.

34  
35 I had a question about that. Do they  
36 count the Porcupine Caribou Herd in Canada also?  
37 Before you get the estimate in Alaska or how does that  
38 work?

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Beth.

41  
42 MS. LENART: Through the Chairman. Mr.  
43 Kayotuk. We work -- we cooperate with the Canadians.  
44 So sometimes they are looking for caribou in -- well,  
45 actually, a lot of times they're looking for caribou  
46 groups in Canada while we're looking for caribou groups  
47 in Alaska. And we're the only ones equipped with the  
48 airplane with the photo camera, so our airplane needs  
49 to go into Canada to take the photos. But they're

50

1 often finding those groups for us.

2

3

MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you.

4

5

CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq), Lee.

6

7

Any other questions to Beth on this

8

topic.

9

10

(No comments)

11

12

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve, did you have  
any questions for Beth?

13

14

15

MR. OOMITUK: No, I think pretty much a  
lot of it was said.

16

17

18

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.

19

20

MR. OOMITUK: Thank you.

21

22

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

23

24

MR. OOMITUK: Yeah.

25

26

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Continue, Beth.

27

28

MS. LENART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

29

30

All I have was I just wanted to let  
people know that currently most of the Porcupine  
Caribou Herd is in Alaska right now. And they're west  
of Arctic Village. I don't know -- we don't know  
whether or not they've actually settled down for their  
winter. You know, they'll often settle down by the end  
of November for where they're going to winter for the  
next few months, but right now most of them are west of  
Arctic Village.

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

And that's what we're seeing with radio  
collars. And after talking to Mr. Kayotuk, that  
they're only seeing a few groups in the mountains.  
That's kind of what we're seeing, too. Well, I'm not  
seeing those groups in the mountains, but we're not  
seeing radio collars in the mountains.

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

And that concludes the Porcupine  
update.

48

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you very much.  
2 And we really appreciate it. And I know we're always  
3 be acting kind of hard on biologists sometimes and  
4 almost challenging at times, but we're dealing with  
5 hard times.

6  
7 When our neighbors, our families, our  
8 relatives like Anaktuvuk Pass -- the caribou didn't  
9 come for a while. And we're starting to hear that  
10 they're finally coming around right now.

11  
12 So -- and I think they're -- it's been  
13 challenging for them. I've heard that from the  
14 community. And we hurt for them. And all the while  
15 that we're looking at all kinds of schemes of how to  
16 manage these things. From ways to continue to manage  
17 it liberally when we should be at preservation mode and  
18 at Tier I.

19  
20 There should not -- the geographical  
21 area by Nuiqsut shouldn't be a liberal hunting for the  
22 entire State. It should be liberal hunting under Tier  
23 I for Nuiqsut.

24  
25 That's what I see. There's a problem.

26  
27 That's conflict with area of influence  
28 for needed resources.

29  
30 I mean there's a lot of concerns that  
31 we hear nowadays. Not just from rural. Not just from  
32 this Board. From ICC as well. On food security that  
33 they're working on for communities. Those kind of  
34 things that are looming around.

35  
36 And these are real matters to be  
37 mindful of communities in managing herds. It's putting  
38 food on the table. It's even clothing.

39  
40 Thank you.

41  
42 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: Mr. Chairman. What  
43 we had heard when I was younger was the cry of a hungry  
44 child and that's what drives us because we don't want  
45 our children hungry.

46  
47 Thank you.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, thank you, Roy.

50



1 And thank you for your presentation.  
2 We love to hear about caribou.

3  
4 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Mr. Shears.

7  
8 MR. SHEARS: Could I take this  
9 opportunity to ask the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge  
10 manager to endorse the findings of the State Department  
11 of Fish and Game on the studies and explain how  
12 conditions may have changed within the Refuge to alter  
13 the caribou's -- the Porcupine Herd's use that Lee and  
14 Eddie Rexford have identified in recent years?

15  
16 Would the Refuge -- you know, has the  
17 Refuge changed in the last ten years environmentally or  
18 ecologically to suggest why the Porcupine Herd is  
19 growing? Why it stopped using the coastal plains?  
20 Could it be the amount of users -- public users that  
21 are accessing the Refuge has increased in recent years?  
22 Is there any trend that suggests the recent changes  
23 that we're seeing with the Porcupine Herd?

24  
25 MR. TWITCHELL: Through the Chair. To  
26 Robert. Thank you for your question. I knew we were  
27 going to get into this sooner or later.

28  
29 MR. SHEARS: Uh-huh.

30  
31 MR. TWITCHELL: I was planning to  
32 discuss in our agency reports some things such as this,  
33 but.....

34  
35 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: Name.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And if you could  
38 state your name for the record, too.

39  
40 MR. TWITCHELL: For the record, Hollis  
41 Twitchell. I'm the assistant manager for Arctic  
42 Refuge.

43  
44 And to give you the quick answer, yes.  
45 There's been substantial change that we're seeing in  
46 Arctic Refuge, as you're seeing in your homelands over  
47 here. The high arctic is probably an area seeing the  
48 most impacts in changes in real time with the changing  
49 in climate.

50

1 And I'm just thinking back in your  
2 question when First Chief Edward Rexford called me up  
3 several years ago and he says Hollis, what in the world  
4 is going on here. I was trying to drive my snowmachine  
5 from Arctic Village up to my cabin on Shrader Lake.  
6 And I left Arctic Village and there were snowballs the  
7 size of softballs all the way across the coastal plain  
8 from Kaktovik into the Sadlerochit Mountains. He says  
9 what in the world. I've lived here all my life. No  
10 one's ever seen this sort of event happen. What would  
11 cause this. And what's going on here.

12  
13 And, you know, just last year talking  
14 with Charlie out of Arctic Village, one of the things  
15 that he said to me about their harvest in Arctic  
16 Village of the Porcupine Caribou Herd in winter is the  
17 caribou -- they're getting -- have almost no hair on  
18 their lower legs. It's just completely worn off. And  
19 he says he believes that it's because the shrubs and  
20 the brush has grown up so much in the winter habitat  
21 that they're in, that in walking through that country  
22 it's really causing a lot of wear on them.

23  
24 So we're seeing changes in many things.  
25 From weather snowfalls, winter storms, blizzards. Like  
26 Lee described, some really substantial blizzards. More  
27 frequent and lasting longer and stronger. So there's  
28 changes in snow pack and hydrology. There's changes in  
29 habitat. And particularly on the south side and into  
30 the Brooks Range. And it's having effects on  
31 populations.

32  
33 Some populations are going to benefit  
34 from it and some populations are going to really  
35 struggle. And that's what we're seeing. And the polar  
36 bear is a good example of a species that is probably  
37 going to be the most substantially affected by it. And  
38 we have ice packs retreating well over 100 miles  
39 offshore.

40  
41 Bears that choose to come south rather  
42 than go farther north are ending up on the Beaufort Sea  
43 shoreline and we're seeing significant effects that  
44 those increased number of bears are having particularly  
45 on eiders and nesting eggs and the documentation of  
46 predation on those birds by polar bears that are living  
47 a substantial part of the summer, including the  
48 breeding period, of water fowl along the coast are  
49 starting to take advantage of that particular food

50

1 source because they don't have much to eat on. And the  
2 mortality rates on the nests are substantial.

3  
4 So yeah, there are -- all these things  
5 are triggering actions and responses from different  
6 populations. They try to adapt to the environment  
7 they're living in right now.

8  
9 So that's the short answer.

10  
11 MR. SHEARS: Could it be human  
12 interaction? Is that also playing a part? What's the  
13 human use rate been on the Refuge that's co-mingling  
14 with the Porcupine Herd?

15  
16 I recall, you know, Lee mentioning in  
17 his -- this morning in his report about the -- you  
18 know, the observations that a lot of tourists are kind  
19 of following the herd. I don't know. Wanting to  
20 replicate the experience of living like that scientist  
21 did 30 years ago with the Porcupine Herd. And running  
22 naked with the herd. It must be quite an experience  
23 for many tourists.

24  
25 (Laughter)

26  
27 MR. SHEARS: Is the Porcupine Herd a  
28 tourist attraction?

29  
30 MR. TWITCHELL: Through the Chair. To  
31 Robert.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Hollis.

34  
35 MR. TWITCHELL: I was listening very  
36 carefully to Lee when he said that. And I know that  
37 I've heard now since 2009 concerns expressed by the  
38 Native Village of Kaktovik and various other people  
39 about the area of Caribou Pass, which is an area on the  
40 lower outstretches of the Kongakut River drainage. And  
41 it's an area that has caribou come off the calving --  
42 post-calving period. Good portions of the herd often  
43 travel along that North Slope Brooks Range over to  
44 Canada while other caribou cross over the top to the  
45 south side before they turn eastward.

46  
47 And visitors have known that this is an  
48 area if you're floating down the river and the takeout  
49 is down in that Caribou Pass area that there's going to  
50

1 be at times thousands of caribou coming through the  
2 country. And so yes, there are visitors that take  
3 advantage of that movement of the herd. It's quite  
4 spectacular. And those concerns about those people  
5 being there have been expressed by NVK.

6  
7 In terms of people following the herd,  
8 I've not heard that before. So that's sort of a new --  
9 a new concern. And I was grappling with any  
10 information that I know of that that's actually  
11 occurring in terms of air taxis moving people along as  
12 the herd's progressing. And I don't believe that's the  
13 case, but, you know, I don't know that for certain.

14  
15 But there is becoming more and more  
16 interest in the high Arctic and, you know, although  
17 our numbers of visitors are relatively small really  
18 compared to other places in the State -- approximately  
19 1,200 people throughout the year that we believe come  
20 onto Arctic Refuge for visitation-type purposes.

21  
22 So I'm not really able to give you a  
23 definitive answer, but it's something we do need to pay  
24 attention to. If that indeed is happening then we  
25 would have some concerns, too.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Beth.

28  
29 MS. LENART: Through the Chair. Mr.  
30 Shears. Maybe perhaps what Mr. Kayotuk was talking  
31 about is that we do get phone calls sometimes from film  
32 crews that want to follow the herd. And we work the --  
33 the Porcupine technical committee is a body of  
34 management biologists that work together to manage that  
35 herd. And so we're -- we work with that group to sort  
36 of minimize the effects of that.

37  
38 And my understanding is the Refuge -- I  
39 mean they have to get a permit from the Refuge to be  
40 able to do that. And so it doesn't -- it's not always  
41 granted to every film crew that comes through. The  
42 PCTC looks at it to see if it would benefit the herd  
43 like in terms of outreach or education. It isn't just  
44 a -- kind of a free for all. Whoever wants to come up  
45 and film the crew -- you know, film the herd. There's  
46 some sort of vetting process.

47  
48 Wouldn't you agree with that?

49  
50

1 MR. TWITCHELL: Through the Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead,  
4 Hollis.

5

6 MR. TWITCHELL: Hollis Twitchell,  
7 Arctic Refuge again.

8

9 And Beth is correct. We have a  
10 permitting process. And anyone coming onto the Refuge  
11 for professional photograph have to get a permit in  
12 which to do that. And particularly any filming and  
13 documentary. There's pretty high restrictions and  
14 regulations on what they can and cannot do. And that's  
15 embedded in their permits.

16

17 So that's monitored pretty carefully.  
18 And certainly none of them have any authorization to  
19 interfere with any subsistence activity. That's the  
20 basic premise in every permit. So if they're doing  
21 anything that is impacting subsistence use activity,  
22 then they're going to be cited for that.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. And I would  
25 concur with that. And always remember, too, that when  
26 you're handing out permits you're not exempt from  
27 Borough laws as well. Our laws and ordinances says --  
28 applies to Federal lands unless you can show me where  
29 we have been preempted by law. And that's written into  
30 our title.

31

32 We're re-zoning and NPR-A. We've been  
33 permitting all kinds of activities in ANWR for guides  
34 and stuff when those -- when they ever come up our way.  
35 And sometimes a better communication between the Refuge  
36 and the Borough and the planning department of the  
37 Borough to make sure the folks that you're permitting  
38 also seek the local permits of the local government.

39

40 MR. TWITCHELL: Chair, that's correct.  
41 And we do that. When someone applies for a permit, we  
42 also notify them that the Borough has regulations and  
43 permits also and that they need to be in contact with  
44 them.

45

46 So that information is passed whenever  
47 an application comes in.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

50

1 And I think I saw somebody raising  
2 their hand. I think ICAS President George Edwardson  
3 wanted to address probably you or Beth probably.

4

5 Go ahead, Mr. Edwardson.

6

7 MR. EDWARDSON: The question was as  
8 people influence, you know, the migration of the  
9 caribou and we have to say yes because the Federal  
10 government and the State -- both of them are at fault  
11 because they've been protecting the muskox. And your  
12 dad and my dad were reindeer herders together. And  
13 they know the habits of caribou and reindeer.

14

15 And those animals cannot stand the  
16 smell of muskox. They move out of the area when muskox  
17 moves in. And also the muskox's eating habits -- it  
18 eats the roots of the plants. And it takes sometimes  
19 up to 50 years for those plants to come back again.  
20 While the caribou only eat the tops. And within five  
21 years their food is back again.

22

23 And also the industry on snow geese.  
24 When they started drilling in the Barrier Islands off  
25 of Prudhoe Bay, all the snow geese migrated to Alberta.  
26 And I got to know the Fish and Wildlife over there.  
27 Where their snow geese nesting areas were way over-  
28 populated, more than double, and it's now destroyed.  
29 Now the snow geese are trying to find a place to live  
30 now -- because of the oil development.

31

32 And the polar bears are not that dumb.  
33 If they don't have ice, what do they do. They mate  
34 with the brown bears. Because who teaches you how to  
35 hunt. Mom does.

36

37 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr.  
40 Edwardson.

41

42 Does that conclude your presentation?

43

44 MS. LENART: (Nods affirmatively)

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you very much.  
47 It was a pleasure listening.

48

49 It's 5:00 o'clock. I've been receiving

50

1 texts that I've got to go sign some documents before  
2 they close at planning. So I would think that we would  
3 recess until tomorrow at 9:00 o'clock.

4

5 MR. SHEARS: A comment on that.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sure. Go ahead  
8 there, Mr. Shears.

9

10 MR. SHEARS: Planning commission is  
11 meeting -- the North Slope Borough planning commission  
12 is meeting tomorrow morning at 9:30. And I work for  
13 the North Slope Borough capital improvements programs  
14 management department. And I promised my director that  
15 I would give her an hour tomorrow morning to interview  
16 some prospective employees.

17

18 I'm wondering if we could delay  
19 convening till say 10:00 a.m. and then we could even  
20 work later into the evening or we could work -- you  
21 know, is there any way we could work around that  
22 planning commission and my employer's requirements in  
23 the morning. If I could give my employer just an hour  
24 or so.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

27

28 MR. SHEARS: .....of my attention.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Bob.

31

32 And I'm going to just defer that to Eva  
33 a little bit. I don't know if it's a public noticing  
34 issue or whether or not, but I'm in the same boat as  
35 Bob there.

36

37 It might be of interest for Rosemary.  
38 There is a Putu presentation. And the deputy  
39 commissioner of DNR will be there tomorrow to listen to  
40 that as well at the planning commission, and it's a  
41 very important topic.

42

43 I think either the public hearing on it  
44 will be determined in December 14th and we're expecting  
45 I think even the governor to attend that in Nuiqsut.  
46 But we're going to be hearing more about this tomorrow  
47 at the planning commission meeting is one of the  
48 informational items presentation to the planning  
49 commission tomorrow.

50

1 And it was one of the things I texted  
2 you about or emailed you that I may need to be excused  
3 to do things and try to get back here as soon as  
4 possible unless -- I just want to see what your take is  
5 on what Bob is suggesting. And to the rest of the  
6 Council.

7  
8 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. So  
9 just to clarify. Those meetings that are important for  
10 both of you are occurring from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No. Planning  
13 commission starts at 9:30. We expect that one probably  
14 to go on till about 1:00.

15  
16 But the important topics probably  
17 between 9:30 -- between 10:00 and 11:00, with a  
18 presentation to the commission on the Putu project.  
19 It's an exploration drilling right next to the  
20 community of Nuiqsut.

21  
22 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
23 With that amount of time, because the Council has --  
24 you know, we haven't gotten to the wildlife proposals  
25 yet and those were the critical times to have, you  
26 know, the Council convened. For everyone to be able to  
27 weigh in on that and -- and, you know, particularly as  
28 the -- as the Chair as well. I think we would run out  
29 of time.

30  
31 We have some of the wildlife staff that  
32 were here specifically today and tomorrow to be able to  
33 address those proposals and -- and ensure that we have,  
34 you know, quorum with the Council here and input from  
35 everyone.

36  
37 So that time frame might be concerned  
38 that we would.....

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So they should  
41 convene in the morning. I can be here in the morning  
42 to help get it started. And then -- but I really need  
43 to be asked to be excused. And then once that portion  
44 of the planning commission is done -- I don't plan to  
45 stay the duration of the commission meeting, but get  
46 excused as soon as this one portion of it that I really  
47 need to be there for is done. And then re-join the  
48 group and work through the rest of the agenda.

49  
50



1 MS. PATTON: I see.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And your name,  
4 please?

5  
6 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
7 Carl Johnson, OSM.

8  
9 And Council Member Shears actually  
10 touched on an important point, and that is the public  
11 notice issue. Notice was indicated the meeting would  
12 start at 9:00 a.m. daily and that it could go later at  
13 the call of the Chair. But that's the public  
14 expectation is that the meeting starts at 9:00.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is there a  
17 possibility to start it and then recess for a little  
18 bit.

19  
20 MR. JOHNSON: That would be the better  
21 way to go because people would be either appearing here  
22 in the room or calling in to the teleconference at  
23 9:00. And then they would know. Otherwise people  
24 would show up on the teleconference at 9:00 and be  
25 wondering what happened with the Council and then Eva  
26 would be getting a bunch of texts and emails from  
27 people going is the phone line working and things like  
28 that.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. And then the  
31 third alternative is to just -- if there are no action  
32 items for a couple hours and allow the rest of the  
33 agenda to be chaired by the vice-chair. And then we  
34 would re-join you as soon as we were excused from the  
35 planning commission.

36  
37 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
38 And we do have -- there's a couple of agency reports.  
39 Some are -- some are more specific to Anaktuvuk Pass.  
40 I know it's important for the whole Council because you  
41 convene for all of the communities in the Region.

42  
43 I know Marcy Okada had updates that she  
44 was going to provide from Gates of the Arctic and the  
45 Subsistence Resource Commission that Ester just  
46 attended. So most of the agency reports are important  
47 to -- to the whole Council as well. So it's a little  
48 bit -- little bit challenging to.....

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.  
2  
3 MS. PATTON: Yeah.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Without going into  
6 lots and lots of detail, what should we do.  
7  
8 (Laughter)  
9  
10 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve.  
13  
14 MR. OOMITUK: This is Steve again. I  
15 should be able to call in in the morning at 9:00, but I  
16 really needed to be excused at 1:30 till about 2:30.  
17 Then I could probably call back.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.  
20  
21 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Steve.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. We'll convene  
24 in the -- okay. Carl.  
25  
26 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
27  
28 I was just going to kind of reiterate  
29 some of the themes that have been suggested. And that  
30 is we're already running into a time management problem  
31 and we should have started on wildlife proposals  
32 already today.  
33  
34 So I think whatever we can do to adjust  
35 the agenda to move things forward in the morning and  
36 find a way to kind of work around Council participation  
37 in the really key issues and shift things around. And  
38 we can just figure that out and then announce on the  
39 record first thing in the morning how we may adjust the  
40 agenda so the people following can understand what  
41 we're doing.  
42  
43 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: That sounds good.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That sounds like a  
46 good plan, uh?  
47  
48 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes.  
49  
50

1 MR. SHEARS: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. And I  
4 apologize. You know, we didn't anticipate the planning  
5 commission to meet on this day. They're supposed to  
6 meet on the last Thursday of each month. But it's  
7 holiday season -- Thanksgiving -- and the planning  
8 commission moved their time slot one week ahead.

9

10 Same thing is going to happen in  
11 Christmas. They're going to move their -- so that  
12 they're not -- everybody has to go home to do their  
13 Christmas games, right. You don't want to do it here  
14 and have a planning commission while they're having  
15 games. So they're going to move that schedule a week  
16 ahead, too.

17

18 So that's what we're up against right  
19 now.

20

21 Okay. With that, I think it's a simple  
22 motion to recess till tomorrow, right, at 9:00.

23

24 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Motion to recess  
25 till tomorrow at 9:00.

26

27 MR. OOMITUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor  
30 to recess till 9:00 o'clock.

31

32 MS. KIPPI: Second.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Atqasuk.

35

36 The question's been called for. And  
37 all those in favor of recessing till 9:00 a.m., signify  
38 by saying aye.

39

40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: See you guys  
43 tomorrow.

44

45 (Off record)

46

47 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

48

49

50

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

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 15th day of November 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 1st day of December 2017.

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