

1 NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING
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7
8 VOLUME II
9

10 Inupiat Heritage Center
11 Barrow, Alaska
12 November 1, 2016
13 9:00 a.m.
14

15
16
17 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
18

19 Gordon Brower, Acting Chairman
20 Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak
21 Lee Kayotuk
22 Gordon Brower
23 Robert Shears
24 Steve Oomituk
25
26 Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Barrow, Alaska - 11/1/2016)

(On record)

MR. KAYOTUK: Good afternoon. It's Lee in Barter Island.

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Good afternoon, Lee.

MR. KAYOTUK: Good afternoon.

MS. KLEIN: This is Jill with Fish and Game, I'm online in Anchorage.

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Afternoon, Jill.

MS. KLEIN: Good afternoon.

MS. RATTENBURY: Hi, this is Kumi Rattenbury with the Park Service in Fairbanks.

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Afternoon, Park Service in Fairbanks.

MS. OKADA: Hi, good afternoon. This is Marcy Okada with the National Park Service also in Fairbanks.

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Afternoon, Marcy.

MS. OKADA: Good afternoon.

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Good afternoon, everybody. This is Gordon Brower. I'm the Acting Chair for the Regional Subsistence Advisory Council. And I'd like to call to order out of recess our Regional Subsistence Advisory Council.

And, Lee, if you can do a roll call so that we can establish a quorum as I think we're going to go through action items as soon as we begin.

MR. KAYOTUK: Good afternoon. I'd just like to do a roll call on November 1st, 2016.

1 Seat one, 2011-2017, Gordon R. Brower,
2 Barrow.
3
4 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: I'm here.
5 Good morning or afternoon.
6
7 MR. KAYOTUK: Good afternoon. Seat
8 two, 2011-2016, Robert V. Shears, Barrow, Wainwright.
9
10 MR. SHEARS: Good afternoon, Lee. I'm
11 present.
12
13 MR. KAYOTUK: Good afternoon. Seat
14 three, 2016, vacant.
15
16 Seat four, 2015-2016, Steve Oomituk,
17 Point Hope.
18
19 MR. OOMITUK: Good afternoon. I'm
20 here.
21
22 MR. KAYOTUK: Good afternoon. Seat
23 five, 2017, vacant.
24
25 Seat six, 2014-2017, San Kunaknana,
26 Nuiqsut.
27
28 (No response)
29
30 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat seven, 2017, vacant.
31
32 Seat eight, 2018, vacant.
33
34 Seat nine, 2006-2018, Lee Kayotuk,
35 here. Present.
36
37 Seat 10, 2009-2018, Rosemary
38 Ahtuanguaruak, Barrow.
39
40 (No response)
41
42 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, I
43 had.....
44
45 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair, I'd like
46 to.....
47
48 MS. PATTON:corresponded with
49 Rosemary and let her know we'd be resuming at 1:00
50 o'clock this afternoon and taking up action items. So

1 if she was able she was going to call in, but she may
2 be coming and going today.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,
7 Eva. Go ahead there, finish there, Lee.

8

9 MR. KAYOTUK: Good afternoon. Thank
10 you.

11

12 At this time I'd like to move the
13 meeting back to order.

14

15 Thank you, Mr. Chair, Council members,
16 members present.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,
19 Lee. We have established a quorum and will acknowledge
20 those members that may join telephonically. Just for
21 your information I do have a meeting at 2:00 o'clock, I
22 may need to step out for a little bit and I'm hoping we
23 get Rosemary and somebody to maintain that quorum.

24

25 With that we will go on to the next
26 agenda item that we left off from yesterday. And is
27 that proposals or.....

28

29 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,
30 yes, on page 2 of your agenda we do have just one
31 fisheries proposal and it's a crossover proposal. So
32 if there is a proposal that's coming from another
33 region, but members of or the North Slope have C&T for
34 this region we want to ensure that the Council has an
35 opportunity to review that proposal and make any
36 recommendations or defer to the Council's region, but
37 at least the Council has this opportunity. And Karen
38 Hyer will be providing a brief overview on that
39 proposal.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,
44 Eva.

45

46 Karen, you have the floor.

47

48 MS. HYER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman
49 and Council members. Please turn to page number 47 of
50 your book. I'm presenting the Staff analysis for

1 fisheries proposal 17-04. The draft Staff analysis
2 again can be found on page 48 of your book.

3

4 The proposal was submitted by Western
5 Interior Regional Advisory Council and requests that
6 regulations be changed to allow an increase in the
7 portion of Racetrack Slough on the Koyukuk River and
8 sloughs on the Huslia River drainage that may be
9 covered with a gillnet, they -- in order to provide
10 more subsistence harvest opportunity for northern pike
11 between ice out and June 15th, they are asking for an
12 increase in the gillnet size. Current Federal
13 subsistence regulations allows for fisheries at this
14 time, but gillnets may not obstruct more than half the
15 width of the stream. This proposal would allow
16 gillnets to cover all but 20 feet of the distance
17 across sloughs and streams which would match State
18 subsistence regulations that changed during the
19 January, 2016 Board of Fisheries.

20

21 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
22 support this proposal. If adopted it would allow
23 Federally-qualified subsistence users the same
24 opportunity as subsistence users under State
25 regulations. It would likely increase harvest
26 opportunity of Northern Pike and other local fish
27 during the time period and the season for this gear
28 would end prior to the arrival of salmon in these
29 systems. And again it is going to end at June 15th.

30

31 Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Council
32 members.

33

34 I'd be happy to take any questions.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Any questions
37 while I'm chewing?

38

39 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Bob,
42 Wainwright.

43

44 MR. SHEARS: Any length of net, but
45 what mesh net, is there any limitations or stipulations
46 on mesh count or the opening size of the net?

47

48 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Karen.

49

50 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman and Council

1 members. No, this is just directed toward the length
2 of the net.

3

4 MR. SHEARS: Okay.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: I got a
7 question. Is it the length of the net or the amount
8 left that's open?

9

10 MS. HYER: Actually it is the amount,
11 the distance across river or slough or tributary.
12 Currently they can go halfway across and now they want
13 to go as far as needed to cover about 80 percent. So
14 the net will vary depending on where they're fishing
15 at.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Just to
18 follow-up. So it's not the length of the net, it's --
19 you can have a 150 foot long net that goes at an angle
20 as long as you maintain a 20 feet right-of-way you're
21 in compliance?

22

23 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council
24 members. Yes, my comment before, my last one I had
25 misspoke. You are absolutely correct.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, it's
28 very good to make sure we identify what's -- an
29 understanding on these things because I often have to
30 deal with that thing myself too. So.....

31

32 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Go ahead, Bob.

35

36 MR. SHEARS: Okay. I see the
37 clarification on page 52 that current -- under current
38 regulations the Koyukuk is open to 7.5 inch or smaller
39 mesh size, 25 -- 24 hours per day, seven days per week
40 before June 15th.

41

42 That being said is there any concern
43 from the fisheries office about salmon bycatch?

44

45 MS. HYER: Through the Chair. The
46 timing -- because of the timing they feel the net will
47 be out before the salmon are in the stream.

48

49 MR. SHEARS: Okay.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right.
2 Eva, maybe you can give me some pointers here and we
3 got to go in these proposals right, in order of
4 comments and stuff on this little thing?

5
6 MS. PATTON: Yes, that's correct for
7 the proposal procedures. We walk through presentation
8 of the analysis and then can call for each of the folks
9 on the back of the card here and we'll provide an
10 update on whether comments were submitted or not for
11 the Council.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay. For
16 instance we did the introduction, Karen did that,
17 right.....

18
19 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER:on this
22 proposal, on 17-04. And we provided some feedback as a
23 Board consultation, right, and then we need A, Tribes
24 and then any ANCSA corporation and then down he list?

25
26 MS. PATTON: Correct. And for this
27 proposal round there wasn't a consultation in advance
28 of the proposals. So there's Tribal consultation,
29 ANCSA consultation as being set up in advance of the
30 Board meeting. Typically that would happen before the
31 Councils and then a report back. So there haven't been
32 consultations yet at this time with Tribes and ANCSA
33 corporations and that'll happen prior to the Board
34 meeting.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay. Having
37 said that where would we be on the numerical order here
38 then, are we just discussing for our -- whether or not
39 we agree with it or defer it to the -- that region's
40 RAC at this point or.....

41
42 MS. PATTON: We still walk through the
43 process in terms of, you know, any -- if there's any
44 agency comments and then the other advisory groups that
45 have already met and discussed this. And then -- yeah,
46 and then once we've gone through all of this, the
47 Council's discussion, we get to -- after that feedback
48 and it is an option for the Council either to take
49 action on this or take no action or to defer to the
50 Council region in which the proposal was submitted.

1 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Very good, you
2 know, but sometimes you add so many things on things I
3 -- when my train of thought is where -- what number
4 should we be on.

5
6 So can I say at this point is it
7 appropriate to report on Board consultation, Tribes and
8 ANCSA corporation and then Karen would respond to that
9 and then we go to the next. You might say it's already
10 done or complete or there were no comments received, is
11 that where we're at?

12
13 MS. PATTON: Correct, Mr. Chair. And
14 again we did not hold Tribal consultation or ANCSA
15 consultation in advance of the Council meeting so we
16 don't have that feedback at this time. And then we
17 would go on to agency comments.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Very good.
20 I'm very appreciative because I know I watch Harry do
21 this quite -- for many, many years, but I never
22 actually had the chance to do all of these little
23 procedural stuff. But.....

24
25 Okay, item three, agency comments.
26 Item A is ADF&G.

27
28 MS. KLEIN: Hi. Good afternoon, Mr.
29 Chair, this is Jill Klein with the Alaska Department of
30 Fish and Game. And I can share our comments on
31 fisheries proposal 17-04. I just wanted to check that
32 you can hear me clearly?

33
34 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: You are very
35 loud and clear, you're crystal clear.

36
37 MS. KLEIN: Okay. Great. So for
38 proposal 17-04 the original proposal requested to allow
39 gillnets to obstruct more than one-half the width of
40 Racetrack Slough on the Koyukuk River and sloughs of
41 the Huslia River drainage between ice out and June
42 15th. And this would align Federal regulations with
43 State regulations and allow subsistence users more
44 harvest opportunity for northern pike in Racetrack
45 Slough on the Koyukuk River and again the sloughs of
46 the Huslia River drainage.

47
48 There was a proposed modification
49 however and that would then bring Federal and State
50 regulations further out of alignment and we just think

1 this may increase some complexity for subsistence users
2 and possibly enforcement. We did notice that the
3 Western Interior Council which is the -- I guess the
4 home region as you call it for this proposal, did carry
5 the proposal as was amended. And we're -- we like to
6 take that into consideration when we're formulating our
7 comments.

8

9 So that's all we have for now. Thank
10 you.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Any questions
13 for ADF&G from the Council? Is that proper?

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: No questions
18 for ADF&G. B, Federal agencies?

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: I see a lot of
23 people nodding no over there. So we conclude that we
24 don't have any Federal agency comments at this point.

25

26 Native Tribal village and other.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right. I
31 don't hear that unless you got something there, Steve.

32

33 Interagency Staff Committee.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: No comments
38 from the Interagency Staff Committee.

39

40 And we go down to item four, Advisory
41 Group comments, Regional Councils and we -- that would
42 be us, right?

43

44 MS. PATTON: Correct, Mr. Chair. And
45 the other Councils have taken action on this proposal.
46 And this was a crossover proposal for many regions so
47 quite a few Councils reviewed this. And Yukon
48 Kuskokwim Delta Council supported this proposal,
49 Western Interior supported this proposal, Seward Pen is
50 currently meeting also so we don't have feedback from

1 them yet, Eastern Interior took no action, it was
2 outside of their region and so they took no action on
3 this proposal. And those are the Councils that have
4 taken this proposal up to date and provided feedback on
5 it.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Just a
10 question on the one that had no action, the elected to
11 have no action. Did they have a C&T for that area as
12 well?

13

14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,
15 when there's proposals on the Yukon River, so Eastern
16 Interior, Western Interior and Yukon Kuskokwim Delta
17 Regional Advisory Councils all -- you know, are part of
18 the Yukon Salmon Management and so when proposals come
19 forward that may affect the overall management on the
20 river, all of the Councils in the river are included in
21 those proposals. So whether there's C&T for a
22 particular fishery on that river or not and so they
23 have the opportunity to review it.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: And I thank
28 you. And sometimes that -- you know, because you
29 mentioned that we have C&T over there and I'm wondering
30 if they elected not to provide comments because it was
31 just not something that they had an interest in versus
32 a C&T.

33

34 Karen.

35

36 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council
37 members. They have C&T for this proposal and they
38 didn't -- it's not that they didn't provide comment,
39 their comment was they were going to defer it to the
40 home RAC because they are the ones that submitted it.
41 So they did provide a comment.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, that's
44 basically what I was looking for in just simplified
45 form. And, Eva, you're so technical and it's -- you
46 always get into the minute details and, you know, but
47 that's fine, I mean, I'm like that too.

48

49 All right.

50

1 MS. PATTON: And Mr. Chair and Council,
2 I actually just got an update from Western Interior. I
3 didn't get the details of the -- they supported with
4 modification so was there additional information that
5 Western Interior had provided?
6

7 MS. HYER: And it's what Jill was
8 referring to on the phone. They supported as modified
9 by the Council to include and for sloughs smaller than
10 40 feet across. So that verbiage would be added to the
11 regulation.
12

13 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right.
14 And then we got Vince, I think, right? We all
15 recognize the cool guy with the red shirt.
16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I attend many RAC
18 meetings and Western Interior is one of my areas. And
19 my understanding and someone correct me, their
20 modification was smaller sloughs less than 40 feet, may
21 not occlude 25 percent or obstruct vessel passage.
22 There was a lot of discussion about law enforcement in
23 the field, changes in water levels. So my notes have
24 that they passed that unanimously as modified because
25 they were concerned when they first put the net in it
26 looked like X and then when they went to another one
27 the water went down and it changed.
28

29 But someone correct me on that, but
30 that's what my notes have and that was that meeting in
31 McGrath.
32

33 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Very good. I
34 appreciate that, that's good information.
35

36 MS. PATTON: And Mr. Chair and Counsel,
37 I do have some more detail here on the Western
38 Interior's action that -- that the Council noted.
39 Gillnets may not be closer than 20 feet from the
40 opposite bank unless closed by Federal special action
41 while sloughs that are less than 40 feet may have
42 three-quarter coverage of net. And the Council
43 highlighted the need to accommodate customary practices
44 without becoming mired in the distance from the bank.
45 The Council recommended inserting a navigation
46 provision to prevent the obstruction of vessel passage
47 and promote flexibility of the input. So the Council
48 added that concern to address those issues and
49 emphasize pike are utilized for consumptive subsistence
50 use.

1 So we have those additional details
2 here in this.....

3
4 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, thank
5 you, Eva. I think those are -- you know, people are
6 doing their homework over there and I hate to get in
7 their way of doing things. So but it's good
8 information, might be something we learn from if we had
9 to do things like that around here.

10
11 Where are we, are we at Fish and Game
12 Advisory Committee comments or did we just go over
13 those?

14
15 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,
16 sorry to interrupt. If we could for the folks that are
17 joining us on teleconference if you could mute your
18 phone so we don't have background noise. You can push
19 star six and then if you wish to address the Council
20 just push star six again and that'll unmute.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,
25 Eva. All right. Fish and Game Advisory Committee
26 comments.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right.
31 Hearing none, Subsistence Resource Commission.

32
33 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, we
34 didn't receive any comments from the SRCs on this
35 proposal.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you.
38 Summary of written public comments.

39
40 MS. PATTON: And, Mr. Chair and
41 Council, no written comments were submitted on this
42 proposal.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Very well.

47
48 Public testimony.

49
50 MS. PATTON: I don't think we have

1 anyone in -- here in the room today to provide comment
2 on this.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right.
5 We're down to Regional Council recommendation. Motion
6 to adopt or what -- what's the wish of the Region 10
7 RAC?

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: I'm just going
12 to blurt out here, you know, I think, you know, we may
13 have C&T, but it's well out of our range and I would
14 think the folks in that region are -- have some issues
15 here that they're trying to deal with and I hate to get
16 in their way of trying to make a workable situation. I
17 -- through this 17-04 and I would hope we could defer
18 it to that region and supporting them that way.

19

20 That's just my opinion.

21

22 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Bob, go ahead.

25

26 MR. SHEARS: I concur. And concur as
27 much as to make a motion that we recommend approval of
28 fisheries proposal 17-04.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: There's a
31 motion on the floor to recommend approval of 17-04.

32

33 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair, I second that.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Seconded by
36 Point Hope, Steve Oomituk. Any discussion?

37

38 MR. OOMITUK: Call for question.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: The question
41 has been called for. All those in support of 17-04
42 signify by saying aye.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All those
47 opposed, same sign.

48

49 (No opposing votes)

50

1 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Motion
2 carries. All right. Eva, we got the next -- what do
3 we got that's.....

4
5 MS. PATTON: All right.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER:asterisk
8 -- asteriskly stricken?

9
10 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Our next
11 action item on the agenda is down to letter C, which is
12 the revision of a memorandum of understanding with the
13 State of Alaska and you'll find that MOU on page 57.
14 And Jennifer Hardin will be presenting an overview of
15 the MOU for the Council.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right.
18 Jennifer, you've got the floor.

19
20 DR. HARDIN: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair
21 and members of the Council. As Eva mentioned I'm here
22 today to just receive your comments and feedback on the
23 draft memorandum of understanding between the state of
24 Alaska and the Federal Subsistence Board. As Eva
25 stated your draft MOU starts on page 57.

26
27 This document builds upon the July
28 18th, 2012 draft MOU which incorporated recommended
29 changes from Regional Advisory Councils, Subsistence
30 Resource Commissions and Advisory Committees. The MOU
31 is being developed by a subcommittee that's made up of
32 representatives from OSM, the Bureau of Land
33 Management, the U.S. Forest Service and State of
34 Alaska. The intent of the MOU is to provide a
35 foundation to build on with the State, to coordinate
36 the management of Fish and Wildlife Resources, for
37 subsistence uses on Federal public lands in Alaska. It
38 is not expected to address the variety of issues
39 between the Federal program and the State, but to
40 provide a framework so that specific issues may be
41 worked out in the future.

42
43 What we'd like from you today is your
44 review of the document and your comments and
45 recommendations both for the subcommittee and to be
46 presented to the Federal Subsistence Board presumably
47 in January depending on the comments we hear back from
48 the Councils.

49
50 If you would like I can just -- I

1 wasn't going to go through the entire memorandum of
2 understanding, but you'll see that it states -- the
3 first thing that the MOU states is that it establishes
4 guidelines to coordinate management of subsistence uses
5 of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands.
6 And then beginning of page 59 it outlines the specific
7 items that the Federal Subsistence Board and the State
8 of Alaska mutually agree to do. And basically what the
9 MOU is doing is setting out a process through which the
10 State of Alaska and the Federal Subsistence Board can
11 work through issues related to management of resources,
12 subsistence resources on Federal public lands.

13

14 And with that I think I'll turn it over
15 to you all for your comments and I'll try to answer any
16 questions you might have.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Any questions?

19

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: I do have one
24 and I'm going to -- it's here on item four. It's got
25 the Federal Subsistence Board and the State of Alaska
26 mutually agree and that's really nice. And I'd like to
27 point out item number 3 where to recognize a Federal
28 priority for rural residents on Federal public lands
29 for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources.
30 Additionally to allow for other uses of fish and
31 wildlife resources when harvestable surpluses are
32 sufficient and consistent with ANILCA and the statutes.
33 I think that's very important language when we are
34 dealing with a -- with a rogue state that has a problem
35 recognizing rural subsistence priority, the uses of
36 fish and game within the State of Alaska. And I hope
37 we can help them or we can commingle to a point where
38 some of these principles that they're not diminished,
39 but start to help gain acceptance by the State somehow.
40 And I think there needs to be a little bit more to that
41 unless it's written down somewhere that it should be
42 sustainable, mutually agreeable to manage these
43 resources with a sustainable principle in mind, meaning
44 you can reproduce this year after year after year after
45 year and not to manage these resources. When you just
46 finally establish a harvestable surplus that really
47 could be compromised the next year, but encourage
48 sustain -- a sustain -- sustainable management scheme.
49 That's what I would add on there.

50

1 And I'd refer to the rest of the
2 Council members on -- if they have any questions about
3 the draft MOU with the State of Alaska, Department of
4 Fish and Game, Board -- Alaska Board of Fisheries and
5 Alaska Board of Game and Federal Subsistence Board and
6 BLM and Park Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs and
7 Secretarial appointees. And what do you think about
8 that too, I'm just -- I think sustain yield principle,
9 we always want to make sure that it's sustainable and
10 you can reproduce that every year without compromising
11 a harvestable surplus.

12
13 DR. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 I've taken that note and definitely will forward that
15 on to the subcommittee, the MOU subcommittee and I
16 believe that comments like that are what they're hoping
17 to see and that type of balance is what both programs
18 are hoping to achieve.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Any other
21 comments by the North Slope Regional Advisory Council.

22
23 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Mr. Shears,
26 Wainwright.

27
28 MR. SHEARS: Quick comment. It says
29 that in reviewing the document, the MOU, it's come a
30 long ways since it was originally drafted, seems
31 workable. It's not too obligatory, I don't see where
32 it ties our hands, just so we mutually agree to work
33 together and almost recognizes what we're already
34 doing. I enjoy the presence of ADF&G at our meetings
35 and I would like to see that continued as well as the
36 Alaska Board of Game, I would like to see them, you
37 know, also being participatory to our process rather
38 than a hostile actor to our subsistence protection
39 activities. So I think it's -- I have high hopes for
40 this, it gives us opportunity to comment annually and
41 report on if it's working or not.

42
43 The term of this MOU is the only
44 question that I have, how long does the term of this
45 MOU last and when does it -- how does it renew, is
46 there any measurements, standards that it needs to meet
47 to renew?

48
49 DR. HARDIN: Through the Chair. Thank
50 you, Mr. Shears. I do not see the term provisions in

1 this draft, however Jill Klein, if she's still on the
2 line, she's a member of the subcommittee and she may be
3 able to give us a little bit more information about the
4 discussions the subcommittee have had regarding that
5 topic.

6

7

MR. SHEARS: Jill.

8

9

MS. KLEIN: Hi, I'm still on the line.
10 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Mr. Shears, offer a question.
11 So the previous version of the MOU did have a clause
12 whereby the signatory to the MOU had to meet annually
13 or had to -- and then had to report on that. And if no
14 annual meeting took place within a five year period
15 then the MOU would expire. And that is what we removed
16 from this version that you're looking at in front of
17 you and decided not to have any ending term for the MOU
18 and that is similar to how we have what are called
19 master MOUs that we have between the State of Alaska
20 and the Federal Land Agency so we have separate MOUs
21 let's say with the Fish and Wildlife Service, one with
22 the Park Service and they don't have any expiration
23 dates in them either. And unfortunately the last go
24 around when that clauses was in this MOU there hadn't
25 been documented meetings and therefore because of that
26 and because the renewal process took longer than
27 anticipated the MOU did expire. So that's why we're
28 going through this revision process right now.

29

30

You also asked about, you know, how
31 does it renew or, you know, are there any terms for
32 which, you know, the signatories may need to adhere to
33 to keep this going. And you mentioned an annual
34 meeting and I think that's where aspects of what's in
35 the MOU or any aspects of the working relationship
36 between the State and Federal agencies and Boards and
37 Regional Advisory Council, AC comments, those issues
38 would come up annually and hopefully be addressed on an
39 annual basis and that process would keep everything
40 working smoothly. But there is no expiration date in
41 it, it would just be ongoing until there -- there is I
42 think somewhere in here there is a section about how to
43 possibly terminate it or make changes to it.

44

45

Let me scroll through that.

46

47

MR. SHEARS: Thank you, Jill.

48

49

MS. KLEIN: You're welcome.

50

1 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair, I'll -- with
2 that explanation, I'm a little nervous about it, but
3 I'm still acceptable to the language. Open without
4 term limits, people can arbitrarily just dropout of it
5 for not complying with it and that doesn't really --
6 you know, this could eventually become an MOU between
7 one person just by -- through neglect without a term
8 limit assigned to it. So I would think it would garner
9 greater management by the Board if it had a term
10 defined in it, it would require -- that would require
11 the attention of the signatory parties. And I think
12 that the Office of Subsistence Management would be more
13 actively involved in the management of it if it had a
14 term agreement to it other than something that could
15 simply be shelved after signature.

16
17 That's my only comment.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Any other
20 comments and maybe a response from Jennifer here, but
21 before I lose my train of thought, I think that's a
22 great idea because a lot of times you get MOUs together
23 and we have some like that that hey, we have an MOU
24 here we haven't been working frivolous, you know, and
25 kind of out there and it's -- and nobody's paying
26 attention to it. It should be revised either
27 semiannually or something like that. So that it can be
28 improved upon by trial and error, through experience
29 where things that need to be addressed may finally
30 start to get inclusion. I think that's a good segue to
31 that question.

32
33 Go ahead.

34
35 DR. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Mr.
36 Shears. Just to follow-up on Jill's comments, I
37 neglected to mention that in -- under general
38 provisions on number 6, if you look on page 61, number
39 6 indicates the MOU becomes effective upon signing by
40 all signatories and will remain in force until such
41 time as the Secretary of Interior determines that the
42 State of Alaska has implemented a subsistence
43 management program in compliance with Title VIII of
44 ANILCA or signatories terminate their participation in
45 this MOU providing -- by providing 60 days written
46 notice. Further in number 7 it states that all the --
47 it states the Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils as
48 well as the SRCs and Advisory Committees will provide
49 comments annually and it also states that the
50 signatories will meet annually or more frequently if

1 necessary to review the coordinated programs
2 established and make any -- consider and make any
3 necessary revisions or modifications.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Well,
6 Jennifer, I think we were trying to read your mind I
7 guess and it looks like it's well captured in there.

8

9 I do have something I want to recommend
10 and as we were talking about some of this stuff I kind
11 of just jotted down some things that are issues and I
12 don't know how you would frame this or if it even
13 belongs in there since it's an MOU between the State
14 and the Feds on resources that both affect Federal
15 lands and State public lands. I would like to see that
16 and if it's (indiscernible) was in item 14 or
17 something, to recognize that subsistence is tied to
18 food security in rural Alaska. To the maximum feasible
19 and prudent to provide for a meaningful traditional
20 subsistence opportunity.

21

22 I think those are -- you know, it's not
23 obligating, but if you're -- to the maximum feasible
24 and prudent to provide for a meaningful subsistence
25 opportunity for these communities. And that's a broad
26 statement and I think it's important.

27

28 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair.

29

30 Steve Oomituk, Point Hope.

31

32 MR. OOMITUK: For the record, yeah. I
33 notice it's a draft so are we going to meet when it's
34 ready to take action, all these different agencies
35 going to get together with this MOU to -- or are we
36 going to all -- you know, are we going to all together
37 to a conference to approve this, get all our concerns
38 out from each agency and put it into effect, when would
39 this all happen, I know it's a draft and the time
40 frame, I -- you know, it would be good for five years?

41

42 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Jennifer, are
43 you going to respond?

44

45 DR. HARDIN: Thank you. Through the
46 Chair. The -- this -- the draft MOU is potentially --
47 will potentially go the Federal Subsistence Board for
48 -- potentially for approval in January, however the
49 intent was to take this draft out to the Regional
50 Advisory Councils so you get feedback and comments and

1 those will be prevented -- presented to the Board and
2 it'll be the Board's determination about whether they
3 want to -- whether there'll be additional revisions or
4 changes that would warrant going back to Regional
5 Advisory Councils or if they're ready to finalize an
6 MOU at that time.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Steve, was
9 that sufficient?

10

11 MR. OOMITUK: Uh-huh.

12

13 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, if
14 I may respond as well. The.....

15

16 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Go ahead, Eva.

17

18 MS. PATTON:Federal Subsistence
19 Board is scheduled to meet in January and so this will
20 be on the agenda at that time. Typically each Council
21 Chair from each Regional Advisory Council region
22 attends the Board meeting in person and part of the
23 process is they're there to relay the feedback from the
24 Councils that you're providing now, but those meetings
25 are also teleconferenced and so if there's an interest
26 from other Council members to participate in that
27 process that's open as well. And I'm always available
28 if -- you know, if you're not wanting to be on
29 teleconference for the entire meeting to call and let
30 you know when we're getting to those subject matters.
31 And currently Rosemary is the Acting Chair, but the
32 input of the Council gets reported back to the Board
33 and so they'll be considering your input at that time
34 as well.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,
39 Eva. And you're always so helpful here. Sometimes you
40 email us well in advance so we don't overcharge our
41 meeting. So we may have to -- you know, meeting around
42 you sometimes.

43

44 Go ahead, Steve.

45

46 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, you know, I'm new
47 to the Board so it's a learning process for me. I
48 didn't realize we're so broad in so many different
49 places, you know. But, you know, it's -- I'm looking
50 forward to working with everybody, you know, for the

1 betterment of all the different people that subsist in
2 their own regions. And I know, you know, we're such a
3 broad area, I didn't realize we deal with so many
4 different places, you know.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Any other
9 questions on the draft MOU with the State of Alaska.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: And I don't
14 think this is an action item where we say we approve it
15 or anything, but that we provided meaningful input at
16 this point, right?

17

18 MR. SHEARS: Well, if that's the case
19 then I'd like to just make one comment, a
20 recommendation to the Board in considering the proposed
21 added language that Gordon was suggesting earlier under
22 the section Roman Numeral IV, the Federal Subsistence
23 Board and the State of Alaska mutually agree. And I'm
24 thinking considering the signatory parties to this also
25 includes the Alaska Board of Game and I'm realizing
26 that if we get too specific and stipulative the
27 language -- I was going to concur with Gordon that the
28 -- recognizing this -- you know, adding language to
29 recognize that subsistence is tied to food security in
30 rural Alaska and therefore is prudent to provide for a
31 reasonable opportunity for rural residents to subsist
32 may be language that the Board of Game would find
33 hostile and contradictory to the State constitution.
34 Therefore I propose as an alternative language, also I
35 do support what Gordon is recommending, is to amend
36 language in section 13 -- in part 13 where it says to
37 ensure that local residents, Tribes and other users
38 will have meaningful involvement in subsistence
39 wildlife and fisheries regulatory processes that affect
40 subsistence uses on Federal public lands to amend that
41 to read on State and Federal public lands.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, and I
44 will continue to emphasize because I think there are --
45 I know it might be -- sound hostile, but this is just
46 an MOU to be a framework to finally -- think about
47 setting the stage for things are outside of just
48 managing these herds in a way that unleashes the public
49 to these resources without regard to how villages might
50 pursue that versus those that are nonrural and those

1 that are nonresident, the cowboy type gunslinger that
2 wants to play army with caribous and things like that,
3 you know, there's very different style, but and I also
4 recognize, you know, we don't want to be hostile
5 another regulatory body which I think already exists to
6 some extent. There are two concepts out there. One is
7 our own State and I think the better concept is the
8 Federal concept where you give the people living in the
9 communities that are rural first priority at these
10 resources. And if -- to manage it that way. So when
11 you say things to the State to recognize that
12 subsistence is a food security matter in rural Alaska,
13 recognize that, and to the maximum extent allowable by
14 law where it's feasible and prudent to do so to provide
15 for a meaningful, not just subsistence those guys in
16 Fairbanks and Anchorage, yeah, they do subsistence, but
17 in rural a lot of that is the traditional, a
18 meaningful, traditional subsistence opportunity where
19 these things can happen holistically in our communities
20 where I've seen there are personal strife going on
21 between competing users in those same areas. And
22 that's what I was trying to capture without being
23 absolutely specific, you know, but if you -- if we can
24 get the State to start talking like this I think it's
25 important.

26

27 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Steve.

30

31 MR. OOMITUK: Just to add on to that,
32 you know, as a subsistence hunter in rural Alaska, you
33 know, we have a certain connection with the animals
34 that have been passed down to us from generation to
35 generation, you know. Animals are our identity as a
36 people, you know, without the animals we would not be
37 here. And that's why we're so protective and want to
38 ensure that, you know, the population of the animals
39 that's provided -- that provide for the people, that
40 give themselves to us, that, you know, they're
41 protected, you know, we want to make sure the animals
42 that we depend on, and the fish, the caribou, you know,
43 the habitat is protected and make sure that the next
44 generation continues to, you know, rely on the sources
45 that -- you know, we want to make sure they're not
46 overhunted by, you know, when we say rural and nonrural
47 residents, you know, we want to ensure that -- you
48 know, I want to make sure my grandkids have the same
49 opportunity, you know, that our way of life continues
50 and that we don't lose our way of life, you know,

1 thousands of years is -- you know, we have an identity,
2 spirituality with these animals that, you know, when
3 you grow up with them all your life you got a
4 connection.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, thanks,
7 Steve. And I think these are great things that, you
8 know, we need to recognize in here.

9

10 And here's an example I think of what
11 this language can do if somebody were to look at this
12 under the MOU. State to the maximum allowable by law
13 so that there is a meaningful, traditional hunting
14 experience on lands you're responsible for. Maybe it's
15 prudent now to work through the MOU to exercise a tier
16 level in the outskirts of some of these communities
17 that expect a migration to come through and they're not
18 deflected by other competing users. Wouldn't that be a
19 consequence of some of this language. Let's work
20 together, you're not putting a tier level on every
21 area, you're putting one on where the expectation of
22 those resources to benefit the community and to provide
23 food security for a community exists. I mean, I think
24 that's important.

25

26 And by the way I got to get to a
27 mayor's office meeting here in about seven minutes and
28 do we need to -- I need to get excused, I intend to
29 return as soon as I get done with that meeting. And
30 now, you know, we have a quorum right here and I hope
31 these comments are taking in the context that we had a
32 quorum when this was being discussed.

33

34 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Go ahead, Bob.

37

38 MR. SHEARS: I was suggesting you could
39 perhaps pass the Chair to me and I could continue the
40 meeting under agency reports, those are nonaction
41 items, until you return.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: If that's the
44 wish of the Commission I would yield the Chair over to
45 Bob to continue. I'll return at my earliest
46 convenience.

47

48 Is that okay there, Steve, Lee?

49

50 MR. SHEARS: Would you have any

1 preference on the caribou report, do you want us to
2 keep that off the floor until you return?

3

4 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: I really want
5 to be here for the caribou report so I'll try to get
6 them to hurry up in that other meeting.

7

8 MR. SHEARS: All right. We'll start of
9 with muskox update then.

10

11 Lee, you still following along with us.

12

13 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and.....

14

15 MR. KAYOTUK: Good afternoon. Yes, I
16 am.

17

18 MR. SHEARS: Okay. Gordon has just
19 relinquished the Chair to me. We are -- no longer have
20 a quorum for action items and so we've agreed to
21 continue this meeting under the agenda item 12, agency
22 reports. And we're going to temporarily skip over the
23 caribou report by ADF&G and move on to muskox update.

24

25 MS. PATTON: Sure. Mr. Chair and
26 Council, and if I may make a recommendation, we can do
27 the muskox update and then we also have Arctic National
28 Wildlife Refuge updates and Lee Kayotuk had some
29 questions that are specific to moose and management in
30 that region so that might be another report that would
31 be great to follow-up with while we've got Lee as well.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MR. SHEARS: Lee, we're going to give
36 Ryan a second to set up an overhead projector to
37 discuss this topic. Standby, we're going to just
38 standby for about three to five minutes.

39

40 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay.

41

42 (Off record)

43

44 (On record)

45

46 MR. SHEARS: Call the meeting to order
47 then. All right. Reconvening the Regional Advisory
48 Council meeting under agency reports, item 12, this is
49 the muskox update by Ryan Klimstra.

50

1 MR. KLIMSTRA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 So for those of you that don't know me well, that are
3 online or in the room, my name's Ryan Klimstra, I'm the
4 Alaska Department of Fish and Game area biologist for
5 Barrow. A lot of you remember Geoff Carroll, he
6 retired last year and I moved into his position here in
7 Barrow. So I've been in this position for a little
8 over a year. I'm not quite sure when I get to stop
9 introducing myself as Geoff's replacement, but seems to
10 do pretty well so far so maybe I'll just continue for
11 -- anyway.

12
13 So this presentation won't take long, I
14 just -- this is something I'd prepared for Point Lay at
15 their request, they'd had a lot of muskox and, you
16 know, or a few muskox around their village this summer.
17 And so it got me thinking about, you know, just muskox
18 and their status on -- primarily in unit 26A on the
19 North Slope here and just how people felt about them,
20 you know, and kind of what they thought maybe was the
21 future of muskox.

22
23 So this is just a reminder here that if
24 you're interested in looking up any hunting or trapping
25 regulations these are the websites, you can find them
26 online with a quick Google search or I can mail you
27 copies of the regulations or I can pass them out to
28 you. And these are State regulations that I'm
29 referring to here, I know this is a Federal meeting,
30 but State regulations. And just another reminder, all
31 Alaska residents are required to have a hunting or
32 trapping license to legally hunt or trap. And that's
33 required for Federal, State, Native lands, all of them.
34 And another reminder I am not law enforcement so I'm
35 not going to -- you know, I'm not in the business of
36 writing people tickets or anything like that, but I do
37 recommend purchasing a license and I can sell those.

38
39 Okay. So on to muskox. So we're going
40 to start out with a little bit of history of how muskox
41 -- you know, a lot of you've probably heard a lot of
42 this history before, but this is a little bit of a
43 refresher for some of you that haven't maybe. Anyhow
44 muskox were extirpated from Alaska around 1880 so
45 essentially there were still muskox that lived in the
46 wild, just not in Alaska. They were kind of gone, they
47 were hunted out from Alaska by that -- by around 1880.
48 And over time folks thought well, man, we sure could
49 use muskox back in the State here. And so in about
50 1930, 34 muskox were captured in Greenland and brought

1 to Fairbanks and then eventually to Nunivak Island.
2 And this was all part of a reintroduction program. And
3 so any muskox that's in the State of Alaska right now,
4 that's in the wild, originated from those 34 muskox
5 that were brought over from Greenland.

6
7 And so once those muskox were
8 translocated to Nunivak Island they started to
9 reproduce and grow and once they had suitable numbers
10 to start taking from that population then they
11 reintroduced about 64 to the Arctic National Wildlife
12 Refuge, 70 to the Cape Thompson area and then 72 to the
13 Seward Peninsula, 23 to Nelson Island and then -- and
14 that happened over the course of 1969 and 1970. So
15 there's a little bit of a map just kind of showing you
16 what I just said there so as far as the geographic
17 location and how many and what years that those were
18 transplanted there from Nunivak.

19
20 MR. SHEARS: Ryan.

21
22 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yes, go ahead, Bob.

23
24 MR. SHEARS: Is there any information,
25 historical information, on the muskox population in the
26 State of Alaska prior to 1880?

27
28 MR. KLIMSTRA: You know, that's an
29 excellent question. I'm sure there probably is some
30 information on that. I personally don't -- I should
31 know that maybe, but I don't, but I'll find out for you
32 and report back to you because that's a good question,
33 I've actually wondered about that myself. I know, you
34 know, they were -- they were used, they're a
35 subsistence animal. As far as population size, I'm --
36 that I don't know. But that's a good question. I'll
37 write that down real quick before I forget.

38
39 Okay. So the population that we're
40 most concerned with here in unit 26A is that Cape
41 Thompson population. And that's, you know, was that 70
42 from Nunivak Island that was transplanted over in 1970
43 and 1977. And so it's kind of north of Kotzebue, near
44 Point Hope and kind of south of Point Lay. And that's
45 -- I'm primarily going to be talking about that
46 population because that's the one that's most commonly
47 seen by residents of unit 26A unless you're from
48 Nuiqsut. So again reintroduce that Cape Thompson
49 population in '79 and '77 and that was done from Cape
50 Lisburne all the way to the Noatak River. Once it was,

1 you know, reintroduced there it grew at about 8 percent
2 per year which is pretty good and since then the muskox
3 have expanded into the North Slope, you know, from both
4 the Cape Thompson and also that ANWR population that I
5 talked about. So they've kind of come to the North
6 Slope from the east and the west. And so occasionally
7 you may see muskox in small numbers near Point Lay,
8 Point Hope, Atqasuk, Wainwright, Barrow, Nuiqsut and
9 Anaktuvuk Pass. And I'm sure some of you guys probably
10 saw some this summer and have reports of that.

11
12 So this Cape Thompson population
13 estimate, it's kind of -- it's been surveyed quite a
14 few times and these estimates include portions of both
15 unit 23 and 26A so it's that overall population. And I
16 should note here that this population over the -- for
17 the past two -- well, not the past two, but since 2011
18 to 2016 this population appears to be pretty stable,
19 that's this image that I'm showing right here. In 2011
20 there was about 576 muskox and 2016 we completed a
21 survey in March and there was 556 muskox. So number-
22 wise you can see it went down a little bit, but
23 statistically there's really no difference there. So
24 that population has remained about the same over that
25 period of time. And so again that also includes unit
26 23 muskox, those ones that are kind of near Kotzebue.
27 Now if we were to separate that out and talk about just
28 what's here in unit 26A the numbers of course are
29 smaller. So this is just for 26A here, these estimates
30 here. So 2011 there was about 264 muskox and 2016,
31 this year, we had about 253 muskox. So again the
32 number kind of decreased, but overall it's really not
33 -- they're no different so it's remained stable over
34 the past six years in our unit up here, game management
35 unit 26A.

36
37 So that's pretty much as far as update
38 goes, that's really all I had for you, but I just had a
39 few questions to ask of the Council members just to get
40 some feedback, you know, as far as moving forward into
41 the future. I just want to know, you know, do you guys
42 think this is a useful subsistence animal, what's your
43 perception of muskox, should there be a lot of them on
44 the landscape, you know, what's the future hold for
45 muskox, what would you like to see it hold for muskox
46 and are there any issues or concerns.

47
48 So with that I'd just take some
49 feedback from the Chair and the Council.
50

1 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair.
2
3 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair, Council.
4
5 MR. SHEARS: Hold on, Lee, I'm going to
6 give the floor to Steve. You're next.
7
8 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, for the record,
9 Steve from Point Hope. You know, the muskox, we have a
10 small herd that hangs out about seven, eight miles out
11 of town, you know. Occasionally somebody gets one or
12 two, you know, they don't eat them that much any more
13 like they used to. Some concerns were that they keep
14 the caribou out of the area, you know, but they -- you
15 know, it was good to see them introduced back because,
16 you know, musk ox were common in Point Hope area and
17 they are today, you know, we see them at Cape Thompson
18 and Cape Lisburne, you know, we don't see the sheep
19 much any more, but the muskox are, you know, in a lot
20 more numbers than in the past. And we do have that
21 small herd, about 40, 50, that stays just 10 miles out
22 of town in certain areas.
23
24 But thank you for the report. I've
25 always wondered, you know, if the muskox were --
26 population was growing and expanding, you know, because
27 we always -- when they were introduced back years ago,
28 you know, they're -- in the past like you said they
29 were in the area, they catch them in the past, but
30 nowadays, you know, after they were extinct there, you
31 know, muskox is (indiscernible), you know, the fur they
32 used, you know. But so the population right there in
33 Point Hope area was in Kotzebue, I mean, Kivalina is
34 500 something, is that what you're saying?
35
36 MR. KLIMSTRA: Steve, I don't have the
37 exact numbers for, you know, that specific area, I just
38 have the whole Cape Thompson population I know is about
39 556 muskox is what we estimate it to be. I could
40 probably get our -- one of our guys that's better with
41 numbers than me to, you know, try to separate that out.
42 But I guess it's a little difficult because of the way
43 the survey works and everything. But, you know, so let
44 me ask you, Steve, so you guys had some around there, I
45 mean, has there been interest in the community from
46 wanting to open up a hunt, you know, because there
47 hasn't been a hunt for muskox at least in 26A, you
48 know, of course you're part 23 and there are some
49 permits that are issued out of there, but is that
50 something that folks are -- think, man, gosh it would

1 be nice if we could take one or are people just kind of
2 like it's just nice to see them again?

3

4 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, you know, as a
5 subsistence hunter, you know, I've always through that
6 we had a right to catch what we want when we want, you
7 know, without a license until I caught a moose and I
8 got in trouble, you know, because it wasn't moose
9 season. And, you know, we don't see moose in our area
10 very much unless there's a forest fire and it brings
11 the moose to Point Hope. And, you know, we -- you
12 know, we don't eat much moose in Point Hope because we
13 don't see them very often. And but I -- you know, it
14 was July, you know, forest fire time and my first time
15 catching a moose, I thought it was so cool and, you
16 know, my daughter thought it was a horse. And I didn't
17 realize that I needed a license, I got myself in
18 trouble and never caught a moose after that. And that
19 was like 30 years ago. But it's good to see, you know,
20 the -- they don't go after muskox very often. You
21 might hear of somebody catching one, you know, and, you
22 know, they still eat it, you know, even though they'd
23 get a license or not, but very rarely do you see the
24 carcass of a muskox, you know. Every once in a while,
25 you know, if you're out on the ice hunting whale, you
26 know, they might have one, you know, just sit down, but
27 very rarely. They don't go after muskox, but there
28 were some concerns of some of the younger hunters that
29 said that they were keeping the caribou out of the
30 area. They hang out in certain areas, the muskox, you
31 know, and there seem to always be right in this general
32 area, you see them there all the time.

33

34 MR. KLIMSTRA: That's definitely their
35 strategy on life right there is to stand still and not
36 do much and eat.

37

38 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah.

39

40 MR. KLIMSTRA: That's -- they're good
41 at it.

42

43 MR. OOMITUK: So you do need a get

44 a.....

45

46 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yes, tag.

47

48 MR. OOMITUK:tag or

49 something.....

50

1 MR. KLIMSTRA: For unit 23 they.....
2
3 MR. OOMITUK:(indiscernible -
4 simultaneous speech) to get a muskox?
5
6 MR. KLIMSTRA:for unit 23 they
7 have permits, I believe it's a tier two permit that you
8 apply for and I think their quota is six, I could be
9 wrong on that.
10
11 Lincoln, are you on the line?
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 MR. KLIMSTRA: He would know better
16 than I, maybe, but I think that's correct. And so for
17 26A though there's currently no muskox harvest at all.
18 But that's, you know, kind of what I was just
19 interested in finding out, you know, is this something
20 that maybe.....
21
22 MR. OOMITUK: I just have one more. So
23 you're talking six.....
24
25 MR. KLIMSTRA: Sure.
26
27 MR. OOMITUK:for just the Cape
28 Thompson herd or the -- all within.....
29
30 MR. KLIMSTRA: Just -- that's for unit
31 23.
32
33 MR. OOMITUK:(indiscernible -
34 simultaneous speech).....
35
36 MR. KLIMSTRA: I know that's very
37 confusing because, you know, the Cape Thompson
38 population is in both units, it's in 26A and 23. But
39 for just the game management, the State game management
40 unit of 23, there's just those few permits that are
41 issued every year and those are really the only ones
42 near us or near you that are issued.
43
44 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, you know, I -- you
45 know, they have muskox in Wales and we eat muskox over
46 there. So I'm -- I didn't -- when I was looking at
47 your map I -- when you showed where the muskox were,
48 yeah, you know, you can see the little -- you know, I
49 didn't -- I lived, you know, further down, you know,
50 Wales, I -- what's your total population in the State

1 of Alaska for muskox?

2

3 MR. KLIMSTRA: Steve, that's a really
4 good question. I don't have an answer for that as far
5 as total population. I know the Seward Peninsula has
6 quite a few muskox, you know, but I don't know the
7 total population. I can find out for you though.

8

9 MR. PARRETT: It's about 5,000.

10

11 MR. KLIMSTRA: There's Lincoln. It's
12 about 5,000.

13

14 Thank you, Lincoln.

15

16 MR. OOMITUK: Thank you.

17

18 MR. SHEARS: Is that all you have,
19 Steve?

20

21 MR. OOMITUK: Yes.

22

23 MR. SHEARS: Okay. Lee, you had a
24 question?

25

26 MS. ROBINSON: Just.....

27

28 MR. SHEARS: Excuse me.

29

30 MS. ROBINSON: Excuse me. This is
31 Hillary Robinson calling in from Kotzebue. I just
32 wanted to chime in because I do know how many permits
33 are available for muskox in unit 23. There is a --
34 there are two Federal subsistence hunts, there's one in
35 the Ko -- north of the Kobuk drainage, but not
36 including Cape Krusenstern National Monument. And then
37 there's another muskox hunt within Care Krusenstern
38 National Monument and then there's also the State tier
39 two hunt. And between those two Federal hunts and the
40 one State tier two hunt, there are six permits
41 available.

42

43 MR. SHEARS: Okay. Thank you.

44

45 Lee.

46

47 MR. KAYOTUK: Yeah, good afternoon.
48 Thank you, Chair and Council. I've got a question.
49 Did you say that 26A for the muskox is closed in -- at
50 this time due to low population count or.....

1 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah, hi, Lee. That's
2 correct, 26A is closed at this time and I guess over in
3 Kaktovik you're in a completely different unit there
4 and I apologize, I don't have information about what's
5 going on with muskox over there, but there might be
6 somebody in the room that can provide that at some
7 point. Yeah, I think he's going to be up next maybe.
8 So, yeah, sorry about that, Lee, I'm not sure what.....

9

10 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay.

11

12 MR. KLIMSTRA: Anyhow we can get that
13 information for you though, what's going on in your
14 area.

15

16 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay. Thank you.

17

18 MR. SHEARS: Okay. I'll address some
19 questions and comments for you, Ryan. Where to start.
20 Traditionally Wainwright area in my experience with
21 muskox, we encounter one to three animals annually,
22 typically during the winter, occasionally though during
23 the summer. There -- the people in my community have a
24 certain prejudice towards muskox. It's treated like a
25 nuisance animal. They're the -- what I've learned
26 about -- from what I've heard about it is that muskox
27 contaminate areas with their smell, perhaps from the
28 glands or from their urine, that obstructs and will
29 actually, you know, even after they have passed through
30 an area a caribou herd will encounter their path and
31 will turn against it. It will actually deflect a
32 migration is from what I've been told. And it's just
33 that -- you know, and for that reasons I've seen
34 hunters coming out of the field and meeting them,
35 having -- you know, talking across the hulls of our
36 boat and saying where you been and they say well, I was
37 up such and such a river, but we got up there and we
38 saw a muskox on top of the hill and we just gave up,
39 turned around and came back, there's no sense hunting
40 up there for caribou.

41

42 Muskox is okay to eat, you know, it
43 tastes like goat. It doesn't carry a lot of fat on it
44 or even on its bones its -- it takes almost as much
45 energy to digest it as you get out of it. So it's a
46 survival food, it's similar to eating porcupine.

47

48 In that instance when you -- it's
49 difficult to get it in the summer, they tend to stay
50 far away from the waterways, they don't act -- they

1 don't go to mosquito relief areas like the beaches and
2 stuff like that, they just tolerate the bugs far inland
3 during the summer. And so they're fairly difficult,
4 it's a lot of physical effort to bring one home during
5 the summertime. Now if you happen -- but they're
6 convenient and fairly easy to get during the winter by
7 snowmachine. They don't -- like you said they just
8 kind of stand their ground, you just go right up to
9 them and they're easy to harvest and I can see how the
10 introduction of firearms in the late 1800s could have
11 quickly led to the demise of a population -- the
12 State's population because they're an easy animal to
13 take. However taking an animal -- a muskox in the
14 winter is the first of an arduous process. Anybody who
15 has tried to pluck a muskox in the winter will testify
16 that it's a -- unless the weather is fairly warm it's
17 almost impossible to do unless you have a couple dozen
18 knives, sharp knives standing on hand because the fur
19 will quickly ball up in the blood on the blade of your
20 knife and it will be -- the blade will become unusable
21 before you've managed to cut 18 inches of skin, of
22 hide. The fur, the wool and the blood will make --
23 will render a knife unusable in a minute. So it's very
24 difficult to take a muskox home unless you take the
25 entire carcass home and put it in a warm area where you
26 can work on it. And they're heavy, boy they're big
27 animals.

28
29 Now there is some subject of discussion
30 about the commercial viability of muskox. The wool
31 right now selling on the open market is more valuable
32 than alpaca. It's garnering prices in excess of \$300 a
33 pound for producing garments. Commercial muskox is
34 something that is being done in the State of Alaska and
35 there's some concept that there may be economic
36 opportunity there to raising muskox in this environment
37 because they seem to succeed quite well. However I
38 think in -- you know, through public comment process
39 the -- there would be a loud voice of objection by
40 locals here because of the conflict that muskox endures
41 with caribou. They simply -- there's an appearance
42 that the two animals will not coexist. And because
43 caribou is more of a primary subsistence resource than
44 muskox is muskox will always be secondary in
45 importance. So those are some of the comments.

46
47 This last winter three people in
48 Wainwright harvested muskox in the Colville River
49 drainage about a hundred miles south of Wainwright. I
50 think it was in March or so and they were busted for

1 it, they're -- and were cited for wanton waste. I know
2 those three, I didn't know -- didn't hear about it
3 until after it hit the papers, you know, the
4 announcement that the State troopers had issued
5 citations on them, about what had happened. But I
6 could tell immediately what they -- what they probably
7 encountered, they said ah, let's take some muskox home
8 while we're here and as soon as they got there and they
9 realized how difficult they are to cut up in
10 subfreezing temperatures they probably just abandoned
11 their efforts and then got busted for it. Young kids,
12 they probably just didn't know better, but they paid
13 the price.

14
15 So I often thought that, yeah, you
16 know, I look at Kaktovik, you know, how they have a
17 community moose harvest, a one animal per year limit
18 and perhaps something like that would be beneficial for
19 each community to have in unit 26A. Something so that
20 an opportunity -- you know, muskox do present an
21 opportunity rarely, but they do and maybe an
22 opportunity to somebody who wants to experience muskox,
23 to keep the learning and the customary and traditional
24 use knowledge flowing forward, I think it's important
25 that communities in 26A have an opportunity to perhaps
26 harvest one animal per year as a community harvest.
27 And I'd be willing to sponsor such a proposal after
28 discussing it more with my constituents.

29
30 MR. KLIMSTRA: I like that idea, Bob.
31 Yeah, it's very good. And thanks for all your
32 comments.

33
34 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair.

35
36 MR. SHEARS: Go ahead, Steve.

37
38 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair and Council

39
40 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Hold on, Lee,
41 I got Steve on the floor.

42
43 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay.

44
45 MR. OOMITUK: So for the record, Steve
46 Oomituk. I just had one question. So muskox permits
47 are only open to local people in their regions?

48
49 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah, so the tier two
50 permits in 23, you got -- yeah, you got to be -- well,

1 the way the tier two system works is, you know, the
2 longer you've lived in that area and the longer you
3 would have used that resource the more likely you are
4 to get the permit. And so I don't think any of those
5 tier two permits the State gives out in -- out of
6 Kotzebue go to anyone other than people living in
7 Kotzebue for -- or, you know, that area. That
8 sometimes it might be a village around Kotzebue or
9 something like that, whoever may apply for it.

10

11 And as far as -- Hillary, if you're
12 still on, is that pretty much the same way the Federal
13 permits are, I think it's just anyone that applies like
14 -- can you speak to that, Hillary?

15

16 MS. ROBINSON: Yeah, I can. Thanks,
17 Ryan. Good to hear you on the line.

18

19 The two hunts that we have under --
20 they're hunts on Federal land. The one in Cape
21 Krusenstern National Monument is open to residents of
22 the NANA region except residents of Buckland and
23 Deering because they're eligible for another hunt.
24 Point Hope residents are not eligible for this hunt
25 that happens in Cape Krusenstern National Monument.
26 The other hunt we have is Federal lands north and west
27 of the Kobuk River drainage. And eligible applicants
28 for that are residents of GMU 23 except residents of
29 Buckland and Deering again because they are eligible
30 for a different hunt.

31

32 MR. OOMITUK: All right. Thank you.

33

34 MS. ROBINSON: Yeah, you're welcome.

35

36 MR. SHEARS: Thank you, Hillary.

37

38 Lee, go ahead.

39

40 MR. KAYOTUK: The other question, I
41 know we see a high number of 20, 30 in 26C unit, is it
42 possible to open up a unit in 26C if there's a high
43 number of muskox in the area. I don't know what's a
44 population to harvest any muskox or let that population
45 increase or decrease. They say -- like they say lower,
46 how low is low and how high is high in order to. And
47 in order to try and get open 26C, open for a muskox
48 hunt in our area, if it's even possible.

49

50 MR. SHEARS: Hi, Lee, we got Vince to

1 the floor to address your question.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Good afternoon, Lee.
4 Hopefully you can hear me, if not then please speak up.
5 But basically as you know in the past the muskoxen for
6 26C have been mainly spending time in Canada, they have
7 not come over. I don't know if there's a political
8 reason there, but basically there was no survey
9 conducted in the Refuge in 2016. A small group of
10 approximately 18 to 20 were observed along the lower
11 Kongakut River in the summer of 2015. And a group of
12 six including one radio collared muskoxen was seen by
13 Canadian biologists just west of the international
14 border during March of 2016. So basically they're not
15 here, if they're not here in a number high enough then
16 we cannot issue permits. So and I'm the person that
17 issues those permits. So anyway that's the latest on
18 it. They're just hanging out in Canada. That's all
19 the information I have. If we want more in depth
20 biology on it then I'll carry that back and see what is
21 around as far as the population levels in Canada.

22

23 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay. Thank you. And
24 can you get an estimate too in the 26B, just west of
25 the Canning River to the (indiscernible) River and now
26 it would be nice to open up a hunt for us, right, but,
27 you know, that would happen for like maybe 10 years
28 now.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Well if I remember
31 correctly and you're kind of broke up over the phone,
32 there has to be a certain number of muskoxen present in
33 the Refuge and then there's a percentage of that and
34 I'm struggling right now what that percentage is, but
35 we're not there yet. And then that determines how many
36 permits would be issued. Off the top of my head I
37 think it's 3 percent of a certain number. And so right
38 now they're not present and again I don't have any
39 information of the -- since muskoxen don't recognize
40 political boundaries I don't have data in front me on
41 the population in general from Canada.

42

43 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay. Thank you very
44 much.

45

46 MR. SHEARS: Hello, Lee. Yeah, this is
47 Bob and reiterating on page 131 of the Federal
48 regulation for harvest of wildlife it deals with
49 muskox, it says unit 26C, one bull by Federal
50 registration permit only. The number of permits that

1 may be issued by the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
2 manage to the residents of Kaktovik will not exceed 3
3 percent of the number of muskoxen counted in unit 26C
4 during the pre-calving census. So it cannot exceed 3
5 percent and 3 percent of 60 animals is one, right?
6 Less than one, yeah. So, you know, so long as the --
7 as a value of 3 percent times the number of muskox
8 counted is less than one they can't open a -- they
9 can't issue a permit for Kaktovik I understand.

10

11 MR. KAYOTUK: Yeah, that's right. You
12 know, like if it's a percentage on our side and, you
13 know, it would be nice if they could meet in between
14 to, you know, try to open up the season again. But,
15 you know, until the percentage come back up just enough
16 to at least say, hey, let's get a muskox for the
17 village, but, you know, it's under our regulations that
18 we have to go by.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MR. SHEARS: So leading -- building on
23 the topic of population, I understand in ANWR the
24 muskox population took a severe dive because of grizzly
25 bear predation; is that correct?

26

27 MR. KAYOTUK: Yeah, we had quite a bit
28 of -- you know, we had over 17 bears last spring and
29 there might have been a muskox in the -- on the -- in
30 the area, but there could have been more than one, but
31 other than that, you know, they're moving around, but
32 so is the wolves, you know. We got a wolf that was
33 hanging around the dump here like a couple days ago and
34 no one tracked it down yet, but, you know, it's a --
35 plus we have like -- last week we had seen -- somebody
36 had seen four wolves chasing caribou and so, you know,
37 that's kind of a -- kind of moves around the caribou
38 and the moose and the muskox in that area that, you
39 know, that's predators out there already, you know,
40 trying to get -- trying to get the -- they have hunger
41 too, I guess, but anyway.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MR. SHEARS: Hey, I'm going to address
46 the same question to Vince and Ryan. If they're -- if
47 they can comment on the subject of the grizzly bear
48 predation of muskox, should it be a factor that's co-
49 considered with human consumption.

50

1 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah, hi, Lee, this is
2 Ryan. Yeah, grizzly bears are probably one of the best
3 predators of muskox and there's a lot of bears on the
4 Slope as you know and there was an effort at one time
5 to maybe get rid of a few of those bears and that's no
6 longer going on, you know, but at that particular time
7 when they were doing that those bears, a few of them
8 had learned, you know, the defense -- you know, how to
9 penetrate the defense of the muskox. And how to really
10 shake them up and then get in there and kill a calf or
11 two at a time. And it seems that a few other bears
12 learned from that one or something, but anyways they
13 were really good and really efficient at killing muskox
14 for a while and it's believed that they still kill
15 quite a few muskox, I'd probably say it's the number 1
16 predator of muskox right now.

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: And again I'm not a
19 trained biologist (indiscernible - simultaneous
20 speech).....

21
22 MR. KAYOTUK: (Indiscernible -
23 simultaneous speech).....

24
25 MR. SHEARS: Hold on, Lee.

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Real quickly, you know,
28 that's what I've heard from public meetings. Again I'm
29 -- joking at Eastern Interior I named myself the rusty
30 leatherman in the bottom of the boat because I've got
31 to pick up all these topics at different times, but
32 based on discussions at North Slope meetings at
33 elsewhere bears were one of the main factors as well as
34 other factors that are not well known. So, yes, that
35 would be the same. Why they do not move over or
36 whatever, I don't know if there's been any
37 understanding of their movements or lack of movements.

38
39 MR. SHEARS: Go ahead, Lee.

40
41 MR. KAYOTUK: Yeah, I know in the high
42 area country, you know, when we're hunting sheep in the
43 area last -- you know, I mean, in -- during the summer
44 and that when they did do a count, you know, it seemed
45 like at least 20 grizzly bears in the high 5,000 range,
46 you know, hunting sheep too. So but, you know, we
47 didn't see any grizzly bears until pretty much end of
48 August or like I want to say August 29th or 30th,
49 that's when we found at least a couple of grizzly bears
50 here in our area of Kaktovik, but other than that it

1 was until just before freeze up they were just -- I
2 only saw a couple, but, you know, animals -- the
3 grizzly bears are chasing other like caribou and that
4 too are around too so other than that, you know, it's a
5 high number of grizzly bears that's -- you know, that
6 be running around in these areas to try to find food
7 anyway.

8

9 MR. SHEARS: Very good, Lee. Yeah,
10 hopefully you do have a low population and that would
11 suggest that U.S. Fish and Wildlife will get a -- you
12 know, when they do get a chance to get a established
13 count on the herd over in your area that you may see
14 higher numbers than projected.

15

16 Now when is next count scheduled for,
17 do you know, Vince?

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: No, I don't know. I just
20 know that the supervisory biologist was hoping to be
21 online today and he's conducting a survey, but I'm not
22 privileged to what that survey's for.

23

24 MR. SHEARS: Okay. Steve.

25

26 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I know
27 you asked, you know, what was the past population of
28 muskox, you know, before they were extinct and, you
29 know, knowing that in Thompson and Lisburne area where
30 there's over 500 now, you know, is that an
31 overpopulated, is there a number -- I see Geoff Carroll
32 is here, I don't know if he can answer any of those.

33

34 MR. SHEARS: Yeah, Steve, Geoff is
35 retired now. I would welcome Geoff up here if he wants
36 to talk about it though. He (indiscernible) we went to
37 one of his favorites. I don't know for old time sake
38 if he wants to come up he's welcome.

39

40 But you talk about like overpopulation
41 with that 500, that -- we don't consider that to be
42 overpopulated in that area. You know, whether or not
43 -- you know, then you get into talking about well,
44 could that support a hunt. Well, yeah, it could
45 probably support a very small hunt, you know, or at
46 least in the 26A, but that 500, they're already hunting
47 parts of that population, right, out of the Kotzebue
48 area. So but not many because it's not -- there's --
49 you know, muskox are also -- their lifestyle is -- you
50 know, they don't reproduce every year like a caribou

1 necessarily and -- they can, but that's not very often
2 that they do that. And so they -- you know, they're
3 much longer lived animals in a sense as far as
4 reproduction and so they're not just exploding across
5 the landscape, they don't have like huge booms and --
6 like caribou can. They tend -- their population tends
7 to grow pretty slowly. And, you know, as you can see
8 since the '70s, you know, it grew at 8 percent which
9 was pretty darn high for muskox and then it's plateaued
10 for the last six years. So we really haven't put on a
11 lot of muskox on the landscape in the past six years
12 and so we don't really think it's, you know, a matter
13 of anything's overpopulated, it's just they've kind of
14 plateaued out and we're not really sure why that is,
15 but we don't think it's an overpopulation issue. It
16 seems to be related to predators a lot and also weather
17 events just like with caribou.

18

19 Go ahead, Steve.

20

21 MR. OOMITUK: I also was wondering do
22 you know the population that are in captivity in the
23 State of Alaska?

24

25 MR. KLIMSTRA: That's another excellent
26 question. I don't know that. Are you talking about
27 like down in -- down south of Anchorage, yeah, or
28 Palmer? You know, I don't know how many they have
29 there and I'm not quite sure what their whole program
30 is about there, but, yeah, that's interesting, I could
31 look into though.

32

33 Does anybody else have an idea how many
34 they have in Palmer?

35

36 MR. SHEARS: No, idea. But, yeah, I'm
37 very interested personally in the economic and
38 commercial viability of muskox, you know, as a future
39 opportunity.

40

41 If there's no further questions for
42 Ryan, thank you very much, Ryan, for that presentation,
43 it was informative. We appreciate it.

44

45 MR. KLIMSTRA: Thanks, Mr. Chair and
46 Council.

47

48 MR. SHEARS: Next subject on the agenda
49 under agency reports, we would like to get an update on
50 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

1 MR. MATHEWS: I may have to go back to
2 my chair to get the rest, but I think I'll take a
3 moment for Steve because Steve doesn't really know me
4 and you asked another Staff person their history so
5 I'll try to make this as brief as I can, but when you
6 get older it gets longer.

7
8 Basically I grew up in the midwest,
9 family of five, raised by my mother because my dad died
10 when I was young. And I obtained a forestry degree in
11 Southern Illinois, worked for 10 years as a park
12 naturalist at a large urban nature preserve that turned
13 into a park. And then I decided to head to Alaska to
14 recharge my batteries and pick up a master's degree.
15 Some of you already know this, I've been staring a lot
16 over there at the pictures for Anaktuvuk Pass, that's
17 where I started my career in this whole subsistence
18 world and that's when I started to learn, appreciate
19 and maybe understand a little bit about subsistence.
20 So during the time going to school I was a seasonal
21 park ranger for Alaska Public Lands Information Center
22 so indirectly I worked for all the agencies that deal
23 with resource management. My big change in career was
24 I became a natural resource permitting officer for the
25 ExxonValdez oil spill. And sidenote, I also worked on
26 the Gulf of Mexico oil spill so I don't want any more
27 oil spills. Let's see, from there I took off and have
28 connections with others in the room. I did work for
29 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, I was a
30 subsistence specialist in southeast Alaska, was thrown
31 in the middle of a controversial topic on sea
32 cucumbers. So if you want to know a hot topic go to
33 southeast and talk about sea cucumbers or seaweed and
34 you'll find out very quickly. Then I moved into
35 another position with Fish and Game as a regional
36 coordinator for 14 Advisory Committees in the interior
37 and then was laid off due to budgets and et cetera and
38 picked up by Office of Subsistence Management and
39 served in different positions there, but the main one,
40 I was regional coordinator for Eastern and Western
41 Interior. For those that don't know the boundaries of
42 that, that's Holy Cross to the Canadian border and
43 everything between the two mountain ranges and a little
44 bit more. From there I took on the current position
45 which is refuge subsistence coordinator for Arctic,
46 Kanuti and Yukon Flats. So if you remember I grew up
47 in the midwest, I grew up in a large city and now I am
48 assisting managing over 32 million acres. So it --
49 days it's really mind-boggling. As far as other
50 experience with Fish and Wildlife Service, I've been

1 acting deputy refuge manager for Yukon Delta and Kanuti
2 Refuges. I was also the visitors' services manager for
3 Alaska Peninsula, Becharof National Wildlife Refuge
4 complex and then recently I was acting refuge manager
5 for Yukon Delta.

6

7 What are my connections to this
8 Council. Obviously I'm regional coordinator, but my
9 connections go back to Anaktuvuk Pass. So that gives
10 you really a quick background of where I came from so
11 you guys get an idea. I do appreciate when you ask
12 questions like that. I'm just starting to learn a
13 little bit more about Alaska in 1985 and that's some
14 topic you may want to talk about because it's currently
15 being talked about this week is retention and
16 recruitment of Staff. And that's directly related to
17 that. Also I'm connected to your Council, I serve on
18 Nomination Panels. You guys need a lot of
19 applications, I think Eva will be pushing a little
20 harder on that, but, yes, when have as many seats open
21 as you have and you have very few applicants it makes
22 it difficult. I don't always serve on your panel
23 because I can swap over, I've done Yukon Delta or Yukon
24 Kuskokwim Delta, excuse me, and then I also do Eastern
25 Interior and in various times do Western Interior for
26 their Nomination Panels.

27

28 So that gives you an overview of where
29 I came from so hopefully this computer won't turn off
30 on me because then we'll get into the overview of the
31 Refuge, it's on page 124 in your book. And I will also
32 cover the question that was asked about the 26C
33 remainder, 26B moose season.

34

35 But anyway if you start off on page 124
36 I'll go through that kind of quickly because you have
37 it in front of you and there's copies that's been
38 handed out for the rest. Some of those have been
39 discussing during this meeting about the Porcupine
40 caribou herd. I just want to point out what you
41 probably know already, but just in case you're not --
42 you know, not fully up to speed, management of that
43 herd. Again it's another one that doesn't recognize a
44 political boundary so it's managed by two Federal
45 governments, three State and Territorial governments,
46 eight Native land claims agreements, five National
47 Parks, Preserves or Refuges, one Territorial Park and
48 two special management areas. And then local residents
49 of several small communities in Alaska and Canada. The
50 communities in Alaska looking from the south to the

1 north would be Fort Yukon, Venetie, Arctic Village and
2 then of course Kaktovik. Management is coordinated by
3 the International Porcupine Caribou Herd Board and
4 Gilbert back there is working with that Board so if you
5 have more questions on the makeup of the Board or how
6 that all works, he'd be good to talk about, plus you
7 have a listing of the representatives and that. And
8 they will be meeting in Fairbanks in 2017 -- no, this
9 year, excuse me, I'm thinking of another meeting. They
10 will be meeting in Fairbanks one day and then in Arctic
11 Village. So I think that's very wise for them to get
12 out actually to the communities that directly depend on
13 this herd. Basically you can look at some of the
14 examples of work being done through this Board and you
15 can look at capture and recollar -- radio collaring
16 caribou which is done by the Yukon Territorial
17 Government with assistance from Fish and Wildlife
18 Service and Alaska Department of Game. You can go
19 through the rest, but basically there's a lot of work
20 being done on that particular herd.

21

22 What I take away from public meetings
23 is on the bottom of that page is that the Porcupine
24 herd has been increasing for several years, the 2010
25 census estimated the herd size at approximately 169,000
26 and the 2013 found 197,000 which is the highest
27 population yet recorded for this herd. So it is one of
28 the herds that is increasing and there's biologists
29 here that may be able to shed some light on why they're
30 increasing and others don't. But what I've learned
31 about caribou is they do what they do. There will be a
32 photo census in early July. There was one conducted in
33 early July, 2016, but -- they were prepared for, but
34 the caribou never concentrated enough for a good
35 census. So another attempt will be made next year.

36

37 You can see the rest, but that herd is
38 extremely important to the villages I already
39 mentioned. And then of course I'm not ignoring the
40 communities and First Nations in Canada that also
41 depend on that herd.

42

43 You'll see on the page -- my page 4, I
44 don't know what page it is for you, but there's a map
45 that is showing you where they calve and where they
46 migrate from. Again they do not recognize the
47 political boundary between Canada and U.S. and that
48 makes it interesting for populations. We've already
49 talked muskox and out of your area is the Fortymile
50 caribou herd and of course this herd also are

1 international.

2

3

4 I'll leave the rest there for you to
5 read on your own. Let me see here. The long term
6 changes in caribou distribution, abundance and Alaskan
7 Arctic. This is kind of interesting. Sorry I kind of
8 lost my train of thought. This is where this
9 collection of different antlers and materials on the
10 ground and that's looking at relative abundance of
11 Arctic caribou during the past plus 800 years. And I
12 think that's going to provide some insight. My
13 personal belief also is that we'd hopefully be coupled
14 with traditional ecological knowledge, stories, songs,
15 et cetera, to see what were the populations back 800
16 years ago or longer. The way this is being done is Dr.
17 Miller of University of Cincinnati has developed
18 protocols for determining the age of these samples and
19 then based on predictable patterns of weathering,
20 accumulation of lichens, mosses, and other materials,
21 he's able to calibrate their age. So you can see there
22 that 170 samples have recently been collected and then
23 Dr. Miller will use this information to investigate how
24 long term changes in climate patterns might influence
25 distribution of large Arctic caribou herds. Again
26 dovetails into your whole discussion about climate
27 change and things you've been talking about throughout
28 this meeting and past meetings.

29

30 Well, we'll save the moose one when we
31 get off of the summary, but you can see the information
32 there, but basically it's the same thing, maybe I
33 should take it up now. The -- Lee requested through
34 Eva and others for an update on what it would take to
35 have a moose hunt under that 26C remainder, 26B. And
36 basically the recent survey done in April of 2016 and I
37 have maps here and I apologize, Lee, I don't think you
38 -- you won't be able to see the maps, but we can ship
39 them out to you. I'll hold onto one in case there's
40 questions. But it shows the recent April, '16 survey.
41 The blue dots shows where they saw moose and they also
42 kind of indicate the number of moose that was surveyed.
43 They are quite a distance away from the community of
44 Kaktovik and those Federal lands are closed except for
45 that permitted hunt for hunters out of Kaktovik. So
46 basically they observed 42 moose within the entire
47 survey area. And I'm not sure, I haven't had a chance
48 to talk to Steven, if this map represents the whole
49 survey area, but I think you can kind of draw a
50 conclusion that it covers the majority of it if not
51 more, the map does. But within the area they surveyed

1 they counted 42 moose including nine short yearlings,
2 two of which were a set of twins. Most of the moose
3 observed are in the upper tributaries of the Kongakut
4 River drainage and then last year they counted a total
5 of 36 moose in the survey area, five of which were
6 short yearlings. So basically based on Steven Arthur
7 who hopefully will be able to attend one of your
8 meetings, he's the recently hired supervisory biologist
9 for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, but this survey
10 suggests that the calf or short yearling survival is
11 relatively low in this system, but it was higher during
12 the past two years than the 2014 when no young of the
13 year were observed.

14
15 So based on this and based on the new
16 regulations which I'll point out in the reg book, the
17 Refuge manager has delegated the authority to open up
18 the season and determine the harvestable quota. Right
19 now the -- with the population so low and distant from
20 the community of Kaktovik it will remain closed.

21
22 So basically you can see, hopefully I
23 grabbed the right book here. Yes, I did. On page 131,
24 you don't have to find it, but in there you'll see
25 something that I think someone else has pointed out,
26 but anything yellow text was recently adopted by the
27 Board. So for 26B remainder and 26C it changed to may
28 be announced and that there's a delegation of authority
29 letter by the Board and that's on the last page of your
30 book, just to give you an idea of how this book works.
31 And so right now the Refuge manager, Brian Glaspell,
32 would be the one based on biological data and other
33 factors would determine if the season should be opened
34 and then how many moose would be harvested.

35
36 So these are things that are out there.
37 I think at some point Refuge Staff will probably be
38 talking with Kaktovik, looking at long range of what --
39 the same questions that Ryan had here, how do you see
40 this moose population, how do you see this moose
41 population in the future. So those are possible future
42 discussions.

43
44 So I'll stop there to see if Lee has
45 any questions because he did request there be a report.
46 Both Brian Glaspell, the Refuge manager, and Steven
47 Arthur, the supervisory biologist wanted to be online,
48 but like I said Steven's out doing a survey, Brian's
49 part of a Statewide work force planning meeting in
50 Anchorage so he could not be present. So I'll stop and

1 see if Lee or others have any questions on the overview
2 of the moose hunt in 26C remainder, 26B.

3

4 MR. KAYOTUK: Yeah, good afternoon.
5 It's Lee Kayotuk for the record in Barter Island. I
6 see it says here, you know, 50 percent or more is going
7 to be open season, but below that I see that like 42
8 are, you know, that's not recommended for open season.
9 But, you know, the short and long of, you know, it would
10 be nice to hear from the higher up to see if we could
11 do an emergency hunt just to hopefully, you know, on
12 behalf of, you know, caribou population's been so low
13 and other than that, you know, what it take to open up
14 a season just for like emergency hunt in our area, but
15 I believe that might take some -- a little bit to do.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Lee, I'll carry that
20 forward to the office, but as you know you're -- you
21 have a direct line to give Brian and Steven a call
22 throughout this, you know, and in the near future here
23 and openly discuss this. But right now biologically
24 and that it's not justifiable to open up the season,
25 but you could discuss parameters of that with him. And
26 he -- I know he would want to be online right now,
27 but.....

28

29 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS:he -- he's at the
32 front desk like you are at a large meeting.

33

34 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay. Thank you very
35 much anyway.

36

37 MR. SHEARS: Eva.

38

39 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, Council and
40 Lee. Yeah, I had spoke with Brian prior to the meeting
41 and relayed, you know, your interest in the discussion
42 and the interest of the community and he had tried to
43 be here to be available online and also had hoped maybe
44 the biologist would be able to further have a
45 discussion on the status of that moose herd. But Brian
46 is very open. We have -- the North Slope Council has a
47 direct line of communications with this delegation of
48 authority letter. It essentially grants the authority
49 to the Refuge manager to make decisions on whether to
50 open a hunt or close a hunt or any actions regarding

1 the management of moose in the Refuge rather than going
2 through a full regulatory process. And this was a
3 proposal that was submitted by the Refuge and was
4 supported by the North Slope Council to provide that
5 flexibility. One of the provisions of the delegation
6 of authority letter is that the communications will
7 still continue with the community and outreach and
8 public meetings on any change in management action.
9 And then the Council has a direct connection too so any
10 decisions that are made or, you know, information the
11 Chair is notified and the Council will be kept in the
12 loop. But most importantly the community of Kaktovik
13 has a direct connection to the manager and I know they
14 have an MOU in place with communications with the Tribe
15 in Kaktovik. And Brian is very open to, you know,
16 giving him a call and I'm sure he'd be more than happy
17 to respond to your request. And if the community
18 wanted to, you know, set up some dialogue with them.
19 So we also on behalf of the Council will relay that
20 message as will Vince and be able to follow-up when
21 Brian has an opportunity there.

22

23 Thank you, Lee.

24

25 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you.

26

27 MR. SHEARS: Lee, you copy that from
28 Eva?

29

30 MR. KAYOTUK: Yep, thank you very much.

31 Yep.

32

33 MR. SHEARS: Lee, I have a question for
34 you. In your statement requesting Brian Glaspell to
35 make special consideration to consider a moose harvest
36 for Kaktovik, you mentioned something that perked my
37 ears. Your justification statement indicated that the
38 community has suffered because of low caribou
39 populations available for subsistence this year. Is --
40 can you explain that further to help Eva transmit that
41 data on to Park Service?

42

43 MR. KAYOTUK: Yes, Lee Kayotuk for the
44 record, Kaktovik. Yeah, we find that, you know, the
45 caribou population that do come around here didn't
46 really come around here this summer. It's
47 (indiscernible) and right now, you know, we got like
48 30, 40 caribou west of -- east of Kaktovik, but, you
49 know, other than that there's, you know, if we overdo
50 that population or, you know, it will eventually all

1 travel away and no means of caribou to hang around to
2 August. But, you know, other than, you know, emergency
3 hunt on the moose would be, you know, at least one or
4 two, but, you know, most likely be one, but, you know,
5 it would be like to go out to a potluck or something
6 that, you know, that if they do open up an emergency
7 hunt it would be like one only I believe and, you know,
8 that would be towards like a potluck through at least
9 thankful for something like that. But, you know, it
10 has to go through a public process in order to do this,
11 but that's what I had for Kaktovik at this time.

12

13 MR. SHEARS: Okay. Thank you.

14

15 Anything further from the Council?

16

17 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair.

18

19 MR. SHEARS: Go ahead, Steve.

20

21 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, you showed that the
22 population of the Porcupine herd has increased at
23 169,000. Do you guys monitor their migration and how
24 high up north did the -- the highest numbers, do they
25 stay kind of low or, you know, at Barter Island, you
26 know, why aren't they getting the caribou in their area
27 when the population is so high. And, you know, is this
28 area open to sportshunting over there, you know, the
29 Canadian side also. I don't know about the -- you
30 know, you see the -- I know that's the boundary line of
31 Alaska and Canada and where Porcupine herd goes through
32 right there. Is there sporthunting in the Canadian
33 side area that.....

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: There may be others in
36 the room that know more, but I know that there is a
37 harvest of the Porcupine caribou herd in Canada. How
38 they break it out between First Nations and their other
39 classifications is where I'm drawing a blank. But
40 First Nations has an extensive Harvest Monitoring
41 Program and we're hoping to establish one maybe like
42 that or similar to it with the villages in Alaska
43 because Canada would like a stronger or more, you know,
44 confidence in the harvest data.

45

46 Back to your other question on the
47 movement and that, they have -- you can see that
48 there's different collaring activities, there's
49 different surveys that are done on this herd between
50 all the different agencies. So it is being monitored

1 on that. As far as the reasons why it's not closer to
2 Kaktovik or that this year if I remember correctly it
3 was close -- like it was close to Arctic Village in the
4 past. But again caribou move where they go so it's
5 possible others have other data on it, but it is a herd
6 that is watched and it is doing well, but it's just not
7 always in the areas possibly where they were in the
8 past.

9

10 MR. SHEARS: Go ahead, Gilbert.

11

12 MR. CASTEILANOS: Thank you, Chair. I
13 just wanted to add a little bit of what I know based on
14 the work of the International Porcupine Caribou Board
15 which many may know -- sorry, for the record Gilbert
16 Casteilanos, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

17

18 And the take in Canada is much more
19 substantial as my colleague, Vince, mentioned. We've
20 got essentially three or four communities, Fort Yukon
21 is usually pretty far out of reach for them, the herd,
22 Kaktovik, you see during the summertime they tend to
23 have some access, in winter it's unpredictable. I was
24 just talking to Eddie Frank down in Venetie and he was
25 saying that they're pretty close to the village now.
26 But the total combined take in the U.S. and forgive me,
27 I won't quote any numbers, but when you compare that to
28 the Canadian side it's much, much less. The take on
29 the Canadian side is quite substantial and so is their
30 management. And they've actually got a group call the
31 Porcupine Caribou Management Board, the PCMB, and often
32 those two groups will get -- they'll be some confusion
33 between the International Porcupine Caribou Board and
34 the Porcupine Caribou Management Board. The
35 International Board is -- includes four representatives
36 from the United States and four representatives from
37 Canada and they meet once a year in person and they
38 discuss what kinds of recommendations might be made to
39 the managing agencies on both sides.

40

41 For the United States the
42 representatives include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
43 Service, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and two
44 Native village representatives. I mentioned Eddie
45 Frank from Venetie is currently one of the village
46 representatives and Edward Rexford of Kaktovik is
47 another representative. On the Canadian side it is a
48 little bit different. What they do is they have the
49 Canadian Wildlife Service, the Yukon government, the
50 Northwest Territorial government and then they have a

1 single representative who speaks on behalf of the
2 Porcupine Caribou Management Board which actually has
3 sort of the interagency or even multi-agency, multi-
4 departmental management responsibilities for take and
5 other kinds of regulations of Porcupine caribou herd
6 harvest on the Canadian side. So the numbers are much,
7 much more significant of what they take, but they're
8 also much more closely monitored and also managed. So
9 they do a pretty -- they have actually a Harvest
10 Management Plan in place in place that the Porcupine
11 Caribou Management Board was instrumental in developing
12 and that includes a number of different things
13 including harvest surveys and they have been pushing us
14 on the U.S. side to try to do something similar, to go
15 out and do community harvest surveys and get a better
16 sense of how many are being taken. We've had a
17 difficult time justifying that kind of expense, but we
18 have invited the representatives of the Porcupine
19 Caribou Management Board at some point to come over to
20 the U.S. side and talk to our friends in the Arctic
21 Village and Venetie, other communities that rely on the
22 Porcupine Caribou Management Board to different degrees
23 and talk to them about how they do harvest management
24 planning on the Canadian side.

25
26 So I hope that that helps provide some
27 sort of perspective on how hunting and other kinds of
28 management and monitoring activities related to
29 Porcupine Caribou Board differ in the U.S. and in
30 Canada.

31
32 MS. LENART: Mr. Chair, this is Beth
33 Lenart from Fish and Game in Fairbanks and I have some
34 information on the Porcupine caribou herd.

35
36 MR. SHEARS: Go ahead, Beth.

37
38 MS. LENART: Yes, good afternoon,
39 everyone. First of all I'd like to agree with Lee --
40 Mr. Lee Kayotuk, I think his observations match what we
41 thought we saw with the radio collared caribou this
42 year in that most of that Porcupine caribou herd was in
43 Alaska during parts of calving and mostly post-calving,
44 but they stayed -- they were inland so they were closer
45 to the foothills and during the end of June almost all
46 200,000 of those caribou are over by the Sadlerochit
47 Mountains and by the 4th of July weekend they started
48 to go over the Brooks Range to the south side of the
49 mountains. And they went towards Arctic Village and
50 then from there they went a little bit west of Arctic

1 Village for a month or two and then they started to
2 head back across the Brooks Range, east towards Canada,
3 and now a large proportion of the herd is in Canada.
4 So all observations with the radio collared caribou
5 match what Mr. Kayotuk also observed this summer. And
6 so those caribou were probably not very accessible to
7 residents of Kaktovik.

8

9 And then as far as what I'm familiar
10 with for harvest, we estimate the take in Alaska to be
11 about 500 caribou and they include what we think is
12 taken by residents of Kaktovik when caribou are
13 accessible. And, you know, certainly in some years
14 they're not very accessible and then also by Arctic
15 Village residents, Venetie, Fort Yukon, Chalkyitsik,
16 when caribou stay on the south side of the Brooks Range
17 they're available most of the winter. Some years they
18 winter in Alaska, some years they winter in Canada.
19 Right now they're -- most of them winter in Canada.
20 When they do winter in Canada harvest is only higher if
21 they winter by the road. And so one year they did
22 that, but several years they haven't done that. So,
23 you know, harvest might be higher in Canada, right now
24 that herd is at such a number that the harvest rates
25 are very low.

26

27 Any questions?

28

29 MR. SHEARS: Thank you, Beth.

30

31 MR. KAYOTUK: I have a question. This
32 is Lee.

33

34 MR. SHEARS: Go ahead, Lee.

35

36 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay. I have a question,
37 when do you think the Porcupine Management Board will
38 meet again, is that this year or anytime between now
39 and 2017?

40

41 MR. SHEARS: I'm going to give your
42 question to Gilbert.

43

44 MR. CASTEILANOS: Thank you, Chair.
45 Yeah, we -- the plan is for the International Porcupine
46 Caribou Management Board to meet November 30th and
47 December 1st. November 30th in Fairbanks and December
48 1st in Arctic Village.

49

50 The other thing that I will mention as

1 this might be a good opportunity and of interest to you
2 in particular, Lee, and maybe others in the room and on
3 the phone, the United States is going to in the near
4 future begin a process of seeking nominations for the
5 community representatives on the International
6 Porcupine Caribou Board so we will open up the two
7 positions, the positions that are currently held in an
8 acting capacity by Edward Frank and Edward Rexford. So
9 please stay tuned, we're in the process internally of
10 discussing how we're going to do the outreach and how
11 to move that process forward, but that's something that
12 we intend to do in the near future. The -- I'll just
13 mention that terms are typically three years long and
14 that Edward Rexford and Eddie Frank have been on for
15 much longer than that because the Board was
16 reconstituted after a hiatus and so we thought there
17 was an interest in maintaining some continuity and
18 reestablishing the Board -- the Board's work before we
19 wanted to go out for a whole new process. But I did
20 just want to mention that as an opportunity coming up
21 and more likely than not we would be seeking
22 nominations of those villages that directly rely on the
23 Porcupine caribou herd for subsistence activities.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay. That would be good
28 to know because, you know, we get the Porcupine herd
29 every spring, you know, and being as a representative,
30 you know, they could have if it's possible to select an
31 alternate just in case a representative is out of town
32 on another meeting that, you know, that -- but other
33 than that is which would be really important to sit on
34 the same Board as them to be advised that, you know,
35 caribou -- Porcupine caribou herd is -- comes in two
36 different -- like to, you know, Canada and Alaska which
37 is shared and which will always be shared, but, you
38 know, at least we could have a direction of information
39 that, you know, that this provided or can be provided
40 through the Village of Kaktovik anyway.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MR. SHEARS: Thank you, Lee. Beth, do
45 you copy that comment?

46

47 MS. LENART: I do. Thank you.

48

49 MR. SHEARS: All right. Very good.

50 Good suggestion, Lee.

1 Any other Council comments?
2
3 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair.
4
5 MR. SHEARS: Steve.
6
7 MR. OOMITUK: You mentioned that the
8 Porcupine herd is the most monitored herd, is that what
9 I heard earlier or, no, that's -- I just thought I
10 heard something like that. But, you know, how often do
11 you get the Western Arctic caribou herd in that area,
12 collars -- you know, you guys -- you have collars that
13 you monitor the Western Arctic caribou herd, how -- you
14 know, do they -- how far in.....
15
16 MR. SHEARS: Do they intermingle?
17
18 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah. Do they mingle or --
19 you know, I mean, does the -- they probably have
20 different monitors on there and, you know, do they
21 pretty much stay with the Porcupine herd when they
22 interact with each other or do they somehow make it
23 back to the west or, I mean, you know, with -- with all
24 this tracking going on, you know, we have the Western
25 Arctic caribou herd and the Porcupine herd, you know,
26 was.....
27
28 MR. SHEARS: Who do we have on panel
29 who could best answer the question? Mr. Dave Yokel,
30 the floor is your.
31
32 DR. YOKEL: I'm not saying I'm best,
33 Mr. Chair.
34
35 (Laughter)
36
37 DR. YOKEL: Steve, there are four
38 caribou herds on the North Slope and there are two
39 herds in between -- whose calving grounds are in
40 between the calving grounds of the Porcupine herd and
41 the Western Arctic herd. So it would be very rare for
42 an individual from either of those two hers to meet an
43 individual from one of the -- from the other herd. The
44 Western Arctic herd overlaps a lot with the Teshekpuk
45 herd and the Teshekpuk herd overlaps some with the
46 Central Arctic herd and Central Arctic some with the
47 Porcupine herd. But the two extremes don't mix much.
48
49 MR. SHEARS: Go ahead.
50

1 MR. OOMITUK: I have one. You know,
2 when you talk about the population of the Porcupine
3 herd at 169,000 and the Teshekpuk herd is 39, 40,000
4 and now the Western Arctic caribou herd at 201,000, you
5 know, it's no more than -- you know, these are estimate
6 counts. But, you know -- you know, when they mingle,
7 you know, and so how accurate are these counts when
8 they mingle with each other, I mean, do you -- I know
9 they're photographed, do they get the -- by the
10 photograph of when they're in certain areas they say
11 this is the Western Arctic caribou herd, they're over
12 in this area, when the Porcupine herd is more in that
13 area. So are these counts based on photograph and they
14 figure out a number of how many caribou are right or
15 how do they get these estimates?

16
17 DR. YOKEL: Well, they have what they
18 call a minimum count which is a count of the animals
19 that they can see in the photographs so you're right
20 about that. They also have a statistical estimate of
21 the number of caribou in each herd. But there are a
22 lot of collared animals out there, not only satellite
23 collars, but also VHF collars. And so they can hear
24 those signals from the different collars while they're
25 flying around and they know or they presume to know
26 which herd each collar belongs to. So if they don't
27 have a mix of collars in an area where they've taken
28 photos then they assume all of those are from a single
29 herd. If there happens to be a mix of collars in an
30 area then it gets a little more difficult. But they
31 try to fly all four herds in the same summer so that
32 you can't say ah, well, you got -- you didn't get very
33 many because they're over with the other herd or you
34 got a large number because the other herd joined up or
35 something like that. And it -- so it's not easy to do,
36 but the Fish and Game does this and they've done it a
37 lot and they do it all over the State and they're
38 pretty experienced at it and I think -- I think you can
39 have the confidence in those numbers that they say they
40 have, they know they're not perfect too.

41
42 MR. OOMITUK: Just one more question.
43 You know, when you put a monitor on a caribou do you
44 put them on a bull or just the majority, you know,
45 because the bulls are usually the leaders and, you
46 know, because when you catch a bull the herd is lost,
47 when you shoot the one that's in front, you know, they
48 tend to get lost. And.....

49
50 DR. YOKEL: Well, that's interesting

1 you say that, I heard you say that yesterday, but I've
2 always heard other North Slope hunters say that it's
3 the older cows that are the leaders. But the real
4 answer to your question is that used to put the collars
5 only on cows. The problems with putting collars on
6 bulls is that their necks swell up in the rut and that
7 gets to be a problem for them. In more recent years
8 the collar manufacturers have developed some expandable
9 collars and so some bulls have been collared so we have
10 a sample of both sexes collared.

11

12 MR. CASTEILANOS: Can I add.....

13

14 MR. SHEARS: The floor recognizes
15 Gilbert.

16

17 MR. CASTEILANOS: Thank you. Just
18 wanted to add a couple of things and I'm no expert on
19 monitoring of caribou, but we have had quite a number
20 of presentations from the Department of Fish and Game
21 and others about the activities that are going on. One
22 thing that we were presented with at our last
23 International Porcupine Caribou Board meeting was that
24 in fact they have done some collars and in fact that
25 one or two might have crossed from the Central Arctic
26 herd or another herd over to the Porcupine caribou or
27 visa versa. As I understand it that's not very common
28 and there's a lot of fidelity to herds, but that there
29 is some mingling and as I think as Vince suggested
30 what's often said by some of the experts, the
31 biologists that work on it, is caribou are caribou and
32 sometimes they kind of go here and there. But in large
33 regard as Dave mentioned there's quite a lot of
34 fidelity.

35

36 The other thing I was going to mention
37 was that the Fish and Game does indeed and has for some
38 time we had a very interesting presentation of some
39 very old, but very high quality cameras that they put
40 on airplanes and they actually take pictures. Then you
41 have these big pictures that are about as long as this
42 table or longer and blown up and then they go with the
43 magnifying glass and they individually count every
44 single caribou in this particular transect. Beth may
45 have more information about some of this than I have,
46 but I understand from a presentation we got from Jason
47 Caikoski that they have acquired or will be soon
48 acquiring some new, very high resolution, incredible
49 new equipment that's going to potentially help improve
50 those numbers even more so although they have pretty

1 high confidence in the numbers that they come up with
2 and I think they're exercising some pretty -- a
3 rigorous scientific processes to get those numbers.

4
5 MR. SHEARS: All right. Thank you very
6 much, Gilbert.

7
8 And we're going to get on in this
9 meeting to -- in agency report and we're going to just
10 have a caribou report, Steve, Lee. This is an item
11 that we had set aside hoping that Gordon -- Gordon
12 really wanted to participate in it and I'm anticipating
13 his return, but because we're quickly burning time off
14 of our valuable meeting clock and Gordon's -- and we
15 still got a number of action items to consider when --
16 upon Gordon's return, I'd like to call a five minute
17 recess at this time. And then when we recommence we'll
18 start with -- we'll take up the caribou report with
19 ADF&G.

20
21 (Off record)

22
23 (On record)

24
25 MR. SHEARS: Good afternoon. This is
26 Bob Shears again, acting as Chair. We still have not
27 established -- reestablished our quorum.

28
29 Lee, are you online?

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 MR. SHEARS: Lee must still be on
34 recess. Therefore I'll just wait a couple minutes
35 until Lee signs back in and then we'll reconvene for
36 the caribou report.

37
38 (Off record)

39
40 (On record)

41
42 MR. SHEARS: I'll call this meeting
43 back to order.

44
45 Lincoln, go ahead.

46
47 MR. PARRETT: This is Lincoln Parrett.
48 I like to start off with a range map just to remind
49 everybody of which herds we're talking about and where
50 they are. I remember listening to Gordon talk

1 yesterday about mixture and things like that and, you
2 know, there is certainly mixture and then there are
3 certainly times of the year when they tend to separate
4 themselves. And so, you know, we feel like these four
5 herds even though there's mixture sometimes and things
6 like that, there -- it's a pretty good biological
7 description of what these animals are doing which is
8 kind of what Gordon I think was saying yesterday that
9 there are times of the year when they're pretty darn
10 separate. And you can really consider them kind of
11 their own biological entity.

12
13 Because there's all four herds I will
14 say that I'm -- I think we said enough about the
15 Porcupine herd, they're still doing really well so I'm
16 not even really going to address them, but I am going
17 to try to spend a little bit of time on the Western
18 Arctic herd and Teshekpuk herd and I think Beth is on
19 the phone still and she can talk about the Central
20 Arctic a little bit.

21
22 So next slide, Ryan.

23
24 MR. KLIMSTRA: Okay.

25
26 MR. PARRETT: We'll just start with
27 Western Arctic Caribou, update for this year.

28
29 Next slide, Ryan.

30
31 MR. KLIMSTRA: Okay.

32
33 MR. PARRETT: So this is the abundance
34 estimates for the Western Arctic caribou herd. The X's
35 are the minimum counts, Dave Yokel was talking about
36 the minimum counts and then the blue dots are the
37 estimated population size. You can see that they
38 generally don't differ from each other very much at
39 all. That's a product of the fact that these caribou
40 do a really good job of finding each other when it's
41 insect harassment time and so they aggregate and get in
42 these groups and then we have enough collars out these
43 days so that we have a pretty good chance of finding
44 most of those groups. And what the model does is it
45 basically is trying to figure out how many caribou we
46 didn't find and we didn't photograph. And so you can
47 see that in recent years the difference between the
48 blue dot and the red X is very small. Basically as far
49 as we know we're doing a pretty good job of finding all
50 these caribou. The reason why these dots have gotten

1 really close in recent years is that we have more
2 collars out than we used to so we have a better chance
3 of finding the caribou. We put more and more collars
4 on bulls, that's what Steve was talking about. You
5 know, we recognize that in the past we might have been
6 missing a little bit of the picture by not having
7 collars on bulls because sometimes they are separate.
8 We saw that really dramatically in the Porcupine herd a
9 few years ago when most of the bulls were in Canada and
10 most of the cows were in Alaska. But as time has gone
11 on I think we've really refined this method and are
12 doing better and better. I'm forgetting the
13 gentleman's name, but as Jason told him, we are on the
14 next stage of that improvement and we're going to be
15 moving to digital cameras and hopefully improving that
16 even more.

17
18 So that's the story on, you know,
19 counting and things like that. There is mixture
20 sometimes, we do see collars that are with another
21 herd, it's not really common. And what's really even
22 less common is when those caribou, those collared
23 caribou stay with a different herd. It's one thing for
24 them to spend a little time with them in the summer or
25 in the winter, but animals that leave and never come
26 back, that is actually still pretty rare.

27
28 So specifically with the Western Arctic
29 herd right now we did a photo census in 2013 and saw
30 about 235,000 caribou and we did another one this
31 summer in 2016. We worked really hard to get those
32 photos counted because we knew that we were approaching
33 some pretty important numbers. You talked about that
34 in terms of WSA 16-03 and other things are really
35 relevant with Federal closures and things like that,
36 but we worked really hard to get those photos counted
37 so that we could kind of get an idea of where we are
38 with respect to this Western Arctic management level.
39 So you can see on that slide there's a yellow dotted
40 line and the number that we estimate was 201,000. So
41 in 2015 last winter we were in the position where we
42 thought based on population models and things like that
43 that we were a little bit above the conservative level,
44 we were a little above 200,000 and now we just know we
45 are, we know we're barely above that number. And that
46 number is an important number for a lot of reasons,
47 it's in a lot of management plans and things like that,
48 it's the number that triggers intensive management
49 considerations, generally, you know, we have to
50 evaluate predator control when we fall below that and

1 so it's an important number, but it's not necessarily
2 super meaningful from a biological perspective except
3 for one thing, that at 200,000 if we are harvesting at
4 about 6 percent then that's a harvestable surplus if
5 we're going to try to do this sustainably of about
6 12,000 caribou from the Western Arctic herd and 12,000
7 caribou just so happens to be the average number about
8 of caribou people have been harvesting out of this
9 herd. And so all uses and that includes sporthunting
10 and everything like that. Sporthunting generally
11 comprises about 5 percent of that total harvest so it's
12 a relatively small portion, but I recognize that it's
13 an important portion for people to think about.

14
15 Where is this herd going to go from
16 here. We know that it's about 200,000, a little bit
17 above. Where's it going to go from here.

18
19 Next slide, Ryan. The two lines that
20 you see there, there's a red line that's slowly
21 increasing and that's the proportion of adult cows that
22 have died in each year. And so you can see that we've
23 got three different phases here, we've got a phase when
24 the population was growing in the early '80 and early
25 '90s, we've got a phase when the population was stable
26 and white from the early '90s to the mid 2000s and a
27 phase when the population was declining from the mid
28 2000s to more recently. And what we really notice here
29 is that red line separates itself from the blue line
30 pretty dramatically. The blue line is the number of
31 calves that we see in the spring. So we go out and
32 survey about 10,000 caribou and look and see how many
33 of those caribou are calves because that gives us a
34 real good indication of what the growth potential of
35 that herd is. And if the growth potential is low, so
36 you can see during that phase when the population's
37 declining if the growth potential is low and the adult
38 cow mortality is really high, there's -- a decline is
39 going to happen, basically that's just the biological
40 fact of that, too many adults are dying, they're not
41 being replaced by young animals.

42
43 So where are we going to go from here.
44 Well, you see that in 2016 basically I've stopped that
45 decline phase with the question of what happens in the
46 future. And interestingly that blue line and that red
47 line reverse each other, so the blue line, the calf
48 recruitment, goes above the adult cow mortality. So
49 there's no guarantee, we don't know what's going to
50 happen this winter, but there is a positive sign there

1 that adult mortality this last winter was as low as
2 we've ever seen it. You can see that it's the lowest
3 of all the red dots there and that calf recruitment
4 came up a bunch. And so it's looking like this herd
5 could do better, but they need probably a couple good
6 winters to do that. We saw some of the best calf
7 production we've ever seen this year and so if those
8 calves survive this winter, if we have a relatively
9 easy winter and then that means we have two years in a
10 row where we've added a lot of young animals to that
11 herd. And we're seeing that in some of the composition
12 too, that it looks like there's obviously a lot of
13 young animals in the herd. So there's some good signs
14 here, but it's also countered by the fact that they
15 still did decline and they're getting closer and closer
16 to some important numbers.

17

18 Next slide, Ryan. So like I was
19 getting to there, there's a combination of good and bad
20 news when we're thinking about the Western Arctic herd.
21 There's a lot of caribou still, 200,000, it may still
22 even be bigger than the Porcupine herd, it may be the
23 largest herd in Alaska. The decline appears to have
24 slowed. We went from about a 15 percent annual decline
25 to a 5 percent annual decline over the last three
26 years. So that's a real improvement, however it is
27 important to recognize that that's still a decline.
28 Adult female survival like I mentioned was very high
29 last year. Basically right now it's the highest
30 survival rate we've ever seen since we started
31 monitoring. Adult -- overwinter calf survival was also
32 very high. We collared about 30 calves at Onion
33 Portage when we collared the Western Arctic caribou
34 herd in the fall and so they left the Kobuk River and
35 survival for them from the time they left the Kobuk
36 River until they were a year old at June, was very
37 high. We saw about 80 percent survival over the winter
38 which is a really, really good survival rate, you don't
39 see that survival rate that high in caribou very often
40 at all. And then the other positive sign is that calf
41 weights that we collected this year in 2016 were almost
42 as high as last year. Last year was the highest we'd
43 ever seen and this is the second highest. What that
44 means is that caribou came out of the summer in really,
45 really good shape. We were really pleased to see that
46 because last year when they came out of the summer in
47 really good shape they also survived at a really high
48 rate. So there's a good sign that again if they have a
49 decent winter they have a good chance of surviving
50 really well.

1 But then of course there's the bad,
2 right, we're getting a little bit closer to these --
3 the preservative management threshold that's outlined
4 in the Western Arctic Working Group Management Plan.
5 And so if we fall below that we are probably going to
6 have to change some of our management regulations, some
7 of the things that we're using to conserve this herd.
8 And we're probably going to have to impose restrictions
9 if they do fall below that. And we're sort of really
10 curious and we'll get to that later in this talk, what
11 people would think would be the best way to go about
12 doing that. The other thing that happens is we fall
13 below the State intensive management population and
14 harvest objectives and so that's another trigger that
15 we need to think more seriously about predator control
16 and other ways to reduce this decline. And then the
17 other bad part is we really don't know when harvest is
18 going to exceed harvestable surplus. There's been a
19 lot of talk during this meeting about, you know,
20 managing with sustained yield principles and things
21 like that. Well, in order to manage sustainably we
22 have to know what we're harvesting. And if and when
23 that harvest does exceed harvestable surplus and right
24 now I'm not sure how we would know that. There are
25 some really good surveys that are conducted, household
26 surveys, and they help us understand things a little
27 bit, but there's just not enough of them really for us
28 to know how much harvest is occurring over the entire
29 range of the herd. And so we need to try.....

30
31 MR. SHEARS: Let me -- allow me to
32 interrupt you right there, Lincoln. And this is Bob.

33
34 MR. PARRETT: Yeah.

35
36 MR. SHEARS: Considering the special
37 action proposal that closed unit 23 to basically
38 sporthunting, non-qualified subsistence users from
39 hunting this season, would that be a bullet point for
40 the good and would you have reports, harvest report
41 information that's required from your outfitters and
42 guides as conditions of their permits or their
43 licenses?

44
45 MR. PARRETT: Yeah, we should be
46 getting that information over the course of this winter
47 both from, you know, the Federal side in particular
48 watches -- they have to submit reports and things like
49 that, the transporters and guides things like that. We
50 have our own harvest ticket system that we'll be

1 watching. It is a question, you know, those nonlocal
2 hunters basically, they comprise a very small
3 proportion of that harvest, about 5 percent like I said
4 before. And so there's a real question here with this
5 Federal closure, did it reduce that at all, did it
6 reduce it in a meaningful way or did it just move it,
7 did it just move it on to other lands. And so we don't
8 really know. The reports that we're hearing is sort of
9 a combination of both of those things. Some of the
10 transporters sound like they were moving just as many
11 hunters as they have in the past and others weren't.
12 And so we just won't know until at least mid winter
13 what the real results of that Federal closure were in
14 terms of, you know, a conservation measure.

15
16 MR. SHEARS: Middle of the winter then.
17 Thank you. Yeah, that's exactly -- that's a question
18 in my mind, I'm wondering how effective that special
19 action was and wondering if that's going to be a
20 strategy that we're going to have to reimplement again
21 next year.

22
23 MR. PARRETT: Yeah, so there's some
24 real considerations there in terms of, you know, what
25 to do there. Like I said they're a small enough
26 portion of the harvest that, you know, it's pretty easy
27 to kind of -- if we do need more restrictive
28 regulations we basically -- their elimination is
29 probably going to come along with, you know,
30 potentially other restrictions as well just because
31 they do comprise such a small proportion of the
32 harvest. However we don't really -- at this point what
33 the State is saying is that, you know, as long as we're
34 over 200,000 we can still accommodate historical
35 harvests. So from a conservation perspective it's okay
36 to include that harvest, you know, as small as it is.
37 But we do have questions because we are near the
38 threshold. And so what happens if this herd does
39 continue down even at a slow rate, you know, even at a
40 very slow rate we can get below some of these
41 management thresholds.

42
43 And so next slide, Ryan. What this
44 slide shows in the black is what we think was
45 harvestable, what was appropriate from a sustained
46 yield perspective. So what we could take out of this
47 herd in every single year since 2000 basically that's
48 declined. Has that herd stabilized, you know, in the
49 late '90s and early 2000s and then began to decline,
50 that proportion, that number of caribou we could take

1 sustainably has dropped every year. Now the red line
2 is what we think the total harvest including the TCH
3 has been over that same period. And so when we look at
4 those two things they're about to converge if they
5 haven't already. And so again we don't really know
6 because we don't have, you know, the tools to precisely
7 monitor harvest. And so they have declined. And so
8 what happens when we get to 200,000 is we're probably
9 going to change the regime and what I'm proposing at
10 this time is a management regime that tries to harvest
11 only 15 percent of the bulls and 2 percent of the cows.
12 And that's a potential drop in harvest of about 20
13 percent, that's what we're looking at doing if that
14 herd does continue to decline. Now that being said we
15 don't know for sure that that's going to happen. Like
16 I said there's some really positive, positive signs to
17 look at there. So but it's important now to consider
18 it because when the time comes for the State and for us
19 to start putting in proposals to try to limit harvest
20 if we do have to do that, we don't really know how to
21 do that quite yet, we have not really gotten the
22 specific direction from groups like yours, from
23 Advisory Committees and from the Western Arctic Working
24 Group on what to do. There are guidelines in the
25 Working Group plan that sort of suggest we're going to
26 reduce cow harvest, we're going to do various things,
27 but the specifics on how to do that are still not clear
28 to us. And so that's what we're looking for is advice
29 from all these Advisory Groups on what to do next if
30 for example we needed to reduce harvest by 20 percent
31 from what we're seeing right now.

32
33 Next slide, Ryan. So we're going to
34 break from the Western Arctic for a moment and talk
35 about the Teshekpuk caribou herd.

36
37 Next slide, Ryan. So this is a similar
38 graph, red X's are the minimum count from the
39 population estimates from the early 1980s and the blue
40 dots are the modeled estimates. You can see in the
41 Teshekpuk actually that they aren't as close and that's
42 kind of an interesting thing. There's two parts to
43 that. One is we've never really had as many collars in
44 the Teshekpuk herd as we had -- have had in the Western
45 Arctic. Just always along we've increased the number
46 of collars, but we've never really been able to keep up
47 with the Western Arctic herd. And then they just don't
48 aggregate as well. So the Western Arctic might be in
49 just five groups for example, there's 200,000 caribou
50 in just five groups. And in the similar situation when

1 we go do those photographs, the Teshekpuk might be in
2 13 or 15 groups, they just don't aggregate as well and
3 so there's a greater chance that we're missing small
4 numbers of caribou in the Teshekpuk than we are in the
5 Western Arctic which is why that model boosts that
6 number up a little bit. They're just not kind of as
7 high a quality although they're still very good.

8

9 And what do we know about the abundance
10 of this herd. Right now we're looking at about 40,000
11 caribou. People have been talking about 38,000,
12 40,000, you know, this is all sort of in the range of
13 the confidence interval for this -- the herd estimate.
14 And so right now at 40,000 caribou we're really
15 actually in a fairly similar boat with the Western
16 Arctic herd in terms of the number of caribou that we
17 think we can affordably harvest in a -- from a
18 sustained yield perspective. We did not get a photo
19 census in 2016, we were basically putting pretty much
20 all our eggs in one basket and trying really, really
21 hard to get the Western Arctic done last summer so we
22 didn't even really attempt the Teshekpuk last summer.

23

24 Next slide, Ryan. So information since
25 we did do that 2015 census when we saw about 40,000
26 caribou, just like the Western Arctic adult female
27 mortality, the preliminary estimate is 9 percent. So
28 it's lower, much lower than the long term average of 15
29 percent. So mortality was low, basically the inverse
30 of that, survival was really high. So we had a really
31 good year too, Teshekpuk did. Just like Western Arctic
32 calving was also very high, 84 percent pregnancy rate
33 so much higher again than the long term average that
34 we've seen of 68 percent. 2015/2016 calf survival. We
35 haven't collared calves in this herd for a few years,
36 but we did see 29 calves per hundred cows when we
37 looked at those caribou in the spring. And so that's
38 the highest number we've seen since the 1990s. So
39 again very much mirroring what we saw in the Western
40 Arctic herd, lots of calves survived the winter, calves
41 born this spring -- there are a lot of calves born this
42 spring and adult female mortality. So just like the
43 Western Arctic there's -- looks like there's a lot of
44 potential to grow right now. Whether they really grow
45 or not again kind of depends on what we see this
46 winter.

47

48 Now here's a little bit of bad news
49 from a biological perspective. We went out a few weeks
50 ago, Ryan actually did, and tried to collect some herd

1 composition data and we saw only 28 bulls per hundred
2 cows. And that's troublesome in some ways because it's
3 a lower number than we'd like to see, we'd like to see
4 something more like 30 bulls per hundred cows. And I'm
5 really curious what people have to say about whether
6 they would agree with that, whether they're seeing few
7 bulls on the landscape right now too. It's a pretty
8 significant decline from 2013, from 39 per hundred down
9 to 28 per hundred. It's actually so significant that
10 we're not sure that it's quite that extensive. I would
11 not be surprised at all if through sampling error or
12 things like that that the number might be a little bit
13 higher than 28. It just seems too much too fast to go
14 from 39 to 28. So we're going to try really hard to
15 collect that data again maybe this summer or next fall
16 again to see how many bulls are out there.

17
18 A good sign though is that we saw 47
19 calves per hundred cows. So again just like the
20 Western Arctic lots of calves were born and it seems
21 like survival over the summer has been really high so
22 far. And so if they can get a good winter we're going
23 to get another good crop of calves that survive to be
24 one year olds.

25
26 And then last harvest is essentially
27 unknown although I know Nikki's there and maybe she can
28 shed some light on the surveys that have been conducted
29 in the interim since 2015. I don't know if there have
30 been any on the Teshekpuk.

31
32 Next slide is actually about the
33 Central Arctic and since Beth's on the phone I think
34 I'm just going to let her talk about that.

35
36 MR. SHEARS: Oh, okay. Thank you very
37 much, Lincoln. I'd also like to note for the record
38 that Gordon Brower has rejoined us in the meeting.
39 I'll be handing the Chair back over to him as soon as
40 I.....

41
42 Go ahead, Beth.

43
44 MS. LENART: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 This is Beth Lenart from Alaska Department of Fish and
46 Game in Fairbanks.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Hold on
49 second.
50

1 MS. LENART: And I would like to prove
2 an up -- okay.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, just
5 before you start I think Point Hope has a question real
6 quick.

7
8 Go ahead, Steve.

9
10 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, you know, I was
11 wondering do you monitor the herds year round, you
12 know, the last few years in our area, you know, during
13 the coldest times of the year, January, February, we've
14 been having a lot of rain, you know, and freezing up,
15 you know, I -- you know, I know the caribou depend on
16 the lichen. And, you know, when the food source is
17 hard to get to, you know, we've been noticing a lot of
18 rain in January and February, a lot of ice. I was just
19 wondering if you monitor caribou year round?

20
21 MR. PARRETT: Hi, Steve. Yeah, you
22 know, we can't really fly year round obviously it gets
23 too dark in some times of the year to really get very
24 far from where you took off from. But we do try to
25 monitor at least the satellite collars and then when we
26 get a chance, when daylight's long enough, especially
27 if we're hearing reports like that, we go and try and
28 look at those areas and try to see. A lot of times
29 from the air you can see if there's been a lot of
30 icing. And for sure I know 2011, 2012 and even 2013
31 there were pretty extensive icing events and those were
32 very dramatic mortality years for both the Western
33 Arctic and the Teshekpuk. Last winter there were some
34 icing events, but it seemed like they had a pretty mild
35 winter overall, like snow depths weren't very much,
36 lots of places had very, very little snow. And so
37 whatever icing they may have had in the last year or
38 two doesn't seem like it was really bad or really hard
39 on them compared to the few years before. But we don't
40 -- we can't necessarily monitor that over the entire
41 range. I know for example that just from talking to
42 people that there's been some rain events just in the
43 last week or so on the North Slope, whether those
44 amount to much or not, it's really hard for us to
45 really evaluate. The best thing for us is actually to
46 hear from people like you, Steve, to let us know, you
47 know, were there icing events and were they really bad
48 ones, you know, because not all icing events are equal
49 I guess.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right.
2 Thank you, Steve. Did that answer your question?

3
4 MR. OOMITUK: Yes, thank you.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right.
7 We'll proceed with the Central Arctic herd.

8
9 MS. LENART: Okay. Thank you. This is
10 Beth Lenart from Fish and Game in Fairbanks.

11
12 For the Central Arctic herd we
13 conducted a photo census this year, this summer in
14 2016. And the herd had declined from 2013. The number
15 in 2016 was 22,000 caribou down from 50,000 caribou in
16 2013. So it was quite a dramatic decline. We -- I
17 didn't think that was going to happen at quite that
18 rate, but after looking at some of our data we do know
19 that some of it has to do with this high adult female
20 mortality that Lincoln's been talking about. Well, in
21 the Central Arctic herd the last four years has been
22 about 25 percent mortality compared to years before
23 that when it was more like 12 percent. In the years
24 prior to 2013 that herd had been growing and it peaked
25 about -- to about 70,000 caribou in 2010. So it's
26 really declined substantially and I just kind of got
27 all those photos counted and started to look at all the
28 different data to see what might be some of causes of
29 the decline. The adult mortality's certainly one that
30 pops out. And then the other thing I'm looking at and
31 I'm not done looking at is to see if, you know, some of
32 those caribou joined the Porcupine caribou herd. There
33 was some extensive mixing during post calving this
34 year.

35
36 So anyway that's what we're looking at
37 for the Central Arctic herd. We probably will be
38 looking at, you know, reducing some seasons and bag
39 limits for the Board of Game. We have a Board of Game
40 for that area in February this -- in February, 2017.

41
42 Any questions or.....

43
44 MR. OOMITUK: I.....

45
46 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Steve.

47
48 MR. OOMITUK:do you have any idea
49 why the numbers got so low, is -- the Central caribou
50 herd?

1 MS. LENART: Well, there's a couple of
2 possibilities. One is, you know, they peaked around to
3 about 70,000 in 2010 and so they've been growing from
4 the previous 10 to 15 years before that
5 at a pretty good -- at a pretty high rate. And then in
6 2013 when we did a photo census we expected a decline
7 and the number we came up with was 50,000 caribou. We
8 expected that because that spring in 2013 was a really
9 late spring and the caribou arrived on the calving
10 grounds late and we had a lot of adult mortality in the
11 month of May and early June. So I -- that made sense
12 to me. But the other thing is and Lincoln had talked
13 about this or Dave had talked about this, mixing during
14 photo censuses. During that 2013 photo census we had
15 10 Porcupine caribou collars mixed in with the Central
16 Arctic caribou. We thought we subtracted out what we
17 thought representing those 10 collars and we subtracted
18 those caribou out, but it's possible that actually we
19 overestimated how many caribou were in the Central
20 Arctic herd that year and it could have been a lower
21 number. But even at that, I mean, it still did
22 decline, you know, quite a bit since 2013 to now. And
23 I don't know all the reasons. I just know we did have
24 some high adult female mortality. Some of that was a
25 result of that 2013 spring and also in 2014 it was
26 another late spring and those caribou actually calved,
27 you know, south of the calving grounds again that year.
28 So but as far as like a hard -- hard winters and that,
29 that part doesn't all quite add up. So if we don't --
30 I know that the caribou died from the radio collars,
31 but I don't know what caused their death. I mean, I
32 think it is a big drop and we're not sure, we haven't
33 put all the pieces -- I don't know if I'll be able to
34 put all the pieces together as to why that drop
35 occurred.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you. I
38 think we have a member of the public here has a
39 question.

40
41 Delbert Rexford.

42
43 MR. REXFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
44 Delbert Rexford for the record, Barrow resident,
45 whaling captain.

46
47 You have provided some mortality
48 percentages based on climatic conditions. What are the
49 percentages for predator mortality as you discussed in
50 these caribou herds?

1 MS. LENART: I'm sorry, I didn't quite
2 hear the -- what are the percentages of -- well, I
3 didn't quite hear the question.

4
5 MR. REXFORD: My question is from the
6 sustainable harvest and the mortality rates what
7 percentage is predator mortality, do you know, have you
8 studied that or is this not a part of the equation?

9
10 MS. LENART: Okay. Sir, that's a good
11 question. And I don't know because -- but that could
12 be a part of the equation because in many of those
13 years or several of those years the caribou wintered
14 south of the Brooks Range and south of the Brooks Range
15 we do have higher densities of wolves than we do on the
16 north side of the Brooks Range. And so -- I mean, that
17 is a possibility that predation was higher, but I don't
18 have any measurement of that.

19
20 MR. PARRETT: We -- this is Lincoln
21 Parrett again. We have looked at that for example in
22 the Teshekpuk herd and we did a calf mortality study
23 and what we found there is that of the calves that
24 wintered in the Brooks Range like Beth was suggesting,
25 there are higher predator numbers we think. And
26 generally there it was very rare for a calf to die of
27 something other than predation. That doesn't mean that
28 they weren't suffering already or skinny or very easy
29 for animals to kill, but basically almost every animal
30 that died in the Brooks Range died from predation. In
31 contrast for the animals that winter on the North Slope
32 which, you know, is pretty common for Teshekpuk, up to
33 20 percent of those calves died straight up from
34 starvation and didn't have any other obvious thing that
35 we were aware of, they certainly weren't killed by a
36 predator, they were -- just curled up and died. So
37 starvation has been a pretty significant part of
38 mortality especially in 2011, '12 and '13. But in
39 terms of the equation, they certainly are part of the
40 equation and I think because of that we have to take
41 these things pretty seriously and why we have these
42 intensive management objectives to at least take that
43 part of the equation seriously.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you.

46
47 Steve from Point Hope.

48
49 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, just through, you
50 know, predators, you know, seemed like in the last

1 couple years there's been so many wolves being caught
2 up on the North Slope, we never seen so many. You
3 know, some guys go home with five, six wolves in one
4 day, you know. Wolves were very scarce and hard to
5 get. The last couple years it's been an abundance of
6 predators, you know. And to be catching that many
7 wolves in -- you know, you heard about Nuiqsut hunters
8 getting quite a few wolves, the Point Hope people,
9 Noatak, a lot of predators.

10
11 MR. PARRETT: Steve, that's a good
12 point and I can confirm that just being here in Barrow
13 and sealing furs, wolves alone I think was one of the
14 highest years in a very long time of -- and that's just
15 people that are choosing to get their fur sealed to
16 send off to get tanned, you know, it was like higher
17 than the past five years combined just this past year.
18 I don't know if that has to do with like a fluctuating
19 fur market, maybe they're more valuable, but overall,
20 yes, you're right there's a lot of wolves and other
21 predators out there this year -- this past year.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, this is
24 Gordon. I wanted to ask a question here. I mean, when
25 you're looking at a decline from 50,000 animals in 2013
26 and you're looking at 22,000 in 2016, there's something
27 going on here that we're not maybe capturing. And I'm
28 wondering -- you know, I send inspectors down the haul
29 road quite a bit and wondering if there is a monitoring
30 or reporting of the subsistence take along the haul
31 road that may not reflect the amount that's actually
32 being taken. I've personally been down that way and
33 looked at caribou that were running around, but had
34 been shot and had arrows sticking out of them. And
35 these kinds of things that -- as part of our other
36 responsibilities to monitor for development and -- on
37 the haul road, that's been routinely reported for
38 several years. And I'm wondering what is going to
39 happen with the Central Arctic herd in terms of that
40 activity along the haul road?

41
42 MS. LENART: Mr. Chair, this is Beth.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Go ahead,
45 Beth.

46
47 MS. LENART: Okay. Well, we will be
48 recommending to the Board to reduce seasons and bag
49 limits. So right now they're -- it's a very liberal
50 season and a very liberal bag limit. And for -- you

1 know, for a good part of that unit 26B area where the
2 Central Arctic inhabits it's a five caribou bag limit,
3 five caribou total and that's for both residents and
4 nonresidents. And then there's a little section that's
5 across the river from Nuiqsut that's the current bag
6 limit is five caribou per day. So we will be
7 recommending changes in the season and bag limits to
8 the Board of Game. One of the things that I'd like to
9 recommend is to change the harvest rate. Right now
10 that harvest rate was actually only about 4 or 5
11 percent, but I would like to reduce it to about 3
12 percent to maybe allow for some herd growth. And so
13 that would be, you know, a harvestable surplus of about
14 660 caribou. And so we would have to reduce some
15 seasons and bag limits to get our harvest down to 660
16 caribou. The last few years it was a little bit lower,
17 but if you averaged the previous six years it was at
18 about 900 caribou. So we're looking at reducing the
19 harvest by about 200 or 300 caribou.

20

21 So one of the things that I would also
22 like to do is maybe contact some folks in Nuiqsut to
23 talk about sort of when they hunt and where they hunt
24 and talk about seasons and bag limits for that little
25 section that's in -- across the river from Nuiqsut.
26 And so if the RAC has any recommendation for means I
27 would certainly take those down and maybe contact those
28 people to talk about, you know, what -- how -- kind of
29 what would work for them.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right.
32 There's a question from Delbert Rexford from Barrow.

33

34 MR. REXFORD: Thank you. On the 32,000
35 caribou herd that declined and the third bullet
36 specifically states that the Central Arctic herd joined
37 the Porcupine caribou herd and Teshekpuk caribou herd.
38 What are the actual numbers for those that deflected
39 and joined those other two herds?

40

41 MS. LENART: What are the actual
42 numbers?

43

44 MR. KLIMSTRA: Beth, he's referring to
45 the third bullet point down on that slide, you
46 know.....

47

48 MS. LENART: Okay. I don't have that
49 slide.

50

1 MR. KLIMSTRA: Okay. So the bullet
2 point says some Central Arctic herd animals joined the
3 Porcupine herd and the Teshekpuk herd when the herds
4 mix during summer and winter. And he's wondering how
5 many animals joined the Porcupine and Teshekpuk herd.
6
7 MS. LENART: Okay.
8
9 MR. REXFORD: Before you answer.....
10
11 MS. LENART: I'm sorry.
12
13 MR. REXFORD: Before you answer my.....
14
15 MS. LENART: Okay. That's.....
16
17 MR. REXFORD: Ma'am, may I.....
18
19 MS. LENART: Yes, okay.
20
21 MR. REXFORD: Wait. May I please
22 finish. Before you answer I'd like to have a
23 differentiation of what is truly the mortality number
24 versus the number that some caribou Central Arctic herd
25 joined those two other herds. And at least we can take
26 a part of that 32,000 herd caribou by that number as a
27 actual decline number.
28
29 MS. LENART: Right. Yeah, I'm still --
30 I'm still kind of trying to work all those numbers up
31 to see -- I think I -- I think I see what you're
32 asking, what that represents in numbers of caribou and
33 so I'm still working on that. And I'm also still
34 working on trying to figure out how many caribou have
35 gone with the other herds. I'm looking at each radio
36 collar through time and it will still be difficult for
37 us to come up with that answer because we don't always
38 know exactly what each radio collar, how many caribou
39 that represents on the landscape. But that is what I'm
40 trying to figure out. And I don't have that number --
41 I don't have the answer right yet.
42
43 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, Delbert,
44 sounds like they're working on that ratio there.
45
46 I have another one. You were wanting
47 names of probably people you can contact with -- in
48 Nuiqsut, It seems to me that's an automatic
49 gravitation towards the folks under Federal law that
50 have a C&T and a rural subsistence preference attached

1 to those which the State may not or does not account
2 for. But and the question raised earlier is the -- how
3 you monitor the haul road take because we see
4 considerable amount of the resource being taken on the
5 haul road and probably 99.9 percent of those are folks
6 that are coming down from Fairbanks and other nonrural
7 areas that are conducting subsistence on State land.
8 And it seems to me if you were talking about reducing
9 catch and if in fact this trend is starting to hold and
10 it's going to continue on to next year I don't -- and I
11 don't know if this is a trend yet because you've got to
12 establish a couple of successive years that show that
13 the decline is actual versus that it's transferred or
14 out-migrated to the Porcupine herd of the Teshekpuk to
15 the Porcupine herd or to the Teshekpuk herd or to the
16 Western herd, and a portion of those collaboration
17 between herds which by the way they -- that happens,
18 would be a factor here. So I would be concerned as to
19 -- it seems to me that with this number you would be
20 starting to establish a tier hunt for the Central
21 Arctic herd at -- in the State system or going for that
22 -- if that's a recommendation you need I think it would
23 be wise to heed that recommendation I think.

24
25 MS. LENART: Mr. Chair or through the
26 Chair. Okay. First let me -- I can answer or at least
27 partially answer the question about harvest management
28 and harvest along the haul road. All of those hunters
29 are required to have a harvest ticket and so they're
30 reporting on those harvest tickets. We think we have a
31 -- we think it represents -- it's a pretty good
32 representation of the harvest. Certainly there are
33 some folks that maybe didn't report and then we may not
34 be capturing what Delbert was observing along the haul
35 road where, you know, there are arrows sticking out of
36 caribou and so those caribou would not be captured in
37 those harvest reports. And so that might be a part of --
38 certainly might be a part of the picture. I think it
39 would have to be, you know, more than that or that
40 would have to be additional to something else in order
41 to get down to the 22,000. But, you know, so we are
42 collecting harvest data and we definitely will be
43 recommending changes in the bag limit and the seasons
44 for those hunters and for nonresident hunters also. I
45 don't know that -- I'll be talking to the Division of
46 Subsistence later this week, I don't know that we can
47 get to a tier one hunt like you're recommending because
48 right now the amounts -- what we call the amounts
49 reasonably necessary for subsistence are 250 to 450
50 caribou and so our harvestable surplus is around 660.

1 But I don't know that nonresident hunting will be
2 eliminated, but that would be something that the Board
3 might discuss during that February, 2017 meeting. But --
4 I mean, that's a possibility. But I'm not sure
5 legally all what we can recommend until I talk to the
6 Division of Subsistence.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, thank
9 you. I think it's just important to note because we --
10 I think for folks up here that deal in bag limits and
11 stuff that have been -- really been established here
12 that are dealing with those already on Western Arctic
13 and the Teshekpuk herd. Seems to me needs to be
14 carried over and seriously considered with the Central
15 Arctic herd considering, you know, I -- all this time I
16 -- the information I've had did not seem to reflect
17 that the Central Arctic herd was at a rate of decline
18 at this much. It seems to me it's greater than those
19 of the herds that or maybe consistent with what we're
20 seeing with other herds.

21
22 MS. LENART: I agree, I didn't expect
23 the decline to be as severe as it was. I didn't really
24 expect -- yeah, I did not expect it either.

25
26 MR. PARRETT: I guess -- this is
27 Lincoln again. I think we could kind of -- that's kind
28 of the herd summaries from those three herds. I don't
29 know what your pleasure is in terms of where you'd like
30 to go from here. We've got more slides that we could
31 talk about Board of Game proposals. I'm not sure what
32 you want to talk about. The other thing we could talk
33 about is, you know, what we could do to, you change
34 regulations if we had to. I'm not suggesting like for
35 the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk that we have to do
36 that right now, but it's good to have a plan for how we
37 would do that. There's several different directions we
38 could go from here given the time that we have
39 available.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, I think
42 it's important -- again this is Gordon Brower. I would
43 suggest that you, the State seriously consider
44 selecting at this point the user groups most dependent
45 on these resources and start to establish your tier
46 system, 22,000 is not a lot of animals when you have
47 this herd accessible by nonrural communities like
48 Fairbanks, Anchorage, when you go down the haul road, I
49 don't know how much enforcement or monitoring that is
50 occurring on the take from the Central Arctic herd, but

1 we certainly see the influx of nonrural residents on
2 the haul road either for scenery and a lot of it is for
3 the caribou hunting that I -- that some of our
4 inspectors have observed that monitor development and
5 things like that. And not just to say that the guides
6 can get five caribou or nonrural residents can take
7 200, but to view it as a food resource for those folks
8 that are dependent on it.

9

10 Yeah, I think I'll leave it at that
11 before I start an argument.

12

13 Did you want to continue your
14 presentation or were you pretty near with the update on
15 the Central Arctic herd?

16

17 MS. LENART: Yeah, that was all I had
18 for the Central Arctic herd and I'll certainly take,
19 you know, your comments and -- yeah, that's what I
20 would like to do is work with some folks in Nuiqsut, I
21 think that's the main -- major group for that portion
22 of the Central Arctic herd.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Any other
25 comments from the audience or from the Council members?

26

27 MR. SHEARS: I have -- I just want to
28 first of all -- this is Bob. I want to thank Lincoln
29 and Beth, Ryan for this informational presentation. It
30 was informative. I realized that I had some false
31 assumptions and I'm more equipped now with hard
32 evidence. I'm not feeling inclined to, you know,
33 entertain conjecture in my mind on what to do. I'd
34 like to again -- Beth, I agree, let's hear what the
35 community of Nuiqsut has to say, give us a chance to
36 digest this information. Good job. Like I said,
37 Lincoln, I recognize that we're on the cusp, next
38 year's count is going to -- going to tell the story of
39 what we're going to do next for the Western Arctic
40 group.

41

42 We've got a lot of action items still
43 on the agenda, it's 4:30 in the afternoon, we
44 reestablished quorum so I guess we can be moving on.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay. For --
47 was that Beth? And contact a guy named Popa, he's
48 Thomas Napageak, Jr., he's the mayor of Nuiqsut and
49 I'll give you his cell number because I -- he was just
50 texting me.

1 MS. LENART: Okay.
2
3 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: His cell
4 number is 699-7082.
5
6 MS. LENART: 699-7082.
7
8 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yep, that's
9 the mayor of Nuiqsut and he would be a point of contact
10 in Nuiqsut for great dialogue on Central Arctic herd.
11
12 MS. LENART: Well, thank you.
13
14 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right.
15 Well, what's our next agenda item? And thank you for
16 the presentations.
17
18 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
19 Yes, thank you very much. And just to follow-up, Beth,
20 we're unfortunately missing our Nuiqsut Council members
21 at this meeting this time, but I will relay, you know,
22 a summary of these reports and let them know for sure
23 that you're interested in reaching out to the community
24 for feedback.
25
26 And again thank you very much for
27 joining us.
28
29 And we do have quorum now. So we have
30 a handful of action items yet on the agenda that we'd
31 like to make sure just to wrap up and then have an
32 opportunity to move on to other reports if there's
33 still time.
34
35 So the action items that are remaining
36 are -- many of them are sort of housekeeping action
37 items so may not take all that much time. We left off,
38 Council had made some recommendations on the MOU with
39 the State and we're down to the review of annual report
40 reply and identify issues for the 2016 annual report.
41 And for our new Council member, Steve Oomituk, this is
42 a report that the Council drafts to the Federal
43 Subsistence Board identifying subsistence issues of
44 concern, relaying information to help make the Board
45 and the Federal Subsistence Program aware of any
46 subsistence issues of concern or observations that the
47 Council and community see in the region. Also any, you
48 know, recommendations for what might be avenues that
49 the Council sees might be good to proceed in terms of
50 the management of Federal subsistence fish and

1 wildlife.

2

3

4 And if you'll turn to page 74 in your
5 meeting books when the Council submits a report to the
6 Board the Board then replies to the Council. And
7 there's in your meeting books a guidance on the annual
8 reports. And again this is the opportunity for the
9 Council to identify current and anticipated subsistence
10 uses of fish and wildlife, you know, evaluate and bring
11 to attention anticipated subsistence needs, any
12 recommended strategies for management of fish and
13 wildlife, feedback from your communities and
14 recommendations on policy and regulations also. And
15 that also includes the business of the Council. So if
16 you have recommendations on how we can better serve the
17 region or the communities and the work of the Council.

17

18

19 And so on page 66 starts -- essentially
20 what they do is they put the Council's subject matter
21 and then a response so it's a copy of the Council's
22 original report with the Board's response. And the
23 issues in this past year's annual report were
24 addressing preventing the deflection of caribou and
25 food security management. And number 2 was the
26 development impacts and multi jurisdiction cooperation
27 of how to address, even though the Federal Subsistence
28 Board and the Federal Subsistence Program only has
29 authority on Federal lands and addressing subsistence
30 management the Council had felt interactions with
31 industrial development that may impact subsistence
32 resources was still an issue that there could be more
33 cooperation on to address. The Council had met in
34 Anaktuvuk Pass in the fall of 2015 and there were
35 numerous questions from the community of Anaktuvuk Pass
36 on accessing Native allotments within Gates of the
37 National Park. And the Board responded to that and the
38 Park also followed up providing information of how to
39 pursue that for residents of Anaktuvuk Pass. Number 4
40 was adequate time to conduct Council business, engage
41 in public participation and in particular the Council
42 has rarely had an opportunity to meet outside of
43 Barrow. And in fall of 2013 the Council met in Nuiqsut
44 and had a large community turnout and participation
45 from the community of Nuiqsut and an opportunity to
46 meet there. And then Anaktuvuk Pass the Council met
47 there and had a lot of participation from the community
48 as well although the Council was concerned there wasn't
49 enough time to really spend more time with the
50 community and be available to answer questions and also
51 just learn about the Council process and what the

1 Council can do.

2

3

4 So if you haven't had an opportunity,
5 take the time to look at the responses and see if those
6 adequately address the Council's concerns. And then
7 there's issues that the Council has been thinking of in
8 this meeting or issues of concern that you'd like to
9 identify now and then we will work with you to draft up
10 the next annual report. And I know and perhaps, you
11 know, a big issue of concern that this Council has been
12 working on is reaching out to other communities outside
13 of Barrow and the opportunity to meet in other
14 communities. We've been struggling with recruitment
15 from some communities in the region to the Council and
16 so if there's further recommendations there or to the
17 Federal Subsistence Program or the Board of what more
18 we can do to help support that outreach to other
19 communities and help build that familiarity with the
20 work of the Council and encourage more people to
21 participate in the process. That's one point that's
22 come up this meeting, but take a moment and let me know
23 and also we can circle back around as we conclude if
24 there's additional topics that you think you'd like to
25 forward to the Board this year.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Any questions
27 on the letter from -- to the Chair concerning some of
28 these issues that the Board had raised on the previous
29 concerns and a response from Tim Towarak?

30

31

(No comments)

32

33

34 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: I think some
35 of the concerns here, especially I think item one
36 that's a response I believe from Federal Subsistence
37 Board Chair Towarak in preventing deflection of caribou
38 and food security management. I think that is
39 something that should have -- should gain more
40 attention and not just in terms of reducing a unit to
41 just Federally-qualified users to assist, but because
42 of the resource and the number of communities that
43 depend on a resource like caribou is so extensive. And
44 we're not just talking about the individual needs,
45 you're talking about the community's need to harvest.
46 That includes a reasonable traditional experience to
47 hand down to the next generation and prevent -- and
48 finding ways to the maximum extent practicable to
49 prevent competing users in an area where food security
50 is a concern to a community. It needs to in my view
51 include maybe a whole new mechanism of how this is

1 addressed. I've heard so many years of the arguments
2 between communities around Squirrel River is one of
3 those things I've -- it's always resounding, I've
4 always heard about Squirrel River area and the
5 competing users in that area, literally almost fighting
6 and arguing over resources, reducing the traditional
7 loving, sharing aspect of harvesting traditional food
8 resources for a community to arguments. And I think
9 that's not healthy, it's -- it promotes the haves and
10 the have nots and I think when you look at a lot of the
11 planning that needs to go and identify a community's
12 needs, the area of influence that a community enjoys
13 under planning initiatives like our communities, we
14 identify area of influence of where this community
15 subsist. That should be extended, accepted and guide
16 the -- these uses that under the State system if it's --
17 if that area of influence is on State land and it's a
18 food security issue for our community, the State should
19 look at that and recognize the food security interests
20 of a community and develop a tier system that is geared
21 so that community can have resources. If you're here
22 to put guides and outfitters in the path of these --
23 where the community is expecting the resources to come
24 their way and you effectively displace them or deflect
25 them and I -- we would not solve -- we would not solve
26 the problem. You've got to recognize food security and
27 the science behind what is deflecting animals and the
28 study and monitoring of those.

29
30 There needs to be more emphasis on
31 this, it's not -- you know, if we can't -- if we can't
32 come together to do something like this and unit 23 is
33 a good example right now, people are enjoying the
34 resources coming to these villages and I've heard that
35 already at AFN. People making testimony yesterday
36 about the animals are here and it's different, there's
37 something different, there's a different atmosphere.
38 And all through social media and Anaktuvuk Pass, the
39 people that have been crying and hurting for a good
40 five plus years about where are our animals. I don't
41 know unit 23 and they heard about it and somebody told
42 the caribous that unit 23, you know, you got to be a
43 resident of a rural community and all of a sudden this
44 year Anaktuvuk Pass is pummeled with thousands of
45 caribou coming through. I got relatives that are
46 happy, they call me up and say I could trade you a
47 hindquarter for some seal oil now, you know. And the
48 traditional loving lifestyle of the cultures start to
49 come back and happiness is -- these kind of things
50 promote goodwill being and goodwill and the social

1 fabric of our communities start to come alive again.

2

3 So I think that has a lot to do and
4 there's more -- there should be more emphasis on food
5 security management and caribou deflection issues. I
6 thought that's an important thing and maybe
7 underestimated in response.

8

9 Any other questions or concerns that we
10 might want to bring before as something for the Federal
11 Board of Game to respond to?

12

13 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, Steve.

16

17 MR. OOMITUK: For the record, Steve
18 Oomituk from Point Hope. You know, I know I'm new to
19 this Regional Advisory Council for the North Slope.
20 You know our jurisdiction in the North Slope, you know,
21 is about a three mile, you know, out on the coast. I
22 was surprised that, you know, I couldn't make any, but,
23 you know, the ocean is our garden. You know, I mean,
24 you know, we have a lot of concerns about the traffic
25 and the Northwest Passage opening up. And, you know,
26 the animals that we subsist on and, you know, when we
27 don't get an abundance of caribou the ocean animals are
28 right there for us, the seal, the fish, the whales,
29 polar bear. You know, and I was surprised that, you
30 know, we had no jurisdiction in that area. After three
31 miles out it's Federal waters. You know, we seen a lot
32 more and more traffic coming through our area, ships
33 that we don't even know, ships that are new to us.
34 And, you know, I mean, there's been a lot of talk about
35 a shortcut, more and more traffic going to be coming
36 through our waters when the ocean is so vital to us,
37 provides us, you know, the short migration time when
38 the lead is open, the summer and all the animals
39 migrate north to their feeding grounds, calving
40 grounds, you know, not just on the land, but the ocean.
41 A lot of the coastal people rely on the ocean for their
42 food supply for the winter. And, you know, it's -- you
43 know, it's vital for the people that we make sure our
44 way of life is protected in -- you know, on land and on
45 the ocean -- in the ocean. It's our food source, our
46 identity as a people that been living off the land an
47 ocean since time immemorial. And, you know, I was just
48 surprised that we had no say so, you know, and, you
49 know, there's not much -- everything we talk about is
50 on land and, you know, the ocean is, you know, the

1 Borough has a three mile limit. You know, this is the
2 North Slope Borough Subsistence Regional Advisory
3 Council. And I was told that we had other agencies
4 work on coast, you know, for subsistence.

5

6

Thank you.

7

8

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: (In Native),
9 Steve. Steve, I like to listen to you and you're
10 always -- you always say a lot of things and it puts
11 into perspective a lot of other people needing to
12 dialogue on that. But maybe for a point of
13 clarification this is the North Slope -- this is the
14 Federal Regional Subsistence Advisory Council on the
15 North Slope, Region 10. This is a Federal Board. This
16 is a Federal Advisory Board and I don't think we're
17 limited by the Borough's boundary when we're talking
18 about those resources that we subsist on because the
19 Municipality boundaries we were able to overcome those.
20 I don't know to what extent offshore, but I think -- I
21 seem to think that we're capable to affect those
22 resources and say things that may affect our resources
23 about shipping and things like that.

24

25

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council and
26 to respond to Steve Oomituk. The direct authority that
27 the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils have
28 is to advise the Federal Subsistence Board. And most
29 immediately what they have authority is Federal
30 subsistence management on Federal lands and waters for
31 fish and wildlife. However it is also recognized and
32 part of the Council's authority to be able to comment
33 or write letters, direct correspondence to other
34 agencies as well that have jurisdiction in different
35 areas on issues that affect subsistence in your region
36 whether it's directly bounded by the Federal
37 Subsistence Program or not. And so this Council can
38 write a letter to address these concerns to the
39 management agencies that do oversee the Federal waters
40 and also the Council can both through the annual report
41 to bring these issues to the Federal Subsistence Board
42 through your annual report and can also subsequently
43 follow-up with a letter to the relevant agencies. But
44 the Federal Subsistence Board can relay issues to the
45 Secretary of the Interior or Secretary of Commerce.
46 And the Board has been active in addressing Secretary
47 of Commerce on issues of concern in the Bering Sea
48 bycatch. And that was at the direction of the
49 Councils, Councils have been very actively involved in
50 that concern about interaction of Bering Sea bycatch

1 and their subsistence fisheries.

2

3 And so that is an avenue, it's a little
4 indirect in that the Federal Subsistence Board doesn't
5 have authority, but they can facilitate relaying that
6 concern and that information to those other bodies and
7 the Council does have a voice in that way.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Go ahead,
12 Steve.

13

14 MR. OOMITUK: Thank you. You know, I
15 was recently appointed to this Board so this is a
16 learning process for me. And, you know, and the
17 concerns that I have, you know, I -- but this is.....

18

19 Thank you for clarifying, a better
20 understanding.

21

22 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Bob,
25 Wainwright.

26

27 MR. SHEARS: Onto the next subject is
28 item three of the letter. Access to Native allotments
29 within Gates of the Arctic National Park. I recall
30 this discussion when we were back there having that
31 rather lengthy and emotional meeting with the community
32 in Anaktuvuk Pass in November last year. Very good, I
33 see an explanation that National Park Service has been
34 working closely with the community ever since to
35 address those concerns, the people claiming that they
36 can't obtain access to their Native allotments inside
37 the Park. But it's an ongoing process, attached
38 instructions, thanks and I went to review it, review
39 the National Park Service instructions including short
40 form 299, the application, and wow, you know, I'm
41 pretty proficient with documentation and this is
42 challenging even by my standards. So I understand that
43 it's an ongoing process to educate the community and I
44 would like to have a report from the National Park
45 Service on the progress at our next Council meeting in
46 that regards.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

1 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Eva.
2
3 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Bob. And we do
4 have -- Marcy Okada has been on the teleconference for
5 this meeting and she was on the agenda under agency
6 reports to give an update on Gates of the Arctic and
7 that was part of.....
8
9 MR. OOMITUK: Okay.
10
11 MS. PATTON:that report to the
12 Council. So if we have time for that she's available
13 online today.
14
15 Thank you.
16
17 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,
18 Bob. I think that was an important note and I could
19 just remember when we were in Anaktuvuk Pass and boy,
20 you know, your heart goes out to the community and they
21 assess access problems and issues that they need to
22 overcome to go to traditional lands and visit their (in
23 Native) home that they haven't been in 30 years because
24 access is difficult and relegated to either by foot or
25 by -- in the wintertime when maybe they really don't
26 want to access it in the wintertime, but during peak
27 subsistence periods was probably the main issue to get
28 there. So it would be nice to get an update and hear
29 Marcy's assistance to that community. And I think that
30 they should be assisting the community to gain access
31 because they're the regulatory body behind why they
32 can't go there or have limited access.
33
34 Any other concerns on the.....
35
36 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair.
37
38 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER:on this
39 report for the Federal Board?
40
41 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair.
42
43 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, is that
44 Marcy and you can be recognized.
45
46 MS. OKADA: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is
47 Marcy Okada with Gates of the Arctic National Park and
48 Preserve. And just in case we don't have enough time
49 to get to the agency reports, I can just answer quickly
50 to Bob's question regarding access to Native

1 allotments.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, go
4 ahead. I think we.....

5

6 MS. OKADA: So we did receive.....

7

8 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER:that's
9 good.

10

11 MS. OKADA: We did receive an
12 application from a family January of this year
13 requesting access to their Native allotment utilizing
14 Argo, down the John River. We processed that
15 application and, yes, I do agree with Bob, it's not
16 very intuitive on how to fill out an application of
17 that type. So we worked with that family in regards to
18 what the request was and how to fill out that
19 application. And we also met with the Tribal Council
20 of Anaktuvuk Pass and the City Council to go over
21 Native allotment access and a permit was issued to this
22 family, I want to say August or September of this year.
23 And it is good until October of next year. And it's
24 not -- it'll be a renewed permit, but this will just be
25 a trial access utilizing Argo to see what route they
26 would take to get down to the Native allotment. And we
27 would be working with this family whenever they decide
28 to go down to their Native allotment and so a permit
29 was issued recently.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Marcy, that's
32 good news. And I hope you continue to work with them
33 and -- as they develop that route. Seems like it's a
34 -- and a permit to review the route and see if that is
35 a route that would be sustained over time. And we hope
36 that these kind of things could be resolved a long time
37 ago, seems like we've heard this concern for many, many
38 years about trying to access these Tribal lands that
39 are enclosed in Park Service lands.

40

41 MS. OKADA: Are there any other
42 questions regarding Native allotment access?

43

44 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: No further
45 questions. And if we got time we hope you get some
46 more or maybe on the next -- on our next meeting
47 provide visuals.

48

49 MS. OKADA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay. In
2 terms of this as an action item you wish us to review
3 and then talk about the response and I think we did
4 that.

5
6 MS. PATTON: Great. Thank you, Mr.
7 Chair. And thank you, Marcy.

8
9 And the next item in terms of action
10 items is charter review. And again just a basic
11 overview. You'll find your charter on page 105. And
12 because the Councils are appointed by the Secretary of
13 the Interior and governed under the Federal Advisory
14 Committee Act. And Council has a charter and that
15 charter is renewed every two years by the vote of the
16 Council. And primarily the charter describes the
17 authorities of the Council and the main duties of the
18 Council which are to recommend the initiation of review
19 and evaluate proposals for regulations, policies,
20 management plans and other matters relating to
21 subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on Federal public
22 lands within the region; provide a public forum of
23 expression for opinions and recommendations by persons
24 interested in any matter related to subsistence fish
25 and wildlife. And so that's why the meetings are
26 always public meetings within the region. And we seek
27 that public engagement and feedback and the Council's
28 engagement with public and the communities and again
29 encouraging local and regional participation in the
30 decision making process affecting the taking of fish
31 and wildlife on public lands within the region and
32 preparing an annual report to the Secretary identifying
33 current and anticipated uses of fish and wildlife, and
34 again this is Council's report to the Board; an
35 evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs
36 for fish and wildlife populations in the region and
37 recommended strategies to accommodate subsistence uses
38 and needs and recommendations concerning policies,
39 standards and guidelines and regulations and
40 implementing that.

41
42 Those are the primary duties and that
43 is the work that this Council has been doing throughout
44 this meeting and it's very important. And we do have
45 this connection to the National Park Service also so
46 concurrent in ANILCA was the formation of the Federal
47 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils and the
48 Subsistence Resource Commission. And this Council has
49 interaction with Gates of the Arctic National Park,
50 both with Anaktuvuk Pass being a community within the

1 Park, but also resident zoned communities and Nuiqsut
2 is a resident zone community and if you recall in
3 Anaktuvuk Pass when our Council member, James Nageak,
4 retired and the Council no longer had a Anaktuvuk Pass
5 member that Sam Kunaknana was nominated to serve as an
6 interim member on that SRC since Nuiqsut does have that
7 resident zoned community relationship. So that's the
8 combined work of both the Subsistence Resource
9 Commissions and the SRCs so the Council makes an
10 appointment for one of the seats on the SRC.
11 And then also making recommendations on determinations
12 of customary and traditional use of subsistence
13 resources. And so that's part of the foundation of the
14 relationship that the communities have and as we
15 discovered today through that fishery proposal that,
16 you know, that C&T goes much broader beyond just the
17 region so people have interactions with other regions
18 and also trade in other communities. So the Council
19 makes those recommendations as well. Recommendations
20 on rural status and on the rural process which we're
21 working on right now and your recommendations will go
22 to the Board for their consideration of the policy
23 guidelines on rural determination. And also provide
24 recommendations on the establishment and membership of
25 the Federal Advisory Committees. And again if there's
26 recommendations that you feel would be helpful for more
27 outreach or connection with communities in the North
28 Slope region so that we are reaching all of the
29 communities and have representation from all the
30 communities and that's very helpful.

31

32 And again the Council reports to the
33 Federal Subsistence Board Chair who's appointed by the
34 Secretary of Interior and Agriculture. And the U.S.
35 Fish and Wildlife Service will provide administrative
36 support for the activities of the Council through the
37 Office of Subsistence Management. So we are your Staff
38 and at your service. And we now are more fully staffed
39 so we do have -- we have anthropologists now working in
40 the region that are assigned to you and our fisheries
41 biologist and wildlife biologist and of course I'm your
42 coordinator and at your service for anything that we
43 can facilitate to help the Council in engagement with
44 the communities and being effective in making your
45 recommendations to the Board and beyond, letters also
46 to other agencies. So we are your Staff.

47

48 So basically the charter is -- you
49 know, details those primary authorities which are
50 really important and meet once or twice a year on a

1 regular basis. And again this charter needs to be
2 refiled every two years. And so there's not a whole
3 lot in here that the Council could change because these
4 authorities are established in large part under ANILCA.
5 Changes are essentially membership numbers so you can
6 increase -- you can change the number of member seats
7 on the Council and the name if you wish to do so. But
8 again most of the authorities are in ANILCA, but the
9 Council does revisit the charter every year because
10 it's important to revisit those authorities. And then
11 it would just be a motion of the Council to support the
12 charter unless there were any changes you wish to make
13 to the membership number or the name.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Very good.
16 Any questions?

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: I recall some
21 time ago, I don't know if it was the Secretary, that
22 strengthened our role and if that's ingrained in these
23 documents or is that a separate document. I seem to
24 recall that the Regional Subsistence Advisory Councils
25 either were strengthened or to have more deference in
26 our deliberations. And I can't recall exactly what it
27 was about, but it -- I recall something like that.

28

29 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
30 There was a Secretarial Review that was undertaken and
31 that started with Salazar and that Administration. And
32 that was based on feedback and a lot of discussion at
33 AFN, but a lot of public feedback on concerns about how
34 the program was managed. And so responding to that
35 Secretarial Review is still in progress, but many of
36 the recommendations that were made by the Secretary
37 were enacted. And a big part of that electing public
38 member seats. So previously the Federal Subsistence
39 Board was made up of each of the Federal land
40 management agencies and BIA. And part of the concern
41 was that those positions come with the directorship of
42 those land management agencies and so those seats
43 weren't necessarily people that were either residents
44 or knowledgeable subsistence users and that was a
45 concern and that was addressed by creating the public
46 member seats which are currently filled now by Charley
47 Brower of Barrow and also Anthony Christianson a
48 Tlingit of Hydaburg and then of course Chairman Tim
49 Towarak from Unalakleet. Tim did just retire and so
50 Anthony Christianson is interim Chair and there was a

1 call out for nominations and applications for another
2 Chair seat. But that -- the addition of three
3 additional public members serving on the Board was a
4 big change. And it is in ANILCA, the Board defers to
5 the Council on matters of the taking of fish and
6 wildlife. So that is pretty prescribed and that's why
7 when we get into say rural determination which that now
8 has become more of a public process and the inclusion
9 of the Councils in making recommendations and
10 involvement and informing that process. The 805C
11 report which comes back to the Council from the Board
12 is a report from the Board on the actions that they
13 took on the recommendations that Council had on fish
14 and wildlife recommendations. And that is a pretty
15 high number, it fluctuates a little bit from year to
16 year, but in general the Federal Subsistence Board
17 concurs with the Council recommendations 97, 98 percent
18 of the time. And so the Council's recommendations on
19 Federal subsistence regulations the Board does defer to
20 the Council on those recommendations unless there is a
21 conservation concern or impact that might affect
22 subsistence users in another region or another area.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right,
25 Eva. Well, you could have said yep, but.....

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER:I feel
30 like I go to college every time you start to talk and I
31 get more enriched all the time. But that's great
32 stuff.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MR. SHEARS: So a question, Mr. Chair,
37 for Eva.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Go ahead, Bob.

40
41 MR. SHEARS: So the current charter is
42 dated by Sally Jewell on November 20th, 2015. You need
43 a recommendation to forward it for renewal by when?

44
45 MS. PATTON: This is actually the
46 meeting in which to do that. So it's.....

47
48 MR. SHEARS: Ah.

49
50 MS. PATTON: Yes. So this would

1 require a motion today.....

2

3 MR. SHEARS: It's only -- it's been
4 less than a year since this was signed. You get --
5 it's a two year charter. You've got over a year to act
6 on this and you have to have a decision from a four
7 member quorum of a 10 panel Board, I don't think
8 there's enough people here to adjudicate this.

9

10 MS. PATTON: So again if you'll recall
11 the Regional Advisory Council member application
12 process, that takes about a year to get enacted from
13 the time someone applies to go through the interviews
14 and it takes some time in the Secretary's office to
15 then finalize these charters. So this was actually --
16 seems like 2015, but it falls right in the new year
17 when it was -- so.....

18

19 MR. SHEARS: Okay.

20

21 MS. PATTON:and it'll take about
22 a year.

23

24 MR. SHEARS: It's been two years since
25 we discussed this, huh, time.....

26

27 MS. PATTON: Well, will be two years by
28 the time that this actually gets enacted so that the
29 charter will continue.

30

31 MR. SHEARS: Right.

32

33 MS. PATTON: Again the basics in the
34 charter are really foundational so there's very little
35 that will or can change from year to year. Most of it
36 is articulated in ANILCA. And so again there's little
37 you can change except for your Council number
38 membership or the name of the Council. And so there's
39 really not much that there's available to modify. And
40 it -- you know, if the Council wants to continue their
41 Council's work so I recognize you have just a four
42 Council member here, but there wouldn't be much that
43 could be changed.....

44

45 MR. SHEARS: Yeah.

46

47 MS. PATTON:again other than the
48 Council membership number or the name.

49

50 MR. SHEARS: Yeah. Mr. Chair.

1 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right.
2 Bob, I'll turn my light on.

3
4 MR. SHEARS: Just one last question. I
5 just want to torture Eva with one thing. What's the
6 consequences of letting the charter -- letting this
7 charter expire, what happens to us, all of us?

8
9 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. So
10 each Council has their own charter and all the core
11 information is the same. Again because it was -- you
12 know, it's largely articulated in ANILCA, but if the
13 charter were to expire then essentially the Council's
14 authorities that are addressed here and that
15 relationship to the Federal Subsistence Program and the
16 Secretary of the Interior would expire. And so the
17 Council is required to have a charter to conduct its
18 business. It gives the authority of the Council. So
19 it is a matter of housekeeping, but it's an important
20 one for the continuation of the Council under the
21 Secretary of the Interior.

22
23 MR. SHEARS: Yeah.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: And I think --
26 yeah, Bob, I think you bring up some good stuff and
27 might be semantics at point sometimes because we're,
28 you know, very few right now and we're, you know,
29 trying to encourage others to apply because we'd like
30 to see most of our communities represented all the time
31 and at one point I can remember all the communities
32 were represented. But I think there's sufficient merit
33 to go ahead and, you know, make a motion to make sure
34 this is addressed and not let this fall to the wayside
35 because I don't think we have the entire group to
36 demand a change in the makeup at this point and I think
37 there's sufficient here and when we're establishing a
38 quorum to reauthorize it. And besides I think a new
39 Secretary will probably sign it, right, we'll get a new
40 one and it's just that time to do that. So I would
41 support moving forward to recommending that it's
42 reauthorizd.

43
44 MR. SHEARS: Yeah, I'll support that
45 too. Mr. Chair, I would -- I concur with you that
46 support to reauthorize it, but again I also agree that
47 there's not enough of us to discuss changes.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: So was that in
50 the form of a motion, somebody want a motion to do

1 that?

2

3 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair, a motion to
4 renew the charter of the North Slope Subsistence
5 Regional Advisory Council.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: There's a
8 motion on the floor to renew the North Slope Regional
9 Advisory Council's charter.

10

11 MR. OOMITUK: Second that motion.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: It's been
14 seconded by Point Hope. Any discussion?

15

16 MR. KAYOTUK: Call for question.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Question's
19 been called for. All those in favor of reauthorizing
20 the North Slope Regional Subsistence Advisory Council
21 charter signify by saying aye.

22

23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Motion
26 carries. I don't think there's -- nobody dissenting.

27

28 (No opposing votes)

29

30 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Council
31 members. And certainly and we realize we're missing a
32 number of our Council members here, we'll work to relay
33 information that we've covered here and also, you know,
34 we can continue the dialogue too so that if they -- you
35 know, they had feedback while it wouldn't make it into
36 this charter review it comes up pretty quickly again so
37 I would certainly encourage feedback from Rosemary and
38 from Sam if they had any recommendations for the
39 future.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right. On
44 our agenda where are we at, another asterisks?

45

46 MS. PATTON: We have one more asterisk
47 and this is sort of an odd one. Under G you'll find
48 Tongass submerged lands proposed rule on page 113. And
49 this is an issue that as it states Tongass is really
50 relevant to the Southeast Regional Advisory Council,

1 but because this proposed rule will effectively enact a
2 change in the Federal Subsistence Program because it's
3 addressing a topic in ANILCA, in the lands transfer.
4 So for that reason it's coming before every Regional
5 Advisory Council so that each Council has an
6 opportunity to be aware of it, make a recommendation if
7 you choose to do so or to defer to the Council region
8 that is affected.

9

10 So on page 113 you'll find the actual
11 proposed rule and this is what is in the Federal
12 Register. And this is addressing -- this is addressing
13 submerged lands. And again this was under Title VIII
14 of ANILCA with respect to submerged lands on the
15 Tongass National Forest. And there was a court
16 proceeding which would allow those submerged lands that
17 were identified in the Tongass National Forest, but did
18 not pass to State of Alaska at Statehood and therefore
19 remain in Federal public lands subject to the
20 provisions of ANILCA. And so following the court's
21 decision BLM and the Forest Service started a review of
22 these potential pre-Statehood withdrawals in marine
23 waters within Tongass National Forest areas. And in
24 April of 2015 BLM submitted initial lists of these
25 submerged public lands to the Board and the proposed
26 rule would add those submerged parcels of land to
27 subsistence regulations to ensure compliance with the
28 court order.

29

30 So this is addressing Federal public
31 lands in the Tongass area which is southeast Alaska,
32 but those submerged marine waters would not come under
33 the jurisdiction of the Federal Subsistence Management
34 Program. And again because this is addressing some of
35 the foundational beginnings in ANILCA it comes before
36 all the Councils to be able to respond and be aware of
37 this change.

38

39 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair, a question.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Go ahead, Bob,
42 Wainwright.

43

44 MR. SHEARS: What's the difference
45 between submerged lands and navigable waterways?

46

47 MS. PATTON: So my understanding is and
48 I might need some more legal backup on this, I might
49 have to check with some of our Staff to be certain, but
50 these submerged lands actually these were some areas

1 that were identified in ANILCA as Federal waters on the
2 boundaries of these Forest Service lands as opposed to
3 navigable waters which are defined by.....

4

5 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: By Jennifer?

6

7 MS. PATTON: By Jennifer. So we have
8 -- you know, we have within Federal waters so within
9 like Refuge boundaries and then State jurisdiction
10 which defines those areas that are navigable.

11

12 MR. SHEARS: I guess my question.....

13

14 MS. PATTON: And Jennifer can speak to
15 it.

16

17 MR. SHEARS:so submerged lands --
18 Jennifer, are submerged lands like wetlands, marshy
19 areas, tidal pools or are they possibly navigable
20 waterways?

21

22 DR. HARDIN: Through the Chair, Mr.
23 Shears. Thank you for that question and I'll do my
24 best to answer it, I'm not a lawyer and the navigable
25 water issue is complicated as you know. But these
26 particular lands are primarily -- that have been
27 identified so far are primarily navigation aids. So
28 that -- many of them exist within navigable waters so
29 they would be areas where buoys are, navigation buoys
30 are or are very -- those that have been identified thus
31 far are quite small parcels of land that were
32 transferred to the Federal government but never -- were
33 part of the Federal government holdings, but never
34 transferred at Statehood.

35

36 MR. SHEARS: I see. Okay.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: What's the
39 wish of the Board?

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Any further
44 questions?

45

46 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair, question for --
47 going by -- do we have similar type of lands in the
48 NPR-A where the Federal government still retains rights
49 over submerged land in NPR-A similar to like they do at
50 the Tongass Forest?

1 MS. PATTON: I am not familiar with
2 any. I don't know if Dave Yokel might be familiar.

3
4 MR. SHEARS: I'm thinking that NPR-A,
5 the State exempted their right to waterways in the
6 condition of the NPR-A, is that right, and that the
7 waters -- the submerged lands in NPR-A are Federally
8 controlled, am I correct, or are they State controlled?

9
10 DR. YOKEL: Just to make him confused
11 it's a mix. Submerged lands are more of a term of land
12 ownership. Navigable waters are a term under the
13 commerce clause and.....

14
15 MR. SHEARS: Okay.

16
17 DR. YOKEL:and it just so happens
18 that lands submerged under navigable waters go to the
19 ownership of the State. But there's another law,
20 there's something called a pick line, Porcupine, Yukon-
21 Kuskokwim and the lands north of that, had some affect
22 on which waters could go to the State. But in the NPR-
23 A in general the Federal government retains ownership
24 of the submerged lands nonetheless and even though
25 lakes and ponds are not navigable perhaps, the
26 Department of Natural Resources provides the permits to
27 the oil industry and others for use of the water.

28
29 MR. SHEARS: Regulating the terms of
30 (indiscernible - away from microphone).....

31
32 DR. YOKEL: The use of the water, how
33 much water you can take out of the lake.

34
35 That's about the best I can do for
36 that.

37
38 MR. SHEARS: Thank you. Thank you.
39 Okay.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you, Dr.
42 Yokel.

43
44 DR. YOKEL: Since I'm up here and I'm
45 not going to get a turn today I just wanted to -- you
46 know, it was mentioned yesterday that Harry's been
47 working with this Council since its conception. I
48 actually worked with this Council since the year before
49 its inception because before there was any Council
50 members somebody had to get together and determine what

1 the regulations were going to be that year. And so
2 that's when I first got involved back in '92 I think it
3 was. But I am going to retire at the end of this
4 calendar year so this will be my last meeting with you.
5 And so I just want to say it's been a wonderful
6 journey, I thank you for all that I have learned from
7 you over those years and I hope you guys have a good
8 winter.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, it's
11 pretty cool there. Yeah, I know we've worked with you
12 for many, many, many years and I have always, you know,
13 appreciated, you know, what you bring to the table and
14 all those years of experience and how you manage BLM
15 lands is always -- it's hard not to think of NPR-A
16 without thinking about Dr. Yokel. And I wish the best
17 for you as you maybe go on your motorhome or go fishing
18 in NPR-A hopefully or do something. And
19 congratulations on retiring. Holy cow. Cool.

20

21 DR. YOKEL: Well, thank you very much.

22

23 MR. SHEARS: And, Mr. Chair.

24

25 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair.

26

27 MR. SHEARS: Oh, go ahead, Steve.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Point Hope.

30

31 MR. OOMITUK: I just want to say happy
32 retirement and I know I just met you, but nice meeting
33 you and safe travels and enjoy.

34

35 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. Yeah. I'll
36 say.....

37

38 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Wainwright.

39

40 MR. SHEARS:congratulations for
41 your years and years and thank you of your service,
42 your government service, your service to us. And now
43 that that's over, any -- I hope you'll consider, you
44 know, your experiences -- not taking your experience
45 off the market. And maybe be in and consultable.

46

47 DR. YOKEL: I have a phone number.

48

49 MR. SHEARS: I'd like to have it.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you, Dr.
2 Yokel. And that was pretty cool. And worked -- seems
3 like I've been here long enough to see finally somebody
4 retire from it.

5
6 Any other concerns or was this an
7 action item or are we done with an action item or.....

8
9 MS. PATTON: It is actually an action
10 item because it's going to the Federal Register and it
11 -- and was required to go before all the Councils.
12 Again the Council can take action on it to support or
13 oppose or you can defer to the southeast region who is
14 most affected, but it is an action item.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you.
17 And so we have an action item on the floor here, guys,
18 and I think we've said enough about it and kind of
19 recognize we do have submerged lands here as well.

20
21 MR. SHEARS: Uh-huh.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: And it would
24 be interesting to know what they're -- what it's all
25 about. But I would -- I think respectfully want to
26 defer this to the region that is dealing with the
27 matter and not interfere with their business.

28
29 MR. SHEARS: Yes, Mr. Chair, I agree.
30 I'd recommend no action on this.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Is that a
33 motion?

34
35 MR. SHEARS: That is a motion.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: There's a
38 motion on the floor to defer this -- what do you call
39 this, submerged lands, Tongass National Forest
40 submerged lands to the affected Regional Subsistence
41 Advisory Council that is impacted. There's a motion by
42 Mr. Shears with that.

43
44 MR. OOMITUK: Second.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: It's been
47 seconded for discussion.

48
49 MR. SHEARS: Question.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: The question's
2 been called for for deferring any action as a no action
3 on the Tongass National Forest submerged lands to the
4 affected Regional Advisory Council, signify by saying
5 aye.

6
7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All those
10 opposed, same sign.

11
12 (No opposing votes)

13
14 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Motion
15 carries.

16
17 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,
18 that was the last of the action items with the
19 exception of selecting a fall, 2017 meeting date and
20 confirming the next ones. And we usually take that up
21 at the end of the meeting, but you want to take care of
22 the last of the action items and then we have an
23 opportunity to go back to the agency reports. And
24 you'll find in the back of your meeting on page 143 and
25 144 and I'll provide you the current meeting dates that
26 have been selected so far by the other Councils. And
27 for fall of 2017 and the window opens on August 21st
28 and closes on November 2nd. And anytime in that time
29 frame that would work best for the Council or for your
30 communities. And unfortunately we're only able to hold
31 two Council meetings per week, that's the capacity we
32 have in terms of Staff and the logistical support. So
33 here's what's currently on the agenda and we can select
34 a date and if you find out, you know, there's other
35 meetings or important issues that are going on you can
36 always let me know and the Council will revisit this
37 date also at the winter meeting to reconfirm that it
38 works.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Oh, these are
41 the confirmed ones?

42
43 MS. PATTON: Yeah.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: For the -- oh,
46 that's for the fall one and this one's for the winter.
47 Okay.

48
49 MR. SHEARS: (Indiscernible - away from
50 microphone).....

1 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, let's
2 not do that again.
3
4 MS. PATTON: Yeah. Whenever it is that
5 no Assembly meetings.....
6
7 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.
8
9 MS. PATTON:that might be
10 scheduled.
11
12 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. To comment on
13 the winter 2017 Regional Advisory Council meeting
14 calendar, I'm looking at February, March, 2017 on page
15 143. The North Slope Borough in the first week of
16 February is -- that's fine, but I think we're learning
17 our lesson to stay a long ways -- put some distance
18 between us and the first Tuesday of every month. Is it
19 possible to adjust that one day to the right and make
20 that February 9th and 10th, how would you guys consider
21 that?
22
23 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, Eva, it
24 would be really good to know a calendar of events for
25 the North Slope as well, you know. You know, every
26 first Tuesday of the month is an Assembly. The last
27 Thursday of every month is a Planning Commission date
28 and many of us that have multiple hats cannot get out
29 of these things sometimes. And it kind of impacted us
30 today too. So and just for prudent planning I think
31 it's important to recognize, you know, communities and
32 what's going on.
33
34 Steve.
35
36 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, I -- you know, I'm
37 on the Assembly now so the first Tuesday's always hard.
38 I'm on the Tribal Council also, but it's usually in the
39 evening. So I went there today and.....
40
41 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: So I think
42 winter meeting, I think February 9 and 10 would work.
43 I think that's more doable and at least let us relax
44 from the night before meeting which might go on until
45 midnight, you know.
46
47 MR. SHEARS: Yeah, I agree. And if you
48 wanted to have an early coordination pre-meeting on,
49 you know, late on February 8th, then we could
50 accommodate it.

1 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right.
2 Anybody want to put that in a motion or is that an
3 action item like that or not?

4
5 MR. SHEARS: Is that good enough?

6
7 MS. PATTON: Yes.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay. All
10 right. Fall meeting, we're talking about that too?

11
12 MS. PATTON: Yes, and this will be the
13 opportunity to identify at least tentatively a fall
14 meeting date that would work for the Council and then
15 we'll revisit that at the winter meeting. And again
16 this calendar has all the meeting dates that were
17 selected by the Councils that have met already. And so
18 where you find two Councils in any given week
19 essentially those weeks are taken up unfortunately.
20 Again the window does run from August 21st until
21 November 10th. And I know previously we had tried to
22 hold a meeting prior to fall whaling and we've shifted
23 these last couple meeting to after fall whaling. So I
24 don't -- I think those last -- or the first two weeks
25 of November are booked with two Council meetings
26 already. If there's anything that would still work in
27 late October if you wanted to do it later in the
28 season.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: There's August
31 -- it says the window opens August 21 and then closes
32 on Veterans Day, November 10th.

33
34 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, go
37 ahead, Bob.

38
39 MR. SHEARS: You know, I'm thinking
40 that we're going to be armed with information and
41 knowledge, we may be subjected to making critical
42 action on the caribou during this window. Recognizing
43 that I would -- similar to what we did in Anaktuvuk
44 Pass last year I'd make a motion that we could -- if we
45 could have this meeting in Wainwright the last week of
46 August it would be an appropriate time to get a lot of
47 public input on that subject.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: And what would
50 be -- would there be any reason to say we couldn't go

1 to Wainwright and there -- if there was a budget
2 problem or something like that or are we -- well,
3 within that range to do it that way?

4

5 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Counsel, the
6 important thing is to get the request from the Council
7 and the community so that we can forward that request
8 to the director. What I will do is develop a cost
9 analysis of what the cost would be to meet in
10 Wainwright and also the justification or the importance
11 of meeting there and Council being able to address very
12 important subsistence caribou concerns which will be on
13 the agenda at that fall meeting and to hear from the
14 community of Wainwright that we have not had an
15 opportunity to meet there. I know our director, Gene
16 Peltola, Jr., has been very supportive wherever
17 possible to meet in other rural communities. And
18 budgets are such now that we have been able to do that
19 on occasion once every two years or three years is what
20 he had suggested. But I will forward this request. I
21 think unique to the North Slope Council is that the
22 Council has until Nuiqsut had not had an opportunity to
23 meet outside of Barrow in other rural communities. And
24 has been working very hard to make those connections in
25 those communities and to be engaged in those
26 communities, but has struggled in part because you
27 haven't had that opportunity except for 2013 in Nuiqsut
28 which was fabulous and Anaktuvuk Pass and because those
29 communities had important subsistence concerns that the
30 Council wanted to address. So I think there's a lot of
31 cause for justification there and I'll forward that on
32 to the director.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Very good. So
35 we have a motion, right, I second it.

36

37 Any discussion?

38

39 MR. SHEARS: Just one topic. August
40 31st is a blackout day, that's when the Planning
41 Commission is meeting, try to stay off of that day.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: So we were
44 thinking about August 24, 25?

45

46 MR. SHEARS: Perfect.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right.

49

50 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair, Council.

1 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, go
2 ahead, Lee.
3
4 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay. For those dates
5 there may be whaling in that area, but then we try our
6 best to be there if it passes.
7
8 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right.
9 Lee, I hope you catch one at that day and then bring a
10 slab to cook over at Wainwright.
11
12 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay.
13
14 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, I think
15 it's important to recognize caribou as a.....
16
17 MR. KAYOTUK: That was the fall, 2017
18 meeting, right, August to November, that's what we're
19 addressing on?
20
21 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, August
22 20 to November 10 and we're thinking August 24 and 25
23 would be our fall, 2017 date to meet in Wainwright.
24
25 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay. Thank you.
26
27 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay. Eva, I
28 think you got some proposed dates.
29
30 MS. PATTON: Great. Thank you very
31 much. And that was the last of the action items. If
32 the Council has time, again we had several agency
33 reports. Dr. Dave Yokel was on for updates for BLM,
34 NPR-A and then we have Marcy Okada online with Gates of
35 the Arctic National Park and then also Nikki Braem is
36 here to address Board of Game proposals specifically to
37 review the ANS process for the Western Arctic and
38 Teshekpuk caribou herds that was presented to the
39 Board. So those are the three remaining agency reports
40 that we have for the Council.
41
42 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, Eva, I
43 think I would be particularly interested in listening
44 to somebody about the ANS. And after that continue to
45 say goodbye to Dr. Yokel after that.
46
47 What's the wish of the Board, I mean,
48 we could -- either we could -- I know I got another
49 meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. and that's a North Slope
50 Borough Assembly meeting and I had enough cookies so I

1 think I ate.

2

3 MR. OOMITUK: I also have a meeting,
4 but, yes, we can -- I just.....

5

6 MS. PATTON: And then while Nikki's
7 getting set up, she had actually provided the analysis
8 that she provided to the Board of Game in 2014 and that
9 was mailed out to you guys in your meeting materials.
10 But I have extra copies here too so I'll hand those
11 out.

12

13 And then also I'm just going to hand
14 out a copy of the Council proposal that you submitted
15 to Board of Game requesting a separation of the ANS for
16 Western Arctic and Teshekpuk.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right.
19 Amount necessary for subsistence, the analysis by
20 Nikki?

21

22 MS. BRAEM: Yeah, like Nicole and
23 Nikki.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Nikki/Nicole.

26

27 MS BRAEM: Yes.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Very good.
30 You have the floor.

31

32 MS. BRAEM: Okay. I'm going to get my
33 notes up here and let me see if I can get my --
34 actually let me back out and get my notes up. Just
35 give me a second with the control panel here so we have
36 a better display.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: We're excusing
39 Steve Oomituk, he's go to go get ready for an Assembly
40 meeting.

41

42 MR. OOMITUK: Thank you.

43

44 MS. BRAEM: All right. So you guys are
45 going to get the opportunity to see my notes while
46 we're at it because that way we can get going.

47

48 So what this is when -- I guess I
49 should introduce myself for the record. My name's
50 Nikki Braem, I work with Division of Subsistence at the

1 Department of Fish and Game in Fairbanks.

2

3

4 In 2014 the Board took up the question
5 of an ANS for the Teshekpuk herd. We prepared a
6 lengthy report on it and we also provided Staff
7 comments. One of the things I should note and last
8 night when I talked about what happened in 2014 I
9 mentioned that the Board said well, they probably
10 thought it was included. I should have also mentioned
11 at the time we were unsure what had gone on, we had not
12 gone back and checked the 1992 recordings. So we were
13 like -- you know, our comments were like we don't
14 really know what they intended in 1992. Since then
15 we've listened to that recording.

16

17 So in the interest of time I think I'm
18 not going to -- the procedure is usually that you make
19 a customary and traditional use finding. So there's
20 information here related to that. I think we should
21 just skip past that and get maybe to the data that we
22 presented. Would that be amenable to you guys?

23

MR. SHEARS: Sure.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, I think
26 that would be good. I think we're more interested in
27 that.

28

29 MS. BRAEM: Okay. I'm going to scroll
30 down a little bit to that -- to the slides that get to
31 that part. So let's just go right here, here's the
32 first one. So what this is, we show this pretty much
33 anytime we talk about ANS. This left side right here
34 where my cursor is is the harvestable surplus, you can
35 see that on the left. So the biologist says out of a
36 herd of X number of animals we think you can take
37 14,000 or 15,000 animals. Over here is how ANS relates
38 to that harvestable surplus. You have the upper bound
39 of the ANS right here and the lower bounds of the ANS
40 right here. In the case of the Western Arctic herd as
41 you know 8000 is the lower bounds, 12,000 is the upper
42 bounds. So what ANS primarily does is it determines
43 what kind of hunts and -- the Department will offer.
44 It's not a quota. So when you get up above, you know,
45 the upper bounds of the ANS we'd say general hunt, that
46 means that we can have -- or this applies to fishing as
47 well where there's fishing, you can offer something
48 other than subsistence uses of a resource. So with
49 fishing you could have commercial fishing, personal use
50 fishing all the other patterns of use because

1 fundamentally C&T findings are about patterns of use.
2 When we get down into here we start restricting or
3 eliminating nonresident harvest between eight and
4 12,000 and when we get below this lower bounds then
5 we're in the tier two thing where they begin -- it's a
6 very limited harvest, there's a tier two application
7 which is scored based on your -- you know, your history
8 of use and dependency on it and alternate costs to get
9 something alternative, you know, groceries and things,
10 cost of groceries, gasoline, things like that come into
11 play when we rank -- when applications are ranked.

12
13 All right. Let's scroll down to some
14 data real quick here. So the data background. When
15 Lincoln and I began discussing how do we come up with
16 an ANS for this herd the first thing considered well,
17 what are the long term patterns of use, what
18 communities given where they hunt and when are the
19 primary hunters on this herd. And even in the old C&T
20 worksheet, you know, Barrow, Atqasuk, Nuiqsut were
21 identified as the primary harvesters from the Teshekpuk
22 herd, but also Wainwright and Anaktuvuk Pass too
23 because some times caribou just go off other places,
24 you know, they -- I mean, they see occasionally
25 collared Teshekpuk animals down in unit 23. But that's
26 like, you know, a needed in a haystack of Western
27 Arctic caribou down there.

28
29 I talked a little bit about how in 1992
30 suddenly the Department came and tried to do all these
31 ANS in their meetings in November, they didn't get
32 through all of them and they didn't talk about the
33 Teshies then. They finished up some other work in 1993
34 and it looks like we actually prepared a C&T worksheet
35 for this herd, but it was never taken up. It's like
36 the work was done and we found this 1993 worksheet, but
37 it never went any further than that until 2014. Now
38 because of the State of Alaska and the current legal
39 environment under which the State of Alaska operates,
40 I'm also obligated to look at uses of the herd by other
41 Alaskans and by nonresidents. And I say other Alaskans
42 or nonlocal hunters, I mean, other Alaskans are
43 resident -- people who are not residents of 26A, that's
44 the data that I looked at in the harvest ticket data
45 base.

46
47 Now so our information for like these --
48 you know, these communities are community harvest
49 surveys, either done by ourself or by the Borough.
50 Most of the data comes from the Borough actually. When

1 it comes to the -- you know, other Alaskans, other
2 residents that's when we look at that harvest ticket
3 data base, that State data base. So that's the two
4 sources of data you're going to see. And this is not
5 -- I don't really want to call -- this slide would have
6 applied to the C&T finding, but I'm just going to call
7 your attention to our community data because this is a
8 little summary of the data that assisted in 2014 about --
9 the communities we identified as the primary users of
10 the herd. So, you know, I still could have had surveys
11 that included the time period between 1994 and 2007,
12 the first surveys in the region, '87 is the earliest
13 and these -- so here's a summary of what was available.
14 I also showed the low and high harvests out of all the
15 years so here's the lowest ever recorded at Atqasuk,
16 157 caribou, high harvest was 398.

17
18 Now at this point in the presentation I
19 was merely talking about caribou because people don't
20 go oh, I got five Teshekpuk and three Western Arctic
21 caribou. They don't carry ID cards, right, so we began
22 with a starting point of community harvest estimates
23 and the (indiscernible) went to well, what portion when
24 we can figure it out was likely Teshekpuk. And we're
25 going to use that information to come up -- to work on
26 our ANS. This spike is just straight up caribou
27 harvests.

28
29 I'll call your attention to per capita
30 ranges. Per capita, same thing as per person. One way
31 we might compare communities dependence on caribou is
32 like well, on average, you know, per person how many do
33 they take per year. So a giant community would take a
34 lot of, you know, caribou overall. Fairbanks residents
35 probably take a lot of caribou, but when we look at per
36 capita values divided by the number of people it's much
37 lower so you take, you know, Kotzebue versus Noatak,
38 right. And so we always think about per capita values
39 just in a sense of relative use or dependency on stuff.
40 And that'll come in play later I guess.

41
42 So let's skip on. I'll show you really
43 quickly this is what I prepared showing nonlocal
44 harvests meaning nonresidents and other Alaskans,
45 meaning people who weren't member of 26 -- residents of
46 26A. So let me look at my notes, I had really good
47 detailed explanations. So the purple on the top is all
48 harvests from -- in the ticket data base between '98
49 and 2012. So you can see, you know, there's like, you
50 know, about 50 right here and 98 and it gets up to

1 close to 120 in 2004. That's all hunters. When you
2 break it down it's going to show you other Alaskans and
3 nonresidents are the red and green lines, tracking
4 their harvests in the ticket data base and down here is
5 people who are residents of 26A which is -- they don't
6 participate in the harvest ticket data base thing. And
7 part of it is we haven't required harvest tickets in
8 the range of the Western Arctic herd. North of the
9 Yukon it's like -- there was this thing like register
10 to hunt and it wasn't really followed up on. So, you
11 know, some of those things. So, you know, the main
12 thing, the message to take home is our harvest ticket
13 system doesn't capture local harvests, that's why we
14 use community harvest survey data.

15
16 Okay. So I'm going to scroll down to a
17 few more and actually I'm going to get past a lot of
18 this because we don't need to talk about that right
19 now. So again two sources of data, community harvest
20 surveys, the limitation is they're not consistently
21 available. We don't survey every community every year,
22 you know, a good year we get maybe six, right, or
23 somebody else gets them, the Borough might get them.
24 The harvest ticket data base on the other hand doesn't
25 get local harvest at all. So we -- you know, we have
26 to work with what we have. So that data I showed you
27 just a minute ago was just caribou because that's what
28 people see on the ground.

29
30 Now we're going to -- I'm going to walk
31 you through how we came up with the ANS. All right.
32 Went through the harvest data. So again primarily
33 harvest is Barrow, Atqasuk, Nuiqsut. And so what we
34 did and it's only recently that we were able to do this
35 and I worked real closely with Lincoln on this. Taking
36 a community harvest estimate for a year, based on
37 collar data and timing, can you apportion harvest, the
38 Western Arctic herd versus the Teshies. In some years
39 you can, but even in some years where we have community
40 harvest surveys you can't do it, the data just -- it
41 won't support it. You just really can't do it. So we
42 consulted on what years we had data for. So we really
43 couldn't do it prior to like 2000, apportioning harvest
44 based on what we saw, the presence of collared animals
45 attributed to herds and comparing it to our community
46 harvest surveys, very few years we can do it. This is
47 showing you we could. So for example this period of
48 2002 to 2007 where there were some projects going on
49 and we were actually surveying, you know, we
50 apportioned quite a bit of the harvest at Atqasuk and

1 Nuiqsut and Barrow to Teshekpuk, I bracketed them in
2 red here. So we know of our harvest data in that year
3 we think X percent was Teshekpuk caribou. Because
4 remember we're thinking of them separately from Western
5 Arctic caribou. We didn't have any data for this 2009
6 period for these communities, these top three, but
7 somebody else did a survey, the university did a
8 harvest survey in Wainwright. And so we had data for
9 Wainwright for that 2009 year and in that year 20
10 percent of their harvest we est -- you know, we
11 estimate was Teshekpuk.

12
13 All right. So this is our starting
14 point, this is what we have. And then of course we had
15 this year right here we didn't have harvest surveys,
16 but Lincoln knew a lot about caribou and we were like
17 well, you know, if we were going to like estimate a
18 harvest based on long term patterns that a community
19 exhibit like how many caribou per person, maybe we
20 could come up with that estimate. So this is the
21 limitations of the data. So I'm going to show you how
22 that looks when we apply it to the data we have. So
23 this is our data set for caribou. I'm going to call it
24 data set A because we didn't do any estimating of what
25 harvest might have been on -- based on long term
26 patterns. This is based on actual community harvest
27 surveys. Okay. So here's all the data points
28 estimated, you know, in this study period by the
29 Borough, which goes from I believe July 1 to June 30th
30 like the regulatory year. Here are estimates for these
31 four communities, Barrow's not in there. In this time
32 period we have one survey that we can use for Barrow
33 with an estimate of 2,000 or approximately 2,000. So
34 here's all the data we have for this time period, not a
35 lot of data, not a strong time series. If you take the
36 average over all those years, and here's the average
37 caribou harvest over that time period. So we just
38 added the means, that's what we did. We took the
39 average for every community that we identified as
40 primary users and so the average, summing the mean,
41 would give us about 4,400 caribou.

42
43 Now as a State -- working for the State
44 I'm obligated to talk about nonlocal harvest as well as
45 nonresident harvest. In the same time frame we could
46 apportion their harvest using Lincoln's collaring data.
47 The mean or the average for nonlocal Alaskans over
48 that time period was 48 caribou a year. For
49 nonresidents it was 40. Now because we are thinking
50 about ANS for this data set which is known -- estimated

1 harvest, I can't really say known harvests, we summed
2 that this right here, this value, 4,413, with this one --
3 this value for other Alaskans, 49. As you can see
4 they're not a very big deal. So if you want to say the
5 sum of the means, sum of the averages, is 4,462. So we
6 said, okay, on average this is the best we can do for
7 average harvest over time in this time period.

8

9 Now as an exercise and because we
10 wanted to give the Board a lot of options, we did
11 something where we projected harvest, but we're going
12 to stick with this, we'll call it, you know, our known
13 data set. So we did a -- you know, how we showed you
14 those percentages earlier, like 77 percent in this year
15 were Teshekpuk and we applied those percentages to this
16 data set. So out of 200 caribou in 2002 to 2003 for
17 Atqasuk, X percent were Teshies. So we applied the
18 percentages to the means. So here's what it looks like
19 basically multiplying. So again these are what we
20 would say would be the Teshekpuk portion of the harvest
21 in these survey years. And here's the mean. We summed
22 the mean. Did the same thing with the other Alaskans.
23 Since such a small portion of the harvest was Teshekpuk
24 the mean number of Teshekpuk caribou we attribute to
25 nonlocal Alaskans is five. So we summed it and that's
26 based on where they hunt and when they hunt. They have
27 very particular patterns of where they go and I skipped
28 over that slide for -- you know.

29

30 So in this case we would say based on
31 what we have the average value for Teshekpuk harvest
32 over this time period was 2,451 Teshekpuk.

33

34 MR. SHEARS: Well within our
35 harvestable surplus based on our current counts at that
36 time, 40,000?

37

38 MS. BRAEM: Yeah. Don't start talking --
39 you know, Lincoln and I were -- I hope he's still on
40 the phone, but he might have gotten off. But this is
41 not what -- remember weeks plus ANS is a range and
42 typically when we have a spotty data set, just not a
43 very robust data set like this, what we end up doing is
44 we take the mean value and to come up with a range we
45 go 25 percent above the mean and 25 percent below the
46 mean. The idea that it accounts for interannual
47 variation. And that's pretty -- you know, that's a
48 very common approach when we have such a checkered data
49 set. So that's what we did.

50

1 I will show you what that mean looks
2 like. I will only -- I'll blaze through this one
3 because I don't know if you need to see every single
4 option we gave the Board. As I mentioned spotty data
5 set. So we did something else here. See these green
6 cells right here, what we did here, and this is
7 something that has been done with ANS elsewhere, is you
8 take the long term per capita, like over X number of
9 years that we've -- that they've actually surveyed, you
10 add up all the caribou and you divide it by all the
11 people and you come up with a per capita value. And
12 then if you're projecting obviously you go, okay, what
13 was the population of the community in that year. So
14 if you were kind of desperate to kind of get more data
15 points and they're based on something, they're based on
16 mean values, this is clearly not an exact science, you
17 can do this. Fundamentally what happens with this --
18 some projected estimates is you end up with a slight --
19 you end up with a higher mean caribou harvest overall
20 than you had with just no projected data points for
21 Barrow. The nonresidents, no.....

22
23 MR. SHEARS: What population data did
24 you use?

25
26 MS. BRAEM: Ah. That's a fun one to
27 get into.

28
29 MR. SHEARS: Uh-huh.

30
31 MS. BRAEM: I know why you're asking
32 me. We used Department of Labor data because the
33 Department of Labor by the State does estimate
34 population. However as I understand it the Borough
35 does its own population estimates because they feel
36 that Department of Labor projections systematically
37 undercount the way that their method is used. So you
38 could argue that by using -- but we didn't have what,
39 you know, how am I going to come up with a population
40 estimate for 2004. So at the time we used Department
41 of Labor estimates. Yes. Okay. So anyway -- so we
42 wanted to give the Board two data sets to think about
43 since we do have limited information. All right. You
44 guys with me? All right. Let's talk about how we
45 applied that.

46
47 And so -- okay. So I'll just show you
48 this one. So based on, you know, some projections of
49 what harvest might have been, using some projective
50 harvests it bumps up the mean value for the communities

1 up to like 2,800 and it results in a mean of 2,862
2 using these projected ones. And so we gave the Board a
3 picking a data set -- an option of picking a data set
4 after explaining how we did it. The way we're going to
5 treat these are the same way in the options, the
6 numbers are just going to turn out different based on
7 when your starting point is. Okay. I was really clear
8 about this, every option's based on either the A set or
9 the B set of data.

10

11 Okay. Now one of the things I might
12 note here is so if you take the first mean, the A set
13 mean, plus or minus 25 percent results in an ANS for
14 Teshekpuk of 1,800 to 2,900 animals. We round it
15 because there's no point in using these numbers right
16 here, it implies a level of precision which is not
17 there. So we just round it, that's why you're seeing
18 these numbers right here. If you use the set with
19 projected harvests you get a higher one, 2,100 to
20 3,600.

21

22 Okay. Now the structural part, the fun
23 begins. We gave the Board five options, one of which
24 was a don't do anything about it option because you
25 always have to have a no action option essentially.
26 The first option was to combine them, but we -- in our
27 combination we kept the eight to 12,000 for the Western
28 and then we had the -- an additional X number of
29 caribou and I'll show you how that works. Then we kept
30 -- we had separate ones, the third one we started
31 getting complicated where you combine them and then you
32 break them down by GMU. So it was a lot of -- and we
33 -- we're like you can make it as complicated or as
34 simple as you want to. So I'll show you the first
35 option. So here's option one. Basically you leave
36 eight to 12,000 for the Western Arctic herd and then
37 taking the first data set based on our estimates plus
38 or minus 25 percent rounds to 1,800 to 2,100 caribou.
39 So if you're combining the ANS you add these two -- you
40 sum these values and you say for Western Arctic slash
41 Teshekpuk herd a total ANS of 9,800 to 14,900 caribou.
42 That was the option we presented for a combined ANS.
43 If you do the thing where you take the projected values
44 you would end up -- same math basically, you would end
45 up with a slightly higher range of 10,100 to 15,600
46 caribou for your ANS. So that was an option we
47 presented. Then if you want this -- you know, if you
48 guys want a copy of the presentation I can just send
49 her a copy of the presentation, it's not like top
50 secret or something, it's all public record.

1 All right. So in option two we weren't
2 going to combine -- we didn't combine the herd. We
3 said, okay, we're going to have a separate one for the
4 Western Arctic, eight to 12,000, and we're going to
5 have a separate one for the Teshekpuk and here you go,
6 1,800 to 2,900 with Teshekpuk or using some projected
7 values, 2,100 to 3,600.

8
9 All right. And then we decided because
10 we thought about it you could get complicated. So in
11 this case we combined it like we did in our -- the
12 first slide I showed you. We broke it down by GMU or
13 we left it up to the Board to break it down by GMU, we
14 gave them options to think about. So again you would
15 have nine -- 9,900 to 15,00 caribou based on those mean
16 values, data set A, and this time you'd break it down.
17 We said Board, okay, if you want to break it down by
18 26A, 24B, 23 and 22, we can do that. We didn't give
19 them numbers, we left it as an option and if they had
20 pursued it we probably would have been sent, you know,
21 like working something up overnight and figure out how
22 that might breakdown. Or on a break which is always
23 really fun doing something on the fly. This is the
24 same approach, merely using that data set B which has
25 higher values for the range. Again we went all right,
26 it's a range, divide this number of caribou, 10,200 to
27 this number by these GMUs and there's your ANS for each
28 GMU. And some places where management's really
29 complicated this is how things are. In the fourth one --
30 I mean, the fifth option is just don't do anything
31 until we have more information option, but the fourth
32 option got even more complicated. We said, okay,
33 separate Western Arctic divided by GMU, separate
34 Teshekpuk divided by GMU. And we offered that for each
35 data set. And that's what we did. We presented these
36 options and then we presented the fifth and final
37 option, you know, which is don't do anything. And we
38 gave the Board the opportunity to discuss this and
39 possibly ask questions of wildlife conservation folks
40 and about how and why and what the possibilities per
41 scenario was.

42
43 Yeah. These were the -- what we
44 presented to them, that, you know, each option you
45 might take gives you different opportunities and it
46 also and it also presents some -- maybe a level of
47 complexity managers don't need to protect the Teshekpuk
48 or the Western Arctic herd depending on how the decline
49 goes.
50

1 I have some notes, other things I might
2 tell you. The only thing -- so obviously we're
3 preparing again because it's what -- you know, we're
4 going to be preparing Staff comments and I will
5 probably update the report I prepared. Since that time
6 we did survey Barrow in 2015, we surveyed Anaktuvuk
7 Pass and we surveyed Nuiqsut. Those are the only new
8 data points into this set. So it would change the mean
9 value slightly.

10
11 I anticipate, you know, if we in the
12 presentation that we develop options we will give
13 similar options. The numbers will vary slightly based
14 on another number added into the averages.

15
16 I guess -- I'm trying to think if
17 there's any other questions. I guess I lost Lincoln
18 which is unfortunate because Lincoln had a whole bunch
19 of scenarios like well, if this happens then the
20 harvestable surplus of the Teshekpuk are this. Well,
21 so I feel a little bit abandoned here.

22
23 Do you guys have any questions, I mean,
24 does the method -- this is the best method I had for
25 the data we have, you know.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Any questions
28 for -- what was your name again?

29
30 MS. BRAEM: Nikki.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Nikki.

33
34 MS. BRAEM: Uh-huh.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Nikki. And I
37 got one here and obviously this was done in 2014.....

38
39 MS. BRAEM: Uh-huh.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER:so that
42 there can be -- somebody made it a point that they
43 needed to take a look at ANS for some reason.....

44
45 MS. BRAEM: Uh-huh.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER:and
48 probably on the concern of maybe conservative
49 management thresholds starting to be talked about and
50 biologists that do the count starting to disclose a

1 continuing trend. And so to me when I head that it was
2 new and I thought it was new, that, you know, the
3 calculations on various ways obviously you brought to
4 light some various ways of calculating a whole slough
5 of different variables in there, you know, you got
6 GMUs, Teshekpuk here, a percentage might be left
7 straggle, maybe 50 percent of them went over the hill,
8 who knows, whole and based on maybe even radio collared
9 information, yeah. So to me when there was a suggested
10 argument that the calculation was always this way and
11 that the ANS always represented the Teshekpuk herd in
12 the count and calculations for ANS with the Western
13 Arctic herd, I -- to me that was new. Maybe it was old
14 to some other people or maybe it was a wish of other
15 people, but seems to be maybe that wasn't the case if
16 you look at 1992 and that information, recordings going
17 back. So when that calculation came out and it was
18 discussed and I think it came out in the -- this Board
19 meeting, this Council meeting in Anaktuvuk Pass. And
20 there was -- quite frankly I was -- to me -- I thought
21 I was crying foul, you know, that this is -- this
22 shouldn't be the case and there's a underlying reason
23 why a higher ANS is being sought at a time when
24 biologists are doing their counts, estimating
25 populations and the ability to manipulate those numbers
26 because of we're so sophisticated, is really starting
27 to be alarming to me. But I kind of feel that your
28 presentation is a -- leads to the fears and
29 justifications we had, that it was -- they were never
30 mixed together in the ANS of previous years until 2014.
31 That only leads me to believe that the ANS is
32 artificially high when those animals are gone their
33 separate ways and you're still using that number into
34 managing other users.

35

36 And I did pose that question and there
37 were responses that if you separate the ANS to their
38 individual groups that some of the management schemes
39 would play out and would be harmful at that stage if
40 they were still applied. And I think there's some
41 justification to that just based on many of the
42 communities because there's a mean, it's an averaging
43 and there is hardly to get real data. And by the way
44 the communities are growing and the needs are
45 increasing. And those changes may not be the same from
46 year one to five and then five to 10 and 10 to 15,
47 those change the needs and that mean would have to
48 start to reflect some of these things. And that's -- I
49 think maybe you have captured that because you're using
50 Department of Labor information, per capita stuff, and

1 we know about that too, it's just that we elect to
2 challenge those from time to time because it's --
3 doesn't -- it underestimates the population, the
4 population is systematically not accurate and we do our
5 own census data on the North Slope.

6
7 Anyway those are my observations and
8 I'll leave it at that.

9
10 MR. KLIMSTRA: Mr. Chair, if I could
11 just add a little bit to what you were saying
12 there.....

13
14 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Sure.

15
16 MR. KLIMSTRA:those are all
17 excellent observations and you bring up a lot of good
18 points about, you know, harvests and gosh it's just
19 kind of a -- you know, you're just throwing something
20 at a wall and hoping it sticks. You know, that's
21 ultimately what Nikki's kind of, you know, pointing to
22 here, is it's been tough to really like kind of hone in
23 on things. And then as a result a lot of time this ANS
24 issue comes up and people are just like well, how do we
25 work this thing, right. And, you know, the number 1
26 thing that would help us and really I think alleviate a
27 lot of this is harvest reporting, you know. And that's
28 a tough one -- I mean, that's like our biggest
29 challenge, you know. And I -- and no one knows how to
30 go about it, you know, but that's -- again that's
31 something -- what do you guys think, like how can we
32 better capture this, you know, and separate these
33 things out. And our best guess number 1 is going to be
34 to have better harvest reporting. And then from there,
35 gosh, we could really start to like assign things out
36 and then holy crap, you know, we're not in the
37 situation we thought or we are or it's worse or
38 something, you know, and that really will shed a lot of
39 light on things. And but I think you were hitting on
40 that, Gordon, to a certain extent and I don't know, I
41 don't know if you've got something to add to that
42 Nikki?

43
44 MS. BRAEM: And I guess one of the
45 things I should have mentioned is the way that the
46 Department of Wildlife comes up with estimates of total
47 harvest in the range of the herd is they basically
48 model -- do a model based on our community harvest
49 information and where caribou -- you know, and the
50 presence of caribou. I don't know all of it because

1 it's a big black box of modeling and I'm not a
2 biometrician. But basically they are modeling this
3 community harvest data and not just from these
4 communities, when we're talking about the Western
5 Arctic herd they're doing it over the range of the herd
6 to give you annual harvest estimates from the herd.
7 That's how they understand harvest from the Western
8 Arctic herd right now, right, which is again we are
9 obligated to use the best data we have at the time. So
10 right now we're using this combination of community
11 harvest data and the little bit of data -- you know,
12 the harvest ticket data. And, you know, the -- they're
13 -- I believe that proposal two, is it proposal two....

14
15 MR. KLIMSTRA: I think.....

16
17 MS. BRAEM: Yeah, if I recall working
18 on comments, we haven't completed comments so they're
19 not available, Staff comments aren't available to the
20 public yet, we're still in the process, wildlife and
21 subsistence are talking about a possible move to a
22 permit system throughout the range of the herd and how
23 that would work because that's a pretty big thing to
24 start up.

25
26 MR. KLIMSTRA: And.....

27
28 MS. BRAEM: Anyway, that's all I have
29 to say.

30
31 MR. KLIMSTRA:I'll add just a
32 little bit to that. You know, and that whole system
33 that Nikki's referring to we recognize, fully recognize
34 that we're not in any kind of a position to just okay,
35 here's what we're going to do, everyone, and just all
36 of a sudden everyone's expected to report all the time.
37 You know, we recognize that's just impossible, right,
38 but how do we get there, you know, and that's where we
39 need help. You know, we need help from these
40 organizations, you know, these committees and things
41 like that is how do we get there, you know, to start
42 documenting this harvest and what will work for the
43 communities, you know, what kind of system would work
44 for reporting harvest or, I mean, you know, that's
45 where we really welcome any kind of feedback and we
46 hope we can, you know, move forward somehow with it.

47
48 Thanks.

49
50 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Bob, did you

1 have something to add or.....

2

3 MR. SHEARS: Yeah, just had a comment
4 on that. The most comprehensive field report on
5 harvest that is done on the North Slope was done back
6 in 2012, 2013. And it was a Community Sharing Project,
7 the Food Sharing Project went door to door, to every
8 household on the North Slope and inventoried all their
9 harvest data and how they disseminated it and
10 distributed it. The -- not so much that that data is
11 useful to you at this point, but the process that they
12 employed in that project to gather data was probably
13 the most comprehensive and accurate piece of analysis
14 that I've witnessed on the North Slope in the 20 years
15 I've lived here.

16

17 MS. BRAEM: And those were community
18 harvest surveys. And so the challenge in community
19 harvest surveys, because, you know, that's one year, I
20 think that -- if we're talking about the Sharing
21 Project that was out of UAF, yeah, our Jim Mangdanz who
22 used to sit in my job and is now still with Subsistence
23 Division, but he's getting his Ph.D. so we call him the
24 graduate intern, but he basically ran the Arctic area
25 the way that I do our research now, was involved in
26 that. And they went to Kaktovik, Venetie and
27 Wainwright. Amazing work, it really tells you a lot
28 about how subsistence works. Very expensive to do. So
29 if wildlife conservation has that much money, you know,
30 I'd be happy. So, I mean, that's the fundamental
31 problem is how do you go because obviously the
32 transition period. We're not going to say hey, permits
33 everyone and think that hey, a month later everybody's
34 going to be onboard. The challenge for these guys, you
35 know, because I don't just work on caribou, I work on a
36 whole lot of other stuff right, is how do you go from
37 no reporting system to one that tells you enough to
38 manage. And the answer is it's transition and you
39 still have to kind of like do some surveys just to
40 figure out how well you're capturing it because, you
41 know, back in '94 Susan Georgette did this thing where
42 she took community harvest data and she compared it to
43 like any data we had through our traditional reporting
44 systems in I think units 22, 23 and 26, maybe 24 as
45 well, several years worth of data, and she found that
46 it captured about 10 percent of actual harvest. Some
47 places really were much more willing to go along with
48 it, like unit 22 for some reason had much higher
49 participation rates and we don't really know why, I
50 mean, I have theories. 23 wasn't so great. So it

1 really captured about 10 percent of harvest. Yeah, so
2 like, ooh, we got to keep doing surveys, right. But we
3 can't survey every community every year.

4

5 MR. KLIMSTRA: People are tired of it
6 too, I mean.....

7

8 MS. BRAEM: Some places they are not --
9 you know, some places I can go, they're like, yeah, you
10 know we do work with local people we have -- we hire
11 people, you know, and they're like let's do another
12 survey. Other places are like we're tired of being
13 surveyed. So up here is the most heavily surveyed
14 region of the State. I would say largely because of
15 oil and gas development, you've had a history of this
16 since, you know, the '80s so there's been much more
17 attention to affects and impacts and what's going on
18 relative to subsistence. So some communities, you
19 know, 15, 20 surveys, they asked us already. And so
20 really the transition period. The Sharing Project's
21 brilliant, it's really cool, I read it and it was like
22 this is great stuff, but we can't do that everywhere,
23 right. So there's the rub.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Well, I got
26 some -- you know, it's good to listen and listen to
27 what -- you know, what is contributing and kind of
28 working, but to reproduce some of these things and to
29 do that for every community is not -- you don't have a
30 budget like that to do something. Since you -- and
31 maybe some different approaches and concepts need to
32 come out of this. You know, one of the reasons why
33 we're talking about it quite a bit nowadays is the
34 caribou threshold levels on harvestable surpluses are
35 getting ready to border on more conservative management
36 schemes based on the intercept packs of these
37 migration. And that's what prompting alarm that
38 there's -- you know, we're down from 490,000 10, 15
39 years ago down to 200 and -- you know, 201,000 animals.
40 So I think there needs to be a different way of looking
41 at this. You look at the harvestable surplus you model
42 communities for their size. You might -- there might
43 be out of the 38 communities, 10 of them that are the
44 same size. There might be, you know, 20 of those
45 communities that are comparable size, and put them in
46 ranges like that. What does a community of 1,000
47 people, what does it take when you do a survey, what
48 does it take to meet their nutritional needs and then
49 calculate that by per capita on -- so you have -- you
50 can go to another community, it might be 1,200 people

1 and they fit in that per capital scenario and start to
2 calculate methodologies and modeling in that manner.
3 And just based on the harvestable surplus and then when
4 that harvestable surplus continues to go down you
5 reduce the percentage of harvest by that much for all
6 of the modeled communities. And you can get
7 complicated like this two, you know, where you're
8 thinking about a percentage of those radio collared
9 represent I heard one time for the Western Arctic herd
10 one collar represents about 4,000 to 7,000 animals. So
11 you can get a general idea based on movement, you know,
12 where the substantial bulk of population might be
13 frequenting for that year which really just -- you
14 know. But, you know, you can get as complicated as
15 much as you can as, yeah, I think you can get as simple
16 as you can. And it might be that when you do it this
17 way that you don't need to issue a permit, but you're
18 calculating based on the harvestable surplus, the
19 community's needs for their size per capita and then
20 managing the herd from that point. And if the
21 harvestable surplus completely is sufficient and there
22 is a spill over and then start to manage for the
23 competing users at that point. And, I mean, I would
24 hate for or dislike or be upset if in a declining and
25 going into conservative management scheme that the
26 folks that really, really need this and have a high
27 dependency on a resource were being treated as equal to
28 those that can afford to fly over and compete directly
29 for those resources because we want to say it's --
30 their use is so minuscule it doesn't amount to a hill
31 of beans, they take 42 here, maybe 60 here, but those
32 are -- I really think they're not in the real world,
33 they're averages, we don't really know. I don't think
34 ADF&G has all the data needed to track all the
35 aircrafts and the people that are hauled in by
36 transporters to do subsistence activities from other
37 areas. And there may be, you know, serious
38 miscalculations to some of the (indiscernible) and I
39 just like to err on the side of caution and be careful
40 especially when you're dealing with food going on the
41 table in these rural communities. And that's -- and
42 then being able to look at all of this data and do the
43 right thing, do you want to, -- you know, open areas to
44 always having the fly in guys come in all the time to
45 areas where communities are trying to provide for 400
46 people and needing to reach their nutritional needs for
47 that community. There needs to be some serious
48 dialogue about that and -- yeah, I don't think I'm --
49 I'm not blowing in the wind when I express these
50 concerns because I hear them.

1 Anyway, that's what I thought was
2 important to be said.
3
4 Any other concerns or questions, but
5 thank you for the presentation. I think it's
6 enlightening and it's -- work looks complicated and you
7 might be pulling your hair out.
8
9 MS. BRAEM: Yeah, thanks very much for
10 letting me -- this is always a topic where everybody
11 starts to go oh, can we talk about something else and
12 particularly over teleconference, it's very difficult
13 to really talk about.
14
15 Thanks.
16
17 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay. Thank
18 you very much. I don't think we can proceed any -- any
19 more at this point because I now have a meeting in 27
20 minutes.
21
22 MR. SHEARS: Yes, you do.
23
24 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: And my dinner
25 was cookies and crackers.
26
27 So with that I would really think we
28 need to entertain adjournment.
29
30 MR. SHEARS: Lee, are you still there?
31
32 MR. KAYOTUK: I'm still here, yep.
33
34 MR. SHEARS: Okay. Can you give me a
35 second to this motion. I motion to adjourn.
36
37 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair and Council,
38 this would be a second to adjourn this meeting.
39
40 MS. PATTON: Just one moment, we had a
41 mic on so we could quite hear you. And before motion
42 to adjourn we do have -- since we missed Dr. Dave
43 Yokel's update on BLM NPR-A and also Marcy Okada who's
44 joined us by teleconference, but they both had handouts
45 which were included with your mailed materials, but
46 I'll give you an extra copy to go and I want to thank
47 you for -- thank folks for coming.
48
49 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, and we
50 apologize, Marcy and Dave, I'm sure if we had more time

1 we would love to hear your updates and.....
2
3 All right. All those in favor of
4 adjourning signify by saying aye.
5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.
7
8 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: We are
9 adjourned.
10
11 (Off record)
12
13 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 161 through 281 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the 1st day of November at Barrow, 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 28th day of November 2016.

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